

Seneca County, NY – Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update  
Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Meeting | Meeting Minutes



<b>Purpose of Meeting:</b>	Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Meeting	
<b>Location of Meeting:</b>	Seneca County Emergency Management 1 DiPronio Drive, Waterloo, NY 13165	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	September 19, 2024 @ 5:30 P.M.	
<b>Attendees:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seneca County Office of Emergency Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Melissa Taylor, Director</li> <li>○ Toni DiGiovanni, Deputy Director</li> <li>○ Kristopher Rodger, Public Safety Systems Administrator</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Seneca County Planning Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jill Henry, Director</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Covert (T)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Michael Reynolds, Supervisor</li> <li>○ Susan Frykholm, Town Representative</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Interlaken (V)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rich Richardson, Mayor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Lodi (T)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Luke Latini, Supervisor</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ovid (T)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joe Borst, Supervisor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Tyre (T)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elizabeth Partee, Supervisor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Waterloo (V)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Don Northrup, Administrator</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>NYSDHSES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scott Feuerstein, Hazard Mitigation Unit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Tetra Tech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jessica Stokes, Project Manager</li> <li>○ Emily Vassallo, Lead Planner</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Summary:</b>	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, introduce the SWOO exercise to the Planning Partnership, describe the contains within the mitigation strategy, provide an opportunity for jurisdictions to review their previous mitigation actions, complete outstanding worksheets with assistance from Tetra Tech planners, discuss what makes a good mitigation action, and identify potential 2025 mitigation actions.	
Item No.	Description	Action item(s):
1	<b>Introductions</b>	-
2	<b>Project Status</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review jurisdictions with outstanding worksheets</li> <li>• Public Outreach and Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Post links on social media and department/agency websites</li> <li>○ Stakeholder and neighboring municipalities surveys have been distributed</li> <li>○ Make efforts to reach out to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General Public</li> <li>▪ Stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Neighbors</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Planning Partnership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and submit outstanding worksheets</li> <li>• Post links on social media and department/agency websites</li> <li>• Make efforts to reach out to the public, stakeholders, neighbors, and socially vulnerable populations</li> </ul>
3	<b>Risk Assessment Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk is defined as a function of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Source of potential danger or adverse condition</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Exposure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manmade or natural features that are exposed to the hazard</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Vulnerability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Damage susceptibility of the exposed features</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Adaptive Capacity (or capability) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plans/policies</li> <li>▪ Response/recovery</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	-

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial resources</li> </ul>	
4	<b>Risk Assessment Results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided an overview of the results from the risk assessment for each hazard. Results were a combination of qualitative and quantitative data.</li> </ul>	-
5	<b>Hazard Rankings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The calculated probability of a hazard occurring based on historical data</li> <li><i>Impacts to <u>people</u>, <u>property</u>, and the <u>economy</u></i> based on GIS data and analysis of exposure.</li> <li>The degree to which <i><u>climate change</u></i> will affect future occurrences based on best available data.</li> <li>The degree to which existing <i><u>capabilities</u></i> (the ability of your community to respond to the hazard based on ordinances, mitigation strategies and procedures, and readiness) decrease overall risk.</li> <li>Ranking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High: Severe Winter Weather, Severe Weather, Flood</li> <li>Medium: Extreme Temperature, Dam Failure, Earthquake</li> <li>Low: Drought, Landslide</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	-
6	<b>Identifying and Developing Mitigation Strategies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Mitigation Strategy</b> is the County's roadmap to reduce the risk of hazards identified in the HMP. The strategy is based on hazard impacts, asset vulnerability, and the County's capabilities.</li> <li><b>Mitigation Actions</b> are specific activities, such as policies, projects, and studies, that stakeholders identify to reduce risk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forward-looking and incorporate changing conditions for the life of the County's assets</li> <li>Consider changing demographics, development patterns, impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Examples of actions may include elevating electrical and HVAC equipment to reduce the likelihood of damage from floodwaters or planting trees to lower temperatures exacerbated by pavement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>What is a <b>Mitigation Strategy</b>? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A group of projects or actions to reduce the impacts of the hazards of concern on your community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans and Regulations</li> <li>Structure and Infrastructure Studies and Projects</li> <li>Natural Systems Protection Studies and Projects</li> <li>Education and Awareness Programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Terms to describe the <i><u>Mitigation Strategy</u></i> include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mitigation Action Plan or Action Plan</b></li> <li><b>Mitigation Projects or Initiatives or Actions</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>Need a clear connection between vulnerabilities identified in the risk assessment and proposed mitigation actions.</li> <li>The capability assessment can provide insight into challenges and opportunities for the mitigation strategy.</li> <li>All actions proposed in the mitigation strategy must have a factual basis tied to the results of the risk and capability assessments (<i>this shouldn't be a wish list!</i>)</li> </ul>	-
7	<b>Developing New Potential Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality not quantity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each action needs detailed information on the why, who, what, and when of the action.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	-

