

DC Flood Task Force | Action Team Meeting

Residential Resilience



DC Flood Task Force
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2022
Virtual WebEx Meeting
2:30 – 4:00 pm

Meeting began at 2:36 pm with the following members, agencies, and support staff in attendance.

VM = Voting Member

Attending Voting Members and Support Staff

Office of Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure (DMOI)

1. Jonathan Rogers
2. Alan Propp

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

1. Salil Kharkar

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

1. Nicholas Bonard
2. Meredith Upchurch
3. Lily Cheng
4. Andrea Limauro
5. Josh Schnitzlein
6. Sarah Edwards

District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)

1. Vermechia Alsop
2. Melissa Deas
3. Kenya Troutman

District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP)

1. Stephen Gyor (VM)

District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking (DISB)

1. Sharon Shipp
2. Angela King

District of Columbia Office of Risk Management (ORM)

1. Robert Preston
2. Jed Ross (VM)
3. Jane Waters

District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

1. Richard Livingstone (VM)

Attending Consulting Members and Support Staff

District of Columbia Mayor's Office of Racial Equity

1. Emily Ruskin
2. Amber Hewitt



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District of Columbia Office of the People's Counsel (OPC)

1. Yohannes Mariam
2. Stephen Dudek

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

1. Steve Bieber

District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)

1. Cell Bernardino

Federal City Council (FCC)

1. Lindsay Brugger

Washington Gas

1. Manny Geraldo

Facilitation Team - Monash Advisory Group

1. Adria Anderson
2. Rachel Kendrick
3. Monte Monash

Other Attendees

1. Allison Pauly
2. Yiqi Zhao
3. Jason Cumberbatch

2: 35 pm | Welcome and Opening Remarks

Next Full Task Force meeting will be Wednesday September 21

Next Governance Coordination Mtg will be this Friday, August 12 at 10:30am

Flood Task Force Final Report due February 2022 – Must have an Action Plan for each of 9 categories

Post the final report the FTF members will meet annually to track progress

2: 38 pm | Action Plan 3.2 Making Basement Living Safer for Residents

Salil: Lessons learned from Ida – (1) basement egress from different sides of home; (2) ensure door opens in a direction that doesn't trap occupant for flooding; (3) exterior basement windows with bars not an escape route

Monitoring, Modeling, and Early Warning are key to prepare for potential floods and communicate to the public

Cellerino: At a minimum public education to get people to think of their exit/evacuation strategy. Happy to take to DC BIA for their input.

Stephen Dudek: If we identify the basement units most prone to flooding, Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) might be able to enact emergency housing. What initiates it is that DCRA closes the unit to deem it uninhabitable, then OTA initiates the emergency action program. Could be mold, or damage to outlets that trigger this.

Nick: With the FloodSmart Homes program, to the extent that we find many multi-unit buildings that need assistance, maybe there is a sister program option.

Salil: Education and awareness is important, Hurricane Ida related deaths were not in the floodplain

Cellerino: Would the IFM identify areas susceptible to flooding outside of the floodplain?

Nick: Yes, that is the goal of the IFM

Salil: Thoughts about doing a combined fire and flood education piece, so people can better understand the risks for both.

Vermechia: Will get back to Salil about who to reach out to, to start that conversation

Nick: Maybe look into free water alarms and weather radios, even outside of FEMA floodplains to those living in basements that flood

3:10 pm | Trained Workforce and Local Companies for Flood Repair

Salil: Possible resolution to the issues of flood damage repair in the District is to develop a trained local workforce capable of responding to flood emergencies. Propose incentivizing firms to hire supplemental staff.

Cellerino: Needs to be led by a public agency, will not work in private sector. There's a shortage of labor across the board, not a great time to build a workforce.

Meredith: Look at tree planting/maintenance, or snow plowing program

Salil: Needs to be full time employment for these trained workers (Flood Clean Up Contractors, DOEE Floodproofing program, DDOT/DCW Contractors responsible for GI/BGI maintenance)

Emily Ruskin: Is this the kind of thing DPW's leaf crew can be trained in? There's a large cohort of residents who are brought on from Building Blocks DC each year

Nick: The ideal is to help people get permanent employment, a secondary and less ideal option is to view this as a gig economy. (Would need to ensure proper compensation if viewing as gig economy.)

rrd webex: Can flood clean up be bundled with other programs like weatherization?

Vermechia Alsop: Another effort to consider is <https://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-launches-dc-infrastructure-academy>

Sharon Shipp: Another option could be to have the training as part of DC Fire Department

Emily Ruskin: the Infrastructure Taskforce Workforce Preparedness subcommittee might be another natural partner for funding or other support. There might also be a natural nexus w/DSLBD to help people who are trained in remediation become business owners in their own right, esp CBEs

4:04 pm | Remaining Action Plan Status

Deadline for Action Plans to be presented is September 21 at the Task Force meeting.

