

DC Flood Task Force | Action Team Meeting: Residential Resilience



**Residential Resilience Action Team
Kick-Off Meeting | Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2021 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
WebEx Meeting**

Meeting began at 3:01 pm with the following members, agencies, and support staff in attendance.

Attending Voting Members and Support Staff

Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure (DMOI)

1. Alan Propp

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

1. Salil Kharkar
2. Barbara Mitchell

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) –

1. Nick Bonard
2. Martin Koch
3. Victor Ukpolo
4. Meredith Upchurch
5. Joshua Schnitzlein

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

1. Melissa Deas
2. Vermechia Alsop

District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP)

1. Stephen Gyor
2. Imania Price
3. Andrea Limauro

DC Office of Risk Management (ORM)

1. Jane Waters
2. Robert Preston

DC Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Jen Croft

DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

1. Richard Livingstone
2. Danilo Pelletiere

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

1. Philip Barlow
2. Philip Edmonds
3. Patrice Garnette
4. Angela King

District Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)

1. Chris Bailey

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Attending Consulting Members and Support Staff

District of Columbia Director of the Office of Racial Equity (ORE)

1. Amber Hewitt

DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC)

1. Grace Soderberg
2. Stephen Dudek
3. Jason Cumberbatch
4. Karen Sistrunk
5. Yohannes Mariam

Federal Emergency Management Agency Region III (FEMA)

1. Maggie Dunn

District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)

1. Cellerino Bernardino
2. Erika Wadlington

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

1. Steve Bieber

Washington Gas

1. Manny Geraldo

Facilitators

1. Monte Monash
2. Adria Anderson

3: 00 pm | Welcome

Facilitator Monte Monash welcomed everyone to the first Residential Resilience Action Team Meeting, recognizing that many members had been present at the morning Governance and Coordination meeting. She provided a summary of the Task Force meeting, shared an overview of the previous meeting from November 17, 2021, and stated that the meeting was being recorded and adhered to in accordance with the DC Public Meetings Act.

3: 05 pm | Action Team Goals and Objectives

Co-Chair Supporting Staff of DC Water, Salil Kharkar, explained that Residential Resilience is one of two Action Teams within the full Task Force and that the Action Team meetings will be a place where team members can see what is happening in related categories. Separate category meetings or email message chains for each category may occur in between scheduled Action Team meetings.

In the Residential Resilience Action Team there are four Action Categories. Each Action Category is required to have at least one Action Plan. The Action Plans will establish goals for the next 1-10 years.

Today's meeting focuses on:

- understanding the task ahead, and
- discussing ideas for potential actions

Goals for the January Residential Resilience meeting will be to:

- prepare a list of ideas to share at the January Task Force Meeting, and

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- begin to evaluate the ideas at a high level of time to implement, cost, and scale of impact

An overview of the timeline for Public Outreach and the Public Listening Sessions was shared.

3: 12 pm | Action Plan Template

Co-Chair Supporting Staff of DC Water, Salil Kharkar, shared the Action Plan template document. He highlighted the purpose of the document was to:

- provide an overview and implementation strategy for each category Action Plan,
- provide background information on the need for each category Action Plan,
- document level of work that has been done/completed/or in progress to date for each category,
- establish a timeline including details on short-term and long-term budget requirements, and
- outline considerations for public input, outreach, and equity impact.

3: 20 pm | Action Team Overview and Discussion

Action Category leads facilitated a discussion on each of the four Action Categories listed below.

1) Flood and Sewer Line Backup Insurance

Lead: Phillip Barlow (DISB)

Discussion topics and findings:

- Question asked if CRS program could be a quick win.
 - DOEE would be the lead for this; when evaluating effectiveness, should consider the additional staffing cost to maintain CRS standing, but CRS could have an impact.
 - There may be some overlap and need to determine what works best subsidy vs. CRS
- Under Risk Rating 2.0, there may be more advantages to joining CRS because the insurance discounts apply to all policies, not just those in the SFHA **this is new.
- Insurance will change as risk increases. This leaves the questions:
 - How to connect enhanced risk modeling with insurance ideas.
 - Are home buyouts an option?

