



SOMERSET COUNTY

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

FINAL PLAN UPDATE
JULY 2019

www.co.somerset.nj.us/hmp

Section 3: PLANNING PROCESS

*Prepared by the Somerset County
Mitigation Planning Committee*



SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS

INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to develop the Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the Plan met the requirements of the DMA 2000, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following two goals:

1. The Plan will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural hazards facing Somerset County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. The Project Management Team (PMT) led by the County Planning Division and Office of Emergency Management, invited all municipalities in the county to join with them in the preparation of a Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, in addition to the North Plainfield Board of Education, and the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority. Somerset County and all of its municipalities are participating in the Plan as indicated in Table 3-1 below, and are represented on the Mitigation Planning Committee (MPC).

Table 3-1. Participating Somerset County Jurisdictions

Townships	Boroughs
Bedminster	Bernardsville
Bernards	Bound Brook
Branchburg	Far Hills
Bridgewater	Manville
Franklin	Millstone
Green Brook	North Plainfield
Hillsborough	Peapack Gladstone
Montgomery	Raritan
Warren	Rocky Hill
Special Purpose Districts	Somerville
North Plainfield Public Schools	South Bound Brook
Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority	Watchung

This Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout Plan development, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The MPC solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The natural hazard mitigation

strategies identified in this Plan have been developed and updated through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents and stakeholders.

2. The Plan was developed and updated following the process outlined by DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and FEMA and NJOEM guidance. Following this process will ensure all the requirements are met and support Plan review.

This section of the Plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Preparing to Plan; (2) Planning Partnership – Organization and Activity; (3) Stakeholder and Public Outreach and Involvement; (4) Coordination with Existing Mitigation Efforts and Programs; (5) Integration of Existing Data, Plans, and Information; and (5) Continued Public and Stakeholder Involvement.

HAZARD MITIGATION IN SOMERSET COUNTY – PREPARING TO PLAN

Many parties supported preparation of this plan, including: the Project Management Team (PMT), Mitigation Planning Committee (MPC) Steering Committee and other stakeholders. This planning process does not represent the start of hazard risk management in the County; rather it is part of an ongoing process that various State, County and local agencies and individuals have continued to embrace.

- Various regional, county and local agencies and governments have been involved in natural hazard risk assessment, mitigation planning and project activities, prior to and/or unrelated to the current planning effort. Such activities provide a strong foundation for subsequent efforts, and an awareness and understanding of the need for and benefits of mitigation planning across a broad range of regional, county and local governments and stakeholders. Several examples of such activities are presented here.
- All jurisdictions in the County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, and manage their floodplains according to the requirements of participation in that program.

PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

This section of the Plan identifies how the planning process was organized with the many “planning partners” involved, and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this Plan.

Organization of Planning Partnership

Recognizing the need to manage natural risk within the County, and to meet the requirements of the DMA 2000, the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders resolved to develop an update to the 2014 Somerset County Hazards Mitigation Plan.

This current plan update represents a collaborative effort led by the Somerset County Planning Division and the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management. On November 28, 2016 Somerset County was notified by NJOEM that their application for a planning grant to update the 2014 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan under FEMA’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program PDMC-PL-02-NJ-2015-005 was approved. The County selected a contract planning consultant (AECOM Technical Services, Inc. – Clifton, NJ) through a competitive process. A contract between AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM) and the County was executed on June 13, 2017 and notice to proceed was issued on July 7, 2017. Specifically, as the “contract consultant”, AECOM was tasked with:

- Working with the County’s Hazard Mitigation Committee and their partners to update and identify mitigation initiatives for which the County and partners may implement to reduce risks and foster resiliency due to natural hazard events.

- Recommending actions to ensure County and participating partners are in good standing and demonstrate continued compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations, including local floodplain ordinances and permitting requirements
- Preparation of an updated, FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County and updated annexes for participating partners
- In support of these tasks, the consultant scope included:
 - Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
 - Data collection
 - Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Planning committee, stakeholder, public and other)
 - Guidance regarding outreach to other various outside groups, facilities, and agencies for information vital to risk identification and mitigation strategies
 - Review of hazards of concern, and update of hazard profiling and risk assessment
 - Assistance with the development of updated mitigation planning goals and objectives
 - Assistance with the screening of new mitigation actions, identification of appropriate actions, and status updates of actions in the 2014 plan.
 - Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions
 - Authoring of the Draft and Final Plan documents
 - Provision of a hazard mitigation planner to lead the planning effort and support the County in the preparation of a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan

The County formed a MPC comprised of appropriate municipal personnel, local emergency first responders, and other stakeholders to effectively guide the overall process, provide significant input, and partner with AECOM to develop a FEMA-approved Plan. The MPC included representatives from the jurisdictional partners noted in Table 3-1, along with Steering Committee members comprised of representatives of county and regional agencies, organizations and utility authorities; together with the Project Management Team.

On July 19, 2017, Somerset County notified all 21 municipalities within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate in the plan's second update. Municipalities were provided with a copy of the *Planning Partner Expectations* document and asked to formally notify the county of their intent to participate (via executed Resolution to Participate) and to identify a planning point of contact to serve on the MPC and represent the interests of their respective community. The *Planning Partners Expectations* document outlines the responsibilities of jurisdictional representatives serving on the MPC, municipal hazard mitigation planning committees and associated steering Committee members, and is posted on the County HMP website: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/home/showdocument?id=26168>

As noted previously, the MPC was assembled to represent each of the municipalities participating in the Plan. It consists of all a municipal hazard mitigation officer (HMO) and alternate HMO from each of the twenty one (21) participating municipalities, the participating school district and utility authority and all members of the PMT and Steering Committee.

The Planning Committee was charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process;
- Establish Plan development goals;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the Plan;
- Ensure that the Plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and NJOEM guidance;
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the Plan development process;

- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the Plan, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Organize and oversee the public involvement process;
- Report on progress of 2014 HMP mitigation actions;
- Identify, develop and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives;
- Report on progress of 2014 HMP integration into other planning processes and municipal operations;
- Review, amend and approve all sections of the Plan;
- Develop and author the jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain the Plan.

It is noted that the Resolution of Intent to Participate identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. It is recognized that the jurisdictions in Somerset County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the planning process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this Plan. It was Somerset County’s intent to encourage participation by all jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of Plan participation. Such accommodations have included the utilization of focus group sessions comprised of topic-specific subject matter experts to gain their perspectives on hazard risks, vulnerabilities and potential solutions; and engaging AECOM and County OEM staff to provide direct one-on-one assistance to municipal HMOs throughout the update process.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex (chapter) of the Plan wherein the jurisdiction has identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk. All participating jurisdictions have been provided a sample plan adoption resolution, and are anticipated to adopt the plan upon its approval by the reviewing agencies (FEMA and NJOEM).

Table 3-2 shows the current municipal members of the MPC, at the time of this Plan’s publication. Please note that while Steering Committee members are also part of the overall project MPC, the list below only identifies those MPC members representing participating jurisdictions. Steering Committee members are identified in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2. Planning Committee Members (Municipal Representatives Only)

Organization	Name	Title
Bedminster (T)	David Groendyke	MHMO
Bernards (T)	Michael Shimsky	Hazard Mitigation Officer
Bernardsville (B)	Kevin Valentine	Hazard Mitigation Officer
Bound Brook (B)	Hector Herrera	MHMO
Branchburg (T)	Gregory Bonin	MHMO
Bridgewater (T)	Thomas J. Forsythe	MHMO
Far Hills (B)	Michael DeCarolis	MHMO / Police Chief
Franklin (T)	Thomas Zilinek	Hazard Mitigation Officer
Green Brook (T)	Kelly G. Cupit	MHMO

Organization	Name	Title
Hillsborough (T)	John Sheridan	OEM Coordinator
Manville (B)	Richard Onderko	Mayor / Hazard Mitigation Officer
Millstone (B)	Ray Heck	Mayor/MHMO
Montgomery (T)	Sean Devlin	Hazard Mitigation Officer
North Plainfield (B)	Brian Martin	Hazard Mitigation Officer
Peapack-Gladstone (B)	Kingsley Hill	OEM Coordinator
Raritan (B)	Ernest Hall	OEM Coordinator
Rocky Hill (B)	Erik Mickelsen	Fire Official
Somerville (B)	Steve Weinman	MHMO
South Bound Brook (B)	Mike Allenovitch	Emergency Management Coordinator
Warren (T)	Jane Asch	OEM Coordinator
Watchung (B)	Gary Greves	OEM Coordinator
North Plainfield Board of Education	Milton Mathis	Director
Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority	Ronald Anastasio	Executive Director

To facilitate plan development, with support from their contract consultant, Somerset County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort, and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area.

The Steering Committee was charged with:

- Providing guidance and overseeing the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
 - Identification of “Hazards of Concern”
 - Public and Stakeholder Outreach
 - Mitigation Planning Goals and Objectives
 - Identification and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities
 - Evaluation of the new Flood Resiliency Framework document, and the new Energy Resiliency Framework
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.

