

III. Plan Implementation

A. Process

The Wake County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be implemented through the delegation of assignments as specified in Section II. Mitigation Action Plan. Each implementation action includes the assignment of responsibility to specific County departments along with the establishment of a target date for completion of the activity.

It will be the responsibility of the County Manager to ensure that these strategies are addressed by the target completion dates unless reasonable circumstances, e.g., lack of funding, prevent timely implementation. In the case where a target date is not met, the reason for such failure to complete the activity in a timely manner will be noted in the annual progress report.

B. Funding Sources

Although in the long term hazard mitigation actions will save money by avoiding the loss of lives or property damages, in the short term each action will have an associated cost. The County will rely heavily on local funding sources, however, the County will also seek funds from interested State and Federal agencies for both pre- and post-disaster activities. A short description of major disaster assistance programs is included here. Contact information for organizations and programs providing funding is included in Appendix D: Federal and State Resources.

Counties depend upon local property taxes as the primary source of revenue. Property taxes are typically used to finance services that must be available and delivered on a routine basis to the general public, e.g., emergency management services, health and social services. If local budgets allow, these funds can also be used for other purposes in the general public interest which would include programs to further hazard mitigation planning. Local funds are most effective when used as local match for Federal and State grant programs.

Federal Programs

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program – Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 created a national program to provide a funding mechanism that is not dependent on a Presidential disaster declaration. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program provides funding to states and communities for cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program and reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage of property.

The funding is based on a 75% Federal share plus a 25% non-Federal share of costs. The non-Federal match can be fully in-kind or cash or a combination of the two. Special accommodations are made for small and impoverished communities who are eligible for 90% Federal share plus 10% non-Federal.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program – Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) was established by the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994. This program provides grants for cost effective measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to existing structures, with an emphasis on sites that historically have been subject to repetitive losses under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These grants are also available for planning assistance to identify flood risks and actions to reduce that risk, to

provide a process for approving flood mitigation plans, and to provide grants to implement measures to decrease flood losses.

Examples of projects that are eligible for grants under this program include elevating or flood proofing pre-FIRM structures, i.e., structures that were brought into the regulatory floodplain by a revision of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, to acquire land or structures in flood hazard areas, to relocate or demolish existing structures, to construct detention or retention ponds to aid in the control of flood waters, to flood proof sewer systems, to modify drainage culverts and to obtain technical assistance, e.g., hiring a professional consultant).

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding for mitigation measures following a Presidential disaster declaration. The HMGP is funded in most part by the Federal government and administered by state governments. FEMA can fund up to 75% of project costs and the State or local share can be cash or in-kind services.

HMGP funds can be used for projects such as acquisition or relocation of structures from hazard prone areas, retrofitting of existing structures to protect them from future damages, and development of state or local mitigation standards designed to protect buildings from future damages, comprehensive state and local mitigation plans, structural hazard control, and the purchase of equipment to improve preparedness and response.

Public Assistance (Infrastructure) Program – Federal Emergency Management Agency (Section 406)

The Public Assistance (PA) Program provides funding to local governments following a Presidential disaster declaration. Funds may be used for mitigation activities in conjunction with the repair of damaged public facilities and infrastructure. Mitigation activities must be related to eligible disaster-related damages and must directly reduce the potential of future disaster damages.

Projects are evaluated for cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, and compliance with statutory, regulatory and executive order requirements. The evaluation must ensure that the mitigation measures do not negatively impact facility operation or risk from another hazard.

Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Program - U.S. Small Business Administration

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance Program provides low-interest loans to businesses following a Presidential disaster declaration. The loans target businesses with repair and replacement of uninsured property damages including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and supplies. Businesses and non-profit organizations are eligible.

Community Development Block Grants - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program assists communities in rehabilitating substandard dwelling structures and in expanding economic opportunities, primarily for low-to-moderate-income families. However, as a result of a Presidential disaster declaration, CDBG funds may be used for long-term needs such as acquisition, reconstruction, and redevelopment of disaster-affected areas.

