

2015 McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Community Questionnaire

Purpose: This survey aims to capture review mitigation activities that are currently being implemented as well as the capabilities that are in place to implement future hazard mitigation activities. In addition, it identifies changes or additions that may be needed. This helps meet a number of federal requirements for the plan and aids in obtaining CRS credit.

We will review activities, plans, and regulations in place over the six general categories of mitigation measures:

1. **Structural measures** such as reservoirs, channel improvements, levees, bridges and other flood control projects
2. **Property protection** such as relocation out of harm's way, retrofitting buildings, insurance
3. **Preventive measures** such as zoning, building codes, and other development regulations
4. **Emergency services** such as warning, sandbagging, evacuation
5. **Natural resource protection**, such as groundwater, wetlands, urban forestry programs
6. **Public information**, such as outreach projects, technical assistance to property

Instructions: This form collects information about the mitigation measures that a community might be doing to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards. Each section of the form pertains to each of the six mitigation measures. Complete the form as best you can and share sections of the form with other municipal staff or officials, as appropriate. For example, the emergency services section can be best completed by the ESDA/EMA staff.

Some questions may not be applicable for townships. If this is the case, skip the questions or note "n/a."

If you need extra space to describe something, feel free to use the back of the sheets, or attach extra pages.

Track hours for in-kind match form: Please track the people and number of hours needed to complete this questionnaire by completing the attached form and returning it to McHenry County EMA along with the completed questionnaire.

Deadline: Please complete the questionnaire and In-Kind Match form and return by January 13, 2016.

Submit Completed Questionnaire & In-Kind Match form: Mail or e-mail to:

- Robert Ellsworth, Assistant Director
McHenry County EMA
2200 N Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, IL 60098
- ema@co.mchenry.il.us

If any attachments cannot be mailed/emailed, please let McHenry County EMA (815-338-6400) know, and other arrangements can be made. As always, you are welcome to bring materials to the meeting(s). Our next meeting is January 21, 2016.

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Date: _____

Community: _____

Completed by: _____

Phone or E-mail: _____

STRUCTURAL MEASURES

1. Does your community currently have structural flood control or flood reduction projects in place to protect areas from flooding? (yes/no) _____

If yes, then are they (check as applicable):

___ Reservoirs (Other than small detention basins built for new developments)

___ Levees or floodwalls

___ Diversions

___ Channel improvements (enlarging, straightening, concrete lining, or dredging)

If so, please describe the location of the project and any other information below:

2. Are there plans to construct new or additional structural projects or are there areas under study where structural projects are being considered? _____

If so, please describe them:

3. Are there bridges or culverts that impede or obstruct flow?

If so, please describe them:

4. Are there any roads that could be elevated to provide continued access during flooding?

If so, please describe them:

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- 5. Are there any known locations of sediment accumulation in a channel that may be causing channel capacity reduction and known or potential flooding? _____**

If so, please describe them:

- 6. Does your community inspect its drainage systems and remove obstructions? _____**

If so, are there any written procedures or forms that are used to guide this program?

If so, please provide a copy and the name and phone number of the local contact.

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PREVENTATIVE MEASURES (Plans, Ordinances, Codes)

1. Does your community have a comprehensive plan? _____

If so, when was the most recent version adopted? _____

Please provide a copy of the land use map (or website link to plan).

2. Does the plan discuss flooding? _____

If so, please provide copies of those pages (or website link to plan).

3. Does the plan discuss hazards other than flooding (tornado, earthquake, erosion, etc.)? _____

If so, please provide copies of those pages (or website link to plan).

4. Does your community have a zoning ordinance? _____

If so, when was the most recent version adopted or updated? _____

5. Does your community have a subdivision ordinance? _____

If so, does it have any special flood hazard or drainage provisions? _____

Please provide a copy of appropriate pages (or website link to plan).

Any requirements for burying utility lines? _____

Please provide a copy of appropriate pages (or page number and website link).

6. Are there any areas that are being developed (or planned for future development) where the floodplain is not mapped? _____

If so, where (general location)?

7. Does your community have a building code? _____

If so, which code? What year? _____

- Have there been any amendments that affect natural hazard protection (flood, wind, earthquake)?
- What department issues the building permits and enforces the building codes?

If not, does your community have a plan to adopt one? _____

Which code? _____

8. Building Codes Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS): If there is a building code, what is your most recent BCEGS score?

