

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING AND THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000**

With the passage of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (Public Law 106-390) on October 10, 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established new criteria for the development of multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans at the state and local level on a pre-disaster basis. Specifically, Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121-5206), enacted by Section 104 of DMA 2000, provided new and revitalized approaches to hazard mitigation planning. This section also emphasized the importance of coordinating state and local hazard mitigation planning and implementation activities and continued the requirement for a state Hazard Mitigation Plan as a condition for receiving federal disaster assistance. In addition, Section 322 allows the amount of funding available through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to be increased for states that demonstrate an increased commitment to comprehensive hazard mitigation planning and implementation through the development of an "enhanced" Hazard Mitigation Plan. Finally, Section 322 authorized the expenditure of up to 7% of the HMGP funds available to each state to be used for the completion of Hazard Mitigation Plans on a pre-disaster basis. Also important is the fact that state and local governments will not be eligible for post-disaster HMGP funds after November 1, 2004, without an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

To implement the new hazard mitigation planning criteria developed under DMA 2000, FEMA published an Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register at 44 CFR Part 201. This Interim Final Rule clearly established the hazard mitigation planning criteria for state and local plans. According to Section 201.1(b) of FEMA's Interim Final Rule, the purpose of hazard mitigation planning is for state, local, and Indian tribal governments to identify the natural hazards that impact them, to identify actions and activities to reduce any losses from those hazards, and to establish a coordinated process to implement the plan, taking advantage of a wide range of resources. FEMA's

Interim Final Rule describes three general types of Hazard Mitigation Plans. These include Standard State Mitigation Plans, Enhanced State Mitigation Plans, and Local Mitigation Plans. Regardless of the type of plan, the hazard mitigation planning process must be open to the public and must provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval. Involving the public in the hazard mitigation planning process allows for the development of a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of disasters, which is essential to the development of an effective plan.

Given the above law, regulations, and policies, the Clinton County Board of Commissioners decided to prepare this multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County's 29 municipalities. The Hazard Mitigation Plan includes documentation of the process that was used to develop the plan, who was involved in the process, and a description of public involvement in the planning process. In accordance with FEMA guidance, the risk assessment part of the plan includes a description of all natural hazards that affect Clinton County and the County's vulnerability to those hazards. Following the risk assessment, a mitigation strategy for reducing the potential losses is also included. The mitigation strategy identifies and analyzes a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions to reduce the effects of each identified hazard. The mitigation strategy also includes an action plan that ranks the identified projects in terms of their priority status, identifies who is responsible for administering the projects, and outlines a schedule for project implementation. Finally, the Hazard Mitigation Plan includes documentation of an established plan maintenance process and proof of plan adoption by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and its municipalities.

Adoption of this plan by Clinton County and its municipalities will not only allow each municipality to be eligible for disaster mitigation grant funds, but also provide each municipality with a thorough understanding of its vulnerability to various hazards and a blueprint for mitigating the damaging effects of those hazards.

## **1.2 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PLAN ADOPTION**

In order for a multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan to be approved, each jurisdiction (municipality) that is included in the plan must have its governing body adopt the plan before submission to the State and FEMA, even when a regional agency (Clinton County Department of Emergency Services – CCDES) has the authority to prepare such a plan on behalf of the respective jurisdictions. As such, Clinton County and its municipalities have formally adopted this Hazard Mitigation Plan. Copies of the county and municipal adoption resolutions are included in the appendices.

## **1.3 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PLANNING PARTICIPATION**

Clinton County's 29 municipalities (see Figure 1-1) were involved throughout the hazard mitigation planning process. Municipal emergency management coordinators were informed about the project at their quarterly training sessions. Municipal officials provided information related to existing codes and ordinances, known hazard areas, the severity of past hazard events, and the location of critical facilities. The municipalities also participated in the identification and ranking of project planning goals (see Section 3). Municipal officials also provided input on the hazard identification and risk assessment and hazard mitigation strategy sections of the plan. Municipal involvement in this hazard mitigation-planning program was further emphasized during review of the draft plan and by adopting the final plan. Refer to Table 1.1 for municipal plan participation.

