

Floodplain Management Plan Meeting Series: Meeting 3 Set Goals
February 15, 2023, 3-4 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

IN PERSON Lori Rafferty (MSD Floodplain), Jennifer Caummisar-Kern (MSD Floodplain), Matt Schaaf (MSD Floodplain), Meghan Brown (MSD Emergency Preparedness & Operations Resiliency Administrator), Sheryl Lauder (MSD Communications), Harold Adams (MSD Communications), Gary Muller (Louisville Metro Building Department), Angela Richardson (Louisville Metro Public Works), Amy Rose (Louisville Metro EMA), Jessica Kane (Louisville Metro Parks), Teena Halbig, Brad Allgeier, Bethany Shain, Josh Hunn, Layson Hagan, Marilyn Coffey, Lucas Frazier, Tim Corrigan, JP Carsone, David Wicks,

Lori Rafferty outlined the purpose of the meeting being to set goals for the Floodplain Management Plan. She presented an example of goals from CRS, the goals from the Louisville Metro Hazard Mitigation Plan and the purpose of the Floodplain Management Ordinance. The group divided into smaller groups to discuss potential goals.

Online Group 1 was moderated by Matt Schaaf. Discussion topics and suggestions included: focusing on emergency management and access to flood prone properties, expanding early warning systems for flash flooding, promote awareness of available insurance policies, better understanding of insurance policies and what coverages are for (ie structure vs contents), combining outreach messages for those MSD distributes such as floodplain, FOG, etc, continue efforts to purchase repetitive loss properties, insurance coverages for sewer backflow issues.

Online Group 2 was moderated by Jennifer Caummisar-Kern. Discussion topics and suggestions included: Preventing hazards through the use of natural design/green infrastructure, natural floodplains, etc, expanding flood storage, limiting expansion of development in the floodplain and floodway, community wide approach to mitigation with government and groups, communication between stakeholders to increase effectiveness and decrease duplication of efforts.

Online Group 3 was moderated by Meghan Brown. Discussion topics and suggestions included: Reducing the number of houses and businesses in the floodplain, addressing repetitive flood issues, newly flooded areas, use of USGS gauges for flood monitoring, providing more information on elevation of homes, continued education, YouTube videos about floodplain boundaries, "Turn Around Don't Drown" messaging, creating community ambassadors for flood prone areas, awareness of floodplain insurance and CRS discounts

In-person attendee group was moderated by Lori Rafferty. Discussion topics and suggestions included: Minimize the loss of life and injuries that could be caused by flooding, minimize the impacts to property that could be caused by flooding, facilitate a sustainable economy by protecting, business, agriculture, and other economic activities from flooding, strengthen relationships with public emergency services and increase awareness of flood warnings, develop a community-wide mitigation effort by building stronger partnerships between government, businesses, and the general public, reduce flooding impacts through flood mitigation projects and promote mitigation education, and awareness of floods, enhancing existing or design new policies and technical capabilities that will reduce the effects of floods, enhancing existing technical and GIS data and capabilities to improve flood information, promote the development of policies, programs, initiatives, and projects that prioritize diversity, equity, and environmental justice.

On regrouping, each group reported back on their ideas for goals. The entire group evaluated the suggestions to reach the final list of goals which included:

- Use of more green infrastructure to combat flooding issues
- Access to flood prone properties
- Provide more options for flood watch and warning notification
- Increase outreach for flood insurance information
- Combine outreach messages
- Expand CRS knowledge
- Provide more education about turn around, don't drown
- Expand methods of education outreach to include you tube videos, etc.
- Place more emphasis on prevention (ie expand riparian buffer zones, add wetlands, natural areas, increase infiltration)
- Minimize development in the floodplain
- Increase stream buffer to 30', 150', etc., research the benefits, what is the best width, most beneficial such as size of buffer? Different sizes based on stream size?
- Encourage trees and other vegetation planting in stream buffers to increase quality of buffers
- Continue to mitigate repetitive loss properties through buyouts
- Improve water quality

Several links and comments were shared via online chat during the meeting and are presented below:

From David Wicks:

<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/wildlife-conservation/benefits-natural>

From Becca Trueman:

Suggest using science such as from UK: When evaluating the location for a riparian buffer, information such as land ownership, permits, site characteristics (climate, soils and geology), utilities, and planned future land use should be gathered. If stream banks are steep and eroding, re-grading may be necessary prior to planting. Check on permitting requirements for your selected site prior to performing any earthwork. Federal, state, and local agencies issue permits for a number of activities in and along streams. The width of the buffer will depend largely on land availability, but other site characteristics such as slope, infiltration capacity of the soil, soil quality, and site needs (e.g. what the site will be used for) will factor into the buffer design. For example, if the goal is to filter sediment, a buffer width of 25 ft (7.6 m) may be sufficient for slopes less than 15 percent. However, if the goal is to reduce soluble nutrient (e.g. nitrates) and pesticide concentrations in runoff, buffer widths of 100 ft (30 m) may be needed. Buffers targeting wildlife habitat or temperature control for fisheries will require wide buffers as well. Also, buffers located on steeper slopes as well as those with poor-draining soils will likely require greater widths to remove contaminants from runoff. <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id185/id185.pdf> Reach out to Amanda Gumbert amanda.gumbert@uky.edu