

SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to develop the Plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the Plan met the requirements of the DMA 2000, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following two goals:

The Plan will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural hazards facing Fulton County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. Fulton County invited all municipalities in the county to join with them in the preparation of a Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Fulton County and all municipalities are participating in the Plan with the exception of the Town of Bleecker. On June 17, 2010, the Town of Bleecker notified the consultant (Tetra Tech) that they will no longer participate in the planning process; a formal notification to follow.

The linkage procedures are provided in Appendix H to support any additional jurisdictions that may want to be included in the plan in the future. The existence of the linkage procedures does not imply that the below listed municipalities are not participating. The procedure, is provided in the event that any non-participating local government wishes to be a full participant after the approval of the plan. It refers to non-participating local governments which are not necessarily municipalities. They could include water, sewer, or school districts. Appendix H is a vehicle by which local governments other than those who participated in this Plan can conduct their own planning process and link to this plan after the initial plan is approved.

Table 3-1. Participating Fulton County Jurisdictions

Town of Broadalbin	Town of Perth
Town of Caroga	Town of Stratford
Village of Dolgeville	Village of Broadalbin
Town of Ephratah	Village of Mayfield
Town of Johnstown	Village of Northville
Town of Mayfield	City of Gloversville
Town of Northampton	City of Johnstown
Town of Oppenheim	

1. The Plan will be developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and FEMA and NYSEMO guidance. Following this process will ensure all the requirements are met and support Plan review.

The County's HMP was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout plan development, a concerted effort was made to gather information from participating municipal and county agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The Planning Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The natural

hazard mitigation strategies identified in this plan have been developed through an extensive planning process involving county and local agencies, municipal officials and staff, and the citizens of the County.

This section of the Plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Planning Committee involvement and efforts; (2) municipal and local involvement; (3) stakeholder and public involvement; and (4) integration of existing data, plans, and information.

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT

Many parties supported preparation of this Plan; the Planning Committee and other stakeholders involved in the process are presented below.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT AND EFFORTS

Fulton County applied and was granted an HMGP grant to engage in the process of mitigation planning and to produce a multi-jurisdictional County mitigation plan. These grant funds were available subsequent to FEMA-1692-DR-NY and the letter of grant award was dated January 30, 2009.

The Fulton County Office of Civil Defense and Fire was given the responsibility for preparing the plan.

Through an open bid process, Fulton County selected a contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech, Inc. - Rockaway, NJ). After selection of the consultant (Tetra Tech authorized by Resolution on September 14, 2009), a contract between Tetra Tech and Fulton County was executed on November 12, 2009. The contract consultant was tasked with:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering and Planning Committee
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Data collection
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (planning committee, stakeholder, public and other)
- Identification of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment
- Assistance with the development of mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring of the Draft and Final Plan documents

In January 2010 Fulton County notified all fifteen municipalities within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Municipalities were asked to formally notify the county of their intent to participate (via a Letter of Intent a sample of which is included in Appendix K) and to identify a planning point of contact to serve on a Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community.

At the outset of the project, the contract consultant worked with the Coordinator of Civil Defense and Fire and the County Planner to identify a Hazard Mitigation Planning (HMP) Steering Committee comprised of appropriate municipal personnel, local emergency first responders, and other stakeholders. The purpose of the Steering Committee (Committee), as identified in the Planning Committee Ground Rules established February 18, 2010 and subsequently adopted by the Committee on, March 24, 2010, is:

To guide the Fulton planning team through the process that will result in a plan that can be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. The Steering Committee will provide guidance and leadership, oversee the planning process, and act as the point of contact for all partners and the various interest groups in the planning area. The makeup of this committee was selected to provide the best possible cross section of views to enhance the planning effort and to help build support for hazard mitigation.

The Ground Rules outline committee hierarchy, decision-making, courtesy, procedures, and quorum requirements and designate Mr. Allan Polmateer as Chair and Mr. Scott Henze as Vice Chair. The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all partners and the various interest groups in the planning area. The makeup of this committee was selected to provide the best possible cross section of views to enhance the planning effort and to help build support for hazard mitigation.

