

**SUMMARY NOTES OF THE MAY 1, 2024 MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE
LOCAL PLANNING TEAM**

INTRODUCTION

The May 1, 2024, the Local Planning Team (LPT) meeting for the Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update was convened at the Washington County Public Agency Center at 3:30 p.m. The Washington County Department of Emergency Management Manager, Mr. Rob Schmid, gave a brief introduction and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Megan Shedivy and Ms. Miranda Paige, Planners for the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Attendance was taken by a sign-in sheet.

In attendance at the meeting were the following individuals:

Local Planning Team Members

Megan Shedivy, Secretary	Planner, SEWRPC
Tom Becker	Ozaukee-Washington Public Health and Emergency Preparedness
Adam Christensen	Community Development Planner, Washington County
Jeffrey Clark	Attorney, Washington County
Eric Damkot	Director of GIS, Washington County
Laura Herrick	Chief Environmental Engineer, SEWRPC
Miranda Paige	Planner, SEWRPC
Matthew Rohlinger	Police Lieutenant, City of West Bend
Kurt Rusch	Emergency Management Assistant, Washington County
Rob Schmid	Manager, Department of Emergency Management, Washington County
Scott Schmidt, PE, PLS	Chief of Public Works Officer, Washington County
Paul Stephans	Fire Chief, Hartford Fire Department

Ms. Shedivy welcomed the attendees to the meeting and thanked them for their participation. She briefly went over the summary notes from the February 1, 2023, LPT meeting. She summarized the major comments and edits taken from those notes. This included an update regarding downtown West Bend as a Historical District, to which Ms. Shedivy noted was still not listed as such on the Wisconsin Historical Society’s website, thus no changes were made to the Plan. She continued that the County airports and major public works facilities have now been added as critical facilities in Chapter 2 per comments from the LPT. She also noted that the LPT suggested Cedar Creek cleanout project is not in the Plan as no information was found related to the work being done.

With no comments or questions on the February 1, 2023 summary notes, Ms. Shedivy moved onto the review of draft Chapters 4-6 for the Washington County hazard mitigation plan update.

CHAPTER 4 “HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS”

Ms. Shedivy began her presentation with an overview of draft Chapter 4. She gave a brief explanation on how the chapter is formulated and how it fits into the planning process. Ms. Shedivy reviewed the related planning efforts and Figure 4.1, “Goals and Objectives for the Milwaukee County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.” Figure 4.1 lists six goals and the objectives for each goal. Mr. Schmid had a question related to the second goal, on if the County or any of its communities participate in FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS) program. Ms. Shedivy responded that neither the County nor its communities currently participate in the CRS program.

No additional comments or questions were given from the LPT for draft Chapter 4.

CHAPTER 5, “HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES”

Ms. Shedivy continued with an overview of draft Chapter 5. She noted that because this particular chapter is comprehensive in nature, examples of hazard mitigation strategies from only two of the profiled hazards will be presented. A background and outline of the chapter was presented to the meeting attendees, including how the mitigation strategies are categorized (i.e., structural, nonstructural, and educational outreach). Ms. Shedivy then gave an overview of the hazard mitigation strategies and cost-benefit analysis tables. Ms. Shedivy also noted why the chapter contains a “multi-hazard” strategies subsection. With no LPT questions, Ms. Shedivy continued with mitigation strategy examples for flooding and severe thunderstorm and thunderstorm related hazards.

Mr. Clark inquired if the Washington County communities are coordinating with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) on flooding issues. Ms. Herrick responded that communities do coordinate riverine flooding issues/efforts with the WDNR and FEMA where floodplain mapping exists, but stormwater flooding is regulated at the local level. Mr. Schmid agreed that each community has its own protocol on how to regulate stormwater flooding.

Mr. Christenson questioned if the mitigation strategies listed in Tables 5.5 through and 5.10 came from previous hazard plans, land-use plans, and/or community comprehensive plans. Ms. Shedivy indicated that yes, most strategies came from related planning efforts, however some were formulated using other sources such as updated county, state, or federal resources.

Mr. Stephans asked if the Storm Ready program is still being promoted by the National Weather Service (NWS). Mr. Schmid said that this program still exists, but the NWS has been focusing on promoting other outreach efforts, including Weather Ambassadors. Mr. Stephans also asked who should be notified when public siren, warning, alerting systems are upgraded in the County. Mr. Schmid responded that he is in fact the one responsible for keeping this inventory. He then reiterated that any investments in emergency infrastructure are considered a hazard mitigation project and should be included in this plan.

With no further questions or comments on draft Chapter 5, Ms. Shedivy handed the presentation over to Ms. Paige for the remainder of the draft Plan review and next steps.

