

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

Roy Cooper, Governor Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary Laura H. Hogshead, Director

CDBG-MIT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING June 22, 2022

Descriptive text for the title slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. CDBG-MIT Citizen Advisory Committee Public Meeting. June 22, 2022.

>> Matt Arlyn: Good morning, everybody. We'll start in just a minute. I think some folks are still joining us this morning.

>> All right, everyone. Good morning. Thank you so much for joining us today. My name is Matt Arlyn. I am the chief recovery officer of the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. I'm so pleased that we've gathered a committee membership that is passionate about the longterm resilience of the state's disaster impacted communities. I see many familiar names on the committee membership list and many more that I'm looking forward to learning more about. I'm also pleased that we have a number of members of the public who have gathered today to learn more about NCORR's work in establishing the Strategic Buyout Program and other Community Development Block Grant Mitigation, or CDBG-MIT, activities. Please note that today's committee meeting is focused on the CDBG-MIT grant, including the Strategic Buyout Program and related programs and activities, and we will not focus on the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery, or CDBG-DR, work such as the Homeowner Recovery Program or other NCORR programs and activities. If you have a question about other NCORR activities, like the Homeowner Recovery Program, or if you are a participant of the Homeowner Recovery Program, I encourage you to email your question to ask-RBNC@rebuild.gov. You may also leave your contact information in the chat box, but be aware that that information is going to be visible to the public. The Citizen Advisory Committee is a body dedicated to the forward-thinking and community-focused long-term mitigation needs that are so desperately needed by some of our most flood-vulnerable communities. NCORR will take the thoughts, recommendations and guidance provided by this committee very seriously as we continue to refine our buyout work and our other activities funded with our mitigation funds. You will play an integral role in how this program will develop and grow. I hope you feel as honored to be here as I am to welcome you to this group. I will now introduce Maggie Battaglin, the current buyout program manager and the lead for our buyout program activities. Thank you, Maggie.

>> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you, Matt, for those introductory remarks. One second. Apologies. Apologies for that quick interruption. But welcome, everybody, to today's CDBG-MIT, or Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation, Citizen Advisory Committee public meeting. Thank you to Matt for making those remarks at the top of this call. This call will be recorded and will be posted on the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency's website

for review after this call is over. To kick us off, I'd like to go through a quick agenda.

Descriptive text for the Slide 2: Agenda for CDBG-MIT Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Public Meeting on June 22,2022.

>> We will open the meeting by doing introductions and discussing meeting accessibility. We will then go through the meeting's purpose; some website updates that we are hoping to make. We will also be going through a review of the governing rules. We are also planning on having the nominees for the leadership positions make statements for those positions. And after that, we will be taking a break. During that break, members of the committee will be receiving a ballot to vote for those leadership positions, and then we'll be jumping into some program overviews and updates. We have a lot to cover today, so attendees have been muted. If you do have any questions throughout the meeting, please make sure to utilize the chat box and we will go through those questions at the end of the meeting. The chat is being monitored by staff from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

Descriptive text for the Slide 3: Outlined plan to introduce accessibility resources, CAC members and NCORR staff supporting the public meeting.

>> So, to jump into some of our introductions, first, I would like to make a quick note about inclusivity and accessibility for this meeting. That is a priority for NCORR and it's also a federal funding requirement. We have Spanish language interpreters for live interpretation of the meeting, and we also have live captioning for the meeting. We would like to welcome our two Spanish language interpreters, Jackie Metivier and Yasmin Metivier. Interpreters have a globe symbol next to their name on the attendee list. Additionally, we have a speech-to-text interpreter, Christine Joseph, who will be providing live captioning for this meeting. Second, I would like to recognize our Citizen Advisory Committee Members in attendance. My colleague, John Ebbighausen, will be doing a roll call right now to establish a quorum for this meeting. Members, I ask that you please unmute yourselves when your name is called to signify your presence, and please feel free to highlight the community you represent as well.

- >> John Ebbighausen: Good morning, Charles Wright.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: He's still on mute.
- >> Charles Wright: (inaudible) Present. I represent Wayne County.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Let's see. Mr. Wright, would you mind speaking again?
- >> Charles Wright: (inaudible) Yes, I'm present and I represent Wayne County.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Janet or Sarah, do we have somebody?

- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: Did you call on me, Maggie?
- >> Sarah Crump: We did hear Mr. Wright speak. He did speak.
- >> Charles Wright: Yes, I'm here.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: One second folks. I believe that my one second. Apologies. Yeah, I don't have my speakers on. So that'll do it. All right. Appreciate everybody's patience. My speakers are now on. So hopefully that makes things work a little bit better. Mr. Wright, would you please introduce yourself again?
- >> Charles Wright: Yes, my name is Charles Wright and I'm representing Wayne County.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you so much.
- >> John Ebbighausen: William Rowe? I believe he's out of town.
- >> Okay. Owen Thomas? Owen Thomas? [No response]
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Mr. Thomas, are you present? [No response]
- >> John Ebbighausen: Okay, we'll come back to that. Laressa Witt? Laressa Witt? [No response]
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Laressa Witt, are you present? [No response]
- >> John Ebbighausen: Okay. Next one is Dr. Tate.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Dr. Tate, are you present?
 [No response]
 >>Okay. Moving on. Lisa Williams, are you present?
- >> Lisa Williams: I'm here. Good morning.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Good morning, Lisa. Okay. Next up, we have Mary Perkins-Williams. Are you present, Ms. Mary?
- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Yes, I am. On my screen I see "bocc" for me, but yes, I am here.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Welcome. Next up, we have Kelly Shinn.
- >> Kelly Shinn: Hi, Kelly Shinn. Present, representing Hyde County.

- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Oh, I represent Pitt County. I'm sorry.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you, Ms. Perkins-Williams. Next up, we have Kitti Hardison.
- >> Kitti Hardison: Present. I represent Craven County.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Okay, thank you so much. Next up, we have Keith Graham.
- >> **Keith Graham**: Present, representing Bladen and Columbus County.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Great. Thank you so much. Next up, we have Brad Lovin. Brad, are you present?

[No response]

- >> Okay, we will come back to Mr. Lovin. Next up, we have Joshua Dick. Are you present?
- >> Joshua Dick: Hi. Present. I live in Raleigh.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Fantastic. Next up, we have Mayor Hardy. Are you present, sir?
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Yes, Maggie. I'm present. I represent Kinston and Lenoir County, and probably a few other cities and towns in the Eastern North Carolina Alliance as well. So, I'm here. Good to see everybody.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: All right, great. Thank you so much, sir. Next up, we have LaTasha McNair. Are you present, ma'am?
 [No response]
- >> LaTasha McNair? Okay. And then lastly, we have Jeralene Merritt. Are you present, ma'am?
- >> Jeralene Merritt: Yes, present. Duplin County.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Fantastic. Thank you so much. So, we're going to circle back to the folks, just to make sure. Is Owen Thomas present? Thomas. Excuse me. Mr. Thomas?

[No response]

>>Okay. And then Laressa Witt. Ms. Laressa Witt, are you present?

[No response]

>>And then Mr. Jimmy Tate, are you present?

[No response]

>>Dr. Tate?

[No response]

>>All right. So, we have nine CAC members on the line and that is enough for a quorum. So, we will continue with the meeting. Lastly, as part of these introductions, I would just like to recognize some of my NCORR colleagues and thank them for the work that they did to ensure today's meeting is successful. We've already heard from Matt Arlyn, who is our chief recovery officer. We also have Jaime Fuguay on the line, who is our chief of external affairs. We have

Bridget Munger, who is our communications directory. We have Janet Kelly-Scholle, who is our public information officer and is monitoring the chat for today's meeting and providing technical support. We also have Sarah Crump, who is our digital media specialist. John Ebbighausen is in the room with me as well, and he is a member of the policy team. And lastly, my name is Maggie Battaglin, and I am NCORR's buyout manager.

Descriptive text for the Slide 4: Description of the CAC's purpose.

>> Matt Arlyn highlighted at the top of this meeting what the CAC, or the Citizen Advisory Committee's, purpose is, but the committee is a body to provide increased transparency into the implementation of the Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation, or CDBG-MIT, funding. The North Carolina of Office of Recovery and Resiliency, or NCORR, uses these funds to administer the Strategic Buyout Program and specific planning efforts. This meeting is to provide the committee with an update on these projects and discuss them in greater depth. NCORR has multiple grants and multiple programs. If you have feedback or an inquiry related to or want more information about any of NCORR's other projects, such as the Rebuild NC Homeowner Recovery Program, please send an email to ask-RBNC@rebuild.nc.gov.

Descriptive text for the Slide 5: Description of the CAC webpage, and meeting materials that will be available on the page following the meeting.

Next, after this meeting, NCORR will be updating our mitigation website, which will include a recording of this meeting, meeting minutes once they have been approved, and other information that is relevant to the committee. We would also like to put information about the committee members on the website and ask that any committee members email a short three to five-sentence biography and a headshot to me for posting. Our communications team can also help draft bios for the website if you would like. We would also like to include contact information for CAC members as well, so please provide me with some contact info that you would be comfortable having posted on our public website. If there are any questions about our webpage or requests from the committee about information posted on the website, please do reach out to me as well after the meeting.

Descriptive text for the Slide 6: Overview of the CAC Governing Rules, sections one through three.

>> Next, we are going to be jumping into an overview of the CAC governing rules which have been shared with members of the committee previously. We are hoping to adopt these during today's meeting. The governing rules have 10 separate sections. So, I will go through those sections now. The first section defines the name of the Citizen Advisory Committee and provides a public email address, which is CAC@rebuild.nc.gov, and also provides a mailing address for the CAC. The second section defines the purpose and the objectives of the Citizen Advisory Committee, which are defined in the Federal Register highlighted on the screen. Primarily, the committee is here to solicit feedback about and respond to our mitigation

activities funded by the Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation, and to serve as an ongoing public forum to inform our grant-funded projects and programs. The third section of the committee outlines the committee's duties. The committee will review mitigation program activities, provide feedback and input on program development and efficacy. The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency will also provide any substantial amendments to our Mitigation Action Plan to the committee for review and comment.

Descriptive text for the Slide 7: Overview of the CAC Governing Rules, sections four through six.

>> The fourth section of the governing rules defines the existence of the committee. The committee will exist for the term of the Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation or until the requirement for the committee is revised or abolished by HUD. And HUD is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The fifth section of the CAC governing rules defines the conflict-of-interest provisions. Committee members are not permitted to have any conflicts of interest and all members have a duty to report any actual or potential conflicts to the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Sixth, there were some changes to this section, so just to highlight those, there are 11 to 17 voting members of the CAC. The first round of those members were nominated by the State Disaster Recovery Task Force's Housing Recovery Support Function group. Half of those members have a 24-month term and the other half have a 36-month term. Those terms were selected at random and appointment letters to committee members will be coming out this week, outlining specific terms for specific members. Additionally, the change that was made to this section was that previously the terms were 18 and 24 months, which led to us having everybody's term expire at the same time in about six years, so we changed the terms to make sure that we avoid that from happening.

Descriptive text for the Slide 8: Overview of the CAC Governing Rules, sections seven through eight.

>> Our next two sections. Section seven discusses meetings and procedural rules. The CAC is a public body and will have to adhere to requirements in the North Carolina General Statutes. In addition, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all the meetings and the conduct of the business. At a minimum, the committee is required to meet twice annually and may decide to hold up to two additional special meetings per year, which will include any meetings to review any draft substantial action plan amendments to the Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation Action Plan. We ask, here at NCORR, that the committee give us at least 30 days of advanced notice so that we can appropriately set up the meeting to ensure it's accessible to members of the public. The eighth section of the governing rules discusses a quorum and a majority. So, a quorum is one half of all voting members shall represent a quorum, and a majority is one half plus one of the members that are both present and voting.