The Steering Committee was also charged with the following:

- Establish Plan development goals and objectives;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the Plan;
- Ensure that the Plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and NYSEMO 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;
- Identify hazard events and losses within their jurisdiction;
- Rank their jurisdiction’s risk to the hazards of concern identified for this Plan;
- Develop a capability assessment for their jurisdiction;
- Identify and prioritize local mitigation actions; and,
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain the Plan.

On February 18, 2010 the Steering Committee met for the first time and continued to meet throughout the year. Table 3-2 shows the current members of the Steering Committee, at the time of this draft Plan’s publication.

Table 3-2. Steering Committee Members

Name	Title	Organization
Allan Polmateer	Director, Chair	Fulton County Civil Defense and Fire Coordinator
Scott Henze	Planner, Vice Chair	Fulton County Planning Department
Tom Lorey	Sheriff	Fulton County Sheriff’s Department
Kevin Lenahan	Undersheriff	Fulton County Sheriff’s Department
Joshua G. Brown	Direct of Solid Waste	Fulton County Department of Solid Waste
John Persch	Director	Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Doug Edwards	Chief	City of Gloversville Fire Department
Bruce Heberer	Chief	City of Johnstown Fire Department

Name	Title	Organization
Wally Hart	President	Fulton County Chamber of Commerce
Todd Bradt	Supervisor	Town of Ephratah
Tim Bachman	Emergency Services Department	American Red Cross
Mark Yost	Superintendent of Highway and Facilities	Fulton County Highway and Facilities Department

A Planning Committee was assembled to represent each of the municipalities participating in the Plan, consisting of all members of the Steering Committee, and at least one representative from each of the participating municipalities (Tables 3-2 and 3-3). Members of the Steering and Planning Committees, with support from municipal staff, outside agencies, and the consultant, identified and profiled hazards; determined hazard rankings; estimated potential exposure or losses; evaluated development trends; and developed appropriate mitigation strategies, goals, and actions.

The Planning Committee was charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process;
- 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 NYSEMO 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;
- Identify, develop and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.
- Review, amend and approve all sections of the Plan;
- Develop and author the jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain the Plan.

Table 3-3 shows the current municipal members of the Planning Committee, at the time of this Plan’s publication. Please note that the Planning Committee is comprised of the Steering Committee noted above in addition to representatives from the participating jurisdictions as noted in Table 3-3.

Table 3-3. Planning Committee Members

Name	Title	Organization
Dayton King	Mayor	City of Gloversville
Sarah Slingerland	Mayor	City of Johnstown
Theodore Bochenek	Trustee/Police Commissioner	Village of Broadalbin
Barry Vickers	Code Enforcement Officer	Village of Dolgeville
James Groff	Mayor	Village of Northville
David Howard	Supervisor	Town of Bleecker

Name	Title	Organization
Joseph DiGiacomo	Supervisor	Town of Broadalbin
James Selmser	Supervisor	Town of Caroga
Todd Bradt	Supervisor	Town of Ephratah
Roy Polmateer/Ryan Fagan	Supervisor	Town of Johnstown
Michael Stewart	Code Enforcement Officer	Town of Mayfield
Harvey Hart	Mayor	Village of Mayfield
Linda Kemper	Supervisor	Town of Northampton
George Capek	Supervisor	Town of Oppenheim
Gregory Fagan	Supervisor	Town of Perth
Robert Johnson, Jr.	Supervisor	Town of Stratford

Note(s): Mr. David Howard (Supervisor) was the Town of Bleecker’s main point of contact until the Town opted to no longer participate in the planning process in June 2010.

Members of the Planning Committee (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated on an as-needed basis to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; identify critical facilities; assist in developing mitigation goals, objectives and actions; and provide continuity through the plan development process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated into the Plan. Each member of the Planning Committee reviewed the Plan, supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

In addition to Planning Committee members, members of local government (i.e., Town Supervisors, Mayors, etc.) and members of the media were invited to pertinent Planning Committee meetings via Fulton County memorandums. Municipal Supervisors, Mayor, and Supervisors often accompanied their jurisdiction’s point of contact to meetings to learn more about the progress of the Plan. During Planning Committee meetings, the group gathered and shared information, identified hazards, assessed risks, identified critical facilities, assisted in developing mitigation actions, and provided continuity through the plan development process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and mitigation strategies were also incorporated into the Plan.

