

SCCGW PRIORITIES IN REFERENCE TO OWRC FOUR YEAR ACTION PLAN

Ohio Water Resources Council Strategic Plan WATER RELATED NATURAL HAZARDS

The State of Ohio has experienced thousands of hazard events (including 36 Presidential disaster declarations), resulting in millions of dollars in losses and casualties. Thirty-three of those disaster declarations were water related. Since January 1, 1964, federally declared disasters in Ohio have resulted in federal and state disaster recovery costs of nearly \$473 million – damages were much higher. In fact, one single event, the 1913 flood, when adjusted for 2003 dollars resulted in over \$2 billion in damages.

The leading water related hazard in Ohio is flooding, which occurs every year causing millions of dollars in damage and lives lost. Other water related hazards include droughts, winter storms, landslides, coastal erosion and dam failures. Hazards may also be related to other water related sensitive areas such as contamination of water at source water protections areas. Policy and programs have traditionally focused on the preparedness, response and hazard identification. To address the impact of water related hazards and achieve development that is sustainable, we must cooperate with nature proactively. There are opportunities for planning and management of land use that will result in better and more sustainable water resources and less disaster damage in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is a leader in the development of land and water management strategies that will help reduce and eliminate water related hazards. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) is the central point of coordination within the state for response and recovery to disasters. The OEMA is leading mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters by

working with approximately two dozen state agencies, non-governmental groups, and several other federal agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop the State of Ohio Mitigation Plan (December 20, 2004). The Plan currently includes five hazards, with nine additional hazards (some of which are not water related) to be progressively added by the next three-year update. In addition to the State of Ohio Mitigation Plan, as a result of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all jurisdictions in Ohio are required to develop hazard mitigation plans if they wish to remain eligible for Federal mitigation funds. Planning is underway in 87 of the 88 counties and five municipalities. Seventeen county plans have been certified. To effectively implement hazard mitigation, local stakeholders must help define sustainable development and accept a change of attitude, cultural shift and a cross-disciplined approach to dealing with water related hazards.

Policies and actions that will reduce or eliminate the impact of water related hazards need to be integrated with other policies for achieving economic, social and environmental goals through planning. Basic knowledge on water related risks and ways to sustain the impact of disaster events involving water must be shared. There has to be a collaborative commitment between all levels of government, elected officials and the private sector to change the management of hazard areas. Programs and actions that subsidize the risk for uses in the hazard area must be evaluated.

Objectives:

1. Assist state agencies and local governments to incorporate water related hazards in all plans.
 - All local governments are prepared to respond to water related natural hazards.
 - More efficient recovery from water related hazards.
 - Strengthened technical assistance and information dissemination.
2. Provide leadership for cooperative management of Ohio's water resources to reduce water related hazard risk and protect water resources.
 - Strengthened technical assistance for floodplain and coastal management programs or regulations to be implemented at the local level.
3. Promote sustainable development and land use across Ohio through providing water related hazard information, technical assistance and collaborative partnerships.
 - State agency actions, such as construction, development and policy, will be considered and complimentary of local programs to reduce natural hazard losses.
 - Local programs incorporate consideration of activities in areas such floodplains, agricultural lands, coastal and landslide prone areas and other water related sensitive areas in their land use plans.
 - Identification of areas of risk, areas with repetitive problems, and areas where the built environment including structures and infrastructure are at risk, to develop plans to address.

* - denotes SCCGW involvement

BOLD - denotes some direct activity by SCCGW

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- Strengthened technical assistance and information dissemination.
- Updated data required for mitigation plans.
- Guidance for local governments and private sector, as appropriate, to develop mitigation plans.
- Integration of local mitigation plan actions with other related plans, such as source water protection and watershed plans, where similar goals and actions are identified.
- Strengthened ongoing coordination among the state agencies and OEMA regarding preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation and post-evaluation efforts.

Objs.	Action (Program / Initiative)	Indicator / Measure	Lead* and Supporting Agencies	Resources 1. complete with existing 2. develop/identify to complete 3. new needed	
*	1	Provide technical assistance to local communities for the update/revision of 88 county Hazard Mitigation Plans.	88 Hazard Mitigation Plans updated	Ohio EMA, ODNR, Division of Water support	1
	1	Provide Web access to all local Hazard Mitigation Plans.	Web access to all Hazard Mitigation Plans	Ohio EMA	1
*	3	Completion of high-resolution (2' contours) topographic mapping of Ohio.	Ohio mapped in high-resolution	DAS support is all counties and maybe state agencies....	3
	1	Map dam failure inundation areas for all ODNR managed dams.	Inundation maps available for all ODNR managed dams.	ODNR, Division of Water	3
	2	Prepare draft executive order to remove state incentives for development in water related natural hazard critical areas, e.g. floodplains and wetlands.	Executive order drafted	ODNR, Division of Water	1
	3	Education outreach for legislators and community leaders on issue and actual impact of disaster in losses/cost/impacts as is and future condition.	Issue paper and outreach activities.	Ohio EMA and DNR	2
	1	Coordinate watershed action planning and hazard mitigation planning guidance and processes	- Guidance and processes coordinated - Link with Balanced Growth Initiative	Ohio EMA, OEPA, ODNR (DOW and SWC)	2
*	1	Update drought plans by [date].	Drought plans updated	Ohio EMA; ODNR, Division of Water and OEPA support	1
*	3	Develop drought event fact-sheet.	Drought fact-sheet developed	ODNR, Division of Water	1
	2	Pilot development of automated floodplain mapping tool.	Automated floodplain mapping tool available	USGS Ohio, ODNR, Division of Water	2

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