Descriptive text for the Slide 9: Overview of the CAC Governing Rules, section nine.

>> Section nine discusses committee leadership. So, we have the committee chair, who will

preside at all meetings and ensure that duties of the committee are carried out in a timely manner. The committee chair will also be responsible for coordinating with NCORR to ensure all meetings are held in accordance with the relevant statutes and regulations. The vice committee chair will, in the absence of the chair, perform the duties of the chair. If the chair position becomes vacant for any reason, the governing rules outline that the vice chair will assume those duties until the next meeting at which time a successor is elected. If the vice chair position becomes vacant, the chair will select a member to fill the vacancy until the next meeting at which time a successor is elected. The secretary of the CAC is a non-elected, non-voting member, filled by NCORR staff. The secretary is responsible for reviewing and editing meeting notes, getting the website updated and then addressing any comments by the CAC.

Descriptive text for the Slide 10: Overview of the CAC Governing Rules, section 10.

>> The last section discusses the method for amending governing rules, and so any text of a proposed changes shall be presented in writing to the membership. At the next public meeting, a majority must approve the proposed amendments. If an amendment is approved by the committee, then it is passed to the secretary who will have relevant North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency staff review the amendment to ensure that it meets statutory and regulatory requirements. If there are no impediments to the proposed amendments, then the secretary will email the CAC with approval and the amendment will be considered adopted.

Descriptive text for the Slide 11: Plan for adoption of CAC Governing Rules – Motions, Discussion and Vote.

That is an overview of the governing rules. So, now we need a motion to approve those rules. Will members of the CAC please make a motion in the chat to approve these rules?

- >> **Keith Graham:** Hi, this is Keith Graham. I make a motion to accept these CAC governing rules.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you so much, Mr. Graham. Do we have a second?
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Mayor Hardy, I make a second.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Fantastic. Is there any discussion about these rules? [No response]

>>Okay. Since there is no discussion, then let's vote. Again, we'll be going through the roster of CAC members in the same order that we called roll at the top of the meeting. So please say "yea" or "nay" to vote on the adoption of these governing rules. Mr. Wright?

- >> Charles Wright: (no response)
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Are you there, Mr. Wright?

[No response] >>Okay. Bill Rowe? I know he wasn't in attendance, so we'll move to Mr. Thomas, who also I don't believe was in attendance at the roll call. Mr. Thomas, are you here now? [No response] >>It appears we can see you on the list, Mr. Thomas. So, if you are having any technical issues, please utilize the chat function and Janet will assist. We'll move on to Ms. Laressa Witt. Ms. Witt, are you in attendance now? [No response] >>Okay. Dr. Tate, are you in attendance? [No response] >>All right. Ms. Lisa Williams? >> Lisa Williams: Yea. >> Maggie Battaglin: Okay. Ms. Mary Perkins-Williams? >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Yea. >> Maggie Battaglin: Ms. Kelly Shinn? >> Kelly Shinn: Yea. >> Maggie Battaglin: Ms. Kitty Hardison? >> Kitti Hardison: Yea. >> Maggie Battaglin: Mr. Keith Graham? >> Keith Graham: Yea. >> Maggie Battaglin: Mr. Brad Lovin? >> Brad Lovin: Yea. >> Maggie Battaglin: Great, thank you. Mr. Joshua Dick?

Maggie Battaglin: Great, thank you. N
 Joshua Dick: Yea.
 Maggie Battaglin: Mayor Hardy?
 Mayor Don Hardy: Aye or yea.

>> Maggie Battaglin: Ms. LaTasha McNair?

[No response]

- >> Maggie Battaglin: Okay. And Ms. Jeralene Meritt?
- >> Jeralene Merritt: Yea.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Great. Mr. Charles Wright, are you present?

[No response]

>>Okay, Mr. Wright, if you are speaking, I'm not hearing you. So, if you are having technical issues, please drop them in the chat and Janet will assist. Okay. Owen Thomas, are you there? [No response]

>>Okay.

[Off-mic conversation]

>>We have enough votes to pass the governing rules, so thank you, everybody. I will send a copy of those to the committee, and they will also be posted online, as well, in their entirety.

Descriptive text for the Slide 12: Picture of Nominee for Chair, Mayor Dontario "Don" Hardy.

- >> Next up, we would like to welcome members of the CAC who are nominated for the elected positions to make a five-minute statement to the committee. There is one change that I need to notify everybody of. Originally, we had two nominees for chair—both Mayor Hardy and Dr. Tate. Dr. Tate withdrew his nomination for chair this morning, and so we have one nominee for chair and one nominee for vice chair. Each nominee will have five minutes to address the committee. So, I will stop sharing my screen and Mayor Hardy, if you would like to take it away, please feel free to address the committee.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Okay. I had to wait. I had to be unmuted. Okay, good to see everybody. Good morning, everybody. It's a pleasure, a distinguished honor and a pleasure, to be part of the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. I look forward to representing you, if at all possible, if you would have me to do so. I have been advocating for flood mitigation and preventative measures for some time now—since 2017. I'm a member and of the American Flood Coalition and Eastern North Carolina Disaster Recovery Alliance, which has been advocating for funding at the General Assembly and in Congress for North Carolina. As you have seen, House Bill 500 has come to fruition, which allocated several millions of dollars to flood mitigation. I believe it's somewhere around \$300 million—the most that has been allocated in history, when we start to talk about flooding and flood mitigation preventative measures. So, I was just in Washington the other week, last week as a matter of fact, talking about flooding and talking to our representation—Representative Rouzer, Thom Tillis' office and Greg Murphy's office—to talk about flooding and what we can do for coastal and inlet communities in eastern North Carolina and how we can have an impact across the state. I look forward to, you know, continuing to advocate for those who need it most in our communities—you know, our most distressed census tract areas, and those that're applying and how we can connect and make sure we're responding appropriately to those who need it most, as we do have issues, as I've heard in the past and currently, you know, from Matthew up until now—you're talking about

