

St. Mary's County Hazard Mitigation Planning Board

2025 Annual Report



**ST. MARY’S COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING BOARD
2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

Introduction

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to prepare and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving Pre- Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assistance. The St. Mary’s County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in 2006 by Resolution number 2006-35, updated in 2011, 2017 and again in 2023 by Resolution number 2023-04.

The Board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County (CSMC) by addressing all matters related to planning and mitigation due to natural hazards, community outreach, coordination of resources and agencies, and any other issues relating to hazard mitigation that the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County (CSMC) may deem appropriate.

The membership of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Board consists of ten (10) members and four (4) alternates.

Current Members:

Amy Bledsoe
Tony Wheatly
Jessica Andritz
Donald Mills
Ed Hogan
Charles Eible
Eric Benson
Philip Burch
Jennifer Aubert-Utz
Vince Whittles

Alternates:

George Erichsen
Angela Stancliff
Rick Tarr
Courtney Jenkins

Representing:

Emergency Management
Town of Leonardtown
Land Use and Growth Management
Public Works & Transportation
Metropolitan Commission
St. Mary’s County Public Schools
Information Technology
State Highway Administration
Public Safety
Business Owner in St. Mary’s County

Representing:

Metropolitan Commission
Information Technology
Public Works & Transportation
Land Use and Growth Management

Meetings

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Board has quarterly meetings. The Board held four meetings in 2025:

- February 19, 2025 – Not Held/No Quorum
- May 21, 2025

- September 24, 2025
- November 19, 2025

Scheduled meetings for 2026:

- February 18, 2026
- May 20, 2026
- August 19, 2026
- November 18, 2026

Elections

Election for Chair and Vice-Chair positions were held on May 21, 2025. Amy Bledsoe was elected as Chairperson; Ed Hogan was elected as Vice-Chair.

Attendance

Member	02/19/2025	05/21/2025	09/24/2025	11/19/2025
Amy Bledsoe	N/A	A	P	P
Tony Wheatly	N/A	P	P	A
Jessica Andritz	N/A	P	P – Courtney Jenkins - Alternate	P – Courtney Jenkins - Alternate
Donald Mills	N/A	P	P	P
Ed Hogan	N/A	P	P	P
Charles Eible	N/A	P	P	A
Eric Benson	N/A	P	P	P
Philip Burch	N/A	P	P	P
Jennifer Aubert-Utz	N/A	A	P	A
Vince Whittles	N/A	P	P	A
Present	N/A	8	10	6
Absent	N/A	2	0	4

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The St. Mary’s County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on March 13, 2023. The plan was adopted by the Town of Leonardtown on March 13, 2023, by Resolution number 3-23, and the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County (CSMC) on March 21, 2023, by Resolution number 2023-04. Per requirement, the plan must be updated every five years. The current plan will expire on March 12, 2028.

St. Mary’s County Comprehensive Plan Update

St. Mary’s 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow is the County’s long-range Comprehensive Plan that will shape land use, growth, and preservation decisions through 2050 and beyond. St. Mary’s County Government’s Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) has released

the first draft of the plan and is inviting the community to review the document and share feedback to help guide the final version. All feedback received—both online and in person—will be considered as the plan moves toward its final draft for consideration by the Planning Commission in late spring and the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County this summer. To review the draft plan, submit feedback, and stay informed about the project, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/StMarys2050.

Nuisance Flood Plan

The Commissioners of St. Mary’s County (CSMC) adopted the updated 2025 St. Mary’s County Nuisance Flood Plan on October 28, 2025, by Resolution number 2025-26. Maryland House Bill 1427 (2019). §3-1018(b) and (c) requires that a local jurisdiction that experiences nuisance flooding shall develop a Plan to address nuisance flooding, and that it be updated every five years. This revision replaced the previously approved 2020 Plan. The updated Nuisance Flood Plan will complement the current Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Annual Progress Report for Community Rating System

Under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) Program, an annual report providing implementation status for the St. Mary’s County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan must be presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. The 2023 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is comprised of 48 action items (37 new and 11 carried over from the previous plan) which are categorized under 4 types:

- Local Planning and Regulations – 20 Action Items
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects – 15 Action Items
- Natural Systems Protection – 7 Action Items
- Education and Awareness Programs – 6 Action Items

Conclusion

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Board aims to identify proactive measures like structural improvements, land use planning, and public education to reduce the risk of damage and make our community more resilient. The creation of long-term strategies and continued assessment of vulnerabilities will minimize the impact that future disasters have on lives and property. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Board is dedicated to serving the citizens of our community by overseeing the implementation of mitigation actions and advising the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County of the impact that disasters and hazards could have on the community.