

SECTION 9

PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

44 CFR Requirement

44 CFR Part 201.6(c)(4)(i):

The plan shall include a plan maintenance process that includes a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

44 CFR Part 201.6(c)(4)(ii):

The plan maintenance process shall include a process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.

This section discusses how the City of Myrtle Beach's Mitigation Strategy and Mitigation Action Plan will be implemented and how the Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan will be evaluated and enhanced over time. This section also discusses how the public will continue to be involved in a sustained hazard mitigation planning process. It consists of the following three subsections:

- 9.1 Monitoring and Evaluating the Previous Plan
- 9.2 Implementation and Integration
- 9.3 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Enhancement
- 9.4 Continued Public Involvement

9.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE PREVIOUS PLAN

Since the previous plan was adopted, the City of Myrtle Beach has worked to ensure that mitigation was integrated into local activities and that the mitigation plan was appropriately implemented. The city outlined a process in the 2011 plan for monitoring and evaluating the plan throughout the interim period between plan updates.

The City of Myrtle Beach was ultimately successful in implementing the monitoring and evaluation process that was outlined in 2011 plan as annual meetings were held by the FMHMPC to discuss the mitigation plan and the priorities that were outlined in it. Any findings and recommendations of the FMHMPC were reported to the City Council.

Although there were some minor revisions made to the plan during interim update period, there were few major revisions identified during these annual reviews and the FMHMPC generally agreed that the plan was on course and that the monitoring and evaluating process itself was sufficient to ensure implementation of the plan.

9.2 IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION

Each agency, department or other partner participating under the City of Myrtle Beach Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan is responsible for implementing specific mitigation actions as prescribed in the Mitigation Action Plan. Every proposed action listed in the Mitigation Action Plan is assigned to a specific “lead” agency or department in order to assign responsibility and accountability and increase the likelihood of subsequent implementation.

In addition to the assignment of a local lead department or agency, an implementation time period or a specific implementation date has been assigned in order to assess whether actions are being implemented in a timely fashion. The City of Myrtle Beach will seek outside funding sources to implement mitigation projects in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environments. When applicable, potential funding sources have been identified for proposed actions listed in the Mitigation Action Plan.

Myrtle Beach will integrate this Hazard Mitigation Plan into relevant City government decision-making processes or mechanisms. This includes integrating the requirements of the Hazard Mitigation Plan into other local planning documents, processes or mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate. The members of the Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (FMHMPC) will remain charged with ensuring that the goals and strategies of new and updated local planning documents for their agencies or departments are consistent, or do not conflict with, the goals and actions of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and will not contribute to increased hazard vulnerability in Myrtle Beach.

The City actively integrates mitigation into the daily operations of conducting City business. This is currently accomplished through the following methods:

- The entire Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan is incorporated into the City’s Comprehensive Plan by reference.
- The City reviews all of the Mitigation Actions found in this plan as part of the annual reporting requirements of the CRS.
- The City incorporated the goals of the Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan into the zoning code as part of a recent rewrite of that code.
- Some of the Mitigation Actions that were identified in previous versions of the plan called for changes/revisions to certain City codes or regulation. Many of these activities have taken place and are documented in the Mitigation Action Plan under the discussion of the implementation status for the action.

Opportunities to integrate the requirements of this Plan into other local planning mechanisms shall continue to be identified through future meetings of the FMHMPC and through the annual review process described herein. Although it is recognized that there are many possible benefits to integrating components of this Plan into other local planning mechanisms, The development and maintenance of this stand-alone Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan is deemed by the Myrtle Beach FMHMPC to be the most effective and appropriate method to implement local hazard mitigation actions.

9.3 MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND ENHANCEMENT

Periodic revisions and updates of the Hazard Mitigation Plan are required to ensure that the goals of the Plan are kept current, taking into account potential changes in hazard vulnerability and mitigation priorities. In addition, revisions may be necessary to ensure that the Plan is in full compliance with applicable federal and state regulations. Periodic evaluation of the Plan will also ensure that specific mitigation actions are being reviewed and carried out according to the Mitigation Action Plan.

The Myrtle Beach FMHMPC shall meet in March of every year to evaluate the progress attained and to revise, where needed, the activities set forth in the Plan. The findings and recommendations of the FMHMPC shall be reported to the City Council at their first regularly scheduled meeting in April. The Myrtle Beach FMHMPC will also meet following any disaster events warranting a reexamination of the mitigation actions being implemented or proposed for future implementation. This will ensure that the Plan is continuously updated to reflect changing conditions and needs within Myrtle Beach.