over five years or so—people have been waiting to apply or haven't had a response whatsoever. I understand that, when we start to talk about ReBuild and communication amongst, you know, different agencies and how things should happen, there is a disconnect when you start to talk about the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA and how do we get reimbursements back. There's a disconnect. Because what happens is, FEMA is actually governed under the Department of Homeland Security, which I should be having a meeting with here soon to talk about how we can actually communicate and respond back to those folks that need it. So, I look forward to being an asset to the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency, being an asset to the Department of Public Safety and the entire team. I look forward to working with each and every one of you, if you would have me do so moving forward. So, I'm just excited to be able to be a part and to be able to, you know, advocate for those that are in need and those that have had their lives disrupted by natural floods disasters in the previous years, to include myself. You, know, I was flooded out in 2016 with Hurricane Matthew as well. So, I just look forward to, you know, advocating and then streamlining things so that we can have people to apply and to show them how much we care in the state of North Carolina with the \$202 million that was allocated to ReBuild NC or the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. I do appreciate the opportunity and the time. And what I'll do is, I'll get back to you, Maggie. And I do appreciate the opportunity to be able to represent such a great organization and I do appreciate everyone at the top, from the Governor's office down to NCORR and the Department of Public Safety. So, I appreciate the time. I yield back to you, Maggie. I appreciate each and every one of you for wanting to be a part of this. I look forward to being a force to be reckoned with as we look continue to advocate to flood mitigation for preventative measures for our communities.

>> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you so much, Mayor Hardy, for your statement. So, that was Mayor Hardy, who is the nominee for the chair position for the committee. Our nominee for the vice chair is Owen Thomas, and Mr. Thomas, I can see you in the list of participants. So, I am going to go ahead and see if I can manually unmute you so you can make a statement as well. I ask, please, for the Spanish translators or the Spanish interpreters, that you speak slowly so they can translate you accurately or interpret for you. So, Mr. Thomas, I'm going to unmute you now. And it says that a request was sent. So, you have to unmute yourself now I believe on your end.

>> Let's see. Mr. Thomas, are you there? [No response]

>>The unmute button is at the bottom of the window, at the bottom of your phone. It looks like you have joined via mobile device. Mr. Thomas, if you are having technical difficulties, please drop a note in the chat and we can try to help you troubleshoot so you can make a statement to the committee. Okay. Well, Mr. Thomas, since it seems like we're unable to connect, we will move forward without your nomination statement. So, let me share my screen again. We are almost at our break.

Descriptive text for the Slide 14: Meeting will break for 15 minutes. Informational text outlining the purpose of the CAC.

>> So, for committee members, I will be sending you all an email right after I stop speaking that will include a link to a Survey Monkey which will have a ballot to cast votes for elected officials. The outcome of those elections will be announced once we come back from break. Given that it is now 10:36, let's take a break for 14 minutes until 10:50. So, we'll go ahead and take a break. We'll reconvene at 10:50 and I will send the link to the ballot to all committee members. Thank you all so much.

[Break held at 10:36 to 10:50 a.m.]

[Meeting will resume at 10:50 a.m.]

- >> Hello, everybody. This is a two-minute warning that we will resume at 10:50. So just a one-minute warning now. Thank you so much.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: All right, good afternoon or good morning, everybody. It is now 10:50, so our break is over. During the break, we did some troubleshooting. So, Mr. Thomas, I believe if you press *6, you should be able to unmute yourself from a cellphone. If you would like to do that at this time and address the committee, we would welcome that opportunity. So, if you would like to, please feel free to unmute yourself now.

[No response]

Okay. Well, then we will go ahead and announce the election results.

Descriptive text for the Slide 15: Election Results

>> Thank you to all of the members of the committee who voted. We received eight votes for Mayor Hardy. So, Mayor Hardy, congratulations. You are officially the chair of the CAC. And we received six votes for Mr. Thomas. So, congratulations, Mr. Thomas. That does meet the requirements outlined in the governing rules and you are also elected to be the vice chair of the CAC. So, congratulations to both gentlemen.

Descriptive text for the Slide 16: CDBG-MIT Overview. Image of housing construction.

>> And we'll jump straight into an overview of our Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation.

Descriptive text for the Slide 17: CDBG-MIT Overview.

>> So, just briefly, what is "mitigation"? Generally, "mitigation" is any activity that increases resilience to a disaster, through the reduction or the elimination of long-term risks. This looks different for every community, and it could look like elevating homes above floodwaters, buying out properties that are at risk for flooding, or investing in stormwater infrastructure. The North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency has received \$202 million in Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation, or CDBG-MIT, funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This funding was allocated to North Carolina for both Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence and is intended to mitigate damages from future

storms.

Descriptive text for the Slide 18: CDBG-MIT Overview continued.

>> This funding may be spent on activities that meet the definition of mitigation and address risks that are identified in the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency's Mitigation Needs Assessment. This Mitigation Needs Assessment is within our action plan, which is available on our website for the CDBG-MIT grant. And in that Mitigation Needs Assessment, we identified over \$260 million of needs for residential elevation and buyouts, and we also recognized that low- to moderate-income residents had more major to severe damage to their residencies than citizens from other income levels. Additionally, the funding may be spent on eligible activities under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act and it must meet a national objective. Five percent of the \$202 million was also set aside to fund planning activities, which can be used to update hazard mitigation plans, integrate mitigation into other planning activities, and update mapping data or other capabilities to better understand evolving disaster risks for the state of North Carolina.

