



SECTION 3 PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2008 Chenango County All Hazards Mitigation Plan (HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the plan both met requirements of the DMA 2000, as well as to assure that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following:

- The Plan will be multi-jurisdictional, with the intention of including all municipalities within the County. Chenango County invited all jurisdictions in the County to join with them in the development of this HMP update, including the Village of Earlville that did not participate in the 2008 planning effort. To date, all municipalities have participated in the 2015 plan update process as indicated in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1. Participating Chenango County Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions		
Chenango County		
City of Norwich	Town of New Berlin	Town of Smithville
Town of Afton	Town of North Norwich	Town of Smyrna
Town of Bainbridge	Town of Norwich	Village of Afton
Town of Columbus	Town of Otselec	Village of Bainbridge
Town of Coventry	Town of Oxford	Village of Earlville
Town of German	Town of Pharsalia	Village of Greene
Town of Greene	Town of Pitcher	Village of New Berlin
Town of Guilford	Town of Plymouth	Village of Oxford
Town of Lincklaen	Town of Preston	Village of Sherburne
Town of McDonough	Town of Sherburne	Village of Smyrna

- The Plan considered all natural hazards facing the area, thereby satisfying the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. In addition, non-natural hazards that pose concern to the County were considered.
- The Plan was developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and FEMA and NYS DHSES guidance. Following this process ensures all the requirements are met and support Plan review. In addition, this Plan will meet criteria for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs.

The Chenango 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 HMP Planning Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events. In addition, the Committee took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP update have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents, and stakeholders.

This section of the plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of Planning Process; (2) Planning Activities; (3) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (4) Public Outreach; and Involvement; (4) Integration of Existing Data, Plans, and Information; (5) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (6) Continued Public Outreach.

3.2 ORGANIZATION OF PLANNING PROCESS

This section of the Plan identifies how the planning process was organized with the various “planning partners” involved, and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this.

3.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Management Team

Overall project management and grant administration for this plan update process has been provided by the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development. To support the plan update effort, the County applied for and received a FEMA mitigation planning grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP DR-4085-0029).

The Management Team was responsible for:

- Providing guidance and oversight of the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership;
- Attending and participating in Management Team meetings;
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
 - Assuring broad and active participation of the planning partnership,
 - Supporting the identification and approval of the project hazards of concern,
 - Developing and implementing a public and stakeholder outreach program,
 - Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available,
 - Supporting the update of the hazard mitigation goals and objectives,
 - Identification and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities, and;
 - Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NYS DHSES and FEMA.

The Management Team (see Table 3-2) provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

Table 3-2. Project Management Team

Name	Title	Organization
Donna Jones	Director of Planning	Chenango County Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD)
Rena M. Doing	Planner	Chenango County Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD)
Shane H. Butler	Planner	Chenango County Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD)





Name	Title	Organization
Matthew L. Beckwith	Fire Coordinator- Car 1, Office of the Fire Coordinator	Chenango County Emergency Services
Steven Palmatier	County Representative	Chenango County Economic Development
Lawrence Wilcox	Chairman	Chenango County Board of Supervisors
Shawn Fry, PE, LS	Director	Chenango County Department of Public Works
Jennifer Kelly	District Technician,	Chenango County Soil & Water Conservaton District
Herman Eriksen	Director,	Chenango County Information Technology
Kenneth L. Pratt	Computer Programmer/Analyst	Chenango County Information Technology
Isaiah Sutton	Director	Chenango County Environmental Health
Steve Fox	County Code Enforcement and Floodplain Administrator	Chenango County Building Department
JoAnn Slattery	Former County Code Enforcement and Floodplain Administrator	Chenango County Building Department
Lew Ford	Director	Delaware-Chenango-Madison- Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services (DCMO BOCES)

The County notified all municipalities within the County, of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Jurisdictions were asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate (via a Letter of Intent to Participate) and to identify planning points of contact to serve on a hazard mitigation Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community.

Planning Committee

The mitigation Planning Committee was assembled to represent each of the municipalities participating in the plan update process, consisting of all members of the Steering Committee, and at least one representative from each of the participating municipalities. Each plan participant received a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations, outlining the responsibilities of the participants and the agreement of the partners to authorize the Steering Committee to represent the jurisdiction in the completion of certain planning elements as noted above.

