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## Story County, Iowa Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 Update

### Kick-Off Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 pm CST

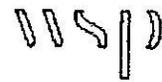
Hybrid In Person/Virtual Teams Meeting

### Introductions and Opening Remarks

This document summarizes the kickoff meeting for the 2023 Story County Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The meeting was facilitated by WSP the consulting firm working under a contract with Story County to facilitate the planning process and develop the updated County plan. This was a hybrid meeting with some people attending in person and others attending virtually.

1. Jeff Brislawn, WSP
2. Christopher Johnson, WSP
3. Nathan Hovick, Public Works Director, City of Roland
4. Lisa Heddens, Story County Board of Supervisors
5. Rhonda Ostrem, City Council, Story City
6. Tom Maher, Ballard School Administrator
7. Melissa Spencer, Story County EMA
8. David Cooper, Story County EMA
9. Rod Geisinger, Colo City Council
10. Ray Reynolds, City of Nevada
11. Whitney Baxter, Cambridge City Council
12. Clayton Olive, Iowa State University, EMA
13. Bill Lytle, Colo-Nesco and City of McCallsburg
14. Erin Rewerts, Director of General Assistance, Story County
15. Jeff Brinkman, City of Colo, Mayor
16. Paul H Fitzgerald, Sheriff
17. Tracy Peterson, Municipal Engineer, City of Ames
18. Linda Murken, Story County Supervisor, EM Commission Chair
19. Amelia Schoeneman, Planning and Development Directory, Story County
20. Macy Wing, City of Gilbert
21. Paul Richmond, Iowa State University
22. Shari Reilly, The Bridge Home
23. Chris Brandes, Patrol Sergeant, Nevada Public Safety Department
24. Latifah Faisal, Story County BOS
25. Ryan Santi, Boys and Girls Clubs of Story County
26. Andrew Henderson, Sergeant, Nevada Police Department
27. Steven Gast, City of Maxwell
28. Kenny Kling, City of Kelley
29. Vanessa Baker-Latimer, Housing Coordinator, City of Ames
30. Les White, Director, Story County Public Health
31. Jennifer Davies, City of Slater
32. Nic Briseno, Story County Sheriff's Office, Communications
33. David Sporleder, City Council, Story City
34. Mike Jensen
35. John Kahler, Mayor/Fire Chief, City of Slater
36. Ken Jans, City of Maxwell

The sign-in sheet for those who attended in person is attached.



Jeff Brislawn, Project Manager with WSP, began by asking those attending to virtually introduce themselves by stating their name, title, and agency/jurisdiction using the Chat feature on Teams. Jeff then explained the importance of jurisdictions participating in the planning process for the HMP update and thanked everyone for attending. Jeff began the meeting with a brief introduction of the plan update and emphasized the importance of maintaining a current Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which is necessary for jurisdictions who seek FEMA mitigation grant funding before or after disasters.

Following introductions Jeff discussed the agenda items; the key discussion is summarized below, and additional details are within the meeting PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, an interactive polling tool called Slido was used to gather feedback from the group throughout the meeting. Responses to this poll are integrated.

The following jurisdictions are expected to participate in 2023 and will need to re-adopt the plan:

- Unincorporated Story County
- City of Ames
- City of Cambridge
- City of Collins
- City of Colo
- City of Gilbert
- City of Huxley
- City of Kelley
- City of Maxwell
- City of McCallsburg
- City of Nevada
- City of Roland
- City of Sheldahl
- City of Slater
- City of Story City
- City of Zearing
- Ames CSD
- Nevada CSD
- Ballard CSD
- Gilbert CSD
- Roland-Story CSD
- Colo-Nesco CSD
- Collins-Maxwell CSD
- Iowa State University

## Hazard Mitigation Overview

Mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from natural or human-caused hazards. Mitigation Planning guides mitigation activities in a coordinated and economic manner to make communities more disaster resilient. An example of a hazard mitigation strategy is the practice of elevating homes located near a river, so the house stays above rising water during a flooding event and therefore minimizes damages to the home. The FEMA definition of mitigation does not include purchasing emergency vehicles or radios for communication, because those resources would be used to respond to a disaster, not prevent one.

The U.S. Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to adopt a hazard mitigation plan, updated every five years, to maintain eligibility for pre- and post-disaster FEMA mitigation assistance grants. There are two main types of benefits a community gain from having a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan (HMP); (1) bringing people together in the community; (2) having an HMP approved by FEMA makes a community eligible for FEMA mitigation grants. Any funding requests from FEMA needs to



be based on the hazards and mitigation strategy in the HMP. Information from the hazard mitigation plan, specifically the vulnerability assessment and mitigation strategy, can be used in other hazard related plans such as an emergency operations plan. FEMA has several mitigation grant programs, including the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and the High Hazard Potential Dam Program (HHPD). There are several other federal, state, local, and private sources for funding that exist as well.