2) Repairing Flood Damage in Low-Income Homes and Neighborhoods

Lead: Vermeica Alsop (HSEMA)

- There needs to be a combination of District related programs to be more efficient.
- Any plans or ideas for funding need to incorporate how to manage how people will utilize funding once money made available for repairs.
 - Need to have standby personnel for contracts before loss occurs.
 - Include feature in package – ORM requires immediate action post flooding to minimize damage – but only for District owned properties.
- Current programs that help repair homes:
 - Single family residential roof program with DHCD
 - Historic homeowner grant with DCOP
 - DC Water Backflow valves
 - HSEMA could support Haz Mitigation Funding Source with technical assistance

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- Tied to those participating in NFIP program.
- FEMA new program to assist mitigating flood risk - support to category, more information forthcoming
- Suggested caution against trying to use existing grant programs
 - Funds are not designed to be quick moving and fix things up.
 - The question is how to provide immediate relief
- Should this category focus on quick relief? Potentially have one action focused on quick relief and action for long term larger damages.
 - For quick relief (such as providing payments within days of a flood)
 - Contracts will need to be in place with vendors to supply services.
 - Payouts would outline conditions of payment
 - Insurance carrier will want to see contracts in place
 - Aftermath of September 2020, there were not a lot of companies who could do the work of drywall repair, basement clean out
- Suggestion to add icons to materials and Actions to outline Cost, Job training and Workforce Needs for a comprehensive understanding of Action efforts and digestibility
 - Color Coded for Categories?
 - Categorize in Before During and After Flooding to see when and where impact occurs
 - Salil - after sept 10 wasn't a lot of companies who could do it?

3) Flood Proofing of Individual Homes and Facilities

Lead: Nick Bonard (DOEE)

- Important to prioritize low income homes and understand the impact it will have
- There maybe some cases where it will be more cost effective to construct a neighborhood scale infrastructure project that protects multiple homes.
- DC Water does door to door outreach projects, maybe there is room for coordination with DOEE to offer floodsmart homes opportunities
- FloodSmart Homes could be more complicated and costly than RiverSmart Homes, and changes to one property to reduce flood risk (i.e. change in grading) could exacerbate flooding on another property.
 - DOEE regulations do not allow for flood elevations to increase on other properties.
- From a resident perspective, the RiverSmart has proven to be cost-effective and easy for homeowners to participate in.

4) Sewer Line Backups and Backwater Valve

Lead: Salil Kharkar (DC Water)

- Helpful resources like the DC Water website can be utilized for residents to see if they are eligible for relief funding.
- Water sewer line code – Many home owners want to replace fixtures, but not modify plumbing.
 - Residential code has a lot of exemptions. Including only requiring permit if you touch the specific plumbing system

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- Construction Codes currently do not require backflow preventers to be installed on work that occurs before the sanitary sewer main
- Could the local insurance subsidy program be used to incentivize backflow preventer installation, offering lower rates if valves are installed?
- Education and communication to public is needed to explain importance, cost value and how this is a preventative measure
 - Maybe also need regulatory review
 - It could be helpful to develop a document that shows connections between agencies to help homeowners understand permit review requirements.
- Installing backflow preventers is highly cost-effective, as installation has a similar cost to a single flood cleanup. If the device prevents multiple floods, there is a positive ROI.
 - Could home sellers be required to install backflow valves before transferring ownership of property? (precedent exists in rural communities that require sellers to repair failing onsite septic systems before sale to new owner)
 - In other locations, septic tanks are required to be upgraded on sale from home.

4: 21 pm | Closeout

Homework for each agency was communicated with the documentation to be submitted by January 3, 2022. The next Residential Resilience Action Team meeting was discussed. The exact date will be shared with the Action Team at a later date and will incorporate schedule conflicts communicated on the call.

Important Dates

- Homework submission due January 3, 2022
- Next Residential Resilience Action Team meeting – TBD Week of January 10th
- Next Task Force meeting – January 19, 2022, 2 – 4 PM

The meeting ENDED at 4:29 pm.