

SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to develop the Plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the Plan met the requirements of the DMA 2000, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following two goals:

1. The Plan will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural hazards facing Greene County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. Greene County invited all municipalities in the county to join with them in the preparation of a Greene County Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Greene County, its jurisdictions, and two special purpose districts are participating in the Plan. One special purpose district, the Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. is a plan participant, while the other, Batavia Kill Water District, is participating by proxy to Greene County and has included its mitigation actions in the County annex.

Table 3-1. Participating Green County Jurisdictions

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Town of Ashland | Town of Lexington |
| Town of Athens | Town of New Baltimore |
| Town of Cairo | Town of Prattsville |
| Town of Catskill | Town of Windham |
| Town of Coxsackie | Village of Athens |
| Town of Durham | Village of Catskill |
| Town of Greenville | Village of Coxsackie |
| Town of Halcott | Village of Hunter |
| Town of Hunter | Village of Tannersville |
| Town of Jewett | Assoc. of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. |

2. The Plan will be developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and FEMA and NYSEMO guidance. Following this process will ensure all the requirements are met and support Plan review.

The County's HMP was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout plan development, a concerted effort was made to gather information from participating municipal and county agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The Planning Committee 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 natural hazard mitigation strategies identified in this plan have been developed through an extensive planning process involving county and local agencies, municipal officials and staff, and the citizens of the County.

This section of the Plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Planning Committee involvement and efforts; (2) municipal and local involvement; (3) stakeholder and public involvement; and (4) integration of existing data, plans, and information.

PLANNING COMMITTEE AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT

Many parties supported preparation of this Plan; the Planning Committee and other stakeholders involved in the process are presented below.

STEERING COMMITTEE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT AND EFFORTS

In May 2003, Greene County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee reported the results of a hazard analysis using the automated program, HAZNY (Hazards New York) (Appendix J).

On October 28, 2006, the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District applied for funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) (FEMA-1650-DR-NY) to aid in the development of an HMP. NYSEMO awarded the County an Hazard Mitigation Grant Program grant on March 1, 2007. On November 20, 2007 the County Legislature by Resolution 403-07 authorized acceptance of the grant and issuance of an RFP for consultant services associated with plan development.

On January 3, 2008, a committee comprised of representatives from the Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning, NYDEP, and the Greene County Soil and Water District convened to interview prospective consultants to prepare the plan. Through an open bid process, the City selected a contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech, Inc. - Rockaway, NJ). A contract between Tetra Tech and the City was executed on April 9, 2009. Specifically Tetra Tech, the “contract consultant”, was tasked with:

- Assisting with the development of a Planning Committee
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Data collection
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (planning committee, stakeholder, public and other)
- Identification of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment
- Assistance with the development of mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring of the Draft and Final Plan documents

After selection of the consultant (Tetra Tech authorized by Resolution 20-08 on January 16, 2008), a group of municipal representatives, stakeholders, and residents were selected to serve on the Planning Committee. Members of the Planning Committee, with support from municipal staff, outside agencies, and the consultant, identified and profiled hazards; determined hazard rankings; estimated potential exposure or losses; evaluated development trends; and developed appropriate mitigation strategies, goals, and actions. A Steering Committee was formed to guide the Greene County Planning Committee through the process to result in a plan that could be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. The Steering Committee was organized according to the Planning Committee Ground Rules which were approved by the committee and which outline committee hierarchy, decision-making, courtesy, procedures, and quorum requirements and which designates Mr. Warren Hart and Mr. Ed Diamante as co-chairmen. The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all partners and the various interest groups in the planning area. The makeup of this committee was selected to provide the best possible cross section of views to enhance the planning effort and to help build support for hazard mitigation.

The Steering Committee was also charged with the following:

- Establish Plan development goals and objectives;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the Plan;
- Ensure that the Plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and NYSEMO guidance;
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the Plan development process;
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the Plan, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Organize and oversee the public involvement process;
- Identify hazard events and losses within their jurisdiction;
- Rank their jurisdiction's risk to the hazards of concern identified for this Plan;
- Develop a capability assessment for their jurisdiction;
- Identify and prioritize local mitigation actions; and,
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain the Plan.

On August 27, 2008, the Steering Committee met for the first time and continued to meet throughout the year. Table 3-2 shows the current members of the Steering Committee, at the time of this draft Plan's publication.

