

# McHenry County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Annual Review Agenda

Thursday, November 7, 2019 @ 2:30 pm

McHenry County Mental Health Board Building  
620 Dakota St, Crystal Lake

Welcome

Introductions

Review Process

- The Natural Hazard Mitigation Committee formed in 2008, the plan was adopted by resolution in 2010, updated from 2015-2017 and adopted by resolution again in 2017. The approved plan is to be reviewed every year for changes and updates to the action items, with a full plan update every 5 years.

Review of the Action Items 1 - 32

- Changes
- Deletions

County Actions

- Project Updates
  - *Action Item 4: Watershed Studies (P&D)*
  - *Action Item 6: Stream Maintenance Programs (DOT and Townships)*
  - *Action Item 8: Mitigation of Public Infrastructure (DOT and Townships)*
  - *Action Item 9: Continued NFIP Compliance (P&D)*
  - *Action Item 11: Identification of Floodplain Structures (P&D)*
  - *Action Item 20: Seek Mitigation Grant Funding for Additional Mitigation Planning and Cost Beneficial Projects (P&D)*
  - *Action Item 21: Implementation of the Water Resources Protection Action Plan (P&D)*
  - *Action Item 31: Remote/Regional Salt Storage for McHenry County (DOT)*
- Future Projects

Jurisdiction Actions

- Project Updates
  - *Action Item 14 Mitigation of Floodplain Properties (McHenry Township)*
  - *Action Item 16 Community Rating System Participation (Huntley)*
  - *Action Item 17 Participation in Tree City USA (Huntley)*
  - *Action Item 27 Tornado Siren at Public Works Facility in the Village of Richmond (Village of Richmond)*
  - *Action Items 30 Develop a Reliable Means for Citizens in Crystal Lake to Receive Official Information from the City (Chief DeRaedt)*
- Future Projects
  - *Coral / Riley Township*

State of Illinois Updates

- Potential Projects and Available Funding
- Considerations
- FY19 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs

- How can a local jurisdiction join in on an already approved multijurisdictional plan?

Public Comments

Adjournment

# McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan 2019 Annual Evaluation Report

## Review of Action Items

### **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: 6 months

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 board. It should:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Allow for continued public participation in the Plan implementation and future revisions;
- Ensure incorporation of this Plan’s goals and guidelines into other planning documents;
- Monitor implementation of this Action Plan; and
- Report on progress and recommended changes to the County Board and each municipality and township.

Status: Ongoing

#### **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: Mitigation Committee meetings are to occur annually. Evaluation reports are to be prepared annually. A five-year update is required for FEMA’s mitigation funding programs  
Ongoing

#### **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.

The Fox Waterway Agency is collaborating with local agencies and other stakeholders to complete a Watershed-based Plan for the Upper Fox River watershed. They are taking the lead for this never been done before plan; does not include other watersheds.

Status: 36 months

Cost: \$500,000 estimate

#### **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: 12 months

Cost: \$50,000

#### **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.

The County has close to ten bridges and/or culverts that are currently undergoing some level of design or waiting for IDOT authorization to proceed to design. Among other design elements, the design process will review the hydraulics and roadside safety.

Status: 36 months

Cost: Staff time and equipment

#### **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: 36 months

Cost: Community specific

#### **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.

The County completed construction on Deerpass Road, O'Brien Road, and Union Road bridges in 2019. Both Deerpass Road and Union Road bridges were full reconstructions; both structures included improved hydraulics and safety. The O'Brien Road bridge was a superstructure reconstruction with additional compensatory storage, hydraulic, and safety improvements.

Status: As funding is available

Cost: Project specific

#### **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.

One new community has joined the NFIP (Oakwood Hills), one community is working to join (Bull Valley) and Trout Valley is not interested. All other communities (26 total) within McHenry County and the unincorporated areas are NFIP communities.

