

Clatsop County

Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Semi-Annual Meeting

Friday, May 12, 2023
10:00 AM

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

In attendance were Brian McCarthy (Astoria), Marc Reckmann (CBRFPD), Carl Hendrickson (DLCD), Commissioner Thompson (BCC), Felicia Olmeta Schult (OSU Extension/Oregon Sea Grant), Jenee Pearce-Mushen (Red Cross), Josh Como (Gearhart), Monica Steele (County), Paula Larson (CMH), Jeff Harrington (Astoria), Kurt Donaldson (Knappa-Svensen Fire), Hannah St. Denis (County), Gail Henrikson (County), Henry Idica (Camp Rilea), Rhiannon Bezore (DLCD), Kathy Gantz (PSH), Anne McBride (Seaside), Justin Gibbs (County), Garrett Reeves (OEM), Bridgette Blakesley (County), Chad Sweet (Gearhart), and Tiffany Brown (County).

2. Clatsop County MJNHMP 2021 Update

Brown gave a high overview of the current Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation plan, advising the group that participation in the NHMP process provides jurisdictions access to federal funding they wouldn't otherwise have and that in the most recent update (2021), the plan went from six (6) planholders (County & Cities) to sixteen (16) by adding an additional ten (10) special districts. Brown shared that several districts were in the process of applying for federal funds, and she encouraged more districts to join. She clarified that they didn't need to participate in the County planning process if they wanted to get started earlier than the next update in 2024-26, and invited anyone interested to contact the EM office.

A. Planholder Project/Applications. There are several Clatsop County jurisdictions with current hazard mitigation applications for federal funding underway involving a number of Clatsop County jurisdictions: City of Cannon Beach, Arch Cape Water District, Columbia Memorial Hospital, and Clatsop County. Brown explained that there are two (2) primary funding streams: The pre-disaster BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities) grant and the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The HMGP is money portioned for the State following a major disaster, but applicants don't necessarily have to be impacted to apply.

B. 2026 Update Timeline. The Clatsop County MJNHMP was approved in March 2021, and expires February 2026. The already lengthy planning process (<18 months) was made lengthier by additional participants during the last update, so the County intends to identify a timeline and resources to facilitate the 2026 update this year.

3. Clatsop County Sea Level Rise Community Workshops

Carl Hendrickson, NOAA Coastal Management Fellow with the Department of Land Use and Conservation, presented on a recent sea level rise climate project in Clatsop County assessing

mitigation risk to various communities and demographics. *A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting minutes.*

4. **Regional Mitigation & Recovery Coordinator Program.**

Garrett Reeves, Regional Mitigation & Recovery Coordinator for Clatsop County provided a presentation on the program he supports and an overview of state/federal hazard mitigation resources. *A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting minutes.*

Related Links:

[BRIC Direct Technical Assistance](#)

Case studies website

[FEMA Direct Technical Assistance](#)

Information regarding Direct Technical Assistance Communities

5. **Oregon Coastal Hazards Ready (OCHR) Library & Mapper.**

Felicia Olmeta-Schult, Coastal Hazards Specialist with Oregon Sea Grant, OSU Extension, introduced the OCHR tool, which is a site that compiles case studies on alternatives and approaches to acute and chronic coastal hazards, and it is designed for individuals, communities, and local governments can share their work and learn from each other. She also introduced the CoPes Hub and encouraged the group to visit the site and/or attend the monthly seminars. *A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting minutes.*

Related Links:

[OCHR Library & Mapper](#)

Case studies website

[CoPes Hub – The Cascadia Coastlines & Peoples Hazards Research Hub](#)

Hosts a robust website and informative monthly seminars aimed at whole community preparedness

6. **Final Announcements, Comments & Adjourn**

Brown shared that the **next semi-annual MJNHMP meeting would occur on the fall**, a few months before the federal application period, and she encouraged **anyone who was thinking of applying next January to start the conversation now** since the projects tend to be relatively complex.

The Department of Geology and Minerals Industry has completed **inundation modeling for the Columbia River**, so stakeholders in the **Knappa/Svensen** area can expect to be contacted in upcoming months to gather in order to **develop tsunami evacuation brochures for the area.**

Also, tsunami-related, Clatsop County is the early stages with DOGAMI and other stakeholders of developing a **Vertical Evacuation Structure (VES) work group** to develop a site prioritization process and pilot VES installation on the Oregon Coast. The project is moving at a deliberate pace, but should start to **fold in the community stakeholders later this year.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59.