Five (5) Year Plan Review

The Plan will be thoroughly reviewed by the FMHMPC every five years to determine whether there have been any significant changes in Myrtle Beach that may, in turn, necessitate changes in the types of mitigation actions proposed. New development in identified hazard areas, an increased exposure to hazards, an increase or decrease in capability to address hazards, and changes to federal or state legislation are examples of factors that may affect the necessary content of the Plan.

The plan review provides Myrtle Beach officials with an opportunity to evaluate those actions that have been successful and to explore the possibility of documenting potential losses avoided due to the implementation of specific mitigation measures. The plan review also provides the opportunity to address mitigation actions that may not have been successfully implemented as assigned. The Myrtle Beach Floodplain Coordinator will be responsible for reconvening the FMHMPC and conducting the five-year review.

During the five-year plan review process, the following questions will be considered as criteria for assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Plan:

- Do the goals address current and expected conditions?
- Has the nature or magnitude of risks changed?
- Are the current resources appropriate for implementing the Plan?
- Are there implementation problems, such as technical, political, legal, or coordination issues with other agencies?
- Have the outcomes occurred as expected?
- Did City departments participate in the plan implementation process as assigned?

Following the five-year review, any revisions deemed necessary will be summarized and implemented according to the reporting procedures and plan amendment process outlined herein. Upon completion of the review and update/amendment process, the Myrtle Beach Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) for final review and approval in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Disaster Declaration

Following a disaster declaration, the Myrtle Beach Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation Plan will be revised as necessary to reflect lessons learned, or to address specific issues and circumstances arising from the event. It will be the responsibility of the Myrtle Beach Floodplain Coordinator to reconvene the FMHMPC and ensure the appropriate stakeholders are invited to participate in the plan revision and update process following declared disaster events.

Reporting Procedures

The results of the five-year review will be summarized by the FMHMPC in a report that will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Plan and any required or recommended changes or amendments. The report will also include an evaluation of implementation progress for each of the proposed mitigation actions, identifying reasons for delays or obstacles to their completion along with recommended strategies to overcome them.

Plan Amendment Process

Upon the initiation of the amendment process, the City of Myrtle Beach will forward information on the proposed change(s) to all interested parties including, but not limited to, all directly affected City departments, residents, and businesses. Information will also be forwarded to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. This information will be disseminated in order to seek input on the proposed amendment(s) for not less than a 45-day review and comment period.

At the end of the 45-day review and comment period, the proposed amendment(s) and all comments will be forwarded to the FMHMPC for final consideration. The committee will review the proposed amendment along with the comments received from other parties, and if acceptable, the committee will submit a recommendation for the approval and adoption of changes to the Plan to the Myrtle Beach City Council within 60 days.

In determining whether to recommend approval or denial of a Plan amendment request, the following factors will be considered by the FMHMPC:

- There are errors, inaccuracies, or omissions made in the identification of issues or needs in the Plan.
- New issues or needs have been identified which are not adequately addressed in the Plan.
- There has been a change in information, data, or assumptions from those on which the Plan is based.

Upon receiving the recommendation from the FMHMPC and prior to adoption of the Plan, the City will hold a public hearing, if deemed necessary. The Myrtle Beach City Council will review the recommendation from the FMHMPC (including the factors listed above) and any oral or written comments received at the public hearing. Following that review, the City Council will take one of the following actions:

- Adopt the proposed amendments as presented;
- Adopt the proposed amendments with modifications;
- Refer the amendments request back to the FMHMPC for further revision; or
- Defer the amendment request back to the FMHMPC for further consideration and/or additional hearings.

9.4 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

44 CFR Requirement

44 CFR Part 201.6(c)(4)(iii):

The plan maintenance process shall include a discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process

Public participation is an integral component to the mitigation planning process and will continue to be essential as this Plan evolves over time. As described above, significant changes or amendments to the Plan shall require a public hearing prior to any adoption procedures.

Other efforts to involve the public in the maintenance, evaluation, and revision process will be made as necessary. These efforts may include:

- Advertising meetings of the FMHMPC in local newspapers, public bulletin boards, and/or City office buildings;
- Designating willing and voluntary citizens and private sector representatives as official members of the FMHMPC;
- Utilizing local media to update the public on any maintenance and/or periodic review activities taking place;
- Utilizing the City Web site to advertise any maintenance and/or periodic review activities taking place; and
- Keeping copies of the Plan in public libraries.