There are trends resulting in increased costs for disaster response and recovery related to population growth and the increase in the types of events we experience as a community. We need these plans for several reasons because they reduce future recovery costs, we can plan around predictive events, and they guide mitigation activities in a coordinated manner. Studies have shown that on average for every \$1 spent on mitigation an average of \$6 is saved during disaster response, so mitigation efforts are very economically beneficial. Jeff concluded this section by asking the group if they had participated in the 2018 HMP update, to which 40% said no and 60% said yes.

## Hazard Mitigation Planning Process and Requirements

The updated HMP is not a regulatory document and there is no penalty for jurisdictions who are not able to meet all the hazard mitigation goals. This plan will be used to outline the goals and actions that will help the communities better prepare for and respond to disaster events. This HMP is a multi-jurisdiction plan. Any jurisdiction who would like to receive FEMA funding must actively participate in the planning process by attending meetings or providing data/input to the WSP team or Story County Emergency Management.

A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) will be established to provide relevant information to and collaborate with the WSP team. Jeff reviewed the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 Requirements and explained that the Story County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) will be updated in accordance with these requirements. The original FEMA planning process involves a 4 Phase approach, with the Kickoff meeting serving as the first step in the process:

1. **Get Organized:** This is a commitment from jurisdictions to participate in planning and determine the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC). The HMPC includes county, municipalities, and special districts. Jeff emphasized that local input and participation from HMPC members is required for full FEMA approval. Stakeholders include other local, state, and federal agencies with a stake in hazard mitigation in the County or may include academic institutions and local business and industry. Neighboring counties were also notified about the update and will be given an opportunity to provide input into the process. The group was asked what other key stakeholders should be involved in this process. The responses in the Slido poll include:

- Wastewater and water services
- Gas companies
- Public health
- Utility companies
- Coop
- YSS place being built outside.
- Cambridge
- Chamber/businesses
- Fire department
- Verbio or other manufacturers
- Organic and/small truck farmers
- Emergency Management Chiefs



- Private sector specialties
- Raul water
- Police departments
- Hospitals
- Public Health
- Farm families Water districts/rural
- water
- Farmers

2. **Risk Assessment:** The hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) is used to describe hazards, identify community assets, analyze risk based on gaps in assets, and summarize vulnerability. Conducting a risk assessment is a key aspect of a hazard mitigation plan and involves two components; hazard identification (what can happen here) and the vulnerability assessment (what will be affected). The HMP update will be based on existing documents and studies, with the 2018 Story County HMP providing the baseline for identified hazards and the groundwork for goals, policies, and actions for hazard mitigation. Data on hazards from the past five years will be used to support the risk assessment, using sources such as GIS-based maps, historic records, insurance data, etc. Then a vulnerability assessment will be conducted to identify infrastructure and groups of people who will be more likely to experience losses.
3. **Develop a Mitigation Plan:** The steps to develop a mitigation strategy include reviewing goals and objectives from the 2018 Story County HMP, reviewing mitigation alternatives to expand or improve previous goals, and then drafting an action plan. Any participating jurisdiction with a mitigation project in mind should make sure that the project is included in this Story County HMP update. Several types of mitigation projects are eligible for FEMA funding, including wildfire, flooding, winter storms, landslides, generator installation, climate resilience activities, etc.
4. **Adoption, Monitoring, & Implementation:** The public will provide input on the draft HMP before the official adoption of the plan by the governing board occurs. Once the plan is officially adopted, the designated project manager will integrate the plan into existing structures and track progress of the mitigation actions. The HMP will be revised as necessary to keep the plan current. The four drafts that will be developed over this planning process are:

1. HMPC (Internal) review
2. Public review
3. State review
4. FEMA review

### Overview of 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Based on hazards from the 2018 County HMP, the list of potential hazards was reviewed. Jeff showed a slide that listed the hazards in the 2018 HMP and the significance ranking for each hazard.

- Animal/Plant/Crop Disease
- Dam/Levee Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Expansive Soils
- Extreme Heat
- Flash Floods
- Grass/Wildland Fire
- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Human Disease



- Infrastructure Failure
- Landslide
- River Flooding
- Severe Winter Storms
- Sinkholes
- Thunderstorms/Lightning/Hail
- Tornado/Windstorms
- Transportation Incidents

Jeff asked the group if this list of hazards should be refined to only those hazards with the most potential to cause damage or impacts, or those that are feasible for mitigation, noting that the new FEMA mitigation Policy Guide (effective April 2023) requires a mitigation action *for every hazard for each jurisdiction*. The group was somewhat divided on how to proceed, with most of the group feeling that the list should be trimmed down. Someone commented that the plan was “too thick” and that a lot of information is provided on dam failure when there is little risk in the County. WSP will work with County Emergency Management to refine the list.

