



Herkimer County  
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update  
Meeting Notes



Purpose of Meeting:	Steering Committee Meeting
Location of Meeting:	Hybrid In-person and Teleconference Teams Meeting
Date of Meeting:	February 21, 2023, 2:00 pm – 3:17 pm

**Attendees:**

John Raymond	Director, Herkimer County Emergency Services
Rodney Denslow*	Tractor Supply
Gerald Pedersen*	NYS DHSES Emergency Management
Joseph Tomanio*	Newport Telephone
Stephanie Tyoe	Herkimer County Highway Dept.
James (Jim) Wallace	Herkimer County
Rick Reichert*	Herkimer-Oneida Planning Agency
Vincent (Jim) Bono*	Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature
Scott Scherer	Sheriff, Herkimer County
Stephanie Toye*	Deputy Superintendent, Herkimer County Highway Dept.
James (Jim) Wallace*	County Administrator, Herkimer County
Betsy Parmerter	NYSDHSES
Roland Paperman	NYSDHSES
Jim Wilkinson	NYSDHSES
Beth O'Reilly*	Planning Manager, Mitigation, NYSDHSES
Paul Hoole*	Mitigation Planning, FEMA
Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco*	Tetra Tech

*\*Remote participation via Teams*

**Agenda Summary:** Purpose to provide a project status update and the preliminary county level hazards of concern relative risk rankings; to obtain input or adjustments of the rankings to incorporate local data.

Item No.	Description	Action item(s):
1	<p><b>Opening Remarks/Progress Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting started at 10:05 am</li> <li>Mr. John Raymond, Director of Emergency Services of Herkimer County welcomed participants and noted the importance of the hazard mitigation plan in its role to reduce risks to natural hazard events. Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco, Tetra Tech (Tt), provided an overview of key agenda items as well as a progress update as summarized in the attached PowerPoint presentation.</li> <li>The process continues to be on track for plan submittal to FEMA in August 2023.</li> <li>The majority of data to support the hazard mitigation plan (HMP) development has been received, with the receipt of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) data pending processing by FEMA.</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table of contents and draft sections of the plan are being posted as available on the project Teams site to enable steering committee members to access and review to enable input prior to sharing the drafts with the public. It requested the steering committee to review the documents and provide comments via 'track changes'.</li> </ul>	
2	<p>In-Kind Services Tracking/Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It reminded committee members to document any time spent to attend HMP meetings, to provide input, or to provide information to their constituencies to ensure their efforts are included in the documentation to comply with grant requirements.</li> <li>The public HMP website(<a href="https://www.herkimercountynyhmp.com/">https://www.herkimercountynyhmp.com/</a>) has been updated with meeting dates and meeting documentation. The public draft will be located on this site for public review.</li> <li>Surveys to target the public, neighboring counties, agencies, and businesses have been distributed and will be used to provide additional input to the plan to support the identification of mitigation actions.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Risk Assessment Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It reviewed the methodology to calculate the relative risk of the county's identified hazards of concern and shared the preliminary risk rankings. The ranks of Low, Medium, and High for each hazard will serve as a guide in identifying impactful mitigation actions to reduce damages and increase resilience. After review and adjustment by the core group, the preliminary county level ranks are as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disease Outbreak (including Covid-19, influenza, and tick-borne illnesses) - <b>Medium</b></li> <li>Extreme Temperatures - <b>Low</b></li> <li>Drought – <b>Medium</b></li> <li>Flood - <b>High</b></li> <li>Dam Failure - <b>Medium</b></li> <li>Infestation - <b>Low</b></li> <li>Severe Storm (Windstorm, Thunderstorm, Hail, Tornado) – <b>High</b></li> <li>Severe Winter Storm (Heavy Snow, Blizzards, Ice Storms) - <b>Medium</b></li> <li>Wildfire - <b>Medium</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The county ranks indicate the calculated regional risk rather than the highest municipal risk. The Steering Committee was tasked to review the information provided in the presentation (see attached) to provide any additional input to revisit and potentially further adjust the rankings.</p>	<p>Steering Committee to provide any additional comments or input regarding rankings or adjustments by 2/24/23 via email to Tetra Tech.</p>



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	<p>Mr. Wallace requested clarification as to whether the ‘hazards materials in transit’ hazard should be included in the plan due to the recent train derailment incident in Ohio which resulted in the release of hazardous materials with potentially significant public health impacts. Tetra Tech noted that while the hazard mitigation plan can include this man-made hazard, FEMA will not consider the hazard in its review and approval of the plan which is only required to include natural hazards. Mr. Raymond noted that the county comprehensive emergency preparedness plan (CEMP) is appropriate to address this hazard, and that the CEMP is due to be updated shortly.</p> <p>Discussion included the review of the wildfire hazard ranking with committee members noting that there has not been a significant history of damages. However, it was noted that the development and land use in the county can present risk to populated areas in the wildfire urban interface. The committee concluded that the wildfire hazard should in included in the plan to reflect medium risk in the county.</p> <p>Regarding the data presented to support the risk ranking of the drought hazard, the committee noted that the number of private potable water wells seemed to be understated. Mr. Reichert recommended that the Office of Real Property data would provide information as to the number of properties relying on private wells or have access to a public sewer.</p> <p>The rankings will be presented to the Planning Partnership during the meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.</p>	
4	<p><b>Upcoming Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting – February 27, 2023 <i>(Optional for Steering Committee members not affiliated with a municipality.)</i></li> </ul> <p>Mitigation Strategy Workshop – March 27,2023 <i>(Optional for Steering Committee members not affiliated with a municipality.)</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update Risk Assessment including adjustments as noted by Steering Committee</li> <li>• Present to planning partners</li> <li>• Populate adjusted results municipal annexes</li> <li>• Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting: February 23, 2023</li> <li>• Continue to engage the public</li> <li>• Begin working with the municipalities to develop mitigation strategy/actions: <b>March 2023</b></li> </ul>	



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	Mitigation Strategy Workshop with FEMA and NYSDHSES – <b>March 27, 2023</b>	
10	<b>Conclusion</b> - The meeting concluded at 11:11 am.	