It is noted that prior to the general project Kick-Off meeting, the PMT, which is a subset of the MPC and Steering Committee was assembled to initiate the planning process and assist with overall project administration including the formation of the MPC and Steering Committee. Recognizing the need for, and significant benefit of, creating an equal partnership between the Emergency Management Office and Planning Division given the nature of this particular planning project, the PMT includes project co-leads from the County Planning Division and Emergency Management Office. The Project Management Team contacts for this 2019 plan update, and future mitigation planning activities, are as follows:

Somerset County Planning

Walter C. Lane, PP, AICP, Director of Planning

Somerset County Emergency Management

Douglas Vornlocker, Director of Emergency Management

Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP, Chief of Strategic Planning
Tanya Rohrbach, Senior Planner/GIS

Lisa Werner, Emergency Support Specialist/Planner
Nina Tchir, Emergency Management Planner

Approximately half of the members of the Steering Committee who participated in the development of the initial 2009 plan and 2014 plan update also participated in the current 2019 plan update. Steering Committee members were contacted by the PMT in the summer of 2017, at the outset of the plan update process. Past members were invited to continue their past participation. New agency/organization representatives were invited to fill vacancies resulting from the loss of prior members due to retirement and attrition. Members with a broad range of expertise were sought in order to provide valuable input and feedback from diverse perspectives and unique subject matter areas. As part of the 2019 plan update, Steering Committee members were invited to attend the project Kickoff Meeting on September 28, 2017, which was a joint meeting with the full HMP Committee; a separate meeting of Steering Committee only held on February 21, 2018; and the Mitigation Planning Roundtable on April 26, 2018, which was also a joint meeting with the larger MPC Committee. The Steering Committee reviewed the updated Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable; the updated Mitigation Strategy Mission, Goals, and Objectives; the new Flood Resiliency Framework and Energy Resiliency Framework documents; all of the draft updated HMP Sections and the county-level worksheets including, mitigation planning capabilities and integration, implementation status of past mitigation initiatives and updated mitigation strategy projects and initiatives for inclusion in the 2019 HMP update. Steering Committee members also participated in the Focus Group Meetings held in November 2017 and January 2018 as part of the plan update. Members provided unique insights that were incorporated into the plan's updated mission, goals, objectives, and mitigation strategies regarding the topic areas of environmental and historic resources, disability services, public health, and infrastructure assets. Table 3-3 shows the current members of the Steering Committee, at the time of this draft Plan's publication.

Members of the Steering Committee (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders including the Assistant County Engineer and Chairman of the Somerset County Energy Council, convened and/or communicated on an as-needed basis to share information and participate in workshops to provide feedback regarding the identification of hazards; assessment of risks; and development of mitigation goals, objectives and actions. The Steering Committee also provided continuity and direction throughout the Plan development process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated into the Plan. Steering Committee members also supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

Table 3-3. Steering Committee Members *

Name	Title	Jurisdiction/Organization
Walter C. Lane, PP, AICP *	Director, SC Planning Division	Somerset County
Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP *	Chief of Strategic Planning, SC Planning Division	Somerset County
Douglas Vornlocker *	Director, SC Office of Emergency Management	Somerset County
Lisa Werner *	Emergency Support Specialist/Planner, SC Office of Emergency Management	Somerset County
Tanya Rohrbach *	Senior Planner/GIS, SC Planning Division	Somerset County
Nina Tchir	Emergency Management Planner, SC Office of Emergency Management	Somerset County
Melissa Stager	Education Specialist	Somerset County

Name	Title	Jurisdiction/Organization
Bob Schafer	Senior Director - Central Operations	New Jersey American Water
Marcia Wiggan	Operations Supervisor	New Jersey American Water
Ronald Anastasio	Executive Director	Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
Lisa Krueger	Public Information Officer	Somerset County
Tom Boccino	Principal Planner, Land Acquisition, SC Parks Department	Somerset County
Bernard Navatto	Chairman, SC Planning Board and Chairman, Somerville Planning Board	Somerset County / Borough of Somerville
Steve Weinman	Somerville Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator Representative	Borough of Somerville
Michael Kerwin	CEO, President	Somerset County Business Partnership
Julie DeSimone	Planning Administrator, SC Department of Human Services	Somerset County
Paul Drake	Member, SC Energy Council	Somerset County
Anna Foley *	Project Manager	AECOM
Richard Franks *	Deputy Project Manager	AECOM

* Note: Members with an asterisk (*) appearing after their name are also members of the Project Management Team

Planning Partnership Activities

A summary of Planning and Steering Committee meetings held during the most recent update of this Plan is included in Table 3-4. It must be recognized that this summary table identifies only the formal meetings held during the most recent plan update, and does not reflect the various other planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings there was a great deal of communication between Planning Committee members through electronic mail (e-mail), and by phone.

After completion of the Plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the MPC. The MPC will review the Plan and accept public comment throughout the plan maintenance cycle and as part of the next five year mitigation plan update. To the greatest degree possible, the County will retain the involvement of the Steering Committee members currently serving on the MPC throughout the plan maintenance process.

Table 3-4. Summary of Planning Team Meetings held during this Plan Update Timeline

Date	Meeting Title	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
07/12/17	Project Initiation Meeting	The Project Management Team (PMT) met to discuss team member roles, updated implementation schedule, information and data sharing, quarterly reporting requirements, municipal and stakeholder participation, upcoming meetings, and the suite of plan update worksheets.	Somerset County Planning Division (SCPD), Somerset County Office of Emergency Management (SCOEM), AECOM, NJOEM
09/28/17	PMT Meeting	A brief, informal meeting of the PMT was conducted prior to the Project Kickoff Meeting. General discussions occurred regarding progress on jurisdictional interest in participating in the update, worksheet distribution and defining submission due dates.	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
09/28/17	MPC Kickoff Meeting <i>(joint meeting held with</i>	This meeting represented the Kickoff Meeting for the second plan update. Topics presented included: the importance of hazard mitigation; general information about hazard mitigation planning and plan updates; an overview of the 2014 plan; benefits of continued participation and how the plan can be used to benefit each	MPC, Steering Committee, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM

SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS

Date	Meeting Title	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
	<i>Steering Committee</i>)	jurisdiction; strategies for achieving mitigation and resiliency goals; participation requirements; an overview of project timeline; and next steps.	
10/16/17 and 10/23/17	October Municipal Assistance Meetings	Municipal Hazard Mitigation Officers (MHMOs) and Municipal Hazard Mitigation Committee (MHMC) representatives were invited to attend a series of back-to-back municipal assistance sessions on October 16 th and October 23 rd , 2017. Sessions were one hour in length, and were held consecutively from 2:00 pm until 6:45 pm at the Somerset County Administration Building. The consultant was available to provide one-on-one assistance regarding municipal documentation of their feedback to, and participation in key steps of the plan update process including: documentation of time spent for in-kind contribution toward local match; development and documentation of MHMCs and their activities; update of jurisdictional capability assessment; assessment of NFIP participation and ordinance implementation; outreach to the general public and other stakeholders; and documentation of comments submitted by interested parties.	AECOM and representatives from the following jurisdictions: Bernards, Branchburg, Franklin, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone, Montgomery, North Plainfield, North Plainfield Board of Education, Peapack-Gladstone, Warren, SCPD & SCOEM
10/19/17	MPC Workshop – SRL and RL Properties	MPC members were invited to this workshop to learn more about the NFIP Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties in their jurisdictions. The County and NJOEM presented information on how municipalities can maximize their access to FEMA FMA and NFIP funding for SRL and RL property mitigation; municipal involvement in the NFIP’s Community Rating System (CRS) Program, including information that can be used to update and enhance local flood hazard mitigation plans and ordinances; discussions on improved community resiliency through integration of RL and SRL mitigation with broader land use, floodplain, and stormwater management policies and investments; how RL and SRL mitigation actions can be updated for inclusion in the 2019 plan municipal annexes; and identification of area-wide and site-specific flood resiliency best management practices.	MPC, SCPD, SCOEM, NJOEM
11/21/17	PMT Meeting	The PMT met to discuss the updated project implementation schedule, and updated county public outreach schedule.	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
11/28/17	Public Health Focus Group Session	A Focus Group Session was held to solicit input from public health stakeholder groups regarding their observations of the impacts of natural hazards in Somerset County, and their ideas for natural disaster mitigation measures to minimize disruptions and losses in the future.	Public Health Focus Group Stakeholders, SCPD, SCOEM
12/19/17	PMT Meeting	The PMT discussed: the Energy Resiliency Assessment (facilities list, worksheets, and transmittal letters); the updated county outreach strategy matrix and upcoming meeting dates; Steering Committee correspondence memorandum and attachments; the formulation of the January 2018 Planning Committee meeting agenda	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
11/30/17	Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Session	A Focus Group Meeting was held to solicit input from infrastructure assets stakeholder groups regarding their observations of the impacts of natural hazards in Somerset County, and their ideas for natural disaster mitigation measures to minimize disruptions and losses in the future.	Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Stakeholders, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
11/30/17	Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Session	A Focus Group Meeting was held to solicit input from environmental and historic resource stakeholder groups regarding their observations of the impacts of natural hazards in Somerset County, and their ideas for natural disaster mitigation measures to minimize disruptions and losses in the future.	Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Stakeholders, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
01/10/18	Disability Services Focus Group	A Focus Group Meeting was held to solicit input from disability services stakeholder groups regarding their observations of the impacts of natural hazards in Somerset County, and their ideas for	Disability Services Focus Group Stakeholders, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM

SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS

Date	Meeting Title	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
	Session	natural disaster mitigation measures to minimize disruptions and losses in the future.	
01/23/18	PMT Meeting	The PMT conducted a regular meeting. Items discussed included: the draft Flood Resiliency and Energy Resiliency Frameworks; project mission, goals, and objectives; updated risk assessment; focus group session summaries; upcoming Planning Committee meeting of 1/31/18; upcoming Steering Committee meeting of 02/21/18; the suite of plan update worksheets for jurisdictional completion (content, release schedule, and timeline for jurisdictional turnaround); invoicing; the updated outreach tracking sheet; and the updated work plan schedule.	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
01/31/18	MPC Progress Meeting	At this progress meeting of the full MPC, the PMT presented the updated risk assessment (key takeaways of the Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable); updated mitigation strategy mission, goals, and objectives; emerging mitigation strategy update tools (draft Flood Resiliency Framework (FRF), draft Energy Resiliency Framework (ERF) and Climate Memorandum); Worksheets Tranche 1, 2 & 3 and participation logs; focus group meeting summaries; and next steps.	MPC, Steering Committee, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
03/01/18	PMT Meeting	The PMT convened a regular meeting to discuss: potential participation of SRVSA and/or other authorities/commissions; completion of the flood component of the RAID; strategy for completion of the draft FRF; finalization of the April municipal assistance meeting arrangements (dates, locations, and time slots); municipal worksheet status; a strategy for addressing inadequate municipal participation; and revised ERF approach.	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
03/27/18	PMT Meeting	The PMT conducted a regular meeting to discuss the status of the SRVSA Annex; finalization of logistics, signup, and agenda for the upcoming mitigation planning roundtable (04/26/18); completion of the Draft FRF to release in time for the April 10 th and 12 th municipal assistance meetings; status of outstanding municipal worksheets; FY 2018 HMA grant cycle; use of WMP contributing source data for WS8; completion of HMP Sections 7 and 8; status of Bound Brook; status of mapping and associated methodology text from County GIS regarding areas of repetitive flood losses and portions of floodways that are already preserved, as well as opportunities for filling in missing links along riparian corridors); the Hillsborough elevation project, and how it may relate to a possible larger county-wide elevation project); the Risk Assessment Interim Deliverable (RAID), and its revised Executive Summary.	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
04/10/18 and 04/12/18	April Municipal Assistance Meetings	Municipal Hazard Mitigation Officers (MHMOs) and other MHMC members were invited to attend a series of back-to-back municipal assistance meetings on April 10 th and April 12 th , 2017. Meetings ranged in length from 60 to 90 minutes; participants were invited to sign up for longer sessions if they felt they had substantial questions, and shorter sessions if they felt they would need less time. Time slots were available consecutively from 2:00 pm until 7:45 pm at the Somerset County Administration Building. The consultant was available to provide one-on-one assistance regarding municipal documentation of their feedback to, and participation in key steps of the plan update process including: assessment and documentation of the status and relevance of past projects, and development and documentation of an updated jurisdictional mitigation strategy for the 2019-2023 plan maintenance cycle. Participants were also invited to have questions answered on other aspects of the project and/or municipal inputs.	AECOM and representatives from Bernards, Bernardsville, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Franklin, Green Brook, Manville, Montgomery, North Plainfield, North Plainfield Board of Education, Raritan, Somerset County, Somerset Raritan Valley Regional Sewerage Authority, Somerville, Watchung, SCPD and SCOEM

Date	Meeting Title	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Participants
04/26/18	MPC Mitigation Planning Roundtable <i>(joint meeting with Steering Committee)</i>	The MPC, including the Steering Committee met for a roundtable discussion on mitigation strategy development. First, the PMT presented information on materials and resources at MPC member disposal to facilitate the development of an updated mitigation strategy. Next, breakout groups discussed a series of questions ranging from concepts such as 2014 initiatives that have been implemented and are now capabilities, types of 2014 initiatives that are not being selected by jurisdictions to carry forward, examples of initiatives that can be added to each jurisdiction's updated list of initiatives, local mitigation success stories, and municipal recommendations for county-lead initiatives. Finally, breakout groups aimed at using available informational resources to consider during the update of their mitigation strategies took place.	MPC, Steering Committee, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
05/22/18	PMT Meeting	This meeting addressed the status of municipal worksheets; completion of the County worksheets; finalization of the draft FRF and ERF documents, feedback received regarding the Climate Memorandum; completion of the draft HMP Sections 7 & 8; and project scheduling.	SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM
06/11/18	PMT Meeting	The purpose of this working meeting was to complete and finalize the draft County worksheet inputs, with emphasis on past mitigation initiative/project status and new and modified initiatives and projects for inclusion in the 2019 plan and to review and finalize draft HMP Sections.	SCPD, SCOEM
06/28/18	PMT Meeting	This meeting was held to define a strategy for addressing delays at the municipal level with regard to submission of worksheet inputs, associated overall impacts to the project timeline and the need for additional follow-up concerning County Worksheet 6.	SCPD, SCOEM
11/20/18 12/6/18	Draft HMP Public Meetings	Two open public meetings were held after the release of the draft updated HMP. The first was held on November 20 th at 4:45 pm at the Somerset County Administration Building in Somerville as part of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Somerset County Planning Board. The second was held on December 5 th at the County's Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough at 7:00 pm.	MPC, Steering Committee, SCPD, SCOEM, AECOM and members of the public

PARTICIPATION MATRIX

Additional information concerning the meeting attendees is provided in the participation matrix which is included on the following pages. This matrix (Table 3-5) indicates New Jersey State, County, Municipal, and stakeholder personnel participating in the planning process.

This matrix is intended to give a broad overview of who attended meetings and when input was provided to the plan. All participants were encouraged to attend the Kick-off Meeting and Jurisdictional Annex Workshop. During the planning process the consultant contacted each participant to offer support, explain the process, and to facilitate the submittal and review of critical documents.

The participating jurisdictions agreed to abide by the Planning Partner Expectations and MPC Guidelines, of which the Steering Committee would serve as the core of the working group. Participation is defined as having input to the hazard analysis (providing critical facility, hazard event, vulnerability data), and as having participated in the MPC meetings and Municipal Assistance Meetings as described above for the purpose of creating a mitigation strategy to be included in each municipal annex that comprise Volume II, Section 9 of the plan.

Table 3-5. Participation Matrix/Official Planning Meetings

Meeting Date	Activity	Somerset County	Bedminster (Twp.)	Bernards (Twp.)	Bernardsville (Boro)	Bound Brook (Boro)	Branchburg (Twp.)	Bridgewater (Twp.)	Far Hills (Boro)	Franklin (Twp.)	Green Brook (Twp.)	Hillsborough (Twp.)	Manville (Boro)	Millstone (Boro)	Montgomery (Twp.)	North Plainfield (Boro)	North Plainfield BOE	Peapack-Gladstone (Boro)	Raritan (Boro)	Rocky Hill (Boro)	Somerville (Boro)	Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority	South Bound Brook (Boro)	Warren (Twp.)	Watchung (Boro)	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management	New Jersey American Water	Disability Services Focus Group Participants*	Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Participants*	Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Participants*	Public Health Focus Group Participants*	AECOM			
07/12/17	Project Initiation Meeting	X																								X							X		
09/28/17	PMT Meeting	X																															X		
09/28/17	MPC Kickoff Meeting <i>(joint meeting held with Steering Committee)</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X						X		
10/16/17 and 10/23/17	October Municipal Assistance Meetings			X			X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X										X	
10/19/17	MPC Workshop – SRL and RL Properties	X	X			X	X				X	X			X	X					X					X									
11/21/17	PMT Meeting	X																															X		
11/28/17	Public Health Focus Group Session	X																														X	X		
12/19/17	PMT Meeting	X																																X	
11/30/17	Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Session	X																														X		X	
11/30/17	Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Session	X																																X	
01/10/18	Disability Services Focus Group Session	X																																	X

Meeting Date	Activity	Somerset County	Bedminster (Twp.)	Bernards (Twp.)	Bernardsville (Boro)	Bound Brook (Boro)	Branchburg (Twp.)	Bridgewater (Twp.)	Far Hills (Boro)	Franklin (Twp.)	Green Brook (Twp.)	Hillsborough (Twp.)	Manville (Boro)	Millstone (Boro)	Montgomery (Twp.)	North Plainfield (Boro)	North Plainfield BOE	Peapack-Gladstone (Boro)	Raritan (Boro)	Rocky Hill (Boro)	Somerville (Boro)	Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority	South Bound Brook (Boro)	Warren (Twp.)	Watchung (Boro)	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management	New Jersey American Water	Disability Services Focus Group Participants*	Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Participants*	Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Participants*	Public Health Focus Group Participants*	AECOM			
01/23/18	PMT Meeting	X																																X	
01/31/18	MPC Progress Meeting	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X				X		X								X
03/01/18	PMT Meeting	X																																X	
03/27/18	PMT Meeting	X																																X	
04/10/18 and 04/12/18	April Municipal Assistance Meetings	X		X	X	X	X			X	X		X		X	X	X		X		X	X			X									X	
04/26/18	MPC Planning Roundtable (joint meeting with Steering Committee)	X			X	X	X		X			X			X	X								X										X	
05/22/18	PMT Meeting	X																																X	
06/11/18	PMT Meeting	X																																	
06/28/18	PMT Meeting	X																																	
11/20/18	Draft HMP Public Meeting	X																																	
12/05/18	Draft HMP Public Meeting	X			X		X					X	X								X			X	X	X								X	

Disability Services Focus Group Participants: Somerset County Advisory Council on Disability Services, Somerset County Planning Division, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management

Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Participants: Somerset County Planning Division, Somerset County Economic Development, Somerset County Planning Board, New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Participants: Somerset County Park Commission, Raritan Headwaters, Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Somerset County Planning Division

Public Health Focus Group Participants: Pamela Mastro, Somerset County Department of Human Services, Julie DeSimone, Somerset County Department of Human Services, Joanne Bitanny, Somerset County Board of Social Services, Amy Sutton, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management, Somerset County Planning Division, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN MITIGATION PLANNING

This section presents (1) municipal involvement, (2) state and regional agency involvement, (3) public participation – citizen involvement, and outreach to business, utility, educational, non-profits, and other stakeholders.

Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the MPC and Steering Committee. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout, the planning process. In addition to “mass media” notification efforts, identified stakeholders were invited to attend the Kick-Off meeting, while key stakeholders were requested to participate on the Steering Committee and/or in the Focus Group Sessions. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this Plan where appropriate, as identified in the references.

This summary addresses the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this Plan, and how these stakeholders participated and contributed to the Plan. It should be noted that this summary listing cannot possibly represent the sum total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this Plan, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Rather, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the development of this Plan.

On November 8, 2018, the PMT sent a notice to all neighboring county emergency management offices and planning divisions/departments indicating that the draft 2019 plan update was available for review and requesting input and comments as appropriate. They were also invited to attend one of the two public meetings on the draft plan. The first will be held as part of the regularly scheduled County Planning Board Meeting on November 20, 2018, and the second will be held on December 5, 2018 at the County’s Emergency Services Training Academy.

The 2019 plan update represented the County’s first use of a Focus Group approach in conjunction with the mitigation planning process. Four groups were formed with subject matter experts in each of the following sectors: 1) Infrastructure and Utilities, 2) Environmental and Historic Resources, 3) Business and Industry, 4) Public Health. Each Focus Group was convened one time. Discussion topics for each group were identified in order to solicit tangible information needed to shape and complete the updated plan, including the Flood and Energy Resiliency Framework components. Somerset County invited more than 50 stakeholder entities to participate, representing a wide range of private, non-profit, and public sector organizations. Table 3-6 documents the 31 stakeholders who ultimately participated in each Focus Group Session.

Table 3-6. Focus Group Meeting Attendees

Name	Stakeholder Group
Public Health Focus Group Session – November 28, 2017	
Pamela Mastro	SC Department of Human Services
Julie DeSimone	SC Department of Human Services
Joanne Bittany	SC Board of Social Services
Amy Sutton	SC Office of Emergency Management CERT
Lisa Werner	SC Office of Emergency Management
<i>Facilitators: Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP Anna Foley (via phone)</i>	<i>SC Planning Division AECOM</i>

Name	Stakeholder Group
Infrastructure Assets Focus Group Session – November 30, 2017	
John Maddocks	Somerset County Business Partnership
Jeff Perlman	New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Tanya Rohrbach	SC Planning Division
Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP	SC Planning Division
Walter Lane , PP, AICP	SC Planning Division
<i>Facilitator: Anna Foley</i>	<i>AECOM</i>
Environmental and Historic Resources Focus Group Session – November 30, 2017	
Tom Boccino	SC Parks Department
Bill Kibler	Raritan Headwaters Association
Tom D'Amico	SC Historic Preservation
Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP	SC Planning Division
Walter Lane, PP, AICP	SC Planning Division
<i>Facilitator: Anna Foley</i>	<i>AECOM</i>
Disability Services Focus Group Session – January 10, 2018	
Kristin Lakatos	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Tracey Frost	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Allen Waters	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Amy Cameron	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Andrew Rees	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Bonnie Brien	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Christine Clause	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Cynthia Vorhees	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Dave Reiley	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Jan Goodman	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Julie DeSimone	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Michael Frost	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Paulann Pierson	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Sarah Murchison	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Shelley Kays	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
Tony Sacino	SC Advisory Council on Disability Issues
<i>Facilitators: Laurette Kratina, PP, AICP Lisa Werner</i>	<i>SC Planning Division SC OEM</i>

A series of questions were defined by the PMT to gain the unique perspective and insights of the different groups of subject matter experts participating in the HMP Update Focus Group Sessions. Discussion topics were identified in order to gather the information needed to shape and complete the updated plan, including the draft Flood and Energy Resiliency Framework components. Each question was preceded by a brief background statement to provide context for the discussion. A total of six questions were set forth to organize the discussion. Ten minutes were allocated per question. Each Focus Group Session was approximately 90 minutes in length. The six questions were:

1. What are some of the major physical improvements/capital investments and planning/policy/regulatory changes you are aware of/or that affect you, which have taken

- place recently by both the public and private sectors to mitigate natural hazards, harden infrastructure and make communities more resilient?
2. What are some of the major difficulties faced by vulnerable population groups during natural disasters, and what can we do to reduce their risks as well as improve their access to community public health infrastructure, healthcare and other essentials when hazardous events occur?
 3. What are some high-priority area-wide and site-specific actions that we can take to leverage resources and maximize opportunities to improve floodplain management, reduce flood risks and strengthen flood resiliency?
 4. What are the top ten critical facilities for which power reliability is essential; and what can we do to ensure that they can continue to operate in the event of prolonged, wide-spread power outages?
 5. What can we do to better protect historic and cultural assets, natural/ecological resources and the built environment from natural hazards in the future?
 6. What are some key adaptation strategies and best practices that Somerset County, its municipalities, residents, businesses and others can implement to become more resilient when facing the impacts of climate change such as more frequent and severe storms; longer, hotter summers; wet and dry spells, etc.?

The Focus Group Sessions provided tangible input and feedback for use by the larger Planning Committee in preparing the Flood and Energy Resilience Framework documents (Appendices K and L of this plan, respectively). They also informed larger mitigation strategy updates for individual participating jurisdictions.

Municipal and Local Involvement

The MHMOs, with support from the PMT and AECOM met and communicated with the members of their MHMCs and other relevant representatives of their respective boroughs/townships to obtain data and information, review existing plans, ordinances and capabilities, and facilitate the identification of appropriate mitigation initiatives. Further, these local representatives have reviewed the Draft Plan and provided direct input during its development.

Throughout the course of updating the HMP, the PMT and AECOM corresponded frequently via telephone, e-mail and in-person meetings with MHMOs and other local representatives to update them on the process, make them aware of important meeting dates, planning tools and resources and other plan review activities. The PMT and AECOM also provided copies of meeting materials including PowerPoint presentations and distribution materials to all members of the MPC, so that members who were unable to attend meetings could remain informed, and to provide resources and guidance documents for future reference. For each of the participating municipalities, the distribution list for formal correspondence from the County included:

- Mayor
- Clerk/Administrator
- MHMOs (Primary Point of Contact)
- Alternate MHMOs (Secondary Point of Contact)

In addition, before finalization of the updated HMP, a webpage link to the entire draft HMP and the applicable jurisdictional annexes were forwarded to MHMOs and Alternate MHMOs with a request that they review the updated HMP and their respective annexes. MHMOs were also directed to provide at least their local annex to their municipal planners, engineers, public works directors, health officers, planning board chairs and floodplain administrators. The MPC both directly and through the PMT met

and communicated with NJOEM regularly to obtain mitigation planning information and general guidance for completing the HMP update process. Meeting sign-in sheets which indicate the municipal and stakeholder participants are provided in Appendix I.

Federal, State, County, and Regional Agency Involvement

Throughout this Planning process, the County actively sought the involvement of a wide range of county, state and regional stakeholders, including the following groups and agencies which were invited to meetings and/or provided information either directly or by reference for the plan (current version or prior updates), See Table 3.7 below:

Table 3-7. Federal, State, County, and Regional Agency Involvement

- ARC of Somerset County
- Broadband/Internet Service Provider: Verizon FiOS/Comcast
- Central Jersey Red Cross
- Central Jersey Housing Resource Center (CJHRC)
- D&R Canal Commission
- Duke Farm
- Franklin Township Department of Public Works - Municipal Representative
- Friends of Princeton Open Space
- Great Swamp Watershed Association
- Healthier Somerset
- Hillsborough Beacon/Manville News/Princeton Packet
- JCP&L
- Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
- Meadows Foundation
- Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition
- Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition
- New Jersey American Water
- New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Department of Transportation
- New Jersey Future/Jersey Water Works
- New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
- New Jersey One Call
- New Jersey Transit
- New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- NJDEP State Historic Preservation Officer
- NYC Environmental Protection
- Raritan Headwaters Association
- Raritan Riverkeeper
- RideWise
- Rutgers Bloustein School
- Rutgers Center for Transportation Safety, Security and Risk
- Rutgers Climate Institute
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service - Water Resources Program
- Rutgers Department of Plant Biology & Pathology
- Somerset County Advisory Council on Disability Issues
- Somerset County Agricultural Development Board
- Somerset County Board of Social Services
- Somerset County Business Partnership
- Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission
- Somerset County Department of Public Works
- Somerset County Emergency Response Team
- Somerset County Energy Council
- Somerset County Engineer
- Somerset County Freeholders
- Somerset County Health Department
- Somerset County Park Commission
- Somerset County Planning Board
- Somerset County Solid Waste Management Office/ County Debris Removal Plan
- Somerset County YMCA
- Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
- Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District
- Sustainable Raritan Collaborative
- Together North Jersey
- Tourism Council of the Somerset County Planning

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Congressman Rush Holt • Preservation New Jersey • PSE&G • Raritan-Millstone Flood Commission | <p style="text-align: center;">Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Way of Northern New Jersey • US Army Corps of Engineers • US Department of Agriculture • Warren Township Department of Public Works -
Municipal Representative |
|---|---|

At a minimum, these stakeholders were advised of the planning process and provided the opportunity to review and provide direct input to the Plan during its development and/or most recent update. Further, the MPC and/or the PMT and AECOM met and/or directly communicated with many of these stakeholders to obtain data and information, review existing plans, and facilitate the identification of appropriate mitigation initiatives. Specific information obtained from these stakeholders is cited and/or referenced throughout this Plan.

