The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Disaster Recovery Board met on September 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community 1401 S. Main St., Dayton, Ohio 45402.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Stroud called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and self-introductions were made.

II. Lead Agency Updates

- The Dayton Foundation

  Mr. Parks thanked Ms. Mercer and County Corp for the Homeownership Program. He shared that the Dayton Foundation Board and Grants Committee approved a $275,000 transitional grant to help get nine homes underway.

- MVRPC

  Mr. Martin provided an update on the tree recovery efforts and the Keep America Beautiful campaign. He mentioned staff are doing a great job with community outreach and working with MVRPC member jurisdictions who were impacted by the tornados.
III. Community Recovery Status Updates

Mr. Metz presented the Disaster Recovery Dashboards and shared that the recovery rate for the Property Recovery Monitor has increased by 5% since the last meeting. He discussed MVRPC and MVLTROG on-site visits to the properties listed as “no progress” and “no data”. By the end of 2021, the goal is to work with all of the impacted communities to resolve the status of the properties currently noted as “no data”. Mr. Metz also presented the Individual Recovery Monitor and noted the recovery rate is almost at 95%.

Mr. Metz announced that the Regional Resiliency Planning will conduct SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Risks) Analysis during next quarterly Disaster Recovery Impacted Jurisdictions and Disaster Recovery Leadership Board Meetings. This is in partnership with FEMA, EDA, National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and American Planning Association (APA) Advisors and Resources.

Mr. Metz also announced that MVRPC along with Mr. Michael Vanderbugh and Ms. Sally Dyer will be establishing a Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) as part of the resiliency planning efforts. He explained a COAD is a local group of community organizations that coordinate emergency human services. Mr. Parks asked if the idea was to have that structured, organized, and on the shelf ready to go. Mr. Metz stated it is not necessarily on the shelf, but more prepared and actively practicing working through scenarios and drills for the next disaster. Mr. Parks also asked what role the county emergency management agency will play. Ms. Schweikhart said the COAD will serve as a connection for all the county emergency management agencies in the region. The goal of forming a COAD for the region is to harness the expertise in the groups that have been active in the MVLTROG, and also expand it to have a stronger presence throughout the entire region. Ms. Mercer stated after the tornados in May 2019, the MVLTROG was not fully organized until that October. She said to recreate the COAD now and to have it structured will help with a more prepared and quicker response for the next disaster. There was a brief discussion from local jurisdictions about the how the waiting period after the tornados affected their communities. Mr. Parks asked Mr. Martin if he sees keeping this COAD alive as part of the long term responsibility he’s taken on. Mr. Martin answered absolutely, we will build committees and maintain relationships and that’s what the resiliency planning process is.

Mr. Stroud asked Ms. Mercer to explain how she established record keeping files. Ms. Mercer stated they set up their files at Wright State University. Part of the process of the long term recovery and individual recovery will end in October, and within three months of that she will have the documentation archiving the organizational structure and all the parts that went into building it.

Mr. Metz provided information about the FEMA Mitigation Grants. He stated on August 9th FEMA released the NOFO Mitigation grant funding and on August 12th Mr. Steve Ferryman from OMEA discussed the new grants and application process during the Impacted Jurisdictions meeting. The grants discussed were: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. Ms. Schweikhart asked Mr. Smith from the Miami County EMA for an update. Mr. Smith stated every 5 years the county has to update the hazard mitigation plan. The grants are recurring and every county EMAs are in the routine of looking into these grants. One prerequisite is to have a mitigation plan for each jurisdiction and once the plan is approved by FEMA each jurisdiction can adopt the county plan to use.

Ms. Schweikhart provided information on the federal investment summary and project updates. She also provided information on the EDA opportunities.
IV. Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign

Mr. McGahan provided an update on the Miami Valley TREEcovery Campaign. He announced they made the decision to reschedule the Trotwood planting event due to health and safety reasons. He also discussed the October 2nd planting event will take place at Sinclair Park. They are trying to limit the number of volunteers for health and safety reasons as well. The following days on October 3rd-4th they plan conduct a demonstration planning and use that opportunity to register people and try to reach their goal of getting 1,000 trees planted.

Mr. McGahan shared that the first phase of the tree removal process has started. They are working with Mr. Delbridge from Tree Centric Solutions who is a certified arborist and is qualified in tree risk assessment management. He assesses all trees that have a high likelihood of impacting dwellings or active outdoor spaces such as sidewalks and streets. The total estimated mitigation cost is $85,790. He explained Mr. Delbridge has been asked to do the tree risk assessments at each property so RETREET can get a scope of the work that needs to be done. With the estimate Mr. Delbridge provides, RETREET will take those projects out to bid and find local partners to do this work around the cost they are expecting. Mr. McGahan shared a map of the tree requests they’ve received.

Ms. Schweikhart shared an update on the local fundraising. She said the Dayton Foundation lead the way with their contribution, AES Ohio contributed a $50,000 matching grant opportunity and Ms. Schweikhart was happy to share they’ve maximized that match. She said Mr. Hankins was able to bring in a number of supporters from Cargill, Sisters of the Precious Blood and Evans. The fundraising is not over, and they will continue to push contributions to that fund. Mr. McGahan said they are about $50-60,000 away from the goal and mentioned he fully expects to close the gap by the end of the year. Mr. Parks thanked Mr. McGahan for all his work.

V. Individual Recovery Status Updates

Ms. Mercer presented on the Individual Recovery. She provided an update of Case Management and announced they are 97% complete. She also provided an update on the Repair and Rebuild and stated they were able to secure $2.1M in FHLB/DRP funds. Ms. Holihan provided more insight to the finances. She mentioned there is still $1,121,815 remaining and the estimated future Repair/Rebuild costs are $499,380.

Ms. Mercer announced the Individual Recovery Wrap up Celebration will take place September 29th. The celebration is to recognize the work and celebrate accomplishments in terms of individual and household tornado recovery and to also thank key partners in that work.

VI. Pathways Project

Ms. Mercer discussed the Pathways to homeownership project and stated CountyCorp will oversee the project. This project provides an opportunity for qualified tornado-impacted renters to become homeowners. More than 2,100 families have been served through case management with 53% of them being renters. 35 families have applied so far, of those 35 30 are African American, 28 have children in the home, 7 are close to being mortgage ready and 3 now have homes under contract.
VII. Adjourn

Mr. Stroud presented a gift to Ms. Mercer for her amazing work in the recovery effort. Mr. Parks thanked Ms. Mercer and stated she was the best person for the job. Ms. Mercer thanked everyone for the acknowledgements and said this was the most meaningful work she’s ever done. She thanked everyone who helped participate in the recovery effort.

Mr. Martin thanked Senator Portman, Senator Brown and Congressman Turner for their continued support and the infrastructure bill.

Mr. Bain thanked Mr. Martin and stated FEMA is going through the Individual Household Program (IHP) and the letters they send out are confusing to the public. In the past people have thought they were denied when that wasn’t the case. Senator Portman has signed on with FEMA to help provide more clarity with the letters.

Mr. Stroud adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Future Meeting Dates:  
Friday, December 3, 2021  9:00-10:30 AM  
Friday, March 3, 2022  9:00-10:30 AM