## **1.4 THE PLANNING PROCESS**

CCDES was responsible for the development and coordination of this Hazard Mitigation Plan. To accomplish this task, CCDES formed a Hazard Mitigation Planning Team comprised of representatives from various departments from within Clinton County Government. The team included representation from the following County

**TABLE 1.1 MUNICIPAL QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPATION**

MUNICIPALITY	QUESTIONNAIRE PARTICIPATION	RESOLUTION ADOPTED	DATE ADOPTED
ALLISON TWP	NO	NA	NA
AVIS BORO	NO	NA	NA
BALD EAGLE TWP	NO	NA	NA
BEECH CREEK BORO	YES	NA	NA
BEECH CREEK TWP	YES	NA	NA
CASTANEA TWP	NO	NA	NA
CHAPMAN TWP	YES	NA	NA
COLEBROOK TWP	NO	NA	NA
CRAWFORD TWP	NO	NA	NA
DUNNSTABLE TWP	NO	NA	NA
EAST KEATING TWP	YES	NA	NA
FLEMINGTON BORO	YES	NA	NA
GALLAGHER TWP	NO	NA	NA
GREENE TWP	YES	NA	NA
GRUGAN TWP	YES	NA	NA
LAMAR TWP	NO	NA	NA
LEIDY TWP	YES	NA	NA
LOCK HAVEN CITY	YES	NA	NA
LOGAN TWP	YES	NA	NA
LOGANTON BORO	YES	NA	NA
MILL HALL BORO	YES	NA	NA
NOYES TWP	YES	NA	NA
PINE CREEK TWP	YES	NA	NA
PORTER TWP	NO	NA	NA
RENOVO BORO	YES	NA	NA
SOUTH RENOVO BORO	NO	NA	NA
WAYNE TWP	NO	NA	NA
WEST KEATING TWP	NO	NA	NA
WOODWARD TWP	YES	NA	NA

Departments; Assessment, Emergency Management, GIS, MIS, and Planning. Additionally, staff from Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc. of Greenbelt, Maryland supported plan development. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team met on a monthly basis and the plan was developed over the course of approximately nine (9) months. Refer to Table 1.2 for meeting dates and attendees.

Efforts were made to solicit both municipal and public input throughout the planning process. A formal presentation was conducted at the Clinton County Association of Township Officials Annual meeting on September 11, 2004 and public notification was also made through presentations at two (2) weekly business meetings of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners on August 25, 2004 and September 22, 2004. The weekly commissioners meetings are advertised and open to the public. In addition to these presentations each of the 29 municipalities were provided with written notification of the process and asked to provide input into the planning process through the completion of a Hazard Mitigation Questionnaire. 16 of 29 or 55% of the municipalities returned the questionnaire as outlined in Table 1.1. This information was utilized in conjunction with a Risk Assessment Matrix to develop and prioritize the specific hazards that are discussed in this Hazard Mitigation Plan. Also, in cases where municipalities have implemented or planned mitigation projects on their own, this information is included in this planning document as well. Public and municipal input returned in the Hazard Mitigation Questionnaire is included in the Appendices.

FIGURE 1-1 – INSERT HERE

**TABLE 1.2 MITIGATION TEAM MEETING DATES**

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>DURATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>MEETING AGENDA</b>
6/24/2004	Greenhorne & O'mara, Rich Klye, Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Jim Leone, Keith Yearick, Joel Kissinger, Suzy Watson	1.5 Hours	Kick off Meeting	See Appendicies
7/1/2004	Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Suzy Watson, Jim Leone, Keith Yearick	1.5 Hours	Organization & Hazard Identification	
7/15/2004	Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Suzy Watson, Jim Leone, Tim Holladay	1.5 Hours	Catagorization of Hazards & Research Assignments	
8/3/2004	Greenhorne & O'mara, Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Jim Leone, Keith Yearick, Tim Holladay, Suzy Watson	1.5 Hours	Review of Hazard Identification and Vunerability Assessment	See Appendicies
9/9/2004	Greenhorne & O'mara, Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Jim Leone, Suzy Watson	2.5 Hours	Review of Completed Risk & Vunerabilty Assessment (Meeting not completed due to EOC activation during Hurrican Francis)	See Appendicies
10/6/2004	Greenhorne & O'mara, Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Chad Savrock		Completed review of Risk & Vunerability Assessment and reviewed Mitigation Goals	See Appendicies
10/25/04 - 11/3/04	Kevin Fanning, Chad Savrock, Jim Watson, Suzy Watson, Bill Frantz	64 Hours	Series of 8 hour days spent on plan development	
12/2/2004	Greenhorne & O'mara, Kevin Fanning, Chad Savrock, Jim Leone, Tim Holladay, Jim Watson, Suzy Watson	1.5 Hours	Review of Draft Plan	See Appendicies
1/7/2005	Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Suzy Watson	5 Hours	Amend Draft Plan	
1/17/2005	Kevin Fanning, Jim Watson, Suzy Watson	6 Hours	Amend Draft Plan	
2/8/2005 - 2/9/2005 3/8/2005	Suzy Watson, Jim Watson	16 Hours	Amend Draft Plan	