



SECTION 3. PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2015 Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was included. To ensure that the plan meets requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 and that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders, and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following:

- The plan will be multi-jurisdictional, with the intention of including all municipalities in the county. Erie County invited all the towns and villages, and a variety of stakeholders, to join them in the planning process. The county, Erie County Water Authority, and all 44 local municipal governments in the county participated in the 2022 planning process, as indicated in Table 3-1. The plan considers ten natural hazards and three non-natural hazards of concern facing the county, thereby satisfying the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000.
- The plan was developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, prevailing FEMA guidance, and the 2017 New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) hazard mitigation planning standard. Following this process ensured that all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

Table 3-1. Participating Erie County Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions			
Erie County	Cheektowaga, Town of	Grand Island, Town of	Orchard Park, Town of
Erie County Water Authority	Clarence, Town of	Hamburg, Town of	Orchard Park, Village of
Akron, Village of	Colden, Town of	Hamburg, Village of	Sardinia, Town of
Alden, Town of	Collins, Town of	Holland, Town of	Sloan, Village of
Alden, Village of	Concord, Town of	Kenmore, Village of	Springville, Village of
Amherst, Town of	Depew, Village of	Lackawanna, City of	Tonawanda, City of
Angola, Village of	East Aurora, Village of	Lancaster, Town of	Tonawanda, Town of
Aurora, Town of	Eden, Town of	Lancaster, Village of	Wales, Town of
Blasdell, Village of	Elma, Town of	Marilla, Town of	West Seneca, Town of
Boston, Town of	Evans, Town of	Newstead, Town of	Williamsville, Village of
Brant, Town of	Farnham, Village of	North Collins, Town of	
Buffalo, City of	Gowanda, Village of	North Collins, Village of	

Note: T = Town; V = Village C = City

The Erie County HMP was updated using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the county. The HMP Steering Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain hazards and past historical events. In addition, the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and recent land use planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP were developed through an extensive planning process involving local; county; and regional agencies, residents, and stakeholders.

This section of the plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of the Planning Process; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Integration of Existing Data, Plans, and Technical





Information; (4) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (5) Continued Public Involvement.

3.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

This section of the plan identifies how the planning process was organized with the many planning partners involved and outlines the major activities conducted during the development of this HMP update.

3.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Erie County applied for and was awarded a multi-jurisdictional planning grant under the FEMA Fiscal Year 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, which supported the development of this multi-jurisdictional HMP update.

Project management and grant administration have been the responsibility of the Erie County Department of Planning and Development. A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech, Inc., referred to herein as Tetra Tech) was selected to guide the county and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process. A contract between Tetra Tech and Erie County was executed in November 2020. Specifically, Tetra Tech was tasked with the following:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and the Planning Partnership
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Collecting data
- Facilitating and attending meetings (Steering Committee, Planning Partnership, municipal, stakeholder, public, and other)
- Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern, hazard profiling, and risk assessment
- Assisting with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assisting with the review of past mitigation strategies progress
- Assisting with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions
- Assisting with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring the draft and final plan documents

In February 2020, Erie County notified all municipalities within the county of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Jurisdictions were asked to identify planning points of contact (POC) for facilitating municipal participation and representing the interests of their respective communities.

To facilitate plan development, Erie County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the HMP update effort and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced by the constituencies within the planning area (refer to Table 3-2). Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with the following:

- Providing guidance and oversight of the planning process on behalf of the general Planning Partnership
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
 - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern
 - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program
 - Ensuring that the data and information used in the plan update process are the best available
 - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals
 - Identifying and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submittal to NYS DHSES and FEMA



The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the county.

