



Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Minutes of Meeting



Purpose of Meeting: Steering Committee Meeting #3		
Location of Meeting: Virtual		
Date/Time of Meeting: August 26, 2020 9AM – 10:30AM		
Attendees: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> CJ Randall, Town of Lansing David Sprout, Town of Dryden Jessica Verfuss, Deputy Director of County Emergency Response Katie Borgella, Tompkins County Planning Kevin Clapp, NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services CJ Randall, Town of Lansing </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Nina Saeli, Tompkins Health Department Nancy Munkenbeck, Town of Dryden Mike Thorne, City of Ithaca DPW Scott Doyle, Tompkins County Planning Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech Heather Apgar, Tetra Tech Osamu Tsuda, Tetra Tech </div> </div>		
Agenda Summary: Steering Committee meeting to review and obtain feedback on risk assessment results; finalization of mission statement, goals, and objectives input; and conduct strengths, weaknesses, obstacles, and opportunities (SWOO) exercise to obtain input.		
Item No.	Description	Action By:
1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary purpose of this meeting is to review the risk assessment results which will help identify the primary risks and guide outcomes for the final hazard mitigation plan. The Steering Committee will be tasked to finalize the Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives and to participate in the Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO) exercise. 	
2.	Project Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tompkins County and Tetra Tech are working with communities on their annexes, but significant work has been complete. Tetra Tech is currently working on updating the hazard profiles and preparing for the Planning Partnership’s risk assessment presentation. Tompkins County’s Department of Planning and Sustainability updated their website to include information on the Hazard Mitigation and Resilience Plan. 	
3.	Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Steering Committee reviewed the updated mission statement, goals, and objectives which were adjusted based on committee input. Further adjustments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ALL should be lowercased. It will be important that Tompkins emphasizes “help develop pathway” and “plan” rather than “guide” or “direct”, as the county does not have specific jurisdictional authority over each municipality. In general, it is wordy and needs to be streamlined and simplified. Goals and Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives have been streamlined to simplify to better communicate the content and purpose. May look to update objectives to emphasize the aspect of working with population, rather than just municipalities. Objective 5-3 to be modified to just say “identify” whereas 5-4 must be actual “outreach”. 	Scott Doyle, as Committee Chair, will review and finalize the Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives for approval by the Steering Committee
4.	Hazards of Concern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on committee feedback since the last meeting, the committee considered a list of hazards including: Drought (including Wildfire), Disease Outbreak, Extreme 	



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	<p>Temperatures, Flood (including ground failure), Harmful Algal Bloom, Invasive Species, Severe Storm, and Severe Winter Storm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was noted that many ground failures are usually slow moving and are not usually immediate problems that are triggered by flooding, so pairing these two hazards would make sense. ○ Unlike previous plans, this plan focuses on only natural hazards, rather than non-natural hazards such as terrorism and transportation. Further, as emergency management planning mechanisms cover these man-made hazards, the committee confirmed that these will not be included as stand-alone hazards in the plan. However, where applicable, information concerning the existence of these hazards and their impacts and how local emergency management is involved with these efforts will be included in the plan. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk and vulnerability assessment results were provided in a PowerPoint presentation. The outcome of the assessment was used to calculate a hazard ranking for each hazard of concern for the County and each municipality. • A hazard ranking has been prepared to help understand the County and each community’s vulnerability to hazards and to prioritize projects and activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The hazard ranking is determined by quantitative and qualitative hazards including the calculated probability of the hazard occurring based on historical data; impacts to people, property, and the economy based on GIS (Geographical Information System) exposure analysis; the degree to which climate change will affect future occurrences; and the ability of a community to respond to or address the hazard. • Due to time limitations, only the flood hazard was reviewed. It was noted that although the flood hazard areas are centered around the City of Ithaca, the Village of Dryden and the Town of Lansing, this does not reflect the full impact of flood events throughout the County. Flood events in the County can have wide ranging effects on the transportation, accessibility, and economy of the entire region. • Information presented on slide number 21 showed the outcome of the 0.2% annual chance flood event instead of the 1% annual chance flood event. Tetra Tech will provide a revised presentation showing the 1% annual chance flood event information. • The committee agreed that those available will re-convene as available the week of 8/31 to further review the Risk Assessment results to support the identification of mitigation strategies. • The County-wide risk ranking results indicate 2 high ranked hazards (severe storm and harmful algal bloom). The committee noted that Tompkins County does not have significant issues with wildfire (though it is concern) and that due to the associated issues noted above, flood should be adjusted to high. The committee indicated that wildfire and drought should not be paired together as they are two very different things. • The specific municipal rankings will be reviewed at the upcoming meeting to enable further input before transmitting the results to municipalities. 	<p>Tetra Tech to correct information on the PowerPoint regarding flooding and provide slides to SC .</p> <p>Tetra Tech to provide SC with risk ranking methodology information</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering Committee will re-convene as available the week of 8/31 to further review the Risk Assessment result. • For the ranking, each municipality will need to review the rankings for their hazards of concern. This will be done after the next Planning Partnership meeting. • As the project moves forward, Tetra Tech will support and work with individual municipalities to review their hazard rankings. Tompkins County believes that the hazard rankings may not reflect the relative hazard risk and that the Steering Committee should re-assess the results with the intent of adjusting based on local information prior to the planning partnership meeting. 	<p>Scott Doyle to invite interested SC members to bi-weekly core planning team update meeting</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The next planning partnership will be postponed to 9/16 to enable the Steering Committee to review the results and adjust as necessary.	
7.	<p>Questions/ Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Extreme Temperatures: while many outlying communities are not significantly impacted by extreme temperatures, the overall effect from extreme temperatures can have a cascading effect on municipal utilities, and lead to a plethora of issues that might be indirectly linked to extreme temperatures. Thus, extreme temperatures are not only a public health concern, but also a social and economic concern.	
8.	<p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The committee may reconvene in early September to discuss the Risk Assessment workshop for municipalities. The Planning Partnership meeting will be re-scheduled to September 16 at 9 am.	