Relationships and Planning ahead

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Cedar Rapids 2008 Flood Map

100, 500 and 500+ year flood
What Do You Do when the unthinkable happens?

Every relationship counts! People will find you and call you. You will leverage everything to help your community. And I had thought about various potential disasters and drilled ahead of this disaster.
Why is Resilience so Important & What Does it mean?

National Academy of Sciences publication – relationships are important
Risk and Resilience

- Risk – the chance of something **BAD** happening
- Resilience – the ability for a system to respond to, absorb and recover from disruption and return to its core functions
- Assessing risk – natural as well as social and political
- Resilience is not a fixed commodity – and requires building relationships, trust and understanding (over and over)
- The vision and understanding of risk and resilience requires work every day
What Are Your Risks?

• They may be different than what you anticipated (the trap of preparing for the last disaster you experienced)
• Common everyday risks
• Black Swan risks
• Getting a community to prepare
• What haven’t you thought about?
The Challenges of an Elected Official

• Elected Officials are rarely strategic and often reactive
• Public demands are varied and broad
• Must be knowledgeable about many things
• Building relationships with staff is required to get to outcomes
• Getting re-elected
The Obstacles & Opportunities

- We don’t have enough time
- We don’t have enough money
- This may never happen
- Others will fix this if it does happen
- Politics!
- A better more resilient community
- A common vision of what you want your community to be.
Case

Budget impacts – prepared vs. unprepared
Planning helps to build relationships that assist in disasters
Learn to tell a story – or help your elected be a storyteller
We Should All Be In This Together

- Language and perspective matters
- Speaking the truth is important – citizens need to know the challenges and the path ahead
- When trying to build buy in for a plan – how do you move people when they don’t believe it will happen
- Build relationships and partnerships before you need them!
- Partners are often found in surprising places
- Ask yourself – what are we missing?
Thank you!

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