

**Converse County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan  
Douglas City Council Briefing  
January 24, 2011**

Contractor, Barb Beck, attended a regularly-scheduled meeting of the Douglas city council to provide a briefing on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation plan . Mayor Bruce Jones and aldermen, Marilyn Werner, Dave Angiolillo, Tony Reynolds, and Leroy Kingery were present. City Administrator, Steve Henning, Deputy City Administrator, Forrest Neuerberg, Public Works Director, Les Newton, the Police Chief and City Clerk were present in addition to Diena Bulman, Converse County Emergency Management, and several citizens.

Beck thanked the Mayor for this opportunity to speak to the council and introduced herself. She provided a one-page briefing paper to the council, staff, and citizens.

**What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?**

The hazard mitigation plan will cover the county and the four incorporated municipalities. The plan is being paid for by a grant from FEMA, so there is no cost to the City of Douglas.

The plan will contain background information about the county, documentation of the planning process, hazard profiles, goals, and projects. The hazards that will be profiled for Converse County include; wildfire, winter storms, flood, hail, windstorm, hazardous material spills, drought, tornadoes, earthquake, dam failure, landslide, and subsidence.

The overall goal of the plan is to reduce the risk of injury, loss of life, property damage or property loss. There are three major benefits of preparing the plan.

1. Increase awareness and make people and property safer,
2. Identify projects, projects in the plan can compete for funding assistance, and
3. Receive assistance from FEMA following a major disaster.

Barb explained that a mitigation plan looks at potential disasters ahead of time to see what might be done to prevent them or at least lessen the impacts. FEMA is emphasizing prevention through these plans.

**Roles**

Each of the following has a role to play in preparing this plan.

- County Emergency Management: oversee work of contractor, assist in gathering plans, serve as liaison with elected officials, assist with website postings, review draft products
- The Public: learn about hazards and the plan, make project suggestions, review and comment on the draft plan
- Contractor: research and write the plan, hold and document public meetings, ensure the plan meets FEMA requirements

- Local Jurisdictions: Agree to undertake the plan, provide copies of existing plans, provide access to staff, identify project needs, review draft plan, adopt and implement. Note: adoption is not required, but Barb's experience is that local jurisdictions have all wanted to adopt the plans. Each jurisdiction that adopts the plan must have one or more projects in the plan.
- Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Review draft, provide technical expertise, support county during FEMA review as needed.
- FEMA: Fund the plan development, provide technical expertise, review and approve.

### **The Planning Process**

The contractor met with the LEPC this fall. Research is being done on the hazards now. There will be a public meeting tomorrow and another meeting with the LEPC on Wednesday to focus on developing projects for the plan. After that, the draft will be assembled and presented. There will be a 6-week comment period. Then the plan will be submitted to the state and FEMA for approval. After receiving FEMA approval, the local jurisdictions can adopt the plan.

### **Wrap-up**

Barb invited the council members to visit the website to stay current, contact either Russ Dalgarn or her with suggestions, and review the draft plan when it becomes available this spring. Barb will provide the documents to the City of Douglas for posting on its website in addition to the county's site.