



MEETING NOTES

Meeting	Genesee County, New York Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting		
Date	November 2, 2023	Time	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Location	Genesee County Fire Training Center, 7690 State Street Road, Batavia, New York		
Attendees	Rochelle Stein, Chair, Genesee County Legislature (via teleconference)		
	Tammi Ferringer, Deputy County Manager		
	Gary Patnode, Deputy Coordinator, Genesee County Emergency Management Services		
	Tim Yaeger, Coordinator, Genesee County Emergency Management Services		
	David Bell, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Genesee County Health Department		
	Craig Smith, Deputy Highway Superintendent, Genesee County Highway Department		
	Laura Wadhams, Assistant County Engineer, Genesee County Highway Department		
	Felipe Oltramari, Director, Genesee County Department of Planning		
	Carla Mindler, Commissioner, Genesee County Department of Social Services/Youth Bureau		
	Jared Elliott, District Field Manager, Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District		
	Erik Fix, Assistant City Manager, City of Batavia		
	Rachel Tabelski, City Manager, City of Batavia		
	Tony Subbio, Project Manager, Tetra Tech, Inc.		

Discussion Points

This section summarizes each discussion point addressed during the Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting.

Introductions

Mr. Yaeger welcomed the group. Attendees introduced themselves.

Overview of Hazard Mitigation

Mr. Subbio provided a brief overview of hazard mitigation and the funding available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He described the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) for HMPs.

Project Scope Review

Mr. Subbio summarized the project scope, which is organized into the following phases:

- Phase 1: Planning Process – This phase includes forming the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership and conducting outreach to stakeholders and the general public. Jurisdictions will form teams of officials to compile information for the HMP update. Tetra Tech will develop a project website and a set of stakeholder surveys to collect information to feed the planning process.
- Phase 2: Update the Risk Assessment – This phase includes analyzing the hazards of concern and how they impact Genesee County and its communities. This phase also includes data



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collection. Mr. Subbio sent Tetra Tech's GIS Data Wish List to Mr. Yaeger on September 23, 2023.

- Phase 3: Public Involvement Strategy – In this phase, Tetra Tech will develop a StoryMap website, stakeholder surveys, and other outreach opportunities to gather information from stakeholders and the general public.
- Phase 4: Mitigation Strategy – This phase includes updating the goals and objectives of the HMP and developing specific actions for inclusion in the updated HMP.
- Phase 5: Plan Maintenance – In this phase, planners will document how the updated HMP will be maintained for the next 5 years. Tetra Tech will again deploy the BAToolSM program to support ongoing plan maintenance.
- Phase 6: Plan Update and Deliverables – This phase captures progress on writing the updated HMP and the layers of review before the completed HMP is approved by FEMA.
- Phase 7: Plan Review and Adoption – Under this phase, Genesee County and participating jurisdictions will formally adopt the HMP.

Mr. Oltramari reported that some municipalities were reluctant to adopt the previous HMP because they thought they would be held accountable to implement it. Mr. Bell brought up the question of liability to implement identified actions. Mr. Subbio described the HMP as a wish list and stated that no organization is holding any participating jurisdictions accountable to implement the plan.

Hazards of Concern

Attendees discussed the hazards of concern from the existing HMP. The following summarizes that discussion:

- Civil Unrest – Mr. Yaeger stated that the State funded threat assessment teams. Genesee County's threat assessment team meets monthly. It has identified several issues related to political rallies, protests, etc.
- Dam Failure – Mr. Subbio stated that the HMP will meet the requirements of FEMA's High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant program, but that meeting those requirements depends on the data available about the county's dams.
- Drought – Parts of the county were in the D2 classification this year.
- Earthquake – No discussion was held about this hazard.
- Epidemic – Mr. Bell stated that it is more likely for the county to experience pandemics than locally started epidemics. This hazard will be renamed "pandemic."
- Extreme Temperature – No discussion was held about this hazard.
- Flood – Flooding on the Tonawanda Creek is still an issue. There is a large amount of trees and other debris in the creek. The entire creek needs to be cleaned.
- Hazardous Materials – Ms. Stein inquired if Genesee County maintains air monitoring resources for hazardous materials incidents. Mr. Yaeger stated that Genesee County is not aware of what hazardous materials are transported through the county.
- Severe Storm – No discussion was held about this hazard.
- Severe Winter Storm – Genesee County is impacted by storms that also affect the City of Buffalo; the media covers impacts in Buffalo but not in the county.
- Terrorism – This hazard will include active shooters and cyber attack.



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- Transportation Accident – Approximately 8,000 cars per day travel through the Town of Alabama due to marijuana sales in the tribal nation. The traffic volume has increased the number of traffic accidents and ambulance calls.
- Utility Interruption – The capacity of water infrastructure in the county is an issue. The number of agricultural users of water has increased.
- Wildfire – the Canadian Wildfires impacted air quality in the county. Mr. Patnode stated that he probably has relevant data on the impacts in the county.

Attendees stated that municipal officials might resist the findings of the HMP if it discusses climate change. Because the state and FEMA require climate change be addressed in the HMP, the updated HMP will use softer language to describe climate change, such as discussing future hazard conditions instead.

The hazards listed above are the hazards of concern for the updated HMP.

Planning Partnership

Mr. Subbio described the Planning Partnership and the groups to be represented on it. He explained that fire districts, school districts, multi-municipal authorities, and other special districts will be jurisdictions of their own in this HMP update. There are three fire districts and 17 school districts (but only eight of the school districts have facilities in the county). Other districts to include as jurisdictions include the Stamp Waterworks, the Monroe County Water Authority, the Batavian Business Improvement District, multiple library districts, and the Erie County Water Authority.

The tribal nation typically does not participate in Genesee County's planning efforts. Mr. Subbio stated that tribal nations are generally treated as states in mitigation planning.

Genesee County's annex will address any coordination required with the New York State Thruway Authority.

Mr. Subbio also described FEMA's recently updated requirements related to addressing social vulnerability in HMPs. The Department of Social Services will lead the interface with socially vulnerable populations and groups in the county. Social vulnerability issues in the county include an aging population, mobility issues, substance abuse issues, food deserts, and pharmacy deserts. Genesee County is not aware of how much the population relies on the public transportation system.

Ms. Tabelski reported that she has received reports from the school district that 40–50 students in the City of Batavia live in hotels.

The county does not have any homeless shelters. The Department of Social Services arranges for people to stay in hotels or motels when the temperature reaches or drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. As such, hotels and motels will be considered critical facilities for the HMP analysis.

Public and Stakeholder Outreach

Attendees discussed outreach to stakeholder organizations and the general public. Tetra Tech will develop a project website, a problem identification survey on which individuals can pinpoint hazard



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impacts, and a set of stakeholder surveys. The stakeholder surveys will collect information from the general public, neighboring jurisdictions, and other stakeholder organizations.

Project Schedule Review

Mr. Subbio provided a brief overview of the project schedule. The risk assessment will be complete in April 2024. The mitigation strategy will be completed in June 2024. The draft of the HMP will be available for public comment by the middle of June 2024. Public, State, and FEMA reviews of the plan will occur after that.

Mr. Subbio stressed that the project timeline depends on receiving data and information from Genesee County and jurisdictions in a timely manner. Delays in receiving these data and information will delay the overall project timeline.

