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DEVELOPING

QAC Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan draft open to public

ANDREA GRABENSTEIN agrabenstein2chespub.com
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QUEEN ANNE COUNTY,
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Multi-Jurisdictional



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QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY – Preparing for tomorrow's safer community today, Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services announced its draft Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is ready for public review.

The Plan originally developed in 2005 provided momentum for making homes, businesses, and communities as safe as possible against the impacts of floods, tornadoes, winter weather, and other natural hazards.

The updated 2025 plan, continues to make sure the County is prepared for all kinds of hazards by identifying, planning, and implementing cost effective risk reduction measures through a comprehensive approach.

Receiving a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the plan updates the 2019 Queen Anne's County Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, as required every five years.

Presenting an overview of the most updated hazard mitigation plan draft, a question and answer session welcomed public comment Jan. 7.

The plan update mainly involved the identification of hazard areas, with special emphasis on the identification of structures at-risk to flood hazards including riverine, coastal, storm surge, and sea level-rise, according to Michele King, of Smith Planning and Design.

The nearly 500-page comprehensive draft outlines the planning process, local hazards, community capabilities, and strategies from the previous plan, she said.

Hazards identified in-depth within the plan include: natural hazards like flooding; technological such as man-made systems like dams; and threats such as terrorism, she said.

Long term proactive planning is crucial as at the end of the day mitigation saves everyone money, King noted.

As it is impossible to know all hazards the county could potentially face, public involvement has been extremely crucial, according to Debra Hopkins of DES.

Hard copy stations were set up throughout the county and online public surveys collected data, receiving more than 200 participants to be included in the plan.

“Public participation is a key part of the planning process, and we value input to ensure the plan reflects the needs and priorities of Queen Anne’s County,” Hopkins said.

A key aspect of the draft’s developing process was identifying key stakeholders and forming a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee, according to King.

All county municipalities were involved in the plan as well as departments like Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Finance, the Sheriff’s Office, the Health Department, Centreville Police Department, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

The draft of the Queen Anne’s County Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for public review and residents, businesses, and other stakeholders are continually encouraged to provide feedback. to contribute to the development of a safer and more resilient community.

“Every bit helps us make a stronger plan,” Hopkins said.

The next steps of the process involves input evaluating public data. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management will review the plan and provide feedback. Once approved, the plan will be submitted to FEMA for review before being approved by the Queen Anne’s County Commissioners for official adoption.

The draft Hazard Mitigation Plan and additional resources are available at <https://www.qac.org/1328/Hazard-Mitigation>.