

Seneca County, NJ – Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update
Steering Committee Risk Assessment Meeting | Meeting Minutes



Purpose of Meeting:	Steering Committee Risk Assessment Meeting	
Location of Meeting:	Teleconference	
Date of Meeting:	September 12, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M.	
Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seneca County Division of Emergency Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melissa Taylor, Director ○ Toni DiGiovanni, Deputy Director ○ Jeff Case, Fire Coordinator • Seneca County Division of Human Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annie Mahoney, Deputy Commissioner ○ Michael Whirtley, Deputy Commissioner • Seneca County Highway Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roy Gates, Superintendent of Highways • Seneca County Mental Health Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Margaret Morse, Director • Seneca County Soil and Water District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Erin Peruzzini, District Technician ○ Alex McGraw, District Technician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS DHSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scott Feuerstein, Planning Manager ○ Kevin Clapp, Supervisor of Hazard Mitigation Planning ○ John Wilkinson, Environmental Specialist • Tetra Tech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Stokes, Project Manager ○ Emily Vassallo, Lead Planner
Agenda Summary:	The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process, discuss public and stakeholder outreach efforts, review the risk assessment results, including the hazard ranking, and introduce the SWOO exercise to the Planning Partnership.	
Item No.	Description	Action item(s):
1	Introductions	-
2	Project Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Participation Status • Public Outreach and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post links on social media and department/agency websites ○ Stakeholder and neighboring municipalities surveys have been distributed ○ Make efforts to reach out to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Public ▪ Stakeholders ▪ Neighbors 	Planning Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post links on social media and department/agency websites • Make efforts to reach out to public, stakeholders, neighbors, and socially vulnerable populations
3	Risk Assessment Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk is defined as a function of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Source of potential danger or adverse condition ○ Exposure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manmade or natural features that are exposed to the hazard ○ Vulnerability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Damage susceptibility of the exposed features ○ Adaptive Capacity (or capability) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plans/policies ▪ Response/recovery • Financial resources 	-
4	Risk Assessment Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an overview of the results from the risk assessment for each hazard. Results were a combination of qualitative and quantitative data. 	Tt to send critical facilities in the 1% info to Kevin Clapp and Melissa Taylor.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dam Failure ▪ Drought ▪ Earthquake ▪ Extreme Temperature ▪ Flood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Clapp: Do you know at this time how many of the buildings in the 1% annual chance are considered critical facilities? • Jessica Stokes: We have that data in the hazard profile, I can grab it for you and sent it via email. • Erin Peruzzini: This should be reassessed once new FEMA data becomes available. • Jessica Stokes: We won't be able to update it in this plan, but in the next update it absolutely should be utilized. ▪ Landslide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Clapp: did you overlay soil type for the different slopes? • Jessica Stokes: Let me confirm with our GIS Team, but I believe analysis was only performed on the slopes. • Toni Giovanni: Do the salt mines in the area increase the sinkhole probability? And we have natural gas wells. • Jessica Stokes: Abandoned mines can increase the probability due to soil instability and gaps in the soil where water can build up, so if the salt mines are abandoned than absolutely. I can take a deeper look into this and add it into the hazard profile. We'll also conduct additional research on natural gas wells and their potential impacts. • Scott Feuerstein: When looking at landslide, did you look at wildfire zones and how they may impact landslide risk? • Jessica Stokes: We did include a discussion on this in the landslide hazard profile. In particular, how wildfires can cause soil instability and increase the possibility of landslides through degradation. ▪ Severe Weather ▪ Severe Winter Weather 	<p>Tt to confirm whether soil type was overlayed on slope types for landslide hazard.</p> <p>Tt to confirm that salt mines and natural gas wells are being considered in analyses.</p>
5	<p>Hazard Rankings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The calculated probability of a hazard occurring based on historical data • <i>Impacts to <u>people</u>, <u>property</u>, and the <u>economy</u></i> based on GIS data and analysis of exposure. • The degree to which <u>climate change</u> will affect future occurrences based on best available data. • The degree to which existing <u>capabilities</u> (the ability of your community to respond to the hazard based on ordinances, mitigation strategies and procedures, and readiness) decrease overall risk. 	<p>County discusses moving Flood hazard to high due to increasing flood impacts to infrastructure</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High: Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather Medium: Flood, Extreme Temperature, Dam Failure, Earthquake Low: Drought, Landslide 	
6	Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengths – what the County and communities do well; things upon which we can capitalize. Weaknesses – what can be done better; what can be strengthened. Obstacles – what stands in the way to implementation to prevent mitigation or response (for example regulatory, geographical, environmental, financial issues). Opportunities - actions or projects to mitigate issues or improve resilience. 	-
7	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information about the HMP Update via social media, community groups, and networks Complete SWOO and Preliminary Rankings worksheets Attend the Planning Partnership Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Workshop on Thursday, September 19 @ 5:30PM, in-person at the Seneca County Emergency Management (1 DiPronio Drive, Waterloo NY 13165). 	-
8	Questions/Discussion	-