

5.0 PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

The plan maintenance section of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the Cavalier County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how Cavalier County will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Also included in this section is an explanation of how Cavalier County government intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this plan into existing planning mechanisms.

5.1 MONITORING, EVALUATING AND UPDATING THE PLAN

The Cavalier County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed every two years, or as deemed necessary by knowledge of new hazards, vulnerabilities, or other pertinent reasons. The review will determine whether a plan update is needed prior to the required five year update. The plan review will identify new mitigation projects and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation priorities and existing programs. The Emergency Manager will be responsible for scheduling a meeting of Cavalier County Board of Commissioners to review and update the plan. The meeting will be open to the public and advertised in the local newspaper to solicit public input. The board, assisted by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the public will review the goals and mitigation projects to determine their relevance to changing situations in the county, as well as changes in state or federal policy, and to ensure they are addressing current and expected conditions. The board and public will also review the risk assessment portion of the plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified, given any new available data. The list of critical facilities will also be reviewed and enhanced with additional details. The Emergency Manager will give a status report detailing the success of various mitigation projects, difficulties encountered, success of coordination efforts, and which strategies should be revised. The status report will be published in the local newspaper to update local citizens. The Emergency Manager will be responsible for the five year plan update, and will have six months to make appropriate changes to the plan before submitting it to the board and public for review and approval. Before the end of the five-year period, the updated plan will be submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and FEMA for acceptance. The Emergency Manager will notify all holders of the Cavalier County Plan when changes have been made.

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH EXISTING PROGRAMS

Cavalier County is currently developing a Comprehensive Growth Policy to address statewide planning goals and legislative requirements. The multi-hazard mitigation plan provides a series of projects – many of which will be closely related to the goals and objectives of the Cavalier County Growth Policy. Cavalier County will have the opportunity to implement hazard mitigation projects through existing programs and procedures. Local officials will work with Cavalier County departments to ensure hazard mitigation projects are consistent with planning goals and integrate them, where appropriate.

The City Assessors Office and Fire Departments are responsible for administering the building codes in local municipalities. After the approval of the mitigation plan, they will work with the State Building Code Office to make sure that Cavalier County adopts, and is enforcing, the minimum standards established in the State Building Codes. In addition, Cavalier County Building Department will work with other agencies at the state level to review, develop and ensure building codes that are adequate to mitigate or prevent damage by natural hazards. This is to ensure that life-safety criteria are met for new construction.

Within six months of formal adoption of the PDM plan, mitigation goals will be incorporated into Cavalier County Comprehensive Growth Policy. Meetings of the board will provide an opportunity for local officials to report back on the progress made on the integration of mitigation planning elements into Cavalier County planning documents and procedures.

5.3 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Cavalier County is dedicated to involving the public directly in review and updates of the multi-hazard mitigation plan. The public will have many opportunities to provide feedback about the plan. Copies of the plan will be catalogued and kept at all appropriate agencies in Cavalier County as well as at the public library. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized in the Cavalier County newspaper. Section 2.0 of the plan includes the address and the phone number of the Emergency Manager responsible for keeping track of public comments on the plan.

A series of public meetings will also be held prior to each two year review and five year update, or at lesser intervals when deemed necessary by the Board. The meetings will provide the public a forum for which they can express their concerns, opinions, or ideas about the plan. The Emergency Manager will be responsible for using Cavalier County resources to publicize the annual public meetings and maintain public involvement through the newspapers and radio.