Table 3-2. Steering Committee Members

| Name | Title | Organization |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| John Farrell, Jr. | Director, Emergency Services/ Co-chair | Greene County Emergency Services |
| Jeff Flack | Executive Director | Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) |
| Dave Burns | Associate Project Manager | NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) |
| Gary Harvey | Superintendent | Greene County Highway Department |
| Warren Hart, AICP* | Director/Co-chair | Greene County Dept. Of Planning and Economic Development (GCDPED) |
| Ed Diamante* | Principal Planner | Greene County Dept. Of Planning and Economic Development (GCDPED) |
| Nathaniel Hendricks | Environmental Engineering Specialist | Catskill Watershed Corporation |
| James Hitchcock | Representative | Greene County Legislator |
| Renee Van Schaak | Representative | Land Trust |
| William B. Lawrence | Representative | Greene County Legislator |
| Tracy McNally | | Greene County Chamber of Commerce |
| Larry Delameter | | American Red Cross |
| Eric P. Rasmussen (Rick) | | Resort Owners/Small Business Rep. |
| Kerry Miller | | Greene County Public Health |
| Kent Destefanis | Resident Engineer | NYDOT |
| Donna Bernard | | Citizen |

* Co-chair of steering and planning committees

The Planning Committee is comprised of the Steering Committee noted above in addition to representatives from the participating jurisdictions as noted in the following table.

Table 3-3. Planning Committee Members

| Organization | Name | Title |
|---|---|--|
| Town of Ashland | Richard E. Tompkins, Erik Allan | Supervisor, Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Athens | Albert Salvino, Gene Hatton | Supervisor, Councilperson |
| Town of Cairo | John Coyne, Rich Lorenz, Steven Rumph | Supervisor, Town Board Member, Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Catskill | Peter Markou, Alfred Beers | Supervisor, Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Coxsackie | Alexander Betke, Donald Daoust, Michael Tighe | Supervisor, Councilperson/Deputy Supervisor, Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Durham | Gary Hubert, Alan Beechert | Town Supervisor, Deputy Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Greenville | Kevin Lewis, Richard Hempstead | Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Halcott | Innes Kasanof, Alan Reynolds | Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor |
| Town of Hunter | Dennis Lucas Sr, Lara Hamrah Susan Graham, Dolph Semenza | Town Supervisor, Secretary to the Supervisor/Budget & Finance Officer, Town Rep for AHMP, Councilman |
| Town of Jewett | Michael Flaherty, Donna Bernard | Supervisor, Rep of AMHP |
| Town of Lexington | Dixie Baldrey Keith Mellot,, Paul Dwon | Supervisor, Councilman, Fire Chief |
| Town of New Baltimore | David M. Louis Christopher Norris, Alan Van Wormer | Supervisor, Councilman, Deputy Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Prattsville | Kory O'Hara, Thomas Olson, Bill Sutton | Supervisor, Rep for AHMP, Highway Superintendent |
| Town of Windham | T. Patrick Meehan Jr. | Supervisor |
| Village of Athens | Andrea Smallwood, John R. Greco, Dennis Proper, Herman Reinhold | Mayor, Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent, Trustee |
| Village of Catskill | Lewis O'Connor, Vincent Seeley, Floyd Prince | DPW Superintendent, President, Fire Chief |
| Village of Coxsackie | Mark Evans | Mayor |
| Village of Hunter | William Maley, Gary Goodrich, Alan Higgins | Mayor, Fire Chief, Fire Co., President/Fire Co., Village Trustee |
| Village of Tannersville | Lee McGunnigle, Gregory Landers | Mayor, Trustee/Deputy Mayor |
| Greene County Emergency Services | John Farrell | Director, Emergency Services/Co-chair |
| Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) | Jeff Flack | Executive Director |
| NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) | Dave Burns | Associate Project Manager |
| Greene County Highway Department | Gary Harvey | Superintendent |
| Greene County Dept. Of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning | Warren Hart, AICP | Director/Co-chair |

| Organization | Name | Title |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Greene County Dept. Of Economic Development, Tourism and Planning | Ed Diamante | Principal Planner |
| Catskill Watershed Corporation | Nathaniel Hendricks | Environmental Engineering Specialist |
| Greene County Legislature | James Hitchcock | Legislator |
| Greene County Legislature | William B. Lawrence | Legislator |
| Greene County Chamber of Commerce | Tracy McNally | Director |
| Greene Land Trust | Rene Van Schaack | Representative |
| American Red Cross | Larry Delameter | - |
| Resort Owners/Small Business Rep. | Eric P. Rasmussen (Rick) | - |
| Greene County Public Health | Kerry Miller | - |
| NY DOT | Kent Destefanis | Regional Emergency Management Coordinator |
| Citizen | Donna Bernard | - |
| Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. | Laurel Mann | Project Manager |

