



**ANNUAL REPORT - 2023**  
**Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**  
**Thomas Jefferson Planning District**

**Annual Meeting**

The Working Group for the Hazard Mitigation Plan held their 2023 annual meeting on May 25, 2023.

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Greg Harper	Albemarle County
Emily Pelliccia	Albemarle County
Kristel Riddervold	City of Charlottesville
Jeremy Evans	City of Charlottesville
Douglas Miles	Fluvanna County
Debbie Smith	Fluvanna County
Melissa Meador	Greene County
Jim Frydl	Greene County
Timothy Luck	Louisa County
Josh Gillespie	Louisa County
Sonny Saxton	UVA-Albemarle-Charlottesville ECC
Daniel Brown	VDOT Lynchburg
Rick Youngblood	VDOT Lynchburg
Keith Rider	VDOT Lynchburg
Peter Homan	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Jennifer Whitaker	RWSA
Ian Baxter	TJPDC
Ruth Emerick	TJPDC
Sandy Shackelford	TJPDC

*Contributions from Nelson County were sent after the meeting.*

## **Plan Maintenance**

The plan calls for the Working Group to monitor, evaluate and update the mitigation plan within the five-year cycle. Strategies and recommendations for additional improvements should be considered during this process. The evaluation during each annual meeting will address whether:

1. goals and objectives address current and expected conditions; the nature, magnitude, or type of hazard affecting the region has changed;
2. current resources are appropriate for implementing the plan;
3. important problems such as technical, political, legal, or coordination issues with other agencies have occurred;
4. agencies and other partners are participating as originally proposed.

The plan specifies that the Working Group will meet annually in May to review the year's local hazard events and impacts, community actions that may help or hinder mitigation capabilities, and the progress of mitigation activities. As this year's meeting is the month prior to the adoption of the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Working Group reviewed the process for updating the mitigation actions, new FEMA requirements, and plan components.

## **Local Hazard Events and Impacts Over the Past Year**

- Localized flooding in localities
- Summer 2022 derecho in Louisa County – extensive treefall and minor property damage

## **Critical Facilities**

### Regionwide

- Fiber internet will continue to be installed throughout the region over the next few years.
- \$18 million public radio system – 8 repeaters around City of Charlottesville.

### Albemarle

- New public operations center in former JCPenney building on Route 29. Volunteer architect group working to create “emergency hubs” – county office buildings, community centers, other county owned properties. Constructing a new public safety facility. County has been building a small EOC at the Albemarle 5<sup>th</sup> St office.

### Charlottesville

- Replacing and updating the generators at Charlottesville High School, which serves as emergency shelter (triple capacity of current generators).

### UVA

- Expansions to the hospital continue.

### Louisa

- The new bridge fire station in Lake Anna Area completed.
- North Anna power station – warning siren being converted into text messages.
- Bomb-proof emergency management facility being constructed by Dominion at site of

nuclear power plant.

#### Fluvanna

- Increasing amount of fleet vehicles for EMS, public works, and police.

#### Greene

- New EMS facility in 9825 Spotswood Trail - (room for 6 vehicles, bunk, training rooms, etc.). Acquired two new power sites, new 911 phone system (65% to 95% countywide coverage)
- Water and sewer will be a County department starting July 1. Plan to create a 50-year water supply and to upgrade outdated water and sewer infrastructure. The improvements in water and sewer will improve fire safety and fire flow, and the sewer improvements replace septic in a way that is more sustainable for the community.

#### Nelson

- Shelter operation in December 2022

### **Grants Applications and Status**

#### Albemarle

- Applied and awarded grant for Flood Risk Analysis grant – implementation in progress.
- Applied and awarded grant for flood resilience planning – implementation in progress.
- Working to get FEMA funding for dam safety improvements (lower dam at Mint Springs Park)

#### Charlottesville

- Flood resilience plan implementation ongoing
- Generator update grant for police stations
- Grant application successful for Charlottesville High School generators
- Department of Energy grant for deep energy retrofit and solar capacity expansion at CHS.
- Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) grant for stream restoration of a tributary of Schenk's Branch, Riverview Park
- Supporting RWSA for NFW grant for stream restoration.
- EPA grant for community engagement component of climate adaptation work