In addition to Planning Committee meetings, there was a great deal of communication between Planning Committee members through electronic mail (email) or by phone, which helped to maintain communication between meetings. The consultant established a secure, collaborative website for the sharing of information and data amongst the Planning Committee. The County and local planning participants, NYSEMO, and stakeholders have also been provided with access. This site was designed to facilitate the sharing of data and information, post notices, and helped maintain communication between meetings. Each member of the Planning Committee had the opportunity to review the Plan posted on the collaborative website, support interaction with other stakeholders and assist with public involvement efforts.

After completion of the Plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will review the Plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of 5 year mitigation plan updates (Section 7).

Table 3-4 presents a summary of Planning Committee efforts implemented during the development process for this HMP. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy.

Table 3-4. Summary of Planning Committee Efforts

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Key Outcomes/Participants
12/3/2009	Pre-project Meeting 2	Pre-Kick-off Meeting – Allan Polmateer, Fulton County Civil Defense; Scott Henze, Fulton County Planning; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech.
1/11/2010	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Public Meeting-County Legislature Meeting. Media present included WENT, (Gloversville/ Johnstown Local radio station), Gloversville, Local News Paper the Leader-Herald, Amsterdam, Local News Paper the Amsterdam recorder; Allan Polmateer, Fulton County Civil Defense; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech.
2/22/2010	Kick-off Meeting (Open to Public) 2, 3a	Public Meeting, Stakeholder Meeting, Planning Committee Meeting – Harvey J. Hart, Village of Mayfield; Jim Berry, Town of Ephratah; Chris Richardson, Town of Northampton; Robert E. Johnson, Jr., Town of Stratford; Bruce E. Herberer, City of Johnstown; Richard DiDomizio, Peck’s Lake Protective Association; Joe DiGiacomo, Town of Broadalbin; Jeff Bouchad, Fulton County Department of Solid Waste; Roy Polmateer, Town of Johnstown; Frank Lauria, Gloversville Supervisor; Richard Ottalagano, Gloversville Supervisor; Marie Born, Gloversville Supervisor; Andrea Hauser, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Kevin Lenahan, Fulton County Sheriff’s Office; Ted R. Bochenek, Village of Broadalbin; Alicia Shultz, Tetra Tech; Linda Kemper, Town of Northampton; Ralph J. Palcoi, Town of Caroga; Michael Varvey, HFM BOCES; E.J. Maye, Johnstown School District; Lexington Center; Douglas Edwards, Gloversville Fire Department; Greg Fagan, Town of Perth; Paul G. Williamson, Mayfield CSD; Shiraley Savage, Gloversville; Mark Yost, Fulton County Highway; Jim Selmser, Town of Caroga; Rick Argotsinger, Town of Mayfield; Dan Miller, Saratoga County O.E.S; Tim Bachman, American Red Cross.
3/24/2010	Steering Committee Meeting 2, 3a, 4a,	Steering Committee Meeting -Todd Bradt, Town of Ephratah; Allan Polmateer, Fulton County Civil Defense; Scott Henze, Fulton County Planning; John Persch, Fulton County Soil and Water District (FCSWD); Josh Brown, Fulton County Department of Solid Waste; Jim Mayo, Fulton County Building and Grounds; Tom Lorey, Fulton County Sheriff; Bruce Herberer, City of Johnstown Fire Dept; Doug Edwards, City of Gloversville Fire Dept; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech; Nicole Cofrin, Tetra Tech.
4/26/2010	Steering Committee Meeting-SWOO 2, 4a, 4b	Steering Committee Meeting – SWOO – Jim Maye, County Highway; TJ Bradt, Town of Johnstown; Allan Polmateer, Fulton County Civil Defense; Scott Henze, Fulton County Planning; Josh Brown, Fulton county Department of Solid Waste; Joe DiGiacomo, Town of Broadalbin; Ted Bochenek, Village of Broadalbin; Donald Biron, City of Johnstown; Kevin Lenahan, Sheriff’s Office; Ryan Fagan, Town of Johnstown; Tim Bachman, Red Cross; David Rackmyre, Towns of Stratford, Oppenheim, and Stratford CFO; Asante Shiplpctics, Fulton County Public Health; Joy Little, Fulton County Public Health; Dayton King, City of Gloversville; Robert Vanderwalker, Herkimer County EMO; Todd Bradt, Town of Ephratah; Shirley Savage, City of Gloversville; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech
6/7/2010	Planning Committee Meeting-Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b	Jurisdictional Annex Workshop – Allan Polmateer, Fulton County Civil Defense; Scott Henze, Fulton County Planning; Jim Maye, Fulton County; Kevin Lenahan, Sheriff’s Office; John Persch, Fulton County SWCD; Denise Federick, Fulton County Public Health; George Becker, Town of Bleecker; Tina Winney, Town of Broadalbin; Jim Selmser, Town of Caroga; Paul Nagle, Village of Dolgeville DPW; Todd Bradt, Town of Ephratah; Bruce Heberer, City of Johnstown; Ryan Fagan, Town of Johnstown; Doug Edwards, City of Gloversville; Michael Stewart, Town and Village of Mayfield; Douglas Ellsworth, Town of Northampton; Jim Groff, Village of Northville; Richard Crum, Town of Oppenheim; David Rackmyre, Town of Oppenheim, City of Gloversville, and Town of Stratford; Greg Fagan, Town of Perth; Robert Johnson, Town of Stratford; Cynthia Addonizio-Bianco, Tetra Tech; Nicole Cofrin, Tetra Tech