Descriptive text for the Slide 19: CDBG-MIT Overview continued. North Carolina map of the Most Impacted and Distressed Areas – Hurricanes Florence and Matthew

>> Again, just to reiterate, our funding must be spent on mitigation activities that were outlined and address the risks that were identified in the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency Mitigation Needs Assessment. In addition to that, at least 50% of our funding must be spent on the counties determined by the federal government to be "most impacted and distressed," and at least 50% of our funding must also directly benefit populations or applicants who are low to moderate income. I saw a question in the chat about the counties and how they were selected, and the map that is shown here are the most impacted and distressed communities from both Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence, and so we focused our efforts on soliciting CAC members to represent those counties in particular.

Descriptive text for the Slide 20: Mitigation Planning and Coastal Dynamic Design Lab Coordination.

>> For some of our planning efforts that are funded through the mitigation grant, we have partnered with North Carolina State University's Coastal Dynamics Design Lab to develop five community floodprints in communities affected by Hurricane Matthew or Hurricane Florence. A community floodprint is a community-driven planning project that helps to find opportunities for future funding to make communities more resilient to storms. The Coastal Dynamics Design Lab works closely with both citizens and community leaders in their partner communities so that the final product reflects the community's values and specific opportunities and necessary steps for applying for additional grant-funded work. We are really excited to partner with the Coastal Dynamics Design Lab because they have a strong track record of bringing additional funding to communities they work with to implement the projects that are identified in the floodprint. In the past, they have done work in Lumberton, Princeville and Pollocksville, and we

are excited to bring them to five additional communities. Two of these five areas have been identified. The first project is in Whiteville in Columbus County, where work began in February of 2022 and will run until April of 2023. The second community that has been identified is the Coharie tribe, located in Sampson County, which recently signed their agreement. Work for that project will begin in November of this year and will run until February of 2024. An additional three communities are to be determined with the project dates of July 2022 to September of 2023, May 2023 to July 2024, and September 2023 to December 2024. If you know a community or represent a community that may be interested in receiving a community floodprint through this partnership, please send an email to buyout@rebuild.nc.gov.

Descriptive text for the Slide 21: Strategic Buyout Program Overview.

>> Most of our mitigation funding funds the Strategic Buyout Program. So, I'll spend the next couple of slides providing a Strategic Buyout Program overview. The Strategic Buyout Program focuses on the voluntary buyout of flood-prone properties. Local governments become the owner of properties after they are sold and there are deed restrictions placed on those properties so that nothing can ever be built on them again. Buyouts are the most permanent form of mitigation because they permanently remove life and property from these flood-prone areas. In order to be eligible for the buyout program, an applicant must own property in an eligible buyout zone. There are currently 14 active buyout zones across the state, and we have plans to expand into other areas this year. I'll spend some time going through those areas later in this presentation. Additional eligibility criteria include: the applicants must be able to achieve clean title for their property, they must also be able to retire their mortgage or any other liens on the property, and they must meet the program's requirements when it comes to citizenship and immigration status. The properties must also have documented Hurricane Matthew or Hurricane Florence storm damage. Ineligible properties include those that are environmentally contaminated, properties that are already owned by local or state government, properties that are historic and properties that are receiving funding from other grant programs.

Descriptive text for the Slide 22: Strategic Buyout Program Assistance and Incentives.

>> This slide provides an overview what our program offers to applicants by way of assistance and incentives. So, the ReBuild NC Strategic Buyout Program provides applicants with the current fair market value of their property. Originally, when the program launched, we were offering a pre-storm value, but we made the change to current fair market in early 2021. This was after an analysis into real estate trends indicated that the real estate costs, in the communities we're active in, had largely recovered to pre-Matthew or Florence areas. Using current market values as opposed to pre-storm values will enable our applicants to recover more fully. Additionally, the policy change will also open the door for us to expand our incentive package. Certain applicants are eligible to receive up to two additional incentives, and those incentives are categorized in two different buckets. Applicants may be eligible to receive one Affordable Housing Incentive. An Affordable Housing Incentive is income restricted, so for two of them you have to be low to moderate income to receive. The third, you have to be

below 120% AMI. And all our Affordable Housing Incentives require that applicants relocate within their same county. When we speak to local governments, there's a concern that applicants to the buyout program will leave the communities that they currently live in, and so we want to make sure that we are doing what we can to encourage folks to relocate within their same community, while providing them the resources to relocate to somewhere that is less flood prone. So, our first Affordable Housing Incentive is the Affordable Rental Incentive. This is up to \$17,000 to offset rental costs for eligible low- to moderate-income applicants who move permanently into a rental property. Our second Affordable Housing Incentive is our Affordable Home Ownership Incentive. This is our most generous incentive with caps of \$100,000, \$150,000 or \$200,000, depending on the analysis of the real estate markets within those specific counties. This incentive is for low- to moderate-income applicants and it's to ensure that they can repurchase a new home. It does require that they work with the housing counselor, which our program provides. Our third Affordable Housing Incentive is our Matching Down Payment Incentive, which is up to \$50,000 of down payment assistance based on a onefor-one match. This is the incentive that is for applicants that are at or below 120% AMI, and it does require that the applicants engage with the housing counselor, which again, the program will provide. And just to reiterate, all three of these incentives require that applicants relocate within the same county as the property that they have applied for. Additionally, applicants can receive a Risk Reduction Incentive. This incentive encourages folks to move permanently outside the floodplain or a buyout zone. Applicants can receive \$10,000 if they make that move and stay in their home county or \$5,000 if they make that move and move outside of their home county but remain in the state of North Carolina. In addition to the financial assistance that we offer through this program, we also provide applicants with assistance clearing title issues, performing short sale negotiation assistance, and housing counseling as needed. We are partnered with the North Carolina Housing Coalition to provide classes to our applicants, to make sure that they are educated on making real estate purchases because a lot of our applicants are folks that may not have participated in a real estate transaction for a very long time. That partnership also affords our applicant the ability to have one-on-one sessions with a housing counselor to make sure that they are getting that individualized support to ensure that they are confident in their decisions moving forward.