Status: Ongoing

Cost: Staff 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: 24 months

Cost: \$100,000

#### **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.

Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) has requested our assistance (McHenry and Lake County) with applying for a FEMA grant to complete a Structure-specific Risk Assessment on the lower 10 miles of the Nippersink Creek. The application would be submitted by ISWS for the FY2020 FEMA grant cycle.

Status: 36 months

Cost: \$100,000

#### **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: 24 months

Cost: \$100,000

### **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: Ongoing

Cost: Staff 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.

McHenry Township has an area on the Nippersink Creek that they are interested in. The county continues to work on acquisition and demolition of flood prone properties on the Nippersink Creek through the FEMA HMGP grant that was awarded in 2014. Of the nine structures in the original grant application, eight have been demolished. Two sets of open lots have also been acquired.

Status: Ongoing

Cost: Identified per project

### **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: 36 months

Cost: Staff time (plus grant cost share)

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

CRS Classes and Discounts as of April 2019. The CRS recognizes measures for flood protection and flood loss reduction. The four main activity categories include Public Information, Mapping and Regulation, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness. In order to participate in the CRS, a community must complete and submit an application to FEMA. Subsequently, FEMA reviews the community's floodplain management efforts and assigns the appropriate CRS classification based on credit points earned for various activities. A community's classification may change depending on the level of continued floodplain management efforts. Classifications range from 1 to 10 and determine the premium discount for eligible flood insurance policies. All community assignments begin at Class 10 with no premium discount. Communities with a Class

1 designation receive the maximum 45 percent premium discount. McHenry County (Class 7), the Village of Lake in the Hills (Class 6), and the City of Crystal Lake also participate in CRS. The city of Woodstock has rescinded from the program. The Village of Huntley was accepted into the program this year and has a CRS Class 7 (presently limited to this class because of building requirements but working to be a Class 5); residents are able to receive a 15% discount on their flood insurance because of this rating.

Status: Ongoing

Cost: Staff time

#### **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. The Villages of Algonquin, Cary, and Lake in the Hills along with the Cities of Crystal Lake, Marengo, and McHenry participate.

The Village of Huntley was added this year.

Status: 24 months

Cost: \$2 per capita, staff 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. The Village of Lake in the Hills became StormReady on September 17, 2018. The County, and the Village of Lake in the Hills now participate in StormReady, and they should continue their participation.

Status: 24 months

Cost: \$2 per capita, staff time

#### **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: 24 months

Cost: Staff 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.

The County has expressed interest in applying for an additional grant through the IDNR to mitigate the remaining properties in the 2014 FEMA HMGP grant. If the application is approved, additional properties may be targeted for mitigation through the same grant; would include Orchard Heights and the Spring Grove area.

Status: As needed

Cost: 25 percent of plan or project cost (non-federal share).

### **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.”

The County is currently updating the Water Resources Action Plan with a scheduled completion date of mid-2020. Recommendations will be implemented after community adoption; will schedule monthly meetings.

Status: Ongoing

Cost: Staff 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 and emergency protection measures:

- During thunderstorms and lightning
- During tornadoes
- During floods
- During winter storms

Protecting your property:

- From flood damage
- Floodproofing
- Local drainage issues
- Sources of assistance

Understanding floods:

- Why there are floods
- Why we regulate the floodplain
- Flood insurance

Other:

- Protecting our watersheds
- Protecting water quality
- Water conservation

The most appropriate ways to provide information are:

- Community newsletters
- Newspaper articles
- Websites and links to other sources
- Handouts at public places

Status: 12 months

Cost: Staff time, publication costs

### **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: 12 months

Cost: Staff time

### **Action Item 24: Warning System for Dunham Township**

Build a warning system for areas in the southwest and southeast sections of Dunham Township.  
*Jurisdiction/Community:* Dunham Township

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: Staff time, possible funding sources.

### **Action Item 25: Power Outages for the Community of Algonquin**

Need generators for all water and sewer facilities.  
*Jurisdiction/Community:* Algonquin.