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Key Outcomes/Participants
8/2/2010	Steering Committee Meeting 2, 4b, 5a	Steering Committee Meeting - Allan Polmateer – Fulton County Civil Defense Scott Henze, Fulton County Planning; Robert E. Johnson, Town of Stratford; Kevin Lenahan, Sheriff's Office; David C. Rackmyer Jr., City of Gloversville, Town of Oppenheim, Town of Stratford; Jim Maye, Fulton County Buildings and Grounds; Richard L. Crum, Town of Oppenheim; James E. Thomas, Village of Dolgeville; Michael Stewart, Town of Mayfield; Mark E. Yost, Fulton County DPW; Jay Little, Fulton County Public Health; Linda Kemper, Town of Northampton; Ryan Fagan, Town of Johnstown; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech

Note: TBD = to be determined. Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

PARTICIPATION MATRIX

Additional information concerning the meeting attendees is provided in the participation matrix which is included on the following pages. This matrix indicates NY State, County, Municipal, and stakeholder personnel participating in the planning process.

This matrix is intended to give a broad overview of who attended meetings. It is important to note that none of the meetings were mandatory, but that all participants were encouraged to attend the Kick-off Meeting and Jurisdictional Annex Workshop. The jurisdictions that were not represented at these meetings were provided by the consultant individual on-site meetings to cover the material from the meetings and to answer any questions pertaining to the mitigation planning process. During the planning process the consultant contacted each participant to offer support, explain the process, and to facilitate the submittal and review of critical documents.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN MITIGATION PLANNING

This section presents (1) municipal involvement, (2) state and regional agency involvement, (3) public participation – citizen involvement, and outreach to business, utility, educational, non-profits, and other stakeholders.

In January, 2010 a letter was sent to the stakeholders indicated in the following table inviting them to attend a general meeting and participate in the development of the Plan. Comments were directed to Mr. Allan Polmateer, the HMP point of contact who was tasked with collecting any information from the stakeholder outreach.

Municipal and Local Involvement

The Steering Committee, Planning Committee and/or its members met and communicated with NYSEMO regularly to obtain mitigation planning information and general guidance on HMP preparation and provided information on hazards and hazard events within the county. In addition, the Steering and Planning Committees met and communicated with relevant members of the County and municipalities to obtain data and information, to review existing plans and capabilities, to facilitate the identification of appropriate mitigation initiatives, and to review the draft plan. The Fulton County and municipal departments and agencies that have been involved in this effort include:

- Fulton County Department of Civil Defense: Coordinator responsible for project and grant contract management, Chair of Hazard Mitigation Planning and Steering Committee; provided GIS data and information on hazards; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections; assisted with public and stakeholder outreach.
- Fulton County Planning Department: Steering and Planning Committee Vice-Chair; provided GIS data and information on hazards; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections; assisted with public and stakeholder outreach.
- Fulton County Sheriff's Department: Provided representation on the Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.
- Fulton County Department of Solid Waste: Provided representation on the Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.
- Fulton County Soil and Water Conservation District: Provided representation on the Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.
- City of Gloversville Fire Department: Provided representation on the Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.