State Programs

Statewide Floodplain Mapping Initiative

The State of North Carolina, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Cooperating Technical Community partnership initiative, has been designated as a Cooperating Technical State (CTS). As a CTS, the State will assume primary ownership and responsibility for Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for all North Carolina communities. The Statewide Floodplain Mapping Initiative project will include conducting flood hazard analysis and producing updated, digital FIRMs (DFIRMs).

The State began acquiring raw elevation data for the Cape Fear, Lumber, Neuse, Pasquotank, Tar-Pamlico, and White Oak river basins in December 2000. This first phase of mapping will address these six river basins, which were the basins most impacted by Hurricane Floyd. These six river basins account for approximately one-half of the area of the State, impact 48 counties and 334 incorporated municipalities, and encompass over 21,000 miles of streams and rivers.

The data being collected will be used to develop Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) and updated flood hazard data and to produce draft DFIRMs for the affected counties and communities. Draft DFIRMS for the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River basins were provided in March 2003, and are scheduled for adoption in September 2003.

This updated flood hazard data will provide current, accurate information for communities and property owners to make sound locating and design decisions when building new structures and infrastructure and when retrofitting existing structures. If consistently used by communities for floodplain management, this information should help to dramatically reduce future flood losses in North Carolina.

Water and Sewer Grant Programs - NC Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.

The Rural Center administers three programs that assist rural communities with development of public water and sewer systems needed to support local economic growth and to ensure a reliable supply of clean water. The programs are funded by appropriations from the NC General Assembly and through proceeds from Clean Water Bonds approved by voters in November 1998.

1. The Supplemental Grants Program enables local governments and qualified non-profit organizations to improve local public water and sewer systems. Projects may address public health, environmental and/or economic development critical needs. Rural Center funds must be used to match other project funds from local or other sources. The maximum grant amount is \$400,000.

2. The Capacity Building Grants Program provides funding for local governments to undertake planning efforts that support strategic investments in public water and sewer facilities. Funds typically are used to prepare preliminary engineering reports, master water and sewer plans, capital improvement plans, water and sewer feasibility studies, rate studies and grant applications. The maximum grant amount is \$40,000.
3. The Unsewered Communities Grants Program provides funding for the planning and construction of new publicly owned sewer systems. Qualified communities must be unserved by wastewater collection or treatment systems. Unsewered communities grants are designed to cover 90% of the total project costs, but grants can not exceed \$3 million.

Clean Water Management Trust Fund - CWMTF Board of Trustees

The Clean Water Management Trust Fund was created in 1996 for the purpose of making grants to local governments, state agencies, and conservation non-profit organizations to help finance projects that address water pollution. CWMTF will fund projects that 1) enhance or restore degraded waters; 2) protect unpolluted waters; and/or 3) contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits.

The program is funded annually through a portion of unreserved credit balance in the NC General Fund for a minimum of \$30 million per year. The CWMTF Board of Trustees, an independent body of 18 members, has responsibility for allocation of fund revenues.

CAMA Local Planning and Management Grants Program - NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Coastal Management

The NC Division of Coastal Management assists local governments within the designated 20 coastal counties with local land use planning and management projects through the CAMA Local Planning and Management Grants Program. Eligible projects include new or updated CAMA land use plans, implementation projects, land use ordinances, beach or waterfront access plans, stormwater management plans, hazard mitigation plans, and capital facilities plans.

Water Resources Development Grant Program - NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources

The Water Resources Development Grant Program funds can be used as the non-Federal share of water resources development projects. Eligible projects include 1) general navigation projects; 2) recreational navigation projects; 3) flood control and water drainage projects; 4) stream restoration; 5) protection of privately owned beaches with public access; 6) land acquisition and facility development for water-based recreation; and 7) aquatic weed control projects.