Table 3-2. Erie County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee Members

Affiliation	Name	Title
Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)	Greg Butcher	Deputy Commissioner
	Melissa Calhoun	Special Assistant
	Daniel Neaverth	Commissioner
	Ryan Sheedy	Senior Medical Emergency Radio System (MERS) Coordinator
Erie County Department of Environment and Planning	Josh Wilson	Coordinator - Pollution Prevention Program
	Daniel Castle	Deputy Commissioner
Erie County Water Authority	Matthew W. Barrett	Security Officer
City of Buffalo	Don Poletto	Senior Operations Engineer
New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS/DHSES)	Kevin Clapp	Planning Manager, Mitigation Programs
Village of Depew	R.J. Nieman	Emergency Manager
Town of Hamburg	Sean Crotty	Emergency Manager Chair, Erie County Emergency Managers Association

Table 3-3 lists the current municipal members of the Planning Partnership at the time of this HMP update. It is noted that the Steering Committee members also are part of the overall project Planning Partnership, fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Erie County. This Planning Partnership was charged with the following:

- Representing their jurisdiction throughout the planning process
- Ensuring participation of all departments and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works)
- Assisting in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data
- Supporting and promoting the public involvement process
- Reporting on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable
- Identifying, developing, and prioritizing appropriate mitigation initiatives
- Reporting on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations
- Supporting and developing a jurisdictional annex
- Reviewing, amending, and approving all sections of the plan update
- Adopting, implementing, and maintaining the plan update

Table 3-3. Erie County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership Members

Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Erie County	Gregory Butcher	Deputy Commissioner Address: Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	Melissa Calhoun	Special Assistant, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Erie County Water Authority	Matt Barrett	Security	Russell Stoll	COO
Akron (V)	Carl Patterson	Mayor	Daniel Kowalik	Emergency Manager
Alden (T)	Dean Adamski	Town Supervisor	Colleen Rogers	Deputy Supervisor



Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Alden (V)	Mark Pruitt	Office of Emergency Management Coordinator	Michael Manicki,	Mayor
Amherst (T)	James Zymanek	Director of Emergency Services and Safety	Dominic Creamer	Emergency Services and Safety
Angola (V)	Howard Frawley	Mayor	Nicole Milks	Clerk-Treasurer
Aurora (T)	James J Bach	Town Supervisor	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
Blasdell (V)	Janet L. Plarr	Village Administrator	Joseph Fox Sr.	Emergency Manager
Boston (T)	Gene Wieckowski	Emergency Manager	Jason Keding	Supervisor
Brant (T)	Mark J. DeCarlo	Supervisor	Connie Miner	Grants Consultant
Buffalo (C)	Michael Tuberdye	Buffalo Fire Department Division Chief	Michael Finn	Commissioner Department of Public Works
Cheektowaga (T)	Mike Mazurowski	Emergency Services Manager	Patrick Bowen	Town Engineer
Clarence (T)	David Bissonette	Emergency Manager	David Baumler	Deputy Emergency Manager
Colden (T)	James P. DePasquale	Supervisor	Patricia A. Zubrick	Deputy Town Supervisor
Collins (T)	Kenneth E. Martin	Supervisor	Ron Paluch	Emergency Manager
Concord (T)	Michael Willibey	Emergency Manager	Clyde Drake	Supervisor
Depew (V)	RJ Nieman	Emergency Manager	Kevin Patterson	Mayor
East Aurora (V)	Cathryn Thomas	Village Administrator	Matthew Hoeh	Supt. Public Works
Eden (T)	Brian Burgstahler	Emergency Manager	Melissa Hartman	Town Supervisor
Elma (T)	Wayne A. Clark	Supervisor	Michael Nolan	Deputy Supervisor/Councilman
Evans (T)	William Smith	Director of Planning & Community Development	Corey Baskerville	Supervising Code Enforcement Officer & MS4 Officer
Farnham (V)	Jere R. Hoisington	Mayor	Jackie Hoisington	Clerk
Gowanda (V)	Carol Sheibley	Deputy Mayor	Nicholas Crassi	Disaster Coordinator
Grand Island (T)	John Whitney, P.E.	Town Supervisor	Richard Crawford	Highway Superintendent
Hamburg (T)	Sean Crotty	Emergency Manager	Nicholas Budney	Deputy Emergency Manager
Hamburg (V)	Ric Dimpfl Jr.	Emergency Manager	Sean Crotty	Emergency Manager
Holland (T)	Michael Kasprzyk	Supervisor	Geoff Hack	Councilman - disaster coordinator
Kenmore (V)	Kathleen Johnson	Clerk/Treasurer	AJ Kiefer	Captain, Kenmore Police
Lackawanna (C)	Annette Iafallo	Mayor	Anthony DeSantis	Public Works Commissioner
Lancaster (T)	Ronald Rozler	Disaster Coordinator	Ronald Ruffino Sr	Supervisor
Lancaster (V)	Scott M. Kuhlmeiy	Director of Emergency Management	Scott M. Robinson	Assistant Disaster Coordinator
Marilla (T)	Brian Nolan	Emergency Manager	Earl Gingerich, Jr	Supervisor
Newstead (T)	David Cummings	Supervisor	Dawn Izydoreczak	Town Clerk
North Collins (T)	John M. Tobia	Supervisor	None identified	
North Collins (V)	Vincent George	Mayor	Jan Hutchinson	Clerk/Treasurer
Orchard Park (T)	Rich Murgalski	Emergency Manager	Wayne Bieler	Town Engineer
Orchard Park (V)	Rich Murgalski	Emergency Manager	John Gullo	Code and Building Inspector



Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Sardinia (T)	Gerard Whittington	Emergency Manager	Beverly Gambino	Supervisor
Sloan (V)	Debra Smith	Clerk, Treasurer	Karen M. Gold	Deputy Clerk
Springville (V)	Liz Melock	Village Administrator	Bill Krebs	Mayor
Tonawanda (C)	Mark Banks	Deputy Director Office of Emergency Management	Chuck Stuart	Fire Chief and Co-Director of Emergency Management
Tonawanda (T)	Robert Lutz	Emergency Services Coordinator, Town Police Department	James Stauffiger	Chief of Police
Wales (T)	Walter Raichel	Emergency Manager	Ellen M. Bapst	Deputy Emergency Manager
West Seneca (T)	Eric Conley	Emergency Manager	James Unger	Captain West Seneca Police Department/ OEM
Williamsville (V)	James Zymanek	Director of Emergency Services and Safety	Dominic Creamer	Emergency Services and Safety

Notes: T = Town; V = Village C = City

The jurisdictions in Erie County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, and further, have differing exposure and vulnerability to the hazards being considered in this plan. Erie County’s intent was to encourage participation by all jurisdictions and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of plan update participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee, engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the plan update process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and the provision of additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed municipal annex to the HMP (Section 9) wherein jurisdictions have individually identified their planning POCs; evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern; identified their capabilities to provide effective mitigation in their community; identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their hazard risk; and eventually, adopted the updated plan via resolution.

Appendix B (Participation Matrix) identifies those individuals who represented the municipalities during this planning effort and indicates how they contributed to the planning process.

Neither the Town of North Collins nor the Village of North Collins participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). As such, 42 of the county’s 44 municipalities participate in the NFIP and have a designated NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA). All known FPAs were informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the Points of Contact and Administrative and Technical portions of Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

3.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazard vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan, to support interaction with other stakeholders, and to assist with public involvement efforts.



A summary of Steering Committee and Planning Partnership meetings held and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in Table 3-4, which also identifies the DMA 2000 requirements satisfied. Documentation of meetings (e.g., agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes) are provided in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Table 3-4 identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect the planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, a great deal of communication was conducted between the county, committee members, and the contract consultant through individual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership, as described in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance). The Planning Partnership will be responsible for reviewing the HMP and soliciting and considering public comment as part of the 5-year mitigation plan update.

The table below summarizes a list of mitigation planning activities and meetings and their respective participants. A more detailed list of participants for each meeting is provided in Appendix B (Participation Matrix) and Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) includes details on each of the planning requirements.