Members of the Planning Committee (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; identify critical facilities; assist in developing mitigation goals, objectives and actions; and provide continuity through the plan development process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated into the Plan. Each member of the Planning Committee reviewed the Plan, supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

In addition to Planning Committee members, members of local government (i.e., Town Supervisors, Mayors, etc.) and members of the media were invited to pertinent Planning Committee meetings via Greene County memorandums. Municipal Councilpersons, Mayor, and Supervisors often accompanied their jurisdiction's point of contact to meetings to learn more about the progress of the Plan. During Planning Committee meetings, the group gathered and shared information, identified hazards, assessed risks, identified critical facilities, assisted in developing mitigation actions, and provided continuity through the plan development process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and mitigation strategies were also incorporated into the Plan.

In addition to Planning Committee meetings, there was a great deal of communication between Planning Committee members through electronic mail (email) or by phone, which helped to maintain communication between meetings. The consultant established a secure, collaborative website for the sharing of information and data amongst the Planning Committee. The County and local planning participants, NYSEMO, and stakeholders have also been provided with access. This site was designed to facilitate the sharing of data and information, post notices, and helped maintain communication between meetings. Each member of the Planning Committee had the opportunity to review the Plan posted on the collaborative website, support interaction with other stakeholders and assist with public involvement efforts.

After completion of the Plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become 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 5 year mitigation plan updates (Section 7).

Table 3-4 presents a summary of Planning Committee efforts implemented during the development process for this HMP. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy.

Table 3-4. Summary of Planning Committee Efforts

| Date | Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement | Key Outcomes/Participants |
|-----------|--|---|
| 7-19-07 | SEMO information meeting/2 | Richard Minogue, NYSEMO; Roberto Olazagasti, NYSEMO; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning |
| 11-2-07 | SEMO grant information meeting/2 | Nadine E. Macura, NYSEMO Regional Planner; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning |
| 1-3-08 | AHMP consultant interviews/2 | Consultants, Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; David Burns, NYC Department of Environmental Protection |
| 1-23-08 | Project Administration Meeting/2 | Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, David Burns, NYC Department of Environmental Protection; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech |
| 4-16-08 | Project Administration Meeting/2 | John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Karen Whitbeck, Greene County Emergency Services; Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech; Kristin Tallamy, Tetra Tech |
| 4-16-2008 | ACOE reconnaissance-level report input and discussion/2 | USACE – Flooding Informational Meeting – Karen Ashton, USACE; Jason Shea, USACE; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; Joel DuBois, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; Karen Whitbeck, Greene County Emergency Services; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Cynthia Bianco and Kristin Tallamy, Tetra Tech |
| 5-20-08 | Kick-Off Public Meeting Planning Committee Meeting/2, 3a | Kick-Off Meeting – Participating Jurisdictions and Key Stakeholders – Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Rich Minogue, NYSEMO; John Fishbein, NYSEMO; Kent DeStefanis, NYS DOT; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; Marie Ostoyich, Greene County Public Health; Gary Harvey, Greene County Highway; Karen Whitbeck, Greene County Emergency Services; Rene Van Schaack, Greene IDA/Greene Land Trust; Larry DeLaMater, American Red Cross; Jim Hitchcock, County Legislator; Erik Allan, T of Ashland; Albert Salvino, T of Athens; Randy Van Valkenberg, Athens Fire Dept.; Herman Reinhold, V of Athens; Steven Rumph, T of Cairo; Peter Markou, T of Catskill; Alfred Beers, T of Catskill Highway; Harry Sacco, T of Catskill Highway; Floyd Prince Jr., Chief Catskill Fire Dept.; Dave Darling, V of Catskill; Lewis O'Connor, V of Catskill; Donald Daoust, T of Cocksackie; Michael Tighe, T of Cocksackie; James Ravenscroft, V of Cocksackie; Alan Beechart, T of Durham; Kevin Lewis, T of Greenville; Innes Kasanof, T of Halcott; John Farrell T of Hunter; Susan Graham, T of Hunter; Gary Goodrich, V of Hunter; William Maley, V of Hunter; Lee McGunnigle, V of Tannersville; Mike Flaherty, T of Jewett; Keith Mellott, T of Lexington; Chris Norris, T of New Baltimore; Alan Van Wormer, T of New Baltimore; Steve Haight, T of Prattsville; Tom Olson, T of Prattsville; Thomas Hoyt, T of Windham; Donna Bernard, Citizen Representative; Loris Alix, M G Fire Co.; Don Berkhofer, M G Fire Co. |

