



# McHenry County Hazard Mitigation Committee

## Meeting Notes: November 10, 2011

The meeting began at 9am in the McHenry County Administration Building.

**Introductions:** David Christensen, Director of McHenry County EMA welcomed everyone. All were asked to introduce themselves.

**Review Process:** Robert Ellsworth, Asst Director of McHenry County EMA...as part of the 5 year plan agreement, projects are to be completed, modified or added.

### County Actions:

- **Ed Markison/Department of Transportation** – Living Snow Fence: Working with farmers to leave a portion of their crops in the field along thoroughfares, State liked permanent fixtures instead. Ed Weskerna, Soil & Water Conservation District was contacted and suggested working with Farm Bureau as another option. Possible 36 miles of roadways to benefit.
- **Dennis Sandquist/Planning & Development** – Flooding: Having a completed grant qualifies the county for mitigation grants. An analysis was done at the Nippersink Canoe Base to identify possible repetitive flood areas. Twelve contiguous (to Conservation property) properties were identified with an application submitted in July 2011. Offers of fair value price, with no negotiations, at a 75/25 local match. Once obtained McHenry County Conservation will maintain property.

### Jurisdictional Actions:

- **Fred Mullard/Lake in the Hills Public Works Director** – reported that they raised their Community Rating System rating from 7 to 6 as of October 2011. The additional points were gained by formalizing their drainage maintenance plan and adoption of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Anyone looking to develop a project with the plan let us know, we can help.

**Review of Action Items** – All jurisdictions are asked to review the 23 Action Items. If there are any changes or modifications, please email them back by end of January 2012.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:25am.

# McHenry County

## Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

### 2011 Annual Evaluation Report

#### Overview

The *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* (Plan) identifies activities that can be undertaken by both the public and the private sectors to reduce safety hazards, health hazards, and property damage caused by natural hazards. The Plan focuses on the identified major natural hazards facing McHenry County: floods, severe summer and winter storms, tornadoes, extreme cold and heat events, and drought. The most recent natural disasters in McHenry County, Illinois, that received federal disaster declarations were winter storms in 1999 and 2001, and flooding in 1986 and 1993. These disasters impacted people, property owners and businesses in the County.

The development and adoption of a natural hazard mitigation plan allow communities to be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grants program funds. This Plan fulfills the federal mitigation planning requirements for FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and is eligible for credit under the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. Hazard mitigation grant funds are made available by the FEMA through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

This Plan was prepared by the McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee, created by a resolution of the McHenry County Board on December 21, 2010. The Mitigation Committee's members include representatives of County offices, interested municipalities, townships, and agencies.

Action Item 3 calls for the development of an annual evaluation report to be submitted to the County Board to ensure appropriate plan monitoring and maintenance. Annual evaluation reports are intended to provide a review of the Plan direction and recommendations, a summary of natural disasters that impacted McHenry County in reporting year, and a review of the action items implemented since the *Plan* adoption, as appropriate.

The McHenry County Hazard Mitigation Committee met on November 10, 2011 at the McHenry County Administration Building. The agenda for the annual meeting is provided in Appendix A to this report. This 2010 annual evaluation report, for the reporting period of December 2010 to November 2011, is based on information collected from County departments and the municipalities, and the Committee discussion at the November 10, 2011 meeting.

#### Plan Evaluation

No changes to the *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* are necessary at this time.

## Natural Disasters During 2011

No natural disasters occurred in McHenry County in this reporting period (December 2010 to November 2011).

### Review of Action Items

The Action Plan (Chapter 10) in the *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* contains 23 action items. These action items were taken from the hazard mitigation recommendations made in Chapter 4 through 9. They are identified as preventive, protection, project or public information action items. The implementation of the action items are summarized below.

#### A. Administrative Action Items

##### **Action Item 1: Plan Adoption**

Adopt [the] *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* by resolution of the County Board, City Councils, Boards of Trustees, and other governing boards, as appropriate.

Status: The *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* was adopted by resolution by the County, participating municipalities and institutions as shown in Table 1. Adoption resolutions were submitted to IEMA. IEMA transmitted the resolutions to FEMA, and for most communities FEMA has provided a letter of plan approval to IEMA. Some approval letters from FEMA are outstanding; however the FEMA web site shows that all municipalities in the County fall under an “approvable” plan.

##### **Action Item 2: Continuation of Mitigation Committee**

The County’s resolution to adopt this *Plan* should convert the McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Committee to a permanent advisory.

Status: The County Board adoption resolution of December 21, 2010 states that the “McHenry County Hazard Mitigation Committee is hereby established as a permanent advisory body.”

##### **Action Item 3: Plan Monitoring and Maintenance**

A. Natural Hazard Mitigation Committee meeting will be held *at least* once a year to evaluate and monitor progress on implementation. This meeting will be publicized in local newspapers and on the County and community websites (the public will be welcome to attend and/or comment). An annual evaluation report will be submitted to the County Board by the Director of Emergency Management or the current chair of the Mitigation Committee.

Status: This annual evaluation report has been prepared per this action item. A meeting of the Mitigation Committee was held on November 10, 2011.

#### B. Mitigation Project Action Items

The *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* calls for implementation of action items through both countywide and individual community initiatives, as funding and resources become available.

#### **Action Item 4: Watershed Studies**

McHenry County should pursue comprehensive watershed studies. This effort will foster the understanding of impact of development on existing flood problems and identify ways to reduce future flood problems. Watershed studies should also evaluate wetlands and water quality impacts of development and other activities in McHenry County.

Status: Watershed studies have continued within the McHenry County Planning & Development Stormwater Management Division. McHenry County Planning & Development Stormwater Management Division has undertaken detailed watershed investigations to examine localized flooding since the *McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* development.

#### **Action Item 5: Expand Stream Gaging Network**

McHenry County should pursue the installation and maintenance of additional stream gages throughout the county. Additional assistance should be sought from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Geological Survey for funding and technical assistance.

Status: No action at this time.

#### **Action Item 6: Stream Maintenance Programs**

The County, municipalities, and townships should develop and implement formal and regular drainage system maintenance programs. This effort should include the inspection of privately maintained drainage facilities. It is understood that each municipality and township will make these considerations based on available staffing and financial resources. Both urban and rural streams are in need of maintenance. Also, bridges and culverts (active or abandoned) that restrict flood flows should be evaluated. The removal or enlargement of stream crossings, in cases where a modification will not cause an increase in downstream flooding, should be considered and funded.

Status: No action at this time.

#### **Action Item 7: Prohibited Waterway Dumping Ordinances**

Each community should ensure that they have enforceable stream and wetland dumping ordinances. Regulations should apply to both "objectionable waste" and "non-objectionable" materials such as grass clippings and tree branches. Communities they do not have stream and wetland dumping ordinances should adopt appropriate regulations.

Status: No action at this time

#### **Action Item 8: Mitigation of Public Infrastructure**

Mitigation of public infrastructure, including roadways, bridges and culverts, and treatment facilities, for protection from natural hazards should be investigated as the facility or asset is being considered for repair, replacement or expansion. When possible, improvements should incorporate protecting the natural functions of the streams and floodplains, if located in a floodplain.

Status: No action at this time

**Action Item 9: Continued NFIP Compliance**

Municipalities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) should ensure that they are in full compliance with the NFIP administration and enforcement requirements. While the McHenry County Planning and Development Department administers the McHenry County Comprehensive Storm water Ordinance for non-certified municipalities, all NFIP municipalities are still ultimately responsible for ensuring that development within the regulatory floodplain meets the NFIP minimum standards.

Status: No action at this time

**Action Item 10: Repetitive Loss Areas Study**

Repetitive flood loss areas (identified as part of this Plan) should be studied and mitigation alternatives, such as acquisition, elevation or flood proofing, identified and investigated for the structures. The County or municipalities should seek a mitigation planning grant as needed for preparing the repetitive loss areas studies.

Status: No action at this time

**Action Item 11: Identification of Floodplain Structures**

In addition to examining repetitively flood loss areas, a comprehensive list of structures located in the County's floodplains should be developed. Through GIS and examining building footprints, the numbers and types of structures in the floodplain can be determined. The list should include critical facilities that potentially need flood protection.

Status: See Action Item 14

**Action Item 12: Investigation of Critical Facilities**

An investigation/analysis of the critical facilities mapped in the County's GIS as part of this Plan should be conducted to determine if buildings or facilities are located in hazardous locations (floodplains or otherwise). Additional critical facility data should be collected and added to the GIS layers. Emergency managers should provide input on mapping and data formats that would enhance emergency preparedness, response and recovery in the county. The investigation should also identify critical facilities that should be protected from identified natural hazards.

Status: No action at this time

**Action Item 13: Critical Facilities Design with Natural Hazards Protection**

Offices responsible for design, construction or permitting critical facilities, including federal, state, county and municipal agencies, and institutions should ensure that the design or modification of critical facilities accounts for all natural hazards and adjacent land uses. Critical facilities in the floodplain should be protected to the 500-year flood event.

Status: No action at this time

#### **Action Item 14: Mitigation of Floodplain Properties – Property Protection Projects**

Properties that are exposed to flood damage throughout McHenry County should be protected through property protection measures where regional structural projects are not feasible. Property protection measures should include, but not be limited to, acquisition, elevation, or flood proofing. Priority should be given to repetitive loss properties, but all floodplain properties including critical facilities should be included.

Status: In 2011, the Planning and Development Department coordinated with the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency and McHenry County Conservation District to prepare a grant application requesting funding to purchase nine flood prone houses along the lower Nippersink Creek. If the grant application is successful, the homes will be demolished and the land will be maintained as permanent open space by MCCD. It may take the Illinois Emergency Management Agency up to one year to complete its review of the grant application.

#### **Action Item 15: Safe Rooms**

The need for additional safe rooms throughout the county should be considered, including safe rooms and sheltering in residences, businesses, critical facilities, health care facilities, and schools. As needs are identified, grant funding should be pursued for the construction of safe rooms.

Status: No action at this time

#### **Action Item 16: Community Rating System Participation**

McHenry County and the municipalities that participate in the NFIP should consider participating in the Community Rating System (CRS). The Village of Lake in the Hills already participates in CRS, and they should also continue their participation.

Status: Lake in the Hills has changed their Community Rating System rating from 7 to 6 as of October 2011. The additional points were gained by formalizing their drainage maintenance plan and adoption of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

#### **Action Item 17: Urban Forestry – Participation in Tree City USA**

McHenry County municipalities that are Tree City USA communities will maintain their status in the nationwide program, and communities that are not in the program will consider joining the program. It is understood that each municipality will make these considerations based on available staffing and financial resources.

Status: No action at this time

#### **Action Item 18: Participation in StormReady**

McHenry County, communities and other agencies should consider joining the National Weather Service's StormReady program. The StormReady program has been developed to provide communities guidelines to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of hazardous weather-related warnings for the public.

Status: McHenry County Emergency Management Agency is currently reviewing the guidelines to become StormReady.

**Action Item 19: Strengthen Building Codes and Code Enforcement Training**

Communities that have not adopted the International Code series of building codes should do so, and for all communities, future code revisions should be pursued to strengthen new buildings against damage by high winds, tornadoes, hail, and earthquakes. Requiring tornado “safe rooms” in certain structures should be considered. Any code revisions should be consistent with the efforts undertaken by multi-community organizations of building department staff.

Status: No action at this time

**Action Item 20: Seek Mitigation Grant Funding for Additional Mitigation Planning and Cost Beneficial Projects**

The County, municipalities, townships, other agencies and institutions should apply for mitigation grant funding through available IEMA and FEMA programs for mitigation planning and mitigation projects. As required by IEMA and FEMA programs, projects must be cost beneficial. FEMA hazard mitigation funding including PDM, HMGP, FMA and Section 406 of the Stafford Act (for facilities and infrastructure damaged due to a presidentially declared disaster) should be considered.

Status: McHenry County Department of Transportation, Emergency Management, and the Soil & Water Conservation District have met to discuss possible funding for a Living Snow Fence project. The project would also include the Farm Bureau of McHenry County.

**Action Item 21: Implementation of the Water Resources Protection Action Plan**

The County, municipalities and townships should implement the water quality and groundwater protection measures recommended by the “McHenry County Water Resources Protection Action Plan.”

Status: No action at this time

**Action Item 22: Development of a Public Information Strategy**

A countywide natural hazards public information strategy should be developed for the use of the County, municipalities, townships and institutions. The strategy should be consistent with the recommended approach for the CRS program. The most important topics to cover are:

- Safety
- Protecting your property
- Understanding floods
- Protecting our watersheds

The most appropriate ways to provide information are:

- Community newsletters
- Newspaper articles
- Web sites and links to other sources

Handouts at public places

Status: No action at this time, however public information activities have continued independently with the County and the municipalities

**Action Item 23: Property Protection References**

Provide municipal departments, libraries and other interested offices with a list of references on property protection that can be ordered for free from state and federal offices. Include a request that they make the references available for public use. A special effort should be made to identify references on insurance, emergency preparedness and property protection.

Also, identify web sites that provide property protection information and provide their addresses to the County and municipal webmasters.

Status: No action at this time

**Summary**

The focus of this 2011 annual evaluation report of the McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is on the implementation of the action items by municipalities and institutions.

Table 1.  
Status of Adoption and Approval of the McHenry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

<b>Community Name</b>	<b>Municipal Adopted Resolution</b>
Village of Algonquin	X
Village of Barrington Hills	DECLINED
Village of Bull Valley	
Village of Cary	X
City of Crystal Lake	X
Village of Fox Lake	
Village of Fox River Grove	X
Village of Greenwood	TO COME
City of Harvard	X
Village of Hebron	
Village of Holiday Hills	X
Village of Huntley	X
Village of Island Lake	X
Village of Johnsburg	
Village of Lake in the Hills	X
Village of Lakemoor	TO COME
Village of Lakewood	X
Village of McCullom Lake	X
City of McHenry	X
City of Marengo	X
Village of Oakwood Hills	
Village of Port Barrington	DECLINED
Village of Prairie Grove	X
Village of Richmond	
Village of Ringwood	
Village of Spring Grove	X
Village of Trout Valley	
Village of Union	X
Village of Wonder Lake	X
City of Woodstock	X
McHenry County	X
Alden Township	X
Algonquin Township (Highway)	X
Burton Township	
Chemung Township	DECLINED
Coral Township	X
Dunham Township	
Grafton Township	
Greenwood Township	X
Hartland Township	TO COME
Hebron Township	
McHenry Township	X
Marengo Township	X
Nunda Township	X
Richmond Township	X
Riley Township	X
Seneca Township	
McHenry Township Road Dist	X
McHenry Township Fire P Dist	DECLINED
Woodstock Fire Rescue	X