Table 3-4. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities/Efforts

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
November 2, 2020	1b, 2	Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting (Data Collection, Review of Mission Statement and Goals, Hazards of Concern Identification, Public Outreach Strategy)	Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Erie County Water Authority, City of Buffalo, New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS/DHSES), Village of Depew, Town of Hamburg; Chair, Erie County Emergency Managers Association
November 18, 2020	1b, 2, 3a	Planning Partnership Kick-Off Meeting (Municipal Kick-Off Meeting and Planning Overview)	Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Erie County Department of Public Works Division of Highways, Board of Cooperative Extension Services, Erie County Emergency Managers Association, Holland Central School District, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Albert Cheverie, Hospital Emergency Preparedness Representative, New York State Department of Health; Department of Geography, State University at Buffalo/Erie County Local Emergency Planning Association, Town of Akron, Town of Newstead, Village of Blasdell, Town of Clarence, Town of Collins, Town of Eden, City of Tonawanda, Town of West Seneca



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
January and February 2021 (6 different meetings)	1b, 2, 3a, 4a, 4b, 4c	Municipal Support Meetings (Discuss information gathering worksheets, municipal problem areas, status of past mitigation actions)	Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Buffalo Fire Department, Town of Cheektowaga, Town of Newstead, Village of North Collins, Village of North Collins, Town of Sardinia, City of Tonawanda, Town of Tonawanda, Erie County Water Authority, Town of Aurora, Village of Blasdell, Town of Boston, City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, Town of Concord, Village of East Aurora, Erie County Department of Public Works, Town of Aurora, Town of Amherst, Village of Williamsville, Village of Akron, Town of Aurora, Village of East Aurora, Town of Evans, Village of Farnham, Village of Hamburg, Town of Holland, Town of Lancaster, Village of Springville, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Town of Brant, Town of Collins, Town of Eden, Town of North Collins, Town of West Seneca, Village of Alden, Town of Colden, Village of Depew, Town of Hamburg, Village of Lancaster, Village of Orchard Park, Town Orchard Park, Village of Sloan, Town of West Seneca
January 25 and January 28, 2021	1b	Public Information Meetings (Offered to provide information on hazard mitigation, the planning process, and the Erie County HMP update)	Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, WBFO, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
May 19, 2021	1b, 2, 3, 4am 4b, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c	Risk Assessment Review Meeting (Presentation of risk assessment overview, development of hazard problem statements by community) and Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO) Meeting	Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Erie County Water Authority, Village of Depew, Village of East Aurora, Village of Akron, Town of Newstead, Town of Orchard Park, Town Orchard Park, Village Orchard Park, Village of Springville, City of Tonawanda, Town of Tonawanda, Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance, National Fuel Gas, National Weather Service, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
June 9, 2021	1b, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c	Mitigation Strategy Workshops (Guidance on developing mitigation actions for inclusion in the HMP)	Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Erie County Department of Public Works, Erie County Water Authority, Village of Akron, Town of Amherst, Town of Aurora, Town of Cheektowaga, Town of Collins, Town of Concord, Village of East Aurora, Town of Eden, Town of Hamburg, Town of Holland, Town of Lancaster, Town of Newstead, Town of Orchard Park, Village of Springville, Town of Tonawanda, Town of West Seneca, Village of Williamsville
September 8, 2021	1b, 2, 3, 4, 5	Draft Plan Review Meeting (Receive comments from the public on the draft plan)	Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Town of Aurora, Town of Boston, Town of Cheektowaga, Town of Clarence, Town of Collins, Town of Concord, Village of East Aurora, Town of Grand Island, Town of Holland, City of Lackawanna, Town of Newstead, Town of North Collins, Town of Orchard Park, Village of Orchard Park, Town of Sardinia, City of Tonawanda, Town of Tonawanda, Town of West Seneca, National Fuel Gas, NYS DHSES
TBD	N/A	Submit draft to NYS DHSES for formal review	Erie County NYS DHSES



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
TBD	1b, 2, 3, 4, 5	NYS DHSES Draft Plan Review	NYS DHSES
TBD	N/A	Revise draft and submit to FEMA Region II for formal review	Erie County FEMA Region II
TBD	1b, 2, 3, 4, 5	FEMA Review	FEMA Region II
TBD	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Approvable Pending Adoption status granted	Erie County FEMA Region II

Note: TBD = to be determined.

Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

3.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders are the individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions with a vested interest in the recommendations of the HMP and include all planning partners.

Diligent efforts were made to ensure broad regional, county, and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process. This HMP includes information and input provided by these stakeholders, where appropriate, as identified in the references.

The following is a list of the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this plan, along with a summary of how they participated and contributed. This summary listing does not represent every stakeholder that was aware of and contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process.

