

# 3.0 PLANNING PROCESS

### **2021 HMP Update Changes**

- Section 3.2 Planning Partnership Organization and Activity was revised to reflect the changes in the new Planning Partnership.
- Section 3.3 Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement is now 3.3 Meeting and Documentation. Information from the previous plan was integrated into this section and Section 3.2 Planning Partnership.
- Section 3.5 Incorporation of Existing Plans, Studies, Reports and Technical Information was moved to Section 5.6.1 of the Capability Assessment.
- Section 3.6 Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs was moved to Section 5.6.2 of the Capability Assessment.
- Section 3.4 Public Participation Citizen Involvement is now Section 3.2.5 Public Participation Citizen Involvement.
- Previous Section 8.0 Planning Partnership is now divided into Section 3.2 Planning Partnership and 3.5 Jurisdiction Annex Templates.
- Section 3.7 Continued Public Involvement is now Section 3.4 Continued Public Involvement.

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the Warren County HMP, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the HMP met the requirements of the DMA 2000, as well as to support the long term goal of having all jurisdictions in the county covered under a comprehensive and cohesive county-wide DMA 2000 plan, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following:

- The HMP will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural and human-caused hazards facing Warren County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. Warren County invited all municipalities in the county to join with them in the preparation of the Warren County HMP update. Warren County and all its municipalities participated in the HMP as indicated in Table 3.1-1 Participating Jurisdictions in the Warren County HMP below. As part of this plan update, the 22 Warren municipalities were divided into five groups, based on regional risk.
- The HMP shall be developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and prevailing FEMA and NJOEM guidance. Following this process ensures all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

Table 3.1 - 1 Participating Jurisdictions in the Warren County HMP

Participating Jurisdictions in Warren County HMP				
	Allamuchy Township			
	Blairstown Township			
Group 1	Hope Township			
	Frelinghuysen Township			
	Hardwick Township			
	Alpha Borough			
Group 2	Greenwich Township			
	Harmony Township			

Participating Jurisdictions in Warren County HMP				
	Lopatcong Township			
	Pohatcong Township			
	Town of Phillipsburg			
	Town of Belvidere			
Group 3	Knowlton Township			
	White Township			
	Franklin Township			
Croup 4	Washington Borough			
Group 4	Washington Township			
	Oxford Township			
	Hackettstown			
C	Independence Township			
Group 5	Liberty Township			
	Mansfield Township			

The Warren County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the county. The Steering Committees 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 hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, county residents and stakeholders.

The project is led by the Warren County Office of Emergency Management, which is a division of the Warren County Department of Public Safety. The HMP Project Manager is the Deputy Warren County Emergency Management Coordinator, William Hunt. Warren County selected Michael Baker International, Inc. (Michael Baker) to support the development of the Warren County HMP. For the purposes of this plan update, the "Project Team" includes Warren County Department of Public Safety and Michael Baker.

The Warren County HMP is built on a similar outreach strategy as the 2016 plan, however due to the COVID-19 restrictions and limits on in-person and group interactions during the time of this plan update, all meetings were held virtually. During the Planning Process, the Project Team engaged with the Steering Committee, each of the 22 municipalities in Warren County, and regional stakeholders. The County also maintained a public website specific to this HMP update during the entire planning process. This strategy gave Warren County the unique opportunity to have a discussion with local officials, regional stakeholders, and the public. The Warren County HMP follows FEMA's HMP process by following their four core steps in completing a HMP update.

Table 3.1 - 2 FEMA's Four Core Planning Steps

FEMA's Four Core Planning Steps	Warren County HMP Action
Organize the Planning Process and Resources	Created an online project website for public input, meeting notices, general information on hazard mitigation, and links to additional
	resources.
Assess Risks and Capabilities	Provided risk estimates based on Hazus-MH, which was based on an updated critical facility data layer and reviewed local capabilities at the municipal group meetings.

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Plan participation began with the Steering Committee kick-off meeting in August 2020 and concluded when the final draft plan was submitted to FEMA. The Project Team spent October and November 2020 conducting local meetings with each municipality in Warren County, achieving 100% Planning Participation.

The following highlights below describe the steps the County took to include municipal, stakeholder, and public participation throughout the planning process:

- Steering Committee Planning Process: The Steering Committee Kick-off meeting in August 2020 included participation from a variety of County agencies. During the kick-off meeting, the Project Team worked with the Committee to evaluate plan goals, hazards to profile, risk and vulnerability assessment, mitigation strategy, and plan maintenance for this plan update. The Steering Committee had a second meeting in February 2021 to update the Committee on municipal and stakeholder outreach, review common local mitigation actions that emerged from municipal outreach, and review the County's capability assessment and mitigation strategy. As the HMP went through the plan review process the Steering Committee reviewed the plan and provide comments. The County accepted stakeholder comments throughout the entire planning process, only ending the comment period when the plan was sent to FEMA for final review. All comments by the Steering Committee were incorporated into the plan.
- Regional Stakeholder Planning Process: The Project Team contacted several regional stakeholders to notify them of this HMP update and provided announcements throughout the planning process on how they can participate in the plan update. Additionally, the County offered to formally meet with each stakeholder to discuss any regional mitigation projects and actions that should be included in the Warren County HMP update. See Section 3.2.4 Regional Stakeholders for additional information on stakeholder engagement.
- Municipal Planning Process: The Project Team hosted five regional municipal kick-off meetings (one per group) in October 2020 to introduce the HMP planning process, plan materials, and available HMP resources to assist with creating new local mitigation actions. The Project Team held an additional three regional municipal meetings for municipalities that missed their Group meeting and/or wanted additional information. Following the municipal meetings, the Project Team individually coordinated with each of the 22 municipalities, via phone and additionally virtual meetings, to discuss updating their mitigation strategy, capability assessment, list of critical facilities, and list of Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL). The Project Team also discussed with each municipality where recent and future development is targeted for the next 5+ years and reviewed the updated municipal appendices to confirm this HMP accurately captures what has occurred and is planning on occurring within each municipality since the last plan.

• Public Planning Process: The public project website (Figure 3.1-1 Warren County HMP Project Website: www.WarrenHMP.com) and was created at the beginning of the process and remains active. The website was created as a tool to communicate with the public and stakeholders on the status of the plan update, information on hazard mitigation planning, funding resources, plan materials, the draft plan, and a platform for the public to comment on the draft plan by contacting the Project Team (Figure 3.1-3 Warren County HMP Website Public Comment Section). On October 21, 2021the County posted a press release on the County website with a link to the draft link, directing the public to review the draft plan and send their comments to the Project Team. The press release was sent to the regional planning agencies, adjoining counties, municipal utility authorities, educational institutions, and major employers. The County accepted public comment for 30 days. All public comments are located in Appendix Volume II - F. Public Comments.

After receiving formal approval from both NJOEM and FEMA, each jurisdiction formally adopts a resolution approving the finalized Warren County HMP update, documenting their commitment to strive to implement the actions and projects identified in the mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters in their community. The Resolutions are located in Appendix Volume II – G. Plan Adoption Resolutions.

Figure 3.1 - 2 Warren County HMP Project Website: www.WarrenHMP.com

Warren County HMP

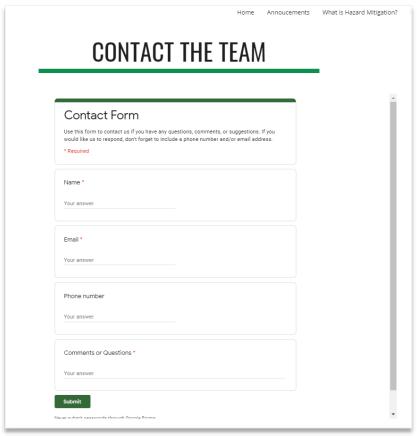
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WARREN COUNTY

HAZARD MITIGATION

PLAN

Figure 3.1 - 3 Warren County HMP Website Public Comment Section



# 3.2 PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

Many parties supported the preparation of this HMP update including the Project Team, the Steering Committee, the Planning Committee, regional stakeholders, and the public. This planning process does not represent the start of hazard risk management in the County; rather it is part of an ongoing process that various state, county and local agencies and individuals have continued to embrace. A summary of the past and ongoing mitigation efforts is provided in Section 6.0 Mitigation Strategy, as well as in Volume I – Jurisdictional Information, to give an historical perspective of the county and local activities implemented to reduce vulnerablity to hazards in the planning area.

This subsection of the HMP identifies how the planning process was organized with the many "planning partners" involved, and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

#### 3.2.1 PROJECT TEAM

Recognizing the need to manage risk within the County, and to meet the requirements of the DMA 2000, the Warren County Department of Public Safety led the update to the 2021 Warren County HMP and selected Michael Baker to guide the County and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process (the Project Team). The Project Team was tasked with the following responsibilities:

- 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 (steering committee, planning committee, stakeholder, public and other);
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment;
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives;
- Assistance with the review of progress of past mitigation strategies;
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions:
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions; and
- Authoring of the draft and final HMP documents.

#### 3.2.2 STEERING COMMITTEE

To facilitate HMP development, with support from the Project Team, Warren County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort, and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. Steering Committee members are identified in **Table 3.2 - 1 Steering Committee Members**. The Steering Committee was tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Review 2016 HMP goals and re-establish HMP update goals and objectives;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the HMP update;
- Ensure the HMP meets the requirements of the DMA 2000, and FEMA and NJOEM guidance:
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the HMP development process;
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP, including the use of previously developed reports and data;

- Organize and oversee the public involvement process and support outreach efforts in the community;
- Attend and participate in Steering Committee meetings;
- Assist with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
  - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern;
  - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program;
  - Assuring the data and information used in the plan update process is best available and completing any data request from Michael Baker;
  - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation planning goals and objectives;
  - Identifying and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities; and
  - Reviewing and updating plan maintenance procedures;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain Volume I of the HMP in its entirety and the local jurisdictional annex in Volume II
- Review and comment on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.

The Steering Committee first met on August 20, 2020 and developed a well-diversified list of potential HMP stakeholders, which included municipal officials, Warren County government representatives, State, and Federal partners, adjacent county representative, universities, and other stakeholder organizations. At this meeting, the Steering Committee was instructed to review previous goals and revise them for this plan update, which is described in Section 6.4 Review and Update of Mitigation Goals and Objectives. The Committee was also instructed to capture changes in the County since 2016 through a hazard identification worksheet, which is new to the hazard mitigation planning process. The hazard mitigation identification worksheets assisted the County in reorganizing and restructuring the profiled hazards in the Risk Assessment. The hazard identification worksheet is described in more detail in Section 6.1.1.

**Table 3.2 - 1 Steering Committee Members** 

Name	Title	Organization
Bill Hunt	Deputy Public Safety Director	Warren County Office of Emergency Management
Frank Wheatley	Director of Public Safety	Warren County Department of Public Safety
Chris Pessolano	Purchasing Agent	Warren County Purchasing Department
David Dech	Planning Director	Warren County Planning Department
Albert Krouse	Senior Planner and GIS Analyst	Warren County Planning Department
Corey Tierney	Administrator	Warren County Department of Land Preservation
William Gleba	County Engineer	Warren County Engineer's Office
John Tate	Supervisor, Division of Roads	Warren County Department of Public Works
Calvin Inscho	Superintendent, Division of Bridges	Warren County Department of Public Works
Art Charlton	Director	Warren County Public Information Department
Diane Tabert	OEM Assistant	Warren County Office of Emergency Management
Michael Petruzzellis	Deputy OEM Coordinator	Warren County Office of Emergency Management

#### 3.2.3 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Section 201.6.a (4) of Chapter 44 of the CFR 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." FEMA and NJOEM both encourage multi-jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of this HMP update, a planning committee was formed to pursue grant funding for the plan and to meet the DMA 2000 requirements for as many eligible local governments in Warren County as possible.

The DMA 2000 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."

A Planning Committee was assembled to represent each of the municipalities participating in the HMP update, with a few primary representative point of contacts from each of the 22 participating municipalities. **Table 3.2-2 Warren County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership** lists the current municipal members of the Planning Committee at the time of this HMP's publication. Please note that the Steering Committee members are also part of the overall project Planning Committee, fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Warren County.

Members of the Planning Committee convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the planning partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts. This Planning Committee were charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process;
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works, etc.);
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Support and promote the public involvement process:
- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable;
- Identify, develop and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives;
- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations;
- Develop and author a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction;
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update; and
- Adopt, implement and maintain the plan update.

Table 3.2 - 2 Warren County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership

Group	Municipality	Name	Title
	Allamuchy Township	Dave Berkenbush	Emergency Management Coordinator
	Plairstown Township	Lisa Whitesell	Police – Records
	Blairstown Township	Nick Mohr	OEM Coordinator
Group 1	Hope Township	Timothy McDonough	Mayor/EMC
Group	Frelinghuysen Township	Nick Pachnos	OEM Coordinator
	Freiingnuysen rownsnip	Ralf Irizarry	OEM Coordinator
	Hardwick Township	Kevin Duffy	Mayor
	Hardwick Township	Joseph Dunn	OEM Coordinator
	Alaba Darayah	Craig Dunwell	Mayor
Croup 2	Alpha Borough	Tod Pantuso	Councilman
Group 2	Greenwich Township	Joe Mecsey	Fire Staff
	Harmony Township	Kelley Smith	Clerk

Group	Municipality	Name	Title
	Lopatcong Township	Pat Rivoli	Fire Chief
	Pohatcong Township	Chief Scott Robb	EMC/Chief of Police
	Town of Phillipshurg	Richard Hay	Fire Chief/EMC
	Town of Phillipsburg	Mabel Cook	Deputy OEM Coordinator
	Town of Belvidere	Sue Reeder	OEM Coordinator
	Town or Beividere	Teresa Yeisley	Administrator
Group 3	Knowlton Township	Frank Makowski	EMC
	Knowlton Township	Mike Bates	OEM Coordinator
	White Township	Kathleen Reinalda	CFO, Deputy OEM Coordinator, Clerk
	Franklin Township	Denise Raymond	Deputy OEM Coordinator, OEM Coordinator
	Washington Barough	Dirk Higgins	OEM, Fire Chief
Croup 4	Washington Borough	Matthew Hall	City Manager
Group 4	Washington Tourship	Tom Cicerelle	Chief of Police
	Washington Township	Peter deBoer	OEM Coordinator, Administrator
	Oxford Township	Matthew Hall	Administrator
	Hackettstown Town	Scott Armstrong	OEM, DPW Superintendent
	Indopondones Township	Deborah Hrebenak	Clerk/Administrator
Group 5	Independence Township	Ernest Kinney	OEM Coordinator
	Liberty Township	Steven Ciecwicz	OEM Coordinator
	Mansfield Township	Peter Hannah	OEM Coordinator

It is recognized that the jurisdictions in Warren County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the planning process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this HMP. It was Warren County's intent to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee and engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the planning process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and to provide additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

#### 3.2.4 REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Through stakeholder identification and outreach with the Steering Committee, the Project Team engaged neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development in the planning process. The Project Team contacted several regional stakeholders (listed below) to notify them of this HMP update and provided announcements throughout the planning process on how they can participate in the plan update. Additionally, the County offered to formally meet with each stakeholder to discuss any regional mitigation projects and actions that should be included in the Warren County HMP update. Stakeholders were provided links to the 2016 Warren County HMP as well as the 2021 Warren County HMP project website. Additional information on hazard mitigation planning and the planning process were included in a formal letter attached to each email. Correspondence with regional stakeholders is located in Appendices Vol. II – Other Plan Materials.

It should be noted that this summary listing cannot possibly represent the sum total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process. The Project Team engaged with the following regional stakeholders:

### **Neighboring Counties**

- Hunterdon County
- Northampton County (PA)
- Sussex County
- Morris County

#### Major Employers

- American Red Cross
- Avantor Performance Materials
- Centenary University
- DSM Nutritional Products
- Hackettstown Medical Center
- St. Luke's (Warren Campus)
- DSM Nutritional Products
- Centenary University

#### **Utility Providers**

- JCP&L
- Merrill Creek Reservoir
- Yards Creek Generating Station

#### Regional Planning Organizations

- Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
- New Jersey Highlands Council

#### Warren County Organizations

- Warren County Department of Education
- Warren County Community college

#### 3.2.5 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, the Steering Committee determined that draft documents will be made available to the public via the Warren County public website dedicated to the HMP update (<a href="www.WarrenHMP.com">www.WarrenHMP.com</a>). The participating partners acknowledged 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 Steering and Planning Committees made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

- The public website contains a project overview, project announcements, additional resources, draft documents for review, and a opportunity to provide comments and ask questions. See Figure 3.1-1 Warren County HMP Project Website: <a href="www.WarrenHMP.com">www.WarrenHMP.com</a>) for a screenshot of this public website.
- The Warren County OEM posted a press release announcing the open public review period and linking to the project website. The County accepted public comment for 30 days.
- Local jurisdictions had the option to post a link to the project website on their municipal website.

All public comments are located in Appendix Volume II - F. Public Comments.

### 3.3 OUTREACH AND DOCUMENTATION

This section presents (1) Steering Committee Outreach, (2) Planning Committee Outreach, and (3) Stakeholder Outreach. Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county, and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering Committee. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout, the planning process. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this HMP update where appropriate, as identified in the references.

### 3.3.1 STEERING COMMITTEE OUTEACH

A summary of Steering Committee outreach conducted and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in **Table 3-3-1 Summary of Stakeholder Outreach**. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, and minutes where available) may be found in appendices Vol. II - C Meeting Materials.

Table 3.3 - 1 Summary of Steering Committee Outreach

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirements	Туре	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
August 20, 2020	1b, 1c, 2, 3, 4a	Steering Committee Meeting #1: Kick-off	Introduce Steering Committee, overview presentation about initiatives about the 2021 HMP update.	Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker Michael Yaffe, Michael Baker Diane Tabert WCPS Bill Hunt, WCPS Mike Petruzzellis, WCPS Dennis Riley, WCPS Frank Wheatley, WCPS Marie Watters, WCDPW Calvin Inscho WCDPW John Tate WCDPW Albert Krouse, WC Planning David Dech, WC Planning
September 16, 2020	2, 3d, 4b	Steering Committee Meeting #2: Follow- up	Meeting to complete county annex; update public website; review county profile, hazard profiles and risk assessment results; conduct risk ranking; process to post draft HMP on county website; scheduling of upcoming meetings.	Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker Michael Yaffe, Michael Baker Diane Tabert WCPS Bill Hunt, WCPS Art Charlton, WC Public Information Albert Krouse, WC Planning David Dech, WC Planning
TBD	2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5	E-mail Distribution	All sections of the draft HMP were distributed via email to the Steering Committee including the county profile, hazard profiles, vulnerability assessment results, the updated mitigation strategy.	Steering Committee Members

#### 3.3.2 PLANNING COMMITTEE OUTREACH

To kick-off the planning process at the local level, The Project Team hosted five regional municipal kick-off meetings (one per group) in October 2020 to introduce the HMP planning process, plan materials, and available HMP resources to assist with creating new local mitigation actions. The Project Team held an additional three regional municipal meetings for municipalities that missed their Group meeting and/or wanted additional information. The Project Team sent each municipal POC an invitation to attend the regional meetings, with the option to invite as many other local officials as they desired. POCs and local attendees included OEM coordinators, CRS coordinators, engineers, planners, department of public works, fire and police chiefs, administrators, and city managers.

The following topics were covered in the meetings:

- Introduction to hazard mitigation for local officials that were not involved in the previous plan update
- New Standard Operating Procedure updates from the 2019 State of New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan (State HMP), such as the new local jurisdictional Plan Endorsement Form requirement
- The 2021 HMP Goals and Hazards profiled (human-based hazards are now profiled in this plan update)
- The six-step planning process to update an HMP
- Integration of CRS and HMP
- Federal funding resources to fund mitigation actions, including the new Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure (BRIC) program.

A summary of Planning Committee meetings held and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in **Table 3-3-2 Summary of Planning Committee Meetings**. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, and minutes where available) may be found in appendices Vol. II - C Meeting Materials. The table below identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect the planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings there was a great deal of communication between Planning Committee members and the Project Team through individual virtual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

Table 3.3 - 2 Summary of Planning Committee Outreach

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirements	Туре	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
September 16, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	OEM Coordinator Meeting	Introduction of Michael Baker International, and updates about COVID-19 pandemic response.	David Berkenbush, Allamuchy EMC Sue Reeder, Belvidere EMC Nick Mohr, Blairstown EMC Ray "Sonny" Read, Franklin EMC Nicholas Pachnos, Frelinghuysen EMC Joseph Mecsey, III, Greenwich EMC Zach Becker, Harmony Deputy EMC Timothy McDonough, Hope EMC Frank Makowski, Knowlton EMC Steve Ciecwicz, Liberty EMC Gary Woolf, Lopatcong EMC Rich Hay, Phillipsburg EMC Chief Tom Cicerelle, Washington Twp EMC Jeff Herb, White EMC

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirements	Туре	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
October 22, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #1: Group 1 Regional Meeting	The updated goals and objectives were presented to the Planning Committee for review and comment. Tools and resources were distributed. The project website was introduced. The meeting guided participants on how to identify and prioritize a comprehensive range of mitigation alternatives as a result of historic losses, current risk; and discuss integration of mitigation.	Kevin Duffy, Hardwick Twp. Timothy McDonough, Hope Twp. Lisa Whitesell, Blairstown Twp. Nick Pachnos, Frelinghuysen Twp. Dave Berkenbush, Allamuchy Twp. Diane Tabert, Warren County OEM Bill Hunt, Warren County OEM Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
October 26, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #2: Group 2 Regional Meeting	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Kelley Smith, Harmony Twp. Joe Mecsey, Greenwich Twp. Richard Hay, Phillipsburg Mabel Cook, Phillipsburg Diane Tabert, Warren County OEM Bill Hunt, Warren County OEM Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
October 28, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #3: Group 3 Regional Meeting	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Teresa Yeisley, Belvidere Diane Tabert, Warren County OEM Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
October 30, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #4: Group 4 Regional Meeting	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Craig Dunwell, Alpha Borough Kathleen Reinalda, White Twp. Matthew Hall, Oxford Twp. and Washington Borough Bill Hunt, Warren County OEM Diane Tabert, Warren County OEM Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
November 2, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #5: Group 5 Regional Meeting	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Scott Rob, Pohatcong Twp. Frank Makowski, Knowlton Twp. Bill Hunt, Warren County OEM Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
November 9, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #6: Municipal Follow-up	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Tom Cicerelle Washington Twp. Peter DeBoer, Washington Twp. Peter Hannah, Mansfield Twp. Raymond Read, Franklin Twp. Scott Armstrong, Hackettstown Twp. Steven Ciecwicz, Liberty Twp. Diane Tabert, Warren County OEM Bill Hunt, Warren County OEM Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
November 12, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #7: Municipal Follow-up	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Pat Rivoli, Lopatcong Twp. Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirements	Туре	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
November 19, 2020	2, 3b, 3c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Planning Committee Meeting #8: Municipal Follow-up	Same as Planning Committee Meeting #1	Deborah Hrebenak, Independence Twp. Ernest Kinney, Independence Twp. Brittany Ashman, Michael Baker
TBD	2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5	E-mail Distribution	All sections of the draft HMP were distributed via email to the Steering Committee including the county profile, hazard profiles, vulnerability assessment results, the updated mitigation strategy.	All plan participants
Upon HMP approval by FEMA	1a	E-mail Distribution	HMP adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating municipalities	All plan participants

#### **Individual Coordination**

Following the Planning Committee meetings, the Project Team coordinated with the municipal POC on updating their critical facilities, status of Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties, municipal narrative (including recent hazards to impact their community and recent and future development trends), capability assessment, and mitigation strategy. The Project Team highly recommended the municipal POC meet with other local officials that handle hazard mitigation and resiliency to update their plan materials, including their city planner/planning board, engineer, floodplain administrator, code enforcer, administration, elected officials, Fiscal CFO, zoning officers, fire and police departments, GIS specialists, and public works. Sign-in sheets were completed for the meetings held at the local level. The Project Team offered to attend any local meeting in addition to the ongoing coordination between the Project Team and POC.

The comprehensive list of local officials that assisted the local POC update their municipal documents is listed in **Table 3.3-1 List of Local Official Participation**, **by Jurisdiction**. This list is not exhaustive in that it does not include members from the public that may have commented during public portions of meetings.

Group	Municipality	Name	Title
		Dave Berkenbush	EMC
		Anne Marie Tracey	Town Clerk
	Allamuchy Township	Kevin Murray	DPW Supervisor
		Daniel Thiede	W&S Supervisor
		Lisa Whitesell	Police – Records
		Scott Johnson	Chief of Police
	51	Calvin Inscho	Fire Chief
	Blairstown Township	Brian Walsh	EMS Captain
		Eric Usinowicz	DPW Foreman
		Nick Mohr	OEM Coordinator
Group 1		Timothy McDonough	Mayor/EMC
	l <u>-</u> [	Zondra Belstra	Dep. Clerk
	Hope Township	Robin Keggan	Clerk
		Don Whitmore	DPW
		Ralf Irizarry	OEM Coordinator
	l	Nick Pachnos	OEM Coordinator
	Frelinghuysen Township	Donna Zilberfarb	Municipal Clerk
		Chris Stracco	Mayor
		Kevin Duffy	Mayor
	Hardwick Township	Joseph Dunn	OEM Coordinator
		Craig Dunwell	Mayor
	Alpha Borough	Todd Pantuso	Councilman
	Greenwich Township	Joe Mecsey	Fire Chief
		Kelley Smith	Township Administrator
	Harmony Township	Wesley Garrison	OEM Coordinator
	Lopatcong Township	Pat Rivoli	Fire Chief
Group 2		Gary Woolf	E.M. Coordinator
·		Beth Dilts	Township Clerk/Administrator
		Paul Sterbenz	P.E./Engineer
	Pohatcong Township	Chief Scott Robb	EMC/Chief of Police
		Richard Hay	Fire Chief / EMC
	Town of Phillipsburg	Mabel Cook	Deputy OEM Coordinator
		Sue Reeder	OEM Coordinator
		Matthew Scott	Chief of Police
		Jason Stout	Dep. DPW Director
	Town of Belvidere	Paul Sterbenz	Engineer/Planner
		Joseph Kennedy	Mayor
		Teresa Yeisley	Administrator
Group 3		Frank Makowski	EMC
	Knowlton Township	Kristin Shipps	Clerk
	Tanowiton Township	Mike Bates	Deputy OEM Coordinator
		Kathleen Reinalda	CFO, Deputy OEM Coordinator, Cler
	White Township	Jeff Herb	OEM Coordinator
	VVIIILE TOWNSHIP	Paul Sterbenz	Engineer/Planner
		Raymond Read	OEM Coordinator
	Franklin Township		
	Franklin Township	Denise Becton	Deputy OEM Coordinator
		Bonnie Butler	HMP Liaison
	Machinette Device	Dirk Higgins	OEM, Fire Chief
	Washington Borough	Jonathan James	DPW Supervisor
Group 4		Matthew Hall	City Manager
,		Tom Cicerelle	Chief of Police
		Kevin Smith	WT-Engineer/Planner
	Washington Township	Joe Rossi	WT-Construction Dept.
		Ann Kilduff	Township Clerk
		Peter deBoer	OEM Coordinator, Administrator
	Oxford Township	Matthew Hall	Administrator

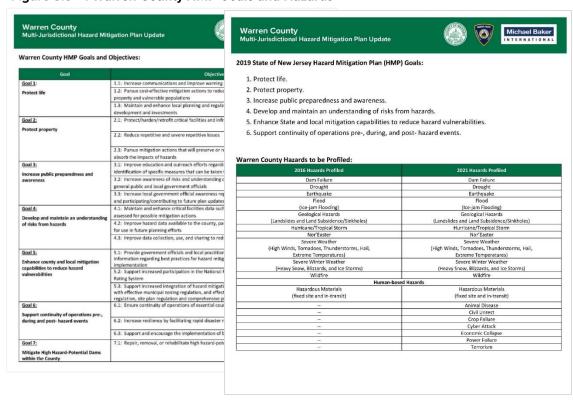
Group	Municipality	Name	Title
		Thomas Cicerelle	Police Chief
		Louis Accetturo	DPW Super
		Scott Armstrong	OEM, DPW Superintendent
		Darren Tynan	Police Sergeant/OEM Deputy
		Shannon Drylie	Construction Technical Asst.
	Hackettstown Town	Richard O'Conner	Construction Official
	TideKettStOWITTOWIT	David Diehl	Zoning Official
		Dannette Dyer	CFO
		Jerry DiMaio, Jr.	Mayor/OEM Deputy
		Fred Tillou	Fire Chief
Group 5		Ernest Kinney	OEM Coordinator/DPW Supervisor
Gloup 3	Independence Township	Christopher Prell	Officer in Charge, Independence Police
		Deborah Hrebenak	Clerk/Administrator
		Steven Ciecwicz	OEM Coordinator
		Ken Lunden	CFO
	Liberty Township	Jeffrey Snyder	DPW Supervisor
	Liberty Township	Alex Perez	DPW
		Diane Pflugfelder	Municipal Clerk
		Sgt. T. Burrell	NJSP
	Mansfield Township	Peter Hannah	OEM Coordinator

#### 3.3.3 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING DOCUMENTATION

This section describes the HMP documents the Planning Team reviewed with the Planning Committee during the outreach which assisted with writing this HMP update.

