

Pender County Planning and Community Development



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To: Scott Laporte, CRS Resource Specialist

From: Daniel Adams, CRS Coordinator

Date: July 20, 2021

Re: Pender County CRS annual re-certification

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Public Information Officer

On March 15, 2021, Pender County's Board of Commissioners approved the adoption of the 2021 Southeastern North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan. Within this plan are mitigation action strategies that the county has identified as important to mitigating our risk to all hazards, including floods. Pender County staff reviewed the mitigation action strategies and provided a status update on each strategy, as well as added new strategies to the plan. The Hazard Mitigation Plan does not provide much room for discussion regarding progress reporting, so please let the tables below serve as the means of providing a more thorough report on the mitigation strategies related to floodplain management.

Many of the strategies are implemented in an ongoing basis as part of the regulatory or public outreach process. Within the plan, all applicable mitigation strategies are either complete, in progress, or ongoing. Actions 30, 33, and 34 are new strategies related to floodplain management.

The mitigation action strategies are located within the Hazard Mitigation Plan which can be found on the county's Emergency Management website (<https://www.pendercountync.gov/em/hazard-mitigation/>) and the Planning and Community Development website (<https://www.pendercountync.gov/pcd/documents-base/southeastern-nc-hazard-mitigation-plan/>). Staff provided this report to the Pender County Board of Commissioners and the Public Information Officer for dissemination to local media outlets.

CRS Activity 510 – Annual Progress Report

Pender County Mitigation Action 4	Support the establishment of conservation easements on all flood prone property and impose such easements on all properties acquired with public assistance funds. The county will assist municipalities in working through this process.
Review of Mitigation Action:	Pender County has executed nearly 30 property acquisitions since Hurricane Matthew in 2016. More acquisitions are expected through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for Hurricane Florence. These properties are deed restricted as open space in perpetuity.

Pender County Mitigation Action 5	Conduct an annual review of development restrictions in floodplain areas and maintain initiatives to ensure limited residential and commercial development in the floodplains and protection of critical facilities. This effort should include a review of county and municipal zoning, subdivision, and flood damage prevention regulations.
Review of Mitigation Action:	Staff reviews the county’s Unified Development Ordinance and Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance regularly, seeking ways to encourage development outside the Special Flood Hazard Area. Currently, the county enforces a two-foot freeboard within the SFHA.

Pender County Mitigation Action 6	Maintain all properties acquired through HMGP funding or other sources aimed at addressing natural hazard mitigation as open space in perpetuity.
Review of Mitigation Action:	Pender County places deed restrictions on all lots acquired through state or federal flood mitigation grant funding. These buyout properties are maintained as open space in perpetuity.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 7	Adopt and annually update capital improvements plans at the county and municipal level with an emphasis on mitigation for critical facilities including relocation and retrofitting.
Review of Mitigation Action:	The County’s Capital Improvement Plan is regularly reviewed and updated to consider mitigation of vulnerable critical facilities as needed.

Pender County Mitigation Action 8	At the staff level, work with the NCDOT to identify and develop resolutions for local and regional drainage issues created by NCDOT facilities, including inspections of channels, retention basins, and, as needed, pursue debris removal.
Review of Mitigation Action:	The Board approved and funded a position focused on improving drainage throughout the county's natural waterways. Staff are in the process of executing a grant that will remove debris from dozens of sites across the county. Pender County Soil and Water is also working on similar grants to remove debris from county waterways.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 9	Apply for all available funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and funds to assist with the mitigation of severe repetitive loss properties to relocate structures out of the floodplain.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	Pender County submitted 264 applications for property owner assistance under HMGP Matthew and HMGP Florence with the goal of mitigating each of these structures from future flood events.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 10	Require a finished construction elevation certificate for all new development within the special flood hazard area (SFHA) within both incorporated and unincorporated portions of the County. All elevation certificates should be submitted on an official FEMA elevation certificate. No certificate of occupancy shall be issued for any development within a defined special flood hazard area without the submittal of the required elevation certificate.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	Pender County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance requires a finished construction elevation certificate be submitted to the Floodplain Administrator prior to final inspection.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 11	Continue to comply with NC State Coastal stormwater regulations.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	The county's Unified Development Ordinance continues to conform with state standards.