3.3.1 Federal Agencies

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency: A representative of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency attended a Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting.

FEMA Region II: Provided updated planning guidance, provided summary and detailed data from the NFIP (including repetitive loss information), and conducted plan review.

National Weather Service: Attended the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting.

Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this HMP update was requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:





- National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau

3.3.2 State Agencies

NYS DHSES: Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review, provided updated planning guidance, attended meetings, and provided review of draft and final HMP.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Provided data and information, attended the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meetings. A representative of the Buffalo Regional Office Division of Water completed the stakeholder survey.

New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH): Attended the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting.

SUNY-Buffalo: Attended the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting.

SUNY-Erie: Provided information by completing the stakeholder survey.

3.3.3 Erie County Departments

Several county departments were represented on the Steering Committee and involved in the HMP update planning process. Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies.

Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services: The Department's Deputy Commissioner served on the Steering Committee, attended all meetings, provided information and data, reviewed documents, and reached out to stakeholders. The Department assisted with distribution of project information via social media. Images of posts are included in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation).

Erie County Department of Planning and Development: The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning was represented by its Deputy Director serving on the HMP Steering Committee and by other staff participating in the Planning Partnership meetings. Planning and Development provided critical data, assisted with the update of events and losses in the county, updated the previous mitigation strategy, facilitated outreach to jurisdictions and stakeholders, contributed to the county's capability assessment and updated mitigation strategy, and reviewed draft sections of the HMP.

Erie County Department of Public Health: Tracy Chalmers from the Department participated in the Planning Partnership.

Erie County Department of Public Works: A Senior Civil Engineer from the Department participated in the Planning Partnership.

Erie County Water Authority: The Water Authority's Security Officer participated in several meetings and provided important data about critical facilities.



3.3.4 Regional and Local Stakeholders

Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. The stakeholders listed below were directly contacted by Erie County to provide information, identify specific mitigation strategies, and/or review the draft HMP. Results of information gathering surveys are provided in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation). Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership and integrated, where appropriate, in the plan.

Academia

All school districts in the county were invited via email to provide input and attend meetings and were notified of the draft HMP review period. The Erie 1 BOCES and the Holland Central School were represented at the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting. The following academic organizations completed the stakeholder survey:

- Akron Central School District
- Alden Central School District
- Eden Central School District
- Iroquois Central School District
- Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District
- Lake Shore Central School District
- Springville-Griffith Institute Central School District
- Tonawanda City School District
- West Seneca Central School District

Business and Commercial Interests

Businesses and commercial industries in Erie County were invited to provide input on the draft HMP. National Fuel Gas attended the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting and the Risk Assessment Review Meeting. The following organizations completed the stakeholder survey:

- Akron Music Studios
- Alternative Care Services of WNY/
Alden's Meals on Wheels
- Boston Youth Soccer League
- DuPont
- Evonik
- Fiddlers Green Manor
- Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council
- Moog Incorporated
- Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
- NOCO Energy Corporation
- Snap Fitness
- Sumitomo Rubber USA
- Unifrax

Emergency Services

All state, county, and local emergency service providers (police, fire, EMS) were notified of the planning process and invited to attend meetings and provide input on the draft HMP. Response organizations were contacted via email and telephone by the Erie County DHSSES. The following organizations provided information through completing the stakeholder survey:

- Alden Fire Department
- City of Tonawanda Office of Emergency Management
- North Amherst Fire Company
- Swormville Fire



- AMR Walden Fire District (Cheektowaga)
- Brighton Fire Company
- Brighton Fire District No. 5
- Buffalo Police Department
- Chaffee-Sardinia Fire Company
- Cheektowaga Police Department
- Clarence Center Fire Company
- East Concord Fire Department
- Elma Fire Company
- Erie Community College, EMT Department
- Harris Hill Volunteer Fire Company
- Marilla Fire Company
- Orchard Park Fire Company
- Orchard Park Fire District
- Orchard Park Fire District EMS
- Rescue Hose #1
- Sheridan Park Fire
- Spring Brook Fire District
- Town of Lancaster OEM
- Town of Sardinia OEM
- Town of Tonawanda Paramedics
- Twin District Volunteer Fire Company
- Village of Hamburg Department of Emergency Services
- Windom Volunteer Fire Company

Highway and Public Works

All local highway and public works departments were invited to provide input on the draft HMP and attend all planning meetings. In addition, many of the participating municipalities had representatives from their highway and public works departments representing them on the Planning Partnership. The Town of Lancaster Highway Department, Town of Sardinia Highway Department, Town of Tonawanda Highway Department, and the Town of Tonawanda Water Plant completed the stakeholder survey.

