

# Hardin and Pope Counties Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee Meeting #1

9 to 11am October 24, 2023

RoseClare Craft Mall at 312 Main Street, Rosiclare

## I. Introduction

- The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission (SIRP&DC) is the lead entity.
- SWCA Environmental Consultants is the consultant leading the planning effort.
- There were more than 10 participants in the meeting with representation from Hardin County, Hardin County School District, City of Rosiclare, Pope County, Hardin County General Hospital, Rides Mass Transit, Southern 7 Health Department, and Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission. See the sign-in sheet at the end of this document.

## II. Plan Development Process and Overview

- Successful natural hazard mitigation planning and implementation lessens the impact of natural disasters; therefore, it lessens emergency response time, speeds recovery, and creates better prepared more resilient communities.
- Hazard mitigation planning also reduces the impacts from natural disasters by supporting protection and prevention activities.
- In Illinois, there is a State Hazard Mitigation Plan (State HMP) and a variety of local plans, all of which are on a five-year approval cycle.
  - The State of Illinois Hazard Mitigation Plan was just updated in October 2023.
  - There are 68 counties in Illinois with approved hazard mitigation plans, including all of the counties that surround Hardin and Pope counties.
- The proposed format of Hardin and Pope Counties Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) includes sections on the planning process, hazard identification, risk assessment, mitigation strategy, and plan maintenance procedures.
  - Each of these sections are required to comply with the federal requirements outlined by FEMA.
- The planning process is expected to last through January 2025, a full schedule is located in the PowerPoint.
- Federal requirements for local hazard mitigation plans are found in 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 201.6. Both Hardin County and Pope County must meet each federal requirement.
- New FEMA Guidance for local hazard mitigation plans went into effect in April 2023 and requires information on potential climate change impacts on for each hazard type, requires the planning process to engage socially vulnerable populations, analyze how hazards may impact socially vulnerable populations, and the optional inclusion of compliance with High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) requirements.
  - Committee members are not expected to read the guidance document, but it is important to understand that this is where the requirements for the MHMP come from.
  - Illinois has not yet established a HHPD prioritization listing and therefore the local communities are not yet able to apply for this funding source. When the MHMP is updated, the Committee can reconsider if they want to include compliance for HHPD.

## III. Roles and Responsibilities

- Committee Members
  - One primary Committee member for each jurisdiction will coordinate input and feedback from the community. They will provide guidance to other contacts from the community as to what tasks need to be accomplished and the deadlines.
    - Required for each of the two counties and the five municipalities.
  - Committee members are responsible for attending each of the four Committee meetings, providing reference plans, studies, websites, etc. to be used in the MHMP drafting process;

providing edits and feedback on the MHMP draft, approach, and planning process; and integrating the MHMP concepts into local plans and programs following adoption.

- Subject Matter Experts will be identified by the Planning Team to provide input and feedback on specific topics, provide additional plan references, and integrate MHMP concepts into additional local plans and programs.
- Stakeholders will be identified to represent different perspectives throughout the community. This includes entities that are interested in the MHMP, but not directly involved in the plan drafting process.
  - FEMA requires that the planning process include at least one stakeholder group from the following categories:
    - Neighboring communities
    - Local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities
    - Agencies that have the authority to regulate development
    - Businesses
    - Academia
    - Other private and non-profit interests
    - Federal partners
- Members of the public will provide input based on local knowledge and community interests and respond to the draft MHMP.

#### **IV. Community Involvement Process**

- Stakeholders may be helpful in assisting with community engagement efforts including facilitating meetings with local community members, coordination with existing events, and similar.
- An initial press release will be published in November to announce the planning process and work to be completed.
- As the planning process progresses, informational kiosks will be placed in each county.
  - The kiosks will include an overview of the MHMP, dates for open house events, and a feedback survey.
  - Feedback forms will also be available online for those who cannot visit a kiosk in person.
  - Committee members suggested that kiosks could be set up at locations like Golden Circle Senior Citizens Center locations, post offices, grocery stores, and libraries.
  - SIRP&DC will determine the number of kiosks that they can monitor and identify the locations to be utilized.
- An open house event is targeted for July 2024 to obtain community feedback on the draft plan.
- A press release will be published to announce adoption of the MHMP at local public meetings, which are planned to occur in December 2024.
- The Committee was supportive of the proposed approach to community involvement but also suggested the possibility of an in-person presentation on the MHMP at locations throughout the community (like Golden Circle) in addition to the kiosks.
- Prior to the next Committee meeting, SWCA will draft the Planning Process section of the MHMP, which will outline the proposed approach for engagement. Committee members can then provide specific feedback regarding the approach.

#### **V. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment**

- Hazard identification and risk assessment will be the focus of the next Committee Meeting.
- SWCA will provide a draft of the Hazard Profiles Section prior to the next meeting.
  - Hazard profiles include hazard type, location, magnitude/severity, previous occurrences, and probability.
  - SWCA is using the State HMP, National Weather Service databases, and other online data platforms to determine this information. However, Committee members may have personal experiences and knowledge that can supplement national/state databases.
- Committee Members suggested contacting Christine from the Weather Service out of Paducah, Kentucky as

- a Subject Matter Expert (SME).
- SWCA provided an overview of hazard profiles and the Hazard Screening Tool to aid in identifying the eight hazards the plan will profile.
  - Based on initial research and input from SIRP&DC, the initial hazards that are being considered for inclusion in the MHMP include severe storms (heavy rain, hail, lightning, hail), tornado, flood, severe winter storms, earthquake, wildfire, extreme heat, ground failure (landslide), and dam failure.
  - In response to a Committee member question, SWCA explained that the contract identifies a maximum of eight hazards for the creation of the MHMP. Additional hazards may be added when the MHMP is updated.
- Committee members indicated that
  - levee failure may be more appropriate than dam failure
  - mine subsidence may be more applicable than general ground failure as there have been recent problems with road collapse and damages
  - wildfire may not be applicable
- SWCA explained that if the counties would like to apply for FEMA funding for wildfire mitigation efforts (i.e., defensible spaced or hazardous fuels thinning) the MHMP will need to highlight the associated hazard for the counties to be eligible to receive that funding
- A Committee member requested clarification on whether the decision to include the different hazard types was objective or subjective. SWCA explained that the Committee should base their decision on including different hazard types based on the data presented, their local knowledge, and their experience.
- Consensus was not reached during the meeting on the eight hazards to profile. Committee members will fill-out the Hazard Screening Tool and return by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. SWCA will work with SIRP&DC to synthesize the responses and inform the Committee of the results.

## VI. Reference Materials Requested

- SWCA provided a list of example state, regional, and local reference materials that Committee members will need to provide as a part of their follow-up activities for this meeting.
  - General/Comprehensive Plans
  - Capital Improvement Plans
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
  - Transportation Plans
  - Emergency Operations Plans
  - Utility Plans
  - Regional Resource Plans
- Reference materials can be shared by uploading them to the [SharePoint site](#) or emailed directly to SWCA or SIRP&DC.

## VII. Next Steps

- SWCA will distribute the meeting notes and presentation to the Committee members by October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- SWCA will distribute draft Hazard Profiles and Introductory Sections to Committee members for review prior to Committee Meeting #2.
- SWCA will distribute the updated Committee, SME, and Stakeholder contact lists prior to Committee Meeting #2.
- Committee Meeting #2 will likely occur either December 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> in Golconda.
- Committee member homework:
  - Submit reference materials by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Provide input on additional Committee Members, Subject Matter Experts, and Stakeholders by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Submit Hazard Screening Tool form by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Review draft MHMP sections prior to Committee Meeting #2.