The group then discussed what growth and development trends in the past 5 years may have increased or decreased vulnerability to hazards, such as more development in the wildland urban interface (WUI). Responses include:

- Development along the Skunk River in Ames
- Lack of building codes in some communities
- New carbon capture pipelines
- Increased roadway traffic
- New industrial development in the county

Jeff then reviewed the goals and mitigation actions from the 2018 Story HMP. There are 133 total mitigation actions from the 2018 HMP between Story County and its jurisdictions. The goals from the 2018 HMP are as follows:

**Goal 1:** Protect lives and reduce injury.

**Goal 2:** Minimize or reduce damage to property, especially critical facilities and infrastructure.

**Goal 3:** Strengthen communication among agencies and between agencies and the public regarding hazard mitigation.

### **Coordination with Other Agencies, Related Planning Efforts, and Recent Studies:**

The group discussed recent studies of hazards in other documents and reports that are related to the Story County HMP. Some examples include the 2018 State of Iowa HMP, as well as hazard risk studies, scientific studies, and Flood Insurance Rate Map Updates. The group was asked via Slido what other existing plans, reports, or processes should be reviewed and coordinated with. The responses included:

- Five year plans for cities
- Community Risk Reduction Plans
- Cities’ Capital Improvement Plans
- Ames Plan 2040



- County developing a debris management plan
- Fire codes
- City storm sewer improvement plans

### **Planning For Public Involvement:**

A survey will be developed to gather input from the public on hazard concerns and mitigation ideas. It is advantageous to involve the public in the planning process to strengthen local support for the plan and ensure that the mitigation actions outlined in the HMP will better suit local needs. Advertisement of the public survey will be through public information channels, official websites, social media, email blasts etc. The group was asked about upcoming opportunities for outreach at scheduled public meetings or events. The responses include:

- Rotary meetings
- Nevada community magazine
- League of women voters
- Utility bill newsletters
- Water bill inserts
- Local community events like coffee at the library and Lions Club
- Fire department County mtg
- Water consumer confidence reports
- Ames EcoFair will be Sept 30th if that is not too late
- Regular city council meetings held at least once monthly
- Council meeting presentations
- Facebook ads
- Community newsletters
- Farmers markets are starting up soon

### **Project Schedule and Next Steps:**

The HMP will be updated over the next year, with at least two more meetings with the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee and a predicted final approval and adoption date for the HMP in April of 2024. WSP will be updating the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) in the next couple of months, with input from the HMPC. Four drafts of the HMP will be created: the first for internal review by the HMPC, a second for public review, and a third for State review, and the final for FEMA review. The first draft for HMPC review is targeted for November of 2023, a public review draft in December of 2024 followed by a review by Iowa DHSEM in January 2024 and then review and approval by FEMA in March 2024.

Jeff discussed a slide with initial information needs and next steps. Jeff encouraged the group to send by email information on:

- Recent hazard events (since 2018) – damages, incident logs, damage assessments, etc.
- Growth and development trends
- Recent updated plans and policies

A Plan Update Guide will be sent to all participating jurisdictions. Jurisdictions should review the hazard identification and ranking and fill out the status of actions from the previous HMP and return the Plan Update Guide to WSP of Story County OEM.



The County will provide the meeting summary, handouts, presentation, and sign in sheet by email so that other HMPC members that could not attend today's meeting could get up to speed. WSP will begin work on the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment update and develop a public survey that can be used online. The next HMPC meeting will be following the update of the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment section of the plan. The specific date will be shared when available.

It is essential that all jurisdictions stay involved in the planning process to get full FEMA approval of the HMP and ensure that the plan is suited to local needs. Participation includes the following for the **Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC)**:

- Attend meetings and participate in the planning process
- Provide requested information to update or develop jurisdictional information
- Review drafts and provide comments
- Identify mitigation projects specific to jurisdiction, provide status
- Assist with and participate in the public input process
- Coordinate formal adoption

Participation for **participating jurisdictions**:

- Participate in the County HMPC (previous slide)
- Coordinate with other departments/agencies from your jurisdiction
- Update jurisdictional information
- Identify new mitigation actions
- Complete and return Plan Update Guide
- Coordinate formal adoption

Participation for **stakeholders**:

- Coordinate formal adoption
- Attend HMPC meetings or stay in loop via email list
- Provide data/information
- Partner on mitigation efforts
- Assist with Public Input Process
- Review and comment draft plan

## **Adjourn**

Jeff ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and active participation throughout the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm CST.