- City of Johnstown Fire Department Provided representation on thr Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.
- Fulton County Chamber of Commerce Provided representation on thr Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.
- Fulton County Highway and Facilities Department Provided representation on thr Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.
- Town of Ephratah: Supervisor provided representation on thr Steering Committee; developed goals and objectives; identified and developed potential mitigation actions; reviewed plan sections.

County, State, and Regional Agency Involvement

Throughout this planning process, Fulton County actively sought the involvement of a wide range of county, state and regional stakeholders, including:

Table 3-6. Key Stakeholder Mitigation Planning Outreach

Company/Organization Name	Special Purpose District Name
Gloversville Business District	Oppenheim School District
Johnstown Business and Professional Association	Northville School District
American Red Cross	Broadalbin-Perth School
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Johnstown School District
Peck Lake Association	FMCC
United Way	Gloversville School District
	Wheelerville School
	Mayfield Central School
	BOCES
	Lexington Center

At a minimum, these stakeholders were advised of the planning process and provided the opportunity to review and provide direct input to the Plan during it’s development. Specific information obtained from these stakeholder is cited and/or referenced throughout this plan.

Information regarding hazard identification, risk assessment, and mitigation actions for this plan was also requested and received from the following agencies and organizations:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region II: Provided National Flood Insurance Program data to Fulton County
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Provided data and information to Plan, specifically in the area of NFIP compliance
- NYSEMO: Provided data, information, and guidance ton mitigation planning and grant programs; provided courtesy review of Draft Plan.
- American Red Cross: Provided representation at Steering and Planning Committee meetings; provided sheltering and critical facility input; assisted with public and stakeholder outreach.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): Resource for data incorporated in Plan.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Resource for data incorporated in Plan.
- National Weather Service (NWS): Resource for data incorporated in Plan.

In addition the County reached out to the neighboring counties for input by sending letters requesting review and comments of the draft plan. Letters were sent to the chairman of Hamilton, Saratoga, Montgomery, and Herkimer County legislatures.

Table 3-7. Fulton County Stakeholders

Contact	Affiliation
Chair of Board	Hamilton County
Dan Miller	Saratoga County
Chairman of the Board	Montgomery County
R. Vandawalker	Herkimer County

As a result of this outreach, representatives from Saratoga and Herkimer Counties attended the Kick-Off and SWOO meetings, respectively and provided neighboring county representation on the Planning Committee.

Public Participation - Citizen Involvement

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Committee and citizens and to involve the public in the planning process, it was determined that draft documents will be made available to the public through a variety of venues. The participating partners feel that providing a Plan that is in a printed form (in addition to an on-line format) is valuable because it is familiar, even reassuring, to citizens who have been part of a comprehensive planning process and have suffered losses due to a hazard. Some citizens also may not be comfortable with on-line tools or may not have internet access. The participating partners also feel that community input on the HMP will increase the likelihood of hazard mitigation becoming one of the standard considerations in the evolution and growth of the County.

The Planning Committee has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:


- The public was informed of the hazard mitigation planning effort commencement at the kick-off meeting, and through press releases, new articles, and public service announcements.
 - A County Board of Supervisor’ meeting was held on January 11, 2010 providing an overview of the planning process;
 - A public kick-off meeting for the project was held on February 22, 2010.
- A public website is being maintained as another way to facilitate communication between the Planning Committee and County residents (<http://www.fultoncountyny.gov/hazard/hazmit.html>). The public website contains a project overview, Planning Committee contact information, Steering Committee, resources, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment. See Figures 3-1 and 3-2 for screenshots of this public website and Appendix C.
- A public survey has been launched as a way to gauge the level of knowledge local citizens have about natural-disaster issues and areas vulnerable in their community to any type of natural disaster. A link to this survey may be found on the County public hazard mitigation website. Screenshots of the survey may be found in Appendix C.

- The public has been informed of the mitigation planning process through media coverage and articles appearing throughout the planning process. Copies of these press releases and articles may be found in Appendix C.
 - Fulton County Civil Defense and Fire Coordinator Press Release of Hazard Mitigation Plan progress and invitation to public meeting (February 10, 2010)
 - The Leader Herald (February 12, 2010)
 - The Evening Times (February 15, 2010)
 - Fulton County Civil Defense and Fire Coordinator Press Release of Website and Survey Launch (April 5, 2010)
- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Committee and citizens and involve the public in the planning process, the Plan will be available to the public through a variety of venues. A printed version of the Plan will be maintained at Fulton County Civil Defense Department.
- Media attending County Legislature meetings and disseminating information included:
 - WENT, Gloversville/ Johnstown Local radio station.
 - Gloversville, Local News Paper the Leader-Herald.
 - Amsterdam, Local News Paper the Amsterdam recorder.

Figure 3-1. Screenshot of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Link on the Fulton County Government Website

Welcome to the Official Fulton County Government Website

News | Departments | Administration | Employment | Local Governments | Travel and Tourism

Navigation	Fulton County Government Homepage	County Calendar
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Site Map • Links of Interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bid Specifications • Board of Supervisors • Contact your State Legislators • County Agricultural Info • County Directory • Evolution of a County • Related Links 	<p>Welcome to the Homepage for Fulton County, NY</p> <p>Feel free to check up on the many different things Fulton County has to offer you.</p> <p>County News can be found below, and the County Events Calendar and Upcoming Events may be viewed to your right.</p> 	<p>Thursday, Jun 24 2010, 10:00:00 Social Services Committee Additional information</p> <p>Monday, Jun 28 2010, 10:00:00 Public Safety Committee Additional information</p> <p>Monday, Jun 28 2010, 13:00:00 Bldgs. & Grounds/Highway Committee Additional information</p> <p>Tuesday, Jun 29 2010, 10:00:00 Health Services Committee Additional information</p> <p>Tuesday, Jun 29 2010, 13:00:00 Economic Dev. Committee Additional information</p> <p>Tuesday, Jun 29 2010, 19:00:00 Environmental Res. Committee Additional information</p> <p><i>Please Note:</i> The events above are only listed for the next 7 days. If you wish to view events farther in the future please click here to view the full calendar.</p>
<p>Fulton County: Evaluation Report of Proposals in Response to RPP</p> <p>Potential Sale of Fulton County Residential Health Care Facility and/or Certified Home Health Agency</p> <p>March 2010</p>	<p>County News</p> <p>GREGORY T. FAGAN, SUPERVISOR FOR TOWN OF PERTH, IS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</p>	

[Click Here for Information about H1N1 Flu Clinics in Fulton County](#)



Gregory T. Fagan, Supervisor for the Town of Perth, was named the Chairman of the Board for the Fulton County Board of Supervisors for 2010. Chairman Fagan was named Chairman of the Board on January 4, 2010.

David Howard, Supervisor for the Town of Bleecker, was named the Vice Chairman.

Posted on 06 Jan 2009

21st Century Local Government Report

To view this report, click here www.nyslocalgov.org

NYS Department of Transportation Training

Sponsored by The Fulton and Montgomery County Planning Boards

"Corridor Management Principles: How Land Use Decisions Impact Transportation"

[Click here for the application](#)



Source: <http://www.fultoncountyny.gov/>

Figure 3-2. Screenshot of the Fulton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Website

Fulton County
Hazard Mitigation Plan - Home Page



- [Fulton County Home Page](#)
- [Citizens Survey](#)
- [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)
- [Steering Committee](#)
- [Planning Committee](#)
- [Stake Holders](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Contact](#)

Background

The Fulton County Civil Defense Department is leading the creation of an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (the "Plan") in accordance with federal regulation (44 CFR 201.6). The creation of this plan will allow the County, and participating jurisdictions, to be eligible for future mitigation funding from FEMA. This is an opportunity for the County to create a detailed plan that will address a variety of potential hazards that could affect some or all of our citizens.

Mission Statement

Through partnerships and careful planning, identify and reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards in order to protect the general health, safety, welfare, quality of life, environment and economy of the residents and communities within Fulton County.

The goal of the plan is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards. The plan will include a risk assessment and a hazard-mitigation strategy. To date, the County has identified flood, severe storms, severe winter storms, and earthquake to be natural "hazards of concern" to be addressed in this planning effort.

The study will focus on existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities that might be impacted. Critical facilities include shelters and hospitals; infrastructure includes power-generation facilities, water utilities, roadways, railroads and communication systems.

A series of public meetings will be part of the plan development process, both to solicit public comment and to present drafts of the Plan to residents and local officials.

Funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a contract has been awarded to Tetra Tech EM Inc. of Rockaway, New Jersey. The grant will cover a 12- to 18-month project to develop a natural hazards mitigation plan, prepared in accordance with state and federal standards and guidance. The public and local and regional stakeholders will be encouraged to provide input to the planning process.

As a first step in providing input, citizens are requested to take a few minutes to complete the Citizen Preparedness Questionnaire.

[Click here for the CITIZENS PREPAREDNESS QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

Source: <http://www.fultoncountyny.gov/hazard/hazmit.html>

Specific comments and input received from the public and stakeholders are presented in Appendix C.

The community will have an opportunity to comment on the draft HMP that will be submitted to NYSEMO/FEMA. The HMP will be posted on the public website for review and will be available at the Fulton County Civil Defense Department.

COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS

Local municipalities are charged with the development of local HMPs required under Section 322 of the Stafford Act by New York. Therefore, the Planning Committee coordinated the development of this HMP. In New York, Article 2B Section 23 of State Executive Law authorizes local communities to prepare local disaster plans based on the contention that local municipalities are best equipped to assess their strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints. Local governments have intimate knowledge of the local geography, and in a disaster, local government personnel are on the front lines providing personnel and equipment to support the community. Fulton County and the participating jurisdictions are involved in this above program, hence the development of this Plan.

Examples of other hazard mitigation programs in which County is involved with are the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). These programs assist the County in receiving funding for flood mitigation projects and flood insurance (the HMGP also can provide funds to mitigate other natural hazards). Data from the County, based on participation in these programs, was incorporated in the risk assessment in Section 5 and used to identify mitigation options in

Section 9. Continued involvement in these flood-related programs will help to administer funds and resources to support this HMP.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Participation in FEMA 404 HMGP may cover mitigation activities including raising, removing, relocating or replacing structures within flood hazard areas.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Established in 1968, the NFIP provides federally-backed flood insurance to residents of communities that enact and enforce regulations that more carefully regulate development within floodplain areas. For individual property owners to be eligible to buy the federally-backed flood insurance, their property must be located within a community that participates in NFIP.

For a community to be eligible in NFIP, it must adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to regulate proposed development in floodplains and officially designate a local floodplain coordinator/administrator. The intent of the program is to ensure that new construction does not exacerbate existing flood hazards and is designed to better withstand flooding. All municipalities in Fulton County, with the exceptions of the Village of Mayfield and the Town of Oppenheim, participate in the NFIP. The communities also have Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) that at a minimum show floodways, 100-year flood zones, and 500-year flood zones. Mitigation activities related to this program are included in Section 9 and data from FEMA Region II regarding NFIP Insurance Reports was used in the risk assessment for the flood hazard included in Section 5.

Each municipality in the county participating in the NFIP has a local floodplain manager. All floodplain managers have been informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the Plan. Table 3-8 summarizes the designated Floodplain Administrators for each jurisdiction.

Table 3-8. Fulton County Floodplain Administrators

Organization	Name	Title
Bleecker, Town of	John F. Furlong	Building Inspector
Broadalbin, Town of	Scott A. Everson	Code Enforcement Officer
Broadalbin, Village of	Ralph I. Preston, Jr.	Zoning Officer
Caroga, Town of	Michael R. Herbrer	Code Enforcement Officer
Ephratah, Town of	Todd Bradt	Supervisor
Gloversville, City of	Robert Abel	Director of Public Works
Johnstown, City of	Bruce Heberer	Fire Chief / Chief Code Official
Johnstown, Town of	TJ Bradt	Highway Superintendent
Mayfield, Town of	Michael Stewart	Code Enforcement Officer
Mayfield, Village of*	-	-
Northampton, Town of	David Curtis	Code Enforcement Officer
Northville, Village of	David Curtis	Code Enforcement Officer
Oppenheim, Town of*	█	█
Perth, Town of	Judith English	Town Clerk
Stratford, Town of	Anita Winberg	Supervisor

Source: New York State DEC-2008 (W. Nechemann) and Fulton County Planning Committee

*Not participating in NFIP

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

The NFIP has been successful in protecting property owners who acquire flood insurance through the program from catastrophic financial losses due to flooding, and in requiring that new buildings constructed within 100-year flood plains are better protected from flood damage.