CHAPTER 6, “PLAN ADOPTION, IMPLEMENTATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REVISION”

Ms. Paige began with a general overview of draft Chapter 6 and its main components. She gave a brief summary on the plan adoption and monitoring process and plan implementation, including an overview of Table 6.1, “Summary of Mitigation Measures and Funding Sources.” Ms. Paige presented the table layout and the information that it includes. She also noted that Table 6.1 coordinates with Appendix G, which is a list of funding sources related to mitigation projects. There were no comments or questions for draft Chapter 6.

Ms. Paige stated that after FEMA approves the draft plan, the County will need to adopt the Plan before the grant ends in December 2024. She noted that County communities (cities and villages) have a year after FEMA approval to also adopt the plan to remain eligible for Federal hazard mitigation funding opportunities.

DRAFT PLAN APPENDICES OVERVIEW

Ms. Paige continued with an overview of the Plan Appendices. She noted which appendices will not be complete until the Plan is finalized. Ms. Paige highlighted Appendix G and that it contains an extensive table of potential funding sources and reiterated that it corresponds with Table 6.1. She also noted that Appendix H, “Communities Capabilities Assessment,” is a new requirement by FEMA and requested that LPT members complete a hard copy assessment survey before leaving the LPT meeting. Mr. Clark asked if for the Capacity Assessment survey it would make sense to get a list of the communities that have yet to respond and to reach out to those specific communities directly. Mr. Schmid indicated that he has sent out multiple requests via email to the communities

but has received a minimal response. Mr. Christensen mentioned that he will share planning, engineering, and public works staff contact information to help get the survey out to the communities that have yet to participate. Ms. Paige noted she will also reopen the online survey until mid-May to allow for more participation.

[Secretary's Note: After the meeting, Mr. Christensen emailed Ms. Paige and Ms. Shedivy contact information for community staff officials best suited to participate in the Community Assessment survey. Ms. Paige sent out survey reminders to the list of staff members provided.]

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Paige concluded the draft plan review presentation with a reminder of where the text is available (www.sewrpc.org/hmp) and to send any comments or questions related to the Plan chapters via the SEWRPC online comment screen or to Ms. Shedivy at mshedivy@sewrpc.org.

CHAPTER 1- "INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND"

To best complete the plan update, Ms. Shedivy reminded the LPT members to review Table 1.4, "Hazard Mitigation Projects/Activities by Community: 2018-2024" and to fill out any information that could be added, especially for those communities that do not have any projects or activities listed. Mr. Schmid reminded the Planning Team the projects listed in the Table do not need to be specifically from the previous hazard mitigation plan or from a FEMA funded project. He added that any project that relates to hazard mitigation indicates to FEMA that a community is proactive in creating a more resilient community.

Mr. Christensen asked if the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) Working Soils program should be added to Map 5.3, "MMSD Greenseams and Working Soils Sites in Washington County: 2022," in which Ms. Shedivy replied that those sites were indeed added and that the Map was updated prior to the meeting. Ms. Shedivy will also add this program to Table 1.4 and Chapter 5 text.

[Secretary's Note: After the meeting, Ms. Shedivy incorporated the MMSD's Working Soils program content into Table 1.4 and Chapter 5 text.]

Mr. Schmid also noted that the Town of Polk recently purchased a 138-acre parcel of land from Cedar Lakes Conservation Fund and that the Town is updating their ordinances. Ms. Herrick responded that more recent efforts like this will need to be added to the next plan update.

Mr. Clark asked if all tornado shelters have been identified in the plan. Mr. Schmid replied that he helps public buildings designate tornado shelter spaces, (i.e., schools). He added that the Plan does not identify all tornado shelters as that would be difficult to do.

Mr. Christensen inquired if cover crops and no-till agriculture practices could be considered as a hazard mitigation activity. Ms. Shedivy acknowledged that such practices could be added to the plan, and Mr. Christensen responded that he would provide the information to Ms. Shedivy on this after the meeting.

[Secretary's Note: On May 7, 2024, Mr. Christensen emailed Ms. Shedivy additional hazard mitigation projects/activities to potentially add to Table 1.4. Ms. Shedivy added the suggested projects to the Table.]

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the LPT meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

POST MEETING DISCUSSION

After the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Christensen presented Ms. Paige and Ms. Shedivy his handwritten edits and comments on a printed version of draft Chapters 4-6. Ms. Paige indicated that she will go over his comments and incorporate them into the Plan content.

[Secretary's Note: Ms. Paige updated draft Chapters 4-6 to include Mr. Christensen's additional comments and edits.]

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Exhibit A