Action Plans Presented on at July 20th Meeting

- 4.1 Expand Backwater Valve (BWV) Installation Program – DC Water
- 4.3 Require Backwater Valve Installation in Codes – DC Water
- 5.1 Develop an Annual List of Capital Projects – DMOI
- 6.2 Update Construction Codes to Adopt 2021 I-codes – DCRA
- 6.8 Amend Real Property Disclosure Rules to include Backwater Valve/Drainage Complaints–DC Water, DCRA
- 8.1 Update DC Silver Jackets MOU to include all participating District Agencies as signatories – DMOI
- 9.3 Install Flashing Warning signs at oft-flooded intersections – HSEMA

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Need to see how DISB would like to present the flood insurance action plans in September:

Next Action Plans - Status

- Present in September Task Force meeting?
 - 1.6 Conduct Outreach to Increase Number of Flood-Insured Resident - DISB
 - 1.7a Storm Damage Remediation Grant Program for income eligible residents - DISB
 - 1.7b Storm Damage Remediation Payment through Group Insurance Policy - DISB
 - 1.9a Home Insurance Water Damage Mitigation Credits, Premium Discounts - DISB
 - 1.9b Enhanced Water Damage Coverage for Homeowners Policy - DISB

Sharon: We would like to submit all of these as options as flood risk mitigation strategies, and there may need to be a cost benefit analysis once they've been submitted to then make the selection(s) that would be the best options.

Cell: Will there continue to be action plans after the final report is submitted?

Nick: It will be a bit of both, each of the Action Plans will have a timeline and intent.

Sharon: Will ask the team to look at insurance type scenarios to vet which programs we think on its own and jot down their thoughts, or guidance on which ones would have a lower cost and higher benefit.

Meredith: We had not anticipated DISB would have enough time to determine which strategy/strategies to move forward with the deadline. Is DISB thinking otherwise? We need to be mindful of communicating what the intention is with these plans.

Jed: That additional analysis will be helpful, but also need direction from the committee. We can have that conversation with the different agencies.

Sharon: It would be helpful to outline some standards/guidelines for the decision making process. We can take a stab at this and then solicit feedback.

Also to be determined for the September Task Force meeting:

- Determine if ready to green light action plan:
 - 1.5 DC Gov joins FEMA's Community Rating System to increase NFIP premium discounts - DOEE
 - 3.2 Make it Safer for Residents (including Renters) living in basements – DCRA, DC Water, DOEE

Next Action Plans - Status

Next to discuss, Ready to greenlight Action Plan?

- 1.4 Subsidize existing NFIP policies
- 2.2 Develop Local Workforce to perform repairs
 - Create Pre-negotiated contracts
 - Provide job training and partner with local organizations

Actions incorporated into other plans:

- 2.1 Program to pay for repairs immediately after a flood --> 1.7 Storm Damage Remediation
- 4.2 Incentivize Backwater Valve Installation --> 1.9 Insurance discount



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For Action Plan 1.4: Is it worth exploring a straight subsidy?

Sharon: The concern we have is the cost of the NFIP program is out of our control, and can be somewhat unstable because it is dependent on what Congress does. It could be that we come up with a subsidy that has some limit that would not “bankrupt” the District. Could be based on percentage of an individual’s income, etc. If the cost of the program goes up, how can we manage that cost?

Sarah Edwards: I think it’s more likely that Congress would pursue an affordability program, reducing the demand for subsidy. Rather than suddenly increasing rates. Especially after the roll out of RR2.0.

4:07 pm | Closeout

Action Team Homework:

- 1. Review Action Plans presented in July. Please review and provide comments by August 22**
- 2. All remaining Action Plans must be presented by September 21**

Sharon: What type of timeline do we need for the guidelines discussed earlier?

Nick: On Sep 21 we would like DISB to present those options, and then get feedback from the Task Force. Following the meeting, we will be sending the action plan drafts for review and

comment. Actuarial analysis can continue past that, and can be presented in the November meeting.

Sharon: The plan is to share the guidelines, get feedback on those, and then make the decision based on that feedback.

Meredith: Need to clarify which decision we're talking about. What the Task Force is voting on is pursuing options in general, as doesn't seem like a decision can be made on what to pursue.

Nick: We can discuss offline on how to pursue this.

Governance and Coordination meeting is Friday August 12 at 10:30am

Next Residential Resilience Action Team Meeting is September 13, 2:30pm

Next Full Flood Task Force Meeting is September 21, 2pm

The meeting ENDED at 4:09 pm.

Additional Materials

A copy of the staff presentation used during the meeting, the meeting recording, and a transcript of any in meeting chat comments can be accessed at dcfloodtaskforce.org.