

SECTION 8: PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

BACKGROUND

Section 201.6.a(4) of Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR) states: “Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.” The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New York State Emergency Management Office (NYSEMO) both encourage multi-jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of the Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), a Planning Partnership was formed to pursue grant funding for the plan and to meet requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) for as many eligible local governments in Onondaga County as possible.

The DMA defines a local government as follows: “Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.”

THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

INITIAL SOLICITATION AND LETTERS OF INTENT

Onondaga County solicited the participation of all cities, towns and villages in the County at the commencement of this project. The jurisdictions interested signed a “Letter of Intent” and/or a resolution committing their participation and resources to the development of the Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

In addition to the County, thirty-four (34) municipalities decided to participate in the planning process in addition to one special purpose district, the Onondaga County Water Authority (Table 8-1).

Table 8-1. Participating Jurisdictions in Onondaga County

Towns		Villages	
Town of Camillus	Town of Lysander	Village of Baldwinsville	Village of Manlius
Town of Cicero	Town of Onondaga	Village of Camillus	Village of Marcellus
Town of Clay	Town of Pompey	Village of East Syracuse	Village of Minoa
Town of DeWitt	Town of Salina	Village of Elbridge	Village of North Syracuse
Town of Elbridge	Town of Skaneateles	Village of Fabius	Village of Skaneateles
Town of Fabius	Town of Spafford	Village of Fayetteville	Village of Solway
Town of Geddes	Town of Tully	Village of Jordan	Village of Tully
Town of Lafayette	Town of Van Buren	Village of Liverpool	Cities
Town of Manlius		Special Purpose Districts	City of Syracuse
Town of Marcellus		Onondaga County Water Authority	

PLANNING PARTNER EXPECTATIONS

The Planning Committee agreed to the following list of expectations:

- Establish Plan development goals;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the Plan;
- Ensure that the Plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and SEMO guidance;
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the Plan development process;
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the Plan, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Organize and oversee the public involvement process;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain Volume I of the Plan in its entirety and the local jurisdictional annex in Volume II.

JURISDICTION ANNEX TEMPLATES

Jurisdictional annex templates were created to help the Planning Committee prepare their jurisdiction-specific annexes and ensure all criteria of Section 201.6 of 44CFR would be met, based on the partners' capabilities and mode of operation. The template and detailed instructions were designed to lead each partner through a series of steps that would generate the DMA-required elements that are specific for each partner. The designated point-of-contact for each participating jurisdiction, as well as the County, was asked to complete the template using the detailed instructions, guidance from the consultant and technical assistance provided at the jurisdictional annex workshop (discussed below). The templates and their instructions can be found in Appendix G.

WORKSHOP

A jurisdictional annex workshop was held on October 1, 2009 for the Mitigation Planning Committee. At the workshop, an overview was provided for each section in the annex. The workshop was designed to be instructional, but also allow for open discussion and questions. In addition, personalized technical assistance was available and provided to each jurisdiction, if needed. Topics discussed during this session included:

- DMA 2000 overview
- Jurisdictional Annex Templates Tools
- Jurisdictional Annex Template
 - Overview
 - Risk ranking
 - Cost/benefit review

The Planning Committee was led through an exercise to rank risk for the County as a whole. This was a collaborative effort by all workshop attendees. Concurrently, each committee member was asked to rank each risk specifically for its jurisdiction, based on probability of occurrence and estimates of potential dollar losses to structures vulnerable to the hazard. Maps illustrating hazard areas and tables estimating exposure and losses were provided to each jurisdiction as a tool, in addition to the risk assessment, to complete this exercise.

All plan participants were provided the opportunity for technical support in the completion of their annexes. Further, a Plan completion meeting was held for all planning partners on March 30, 2010 to review finalization of the Plan, including completion of each jurisdiction's annex.

BENEFIT/COST REVIEW

Each jurisdiction's annex includes an action plan of prioritized initiatives to mitigate natural hazards. Section 201.6.c.3iii of 44 CFR requires the prioritization of the action plan to emphasize the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost/benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs. As part of jurisdiction annex template completion, the Planning Committee was asked to weigh the estimated benefits of a project versus the estimated costs to establish a parameter to be used in the prioritization of a project. The details of this benefit/cost review are provided in Section 6 of this Plan.

COMPLETION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

All participating towns and villages in the County completed the planning and annex-preparation process. Completed jurisdictional annexes are presented in Section 9. Any non-participating local government within the Onondaga County planning area can "dock" to this plan in the future by following the linkage procedures defined in Appendix I.