

Kenai Peninsula Borough Resilience Workshops

City of Homer, August 24th, 2017

Community Needs and Priorities

General Natural Hazard Concerns

- Erosion issues at Anchor Point (the tractor parking lots), Clam Gulch (the roads into the area), the bluffs at Baycrest Hill and elsewhere; complicated by social norms against government intervention into private property rights.
- Increasing prevalence of nearby wildfires, could lead to additional problems with storm water runoff and pollution into the Bay.
- Changes to potable water availability, flood events, and other natural hazard event frequency, severity, etc.
- Flooding at Woodard Creek-Community recently developed a flood management plan for the Creek, but there is much work remaining to reduce risk in the area.

Infrastructure

- Maintenance of the Bridge Creek Dam, which serves to prevent flooding and ensure the community has a supply of fresh water.
- The City lacks duplicative ingress and egress routes, making the resilience of the roads and bridges into the City extremely important.
- There have been previous issues with storm-water flooding in the City, which can lead to pollutant discharge into the Bay.

Preparation for Hazards

- The local economy is highly dependent upon businesses along the Spit, which is vulnerable to multiple hazards.
- City officials are concerned that they are not adequately prepared for disaster response, especially of a hazard event that hinders or obstructs transit in-and-out of the City.
- The tourist economy poses an additional obstacle to keeping individuals informed about risks and appropriate responses to hazard events (particularly when and how to evacuate).

Water Resources

- The City does not have an integrated water resource plan.
- There are concerns with long-term water scarcity issues.

Priority Actions Identified During Panel Discussion

1. **Data, including multi-hazards map, Depth Grids with various frequencies, etc.**

Existing Resources: FEMA datasets (FEMA can work with community to coordinate to ensure the datasets are presented in an appropriate format); Alaska Data Viewer (potentially host site for the data)

Specific Ask: Share the link to the database including property specific data with Chris Clough, so it can be made accessible via the parcel viewer. Look into developing more detailed landside data and maps for the currently unmapped floodplain.

Contact(s): Marshall Rivers (FEMA Regional Service Center), Sally Cox (State Risk MAP Coordinator, DCCED, Chris Clough (GIS Manager, KPB Office of emergency Management),

2. Future Conditions Modeling

Existing Resources: NA

Specific Ask: Develop models for hazards under future conditions

Contact(s): Cynthia McCoy (Risk Analyst, FEMA Region 10), Marshall Rivers (FEMA Regional Service Center)

3. Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment

Existing Resources: CTP Funding could be available to fund this project

Specific Ask: Complete a comprehensive landslide hazard risk assessment for the City

Contact(s): Cynthia McCoy (Risk Analyst, FEMA Region 10), Marshall Rivers (FEMA Regional Service Center), Rick Abboud (City Planner, City of Homer)

4. Address Storm Water Management Issues

Existing Resources:

Specific Ask: Develop Risk Assessment for storm water; identify projects to decrease risk

Contact(s): Jim Rypkema (Storm Water & Wetlands Program Manager, AK DEC), Cynthia McCoy (Risk Analyst, FEMA Region 10), Rick Abboud (City Planner, City of Homer)

5. Coordinate on Shelter Training

Existing Resources: Red Cross training

Specific Ask: Host training(s) for city staff to improve knowledge of how to set up shelters during and after hazard events

Contact(s): Cynthia McCoy (Risk Analyst, FEMA Region 10), Alex Fonteyn (Resilience Specialist, AK DHS&EM) (Red Cross Training)

6. Risk Communication Education Materials

Existing Resources: CERC Contract engagement resources; Immersed! Flood tables.

Specific Ask: General and community-specific materials that can be used at public events, permitting offices, etc. to help inform community members about different natural hazards; possible deployment of flood table and/or Immersed!

Contact(s): Cynthia McCoy (Risk Analyst, FEMA Region 10), Michael Levkowitz (Project Coordinator, FEMA Community Outreach Team, Bryr Harris (Floodplain Administrator, KPB)

7. Public Outreach to Land Owners and Real Estate Agents Regarding Erosion Risks

Existing Resources: Living with Coastal Erosion book

Specific Ask: Coordinate with Silver Jackets to increase outreach to key stakeholders about natural hazard risks (particularly erosion)

Contact(s): Sally Cox (State Risk MAP Coordinator, DCCED), Syverine Abrahamson (Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Kachemak Bay NERR), Steve Baird (Research Analyst, Kachemak Bay NERR), Karyn Noyes (Resource Planner, Donald E. Gilman River Center), Ed Berg (U.S. Fish and Wildlife)

8. Identify Funding for Infrastructure Protection Projects

Existing Resources: FEMA PDM and HMGP grant information, USACE Funding opportunities

Specific Ask: Help identify and apply for infrastructure project funding to bury power lines; protect critical infrastructure on the Spit (including the fuel farm)

Contact(s): Brent Nichols (State Hazard Mitigation Officer, AK DHS&EM), Alex Fonteyn (Resilience Specialist, AK DHS&EM), Tom Wilder, Jason Oakley (State Parks), Homer Electric