| Date | Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement | Key Outcomes/Participants |
|----------|---|--|
| 8-27-08 | Steering Committee Meeting/2, 3b, | Steering Committee Meeting - Adoption of Mission Statement, Goals, and Hazards of Concern – Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; David Burns, NYC DEP; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Marie Ostoyich, Public Health; Eric P. Rasmussen, Hotel Vienna; Kent Dstenfanis, NYSDOT; Donna Bernard, Citizen; Gary Harvey, Greene County Highway; Kerry Miller Greene County Public Health; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech. |
| 8-27-08 | Public Meeting Stakeholders Meeting/2 | Stakeholders Meeting – Introduction and explanation of Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Stephanie Weatherly, Home Sweet Home of Athens, Inc.; Gloria Smith, Home Sweet Home on the Hudson; Craig Hansen, Questar III BOCES; Chris Pfister, Village of Athens; Laurel Mann, APO of Sleepy Hollow Lake; Alan Beechert, Town of Durham; Simon Williams, Hunter Tannersville Schools; Patrick Sweeney, Hunter Tannersville Schools; Richard Outtrim, Hunter Tannersville Schools; Rita Landy, Catskill Crossings/The Pins of Catskill; Robert Schrader, Greenville Central School; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech |
| 10-14-08 | Steering Committee Meeting-SWOO, 1b, 1c, 2 | Steering Committee – Jeff Flack, Green County Soil and Water Conservation District; Christopher Norris, Town of New Baltimore, Councilman; Susan Graham, Town of Hunter; Karen Whitbeck, Greene County Emergency Services; Alan Beechert, Town of Durham; Laurel Mann, APO Sleepy Hollow Lake; Erik Allan, Town of Ashland; Dave Burns, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, Associate Project Manager; Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Kerry Miller, Greene County Public Health; Kent Destefanis, NYDOT, Resident Engineer; Donna Bernard, Citizen; Innes Kasanof, Town of Halcott; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech; Jon Raser, Tetra Tech |
| 11-18-08 | Steering Committee Meeting, 1b, 1c, 2, 4a | William Stein, Highway Dept.; John Izzo, NYSDOT; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Karen Whitbeck, Greene County Emergency Services; Laurel Mann, APO Sleepy Hollow Lake; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech |
| 1-6-2009 | Jurisdictional Annex Meeting/ 2, 4a, 4b, 4c | All Hazard Mitigation Jurisdictional Annex Meeting – Keith Mellott, Town of Lexington; Donna Bernard, Town of Jewett; Alan Van Wormer, Town of New Baltimore; Peter Markou, Town of Catskill; Laurel Mann, Sleepy Hollow Lake; Gene Hatton, Town of Athens; Dennis Proper, Village of Athens; Kent DeStefanis, NYSDOT; Alan Beechard, Town of Durham; Bill Sutton, Town of Prattsville; Innes Kasanof, Town of Halcott; Christopher Norris, Town of New Baltimore; Michael Tighe, Michael Tighe Sr., Donald Daoust, Town of Coxsackie; Steven Rumph, Town of Cairo; Alan Higgins, Village of Hunter; Laura Hameth, Town of Hunter; Lee McGunnigle, Village of Tannersville; Kevin Lewis, Town of Greenville; Thomas Hoyt, Town of Windham; Dennis Lucas, Town of Hunter; Erik Allan, Town of Ashland; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services |
| 1-13-09 | Supplementary telecom Annex Meeting/2, 4a, 4b, 4c | John Bull, Mayor, Village of Coxsackie; Louis O'Connor, Superintendent of the Village of Catskill DPW; Mike McGrath, Assistant Superintendent of the Village of Catskill DPW; David Darling, Chief of Police, Village of Catskill |
| 5-18-09 | Public Meeting - County Legislature/2 | Presentation of Plan Status and Timeline to County Legislature, Warren Hart, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning |

| Date | Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement | Key Outcomes/Participants |
|---------|---|---|
| 5-27-09 | Steering Committee Meeting/2,5a, 5b, 5c | Review of Draft Plan Comments and Approval of Draft Plan for Submission for SEMO Courtesy Review - Steering Committee - Ed Diamante, Greene County Economic Development, Tourism and Planning; Jim Hitchcock, Greene County Legislator; Jeff Flack, Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District; John Izzo, NYSDOT; David Burns, NYC DEP; John Farrell, Greene County Emergency Services; Karen Whitbeck, Greene County Emergency Services; Susan Graham, Town of Hunter; Jonathan Raser, Tetra Tech; Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech |
| TBD | Public Meeting/2 | Presentation of Draft Plan to Public |

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

PARTICIPATION MATRIX

Additional information concerning the meeting attendees is provided in the participation matrix which is included on the following pages. This matrix indicates NY State, County, Municipal, and stakeholder personnel participating in the planning process.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN MITIGATION PLANNING

This section presents (1) municipal involvement, (2) state and regional agency involvement, (3) public participation – citizen involvement, and outreach to business, utility, educational, non-profits, and other stakeholders.

On June 30, 2008 a letter was sent to the stakeholders indicated in the following table inviting them to attend a general meeting and participate in the development of the Plan.

Table 3-6. Greene County Stakeholders

| Company/Organization Name | Special Purpose District Name |
|---|------------------------------------|
| New York State Police | Palenville Fire |
| Washington Irving Senior Center | Prattville Fire |
| Community Action of Greene County | Freehold Fire |
| The Army National Guard | Windham Fire |
| Northern Catskill Audubon Society | Greenville Fire |
| Emergent Care | Tannersville Fire |
| Kaaterskill Care | East Jewett Fire |
| The Pines | Haines Falls Fire |
| CSX | Hensonville Fire |
| Greene County Chamber of Commerce | West Athens-Limestreet |
| UMC Daycare & School Aged Programs | Coxsackie-Athens School District |
| The Pavillion Senior Residence | Cairo Fire |
| Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow | Earlton Fire |
| Heart of Catskill - Linda Overbaugh | East Durham Fire |
| Home Sweet Home on the Hudson | Leeds Fire |
| Honey Tree Day Care | Cairo Durham Central Sally Sharkey |
| Headstart Early Childhood Childhood Learning Center | Cairo Durham Central Dan Packard |
| Questar III (BOCES) Craig Hansen | Lexington Fire |
| Questar III (BOCES) James Baldwin | Catskill Central Kate Farrell |
| Central Hudson | Grenville Central Cheryl Dudley |
| National Grid | Athens Fire Dept |
| NYS Electric & Gas | Lanesville Fire |
| | Hunter Fire |

Municipal and Local Involvement

The Planning Committee and/or its members meet and communicate with NYSEMO regularly to obtain mitigation planning information and general guidance on HMP preparation.

State and Regional Agency Involvement

Information regarding hazard identification, risk assessment, and mitigation actions for this plan was also requested and received from the following agencies and organizations:

- FEMA
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

- New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Region 9
- NYSEMO
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

In addition the County reached out to the neighboring counties for input by sending letters requesting review and comments of the draft plan. Letters were sent to the chairman of Columbia County, the Ulster and Schoharie County legislatures, and the Albany and Rensselaer County executives.

