
XIII. Hazard Mitigation Plan Monitoring & Maintenance

Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan

The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners (BOC) will be responsible for adopting the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This governing body has the authority to promote sound public policy regarding potential hazards. Once the plan has been adopted, the Office of Emergency Management will be responsible for submitting it to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the Michigan State Police. The Michigan State Police will then submit the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. This review will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201. Upon acceptance by FEMA, St. Clair County and its local communities will gain eligibility for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds. Each unit of local government must adopt a resolution of support in order to be individually eligible.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The St. Clair County Hazard Mitigation Plan, like all plans, requires periodic review to ensure that it remain up to date, reflects current information and still meets the goals of the community. The Hazard Mitigation Plan should be monitored by the Office of Emergency Management's Advisory Committee (OEM Advisory Committee). This body will keep the concept of mitigation in the forefront of community decision-making by identifying recommendations of this plan when other community goals, plans and activities overlap, influence, or directly affect community vulnerability to disasters;

The OEM Advisory Committee should agree to commit to:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of the high priority, low/no-cost

Recommended Actions;

- Maintain vigilant monitoring of multi-objective cost-share opportunities to assist the community in implementing the Recommended Actions of this plan for which no current funding or support exists;
- Status of mitigation projects included in the county's or other local agencies Capital Improvement Program;
- Cancel planned initiatives, and provide the justification for doing so;
- Discuss changes in membership to the Committee;
- Report on progress and recommended changes to the county Board of Commissioners; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

It should be noted that:

1. OEM has the discretion to put forth projects and programs into the County's Capital Improvement Program without action by the OEM Advisory Committee.
2. OEM will request input from other departments and outside entities not represented on the Committee on issues listed above. A special effort will be made to gather information on non-capital projects and programs important to mitigation.
3. OEM will make "minor" changes to the Plan to enhance the viability of implementation priorities.
4. "Major" changes – those related to new policies or recommended projects - will go through a more formal review process, including a possible review by the OEM Advisory Committee.

To allow for on-going public input, OEM, in conjunction with the MPC, will post the plan permanently on the Emergency Management website along with contact information that will encourage people to submit questions or comments.

Plan Review

The OEM Advisory Committee will review the plan annually and within 30 days of an event that elicits a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Additionally, materials will be disseminated as needs and issues arise. The Plan will be fully updated and submitted for approval every 5 years.

The Annual Review

The annual review will determine if there has been any significant change in the community that affects the Plan. If it is determined that significant changes have occurred, the plan will be amended in order to remain current. Issues that may be address during the review include:

1. Progress made on plan recommendations during the previous 12 months
2. Are new or different hazard profiles, mitigation needs, goals, objectives and action tasks needed?
3. Are there any implementation problems?
4. Not enough funding?
5. Conflicts with other goals?
6. Is it achieving the desired result?
7. Do we have new information that should be incorporated?
8. Does the prioritization of tasks/goals reflect current priorities?
9. Is there lessened vulnerability as a result of implementing Recommended Actions?
10. Is there increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions?
11. Is there increased vulnerability because of new development?
12. Mitigation accomplishments in projects, programs and policies.
13. Status of mitigation projects included on the County's Capital Improvement Program.
14. Cancellation of planned initiatives, and the justification for doing so.

Following a Major Disaster

Within 30 days of a major disaster warranting a Presidential Disaster Declaration, and as determined necessary for a smaller event, OEM will convene the Advisory Committee for a special meeting. This meeting may be followed by additional special meetings over time because recovery is a long process and the full impact of a disaster may not be known for many months.

The annual update process described above will also be used following a major disaster. However, post-disaster deliberations will also consider the following:

- “Lessons Learned” from the disaster, and what new initiatives should be added to the plan to help reduce the likelihood of similar damage in the future
- Follow-up needed on items relevant to mitigation from any After Action reports produced by the Office of Emergency Management.
- Integration of mitigation into the recovery process

5-Year Update

Every five years, the plan will be re-submitted for adoption to Board of Commissioners, the Michigan State Police, and FEMA. Prior to this, OEM will use the following process to make sure that all relevant parties are involved:

1. Follow the annual and event reviews above.
2. Incorporate all relevant issues raised via the forums identified.
3. The public participation portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan will guide public involvement for the annual, event, and 5 year reviews.
4. Integrate relevant feedback and circulate revised plan to the OEM Advisory Committee.
5. Integrate recommendations into the Plan.
6. Submit Plan to Board of Commissioners for adoption by resolution.
7. Submit revised Plan to FEMA via the Michigan State Police.