

**Washington County Meeting #4 – Hazard Mitigation Plan
December 8th, 2022 | 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Washington County Courthouse**

ATTENDEES

Attendee	Representation
Candi Cross	New Minden
Doug Boecklon	Addieville
Melissa Boecklon	Addieville
Sharon Frederking	Washington County Health Department
Jerry Brockmell	Planning Committee
Darrah Sabo	Washington County EMA
Matt Bierman	Washington County EMA
Linda Tragesser	Southern Illinois Regional Planning Commission
Lisa Graff	Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS)
Meirah Williamson	ISWS
Camden Arnold	ISWS

KEY INFORMATION

- 1) **Every jurisdiction must provide comments on the hazard mitigation plan.** You can view the plan at illinoisfloodmaps.org/hmp/washington.htm and send comments to mitigation@isws.illinois.edu.
- 2) **Every jurisdiction must develop a plan maintenance strategy.** This includes monitoring mitigation projects, evaluating the plan’s usefulness, and preparing to update the plan in 2028. These actions should be undertaken at least once a year. See **PLAN MAINTENANCE** for more information.
- 3) **Every jurisdiction must adopt the plan.** This can be done by formal resolution, council minutes, or other adoptions allowed under local law.
- 4) Every participating jurisdiction will be eligible for federal mitigation funds.

INTRODUCTION

To goal of this meeting is to overview the goals and objectives of the plan and the final steps for getting the plan approved by FEMA so Washington County will be eligible for grants. The final steps include reviewing the plan, getting public comments on the plan, and creating a timeline for plan maintenance and jurisdiction adoption.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Reduce risk of injury or death from natural hazards.

Goal 2: Reduce risk of property damage from natural hazards.

Goal 3: Educate public on disaster preparedness.

Goal 4: Maintain or increase coordination and response to natural hazards across jurisdictions.

All attendees moved to approve the goals presented.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the documents that all jurisdictions have completed, FEMA requires that a representative from every jurisdiction in the county comments on the hazard mitigation plan. Comments are also welcome from anyone who wants to review the plan.

RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Top hazards ranked by the county are: Pandemic, Tornadoes, and Severe Storms. Communities in the county have projects included in the plan that align with these hazards.

PLAN MAINTENANCE

Washington County's Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated every five years (next update will be in 2028). Plan maintenance includes:

- Monitoring: develop a process to track progress and status of mitigation projects
- Evaluating: develop criteria to determine if the plan is effective
- Updating: decide where, when, and who will participate in monitoring, evaluating, and the 2028 update process; check-ins should happen yearly
 - For example, the mayor, county clerk, or EMA could check in on mitigation project status every year
 - Or, jurisdictions can send one representative to a yearly group meeting called by the EMA and/or Greater Wabash to discuss mitigation projects and progress

Attendees agreed that Emergency Manager, Matt Bierman, will initiate check ins with each community during their yearly reports. At this time, information about upcoming grant opportunities can also be shared with the communities.

PLAN ADOPTION

After plan is final, local jurisdictions will adopt the plan by formal resolutions, council minutes, or other forms of adoption allowed by local law. The five-year timeline of the plan begins once the first community adopts the plan.

Linda Tragesser agreed to draft all adoption documents for each community and send them out at the same time once plan is approved.

MITIGATION BENEFITS

There are financial and societal benefits to mitigation projects. Frequently, mitigation projects save communities money – there could be less damage or harm to structures or individuals, improving culverts or drainage can reduce the time and money spent closing roads or helping people evacuate, etc.

Jurisdictions can also apply for federal mitigation grants awarded by FEMA, such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The plan is on the website (<https://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org/washingtonHMP.aspx>). Please download the plan and provide comments to mitigation@isws.illinois.edu.