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: Unknown, possible funding sources.

### **Action Item 26: Replace Main Drain Tiles in Hebron Township**

Hebron Drainage District is 101 years old and the main drain tiles are worn out and need replacement. The District collects taxes but are just enough to make repairs on an annual basis. Large rain events have necessitated many more repairs to the tile lines causing more issues with roads and culverts within the township's 7,000 acres including homes, farms, crops (row crops, veggies, bees, and vineyards).

*Jurisdiction/Community:* Hebron Township

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: \$2-5 million.

### **Action Item 27: Tornado Siren at Public Works Facility in the Village of Richmond**

Build a tornado siren covering the Cunat area.

*Jurisdiction/Community:* Village of Richmond.

Tornado sirens have been installed on township property, thanks to a joint effort between the village and the township; completed item.

Status: Completed.

### **Action Item 28: Review of Storm Sewers/Drainage System Maintenance for the Village of Richmond**

*Jurisdiction/Community:* Village of Richmond.

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: Unknown.

### **Action Item 29: Outreach Projects (Seminars, Pamphlets, Etc.) in the Village of Richmond Addressing All Hazards**

*Jurisdiction/Community:* Village of Richmond.

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: \$5,000.

### **Action Item 30: Develop a Reliable Means for Citizens in Crystal Lake to Receive Official Information from the City**

During severe weather events and post-event restoration, there is in need for developing a reliable means for citizens to receive official information from the City. Crystal Lake is interested in establishing an Emergency Alert AM radio station.

ALERT AM broadcasts warnings for: AMBER Alerts, School Incidents, Flooding, Industrial Accidents, Terror Threats, Earthquakes, and Tornadoes, etc.

Still pursuing an AM radio station to use in place of a catastrophic loss of internet communications; continuing to look for a grant for this ongoing item.

*Jurisdiction/Community:* Crystal Lake.

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: \$25,000.

### **Action Item 31: Remote/Regional Salt Storage for McHenry County**

Winter Event Preparedness: Remote/Regional salt storage is needed. “A study conducted by Marquette University found that, when winter storms turn roads to ice, de-icing them with salt reduces accidents by 88% and injuries by 85%. Road salt also saves money. When snow and ice make roads impassable, it can cost state economies as much as \$700 million a day — losses salt can mitigate.” Quote from the Salt Institute said that due to previous winter events, the lack of salt storage and/or the availability/deliverability has presented diametric opposition to which public works departments including the Division of Transportation have tried to overcome. Having the ability to immediately access salt has been and continues to be an ongoing issue in McHenry County, which hampers the safety of the transportation roadways within the County.

**Options for this project are still being evaluated by McHenry County.**

*Jurisdiction/Community:* McHenry County / Division of Transportation

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: High cost project, funding TBD.

### **Action Item 32: Include the McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan into Other Plans**

As the county and municipalities develop or revise comprehensive or land use plans, emergency operations plans, and ordinances, the goals and guidelines of this Plan should be incorporated into those efforts.

*Jurisdiction/Community:* McHenry County and municipalities.

Status: Ongoing.

Cost: Staff time.



# McHenry County

## Hazard Mitigation Committee

### Meeting Notes: November 7, 2019

**Introductions:** Robert Leracz/EMA Planner welcomed everyone.

**Review Process:** The Natural Hazard Mitigation Committee formed in 2008, the plan was adopted by resolution in 2010, updated from 2015-2017 and adopted by resolution again in 2017. The approved plan is to be reviewed every year for changes and updates to the action items, with a full plan update every 5 years.