Descriptive text for the Slide 23: Maps of two Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones in Edgecombe County.

>> These next couple of slides show all of our buyout zones. So, these two buyout zones are within Edgecombe County, and they were primarily affected by Hurricane Matthew. The one on the left is technically in unincorporated Edgecombe County, but it's right outside the town of Pinetops. The one on the right is within the community of Tarboro.

Descriptive text for the Slide 24: Maps of two additional Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones in Edgecombe County.

>> These next two are both within Princeville, North Carolina in Edgecombe County.

Descriptive text for the Slide 25: Maps of two Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones in Wayne County.

>> These two are both located in Goldsboro in Wayne County.

Descriptive text for the Slide 26: Maps of two Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones – one in Wayne County and the other in Cumberland County.

>> These two, the one on the left is located in Seven Springs and the one on the right is located in Fayetteville, which is in Cumberland County.

Descriptive text for the Slide 27: Maps of two Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones in Robeson County.

>> Both of these buyout zones are located within Lumberton, which is in Robeson County.

Descriptive text for the Slide 28: Maps of two Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones in Robeson County.

>> And these two are both located in Robeson County. The one on the left is within the City of Lumberton and the one on the right is in unincorporated Robeson County.

Descriptive text for the Slide 29: Maps of two Strategic Buyout Program buyout zones – one in Columbus County and the other in Jones County.

>> These next two are in Columbus and Jones County. So, we have our buyout zone in Whiteville on the left and in Pollocksville, our newest buyout zone, on the right.

Descriptive text for the Slide 30: Strategic Buyout Program By the Numbers. Bar chart graphic featuring the percentage of total program applications by county.

>> Next, I will go through some numbers that are related to our Strategic Buyout Program. We have 1,158 potentially eligible properties, and we have received 221 applications. Because our buyout zones are so discreet, we know exactly how many potential applicants we can have. And what "potentially eligible" means is that we've reduced that number, the total number of parcels, by properties that are already under government ownership, to arrive at the total number of properties that we view as potentially eligible for this program. Having 221 applications gives us a current participation rate of 19% across the program. While this may seem low, it's actually very much in line with the averages of other similar programs. Being a voluntary buyout program, we want to make sure that potential applicants are informed of the decisions or of the opportunities to participate in our program. But by no means are they compelled to do so. I would also like to note that applications for our Strategic Buyout Program

are still open, and so we encourage people to reach out to 833-ASK-RBNC for more information on the program or how to apply if they are interested. This chart on the slide shows where we have properties that have applied. So, you will see the percentage of properties that have applied to this program. Whiteville is one of our most active buyout zones. We have 39% of the properties within that buyout zone that have applied to this program. I will call out that in Goldsboro, we have a very high number of applications, but we also have a large buyout zone. So, as you can see, in some of our buyout zones we have more properties that have applied, and in some of them we have less. This program began taking applications in January of 2020, so our ability to do outreach has been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Descriptive text for the Slide 31: Strategic Buyout Program By the Numbers continued. Bar chart graphic featuring the total number of program applications by property type. Pie chart showing percentage of active applications by program status.

>> These two charts also show the types of properties that are applying. Our policies allow essentially any type of property to apply to this program. So, you'll see that the highest number of applications that we've received has come from people who own vacant land. We also have a lot of people who are applying for owner-occupied properties, and a higher number of people that have applied for rental structures. Most buyout programs in the state of North Carolina do not solicit applications from rental properties, so we're happy to be able to meet that need. The chart on the right side shows our active applications by status. Step 1 is Application Intake. Step 2 is an Eligibility Review. Step 3 is when we order a title report and provide title assistance to applicants. Step 4 is when we do all of the inspections on the property to include a boundary survey, a property appraisal, a lead-based paint test, if needed; an asbestos test and an environmental test as well—or an environmental review, excuse me. Step 5 is when we write an offer to the applicants and any other owners of the specific property. And if all owners accept that offer, we move to closing. So, that is where our active applications are. Most of our applicants, as you can see, are in Step 2, which, again, is our Eligibility Review. This is because we have prioritized properties that were owner occupied. And so, with most of our property applicants being vacant land, a lot of our Step 2 applications are those vacant land properties that we are allowing our owner-occupied applicants to proceed first.

Descriptive text for the Slide 32: Strategic Buyout Program By the Numbers continued.

>> Lastly, and this is my last slide, so even though I have been speaking slowly, I think we'll have a lot of time at the end here. But the Strategic Buyout Program, as outlined in the CDBG-MIT, the Community Development Block Grant for Mitigation Action Plan, has a budget of \$182 million. We are anticipating spending that entire budget to support this program and the residents of North Carolina, as well as their communities and their continued recovery. We will continue to expand our program into additional communities and additional buyout zones that were primarily affected by Hurricane Florence. We just recently launched Jones County's Pollocksville buyout zone and look forward to launching additional buyout zones here shortly. I do ask that if any members of the committee would like to see any specific metrics that we can

report on, please reach out to the committee chair, Mayor Hardy. And, Mayor Hardy, I will work with you to make sure that our updates are meeting the needs of the committee moving forward. Let's see.

Descriptive text for ending slide: Logo for the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Thank you. CAC email address: CAC@rebuild.nc.gov.