Additional Stakeholders

Catholic Health, Chemical Distributors, Inc., the Erie County Medical Center, Kaleida Health, Mount Saint Mary’s Hospital, the Sisters of Charity Hospital, the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, and the WNY Healthcare Association were represented at a Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting.

3.3.5 Adjacent Counties

Erie County has tried to keep surrounding counties and municipalities apprised of the project and has given them the opportunity to provide input to this planning process. Specifically, the following adjoining and nearby county representatives were contacted via email in March 2020 to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys, and to invite them to attend planning meetings or otherwise provide input to the planning process.

- Niagara County, New York
- Genesee County, New York
- Monroe County, New York

The neighboring counties of Niagara, Genesee, Wyoming, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua were invited to all planning meetings. In addition, an electronic survey was distributed to officials in these counties in January 2021 to invite them to provide input into the planning process. No responses on this survey were received. Documentation of outreach to adjacent counties can be found in Appendix D.



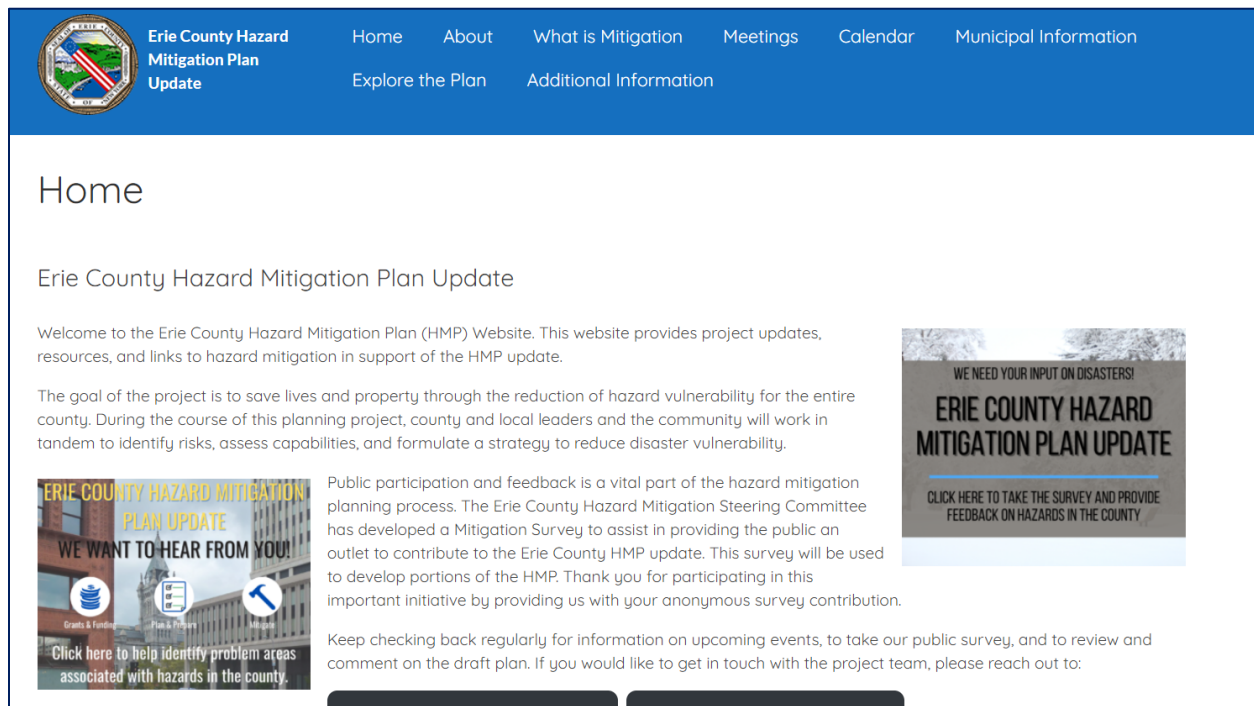
3.3.6 Public Outreach

The Steering Committee and Planning Partnership made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

