

# ***Are You Ready for the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018?***

Rich Roths, AICP

James Schwab, FAICP

# ***Are You Ready for the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018?***

Wildfire portions of the implementing policies or regulations have already been released.

Remainder of the policies or regulations expected to be released during calendar years 2020 or 2021.

# *Are You Ready for the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018?*

Authorizes the National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund.

Funded by a 6% set-aside from the Disaster Relief Fund.

The new program is named Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

# *Are You Ready for the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018?*

FEMA hopes to start the application period for BRIC by September 2020.

BRIC to focus on:

- infrastructure mitigation;
- protecting life-lines (schools, fire stations, roads, bridges, etc.);
- early warning.

# Is Your Community Ready for a Natural Disaster?

- Does your community have an emergency response plan?
- Does your community have a mitigation plan?
- Does your community have a recovery plan?

# Is Your Community Ready for a Natural Disaster?

- **Preparedness** is defined by DHS/FEMA as "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident **response**."
- A **Mitigation Plan** is defined by DHS/FEMA as assessing "the current and possible future risk and the community capabilities for a given geographic area," and then assigns long-term mitigation strategies to address vulnerabilities. Developed with community stakeholder and public input, State, Tribal, and local governments use these plans to help break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.
- A local **recovery plan** provides a basis for requesting resources in a coordinated manner as well as a demonstration of capability to maintain local control. It also provides an opportunity for public input. Through planning, a community's stakeholders can determine their vision for the recovered community, identify obstacles and opportunities they may encounter in reaching that future, and measure their progress in achieving recovery as they defined it.

# Is Your Community Ready for a Natural Disaster?

Communities that have not implemented a recovery planning process and begun the leg-work of preparing a recovery plan will slow down the recovery of their community from a disaster.

# Is Your Community Ready for a Natural Disaster?

Delay in the recovery process costs your community money!



# The Recovery Plan

- Cannot be fully completed until a disaster has occurred, but you have delayed your community's recovery by not putting the basic parts in place prior to the disaster.
- Delays were seen in New Orleans, Puerto Rico, in communities affected by wildfires in California, along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and along the many rivers and streams that criss-cross the Chicago Metropolitan area.

# The Recovery Plan-Advance Work

- Form a task force and designate a lead agency;
- Define desired plans and linkages;
- Assess hazards and disaster impacts;
- Set post-disaster land-use and reconstruction standard;
- Determine long-term considerations for infrastructure and transportation;
- Determine resources that may be available after the disaster has struck;
- Map out a housing recovery strategy;
- Determine economic recovery strategies;
- Determine environmental recovery strategies;
- Determine health and social recovery strategies
- Formulate and analyze recovery scenarios.

# Hazards In Illinois

(As of 2018)

- All 102 Counties in Illinois have received a Presidential Declaration since 1965
- Cook and Pike Counties are tied for the most declarations at 17
- Jefferson, Clay, Stark, Menard and Kankakee are tied for the least at 2
- The Chicago Metropolitan Area counties other than Cook: Lake-11; McHenry-4; Kane-10, DuPage-10; Will-13

# Hazards In Illinois

- Major hazards per the Illinois Hazard Mitigation Plan:
  - Severe Storms
  - Tornadoes
  - Floods
  - Severe Winter Storms
  - Drought
  - Extreme Heat
  - Earthquakes

# Information To Help Communities Determine Vulnerability (As of July 2019)

- Page III-12 of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan lists vulnerabilities by County
- County and local Hazard Mitigation Plans-82 of 102 are up-to-date
- For Flooding see FEMA'S countywide Flood Insurance Rate Maps (See Illinois Flood Maps. Org). 77 Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps are complete, 8 are in progress, 1 is on hold, and 16 are not yet funded.

# Information To Help Communities Determine Vulnerability

- FEMA's HAZUS System (Hazards US)-  
use as an overlay with local GIS maps that  
your communities may have to determine  
vulnerabilities to floods and earthquakes

Part 2:

**STEPPING UP YOUR  
GAME  
BY THINKING AHEAD**

# **PLANNING FOR DISASTERS: ANTICIPATION AND AFTERMATH**

**James C. Schwab, FAICP**

**Jim Schwab Consulting LLC**

**IAFSM Conference, Tinley Park, March 11, 2020**



# When to plan for recovery?

Before Disaster Strikes?