In the 1990s, the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) established the CRS to encourage local governments to increase their standards for floodplain development. The goal of this program is to encourage communities, through flood insurance rate adjustments, to implement standards above and beyond the minimum required in order to:

- Reduce losses from floods
- Facilitate accurate insurance ratings
- Promote public awareness of the availability of flood insurance

CRS is a voluntary program designed to reward participating jurisdictions for their efforts to create more disaster-resistant communities using the principles of sustainable development and management. While not currently participating in the program, by enrolling in CRS, county municipalities can leverage greater flood protection while receiving flood insurance discounts. Active involvement in this program is included as a mitigation activity in Section 9.

INTEGRATION OF EXISTING DATA AND PLANS INTO MITIGATION PLAN

The mitigation plan integrates local and federal data as discussed below.

LOCAL DATA

The Planning Committee reviewed and incorporated existing data and plans to support the mitigation plan. A number of electronic and hard copy documents were made available to support the planning process. A complete listing of reports and plans reviewed is included in Table 3-8.

- Fulton County Geographic Information System (GIS) data
- Fulton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Fulton County Shelter Plan
- City of Johnstown Comprehensive Plan
- Town and Village of Mayfield Comprehensive Plan
- Town of Northampton Comprehensive Plan
- Agricultural Development and Farmland Protection Plan

Cross-referencing this Plan with the above documents has been included in Section 9 as mitigation activities.

FEDERAL AND STATE DATA

Federal and State data was collected and used throughout the mitigation process including:

- US Census data

- HAZUS-MH provided data
- FEMA “How To” Series (386-1 to 386-4, and 386-7)
- NOAA-NCDC data
- SHELDUS data
- Public laws and other programs such as the NFIP were examined to complete this Plan.

A complete list of the existing data and plans used to support this HMP is included in the references section of this document. By incorporating data from existing programs into this mitigation plan, the County also was able to identify the relevance of mitigation planning to these existing programs. Implementation of this Plan through these existing plans is identified as a specific mitigation action in several areas in Section 9 of this Plan.

REVIEW OF EXISTING REPORTS AND PLANS

A summary of the reports and plans provided by Fulton County and reviewed in the preparation of this plan is included in the following Record of Review Matrix.

Table 3-9. Record Review (Municipalities) - Record of the review of existing programs, policies, and technical documents for participating jurisdictions (all)

Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents	Fulton County*	Bleecker (T)	Broadalbin (T)	Broadalbin (V)	Caroga (T)	Ephratah (T)	Gloversville (C)	Johnstown (C)	Johnstown (T)	Mayfield (T)	Mayfield (V)	Northampton (T)	Northville (V)	Oppenheim (T)	Perth (T)	Stratford (T)
City of Johnstown Comprehensive Plan, February 2008								✓								
Flood Insurance Study – City of Gloversville, New York, 1983							✓									
Flood Insurance Study – City of Johnstown, New York, 1983								✓								
Fulton County 2009 Directory	✓															
Fulton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	✓															
Fulton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Hazardous Materials Response Annex	✓															
Fulton County Hazard Analysis Report, 2002	✓															
Fulton County In-Place Shelter Annex, 1996	✓															
Fulton County Local Emergency Planning Committee By-Laws	✓															
Fulton County Mass Evacuation Management Annex, 1996	✓															
Fulton County Shelter Plan, 2005	✓															
Fulton County Terrorism Response Plan, 2002	✓															
Fulton County Fire Mutual Aid Plan, 2006	✓															
Local Radiological Protection Annex, 2002	✓															
Report on the Review of Fulton County Agricultural District No. 1	✓															
Soil Sample Survey Fulton County, 2007	✓															
Town of Mayfield, Village of Mayfield Comprehensive Plan, 2001										✓	✓					
Town of Northampton Comprehensive Plan, 2007												✓				

Note (s):
 T = Town; V = Village
 *This document may or may not include all jurisdictions

CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Fulton County is committed to the continued involvement of the public. Therefore, copies of the Plan will be made available for review during normal business hours at the Fulton County Office of Civil Defense.

A notice regarding annual updates of the Plan and the location of Plan copies will be publicized annually after the Planning Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public website (<http://www.fultoncountyny.gov/hazard/hazmit.html>).

Each jurisdiction's Supervisor/Mayor or Clerk shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this Plan.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the 5-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Mr. Allan Polmateer) is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Committee will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Committee. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the Plan.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7.