- >> And that is the end of our prepared slides. Janet, do we have any questions in the chat?
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: Yes. We do have a couple. We had a question about what counties are included in this meeting—with the organizers of this meeting—and how was that decided?
- >> Matt Arlyn: Janet, I can answer that question. It's a very good question. So, the counties that we're including in this analysis for the buyout zones are the most impacted and distressed counties. That is a HUD definition that HUD actually calculates for us, and they do that by comparing the effects of a disaster across the nation for every year for those presidentially declared disasters. For example, in 2018 for Hurricane Florence, those most impacted areas actually are in consideration of wildfires in California. They're in consideration of other floods in the Southeast. And so, what HUD does is they establish a threshold where if you're over a certain dollar amount of impact in a county or even a zip code, you meet the criteria for a most impacted and distressed area. So, it does vary from year to year and interestingly, the threshold to be a most impacted and distressed area was higher in Matthew than it was for Florence because of the different disasters that happened in the nation that year. So, we look at HUD's analysis of what's most impacted and distressed, and we're required to spend our funds in those areas predominantly or at least split it 50/50. So, we're focused on those most impacted areas. However, we did our own analysis of dual-impacted counties. And what I mean by that is counties that had a Florence impact and a Matthew impact and, when combined, they would have met that threshold, meaning they kind of got a one-two punch that would have made them most impacted and distressed if the event had happened at once. And because they were so close together, it's logical to group them. We use those state most impacted areas mostly as a planning exercise, and we can reach into those state most impacted areas too. We just have not yet done that for the buyout zones, but we do have them available for additional funding as well. I hope that answers the question. It's a little convoluted sometimes.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: I believe a part of that question too might have been related to the selection of the committee members. And so, the committee members we prioritized identifying or—I'm sorry—the members that were representative of those MIT counties that Matt just mentioned, we coordinated with the Housing RSF, which stands for Recovery Support Function, to identify folks to serve on this committee. So that is the answer to that one. Janet, are there additional questions?
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: Yes. We had a question from someone asking about one of the slides and some of the colors on the slide. I think it was a MIT slide. Maybe we could go back to that

and talk through some of the color coding for that?

Descriptive text for the Slide 19: CDBG-MIT Overview continued. North Carolina map of the Most Impacted and Distressed Areas – Hurricanes Florence and Matthew

- >> Maggie Battaglin: Yeah. So, this map highlights the counties that are most impacted and distressed. Apologies. I do realize the legend is very small. So, communities that are in that salmon color, which are Edgecombe and Wayne County, are communities that were determined to be most impacted and distressed by HUD for Hurricane Matthew alone. The pink counties—so Cumberland, Robeson, Bladen and Columbus—were determined by HUD to be most impacted and distressed for Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence. And then the blue counties, which are Scotland, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Duplin, Onslow, Jones, Craven, Carteret and Pamlico Counties, were all determined to be most impacted and distressed by HUD following Hurricane Florence. The green counties that are highlighted on this map are those that the state defined as additional most impacted and distressed areas, and those include Harnett, Johnston, Sampson, Lenoir, Pitt, Beaufort and Dare counties. Are there any additional questions?
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: Yes, Maggie. We have a question about when will the notes be available for this meeting?
- >> Maggie Battaglin: So, the notes, we will take the transcript from this meeting and send it to the CAC, and once it's approved, we will be posting it on our website. And it looks like Mayor Hardy may have a question. I would like to recognize him.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Yes, ma'am. Thank you, Maggie. One of them was already answered. It's when the notes will be sent out to the committee. The second one is following up on individuals that are actually displaced from 2016 Hurricane Matthew. I wanted to know how the communication is going with those folks that are still in like hotels, that type of thing? Who is the point of contact and how do we direct them to, you know, a response back? How do we get them connected to the folks we need them connected to—those folks that are living in, you know, hotels still? I was just talking to a few folks in this particular county that haven't had anyone contact them in a very long time. So, just trying to figure out how to get those folks in contact with the right people and let them know they're not forgotten.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Absolutely. Matt, would you like to answer that question?
- >> Matt Arlyn: Certainly, happy to. So, as it relates to the mitigation effort, if we're talking about a buyout program applicant, we do have the tax records, the tax rolls, so we know who we're going to need to communicate with to try to get the property. You're certainly not required to be living on the land that you own to participate in the buyout program. As it relates to homeowner recovery, and maybe you are alluding to that, we're certainly taking a look at our policies and trying to come up with some solutions there as well.

- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Okay. Okay, good to go. So, if they have questions as to who to talk to, if I could get their information to a specific person here at the state; to look at their application and see what it looks like and what they have going on. There's a few folks—I haven't made the visit yet. There's a few of them, and I don't know if they're caught in the middle but they haven't had and contact and are just waiting on either buyout or whatever. It's been a long time from what I'm hearing and what I'm getting. So, I just wanted to be able to make contact with somebody direct and be able to get them some information.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Yes, sir. For specific individuals, if you want to share their names and phone numbers with me directly, I'll make sure that I get them plugged in with the folks that can reach out to them.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Thank you very much.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Absolutely. And Janet dropped a message in the chat, too. We also have an inbox that receives sort of general inquiries. So, please feel free to include any information in an email to that inbox as well, which is ask-RBNC@rebuild.nc.gov. And I believe I had it misspelled on a previous slide. So, I will clean that up before I send these slides out. Janet, do we have any other questions from the chat?
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: I don't believe we have any other questions, Maggie. If someone has a question right now, if you could post it in the chat that would be great, and we can get to your question. Oh, wait. We do have one. Sorry. Are there studies or programs that have shown whether or not resiliency mitigation is an option as opposed to buyout?
- >> Maggie Battaglin: So, how we determine the areas where we do buyouts through this program is a very collaborative process with local governments. We look to, you know, the flood maps to identify areas. We also have access to the Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss lists from the National Flood Insurance Program, which help us vector in on neighborhoods that are repetitively impacted by flooding. And we look to an interest in mitigation activities. We coordinate with other state agencies, and we engage with the local leadership within the community to ensure that where we think would be a good place to do buyouts is supported by their local knowledge and their needs as a community. So, we do a really in-depth study of the areas to identify what makes sense for those specific neighborhoods. We know that certain communities just have residences in areas that are better suited elsewhere. And so, what we try to do is support those neighborhoods and those communities in providing them the resources to help move applicants, or move homeowners and residents of these neighborhoods, from those areas of high risk and provide them with the financial assistance necessary to move them to areas that are less risky.

