



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2024
TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Brooks Chandler, Interim City Manager
SUBJECT: *Status of Hazard Mitigation Plan*

This memorandum provides information regarding; 1) an existing Hazard Mitigation Plan; and 2) the status of updating the existing Plan. In summary:

1. Nome has an existing Hazard Mitigation Plan (“the Plan”)
https://www.nomealaska.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/disaster_and_flood_plans/page/1921/02_1491941425_32199.pdf
2. The Plan was adopted in 2017. It was an update to a 2008 Plan. It needs to be updated in order for Nome to retain eligibility to apply for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants through the State of Alaska.
3. Prior to my arrival in Nome, City Manager Glenn Steckman submitted a Notice of Intent to the State of Alaska for funding to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
4. On October 25, 2024 Garret Brooks (an Emergency Management Specialist with the State of Alaska Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management) confirmed the State has added updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the State’s next funding cycle.
5. The plan update will be accomplished by a State contractor at no cost to Nome. Most likely this will involve the State vendor interfacing with the Local Emergency Planning



Committee (“LEPC”) and the Planning Commission. The LEPC is a state body whose volunteer members are appointed by the State. Alaska Statute 26.23.071.

6. The Planning Commission served as the “Hazard Mitigation Planning Team” for the 2017 update. The Chair of the Planning Commission was designated as the Planning Team Leader. The Commission should determine if it wishes to ask to serve as the Planning Team for the next update.
7. The Plan anticipates an annual review of ongoing hazard mitigation projects. (Plan p. 20). It is unclear if this annual review has occurred. I have asked staff to research this. If the annual review has not occurred the Commission Chair should initiate that process “two months prior to the scheduled planning meeting date to ensure that all data is assembled for discussion”. (Plan p. 20).

Based on the above here are some conclusions and recommendations.

1. The Plan has NOT expired. It is overdue for an update. The Plan is a living document.
2. Nome remains eligible for FEMA disaster response funding should a disaster strike the community even though the mitigation plan is overdue for an update. What is at risk is eligibility for grant funding of specific disaster mitigation projects. I have not had time to determine if there is a specific disaster mitigation project for which grant funding is needed.
3. Once the State vendor has reached out to the administration, the Planning Commission and the LEPC should have a joint meeting to determine the desired level of involvement of each body in the plan update process. Ultimately the updated plan must be approved both by the Commission and the City Council.
4. While the plan update is pending the Planning Commission Chair should initiate the annual review process anticipated by the Plan.
5. Once an updated plan is adopted it should be followed.

The Plan update will not be completed before I leave my position. I have tasked Angie Nguyen with following up with the State and serving as the point of contact for the State vendor during the plan update process.