#### Greene

- Ruckersville Volunteer Fire Company received \$6,460.00 for new lockers from REC; \$10,000.00 from Perrigo Foundation for extrication equipment; \$1,935.65 for trauma bleeding training items from Bama Works Foundation. We have applied for \$61,267.73 for equipment from AFG and \$11,307.00 in PPE from VDOF.
- Stanardsville Volunteer Fire Company received \$8,765.00 to replace expired air bag system from Bama Works Foundation and \$2,500.00 from Perrigo Foundation for updated pulley system. We have applied for \$185,737.27 for PPE and other equipment from AFG and \$2,409.00 from VDOF for equipment.
- Greene County Emergency Medical Services received \$40,403.35 from RSAF in December for upgraded equipment; \$7,500 from Emergency Management Performance Grant for video cameras at the new station. We have applied for \$9,839.70 for PPE during extrication from Bama Works; \$312,000.00 (50-50 for two ambulances) from

RSAF spring round; \$689,000.00 for two ambulances from AFG; and will be submitting for \$22,500.00 for a rehabilitation tent from the State Homeland Security Program.

- Awarded 5/19/2023 \$176,445.00 from FEMA’s FY21 SAFER grant program for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.
- Completed the purchase and tearing down of a home in Twin Lakes that was consistently flooding for a total of \$253,365.00 from FEMA.
- We have applied for two new generators through HMG due to the emergency declaration in January 2022—one for the Sheriff’s Office and one for the County Administration Building. Total request of \$300,000.00.
- Code Improvements Grant from BRIC. Expect to hear in June/July a final answer, but it was found to be both cost-effective and technically feasible from DHS/FEMA for \$105,000.00. This will upgrade software and plan review.
- Application for \$47,318,912.97 for reservoir/new drinking water infrastructure from BRIC/FEMA. We don’t expect to hear until
- We were awarded DEQ ARPA grant funding in partnership with Route 33 Holdings to connect the Spotswood Trail Mobile Home Park to public sewer and close the failing septic and drain fields.
- Submitted the grant/low-cost loan application to Virginia Department of Health regarding the reservoir and new water treatment plant project on May 5. Probably hear in the fall. Total cost \$58,000,000.00
- Continued participation in Firefly RISE grant to provide broadband internet to all County residents.

#### Louisa

- Federal grants for radio upgrades in southern part of County

#### Fluvanna

- Grant for new boat ramp put in by Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

#### Nelson

- Grant to upgrade generators at fire/EMS stations - \$249,961
- EOC readiness grant - \$50,000

#### RWSA

- Contaminant grant (\$3 million dollars – EPA)
- Design grant for Beaver Creek dam (17)
- Generator replacements
- Flood planning grant
- Central Water Line - \$30 million application, and second crossing of Rivanna River, both pending.

### **Community Actions**

#### Regionwide

- Broadband throughout the region will help increase access and communication during hazard events.

#### Albemarle

- Dam Safety – working to get collaborative technical assistance from DCR and FEMA staff. Working to get information about private dams to determine the condition of unknown risks that these dams present. Coordinating with Sonny Saxton at UVA-Albemarle-Charlottesville ECC.
- Working on County-wide flood resilience plan.
- Working on mitigation measures to address risks of smaller tributaries in County.
- Maintaining infrastructure that affect broader communities.

#### Charlottesville

- Flood Resilience Plan
- Joint plan with Albemarle about Climate Resilience
- Stream restoration efforts ongoing

#### Fluvanna

- Working to integrate hazard mitigation plans into local plans.

#### Louisa

- Training - high priority for existing employees.
- Citizen alert system – integrating into broader community engagement efforts including hazard mitigation.
- Recruiting new emergency management personnel.
- High visibility address marking is being run through volunteer fire personnel.
- Burning permit process/education – in response to burns getting out of control.

#### RWSA

- Many dam safety priorities for City and County are being implemented by RWSA.
- Exercises with EPA about contamination events.
- Flood resilience and cyber infrastructure work.
- Drought mitigation planning

### **5-Year Plan Update**

The Five-Year Update is due in March 2028. The process includes plan development, review and approval by VDEM, review and approval by FEMA, and formal adoption by all localities in the Planning District. TJPDC staff is reviewing new plan requirements to create a scope for the plan update, tentatively scheduled to begin in January 2026.