Somerset County government agencies provided input as noted below.

Somerset County Government Agencies

Somerset County Planning Department – The County Planning Division Director served as co-manager of the project. He was a member of the MPC, associated PMT and Steering Committee along with two other members of his staff. The Chief of Strategic Planning provided primary project oversight and coordination. Planning Staff facilitated the establishment of the MPC, Steering Committee, PMT, Focus Groups and the associated scheduling, content, format and logistics of all meetings. The Chief of Strategic Planning led the development of the Flood Resiliency Framework and Energy Resiliency Framework, and was responsible for a substantial portion of the associated research, text and “tool kit” matrices. Planning staff played a lead role in the preparation and distribution of formal communications (memorandums, letters and e-mail messages, project fact sheets, invitational flyers, worksheets, etc.) to municipal officials, municipal HMOs, Steering Committee members and other stakeholders. Planning Staff provided technical review and assisted in the completion of all sections of the HMP, and prepared several GIS-based maps for inclusion in the updated Risk Assessment and Flood Resiliency Framework. Planning Staff ensured all county-level worksheet inputs were completed, conferring with members of the PMT, Steering Committee and other County agencies as appropriate; and played a lead role in preparing the projects/actions to be modified and carried forward to the 2019 plan and new projects/actions for inclusion in the updated HMP Mitigation Strategy. Planning staff presented information about the HMP update process at all regularly scheduled meetings of the County Planning Board and the Board’s Master Plan/Land Use Committee; as well as at the Planning Partnership Forums for municipal officials, planning staff and planning board members that are held quarterly. Planning Staff also established the electronic project file management system, ensuring all project-related records; including all municipal worksheet inputs and associated correspondence were maintained.

Somerset County Emergency Management Office–The County OEM Director served as co-manager of the project. He was a member of the MPC, associated PMT and Steering Committee along with two other members of his staff. He and his staff played a lead role in facilitating municipal involvement in the completion of the worksheets used for submitting local information needed to update the municipal annexes. They also played a supporting role in organizing the planning process, providing information to stakeholders and opportunities for input during the HMP update process. The County OEM holds quarterly OEM Coordinator Meetings at which the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan was discussed. The County OEM also kept the Hazard Mitigation Website updated as well as helped facilitate the various MPC, PMT, Steering Committee meetings, Focus Group Sessions and municipal assistance workshops

held throughout the HMP update process. County OEM staff handled submission of quarterly reports to the NJOEM. County OEM staff assisted in determining the implementation status of the county-level 2014 HMP Mitigation Strategy actions/projects; and decisions regarding which projects should be carried forward “as-is” or with modifications and the identification of new projects for inclusion in the 2019 HMP Update. County OEM staff also helped prepare the county-level inputs (worksheet completion) for updating Volume II Section 9, refinement of the drafted updated of the implementation status of the County’s 2014 HMP Mitigation Strategy projects and initiatives; and proposed projects and initiatives to be included in the updated HMP. County OEM staff also participated in the review and refinement of the overall draft updated HMP.

Somerset County Department of Engineering – The Assistant County Engineer attended meetings of the MPC, Steering Committee and PMT. He was instrumental in assessing the implementation status of the County’s 2014 HMP Mitigation Strategy projects and initiatives; and evaluated those that should be modified and carried forward into the 2019 update as well as potential new projects and initiatives for inclusion in the plan. He also reviewed and provided written feedback on the draft HMP Sections.

Somerset County Department of Public Works – The County Planning Division is within the Department of Public Works. As such, HMP project updates were provided to the Director of Public Works by the County Planning Director at the regularly scheduled monthly department meetings. The Planning Director also met with the Public Works Director on a regular basis to keep him apprised of municipal participation and potential new county mitigation projects/actions and other issues. The Director of Public Works was provided a copy of the draft updated HMP for review and comment prior to submission to the NJOEM and FEMA review agencies.

Somerset County Public Information Office – A representative from the County Public Information Office (PIO) served on the Steering Committee, attended steering committee meetings. The PIO representative ensured broad and frequent communication and information to the public using a wide variety of media (Facebook, Twitter, print media, emails, and electronic media). For example, she facilitated the distribution of e-mail communications regarding the HMP update process to members of the County’s HMP e-mail service list, which is maintained by the PIO. The PIO also oversees the development of the County e-Newsletter and provides information about the HMP update process therein.

Somerset County Information Technology (IT) Division: The PMT met with the County GIS Coordinator who is a member of this division on several occasions to discuss GIS resources currently available for use in the development of the updated HMP, and for technical guidance with regard to certain GIS-dependent 2014 actions/projects that were modified and carried forward for inclusion in the 2019 HMP Update. The County GIS Coordinator participated in the preparation of the county-level inputs (worksheets) associated with completion of Volume II, Section 9 of the HMP. The County GIS Coordinator developed a GIS On-line Tax Parcel Viewer which allows members of the public and other interested individuals the ability to see how FEMA’s mapped flood hazard area information affects individual properties, which is available at the following link: http://gis.co.somerset.nj.us/somersetco_tpv/. The County Planning Division’s Senior Planner-GIS who collaborates closely with the County GIS Coordinator, provided GIS technical assistance in the development of the updated HMP, including the provision of GIS-based maps utilizing FEMA’s FIRM, SRL and RL data in combination with data maintained by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the County Planning Division.

Somerset County Human Services Department- Julie DeSimone, Planning Administrator for the Department of Human Services served as a member of the Steering Committee. She attended several Steering Committee Meetings and was actively engaged in preparing the county-level input documents

(worksheets) needed for completing the updated HMP. She also reviewed and provided feedback on each of the updated draft HMP components.

The following agencies were at the minimum invited to attend outreach meetings and/or to review information on the HMP website regarding the planning process, status, and draft documents.

Surrounding County Agencies

- Hunterdon County
- Mercer County
- Middlesex County
- Union County
- Morris County
- Union County

Academia and Health

- Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University
- Office of the NJ State Climatologist
- Hospitals and Health Care
- RWJ Barnabas- Robert Wood Johnson Hospital of Somerset

Utilities and Infrastructure

- Somerset County Department of Public Works – Somerset County Transportation Division,
- Somerset County Department of Public Works – Somerset County Traffic Division
- PSE&G
- JCP&L
- NJ American Water Company
- Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority
- NJ Water Supply Authority
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Association

Commercial and Industrial Interests

The President and CEO of the Somerset County Business Partnership (SCBP) serves as a member of the Steering Committee and has been involved in the Steering Committee Meetings as well as participated in the review of the draft updated HMP components. The SCBP's Director of Workforce Development served as HMP Focus Group participant. A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Somerset County (CEDS) was developed for the County in accordance with USEDA standards and adopted as an element of the Somerset County Master Plan in 2014 through a collaborative effort involving the Somerset County Business Partnership and the County Planning Division. The aftermath of Superstorm Sandy significantly influenced this plan (a summary of the economic impacts resulting from this storm is included therein). The CEDS recognizes the important role hazard mitigation plays in terms of protecting the economy and promoting economic growth, therefore, *Hazard Mitigation* is included as a "Secondary Focus Area", along with recommended mitigation projects. An update of the CEDS is scheduled to take place during 2019 through a joint effort involving the County Business Partnership and Planning Division. One of the CEDS projects involved flood protection improvements at the NJ American Water Supply Company treatment works in Bridgewater, which was implemented in 2016-2017. Expanded integration of hazard mitigation planning within the CEDS will be pursued during the CEDS update process.

Government Agencies

Information regarding hazard identification, risk assessment, and mitigation actions for this plan was also requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Public Participation - Citizen Involvement

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the MPC and citizens and to involve the public in the planning process, it was determined that draft documents will be made available to the public through a variety of venues. The participating partners feel that providing a Plan that is in a printed form (in addition to an online format) is valuable because it is familiar, even reassuring, to citizens who have been part of a comprehensive planning process and have suffered losses due to a hazard. Some citizens also may not be comfortable with online tools or may not have internet access. The participating partners also feel that community input in the HMP update will increase the likelihood of hazard mitigation becoming one of the standard considerations in the evolution and growth of the County.

