



MEETING NOTES

Meeting	Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update Public Information Meeting #1		
Date	January 25, 2021	Time	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Location	Webinar		
Attendees	Melissa Calhoun, Public Safety Officer, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services		
	Dan Castle, Deputy Commissioner, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning		
	John Hood, Planner, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning		
	Mike Desmond, Reporter, WBFO		
	Kevin Clapp, Planning Manager, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services		
	Brian Kehoe, Planner, Tetra Tech		
	Matt Butwin, Principal, Prospect Hill Consulting		
	Mike Kane, Principal, Prospect Hill Consulting		

Discussion Points

This section summarizes each discussion point addressed during the meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Mr. Kehoe welcomed all attendees and invited each to introduce themselves. Mr. Kehoe provided an overview of hazard mitigation planning, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) suite of Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding streams. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program was created in 2020 to replace and expand the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to reduce long-term risk from disasters, and each state receives funding from allocations for Presidential Disaster Declarations. In order for a community to access these HMA funds, a community should list needed mitigation projects in this HMP update. Projects located on private or public property are eligible. Mr. Kehoe also shared the benefit-cost ratio for investments by FEMA into specified natural hazards around the country.

Mr. Kehoe then reviewed the four Hazard Mitigation project types: 1) Local Plans and Regulations, 2) Education and Awareness Programs, 3) Natural Systems Protection, and 4) Structure and Infrastructure Projects.

Public Participation

Mr. Kehoe prompted the participants to share what hazard problems are occurring in their community. The following issues were discussed.

Limbs/tree branches cause power outages when they fall on power lines. National Grid/NYSEG is responsible for tree trimming around power lines and rights-of-way (ROW). Emerald Ash Borer has



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resulted in many dead or dying ash trees, which is becoming an issue as these trees and branches fall on power lines.

Communications infrastructure is vulnerable to disruption during storms or other hazard events. Cell phone service and the internet are very important. Mr. Kehoe indicated this topic would be considered in the HMP update. Several large communications companies are part of the county's Disaster Team, and they meet regularly and have plans in place.

The Town of Hamburg recently installed rip rap near St. Francis High School.

Next Steps

The HMP project team has been conducting ongoing meetings with municipal contacts. To date, the team has met with 23 municipalities to gather useful information. All of the input from tonight's meeting will be considered as the plan is assembled. Participants were requested to complete the Public Survey; the link is displayed in the PowerPoint and is hosted on the project website. Participants were encouraged to review the project website regularly.

There will be two more public events as this project progresses; both dates TBD. The first will be the Risk Assessment Review meeting and later will be the Draft Plan Review meeting.

The webinar adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



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Meeting	Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update Public Information Meeting #2		
Date	January 28, 2021	Time	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Location	Webinar		
Attendees	Greg Butcher, Deputy Commissioner, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services		
	Melissa Calhoun, Public Safety Officer, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services		
	Amy Alduino, Recycling Coordinator, Erie County		
	Mark Gaston, District Field Manager, Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District		
	Jim Jozwiak, Planning Board, Town of Concord		
	Paul Michalec, Town of Evans		
	Scott Hayes, Code Enforcement Officer (CEO), City of Lackawanna		
	Matthew Fischione, CEO, Town of Lancaster		
	Debbie Smith, Clerk, Village of Sloan		
	Robert Lutz, Emergency Services Coordinator, Town of Tonawanda		
	Jeanne Beiter, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper		
	Chris Renschler, SUNY Buffalo, Geography Professor		
	Jackie McLean		
	David Root		
	Kevin Clapp, Planning Manager, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services		
	Brian Kehoe, Planner, Tetra Tech		
Matt Butwin, Principal, Prospect Hill Consulting			
Mike Kane, Principal, Prospect Hill Consulting			

Discussion Points

This section summarizes each discussion point addressed during the meeting.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Mr. Kehoe welcomed all attendees and invited each to introduce themselves. He noted that this was the second of two public information meetings held for the HMP update project. Mr. Kehoe provided an overview of hazard mitigation planning, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) suite of Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding streams. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program was created in 2020 to replace and expand the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to reduce long-term risk from disasters, and



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each state receives funding from allocations for Presidential Disaster Declarations. In order for a community to access these HMA funds, a community should list needed mitigation projects in this HMP update. Projects located on private or public property are eligible. Mr. Kehoe also discussed the benefit-cost ratio for investments by FEMA into specified natural hazards around the country.

Mr. Kehoe reviewed the four hazard mitigation project types: 1) Local Plans and Regulations, 2) Education and Awareness Programs, 3) Natural Systems Protection, and 4) Structure and Infrastructure Projects.

Public Participation

Mr. Kehoe prompted the participants to share what hazard problems are occurring in their community.