**Figure 3.3-1 Warren County HMP Goals and Hazards**: Helps communities understand the HMP goals for both the Warren County HMP update and the State HMP update and the hazards profiled in this plan update compared to the 2016 update.

Figure 3.3 - 1 Warren County HMP Goals and Hazards



**Mitigation Action Worksheet:** Collects information on completed, ongoing, and new mitigation actions completed or that want to be completed by each municipality in order to reduce risk in their community. Each action has its own worksheet with an action name, category, type, description, HMP goal it addresses, risk reduction, cost estimate, priority, timeline, potential funding source, action status, and more. These Mitigation Action Worksheets were discussed in Section 6.0 Mitigation Strategy. The mitigation action worksheet for each municipality is available in the Appendices I – Jurisdictional Information.

**Critical Facilities**: Collects information on emergency services, municipal buildings, utilities, communications, schools, religious institutions, historic properties, and cultural assets, in addition to if the facility is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The Project Team asked each town to revise and update the critical facility list based on their definition of a critical facility. Due to the sensitivity of the information of a critical facility this list is not available to the public.

**Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Properties:** Collects information on properties that are considered a RL or SRL based on the number of claims and total amount paid by FEMA. As part of this plan update, every municipality that currently has non-mitigated RL or SRL properties in their jurisdiction must have a mitigation action on how they plan to mitigate those properties, as required by the State HMP update.

During the individual municipal follow up, the Project Team scanned the sign-in sheet, wrote meeting minutes, and updated the previous plan documents including the capability assessment, mitigation actions, critical facility list, and RL/SRL lists based on each municipal discussion. The Project Team returned the updated documents to each town's point of contact to review and revise and send back to the team where the updated documents were placed in the appendix of this plan.

### **Municipal Maps Depicting Flood Vulnerability**

Michael Baker International. We Make a Difference.

Visually displays flood hazard risk and vulnerability on a series of maps at the municipal level:

- 1. Base map depicting local land use
- 2. FEMA's SFHA overlaying base map
- 3. Critical facilities overlaying FEMA's SFHA
- 4. Repetitive Loss (RL) properties and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties overlaying FEMA's SFHA

The municipal maps for each municipality are available in the Appendices Vol. I – Jurisdictional Information. Due to the sensitivity of the information on both the critical facility and RL/SRL maps, those maps are not available in this version of the plan.

**Table 3.3-4 Local Meeting Participation and Documentation, by Jurisdiction** lists jurisdictional participation in the HMP planning process, including attendance at regional meetings, individual municipal follow-up coordination, and coordination on updating the 2021 HMP municipal documents. All 22 municipalities in Warren County participated in this HMP update, thus achieving 100 percent participation.

Table 3.3 - 4 Local Meeting Participation and Documentation, By Jurisdiction

	Meetings		Updated Meeting Documents			
Jurisdiction	Regional Municipal Meetings	Individual Follow-up	Capability Assessment	Mitigation Strategy	Critical Facility List	RL/SRL Property Information
Allamuchy Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alpha Borough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belvidere Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blairstown Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>	✓
Franklin Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frelinghuysen Township	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenwich Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hackettstown Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hardwick Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harmony Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hope Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Independence Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knowlton Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Liberty Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lopatcong Township	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓
Mansfield Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxford Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phillipsburg Town	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pohatcong Township	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>
Washington Borough	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	✓
Washington Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White Township	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

### 3.3.4 STAKEHOLDER OUTEACH

In addition to engaging regional stakeholders, the Project Team individually met with the stakeholders listed in **Table 3.3-5 Stakeholder Meetings** in an effort to understand their capabilities and strategies related to hazard mitigation. The Project Team lead discussions around local projects and mitigation actions that the County and its local municipalities are interested in pursuing and how they may harmonize with their regional stakeholders. The Project Team added mitigation projects and actions discussed in these meetings to the County's mitigation strategy.

Table 3.3 - 5 Stakeholder Meetings

Organization or Agency	Contact	Title	Meeting Attended
Yards Creek Generating Station	Tim Hicks	Plant Manager	February 4, 2021
	Kathy French	VP Environmental Coordinator	February 4, 2021

Organization or Agency	Contact	Title	Meeting Attended
NJ Highlands Council	Maryjude Haddock-Weiler	Planning Manager	February 11, 2021

### 3.4 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Warren County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. Therefore, electronic copies of the HMP update will be made available for review on the public project website (www.WarrenHMP.com). The Project Team is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update, which are available in Appendices Volume II – F. Public Comments.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the HMP update as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Mr. William E. Hunt, Deputy Director, Department of Public Safety) 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 HMP.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7.0 Plan Maintenance.

