



Chenango County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Planning Project

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) is federal legislation that establishes a pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). DMA 2000 encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning, promotes sustainability, and seeks to integrate state and local planning with an overall goal of strengthening statewide hazard mitigation planning. This enhanced planning approach enables local, tribal, and state governments to articulate accurate and specific needs for hazard mitigation, which results in faster, more efficient allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects.

Proactive versus reactive mitigation tends to lead to sustainable, more cost-effective projects. Reactive mitigation tends to lead to the “quick-fix” alternatives; it simply costs too much to address the effects of disasters only after they happen. A surprising amount of damage can be prevented if you anticipate where and how disasters will occur, and take steps to mitigate those damages.

How Does This Planning Benefit Your Community?

Federal pre-disaster mitigation grant funding under HMGP and PDM is tied to meeting DMA 2000 requirements for local mitigation planning. The PDM grant program is an annually funded program with applications awarded on a competitive basis. Pre-disaster grant funding under HMGP becomes available when a Federal disaster declaration is issued in your state, and is funded at 15% of the total declaration. As an example, HMGP funding after the Severe Storm and Flooding events in June, October and November of 2006 (FEMA-1650-DR, 1665-DR and 1670-DR) is currently available to all local governments in New York State that have an approved DMA 2000 plan.

Further, your DMA 2000 plan may be recognized by other federal programs such as the Community Rating System (CRS), Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA), and US Army Corps of Engineers programs, thus creating multi-objective benefits (such as, flood insurance premium reduction, broader funding sources for mitigation projects, and enhanced benefit-cost ratios).

Chenango County's DMA 2000 Planning Process



Through HMGP grant funding, the Chenango County Department of Public Works is facilitating the development of a Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan to meet the “local plan” requirements of DMA 2000. In order to meet the DMA 2000 requirements, each participating jurisdiction must actively participate in the planning process, and formally adopt the final plan. Currently all 21 towns, 7 villages and the City of Norwich are participating in the planning process.

The planning process we shall use follows the four basic steps outlined in DMA 2000 regulations and associated guidance:

- Organize Resources
- Assess the Risk
- Develop the Mitigation Plan
- Implement and Monitor Progress

Organize Resources:

Chenango County has organized a planning committee including representative(s) from each jurisdiction to serve as the lead and point-of-contact for that jurisdiction. Formal participation by a jurisdiction in the planning process involves:

- Attending meetings
- Compiling and forwarding data and information in a timely manner
- Facilitating public and stakeholder outreach in your jurisdiction
- Assisting in the development of mitigation goals and objectives
- Providing past, present and proposed mitigation actions for your jurisdiction
- Authoring your jurisdictional annex
- Reviewing and providing feedback on draft plan documents

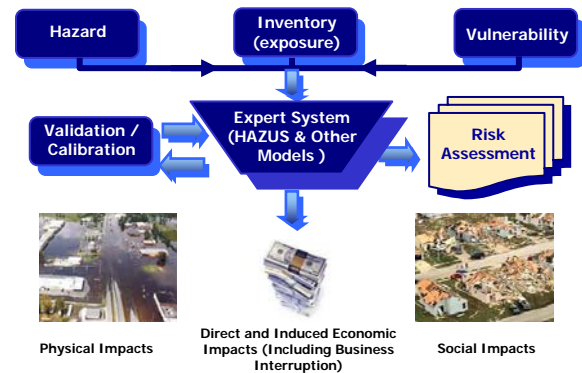
The jurisdiction’s representative is certainly not expected to do all of the work, however they will be responsible for delegating tasks to appropriate people and departments, and be empowered to do so.

Stakeholders and the public must be involved in the planning process. We are currently identifying stakeholders (e.g. USDA Farm Service, owners of utilities and transportation infrastructure, commerce and business associations, academia, etc.) so that we may engage them in the process; and developing a public outreach strategy that will maximize public input to the plan.



Assess the Risk:

Assessing the risk involves identifying those hazards that pose significant risk to the County; characterizing those risks according to background and local conditions, historic frequency and probability of occurrence, severity, historic losses and impacts, and designated hazard areas; identifying vulnerable assets (people, structures, infrastructure, economy); and estimating potential losses. Natural hazards that will be addressed in this planning process include flooding, severe storms, hurricanes, severe winter storms, ice storms, and earthquakes (see attached NY Disaster Declarations).



