



Resiliency Workshop, January 19, 2017

in Salisbury, NB



Prepared for AMANB by: Eddie Oldfield, Spatial Quest



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Summary of Resiliency Workshop, January 19, 2017

Presentations

- **Eddie Oldfield** – Overview of Sendai framework; Results of AMANB projects 2014-2016; overview of FCM Green Municipal Fund

At the start of the workshop, Eddie gave an overview of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (see <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>), tied results of AMANB's resiliency work to the Sendai priorities and noted that our resiliency efforts align well. Results of the 10 Essentials exercise conducted in 2014 demonstrated common areas for improvement. It was noted that it would be good to periodically run the exercise (every 2 or 3 years) for monitoring progress. Eddie also shared results of telephone survey, outlined additional resources, and provided information on FCM Green Municipal Fund for climate risk assessment and adaptation. The representative of NB Department of Environment and Local Government, noted that by 2020, NB will require all communities to have an adaptation plan, including communities that are not municipalities but in high risk areas. DELG is working on rules that tie infrastructure funding to the existence of climate considerations in their plans. The REMC noted that up to 78% of municipalities now have an EMO plan, which is an increase from 2015.

- **Marc Belliveau, Red Cross**

We tend to think about infrastructure and forget to think about the needs of the people. Marc Beaulieu presented on how his focus is on the people in a disaster context. He offered to come in to communities and work directly with them on their resiliency planning. "Good communities will call for help. Great communities will call to say 'we got this'". Need to focus how the different partners can / do communicate with each other.

Quick discussion / brainstorm on an *ice storm* scenario. What would they (municipalities) do? Plan and evaluate and work through the scenario. Bring in external stakeholders for the planning process. If the municipality has a contact list, fan out messages/communication through that system. Each municipality has an emergency reception centre that is identified. Enact EMO plan, consider regional EMO plan/lateral alliances. When reception centres are updated/re-built, back-up power should be built in. Red Cross will do inspection and write up of potential reception centres to assess suitability and what would need to be done to upgrade. Exercise the plan and make sure people in roles of responsibility are comfortable with those roles.

Download the "Be Ready" mobile app. Redcross.ca/ready getprepared.ca

- **Mike Leblanc, Regional Emergency Management Coordinator** Region 6 (Kent) & 7 (South East/Sud-est) – overview of the NB EMO template and CSA standard

We are aiming to get an EMO plan template that is user friendly for municipalities and regions to use. Province has drafted one (December 2016) and intends to roll it out. Ideally 4 year planning cycle, offset from municipal elections to give each council a chance to learn, test (table top) and revise plan during their mandate. Ideally migrate current plans to new template as they come up for review to standardise and reduce confusion during regional responses, as everyone is used to seeing the information in the same format.

He described an example of a low cost exercise. Set a date. Door to door communication of what was coming and when and what to expect. Day of exercise, people who wanted to participate did, they were registered at evacuation centre, asked a few questions (would you have another place to go in a real situation, elderly

people you know about, pets?), thanked, and given hot dogs and balloons. Very effective at setting the pattern for what citizens do, and raising awareness.

Discussion

Participants gathered around maps of their respective communities and Eddie gave overview of exercise. Ended up with 4 self-selected groups, ranging in size from 2 to 4, that merged to 3 groups.