After Disaster strikes?



# Pre-Disaster focus: Expediting recovery

- **Policy Framework**
  - **Areas designated for relocation or rebuilding more safely, if affected**
  - **General goals of recovery, depending on nature of disaster involved**
  - **Resilience goals and indicators**
- **Recovery Organization**
  - **Possible use of ordinance to establish lines of authority**
  - **Conditions under which recovery organization is activated**
  - **Opportunity for practice exercises, better understanding of duties before disaster strikes**
- **APA Model Ordinance available online: [https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy\\_resources/research/postdisaster/pdf/modelrecoveryordinance.pdf](https://planning-org-uploaded-media.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy_resources/research/postdisaster/pdf/modelrecoveryordinance.pdf)**

# **Post-disaster Focus: Design and Rebuild**

- **Documentation:**
  - **Damages (\$ and types)**
  - **Intensity of event  
(magnitude/category, etc.)**
  - **Scope (how widespread?)**
  - **Locations (areas affected)**
- **Goals: What needs to change?**
  - **Visioning and goal setting**
  - **Use of recovery indicators**

# **Scale and Spectrum: Why They Matter**

- **Determine level of resources needed for recovery**
  - **Money (from all sources)**
  - **Technical assistance**
- **May significantly affect time needed for recovery**
- **May also dictate need for regional or even interstate cooperation in recovery**
- **State or federal disaster declaration?**

**TABLE 3.1. RECOVERY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM: SCALES, TYPES, AND LEVELS**

Scale	Type A: Restoration	Type B: Redevelopment
Can be discontinuous, involving multiple locations at each geographic scale	Characterized by limited life losses and population-economic dislocation, repairable damage, minimal land-use changes	Characterized by major life or structure losses and population-economic dislocation; demolition, reconstruction, and land-use changes; mitigation opportunities
Neighborhoods	<b>Level 1: Neighborhood Restoration</b> Example: Yountville, California, mobile home park flood wall and restoration	<b>Level 2: Neighborhood Redevelopment</b> Example: September 11 World Trade Center attack
Communities	<b>Level 3: Community Restoration</b> Example: Oakland, California, East Bay Hills firestorm	<b>Level 4: Community Redevelopment</b> Example: Greensburg, Kansas, tornado
Regions	<b>Level 5: Regional Restoration</b> Example: Northridge earthquake	<b>Level 6: Regional Redevelopment</b> Example: Tohoku earthquake and tsunami

# Aspects of disaster recovery

- **Goals and Policies**
- **Process**
- **Implementation**



# Goals and Policies in Recovery

- **Similar in nature to comprehensive plans, but:**
  - **Comprehensive plan usually looks ahead 20-30 years**
  - **Recovery plan focuses on time needed for recovery ( $\leq 10$  years)**
  - **Time for plan completion compressed due to urgency of restoration**
    - **Pre-disaster planning may save critical time and expedite recovery!**
- **As with other planning, goals and issues are interrelated**
  - **Urgency may affect participation in unforeseen ways**
  - **Pulling out one thread may unravel others**
  - **Opportunities for “silver lining” and advancing new ideas or big visions**

# **Goals and Policies in Recovery**

- **Potential policy areas implicated (depending on disaster):**
  - **Land use and rebuilding**
  - **Infrastructure**
  - **Housing**
  - **Economic recovery**
  - **Environmental restoration**
  - **Health and social recovery**



# **Planning Process for Recovery**

- **Initiating the process—form a recovery task force or working group**
  - **Who's in charge—designated leader**
  - **Who does what—lines of responsibility**
  - **Who's involved—agencies, civic organizations, etc.**
- **Pre- and post-disaster plans (discussed earlier)**
- **Building public support and consensus**
- **Adopting the plan**

# Implementing Recovery

- **Gearing up**
- **Management**
- **Finance**
- **Strategies/milestones/timetables**
- **Legal considerations**
- **Measuring recovery**
- **See APA Briefing Papers at:**
  - <https://www.planning.org/research/postdisaster/>
- **See APA Inventory of Disaster Resource Programs at:**
  - <https://www.planning.org/research/postdisaster/programs.htm>