After completion of this HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be 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 five-year mitigation plan updates. A notice regarding annual updates of the plan will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Mr. William E. Hunt has been identified as the ongoing County Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator, and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update. Contact information is:

Mailing Address: Warren County Department of Public Safety, 1024 Route 57, Washington, NJ

07882

Contact Name: William E. Hunt, Deputy Public Safety Director and Deputy OEM Coordinator

Email Address: whunt@co.warren.nj.us

# 3.5 JURISDICTION ANNEX TEMPLATES

All of the documentation discussed in this section is located in Appendices Vol. I – Jurisdictional Information. While the local annex format is designed to document and assure local compliance with the DMA 2000 regulations, its greater purpose and function includes:

- Providing a locally relevant synthesis of the overall HMP that can be readily presented, distributed, and maintained
- Facilitating local understanding of the community's risk to natural hazards;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community's capabilities to manage natural hazard risk, including opportunities to improve those capabilities;
- Facilitating local understanding of the efforts the community has taken, and plans to take, to reduce their natural hazard risk;

- Facilitating the implementation of mitigation strategies, including the development of grant applications;
- Providing a framework by which the community can continue to capture relevant data and information for future plan updates.

It is recognized that each jurisdiction's annex is a "living" document and will continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, its design is intended to promote and accommodate continued efforts to maintain the currency and improve the effectiveness of the annex as the key tool, reference, and guiding document by which the jurisdiction will implement hazard mitigation locally. The annexes include highlights of the municipal vulnerability assessment, NFIP claim data, repetitive loss area, capability assessment, past flooding and hazard history, plan integration aspects, as well as status and update of the municipal mitigation strategy and mitigation project implementation.

The following provides a description of the various elements of the jurisdictional annex.

#### **Municipal Narrative:**

- Identifies the hazard mitigation planning primary and alternate contacts, identified by the jurisdiction as of October 2020.
- Municipal overview: Provides an overview of the jurisdiction, including an identification of areas of known and anticipated future development and the vulnerability of those areas to the hazards of concern.
- New and Future Development: Notes recent and future residential and commercial development or major infrastructure projects since 2016.
- Natural Hazard Event History Specific to the Jurisdiction: Identifies hazard events that have caused significant impacts within the jurisdiction, including a summary characterization of those impacts as identified by the jurisdiction since the 2016 Warren County HMP. The documentation of events and losses is critical to supporting the identification and justification of appropriate mitigation actions, including providing critical data for benefit-cost analysis. It is recognized that this "inventory" of events and losses is a work-in-progress, and may continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, the lack of data or information for a specific event does not necessarily mean that the jurisdiction did not suffer significant losses during that event.
- Hazard Vulnerabilities and Ranking: This HMP update identifies and characterizes the broad range of hazards that pose risk to the entire planning area; however each jurisdiction has differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability aside from the whole. The local risk ranking serves to identify each jurisdiction's degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to them, supporting the appropriate selection and prioritization of initiatives that will reduce the highest levels of risk for each community. Also includes Other Vulnerabilities Identified by the Jurisdiction: Presents other specific hazard vulnerabilities as identified by the jurisdiction.
- NFIP Summary: Provides NFIP summary statistics for the jurisdiction.
- Critical Facilities: Identifies the number of critical facilities by type located in the FEMAdesignated flood zones, based on the flood vulnerability assessment process presented in Section 4.0 Risk Assessment.
- Successful Municipal Capabilities: Existing local capabilities in place at the local level that reduce hazard impacts.
- Successful Mitigation Actions: Completed mitigation actions since the last plan update.

# **Mitigation Strategy**

Past Mitigation Initiative Status: Where applicable, a review of progress on the jurisdiction's prior mitigation strategy is presented, identifying the disposition of each prior action, project, or initiative in the jurisdiction's updated mitigation strategy. Other completed or on-going mitigation activities that were not specifically part of a prior local mitigation strategy may be included in this sub-section as well.

Proposed Mitigation Strategy: A summary table is presented of the jurisdiction's updated mitigation strategy. As indicated, applicable mitigation actions, projects, and initiatives are further documented on an Action Worksheet which provides details on the project identification, evaluation, prioritization and implementation process. These Action Worksheets are included at the end of the annex. In addition, a summary of the local mitigation strategy prioritization process discussed in Section 6 is presented in tabular format as well as an expanded version following the Action Worksheets.

**Flood Vulnerability Map**: Each annex includes a map illustrating identified hazard zones, critical facilities, and areas of NFIP RL and SRL properties. Further, these maps show areas of known or anticipated future development, as available and provided by the jurisdiction.

**Capability Assessment**: This subsection provides an inventory and evaluation of the jurisdiction's tools, mechanisms, and resources available to support hazard mitigation and natural hazard risk reduction. Within the municipal annexes, the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal capabilities are presented, respectively. Further, within the municipal annexes, the municipality's level of participation in state and federal programs is designed to promote and incentivize local risk reduction efforts.

NFIP: This subsection within the Capability Assessment documents the NFIP as implemented within the jurisdiction. This summary was based on surveys prepared by, and/or interviews conducted with, the NFIP Floodplain Administrators for each NFIP-participating community in the county. This subsection also identifies actions to enhance implementation and enforcement of the NFIP within the community.