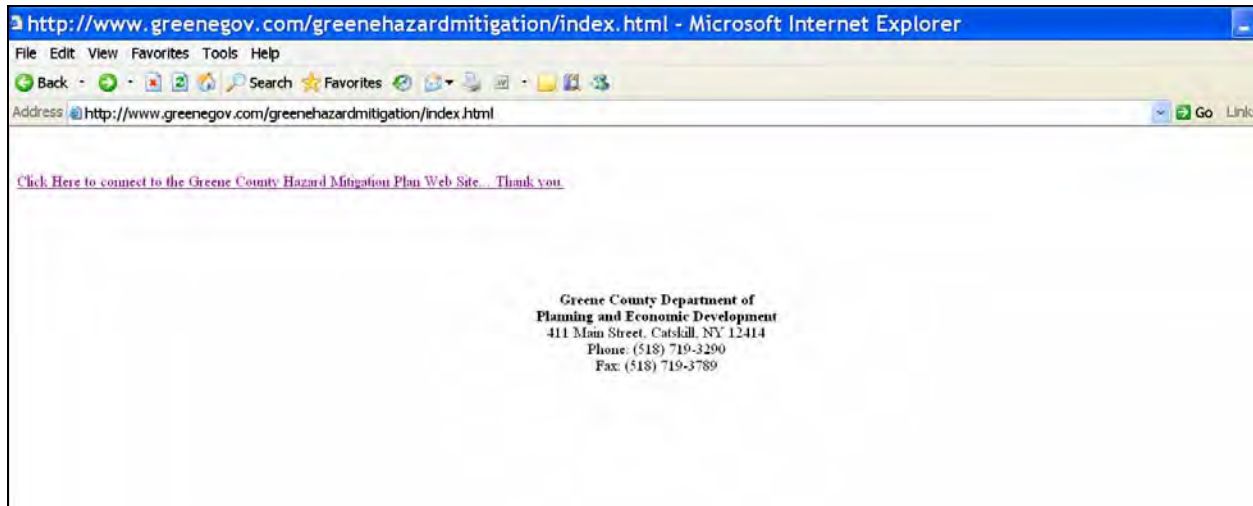
Public Participation - Citizen Involvement

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Committee and citizens and to involve the public in the planning process, it was determined that draft documents will be made available to the public through a variety of venues. The participating partners feel that providing a Plan that is in a printed form (in addition to an on-line format) is valuable because it is familiar, even reassuring, to citizens who have been part of a comprehensive planning process and have suffered losses due to a hazard. Some citizens also may not be comfortable with on-line tools or may not have internet access. The participating partners also feel 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 Planning Committee has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:

- The public was informed of the hazard mitigation planning effort commencement at the kick-off meeting, and through press releases, new articles, and public service announcements. To inform the public of the ongoing Plan effort, updates regarding the mitigation planning process have been made at County Legislature meetings, including a Government Operations meeting on January 14, 2008 regarding consultant selection, and a formal presentation at the May 18, 2009 meeting.
- A public website is being maintained as another way to facilitate communication between the Planning Committee and County residents (<http://www.greenegov.com/hazmit.htm>). The public website contains a project overview, Planning Committee contact information, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment. See Figures 3-1 and 3-2 for screenshots of this public website.
- A public meeting to present the draft plan and elicit further public input is planned once the draft document has been submitted to SEMO for courtesy review.
- The public has been informed of the mitigation planning process through media coverage and articles appearing throughout the planning process. Copies of these articles may be found in Appendix C.
- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Committee and citizens and involve the public in the planning process, the Plan will be available to the public through a variety of venues. A printed version of the Plan will be maintained at Greene County Emergency Services Office.

Figure 3-1. Screenshot of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Link on the Greene County Government Website



Source: <http://www.greenegov.com/greenehazardmitigation/index.html>.

Figure 3-2. Screenshot of the Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Website



Source: <http://www.greenegov.com/hazmit.htm>.

Specific comments and input received from the public and stakeholders are presented in Appendix C.

The community will have an opportunity to comment on the draft HMP that will be submitted to NYSEMO/FEMA. The HMP will be posted on the public website for review and will be available at the Greene County Emergency Services Office.

COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS

Local municipalities are charged with the development of local HMPs required under Section 322 of the Stafford Act by New York. Therefore, the Planning Committee coordinated the development of this HMP. In New York, Article 2B Section 23 of State Executive Law authorizes local communities to prepare local disaster plans based on the contention that local municipalities are best equipped to assess their strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints. Local governments have intimate knowledge of the local geography, and in a disaster, local government personnel are on the front lines providing personnel and equipment to support the community. Greene County and the participating jurisdictions are involved in this above program, hence the development of this Plan.