The MPC has made the following efforts to inform and engage the public in the development and review of the updated HMP:

- The public was informed of the hazard mitigation planning effort commencement at the kick-off meeting, and through press releases, news articles, and public service announcements. In addition, 1,100 e-mail subscribers to the County's Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan service list received information about the update of the HMP. In addition to informing the communities and the public of the ongoing planning effort, updates regarding the mitigation planning process have been made at County Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators meetings, and at the Somerset County Police Chiefs Association meetings.
- County Planning Division staff reported on mitigation plan update progress at each regularly scheduled County Planning Board meeting conducted throughout the 2019 HMP update project timeline. All Planning Board meetings are open to the public. Planning Division representatives solicited input and feedback from those in attendance at each meeting.
- A public Hazard Mitigation webpage on the Somerset County website is being maintained as another way to facilitate communication between the Planning Committee and County residents (<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation>). The Hazard Mitigation webpage has been consistently maintained since the initial HMP's development, although it was reformatted and its address was changed in 2016 as part of a comprehensive update of the overall County website. The webpage contains a project overview, MPC contact information, the

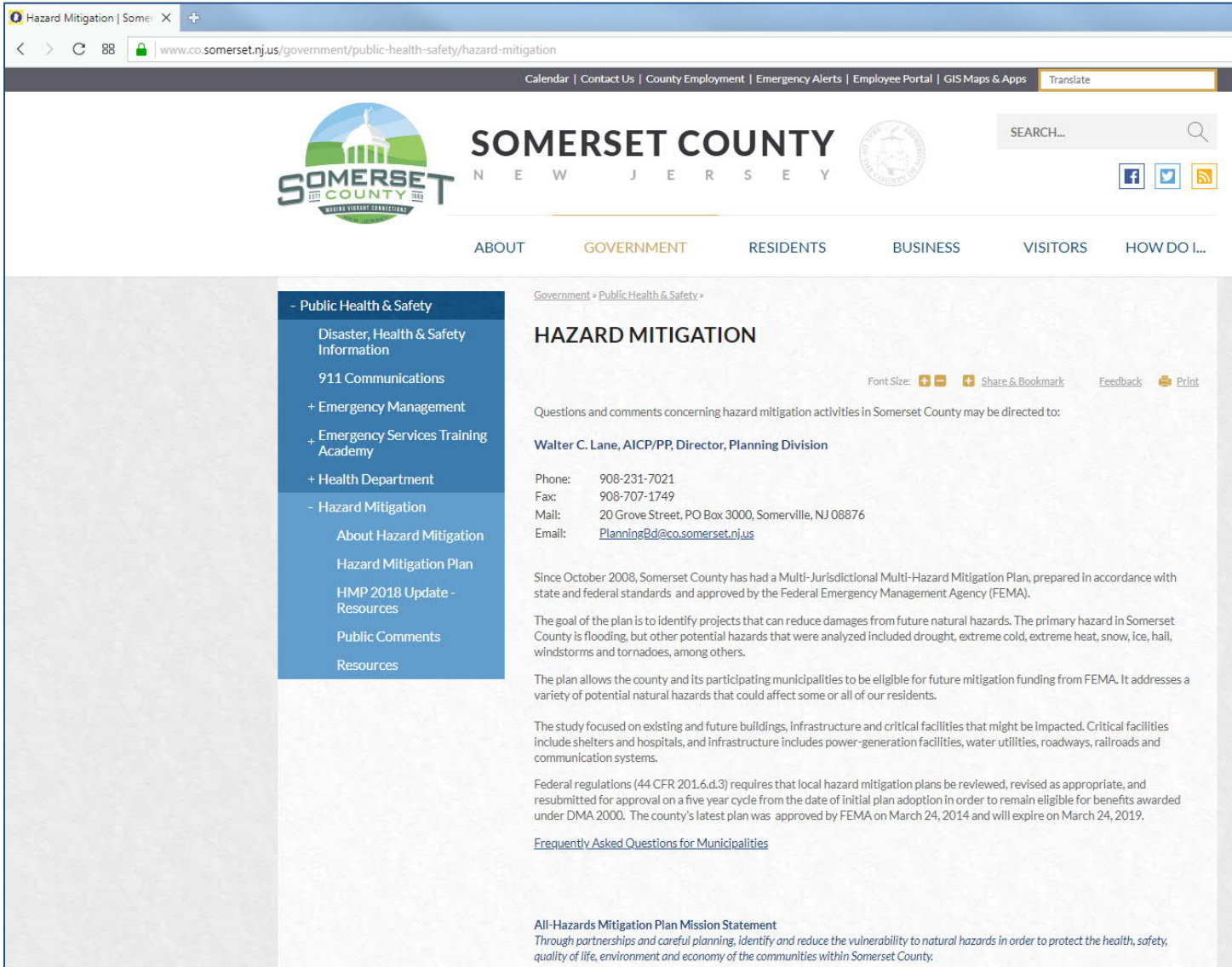
current HMP, and sections of the updated 2019 HMP for public review and comment. See Figures 3-1 and 3-2 for screenshots of this public website.

- Links to the public webpage have been established by the Township of Bedminster and Boroughs of Manville and North Plainfield, and are posted on the websites of those towns. All municipalities have been requested to post a link to the Hazard Mitigation webpage to provide ongoing public outreach.
- The public has been informed of the mitigation planning process through media coverage and articles appearing throughout the planning process. It is noted that all press releases were emailed to approximately 6,227 people (which includes Disaster Relief subscribers in addition to *What's New*). There are approximately 2,473 subscribers to the County e-newsletter and about 3,904 Facebook subscribers and over 1,075 followers on Twitter. Copies of these articles may be found in Appendix C.
- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the MPC and citizens, and involve the public in the planning process, the updated HMP will be made available to the public through a variety of venues. A printed version of the Plan will be maintained at Somerset County Planning Office and public libraries throughout the County.
- The County has created a page on its website devoted to the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation>) to inform residents of the project and allow for direct input. The website initially went live during the previous plan update in March 2012 at a predecessor address <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/hazard/index.htm>. While the address has changed, and the format and content have been updated over time, the page itself has been maintained on a continuous basis to provide information on the project and methods the public can participate in the planning process (Appendix C), including via submittal of public comments online at <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments>.
- The first update cycle that led to the completion of the 2014 HMP included an online natural hazards preparedness citizen survey, which was used to gauge household preparedness and assess the level of knowledge of available tools and resources that can assist them in reducing hazard risks and potential losses. The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. It also asked several demographic questions to help analyze trends. On August 8, 2012, a press release was issued announcing the project and promoting participation in the online survey. Responses were collected and incorporated into the 2014 HMP's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Obstacles (SWOO) discussions and the catalog of mitigation actions.
- A press release was issued on August 23, 2017, announcing that the Plan Update was underway, and once again requesting public participation. County residents, businesses and other interested parties were invited to sign up to receive free email alerts as the plan update progresses by visiting www.co.somerset.nj.us/subscribe and selecting "Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan." [Interested parties were also invited to view the plan website: \(https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation\)](https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation), which includes [an online form for public comments \(https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments\)](https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments). The press release was posted on the County web site and was sent to local media outlets including:
 - About Our Town News
 - Bernards Twp. Cable TV
 - Bernardsville News
 - Branchburg News
 - Cablevision (Neighborhood Journal and Bulletin Board)
 - Community Chronicles
 - Courier News

- Daily Record
- Echoes-Sentinel
- FiOS1
- Hillsborough Beacon
- Home News Tribune
- Manville News
- Montgomery News
- News 12 NJ
- NJ101.5
- The Pride of North Plainfield, Watchung Post and Warren Monthly
- Princeton Packet
- Star-Ledger
- TAPinto – Basing Ridge; Franklin; Somerset Hills; Somerville & Hillsborough; Warren, North Plainfield, Green Brook & Watchung
- TAPinto The Breeze
- VILLEtv-22
- WCTC Radio
- Patch.com including local editions:
 - Basking Ridge Patch
 - Bernardsville-Bedminster Patch
 - Bridgewater Patch
 - Hillsborough Patch
 - Warren Patch
 - Watchung - Green Brook Patch
- A hazard mitigation planning fact sheet (see Appendix C) was developed to inform the public of the planning process, provide local contact information, and encourage the public to review the plan and provide input. This was posted on the County web site at <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/home/showdocument?id=26078>. The fact sheet was distributed widely by participating jurisdictions during meetings where public and stakeholder attendees were present.

Examples of public outreach efforts are presented in Appendix C. Public comments that have been received to date are documented in Appendix C. Specific outreach efforts undertaken by other participating jurisdictions are included in the jurisdictional annexes of Volume 2.

Figure 3-1. Screenshot of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Link on the Somerset County Government Website



Source: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation>, 06/27/18

Figure 3-2. Screenshot of the Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Comment Website

Public Comments | Somers X +

www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments

Calendar | Contact Us | County Employment | Emergency Alerts | Employee Portal | GIS Maps & Apps Translate

SOMERSET COUNTY
NEW JERSEY

SEARCH

ABOUT GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS BUSINESS VISITORS HOW DO I...

Government > Public Health & Safety > Hazard Mitigation >

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Font Size: Share & Bookmark Feedback Print

Public participation is an important component of the hazard mitigation planning process. Somerset County welcomes your comments and will consider submitted comments as part of future plan updates. Federal regulations require that local hazard mitigation plans be reviewed, revised as appropriate, and resubmitted for approval on a five-year cycle from the date of initial plan adoption in order to remain eligible for benefits awarded under the DMA 2000. The current plan expires on March 24, 2019.