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous Projects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a project is not finished and still a priority, include in 2025 HMP</li> <li>Remove general projects or make more specific</li> <li>Remove ongoing capabilities like maintenance or annual outreach</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Each hazard needs at least one mitigation action</b></li> <li>If your jurisdiction has Repetitive Loss Properties - an action is needed to mitigate the properties (elevation or acquisition) with specifics (street or neighborhood names, not specific addresses)</li> <li>Four types of Mitigation Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans and regulations</li> <li>Structure and Infrastructure</li> <li>Natural systems protection</li> <li>Education and awareness</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	
8	<b>2025 Proposed Goals</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect life, property, the environment, and critical infrastructure from hazard impacts.</li> <li>Coordinate hazard mitigation programs and other planning efforts that affect the County.</li> <li>Educate the public, officials, and other stakeholders about the hazards they face and what can be done to mitigate hazard impacts.</li> <li>Enhance mitigation capabilities to reduce hazard vulnerabilities.</li> <li>Support continuity of operations pre-, during, and post-hazard events.</li> <li>Reduce the risk of natural hazards for socially vulnerable populations and underserved communities.</li> <li>Address long-term vulnerabilities from High Hazard Dams.</li> </ol>	
9	<b>Workshop</b>  <i>Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengths – what the County and communities do well; things upon which we can capitalize.</li> <li>Weaknesses – what can be done better; what can be strengthened.</li> <li>Obstacles – what stands in the way to implementation to prevent mitigation or response (for example regulatory, geographical, environmental, financial issues).</li> <li>Opportunities - actions or projects to mitigate issues or improve resilience.</li> </ul> <i>Review Preliminary Rankings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the preliminary rankings on the worksheet. Identify whether the ranking is agreed with or whether it should be changed and why. If your jurisdiction does not face impacts from an identified hazard, please state so.</li> </ul> <i>Review Previous Actions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the mitigation actions your jurisdiction identified in the previous HMP by providing a brief status narrative. Begin by providing the status headings below and then add details (what has been accomplished, what funding was used, anything holding back progress): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IN PROGRESS: Started but not complete</li> <li>ONGOING CAPABILITY: An action you now complete on a regular basis (maintenance, annual outreach, etc.). These actions will be included in your capabilities moving forward.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Planning Partnership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete outstanding worksheets and submit to Emily Vassallo.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NO PROGRESS: Not started</li> <li>○ COMPLETE: Finished!</li> <li>○ Actions that are COMPLETE or ONGOING will not be carried forward.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share information about the HMP Update via social media, community groups, and networks.</li> <li>• Work with Tetra Tech planners to complete annexes and finalize actions.</li> </ul>	-
11	<p><b>Questions/Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Luke Latini</i>: Who has information on dam inspections? We had a failure incident or a near incident and was not sure who to communicate this with. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Jessica Stokes</i>: The dams can be publicly or privately owned, but NYS DEC maintains a list of the dams and dam owners. I will share this spreadsheet with the planning partnership when I send the meeting follow-up materials. We'll include an action in all jurisdictions with a dam, especially if it's a high hazard dam, to maintain lines of communication with the dam owner(s) and NYS DEC.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Susan Frykholm</i>: What is the Building RCV? Is it a requirement to have in the plan? Why is it included? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Jessica Stokes</i>: This is the overall replacement cost value of all the impacted or exposure buildings in the hazard areas.</li> <li>○ <i>Scott Feuerstein</i>: Including the RCV helps in terms of recovery and understanding what costs are needed to replace or fix a damaged structure. The values are good to include in grant applications as well when applicable. The RCV is also important as it can help provide a guide as to where a damage threshold is needed to reach a disaster declaration.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Susan Frykholm</i>: The highway facility in Town is being redone and needs backup power for continuity of operations. Is this something to include in the plan? Would funding be available? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Jessica Stokes</i>: Yes! This is an action we can include in the plan. If specifics are known about the generator capacity, we'd include that information, as it's important to be as detailed as possible with the mitigation actions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Luke Latini</i>: There are harmful algal blooms which occur in both lakes that border the County. Should this be included as a risk in the plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Jessica Stokes</i>: For this plan update, we're noting that HABs are, or can be, a cascading impact from flood events. As you mentioned, agricultural fertilizers and pesticide use from the wineries in the area may increase the amount of nutrients or chemicals which waters then deposit directly, or indirectly, into the lakes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Luke Latini</i>: The flood maps in the County, especially for the Town of Lodi need to be updated. There are areas that flood which are not captured on them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Jessica Stokes</i>: FEMA is currently updating the flood maps in the County. To make sure your issues are being addressed, please reach out to NYS DEC, as they are in contact with FEMA. We'll include an action in all the jurisdictional annexes to maintain communications with NYS DEC and FEMA to ensure the updated flood maps reflect the actual flooding impacts felt in the jurisdiction.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	-