Examples of other hazard mitigation programs in which County is involved with are the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). These programs assist the County in receiving funding for flood mitigation projects and flood insurance (the HMGP also can provide funds to mitigate other natural hazards). Data from the County, based on participation in these programs, was incorporated in the risk assessment in Section 5 and used to identify mitigation options in Section 9. Continued involvement in these flood-related programs will help to administer funds and resources to support this HMP.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Participation in FEMA 404 HMGP may cover mitigation activities including raising, removing, relocating or replacing structures within flood hazard areas.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Established in 1968, the NFIP provides federally-backed flood insurance to residents of communities that enact and enforce regulations that more carefully regulate development within floodplain areas. For individual property owners to be eligible to buy the federally-backed flood insurance, their property must be located within a community that participates in NFIP.

For a community to be eligible in NFIP, it must adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to regulate proposed development in floodplains and officially designate a local floodplain coordinator/administrator. The intent of the program is to ensure that new construction does not exacerbate existing flood hazards and is designed to better withstand flooding. All jurisdictions in Greene County participate in the NFIP. The communities also have Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) that at a minimum show floodways, 100-year flood zones, and 500-year flood zones. Mitigation activities related to this program are included in Section 9 and data from FEMA Region II regarding NFIP Insurance Reports was used in the risk assessment for the flood hazard included in Section 5.

Each municipality in the county has a local floodplain manager. All floodplain managers have been informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the Plan. Table 3-7 summarizes the designated Floodplain Administrators for each jurisdiction.

Table 3-7. Greene County Floodplain Administrators

| Organization | Name | Title |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Ashland, Town of | Tom Cross | Building Inspector |
| Athens, Town of | George Holsopple | CEO |
| Athens, Village of | Michael Ragaini | Code Enforcement Officer |
| Cairo, Town of | John M. Coyne | Supervisor |
| Catskill, Town of | Linda Speckman | Building Inspector |
| Catskill, Village of | Michael Ragaini | C.E.O. |
| Coxsackie, Town of | Ed Pebler | Building Inspector |
| Coxsackie, Village of | Mark Evans | Mayor |
| Durham, Town of | Lawrence Cooke | Code Enforcement Officer |
| Greenville, Town of | William Silk | C.E.O. |
| Halcott, Town of | Karl Von Hassel | C.E.O. |
| Hunter, Town of | Keith Griffin | C.E.O. |
| Hunter, Village of | Dominick Canopneso | Building Inspector |
| Jewett, Town of | Tom Cross | Building Inspector |
| Lexington, Town of | James S Boyle | Building Inspector |
| New Baltimore, Town of | David Louis | Supervisor |
| Prattsville, Town of | Kenneth Nolte | Building Inspector |
| Tannersville, Village of | Dominick Caropreso | Building Inspector |
| Windham, Town of | T Patrick Meehan Jr | Supervisor |

Source: New York State DEC (W. Nechemann) and Greene County Department of Planning and Development

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

The NFIP has been successful in protecting property owners who acquire flood insurance through the program from catastrophic financial losses due to flooding, and in requiring that new buildings constructed within 100-year flood plains are better protected from flood damage.

In the 1990s, the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) established the CRS to encourage local governments to increase their standards for floodplain development. The goal of this program is to encourage communities, through flood insurance rate adjustments, to implement standards above and beyond the minimum required in order to:

- Reduce losses from floods
- Facilitate accurate insurance ratings
- Promote public awareness of the availability of flood insurance

CRS is a voluntary program designed to reward participating jurisdictions for their efforts to create more disaster-resistant communities using the principles of sustainable development and management. While not currently participating in the program, by enrolling in CRS, county municipalities can leverage greater flood protection while receiving flood insurance discounts. Active involvement in this program is included as a mitigation activity in Section 9.

INTEGRATION OF EXISTING DATA AND PLANS INTO MITIGATION PLAN

The mitigation plan integrates local and federal data as discussed below.

LOCAL DATA

The Planning Committee reviewed and incorporated existing data and plans to support the mitigation plan. A number of electronic and hard copy documents were made available to support the planning process. A complete listing is included below.

- Greene County Geographic Information System (GIS) data
- Documentation of past mitigation actions and grant applications
- Historic maps and local inventory data
- Greene County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Greene County New York Economic Development Strategic Plan

Cross-referencing this Plan with documents like those has been included in Section 9 as mitigation activities.

FEDERAL AND STATE DATA

Federal and State data was collected and used throughout the mitigation process including:

- US Census data
- HAZUS-MH provided data
- FEMA “How To” Series (386-1 to 386-4, and 386-7)
- Public laws and other programs such as the NFIP were examined to complete this Plan.