- A public project website was developed and is being maintained to facilitate communication between the Steering Committee, Planning Partnership, public, and stakeholders. The public website provided a project overview, county and local contact information, access to the citizen's survey, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment. Figure 3-1 provides a screenshot of the current website homepage (<https://www.eriecountynyhmp.com/>). <http://www.ongov.net/planning/haz.html>
- A pair of public information webinars were conducted in January 2021. Two members of the general public, a reporter, and 17 representatives of other planning partners attended the webinars. Copies of meeting materials are provided in Appendix C.
- All hazard mitigation planning meetings open to the public were advertised on the Erie County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services website and the project website.
- A public online mapping tool to identify problem areas created by hazards was made available in January 2021. Fourteen people responded and identified problem areas. This information was incorporated into the jurisdictional annexes (in their lists of problem statements and mitigation actions developed to solve those problems) for the following municipalities:
 - City of Buffalo
 - Town of Hamburg
 - Town of Orchard Park
 - Village of Orchard Park
 - Village of Springville
 - Town of Tonawanda
- All participating municipalities were encouraged to post the links to the project webpage and citizen and stakeholder surveys. In addition, all participating municipalities were requested to advertise the availability of the project website via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email blasts).
- Starting in April 2021, draft sections of the plan were posted on the project website for public review and comment. In addition, links were provided to the participating jurisdictions to post on their respective websites.
- Once approved by NYS DHSES/FEMA, the final HMP will be available on the county and municipal websites.



Figure 3-1. Erie County HMP Website Homepage



3.4 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS, AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Erie County HMP strives to use the best available technical information, plans, studies, and reports throughout the planning process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development, and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessment are presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, are presented in the Hazard Profiling and Risk Assessment Section (Section 5), specifically within Section 5.3 (Data and Methodology) as well as throughout Section 5.4 (Hazard Profiles). Further, the source of technical data and information used can be found within Volume I under *References*.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the county, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The county and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their planning and regulatory capabilities in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances, were reviewed to identify the following:

- Existing municipal capabilities
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the county or local mitigation strategies



- Mitigation-related goals or objectives considered in the review and update of the overall Goals and Objectives in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy)
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions, and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated county and local mitigation strategies

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed during this process to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives, and strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms to accomplish complementary and mutually supportive strategies:

- New York State Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans of 2014 and 2019
- Erie County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Local plans and regulations (Appendix G includes a list and description of the local documents reviewed for each jurisdiction)
 - Comprehensive/Master Plans
 - Building Codes
 - Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
 - NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
 - Site Plan Requirements
 - Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans
 - Stormwater Management Plans
 - Emergency Management and Response Plans
 - Land Use and Open Space Plans
 - Capital Plans

3.5 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within Erie County, many existing plans and programs support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this HMP integrates, coordinates with, and complements existing plans and programs.

The Capability Assessment portion of Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, and local) that support hazard mitigation within the county. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes), the county and each participating jurisdiction identified how they integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (*integration capabilities*), and how they intend to promote this integration (*integration actions*).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

3.6 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Erie County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This HMP update will be posted online at <https://www2.erie.gov/disaster/index.php?q=The%20Plan> and municipalities will be encouraged to maintain links to the plan website. The county will also make hard copies of the HMP available for review at public locations, as identified on the website.



A notice regarding updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized after the Planning Partnership's annual evaluation and posted on the public website at <https://www2.erie.gov/disaster/index.php?q=The%20Plan>.

Each jurisdiction's governing body will be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next 5-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update, as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Committee to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the plan.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

After completion of this plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comments as part of an annual review and as part of 5-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public website.

Mr. Gregory Butcher is identified as the Erie County HMP Coordinator in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) and will be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan. Contact information is:

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