Please provide your name and email address in case we need to contact you for clarification. Mandatory fields are marked with an *.

1. Name *

2. Street Address

3. Town

4. State
New Jersey

5. Zip Code

6. Email *

7. Comments:

To receive a copy of your submission, please fill out your email address below and submit.

Email Address

I'm not a robot

SUBMIT

Page 1 / 1

Source: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments> 06/27/18.

The community had an opportunity to comment on the draft HMP before submittal to FEMA. The HMP was posted on the public website on October 23, 2018 for review (<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/hazard-mitigation-plan>).

COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS

Local municipalities are charged with the development of local HMPs required under Section 322 of the Stafford Act by New Jersey. Therefore, the MPC, with resources and assistance from the County, coordinated the development and update of this HMP. In New Jersey, local municipalities are authorized to prepare local disaster plans based on the contention that they are best equipped to assess their strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints. Local governments have intimate knowledge of the local geography, and in a disaster, local government personnel are on the front lines providing personnel and equipment to support the community. Somerset County and its participating jurisdictions are involved in this above program, hence the development of this Plan.

Examples of other hazard mitigation programs within Somerset County include the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). These programs assist the County and its municipalities in receiving funding for flood mitigation projects and flood insurance (the HMGP also can provide funds to mitigate other natural hazards). Data from the County, based on participation in these programs, was incorporated in the risk assessment in Section 5 and used to identify mitigation options in Section 9. Continued involvement in these flood-related programs will help to administer funds and resources to support this HMP.

An overview of various program funding opportunities is provided in the following subsections; note, however, that further information on a wider range of both state and federal funding streams is included in Appendix E, the Flood Resiliency Framework and Energy Framework components of the HMP.

Federal Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

Federal mitigation grant funding (Stafford Act 404 and 406) is available to all communities with a current hazard mitigation plan (this plan); however most of these grants require a “local share” in the range of 10-25% of the total grant amount. Participation in FEMA 404 HMGP may cover mitigation activities including raising, removing, relocating or replacing structures within flood hazard areas. The FEMA mitigation grant programs are described below.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation program. It is made available to states by FEMA after each Federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75% funding for hazard mitigation measures. The HMGP can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard prone areas, flood-proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements and development of state or local standards. Projects must fit into an overall mitigation strategy for the area identified as part of a local planning effort. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (this plan).

Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to NJOEM and placed in rank order for available funding and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration is required. Only NFIP insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited and, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations. The federal cost share for an FMA project is 75%. At least 25% of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source. Of this 25%, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. At minimum, a FEMA-approved local flood mitigation plan is required before a project can be approved. FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the state. NJOEM serves as the grantee and program administrator for FMA.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program

The PDM program is an annually funded, nationwide, competitive grant program. No disaster declaration is required. Federal funds will cover 75% of a project's cost up to \$3 million. As with the HMGP and FMA, a FEMA-approved local Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be approved for funding under the PDM program.

Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) Program

The RFC program is an annually funded, nationwide mitigation grant program with the goal of reducing flood damages to individual properties for which one or more claim payments for losses have been made under flood insurance coverage, and will result in the greatest amount of savings to the National Flood Insurance Fund (NFIF) in the shortest period of time. RFC funding is available for property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation, structural elevations, and minor localized flood reduction projects. Federal funding covers 100% of the project costs.

Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Program

The SRL program is an annually funded, nationwide mitigation grant program with the goal of reducing flood damages to residential properties that have experienced severe repetitive losses under flood insurance coverage, and as such, will result in the greatest amount of savings to the NFIF in the shortest period of time. SRL funding is available for property acquisition and structure demolition or relocation, structural elevations, and minor localized flood reduction projects. Federal funding covers 75% of the project costs (90% if the community has a repetitive loss strategy).

Federal Disaster and Recovery Assistance Programs

Following a disaster, various types of assistance may be made available by local, state and federal governments. The types and levels of disaster assistance depend on the severity of the damage and the declarations that result from the disaster event. Among the general types of assistance that may be provided should the President of the United States declare the event a major disaster are the following:

Individual Assistance (IA)

IA provides help for homeowners, renters, businesses and some non-profit entities after disasters occur. This program is largely funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. For homeowners and renters, those who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses may be eligible for a Home Disaster Loan to repair or replace damaged real estate or personal property. Renters are eligible for loans to cover personal

property losses. Individuals may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate, \$40,000 to cover losses to personal property, and an additional 20% for mitigation. For businesses, loans may be made to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc. are also eligible. An Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a physical disaster. These loans are restricted, by law, to small businesses only.

Public Assistance (PA)

PA provides cost reimbursement aid to local governments (state, county, local, municipal authorities and school districts) and certain non-profit agencies that were involved in disaster response and recovery programs or that suffered loss or damage to facilities or property used to deliver government-like services. This program is largely funded by FEMA with both local and state matching contributions required.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

CDBG are federal funds intended to provide low and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, as suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration. Public improvements may include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances, and during the times of “urgent need” (e.g., post disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding may be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event.

National Flood Insurance Program

Established in 1968, the NFIP provides federally-backed flood insurance to residents of communities that enact and enforce regulations that more carefully regulate development within floodplain areas. For individual property owners to be eligible to buy the federally-backed flood insurance, their property must be located within a community that participates in NFIP.

There are three components to the NFIP: flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping. Communities participate in the NFIP by adopting and enforcing floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. In exchange, the NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in these communities. Community participation in the NFIP is voluntary. Flood insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Flood damage in the U.S. is reduced by nearly \$1.1 billion each year through communities implementing sound floodplain management requirements and property owners purchasing flood insurance (FEMA, 2018). Additionally, FEMA has estimated that buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80% less damage annually than those not built in compliance.

For a community to be eligible to participate in the NFIP, it must adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to regulate proposed development in floodplains and officially designate a local floodplain coordinator/administrator. The intent of the program is to ensure that new construction and substantial improvements do not exacerbate existing flood hazards and is designed to better withstand flooding. All jurisdictions in Somerset County participate in the NFIP. The communities also have Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that, at a minimum, show the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas

(SFHAs). Mitigation activities related to this program are included in Section 9 and data from FEMA Region 2 regarding NFIP Insurance Reports was used in the risk assessment for the flood hazard included in Section 5.

Each municipality in Somerset County participates in FEMA’s NFIP and, as such, has designated a local floodplain administrator (sometimes referred to as a local floodplain manager) in their respective floodplain management ordinances, whose role it is to administer and enforce the terms of the local ordinance. Floodplain administrators have been informed of, and engaged in, the mitigation planning process. They have reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the Plan, including this 2019 plan update. Table 3-8 summarizes the designated Floodplain Administrators for each jurisdiction.

Table 3-8. Somerset County Floodplain Administrators

Jurisdiction	Title
Bedminster (T)	Township Engineer
Bernards (T)	Municipal Engineer
Bernardsville (B)	Borough Engineer
Bound Brook (B)	Construction Official
Branchburg (T)	Township Zoning Officer
Bridgewater (T)	Floodplain Manager
Far Hills (B)	Borough Engineer
Franklin (T)	Senior Engineer/CRS Coordinator
Green Brook (T)	Township Engineer
Hillsborough (T)	Assistant Township Engineer
Manville (B)	Borough Administrator
Millstone (B)	Zoning Officer
Montgomery (T)	Township Engineer
North Plainfield (B)	Grotto Engineering, Supporting Zoning Officer
Peapack-Gladstone (B)	Borough Administrator
Raritan (B)	Borough Engineer
Rocky Hill (B)	Borough Engineer
Somerville (B)	Construction Official
South Bound Brook (B)	Building Construction Officer
Warren (T)	Township Zoning Officer
Watchung (B)	Borough Engineer

Source: Updated by local contacts through completion of Worksheet 3 (see Jurisdictional Annexes of Section 9).

Community Rating System (CRS)

The NFIP has been successful in protecting property owners who acquire flood insurance through the program from catastrophic financial losses due to flooding, and in requiring that new buildings constructed within 100-year floodplains are better protected from flood damage.

In the 1990s, the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) established the CRS to encourage local governments to increase their standards for floodplain development. The goal of this program is to

encourage communities, through flood insurance rate adjustments, to implement standards above and beyond the minimum required in order to:

- Reduce losses from floods
- Facilitate accurate insurance ratings
- Promote public awareness of the availability of flood insurance

CRS is a voluntary program designed to reward participating jurisdictions for their efforts to create more disaster-resistant communities using the principles of sustainable development and management. Five Somerset County communities are currently participating in the program, but several others are considering or have started the process of enrolling in CRS as indicated in their annexes in Section 9 of this plan. By enrolling in CRS, county municipalities can leverage greater flood protection while receiving flood insurance discounts. Active involvement in this program is included as mitigation activities in several of the municipal annexes in Section 9.

Below is a summary of CRS ranking for participating communities in the county as of October 2017.

