

Chapter 10 - Introduction

Adoption Process

Public Review and Comment

Several avenues have been used to disseminate the draft plan for public review and comment. All meetings of the LEPC were open to the public. During development of this plan a presentation was made to the Alcona County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association. Local officials from all of the townships were present at the meeting. The purpose of this presentation was to describe the hazard mitigation planning process, conclusions and identify possible projects and actions. The draft plan was posted on NEMCOG's web site. A newspaper article and notice informed county residents of the approved draft plan, where it can be reviewed and when the County Board of Commissioners would be considering approval. After the draft plan was approved for review by the LEPC, the plan was transmitted to the Michigan State Police and FEMA for review and comment.

Adoption

County Board of Commissioners
Townships
Cities and Villages

After completion of the review process, the Alcona County LEPC recommended the plan be adopted by the Alcona County Board of Commissioners and all local municipalities in Alcona County.

Community Capabilities

The City of Harrisville, Village of Lincoln and all townships (Alcona, Caledonia, Curtis, Greenbush, Gustin, Harrisville, Hawes, Haynes, Mikado, Millen and Mitchell) have exercised their authority under state statutes to administer their own planning and zoning. Those communities have a zoning administrator, planning commission and zoning board of appeals that administers its zoning. The Township Board is the governing body responsible for managing finances and making policy decisions. Townships do not have staff, but rely on elected officials to conduct township business. All townships provide fire and rescue services either on their own or under a cooperative arrangement. The City of Harrisville and Village of Lincoln have departments of public works, and fire departments.

Alcona County has an office of emergency services. The County operates a countywide 911 system. The Alcona County Sheriff Department operates under the county board of commissioners. Alcona County has an appointed drain commissioner who works with communities and landowners on drainage and flooding issues. The County Road Commission manages the local road network in conjunction with townships. The Michigan Department of Transportation is responsible for State and Federal highways.

The communities have the capability of implementing action items in the plan and will use a combination of staff, elected officials, appointed officials (planning commissions) and contractual services. Given current budget constraints it is not likely communities will be "staffing up" in the near future. Instead they will use contractual and temporary if necessary to complete hazard mitigation strategies.

Plan Implementation

Roles and Responsibilities

The primary entities responsible for implementing the Hazard Mitigation Plan are the Alcona County Board of Commissioners and the Alcona County Emergency Management Coordinator. The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEPC) is organized under Michigan SARA Title III Program and meets on a regular basis to carry out its duties. This plan recommends the committee expand its role to function as the County Hazard Mitigation Committee to oversee implementation of the plan. Roles will need to be defined by the committee but may include establishing an annual work plan, supporting grant writing to seek funding to complete projects, monitoring mitigations activities, evaluating the need for new projects, amending the plan to add new projects and functioning as a clearing house for mitigation grant applications.

It is understood that current resources, both staff and financial, will not accommodate the expanded role of the Alcona LEPC and Alcona Emergency Management Office. The County Board of Commissioners will need to evaluate funding and staffing required to implement the Alcona Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Working partnerships with the following agencies and organizations will strengthen the County's hazard mitigation program.

County Emergency Management Coordinator
County Board of Commissioners
County Sheriff Department
Alcona County Departments
City of Harrisville, Village of Lincoln and the townships in Alcona County
Township, City and Village Fire Departments
Alcona County Conservation District
Alcona County Road Commission
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
U.S. Forest Service
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service
Michigan Department of Agricultural
Natural Resource Conservation Service
District Health Department #2
Huron Pines RC&D
American Red Cross
Insurance Companies
Real Estate Companies
Local Businesses
Civic Groups and Churches
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Michigan State Police

Process for Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating

Monitor – The Alcona County Hazard Mitigation Committee and the Alcona County Emergency Management Coordinator will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Mitigation

Plan. This may include reviewing reports from agencies involved in implementing projects or activities; having a staff person, who is responsible for overseeing the plan, conduct site visits and meetings concerning mitigation project activities; preparing an annual mitigation activity report for the County Board of Commissioners. This will be done during the five year update or more often if deemed necessary.