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Please provide a copy of the latest BCEGS report or give Caroline a copy of the letter you sent to the Insurance Services Office. If you have not already done this, a draft letter that you can send is attached as the last page in this questionnaire.

9. Do any of your community's ordinances address manufactured ("mobile") home safety such as anchoring?

If so, which one(s)?

10. Has your community been involved with any watershed-level plans or studies?

If so, which ones(s)?

11. Does your community have a Capital Improvement Plan?

If so, does it include any provision for mitigation actions?

12. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): If your community participates in the NFIP, do you implement a separate (or additional) floodplain development ordinance, or does your community implement the floodplain regulations incorporated in the McHenry County Stormwater Ordinance?

What department issues floodplain permit? _____

What department tracks cumulative substantial improvement of structures in the floodplain?

13. Does your community have any problems with stormwater or floodplain regulations or wish to change them?

14. Are there any areas that are being developed (or planned for future development) where the floodplain is not mapped? _____

If so, where (general location)?

15. Is your community interested in FEMA's Community Rating System? _____

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PROPERTY PROTECTION

1. Are you aware of homes or other buildings that have experienced flooding in your community?

 If so, do you feel the cause was (mark all that apply):

- Surface stormwater or drainage
- River or stream overbank flooding
- Seepage around foundation
- Groundwater

2. Have any buildings been purchased or relocated to protect the properties from flooding or other hazards? _____

If so, please give us a short description of what was done.

3. Have any buildings been elevated, floodproofed or otherwise retrofitted (e.g, increased load capacity for snow; wind-resistant materials for tornadoes) to protect them from flooding or other hazards?

 If so, please give us a short description of what was done.

4. Have any safe rooms been installed in a community structure since 2010? _____

If so, which building(s)?

5. Have any buildings had overhead sewers or other sewer backup protection measures installed?

 If so, please give us a short description of what was done.

6. Does your community have any technical or financial assistance programs to help property owners floodproof or otherwise retrofit their buildings? _____

If so, please describe.

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NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

1. What natural resources are your community most concerned with protecting? (You may check or rank the resources below that apply to your community.)

- Wetlands
- Streambanks
- Lakes (and other waterbodies)
- Open space
- Forested areas (don't have any major forested areas)
- Groundwater
- Farmland
- Other _____
- Other _____

2. What practice(s) is your community using to prevent erosion and control sediment?

3. Describe any Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are currently required or exist for the NPDES:

Do they function as designed?

Are they properly maintained?

4. Is there an ordinance that prohibits dumping debris in or obstructing waterways? _____

5. Does your community participate in Tree City USA? _____

6. Have any of the structures in your community that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places sustained damage from hazards? _____

If so, please describe which structures and which events.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. Does your community help people read the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and/or provide hazard information to inquirers? _____

2. Does your community have a newsletter that is distributed on a regular basis? _____

3. Does your community include flood, tornado, winter storm or other hazards information in any newsletters, brochures, or other outreach projects? _____
If so, please provide a copy or link to a recent copy.

4. Does your community website have any pages or links to information about the hazards?

5. Do community staff visit properties and/or provide advice to the owners on how they can protect themselves from flooding, wind or other hazards?

6. Are there any educational programs in schools or non-profit organizations (e.g., Scouts, YMCA, etc.) for flood, tornado, winter storm or other hazards?

7. Does your community have a formalized plan to disseminate disaster-related information (i.e., preparedness, mitigation measures, sheltering, recovery actions) to the public before, during, and after hazard events?
If so, does it include social media procedures?

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[Municipal Letterhead]

[Date]

Mr. Ralph Dorio
Risk Decision Services
Insurance Services Office, Inc.
545 Washington Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07301-1686

Dear Mr. Dorio:

The [City/Village of _____] is participating in the 2015 McHenry County natural hazard mitigation planning effort. One part of this effort is a review of local building codes and their effectiveness in protecting property from the impacts of natural hazards.

The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) has evaluated our building code program under the Building Codes Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS). This letter is our request that ISO release a copy of the program review and/or report to McHenry County's mitigation planning consultant. Please send a copy to:

Caroline Cunningham, AICP, CFM
Stantec
5565 Centerview Drive, Suite 107
Raleigh, NC 27606

If you have any questions on this request, please feel free to call Caroline at 919-532-2320 or David Christensen, McHenry County EMA Director at 815-338-6400.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Mayor/Village President]

cc: Caroline Cunningham