The Planning Committee was charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process;
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their community 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 plan 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 the updated jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update

It is noted that the Letter of Intent to Participate identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. It is recognized that the jurisdictions in Chenango County have differing levels of capabilities and resources



available to apply to the plan update process, and further, have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this plan update. It was Chenango 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 plan update participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee, engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the plan update process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and the provision of additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed updated annex of the HMP wherein jurisdictions have individually identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk; and eventually, by the adoption of the updated plan via resolution. Refer to Section 9 of this HMP.

Appendix D, “Participation Matrix”, identifies those individuals who represented their jurisdictions during this planning effort, and indicates how all participants contributed to the planning process.

3.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Planning and Steering Committees (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; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals, objectives and actions; and provide continuity through the plan update process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated into the plan update. Each member of the Planning Committee had the opportunity to review the plan update and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

Table 3-3 presents a summary of planning activities and general project planning efforts conducted during the plan development process, as well as the DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, etc.) may be found in Appendix B. This summary table identifies only the formal meetings and milestone events held during the plan update process, and does not reflect the larger universe of 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 and Steering Committee members and the consultant through individual local meetings, phone and email.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is responsible for reviewing the plan update and accepting public comment as part of an annual review and as part of the five year mitigation plan update.



Table 3-3. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities / Efforts

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
August 16, 2013	2	Pre-Project Meeting (conference call)	Rena Doing, Shane Butler – Chenango County Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD); Jonathan Raser – Tetra Tech, Inc.
September 2013	1c, 2	Interested jurisdictions submit Letters of Intent to Participate in this planning process, acknowledging municipal participation requirements and identifying planning point(s) of contact.	Municipalities and CCDPD
September 9, 2013	1b, 1c, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a	Steering Committee Meeting: Review project schedule; review municipal participation, discuss municipal Kick Off meeting and local data collection; review and discuss sources and availability of county and regional data; discuss public and stakeholder outreach efforts; review prior plan and needed/desired areas for updating.	Steering Committee members; Contract Consultant. See Appendix B.
October 15, 2013	1b, 1c, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a	Municipal Kick-Off Meeting: Complete overview of planning process, plan participant expectations, review of hazards and hazards of concern identification, discussion of data needs and data collection process explaining all provided worksheets (hard copy and on resource CD), discussion of public and stakeholder outreach efforts	County and municipal representatives and stakeholders. See Appendix B
October 15, 2013	1b, 2, 3a, 3c	Management Team Meeting	See Appendix B
May 14, 2014	2, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5b	FEMA Mitigation Strategy Workshop	Paul Hoole, FEMA, Jeanne Johnston, FEMA-SRFO/Albany, Debra Dunbrook, NYS DHSES, Harry J. Bartik, NYS DHSES, Steering and Planning Committee members (see Appendix B)
July 30, 2014	2, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5b	Local Support Workshop – County (incl. Steering Committee and contractor) provides onsite support for municipalities to work on completing their jurisdictional annexes, focusing on mitigation strategies. Steering Committee works on County level mitigation strategy.	Steering Committee members and municipal representatives (see Appendix B)
August 2014	1b, 2	Online Public Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation survey, and Stakeholder Hazard Mitigation surveys (7) launched.	Public and Stakeholders
August 2014	1b, 2	Project website updated, including links to citizen and stakeholder surveys	Chenango County Information Technologies (CCIT)



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
August 2014	2	Article on project in Chenango Sun	Public and Stakeholders (see Appendix C)
December 2014	1b	Complete draft plan posted to public website, advertised on the County homepage, and at local meetings.	Chenango County and participating jurisdictions; public and stakeholders
December 16, 2014	2	Article on project in Chenango Sun, announcing project and plan finalization	Public and Stakeholders (see Appendix C)
August 2014 - June 2015	2, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5b	County and contract consultant work with County and municipalities in the development and finalization of annexes, focusing on updating local mitigation strategies	County and municipal planning partnership
August 2015	2	Draft of final plan submitted to NYS DHSES and FEMA for review and approval	Chenango County and participating jurisdictions; NYS DHSES; FEMA Region II
September – December 2015	2, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5b	County and contract consultant work with County and municipalities to finalize plan, including addressing NYS DHSES comments to the August draft plan	County and municipal planning partnership
December 2015	2	Final plan submitted to NYS DHSES and FEMA for review and approval	Chenango County and participating jurisdictions; NYS DHSES; FEMA Region II
Upon plan approval by FEMA	1a	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating jurisdictions	Chenango County and participating local governments

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





3.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

This section details the outreach to, and involvement of, the many agencies, departments, organizations, non-profits, districts, authorities and other entities that have a stake in managing hazard risk and mitigation, commonly referred to as “stakeholders”.