Evaluate – The Alcona County Hazard Mitigation Committee and the Alcona County Emergency Management Office will be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the plan. This will be done during the five year update or more often if deemed necessary.

The evaluation should assess whether:

- The goals and objectives address current and expected conditions;
- The nature, magnitude and/or type of risks have changed.
- The current resources are appropriate for implementing the plan.
- There are any problems with implementation.
- There have been favorable outcomes
- Agencies and other partners participated as originally expected.

The Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 requires the Alcona County Hazard Mitigation Plan be updated every five years. This may include updating community profiles, examining goals, redoing the hazard analysis and revisiting the project list. *In order to properly update the plan, Alcona County will need to seek funding from appropriate state and federal agencies.* It may be necessary to examine the project each year and as projects are completed and new mitigation projects are identified, the list would be updated. Local units of government, county departments, and local, state and federal agencies will have the ability to propose and sponsor projects from the hazard mitigation plan. Coordinating with the HMC will support plan implementation and allow the committee to monitor progress and determine timing and scope of plan revisions. Any update would require public comment, county approval, local jurisdictional approval if projects are located or proposed in a particular township, and approval by the State of Michigan and FEMA.

Process to Incorporate into Local Planning Activities

Alcona County, city, village and townships, as well as, local and state agencies will consider integrating information from the Hazard Mitigation as their perspective comprehensive and operations plans. Land use planning and zoning is administered at the city, village and township level. As a part of the education and outreach aspect of the hazard mitigation effort, communities will be encouraged to incorporate hazard mitigation planning into their respective comprehensive planning and capital improvements planning and adopt zoning regulations that will minimize effects of hazards.

Ongoing Public Participation

Alcona County is committed to involving the public in the implementing and updating of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Copies of the plan will be available at county libraries, county clerk's office and all township offices. The plan contains the address and phone number of the Emergency Management Office, which will be responsible for keeping a record of public comments on the plan.

Copies of the plan will be posted on a community web site or regional planning agency web site. The web page will contain the mailing address, phone number and email address of the appropriate contact person.

During the update process of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the committee will advertise and facilitate a public meeting to obtain input and guidance from the general public, businesses, townships and agencies. A notice will be posted to advertise any meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Committee where the committee is reviewing and/or updating the mitigation plan.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption Resolution

WHEREAS, Alcona County, Michigan has experienced disasters that have damaged commercial, residential, and public properties, displaced citizens and businesses, closed streets and bridges, and presented general public health and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, Alcona County has prepared a *Hazard Mitigation Plan* that outlines the County's options to reduce overall damage and impact from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, the *Hazard Mitigation Plan* has been reviewed by County residents, business owners, and federal state, and local agencies, and has been revised to reflect their concerns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The *Alcona County Hazard Mitigation Plan* is hereby adopted as an official plan of Alcona County, Michigan.
2. A hazard mitigation planning Committee is hereby established as a permanent county advisory body. The County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) shall function as the Hazard Mitigation Committee. The Committee's duties shall be designated in the *Hazard Mitigation Plan*.
3. The Hazard Mitigation Committee is charged with supervising the implementation of the Plan's recommendations within the funding limitations as provided by the Alcona County Board of Commissioners or other sources.
4. The Hazard Mitigation Committee shall give priority attention to action items recommended by the *Hazard Mitigation Plan* as high priority. The Hazard Mitigation Committee's facilitator shall convene the Hazard Mitigation Committee at least once per year. The Committee shall monitor implementation of the plan and shall submit a written progress report to the County Board of Commissioners in accordance with the following format:
 - a. A review of the original plan.
 - b. A review of any disasters or emergencies that occurred during the previous calendar year.
 - c. A review of the actions taken, including what was accomplished during the previous year.
 - d. A discussion of any implementation problems.
 - e. Recommendations for new projects or revised action items. Such recommendations shall be subject to approval by the County Board of Commissioners.

Passed this _____ day of _____.

Signed by: