Introduction
Part I of the Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan (AHMP) Update describes and documents the process used to develop the plan update. This includes how it was prepared and who (committee, organizations, departments, staff, consultants, etc.) was involved in the update process. It also describes the local governments involvement, the time period in which the update was prepared, and who to contact to answer questions and make recommendations for future amendments to the plan.

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
The development of the Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update is a response to the passage of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). On October 30, 2000, DMA2K was signed into law by the U.S. Congress in an attempt to stem the losses from disasters, reduce future public and private expenditures, and to speed up response and recovery from disasters. This Act (Public Law 106-390) amended the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The following is a summary of the parts of DMA2K that pertain to local governments and tribal organizations:

- The Act establishes a new requirement for local governments and tribal organizations to prepare an All Hazards Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible for funding from FEMA through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Assistance Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

- The Act establishes a requirement that natural hazards such as tornados, floods, wildfires need to be addressed in the risk assessment and vulnerability analysis parts of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. Manmade types such as hazardous waste spills are encouraged but not required to be addressed.

- The Act authorizes up to seven percent of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds available to a state after a federal disaster to be used for development of state, local, and tribal organization All Hazards Mitigation Plans.

- The Act establishes November 1, 2004 as the date by which local governments and tribal organizations are to prepare and adopt their respective plans in order to be eligible for the FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program.

- If a plan is not prepared by November 1, 2004, and a major disaster is declared, in order for a local government or tribal organization to
be eligible to receive funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, they must agree to prepare an All Hazards Mitigation Plan within one year.

- In addition, by not having an All Hazard Mitigation Plan, local governments and tribal organizations cannot utilize funding through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

- All Hazard Mitigation Plans must be updated every five years.

**The Five Parts of an All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update**

The Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update was categorized into five parts in order to address FEMA’s local mitigation plan requirements. The five parts are as followed:

- Part I: Update Planning Process
- Part II: Planning Area
- Part III: Risk Assessment
- Part IV: Mitigation Strategy
- Part V: Plan Maintenance Process and Adoption

**Development of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update**

The Adams County Emergency Management Department received a Planning Grant in 2013 to update its All Hazards Mitigation Plan through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

In late 2013, the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) finalized a work agreement with Adams County and began preparation of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan at the request of the County Emergency Management Director in October of 2013.

The update process included regular Task Force Committee meetings as well as extensive involvement from the local units of government within Adams County and the counties surrounding Adams. A variety of local and regional agencies were involved in the development of the plan update at various stages, and extensive opportunity for public participation was provided including public informational meetings and hearings. All sections of the plan update report were reviewed and analyzed by the planning team at subsequent meetings and revised as established in the design of the update process for this Plan.

The remainder of this chapter expands on and provides more detail on key aspects of the update development process.
Key Elements Of The Update To The 2009 Plan
The major enhancements to the Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan develop through this update are as follows:

- Review of Recommended Revisions - The final Crosswalk for the previous plan approval listed a number of "recommended revisions" which were addressed in this update through the experience of subsequent plan adoptions from other counties.

- Review and update of planning area chapter - The planning area description and inventory was expanded and improved with additional information and updated statistics.

- Addition of economic impact modeling of the cumulative effects of job loss (due to hazard event) in the top industry sectors of the County.

- Review and update of risk assessment - The risk assessment was updated with documentation on recent hazard events. The priority level of hazards facing the County was also reviewed and updated.

- Review and update of Mitigation Strategy - The mitigation strategies chapter begins with a complete progress report on the strategies from the 2009 plan, establishment of new set of strategies for next five-year cycle and an updated prioritization of projects.

All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Taskforce
The Adams County All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update was prepared under the guidance of an advisory taskforce that consisted of a cross section of government, agency and interest group representatives from across the County. Periodic meetings were held with the NCWRPC staff, the County Emergency Management Director (Jane Gervais), and the Task Force to provide input on the types of hazards to be considered, appropriate mitigation strategies, and to review draft reports. Task Force members and their representation are as follows:

Jan Baumgartner  Mayor, City of Adams
Marge Edwards  Supervisor, Adams County Board
Jon Gessner  Operations Manager, Adams-Columbia Electric Coop
Phil McLaughlin  Administrator, Adams County Planning and Zoning
Heidi Roekle  Director, Adams County Chamber of Commerce
Marc Sass  Forester, Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources
Tony Sleeman  President, Village of Friendship
Local Government Involvement
There were a number of opportunities for the local units of government to become involved in the update process. All jurisdictions participated in the original plan as well as this update through one or more of these opportunities.

In June of 2014 a hazard mitigation issues survey was sent to each town chairperson and clerk requesting which hazards are a concern, input on past and future mitigation measures, and to document other information that could be incorporated into the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update. Responses were received from 9 of 17 towns. A significant amount of information was gleaned from these questionnaires and incorporated into the planning document.

The City of Adams and Village of Friendship were extensively involved in the development of the plan update in two ways: 1) seats on the Update Planning Taskforce and 2) participation in formal City/Village Mitigation Planning Meeting. Mayor Jan Baumgartner represented the City on the Update Taskforce, and President Tony Sleeman represented the Village of Friendship.

A formal meeting to jointly involve the City and Village in the development of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update was held on October 27, 2014. City and Village officials were formally introduced to the update process by NCWRPC staff and walked through an exercise to develop plan elements specific to the City and Village. Participants in this meeting included the following:

- Bret Anderson (City of Adams Police Department)
- Jan Baumgartner (City of Adams Mayor)
- Bob Berry (Adams/Friendship Water Utility)
- Jane Gervais (Adams County Emergency Management)
- Mike Zant (Village of Friendship Public Works)
- Tony Sleeman (Village of Friendship President)

The participants at this meeting provided information on hazards that have significance to the area, discussed critical facilities and provided mitigation strategy ideas for the plan update.

Neighboring Community Involvement
One of the requirements of the update process was to include neighboring communities. In previous plans, the NCWRPC experienced low attendance in response to invitations to county emergency management staff from surrounding counties. As a result, NCWRPC staff
teleconferenced during the update process with staff from Columbia, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waushara and Wood counties. Ideas were exchanged about All Hazards Mitigation planning processes and strategies between the various counties.

**Local and Regional Agency Involvement**

Another requirement of the update process was to involve local and regional agencies that have a role in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia, and other private and non-private interests. To meet this objective, the NCWRPC invited a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss potential hazard mitigation strategies.

The meeting was held on October 27, 2014 at the Adams County Courthouse in Friendship. Agencies and organizations represented include the following:

- Diane Anderson - WI Dept of Natural Resources
- Jane Gervais - Adams County Emergency Management
- Jon Gessner - Adams Columbia Electric Cooperative
- Sarah Grosshuesch - Adams County Health and Human Services
- Don Hamisch - Alliant Energy
- Brady Heck - Allied Coop
- Lucas Killick - Chula Vista Resort
- Daryl Landeau - North Central WI Regional Planning
- Amy Luebke - WI Dept of Natural Resources
- Greg Pulver - Alliant Energy
- Marc Sass - WI Dept of Natural Resources
- Wally Sedlar - Adams County Land & Water Conservation
- Joel Torkilsen - WE-Energies
- Phil Wenzel - Chula Vista Resort

A number of other agencies were invited but chose not to attend.

During the meeting, the Plan Update and its components were introduced to the attendees. Mitigation strategy ideas were solicited and a number of ideas were discussed at length with the group. Part IV of the Plan was revised based on the meeting.

During the meeting a number of issues were discussed. Meeting attendees brought up issues with power outage and gas leakage, high volume tourist attractions, health concerns associated with disaster events, evacuation and shelter, communication and public education, and coordination and cooperation.
Public Review Process and Plan Adoption
Opportunities for public comment were provided to review the Plan during the drafting stage and prior to Plan approval. See APPENDIX A for copies of public meeting notices. A copy of draft Plan elements were made available on the Internet during the planning process. Links that open an email submission form to the County Emergency Management Director or NCWRPC Staff were provided for questions or comments. The final Plan document will remain on the Internet until the next draft update is posted for review. The public can continue to submit questions or comments at any time via the email link. (See Contact Information, below, for web addresses.)

County Public Safety & Judiciary Committee meetings are always open to the public (unless entering into legal closed session), and the public can bring questions or comments regarding this Plan Update to any regular meeting. Meeting schedules can be obtained by checking the County website, contacting the County Clerk's Office or the Emergency Management Director (see Contact Information, below).

A public informational meeting on the draft update was held at the Adams County Courthouse on October 27, 2014. Notices were distributed to each local unit of government and posted in the local newspapers. However, no one from the public attended, and thus no public comments were received. In addition, no written comments were submitted.

A public hearing was held by the County Public Safety & Judiciary Committee on ____________, 2015.

In addition, _________________________________. Following the public hearing, the County Board approved the plan update at a subsequent meeting, see the resolution in Appendix B for details on this meeting. A brief overview of the update process and resulting updated plan was provided by Staff, and there was some general discussion by the Board.

The City and Village were asked to adopt the plan update for their jurisdictions at their own properly posted and open public meeting, see APPENDIX B for the County and other local units resolutions of adoption.

Incorporated Plans, Studies, Reports And Technical Data
Many plans, reports, and technical data were referenced and incorporated into the Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update. The following is comprehensive list of the data was used:
• Adams County Comprehensive Plan
• Town of Rome Community Wildfire Protection Plan
• Big Flats-Monroe Community Wildfire Protection Plan
• County Economic Development Strategy Report
• Adams County Emergency Operations Plan
• Emergency Action Plans – various dams within county
• Flood Insurance Study...for Adams County and Incorporated Areas
• DFIRM Maps for Adams County
• Hazard Analysis for the State of Wisconsin
• Land and Water Resource Management Plan – Adams County
• Zoning Ordinance – Adams County
• State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Adams County All Hazards Mitigation Plan 2009

Contact Information

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Go to:

www.ncwrpc.org/adams/adamshzdplan/index.html