Table-Top Exercise



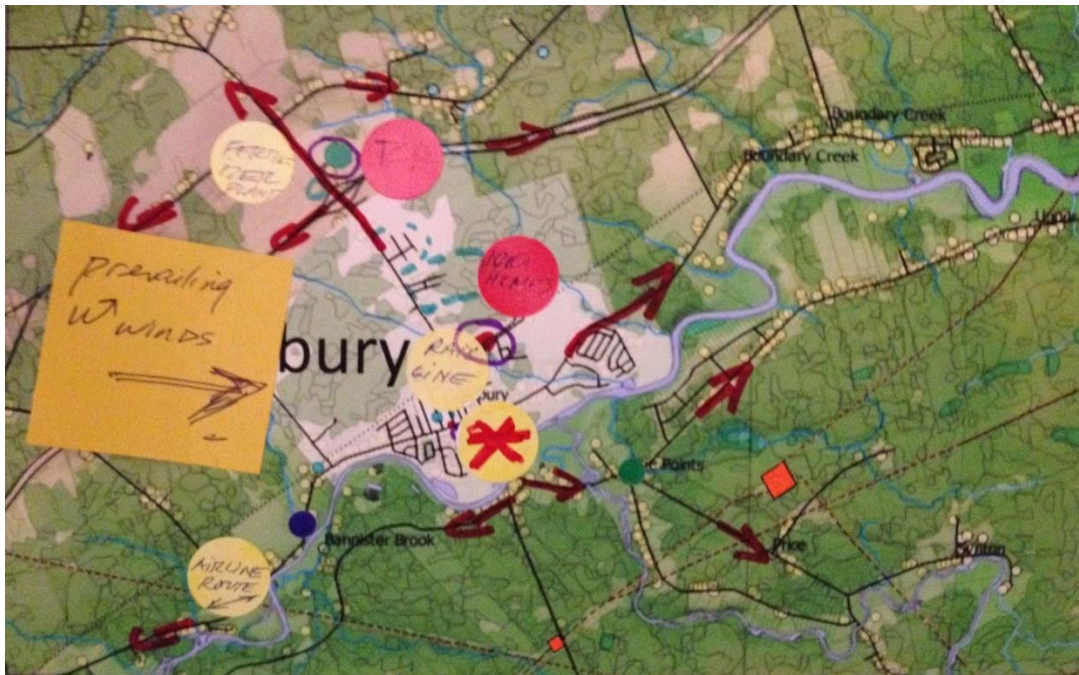
Participants draw on maps during a table top exercise in Salisbury

Hazards: Each community (Sussex, Norton, Petlocodiac, Salisbury) identified and discussed hazards of concern, and ranked them in terms of probability and consequence. To the extent possible, hazards of most concern were then marked on a large map. For example:

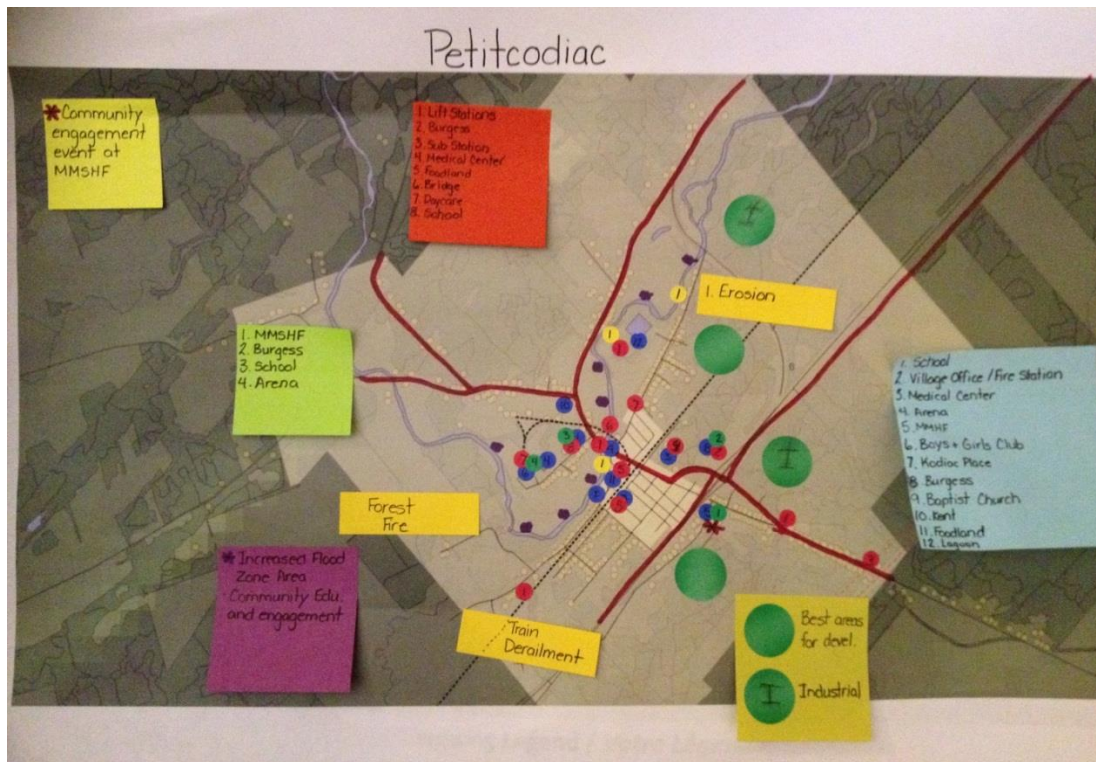
- Sussex identified high risk from hydrological hazards, contamination/pollution, hazardous material spills and rail accidents; moderate risks from geological hazards (e.g. erosion of riverbank near sewage lagoon), power/water outages; but low risk of forest fire. They noted they have detailed flood risk maps as well. See map (from the exercise) below:



- Salisbury identified high risk from hydrological hazards, contamination/pollution (e.g. industry (fertilizer plant), hazardous material spills (e.g. on TCH, rail accidents), power outages, and other potential hazards (e.g. along the airline route). See map below:



- Petitcodiac identified high risk from forest fires, train derailment, power/water outages, hydrological hazards; moderate risk from geological, atmospheric, and contamination/pollution. See map below:



The color code of stickers/stickies is: Yellow sticky with red star = location of community event; otherwise, Yellow = hazard; red = vulnerability (numbered); Blue = community asset (numbered) / small Green = asset that improves resilience or can be used during a disaster; Large green sticker = area to encourage new development; Purple sticky: Things that can be done; red lines = emergency arteries / evacuation routes.

In addition to hazards described above, participants also highlighted the following on the maps:

Vulnerabilities: To the extent possible, participants identified potential vulnerabilities from the hazards of most concern. These were identified on the map, and included: Municipal buildings, Lift stations, Burgess, a Sub-station, medical center, hospital, nursing/special care homes, seniors residence, Foodland, bridge, daycare, school, and downtown centers with both commercial and residential buildings.

Assets for resilience: Mutual agreements in place, Some communities have existing shelters and some are planning new emergency shelters (using existing buildings). These include schools, arenas, community centers, or industrial buildings as optional emergency shelters and other municipal facilities (town hall) are also considered assets. Red Cross offered to provide assistance in assessing any building being considered as an emergency shelter to offer recommendations. In some communities, prevailing winds are taken into account when planning industrial zones.

Adaptation/Resiliency improvements: Communities denoted possible infrastructure improvements; erosion control for protection of water treatment facilities from floods and river ice jams; culvert upgrades (on CN rail line); designated emergency shelters and back-up power; areas where development should be discouraged, as well as areas to encourage development and build back better (areas that are not vulnerable to known hazards and are accessible). The RSC identified an interest in identifying best practices (e.g. risk based land use planning), available tools/resources, and municipal approaches / policy instruments that could help to advance resiliency efforts.

Emergency arteries: Participants were able to draw primary emergency arteries, and secondary / alternative routes for emergency vehicles, evacuations, etc. In several communities, it was noted primary emergency arteries can be severed by certain hazards, and participants agreed it might be a good idea to exercise evacuation plans. It was noted that not many communities have exercised evacuations in N.B., and we do not have the same culture of safety as residents in Fort McMurray who evacuated with little incident from a devastating forest fire.

Community Engagement: Each community selected a venue to engage their community; many chose a designated emergency shelter for the location.

Action Planning:

These results are captured from a rapid-fire action planning exercise, where participants are asked to mark on a sticky, based on earlier discussion, what they think the key needs are / what are some key goals and possible actions that can be taken. The answers are then read out loud and collected and arranged in categories onto a panel. The result is useful to identify unique and common needs, potential goals, and to synthesize participant's recommendations for actions, all described here: (a. b. and c. follow through)

Goals *(These goals are based on the needs identified by participants)*

- a) Effective Communication, Higher Literacy, and Resiliency Norms are embedded in NB culture.
- b) A significant reduction in vulnerability of people and property to potential hazards/disasters.
- c) The emergency plan template (NB EMO) is adopted, with a majority of local emergency plans updated and exercised, and measures to improve resiliency considered within local and regional plans.