A complete list of the existing data and plans used to support this HMP is included in the references section of this document. By incorporating data from existing programs into this mitigation plan, the County also was able to identify the relevance of mitigation planning to these existing programs. Implementation of this Plan through these existing plans is identified as a specific mitigation action in several areas in Section 9 of this Plan.

REVIEW OF EXISTING REPORTS AND PLANS

A summary of the reports and plans provided by Greene County and reviewed in the preparation of this plan is included in the following Record of Review Matrix.

Table 3-8. Record Review (Municipalities) - Record of the review of existing programs, policies, and technical documents for participating jurisdictions (all)

| Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents | Countywide | Ashland (T) | Athens (T) | Athens (V) | Cairo (T) | Catskill (T) | Catskill (V) | Coxsackie (T) | Coxsackie (V) | Durham (T) | Greenville (T) | Halcott (T) | Hunter (T) | Hunter (V) | Jewett (T) | Lexington (T) | New Baltimore (T) | Prattsville (T) | Tannersville (V) | Windham (T) |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| Athens, Town and Village of , Comprehensive Plan, July 31, 2007 | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Batavia Kill Stream Corridor Management Pilot Project, Date Unknown | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Batavia Kill Stream Management Plan, January 2003 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Broad Street Hollow Stream Management Plan, June 2003 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Cairo, Town of, Comprehensive Plan | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Catskill, Town and Village of, Joint Comprehensive Plan, 6/12/07 | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coxsackie, Town and Village of, Demonstration Project Report Lanesville Stream Stabilization Project, Town of Hunter, Greene County, NY, December 2003 | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |
| Durham, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, 4/1/2008 | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| East Kill Stream Management Plan, April 2007 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Emergency Action Plan for the Potic Reservoir Dam, July 2002 | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emergency Response Plan for the Village of Catskill Water Supply | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FEMA, Flood Insurance Study, May 16, 2008 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FEMA, Flood Insurance Study, May 16, 2008 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan, July 2007 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Comprehensive EMP, 2007 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Data Book, 2001 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Department of Emergency Service. Greene County Summary Report DR-1650 – NYS Flood June 30, 2006 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Department of Emergency Service. Progress Report: Greene DR-1589 – Flooding April 19, 2005 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Department of Emergency Service. Storm Damage Totals for DR-1692: 4/16/07- Individual Assistance | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents | Countywide | Ashland (T) | Athens (T) | Athens (V) | Cairo (T) | Catskill (T) | Catskill (V) | Coxsackie (T) | Coxsackie (V) | Durham (T) | Greenville (T) | Halcott (T) | Hunter (T) | Hunter (V) | Jewett (T) | Lexington (T) | New Baltimore (T) | Prattsville (T) | Tannersville (V) | Windham (T) |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| Greene County Department of Emergency Service. Storm Damage Totals for DR-1692: 4/16/07- Public Assistance | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County Flood Prone Areas Map (Outdated) | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greene County's Hidden Population, August 1990 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greenville, Town of , 2009 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix and Community Plan | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| Halcott, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, 12/10/2003 | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| Hunter, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, 2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Hunter, Village of, Comprehensive and Revitalization Plan, 8/2002 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Lexington, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, August 26, 2003 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Melodywood Flood Mitigation Project, Date Unknown | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ |
| New Baltimore, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, February 9, 2007 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Prattsville, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, June, 2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Schoharie Creek Stream Management Plan, April 2007 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Stony Clove Stream Management Plan, February 2004 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Tannersville, Master Plan, 2004 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Village of Catskill Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| West Kill Stream Management Plan, December 2005 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Windham, Town of, Comprehensive Plan, July 25, 2000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |

Note (s):

NA = the jurisdiction does not have this program/policy/technical document

0 = the jurisdiction has the program/policy/technical document, but did not review/incorporate it into the multi-hazard mitigation plan

✓ = the Hazard Mitigation Plan consultant reviewed the program/policy/technical document

* = this document may or may not include all jurisdictions

T = Town; V = Village

EMP = Emergency Management Plan



CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Greene County is committed to the continued involvement of the public. Therefore, copies of the Plan will be made available for review during normal business hours at the Emergency Services Office.

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 (<http://www.greenegov.com/hazmit.htm>).

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 5-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Mr. John Farrell of Greene County Emergency Services) 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.