# Key Issues in Recovery

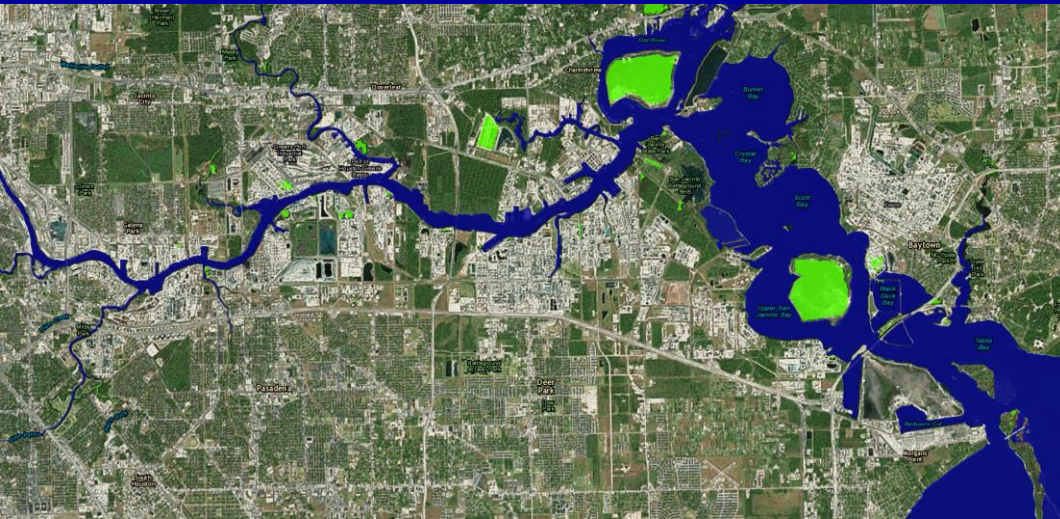
- **Who owns the recovery? (Own your own)**
  - **Conflict of resources vs. understanding of local needs**
- **Staff capacity and hiring consultants**
- **Political will to confront major challenges, e.g.:**
  - **Land use (zoning in Houston)**
  - **Adapting to climate change (sea level rise, extreme events)**
  - **Affordable housing (rebuilding, restoration, etc.)**
  - **How often do you want to revisit your vulnerabilities?**
- **Visualizing and realizing opportunities for change**



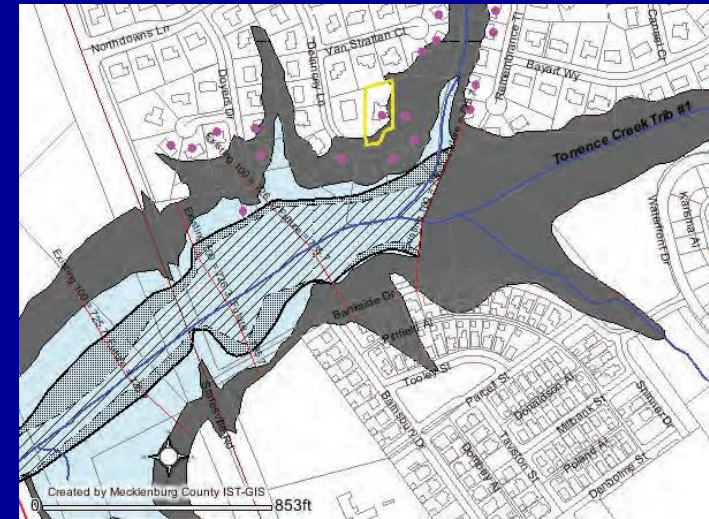
# Creating a Resilient Future

- Anticipating climate change
- Anticipating impacts of future growth

From NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer



From PAS 560



# “The aftermath of one disaster is the prelude to the next”

*Jim Schwab*

- **If it has happened before, why wouldn't it happen again?**
- **Climate change as a game changer—how much worse can it get?**
- **Are we serious about preventing harm and property loss?**
- **Arresting the cycle with enhanced resilience**



Photo by Jeff Clevenger

# Contact Information

Rich Roths, AICP

Email: [rjrdp1@gmail.com](mailto:rjrdp1@gmail.com)

James C. Schwab, FAICP

Jim Schwab Consulting LLC

E-mail: [jimschwabFAICP@outlook.com](mailto:jimschwabFAICP@outlook.com)

Personal website: [www.jimschwab.com](http://www.jimschwab.com)

Business website: [www.jimschwabconsulting.com](http://www.jimschwabconsulting.com)