<p>Pender County Mitigation Strategy 13</p>	<p>Maintain a map information service involving the following: (1) Provide information relating to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to all inquirers, including providing information on whether a given property is located within a flood hazard area, (2) Provide information regarding the flood insurance purchase requirement on the county's website, (3) Maintain historical and current FIRM's, (4) Locally advertise annually in the local newspaper, (5) Provide information to inquirers about local floodplain management requirements, (6) Include in the county's newsletter (all property owners) and on the county's website a letter on flood insurance, (7) Notify property owners within a flood prone area that they are subject to flooding.</p>
<p>Review of Mitigation Strategy:</p>	<p>The county continues to provide these services in person and online. The Planning Department has two Certified Floodplain Managers on staff who are able to provide assistance to citizens with floodplain development or flood insurance related questions.</p>

<p>Pender County Mitigation Strategy 14</p>	<p>Make information regarding hazards and development regulations within the floodplains available through the following: (1) The County Planning Director will ensure that the local library maintains information relating to flooding and flood protection, (2) The County will provide a link on their website to FEMA resources addressing flooding and flood protection, and (3) materials will be made available at county administration buildings.</p>
<p>Review of Mitigation Strategy:</p>	<p>Pender County's libraries and administrative building maintain several documents related to flood protection and prevention as part of our creditable activities under CRS. The Planning Department's Flood Mitigation website houses links to FEMA resources.</p>

<p>Pender County Mitigation Strategy 15</p>	<p>Provide comprehensive services regarding planning and development activities within the defined SFHA. These services will include (1) Providing site specific flood and flood-related information on an as needed basis, (2) Building inspections department will maintain a list of contractors with experience in floodproofing and retrofit techniques, (3) Building inspections department will maintain materials providing an overview of how to select a qualified contractor, (4) Make site visits upon request to review occurrences of flooding, drainage, and sewer problems--if applicable, inspector should provide one-on-one advice to the property owner, (5) Provide advice and assistance regarding CRS Activity 530, (6) Advertise the availability of services annually within the local newspaper, and (7) Maintain a log of all individuals assisted through these services, including site visits.</p>
<p>Review of Mitigation Strategy:</p>	<p>The county's Planning Department provides site specific information regarding floodplain development on a regular basis, including during site visits. These services are advertised annually to common users such as lenders, insurance agencies, and real estate agencies.</p>

<p>Pender County Mitigation Strategy 16</p>	<p>Work with local real estate agencies to ensure that agents are informing clients when property for sale is located within an SFHA. The County will provide these agencies with brochures documenting the concerns relating to development located within flood prone areas.</p>
<p>Review of Mitigation Strategy:</p>	<p>Staff send an annual letter to common users reminding them of the county's ability to provide information regarding flood maps and floodplain development regulations.</p>

<p>Pender County Mitigation Strategy 18</p>	<p>Post educational information on the County's website addressing the hazards associated with wildfires, hail, tsunamis, tornados, hurricanes, flooding, and storm surge, as well as other hazards outlined in Section 3 of this plan.</p>
<p>Review of Mitigation Strategy:</p>	<p>The Southeastern North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan is available on the county's website.</p>

<p>Pender County Mitigation Strategy 23</p>	<p>Continue to support the NC Office of Dam Safety's efforts to monitor and inspect all dams throughout the state. The county will rely on this agency to ensure that all dam facilities, both public and private, are properly maintained and stable.</p>
<p>Review of Mitigation Strategy:</p>	<p>Staff support the NC Office of Dam Safety's efforts as requested.</p>

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 24	Request Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding for the elevation/floodproofing of repetitive loss properties.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	Pender County has sought funding for repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss structures through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 28	Continue to seek funding sources for the elevation or retrofitting of existing sewer lift stations in an effort to reduce or eliminate the impacts from flooding.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	Staff continue to seek funding to mitigate flood risk for critical facilities, including lift stations.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 30	Consider developing innovative approaches to floodplain management including density tradeoffs, cluster development regulations, and additional opportunities for land donation and dedication.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	Staff regularly reviews and considers new approaches to zoning and development incentives that encourage development outside the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 33	Consider the data and recommendations outlined in this plan when preparing updates to Capital Improvements Plans. All recommendations regarding capital expenditures will focus on siting all infrastructure and public facilities outside of the Flood Hazard Area.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	When new capital expenditures are considered, staff work to best site any proposed structures outside the Special Flood Hazard Area, if applicable.

Pender County Mitigation Strategy 34	Work with NC Office of Recovery and Resilience (NCORR) to identify homes in flood prone areas for potential funding through CDBG programs for mitigation and disaster recovery.
Review of Mitigation Strategy:	Staff have continued to work with NCORR to identify flood prone areas where CDBG funding could be used. Staff also encourage citizens to apply for existing CDBG grant funding when applicable.