Table 3-9. CRS Participating Communities in Somerset County

Community Name	Community Number	CRS Entry Date	Current Effective Date	Current Class	%Discount SFHA	%Discount Non-SFHA	Status*
Bedminster (T)	340427	10/1/1996	5/1/2007	6	20	10	C
Bernards (T)	340428	10/1/2010	5/1/2017	7	15	5	C
Franklin (T)	340434	5/1/2010	5/1/2015	6	20	10	C
Manville (B)	340437	10/1/2014	10/1/2014	7	15	5	C
North Plainfield (B)	345307	10/1/1992	10/1/2009	8	10	5	C
Warren (T)	340446	5/1/2010	5/1/2015	8	10	5	C

Status: C=Current, R=Rescinded

The Borough of Manville applied for a FMA Planning Grant in 2015 and received funding to prepare an Acquisition Action Plan, which is part of the Borough's updated Annex. This plan includes an evaluation of structures in the flood-prone areas of the Borough that are suitable for acquisition and a prioritized mitigation strategy. This plan will be used as the basis for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant funding to be pursued by the Borough to acquire repetitive loss properties and eliminate associated future flood risk. The Borough has recently expanded its CRS activities and is currently seeking a CRS 5 classification which would increase its SFHA discount to 25%.

Somerset County Emergency Operations Plan

The County plans to include the addition of an environmental component to the Somerset County Emergency Operations Plan that responds to the information provided in the Climate Memorandum, and draft Flood Resiliency and Energy Resiliency Framework documents included in the Appendix. Issues such as inclusion of possible development of more aggressive household and small business hazardous waste management techniques (creation of ordinances, public education, County Household Hazardous Waste Days held in these communities, etc.) in flood prone areas shall be addressed in the Emergency Operations Plan.

INTEGRATION OF EXISTING DATA AND PLANS INTO MITIGATION PLAN

The HMP integrates the local, state and federal data identified below.

Local Data

The MPC reviewed and incorporated existing data and plans to update the HMP. A number of electronic and hard copy documents were made available to support the planning process. A complete listing is included in Table 3-9.

- Somerset County Geographic Information System (GIS) data
- Documentation of past mitigation actions and grant applications
- Somerset County Master Plan (various elements)
- Historic maps and local inventory data

Cross-referencing this Plan with existing planning documents has been included in Section 9 as mitigation activities.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances and plans were reviewed during this planning process in an effort to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives and mitigation strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms; and thus develop complementary and mutually supportive plans.

- Building Codes
- Zoning Ordinances
- Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Stormwater Management
- Emergency Response Plans
- New Jersey State Standard Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan, 2014

The “Legal and Regulatory” capability assessment of each participating jurisdiction is included in Section 9, Jurisdictional Annexes and provides a listing of the local codes, ordinances, regulations and planning mechanisms available in the jurisdictions and reviewed during this planning process.

Federal and State Data

Federal and State data was collected and used throughout the mitigation process including:

- New Jersey State Standard Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan, 2014
- FEMA FIRM Maps and Information
- US Census data
- HAZUS-MH provided data
- FEMA “How To” Series (386-1 to 386-4, and 386-7)
- Public laws and other programs such as the NFIP were examined to complete this Plan.

A complete list of the existing data and plans used to support this HMP is included in the references section of this document. By incorporating data from existing programs into this mitigation plan, the County and jurisdictions also were able to identify the relevance of mitigation planning to these existing

programs. Implementation of this Plan through these existing plans is identified as a specific mitigation action in several areas in Section 9 of this Plan.

REVIEW OF EXISTING REPORTS AND PLANS

A summary of the reports and plans provided by Somerset County and participating jurisdictions and reviewed during the preparation of this HMP is included in the following Record of Review Matrix.

Table 3-10. Record Review (Municipalities) - Record of the review of existing programs, policies, and technical documents for participating jurisdictions (all)

Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents	Countywide *	Bedminster (T)	Bernards (T)	Bernardsville (B)	Bound Brook (B)	Branchburg (T)	Bridgewater (T)	Far Hills (B)	Franklin (T)	Green Brook (T)	Hillsborough (T)	Manville (B)	Millstone (B)	Montgomery (T)	North Plainfield (B)	Peapack-Gladstone (B)	Raritan (B)	Rocky Hill (B)	Somerville (B)	South Bound Brook (B)	Warren (T)	Watchung (B)	
Green Buildings and Environmental Sustainability Plan for Bernards Township			✓																				
Bernards Township Master Plan 2010			✓																				
Land Use Element, Branchburg Township Master Plan						✓																	
Reexamination of the Master Plan Township of Bridgewater							✓																
Somerset County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Update 2008	✓																						
Franklin Township Master Plan Amendment: Regulation of Residential Uses in Certain Zones									✓														
Green Brook Strategic Plan Report										✓													
Borough of Manville Supporting Documentation CRS Annual Re-Certification 2017												✓											
Township of Montgomery Land Use Plan Amendment														✓									
2010 and 2017 Open Space Advisory Committee Annual Report	✓																						
Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2011 – Peapack & Gladstone																✓							
Plan 2035 and Plan 2040 – Regional Transportation Plan for Northern New Jersey	✓																						
Rocky Hill Master Plan 2008																							✓
Somerset County 5 Year Strategic Plan	✓																						
The CPMP Annual Action Plan 2012	✓																						

Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents	Countywide *	Bedminster (T)	Bernards (T)	Bernardsville (B)	Bound Brook (B)	Branchburg (T)	Bridgewater (T)	Far Hills (B)	Franklin (T)	Green Brook (T)	Hillsborough (T)	Manville (B)	Millstone (B)	Montgomery (T)	North Plainfield (B)	Peapack-Gladstone (B)	Raritan (B)	Rocky Hill (B)	Somerville (B)	South Bound Brook (B)	Warren (T)	Watchung (B)
Somerville Master Plan Historic Preservation Element 2008*																			✓			
FY 2012 and FY 2018 Project Development Work Program NJTPA	✓																					
Summary of Proposed Bill S- 3156/A 4335	✓																					
Wachung Reexamination of Master Plan & Development Regulations*																						✓
Easton Avenue/Main Street Corridor Plan: Somerset County and Middlesex County*									✓													
Making Connections: Somerset County's Circulation Plan Update, 2011	✓																					
Advancing Inter-Modal Freight Opportunities with Central Somerset County	✓																					
Route 202 Corridor Assessment and Multi-Modal Mobility Plan, 2009	✓																					
Somerset County Regional Center Pedestrian, Bicycle, & Greenways Systems Connection Plan, 2009*	✓																					
The Together North Jersey Plan, November 2015	✓																					
Plan 2040: NJTPA Regional Transportation Plan for Northern New Jersey	✓																					
Somerset County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan	✓																					
Somerset County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report, 2008	✓																					
Investment Somerset, A Collaborative Blueprint for Economic Growth (CEDS) 2014	✓																					
Somerset County Master Plan – Housing Element, November 2017	✓																					
Somerset County Master Plan- County Investment Framework, October 2014	✓																					
Somerset County Master Plan, Draft Preservation Plan Element, 2018	✓																					

Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents	Countywide *	Bedminster (T)	Bernards (T)	Bernardsville (B)	Bound Brook (B)	Branchburg (T)	Bridgewater (T)	Far Hills (B)	Franklin (T)	Green Brook (T)	Hillsborough (T)	Manville (B)	Millstone (B)	Montgomery (T)	North Plainfield (B)	Peapack-Gladstone (B)	Raritan (B)	Rocky Hill (B)	Somerville (B)	South Bound Brook (B)	Warren (T)	Watchung (B)	
Somerset County Trends and Indicators Report, 2013	✓																						

Notes:

- ✓ = the Hazard Mitigation Plan consultant and PMT reviewed the program/policy/technical document
- * = this document may or may not include all jurisdictions

Master plans that have been updated during the time period covered under Somerset County's previous All Hazards Mitigation Plan those for the municipalities of Bernards, Branchburg, Peapack-Gladstone Somerville, Rocky Hill, and Watchung. Municipalities are aware that hazard mitigation data must be considered in all future master plan updates and land use regulations. A 10-year planning cycle is applied in accordance with NJ Municipal Land Use Law.

Goals and objectives relevant to hazard mitigation of plans (noted above) reviewed in the update process have been reviewed to confirm consistency with the plan goals and objectives.

CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Somerset County is committed to continued public involvement throughout the HMP update and maintenance process. Therefore, copies of the HMP will be made available for review during normal business hours at the Somerset County Planning Office and public libraries throughout the County; as well as via the County website.

A notice regarding updates of the HMP, progress reports, and the location of HMP copies will be publicized after the MPC's evaluation and posted on the public website (<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation>).

Each jurisdiction's Supervisor/Mayor or Clerk shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the MPC Committee. Douglas Vornlocker, Somerset County Director of Emergency Services and Walter Lane Director of the Somerset County Planning Division will designate one or more members of their staff to share ongoing Mitigation Plan (MP) Coordinator responsibilities (see Section 7). They will be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this Plan. Contact information for the CMPCs is:

Somerset County Mitigation Planning Coordinators
c/o: Somerset County Planning Division
20 Grove Street, PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
E-mail: hazardmitigation@co.somerset.nj.us

The MPC will review the Plan and accept public comment as part of any necessary plan reviews and as part of five-year mitigation Plan update. A notice regarding any updates of the Plan, progress reports, and the location of Plan copies will be publicized after the MPC's evaluation and posted on the public web site.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Plan as a part of the ongoing HMP is monitoring and evaluation (plan maintenance) process including during the five-year mitigation Plan update. The CMPCs are responsible for coordinating annual plan review meetings, and the associated evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the five-year Plan update as appropriate in collaboration with the MPC. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the MPC. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the HMP. Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7.