



MEMORANDUM

Town of Nags Head

Planning & Development Department

To: Board of Commissioners
From: Kelly Wyatt, Planning Director
Date: March 26, 2024
Subject: Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

In 2019, Dare County, Currituck County, and the towns of Manteo, Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Southern Shores, and Duck collaborated to update their Hazard Mitigation Plan, an effort known as the Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on July 1, 2020 and can be viewed [HERE](#).

While developing and updating hazard mitigation plans is a best practice, especially for areas prone to hazards like our town, it is also a requirement for local governments to be eligible for FEMA Disaster Assistance and Mitigation Grants.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan plays a crucial role in the town's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. The CRS program rewards communities that implement floodplain management practices beyond the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These practices aim to enhance public safety, reduce property and infrastructure damage, minimize economic disruption, alleviate human suffering, and protect the environment. By participating in the CRS program, all town property owners benefit from a discount on flood insurance.

Dare County Emergency Management is currently preparing for the update of the Outer Banks Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. As in the 2019 effort, Dare County will lead the process, while Nags Head staff will participate in meetings, provide feedback, and vet any town-specific information. Public involvement will be a critical component of this process. A planning team will be formed to gather community feedback and ensure compliance with CRS program criteria for Hazard Mitigation Plans. The Dare County team will include representatives from the county, each town, and members of the public from each community.

For Nags Head, the team will include Deputy Fire Chief Shane Hite, Director of Planning and Development Kelly Wyatt, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Joe Costello, Code Enforcement Officer Ed Snyder, and two citizen representatives.

Megan Lambert and Meade Gwinn served as the citizen representatives for the 2019/2020 planning process. Currently, staff is requesting Board of Commissioners reappoint Megan Lambert and consider appointing Planning Board member David Thompson to the committee for the upcoming Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. While Meade Gwinn has indicated his inability to participate in the update, Mr. Thompson has expressed his availability and interest in joining the effort.