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 and Planning Committees. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process. In addition to “mass media” notification efforts, identified stakeholders were invited to attend the kick-off meeting, while key stakeholders were requested to participate on the Steering and/or Planning Committees. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this Plan where appropriate, as identified in the references.

The following is a list of the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this HMP update, along with a summary of how these stakeholders participated and contributed to the Plan. This summary listing cannot represent the sum total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this Plan since formal and informal outreach efforts were utilized throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the overall effort. As such, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process.

The Chenango County hazard mitigation planning process involved a broad range of Federal, State, county, regional and local stakeholders. The following subsection identifies those stakeholders that were invited to participate in the planning process, identifies the nature of their involvement, and indicates how their input was incorporated in this plan as applicable.

3.3.1 Federal Agencies:

FEMA Region II: Provided updated planning guidance; provided summary and detailed NFIP data for planning area; attended meetings including facilitating a mitigation strategy workshop; conducted plan review.

National Weather Service (NWS): Provided data and information.

3.3.2 State Agencies:

New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES: Headquarters and Region II): Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review; provided updated planning guidance; conducted mitigation strategy workshop; provided review of Draft Plan.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Provided data and information.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT): Provided data and information, identified mitigation projects on state-owned infrastructure within the county.

3.3.3 County and Regional Agencies, Commissions and Non-Profits:

County Departments/Agencies identified in Appendix D, “Participation Matrix.”



3.3.4 Regional and Local Stakeholders:

In addition to those identified previously, the following regional and local stakeholders were invited to participate in, and provide input to, the planning process. This was accomplished directly through outreach from the municipalities they serve and in which their facilities are located, and through the distribution of mitigation surveys targeted to the specific stakeholder types (e.g. academic, hospital/health care, utility). Example surveys and all responses may be found in Appendix C. Further, these stakeholders were invited to a mitigation workshop intended to detail the purpose of the planning project, identify specific vulnerabilities, and identify potential mitigation actions/initiatives to address their specific vulnerabilities. Those stakeholders that responded to the survey or otherwise participated in the planning process are identified specifically below. All input was considered by the planning committee and incorporated into this plan as appropriate; for example, identified vulnerabilities and potential mitigation initiatives have been included in the relevant jurisdictional annex(es).

Academia (school districts and other academic institutions):

Many municipalities directly involved school district representatives in the planning process. All local school districts, as well as higher education and many technical/vocational institutions were provided the Academic Stakeholder survey. Responses were received from the following:

- **Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego (DCMO) BOCES:** Attended meetings, provided data and information, supported outreach to other academic stakeholders, identified progress on prior mitigation strategies, updated mitigation strategies; completed stakeholder survey.
- **Oxford Academy and Central School:** Completed stakeholder survey.

Law Enforcement:

Certain municipalities directly involved police and other law enforcement representatives in the planning process, as identified in Table 3-3 and/or Appendix D. Further, all police departments and law enforcement agencies in the county were provided the Law Enforcement Stakeholder survey. Responses were received from the following:

- Bainbridge Police Department – Completed survey, identified vulnerabilities

Fire Districts and Fire Departments:

Many municipalities directly involved fire district/department representatives in the planning process, as identified in Table 3-3 and/or Appendix D. Further, all Fire Districts and Fire Departments were provided the Fire Fighting survey. Responses were received from the following:

- City of Norwich Fire Department – Completed survey, identified vulnerabilities
- North Norwich Fire Department – Completed survey, identified vulnerabilities

Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services:

All ambulance and emergency medical service providers in the county were provided the Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services stakeholder survey. No responses have been received to date.

Hospitals and Health-Care Facilities:

The Chenango Memorial Hospital and Chenango Health Network were both contacted to provide input the planning process, specifically through the Hospital and Health Care Stakeholder survey.



Business and Commercial Interests:

The following businesses and commercial interests in the county provided input to planning process, as indicated below:

- **Commerce Chenango / Chenango County Industrial Development Corporation:** Promoted project on the Chamber’s weekly memo, monthly newsletter (August 2014 - see Appendix C) and Facebook page.
- **Foothills Abstract, LLC:** Completed survey
- **Northeast Safes, LLC:** Completed survey, identified vulnerabilities

Utilities:

Utilities serving the county were provided the Utilities stakeholder survey. No responses have been received to date.