>> Janet Kelly-Scholle: We have a couple more questions, Maggie.

- >> Maggie Battaglin: Yeah, absolutely.
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: Glenn asked: Can a church-sponsored, low-income apartment complex apply?
- >> Maggie Battaglin: For the buyout program, we encourage anybody who owns property within that buyout zone to apply for the program. Please feel free to call 833-ASK-RBNC and a program staff member will validate that the address is within a buyout zone. We do have procedures in place to support some more multifamily living communities. So, it's possible but without knowing the specifics of the property and its ownership, I can't say specifically whether or not it would be able to be purchased by this program.
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: The next question, Maggie, is: How is this program being made available to people in these counties? I live in Dare, and this is the first I've heard of this.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Yeah, so, because this program is so focused on specific neighborhoods, we really focus on targeted outreach. We have started with the Hurricane Matthew areas and so that's why we have launched in the counties that we have launched. And we are looking forward to launching in more counties that were more impacted by Hurricane Florence here this summer and into the fall. So, we essentially reach out to local government officials. We do some research that I mentioned earlier internally, and we just have a conversation to say "We have this program available, with this funding. These are the requirements; these are the eligibility criteria. This is what we're looking for. Do you think that this would serve your community?" We also emphasize engaging with members of these neighborhoods specifically, and so we want to make sure that everybody knows that they have an opportunity to apply for this program if they own property in those areas. Our first priority is to expand this program into areas that are HUD MID counties. And so, Dare County being a state MID would be after all of the HUD MIDs. But we do, again, just really targeted outreach to applicants or prospective applicants who own properties in specific areas that we are moving to buyout zones.
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: I think we have one more question, Maggie. Can you give more details on the work in progress with the City of Whiteville? One of the first slides presented.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: I believe that that may have been in reference to the CDDL. Sorry. Let me get to the right slide. In reference in the CDDL planning project that we have going on. Brad, if I am misunderstanding, please feel free to correct me. So, the project is managed by the North Carolina State University. And so, they are very active and connected to city leadership within Whiteville. I know that they have gone down frequently to meet with city representatives, including the city mayor, the city manager, and the emergency services or emergency management director. They were also in Whiteville, I believe in April, to solicit feedback from the community generally about specific flooding concerns and neighborhoods that residents of the community had identified needing a mitigation need. And so, there are two areas that

they're focusing on in Whiteville for studying through this project. One of them is along Mollies Branch, which is actually just north of the buyout zone that NCORR has in that area. In that Mollies Branch area, they recently, within the last couple of weeks, did some hydraulic modeling and measuring of the branch there, and its dimensions. And so, they are analyzing the feedback from that study currently. The second area that they are studying is the Soules Swamp area, I believe, that affects flooding in more commercial areas of the City of Whiteville. The Coastal Dynamics Design Lab is planning on being back down in Whiteville at the beginning of September for another round of public meetings to update the community on the outcomes of the research that they've been doing and that they will continue to do through the summer. And at that point, they'll start to draft and finalize a report. So, I hope, Brad, that that answers your question.

- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: We have another question also, Maggie.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Okay.
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: Kelly asked if North Carolina or any other state is pursuing the ability to incorporate historical reparations in the process of buyouts?
- >> Maggie Battaglin: That is a great question. I am not aware of any other state doing that. Matt, I don't know if you would like to speak to that from your vantage point?
- >> Matt Arlyn: Yeah, I can certainly speak on that a little bit. So, the way we've structured the incentive structure is really primarily based on the need of the applicant. And so, while I can say that there's a—like a—buyout systemic answer to this issue, I will say that from household to household or participant to participant, the evaluation of the need might change. And so, it is our design, it's our desire that individuals that have their property bought out are able to relocate somewhere more safe, more sustainable, and without cost to them generally, according to their needs. And so, on an individual basis, I would say that is a major goal of ours. However, it is, you know, participant by participant, and we do have the same structure for every participant. So, what I think my answer here is, it will vary on the individual—the amount of assistance they receive—but the outcome is a level playing field, if that makes sense.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you, Matt. Are there any other questions from the chat?
- >> Janet Kelly-Scholle: No. We don't have any other questions. I'm going to post the link in the chat for the CAC committee webpage, and that will be where the slides and other things are posted after the meeting as well.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Great. Well, thank you so much. All right, since we have no further questions, do we have a motion to adjourn this meeting? I see Mayor Hardy raised his hand.
- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Mr. Chair?

- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Yes, ma'am?
- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Mayor, I'd like to offer the motion that we close out.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Motion on the floor. Is there a second?
- >> All right. Motion to adjourn is on the floor. Is there a second?
- >> Jeralene Merritt: I second the motion. Jeralene Meritt.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Jeralene Merritt. Motion been sought and properly seconded.
- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: And that was Mary Perkins-Williams that made the motion.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Mary Perkins-Williams for the record. [LAUGHTER]
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you, all. We will get these slides out.
- >> Oh, I'm sorry. Now we have to vote.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Absolutely. And how do you want to do the voting? I can make the statement as to any opposed. If there are any others that are opposed to adjournment, please acknowledge.

[No response]

- >> All right, motion carries. Maggie, it looks like we're going to be adjourned.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you all for your time this morning.
- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Now she was about to tell us about the slides.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Yeah, I will send the slides out to the CAC members directly and they will be posted on the website as well.
- >> Mary Perkins-Williams: Thank you very much.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Absolutely. Thank you all for your time.
- >> Mayor Don Hardy: Thank you everybody. Thank the team over at NCORR. Do appreciate you guys and everybody on the call.
- >> Maggie Battaglin: Thank you all. Bye. [Adjourned at 11:34 a.m.]