Due to limited resources and an accelerated timetable for completion of this Plan, only natural hazards shall be considered as allowed under the DMA 2000 regulations. Future updates to this Plan may include the consideration of man-made and technological hazards (e.g. dam failure, hazardous materials accidents).

Develop the Mitigation Plan:

Based on the results of the Risk Assessment, consideration of stakeholder and public input, and review of other related plans (State HMP, county and local emergency management and comprehensive plans, etc.), the planning committee shall develop mitigation goals and objectives, and specific, actionable mitigation strategies that they will implement. These mitigation actions may be grouped into six broad categories:

- Prevention (e.g. planning and zoning, building codes)
- Property Protection (e.g. acquisition, elevation, structural retrofits)
- Public Education and Awareness (e.g. real estate disclosure, education programs)
- Natural Resource Protection (e.g. watershed management, wetland restoration)
- Emergency Services (e.g. warning systems, emergency response services)
- Structural Projects (e.g. dams, floodwalls, safe rooms)

Strategies identified will include county-wide as well as jurisdiction specific actions. Each strategy shall include details concerning:

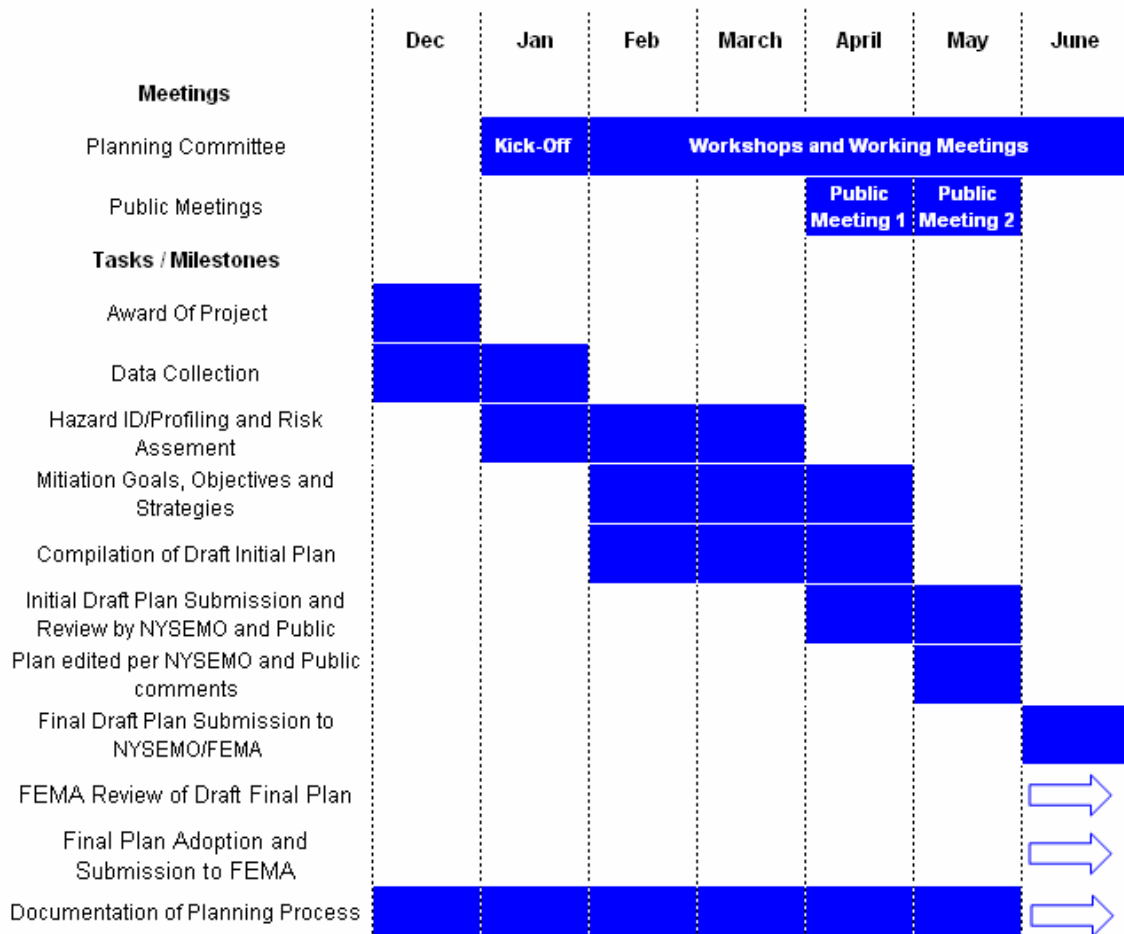


- Jurisdictions implementing and hazards addressed
- Budget, potential funding sources and implementation timeline
- Priority
- Related plans and regulations
- Lead person/agency and support agencies

Implement and Monitor Progress:

The Plan will identify a program by which 1) mitigation strategies will be implemented, 2) progress will be monitored, and 3) the plan will be amended and updated. While the DMA 2000 regulations only require formal updating of the plan every five years, a typical monitoring/maintenance program includes monitoring progress and documenting amendments to the plan on an annual basis.

Timeline





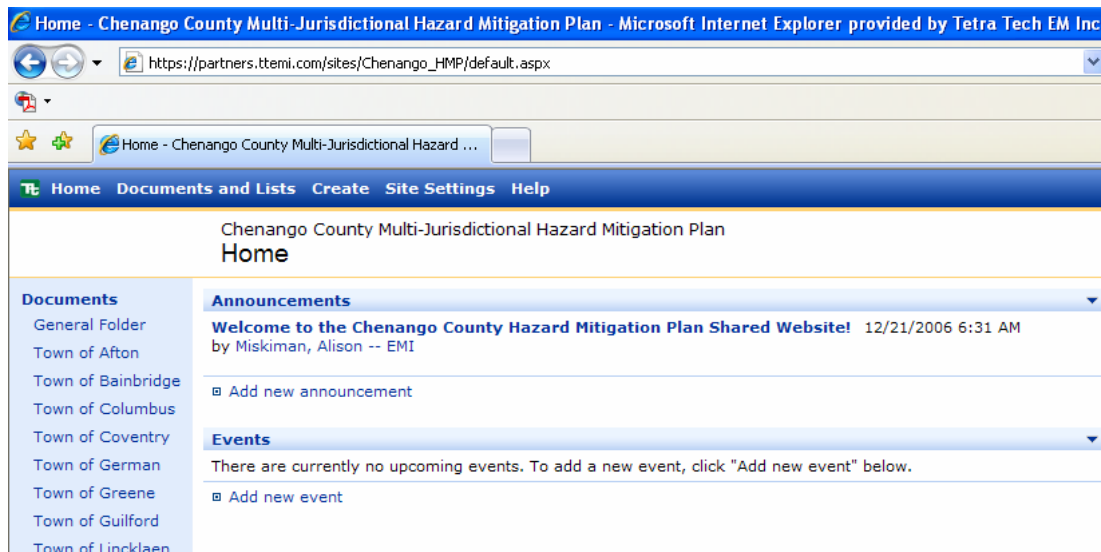
The Plan Document:

The plan will be developed in two volumes. Volume 1 will contain all information that applies to the whole planning area (county) such as description of the planning process, risk assessment, goals and objectives, County/multi-jurisdictional mitigation strategies and a plan maintenance program. Volume 2 will include a chapter (jurisdictional annex) for each participating local government, specifically identifying their unique risks and strategies to reduce losses. Jurisdictions will be expected to adopt all of Volume 1 and their annex in Volume 2.

All planning partners, stakeholders, and the public must recognize that certain information obtained and used in this plan, particularly with respect to homeland security issues, will be protected from general distribution. While efforts shall be made to present as much information as possible to the widest audience and meet the overarching goals of this project, the security of the public and other resources within the planning area shall remain paramount.

Plan Development Resources:

To facilitate the exchange of information between the County, planning partners, active stakeholders and the contract consultant, a secure collaborative website has been developed. If you have not been provided with access, please contact Alison Miskiman of Tetra Tech at (973) 659-9996, x221, or alison.miskiman@ttemi.com.



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