Mr. Michalec is on the Town of Evans agriculture and conservation committee and sits on the Erie County Climate Change Task Force. There is a concern about roadside ditches and keeping them free for flow of stormwater. The town has many town roads, state roads, and county roads and is hoping for consistent ditch practices throughout the town.

The town has pursued New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) funds for tree management. There are three county parks in Evans, and the Emerald Ash Borer is causing many dead tree hazards. He asked if the county can proactively remove dead trees.

The town looks to set aside properties in the flood plain to remain as open space. The town has retained ownership of some parcels after tax foreclosure to further this goal. This policy mitigates stormwater flows and provides fishing access too. He asked if the county can also work to preserve additional floodplain open space.

Greg Butcher stated that the County Parks Recreation and Forestry Department and the Department of Public Works address the above issues.

Matthew Fischione stated that the Town of Lancaster CEO noted the importance of removing encroachments within waterways. The Stony Road Bridge (Pleasant View Dr. and Stony Rd.) was repaired, and debris removed from the creek. Public outreach is effective and better received by the public than is code enforcement. Aim to update the floodplain code and require compensatory storage. Ellicott Creek needs a clean-out of the waterway.

Debbie Smith works for the Village of Sloan and stated that 25% of Sloan's area is railyard. Mr. Kehoe stated that the HMP will address transit of hazardous materials over rail lines.

Chris Renschler stated that rail accidents occur at crossings and junctions. He can provide data to support this.

Amy Alduino asked if the HMP will examine how the freeze/thaw cycle is changing due to climate change and its impact on road and bridge structures. The HMP should look at the impacts of extreme heat and how to mitigate. The impact of invasive species is destroying certain tree species and creating large amounts of dead biomass.



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Next Steps

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The webinar adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



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Erie County
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Public Information Meeting

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Hazard Mitigation – The Basics
- Project Overview
- Public Participation
- For More Information...

Please ask questions at any time.

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Hazard Mitigation – The Basics

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from disasters.

- Local Plans and Regulations**
 - Updating building codes
 - Integrating risk into Master Plans
- Education and Awareness Programs**
 - Flood insurance information
 - Know your risk! campaign
- Natural Systems Protection**
 - Preserving natural floodplain functions
 - Protecting well recharge areas
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects**
 - Constructing a levee
 - Elevating a house above the base flood level

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Hazard Mitigation – The Basics

Per FEMA's 2017 National Institute of Building Sciences Report, mitigation saves \$\$\$!

	National Benefit-Cost Ratio Per Peril <small>*50% members of this study have been awarded</small>	Federally Funded
Riverine Flood	7:1	
Hurricane Surge		Too few grants
Wind	5:1	
Earthquake	3:1	
Wildland-Urban Interface Fire	3:1	

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Hazard Mitigation – The Basics

- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance

- Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)

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Project Overview

- Organize resources and build the planning team
- Update the risk assessment
- Assess local mitigation capabilities
- Develop mitigation strategies
- Determine plan maintenance process
- Approval of the HMP by NYS DHSES and FEMA
- Local municipal adoption of the approved plan

Implementation!

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Public Participation

- Why doesn't our city/town/village fix _____?
- Why didn't anyone tell me that _____ (hazard) could impact me?
- Where do you see water on the roadway after heavy rains? What storm drains or bridges back up with water?
- Has Lake Erie flooding affected your community?
- How are the effects of severe winter storms mitigated in my community?



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Public Participation

- Public Survey
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ErieCountyHMP>
 - Takes less than 15 minutes to complete.
 - Gathers information from throughout Erie County to help coordinate activities and reduce the risk of injury or property damage.
 - Information will be used for planning purposes only.
 - You will be asked if you live in a floodplain - check FEMA for your property location: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
 - Please share survey link via social media.



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Public Participation

- Problem Area Survey – where do hazards impact?

- <https://arcg.is/9bzzr>

- Public Meetings
 - Risk Assessment Review Meeting – date TBD
 - Draft Review Meeting – at the end of the process



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For More Information...

- Erie County HMP Website
 - Home - Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Public Website (eriecountynyhmp.com)
- Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
 - Erie County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services - Home | Facebook
 - Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (erie.gov)
 - Erie Cty Emerg Svces (@ErieCountyESU) / Twitter
- Erie County Department of Environment & Planning
 - Erie County DEP (@ErieCoDEP) / Twitter
 - Environment & Planning (erie.gov)



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Contacts



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AGENDA

ERIE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE Public Information Meeting #1

Monday, January 25, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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1. Welcome
 2. Hazard Mitigation – The Basics
 3. Project Overview
 4. Public Participation
 5. For More Information...
-





AGENDA

ERIE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE Public Information Meeting #2

Thursday, January 28, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

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1. Welcome
 2. Hazard Mitigation – The Basics
 3. Project Overview
 4. Public Participation
 5. For More Information...
-

