

## **EBFC Minutes 1/28/13**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07a.m. Present were M Miller, I Kasanof, P Ohsburg, T Pascarella, B Stanton, K McMurray, H Friedman, P Davis, P Eskeli, L Austin, D Budin, G Dutcher, K Holcherr, D Frazier, D Kearney, C O'Beirne, P Eskeli, R Weidenbach, G Samuels, L Davis

The Resolution for municipalities and the county in support of the continuance of NFIP subsidies was discussed and recommendations were read by Miller from Delaware County Planning's Mike Jestremski. P. Eskeli explained that Mike Jastremski's four suggested amendments to the resolution were similar to those supported by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, an organization dedicated to supporting code enforcement officers working as floodplain managers. These amendments are as follows:

Loss of subsidy when property changes ownership- this is going to make it more difficult to sell homes in the SFHA

Loss of subsidy for business properties- many of our businesses are already struggling from the last flood and other factors

Loss of subsidy when new/revised flood map is issued (i.e. removal of "grandfathering" for existing policies)

Advocate for the immediate start to the National Academy of Sciences study on the affordability of flood insurance

Miller will tweak the resolution with further feedback from Jestremski and Economic Development and have a new, improved version for the February Commission meeting. O'Beirne offered to sponsor, via the Chamber, an event re: insurance subsidies. Eskeli also spoke to the process by which revised local flood maps are brought out for review to the public and elected/appointed officials, with May 15, July 1 and 18<sup>th</sup> as well as August 7 – when there will be a local open house re: the same – as dates to remember in the process. Other events will be planned as well as local outreach to let our residents and business owners understand the impact of these maps.

Dutcher presented an updated spreadsheet on EWP projects throughout the county. Most are at least 60 - 90% design phase; a letter re: a 2<sup>nd</sup> 220 day extension is ready to go out to the involved municipalities shortly.

Eskeli as well as Weidenbach and Dutcher discussed with the group a

presented Draft of the LFHMA Analysis and Planning. (LFHMA = Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis – for entire Ea. Branch Watershed). This process requires that all municipalities take the draft back to their boards for review and input; Pat Davis as well as Eskeli and Dutcher or Weidenbach can be present to answer questions and explain the process to those boards as needed prior to their input. While time is of the essence, a thoughtful review is needed, particularly as Middletown is the first to go through this process. There are 2 parts to the process with engineering analysis first (this also includes the input phase) followed by an action plan. Regards the action plan, any stream work goes back to Delaware County Soil & H<sub>2</sub>O, property buy-out or relocation goes to CWC. The local boards will review over the next month with an intention that we have a broader, more specific draft by our 2/25 meeting. MM will draft an article for local community outreach and education regarding this with help from Pat Davis, Soil & Water as well as Eskeli. The Flood Commission will meet in Flmnns in July – possibly in the evening – for public education, along with other events surrounding the various local anniversaries as getting the word out in the community about the analysis and its ramifications is essential.

A FEMA buyout update was offered, via Delaware County Planning's Shelley Johnson, in a memo prepared by Miller. There are, at phase three, 30 properties total in Middletown (inc. the villages) in the program. In June we had 27, several dropped out, phase three, as P Davis explained, added 6 additional properties, whose owners were too devastated or didn't understand the extent of their damages to participate in the earlier phases. There are 9 properties in the V of M'ville, 8 in Flmnns and 13 in Middletown. Miller spoke to a need for all the municipalities needing to do long-range plan for development to support the tax base keeping these losses in mind.

M Jestremski, who was not able to attend, will do a 30-minute presentation on CRS (Community Ratings System) at our February meeting. P Davis reviewed what he has already done to maximize our CRS points locally as we enter the program. He also spoke to his understanding that many communities in the country will be getting into CRS, that it may be required due to the increasing frequency of storms/disasters due to a variety of factors, including climate change.

Miller opened the floor to public comment and Samuels asked about Irene in regards to its frequency designation; Dutcher offered him access to a USGS map with the specifics on that.

Next Meeting is February 25<sup>th</sup> 10a.m.