Natural Heritage Trust Fund

The Natural Heritage Trust Fund was established in 1987 and is funded by 25% of the annual state deed excise stamp tax revenues and a portion of personalized license plate sales. The fund is managed by the Board of Trustees and the Natural Heritage Program in the Division of Parks & Recreation (DPR) in the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR). Since 1987, 332 applications have requested \$176 million. \$80.6 million has been awarded for 1 project to help protect 145,000 acres of land. (<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/heritage/nhtf.html>).

NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (NCPARTF)

The NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund was established in 1993 and is funded by 75% of the annual state deed excise stamp tax revenues. State parks receive 65%; local parks, 30%; beaches & waterfronts, 5%; and administration, 3%. Approximately \$22 million is available each year. The program is managed by the Board of the Parks & Recreation Authority and the Division of Parks & Recreation (DPR) in DENR.

Since 1995, local governments have submitted 549 applications requesting over \$76 million for capital improvements and land acquisition. The Parks & Recreation Authority has approved 226 projects for a total of \$33.7 million. Over 1400 acres have been added to local parks. The Authority has approved 140 state park land acquisition and facility projects for a total of \$71.7 million. PARTF has funded the addition of 8,466 acres to the State Park System. (<http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/partfund>).

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established in 1964 to provide for funding for federal land acquisition and to provide matching grants for state and local governments to acquire parkland. The federal government allocated \$2.9 million to North Carolina for this program in fiscal year 2002-03 with 60% being reserved for local governments and the remaining 40% for State government.

National Recreation Trails Program

The National Recreation Trails Program provides funds to federal, state and local governments and for non-profit organizations for the acquisition of land for trails, and for the development and maintenance of a trail system. The State of North Carolina was allocated \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2002-03 from this program which is managed by the US Department of Transportation.

Million Acres Initiative

When the Million Acre Initiative began in January 1999, approximately 2.8 million acres — 9% of the state — were permanently protected in North Carolina. At least 112,000 additional acres were permanently protected during the initiative's first two years. Upon reaching the million acre goal in 2009, North Carolina will contain at least 3.8 million acres of land which are permanently protected through the federal, state and local governments, and private, nonprofit groups. One of the stated objectives of protecting open space is to “reduce the risk to people and (property) from flooding”.

Conservation Income Tax Credit

Established in 1983, the Conservation Income Tax Credit provides a 25% income tax credit for donations of land or easements for conservation purposes. The donor's tax filing must be accompanied by a Certificate of Conservation Benefit from the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR). As of August 2001, approximately 400 individual and corporate property owners had donated 82,000 acres of land or conservation easements worth an estimated \$165 million at a cost to the State of \$26 million (<http://ncctc.enr.state.nc.us/>).

North Carolina Farmland Preservation Program

The NC Farmland Preservation Program was established in 1986 and is funded by appropriates from the NC General Assembly. The program is managed by the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and contracted to the Conservation Trust for N.C (CTNC). The General Assembly has appropriated \$2.45 million to the program since 1998. The 2001 appropriation of \$200,000 was expended on nine grants awarded to help local land trusts and counties with farmland protection programs work with farm families to arrange permanent conservation easements on over 4,270 acres and large parts of 30 farms. These grants have leveraged over \$20 million from other private and public funding sources and donations of development rights from farm owners. (www.info@ctnc.org or www.ctnc.org).

Conservation Grants Fund

The Conservation Grants Fund program was created in 1997 for the purpose of providing subsidies to non-profit land trusts to aid in transaction costs related to the donation of land, and to provide for staff and volunteer training. This program has never been funded.

Non-Governmental Sources

Another potential but typically less available source of funds for implementing local hazard mitigation projects are monetary contributions from non-governmental organizations such as private sector companies, churches, charities, community relief funds, the Red Cross, hospitals, land trusts and other non-profit organizations interested in the environment or the plight of persons affected by disasters.