#### County Actions

##### Project Updates

- Action Item 4: Watershed Studies: Fox Waterway Agency is partnering with local agencies and other stakeholders to complete a Watershed-based Plan for the Upper Fox River watershed. They are taking the lead for this never been done before plan; does not include other watersheds.
- Action Item 6: Stream Maintenance Programs: The County has close to ten bridges and/or culverts that are currently undergoing some level of design or waiting for IDOT authorization to proceed to design. Among other design elements, the design process will review the hydraulics and roadside safety.
- Action Item 8: Mitigation of Public Infrastructure: The County completed construction on Deerpass Road, O'Brien Road, and Union Road bridges in 2019. Both Deerpass Road and Union Road bridges were full reconstructions; both structures included improved hydraulics and safety. The O'Brien Road bridge was a superstructure reconstruction with additional compensatory storage, hydraulic, and safety improvements.
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- Action Item 20: Seek Mitigation Grant Funding for Additional Mitigation Planning and Cost Beneficial Projects: The County has expressed interest in applying for an additional grant through the IDNR to mitigate the remaining properties in the 2014 FEMA HMGP grant. If the application is approved, additional properties may be targeted for mitigation through the same grant; would include Orchard Heights and the Spring Grove area.
- Action Item 21: Implementation of the Water Resources Protection Action Plan: The County is currently updating the Water Resources Action Plan with a scheduled completion date of mid-

2020. Recommendations will be implemented after community adoption; will schedule monthly meetings.

- Action Item 31: Remote/Regional Salt Storage for McHenry County: Still being evaluated.

#### Future Projects

- None

#### Jurisdictional Actions

#### Project Updates

- Action Item 14 Mitigation of Floodplain Properties: McHenry Township has an area on the Nippersink Creek that they are interested in. The county continues to work on acquisition and demolition of flood prone properties on the Nippersink Creek through the FEMA HMGP grant that was awarded in 2014. Of the nine structures in the original grant application, eight have been demolished. Two sets of open lots have also been acquired.
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- Action Item 30: Develop a Reliable Means for Citizens in Crystal Lake to Receive Official Information from the City: Still pursuing an AM radio station to use in place of a catastrophic loss of internet communications; continuing to look for a grant for this ongoing item.

#### Future Projects

- None

**Additional Actions:**

The Fox Waterway Agency dredged Boone Creek on the Upper Fox River this year.

**How can a local jurisdiction join in on an already approved multijurisdictional plan?**

Answer: In the case of a new jurisdiction wishing to join a multijurisdictional plan that has already received FEMA approval, the new jurisdiction is strongly encouraged to develop its own single jurisdictional plan. This is because the new jurisdiction must complete all the planning criteria found in 44 CFR Part 201.6 (c) (1-4), including an open planning process. By attempting to join an existing plan, changes made to this previously approved plan would constitute significant changes and would require all existing participants involved to re-adopt the plan and re-submit it to FEMA for evaluation and approval. This would be time-consuming and may be impractical for those jurisdictions that have already received this approval.

The new jurisdiction is encouraged to contact the multi-jurisdictional planning team to seek agreement on joining the plan during its update. As accepted by the multi-jurisdictional planning team, the new jurisdiction can establish a similar plan format consistent with the approved multijurisdictional plan and have access to information and data pertinent to its planning effort. In five years (or whenever the other jurisdictions wish to re-adopt the plan) the new plan can be merged into the multi-jurisdictional plan. All jurisdictions must continue to meet the requirements of 201.6 (c) 1-4.

**FY19 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs** (See email from Glen Smith attached)

**State of Illinois Updates**

- None
- State Contacts:
  - Sam Al-Basha [sam.m.al-basha@illinois.gov](mailto:sam.m.al-basha@illinois.gov)
  - Vera Small [vera.small@illinois.gov](mailto:vera.small@illinois.gov)

**Public Comments**

- None

*Remember: every dollar spent for mitigation saves seven in disaster costs. Jurisdictions who have adopted the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan are eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds from FEMA programs. Jurisdictions who have not adopted the plan are not eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds from FEMA programs.*

**2020 Hazard Mitigation Update Meeting**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 @ 2pm

McHenry County Mental Health Board

620 Dakota, Crystal Lake