Adjacent Counties:

The following adjoining and nearby County representatives were contacted in November 2015 to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents and surveys, and invited to provide input to the planning process:

- Broome County (NY)
 - Raymond Serowick, Emergency Services
 - Frank Evangelisti, Planning and Economic Development
- Cortland County (NY)
 - Scott. Roman, Emergency Response
 - Daniel Dineen, Planning
- Delaware County (NY)
 - Steve Hood, Emergency Services
 - Nicole Franzese, Planning
- Madison County (NY)
 - Theodore Halpin, Emergency Management
 - Scott Ingmire, Planning
- Otsego County (NY)
 - Kevin Ritton, Emergency Services
 - Karen Sullivan, Planning

To date the only comment received was from Broome County planning who responded (via email) “We have reviewed your hazard mitigation plan and have no comments. Good job and good luck with your FEMA review.”

3.3.5 Public Outreach

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 including printed and online format. The Steering and Planning Committees have made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:



- The County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan website, developed for the 2007/8 planning process, has been maintained and updated for the 2014 plan update process. Figures 3-1 and 3-2 provide screen-shots of the County homepage and the main page of the project website as of mid-September, 2014. The public website contains a project overview, County and local contact information, access to the citizen’s survey and various stakeholder surveys, and draft sections of the HMP for public review and comment.

Figure 3-1. Chenango County Homepage with Link to HMP Webpage

Welcome

Welcome to the Chenango County Web Site. Chenango County is located in the Central part of New York State. We believe our County provides opportunities for an idyllic rural quality lifestyle. There are 21 Towns, 8 Villages and 1 City within our County. Each municipality provides various opportunities for recreation, shopping and other leisure-related activities. The County has over 79,959 acres of State-owned public lands that provide year-round outdoor recreational opportunities. We encourage you to visit our site, send an email or drop by for a visit.

Latest Website Changes (More)	
Personnel - Examinations Wednesday, August 5th, 2015	Board of Elections - Registration and Enrollment Reports Wednesday, August 5th, 2015
Area Agency on Aging - Staff Tuesday, August 4th, 2015	Area Agency on Aging Tuesday, August 4th, 2015
District Attorney - Traffic Tickets Monday, August 3rd, 2015	District Attorney - Court Assignments Monday, August 3rd, 2015
Clerk - Record Search - Important Notice Monday, August 3rd, 2015	Board of Elections - Become and Election Inspector Monday, August 3rd, 2015
Department of Public Works Monday, August 3rd, 2015	Public Health - Nursing - Immunization Program Friday, July 31st, 2015
Board of Elections Thursday, July 30th, 2015	Planning & Development Wednesday, July 29th, 2015

2015 Chenango County Tax Sale

The Chenango County Treasurer will be accepting sealed bids on 69 parcels throughout Chenango County. Bids must be submitted to Chenango County Delinquent Tax Services by 5:00pm on July 21, 2015 and will be opened by Finance Committee on July 23, 2014 at 10:00am. Bid Packets are available at Delinquent Tax Services in the Chenango County Office Building, 5 Court Street, Norwich, NY 13815.

[REQUEST FOR THE 2015 TAX SALE BID PACKET](#)

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure 3-2. Chenango County HMP – 2014 Update Webpage

Chenango County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2014 Update

This plan is a work in progress. Materials will be added as soon they become available.

Welcome to the Chenango County All-Hazardous Mitigation Plan homepage.

Chenango County and many of its residences have suffered greatly over the past several years due to naturally occurring disasters. Our residences have experienced damage and suffering from ice storms, tornados, and flooding.

To help in reducing the probability of this suffering occurring again Chenango County and the local municipalities within the county have bonded together to create an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once completed this plan will offer a significant opportunity to reduce the losses created by natural disasters.

Chenango County is committed to reducing the risks associated with natural disasters and in limiting hardship created by those events.

Thank you for your interest.

- [Background](#)
- [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)
- [Project Contacts](#)
- [Draft Plan](#)
- [Mitigation Links and Resources](#)

Background

The Chenango County Department of Planning and Development and the Bureau of Fire is leading a project to update the 2008 County-Wide Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). All municipalities have committed to participating in this planning project, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2014.