Next Steps

- Genesee County will update the GIS Data Wish List and return it to Tetra Tech.
- Steering Committee members will send any relevant plans, studies, or documents to Mr. Subbio.
- Attendees will send lists of points of contact for stakeholder organizations to Mr. Yaeger.
- Tetra Tech will develop the survey tools.
- Tetra Tech will develop the StoryMap website.
- The Steering Committee will schedule the Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting in early 2024.
- Tetra Tech will assess the risks faced by Genesee County and its communities.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



AGENDA

GENESEE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

1. Introductions

2. Overview of Hazard Mitigation

3. Project Scope Review

- a. Phase 1: Planning Process
 - b. Phase 2: Update the Risk Assessment
 - c. Phase 3: Public Involvement Strategy
 - d. Phase 4: Mitigation Strategy
 - e. Phase 5: Plan Maintenance
 - f. Phase 6: Plan Update and Deliverables
 - g. Phase 7: Plan Review and Adoption
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4. Hazards of Concern

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Civil Unrest | h. Hazardous Materials |
| b. Dam Failure | i. Severe Storm |
| c. Drought | j. Severe Winter Storm |
| d. Earthquake | k. Terrorism |
| e. Epidemic | l. Transportation Accident |
| f. Extreme Temperature | m. Utility Interruption |
| g. Flood | n. Wildfire |
-

5. Planning Partnership

- a. Municipal officials
 - b. Districts
 - c. Authorities
 - d. Socially vulnerable populations and service providers
 - e. Others
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6. Public and Stakeholder Outreach

- a. Website
 - b. Problem Identification Survey
 - c. Stakeholder Surveys
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7. Project Schedule Review

8. Next Steps

- a. Document Request
- b. GIS Data
- c. Discuss StoryMap
- d. Develop Website and Surveys
- e. Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting
- f. Risk Assessment Update

9. Questions



Project Schedule

Phase	Timeframe
Phase 1: Planning Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting conducted on November 2, 2023 Planning Partnership members identified by early November 2023 Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting conducted in early December 2023
Phase 2: Update the Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected by December 2023 Distribute data collection surveys (critical facilities, problem areas, and new development) through January 2024 Update hazard profiles through early April 2024 Risk and vulnerability assessment conducted through early April 2024 Planning Partnership risk assessment review meeting conducted in mid-April 2024
Phase 3: Public Involvement Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project website or StoryMap developed by the end of January 2024 and maintained throughout the project Develop public outreach strategy by December 2023 Public and stakeholder surveys available online through mid-April 2024 Public outreach conducted with the County through mid-June 2024
Phase 4: Mitigation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft goals and objectives developed in mid-April 2024 Review and assess capabilities and current integration for the County and municipalities by the end of April 2024 Goals and objectives meeting conducted in early May 2024 Planning Partnership mitigation strategy workshop conducted in mid-May 2024 Mitigation actions finalized by mid-June 2024
Phase 5: Plan Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan maintenance procedures developed by early January 2024 Develop the BAToolSM Program with identified mitigation actions by December 2024 Launch the BAToolSM Program and hold training with Steering Committee and Planning Team by the end of January 2025
Phase 6: Plan Update and Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft developed by the middle of June 2024 Public comment period running from the middle of June to the middle of July 2024 Public Draft Plan Review Meeting conducted in late July 2024 Draft finalized by the end of July 2024
Phase 7: Plan Review and Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft submitted to NYS DHSES at the end of July 2024 NYS DHSES Review Period from late July to mid-September 2024 Draft HMP updated and submitted to FEMA Region II by the end of September 2024 FEMA Review Period from the beginning of October to the middle of November 2024 APA granted by the middle of December 2024 Adoptions collected and submitted to NYS DHSES/FEMA September-December 2024 Final deliverable to County by January 2025
Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Kickoff Meeting conducted on August 15, 2023 Project Closeout Meeting conducted in January 2025



GENESEE COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE
Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting

SIGN-IN

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

NAME/TITLE	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
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Elise Fric	City of Batavia	elise@batavianyork.com	245-6300
Rachael Tabelski	City of Batavia	rtabelski@batavianyork.com	345-6300
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Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting

SIGN-IN

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

NAME/TITLE	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	E-MAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
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