Objectives *(These objectives are extrapolated from the Goals and Actions)*

- a) N.B. Municipalities develop communication plans, work to improve literacy internally (e.g. council and staff) and externally (e.g. provide easy to access, clear and timely information to the public).
- b) Adequate efforts are taken to reduce vulnerabilities identified in population, in buildings / infrastructure, in maintaining continuity of essential services, in relation to flood events, etc
- c) All N.B. Municipalities update emergency plans (e.g. using NB EMO template), exercise their plans, and integrate resiliency considerations into municipal plans and bylaws

Initiatives *(These initiatives are extrapolated from the Goals and Actions)*

- a) Utilize diverse local, regional, and provincial communication mediums to improve access to information and increase awareness in the community / as part of a communication plan
- b) Identify vulnerabilities / flood risk areas, develop vulnerable person registries, implement measures to reduce vulnerability e.g. Essential structural improvements are identified and fixed; regulations are established for building in flood risk zones.
- c) Integrate approaches to improve resiliency through updates to the municipal plan and emergency plan, engaging local business and citizens (e.g. exercise)

Actions *(These actions were identified by participants)*

- a) Put information on website (e.g. village website) to help residents know risks and what to do, where to go; make sure seniors understand what to do, where to go, and have assistance in an emergency; hold community meeting / information workshops on the EMO plan; make presentations on our plan; handouts to be kept in visible places; go door

to door; conduct an exercise/education drill; build community awareness of the plan; develop provincial-municipal plan for communication so that we are all on same page; improve awareness of resources available.

- b) Conduct a vulnerability assessment; set up and promote a vulnerable person registry; have the fire department visit homes to find who are the vulnerable people; conduct flood risk assessment; improve regulations on building in flood risk zones; implement specific measures (e.g. structural improvements) to reduce vulnerability.
- c) Municipalities adopt the NB EMO template; identify potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with hazards; Review and update local EMO Plan; Engage REMC to assist with community plan update; Train / Practice the emergency plan, and develop a plan flexible enough to meet all hazards response; Conduct municipal exercise (mock disaster) or evacuation drill; Ask seniors homes, care facilities, long term care units, schools and hospitals, for their ERP to Annex in municipal plan; Create strategy for vulnerable populations during and after disaster; integrate resilience into municipal plans, bylaws; reach out to neighboring communities; engage not just as a municipality but as a region too.

Summary Feedback / Evaluation Forms

What they liked best: Many participants indicated the best parts of the workshop were the table top exercise as well as the speakers who were very knowledgeable and presented great information. Participants also enjoyed the discussion, learning, being engaged, action planning, and working together / collaborating with various communities.

What they liked least: Fast pace, little time, too much material.

Biggest insights that emerged from this workshop:

- Participants identified communication as a critical need with room for improvement. They noted a lack of awareness and how important it is to inform residents and seniors/disabled.
- There are different ways of evaluating hazards. More risks and vulnerabilities than just floods.
- There is community willingness to adapt. Communities are engaged and want to plan and act.
- Planning is key. Municipalities need to not only have a plan, but to make it known. It was noted that municipalities should update and exercise the plan, at least once every 3 to 4 years.
- Resources are available. Benefits from working together/collaboration and co-procurement.

Actions that may be taken as a result of attending:

- Educate and engage our residents, community engagement, more information must be relayed to public. better communication with clients,
- Village assessment, vulnerable person registry
- Incorporating more types of resilience in plans and by-laws, Update our EMO plan, revision of our plan, will work some information into our municipal plan. Start and implement the plan.
- Follow-up discussion and implementation.

Will the material help advance resiliency planning / projects in your community region: All (100%) said yes.

Further recommendations / feedback:

- List objectives / actions by preference.
- Great Workshop – Would love to see if as a whole day event to cover more material.
- I think you are right on target, great job! Glad I attended.

Participants:

Beverly Best, Councillor, Village of Salisbury
Bruce Parks, NB EMO
Christy Arseneau, Wanigan Consulting
Deborah Armitage, Councillor, Village of Sussex
Jerry Gogan, Mayor, Village of Petitcodiac
Kris Butcher, Town of Sussex
Marc Belliveau, Canadian Red Cross
Mike Leblanc, NB EMO
Paul Murphy, Village of Norton
Phil Robichaud, Southeast Regional Service Commission
Rob Capozzi, NB Climate Change Secretariat
Shawn McNeil, Village of Salisbury
Teri McMackin, Councillor, Village of Petitcodiac
Terry Keating, Mayor, Village of Salisbury