The creation of these plans will help the area to better prepare for, respond to and recover from hazard events and disasters, and allow the County and municipalities to maintain their eligibility for federal mitigation grant funding from the New York State Office of Emergency Management (NYSOEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This is an opportunity for the County and municipalities to create a detailed plan that will address a variety of potential hazards that could affect our residents, businesses and other institutions.

The goal of the HMP is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards. The plan will include a risk assessment and a hazard-mitigation strategy. This plan will address the County and municipality's risk to flooding, severe storms, severe winter storms, extreme temperatures, wildfires and other natural hazards. Mitigation projects and initiatives will be identified to address these risks to both public and private property.

The public and local and regional stakeholders are encouraged to provide input to the planning process.

Chenango County residents are encouraged to take our online [Citizen Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation Survey](#).

If you represent any of the following stakeholder groups, please complete an online mitigation survey targeted to your area by clicking one of the links below:

- [Police](#)
- [Fire](#)
- [EMS](#)
- [Hospital/Healthcare](#)
- [Academia](#)
- [Utility](#)
- [Commercial/Business](#)





- Once the project website and surveys were available, all municipalities were provided suggested content to post on their local websites, as available, announcing the plan update project, and directing the public to the project website. In November 2015, all jurisdictions with local websites were provided draft content announcing the availability of the draft plan for review and input, and requested to provide this on their homepage (see example Figure 3-3).

Figure 3-3. Town of McDonough Homepage (November 2015)



- The public was further informed of the hazard mitigation planning effort through press releases, news articles, and public service announcements released throughout the planning process. The Chenango Sun ran articles on the project on August 18, 2014 and December 16, 2014 (see Appendix C), which included the link to the project webpage.
- An on-line natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact Chenango County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards (see Appendix C). The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs.

The questionnaire has been available since August, 2014, with direct links through the HMP project and County homepage. Further all participating municipalities have been requested to advertise the availability of the survey via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, email blasts, etc.) Response rates to date are considered fair. A summary of survey results is provided in Appendix C of this plan.

To incorporate this public input, plan participants were provided with summary survey results throughout the planning process. Further, as respondents provided specific input through “open-ended” questions, that input was forwarded directly to the appropriate jurisdictional Point-Of-Contact for action.

- Directed response surveys were distributed to Academia, Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations, Utilities, Business and Commercial interests,



and Law Enforcement stakeholders as detailed in the Stakeholder Outreach subsection of this chapter. An example of the directed stakeholder surveys is presented in Appendix C, and with a summary of survey results.

- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Committee and citizens and further involve the public in the planning process, the draft Plan was made available to the public through a variety of venues, including the project website. A printed version of the Plan will be maintained at the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development.
- Sections of the updated draft plan, as available, have been posted to the public website since August 2014 for public review and comment. The complete draft was posted in December 2014, including all draft municipal annexes. This was an opportunity for public comment on the draft plan update before it went under review by NYS DHSES and FEMA Region II. All public comments were directed to the Chenango County Department of Planning and Development for collection and review by the Planning Committee. Any public comments received have been incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.



3.4 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Chenango County plan update strived to use the best available technical information, plans, studies and reports throughout the plan update process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments is presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, is presented in the Hazard Profiling and Risk Assessment Section (Chapter 5), specifically within Section 5.3 (Data and Methodology), as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 5.4. Further, the source of technical data and information used may be found within the References section.

Plans, reports and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities (see Capability Assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Section 9), and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify:

- Existing municipal capabilities;
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the County or local mitigation strategies;
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives, considered during the development of the overall Goals [and Objectives] (see Section 6);
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances and plans were reviewed during this plan update process in an effort to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives and mitigation strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms; and thus develop complementary and mutually supportive plans, including:

- Comprehensive/Master Plans
- Building Codes
- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- New York State Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2013



3.5 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within the County there are many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate and coordinate with, and complement, those mechanisms.

The “Capability Assessment” section of Chapter 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (Federal, State, County and local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Chapter 9, the County and each participating jurisdiction have identified how they have integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”), and how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7.

3.6 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Chenango County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This Plan update will be posted on-line (currently at <http://www.co.chenango.ny.us/hazard-mitigation-plan/>). The County and municipalities may make hard copies of the Plan available for review at public locations (e.g. County offices, municipal halls, public libraries). 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. 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 next 5-year mitigation plan update. The County HMP Coordinator 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.