

Section II - Planning Process

201.6(b) and 201.6(c)(1)

A. Project Leadership

The Yates County Emergency Management Office is the coordinating agency for development of the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan and the county Emergency Management Director serves as the Yates County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. As coordinating lead agency, the Emergency Management Office works under the supervision and authority of the Yates County Legislature, Public Safety Committee and the Yates County Administrator. Yates County Emergency Management officials were the lead department in obtaining grants and funds to develop the Multi-Jurisdiction All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

B. Steering Committee

Members of the Yates County Legislature Public Safety Committee, as well as the County Legislator Chairman, the County Administrator and Emergency Management Director serve as the Steering Committee supervising preparation of the Yates County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. In 2010, the Steering Committee included the following representatives.

Yates County Legislature, Chairman	H. Taylor Fitch, Keuka Park
Public Safety Committee Chair	Donna Alexander, Middlesex
Vice-Chairman, County Legislature	Robert N. Multer, Middlesex
Public Safety Committee Member	Timothy Dennis, Potter
Public Safety Committee Member	Daniel Banach, Penn Yan
Public Safety Committee Member	Steven Webster, Himrod
Yates County Administrator	Sarah Purdy
Emergency Management Director	Glen Miller

Development and preparation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, including mitigation goals and strategies, were discussed and reviewed at 29 meetings of the Public Safety Committee (Steering Committee) from June, 2005 through June, 2010, sometimes each month as necessary. Minutes and records of these meetings are on file with the Clerk of the Yates County Legislature.

Table 2-1 Steering Committee Meetings

Steering Committee Meetings*				
2005	June 6	October 3		
2006	February 6	May 1	August 7	
2007	July 2			
2008	February 4	May 5	June 2	July 7
	August 4	September 2	October 6	December 1
2009	March 2	May 4	June 1	July 6
	August 3	September 8	October 5	
	November 2	December 7		
2010	January 4	February 1	March 1	April 5
	May 1	June 30		

C. Project Phases

Development of the Yates County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been undertaken in two phases. With mitigation grant funds from FEMA and New York State, the county hired a contractor and began the planning process in 2005. The initial funding was insufficient to complete the plan and resulted in preparation of a set of mitigation priorities, a draft plan and completion of the Hazard Analysis (HAZNY). A second phase was undertaken in 2010 using county and grant funding and a contractor was hired to complete a plan that meets federal hazard mitigation planning standards and is approved by FEMA.

D. Participating Jurisdictions and Agencies

201.6(a)(3)

Local Jurisdictions

The nine Towns and three of the four Villages located within Yates County are currently included in this Hazard Mitigation Plan, as outlined in Section I. The fourth village, the Village of Rushville, is located in both Yates and Ontario Counties and is included in the Ontario County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Table 2-2 Participating Local Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Phase 1 2005-2007 Primary Participant(s)	Phase 2 2010 Primary Participant(s)
Town of Barrington	Steve Wheeler, Highway Supt. Eileen Farnan, Clerk	Steve Wheeler, Highway Supt Nathan Olney, Deputy Supervisor
Town of Benton	Jeff Mann, Highway Supt. Mary Lilyea, Assessor	Jeff Mann, Highway Supt John Griffin, Building & Zoning
Town of Italy	Margaret Dunn, Supervisor John Caves, Highway Supt.	Bradley Jones, Supervisor Dan Schenk, Highway Supt
Town of Jerusalem	Bob Payne, Highway Supt. Daryl Jones, Supervisor	Bob Payne, Highway Supt. Daryl Jones, Supervisor
Town of Middlesex	Robert Multer, Supervisor	Robert Multer, Supervisor Tom Reifsteck, Highway Supt
Town of Milo	Phil Strong, Highway Supt. Norm Snow, Supervisor	Phil Strong, Highway Supt Dan King, Building and Zoning
Town of Potter	Larry Lewis, Highway Supt. Leonard Lisenbee, Supervisor	Pamela Brown, Town Board Member
Town of Starkey	Steve Brace, Highway Dept. Doug Jayne, Highway Supt.	Louis Seeley, Highway Supt Richard Burcaw, Supervisor
Town of Torrey	Glenn Mashewski, Highway Supt Patrick Flynn, Supervisor	Glenn Mashewske, Highway Supt Patrick Flynn, Supervisor

Table 2-2 Participating Local Jurisdictions (continued)

Jurisdiction	Phase 1 2005-2007 Primary Participant(s)	Phase 2 2010 Primary Participant(s)
Village of Dresden	John Stryker, Highway Supt	Loujane Johns, Mayor John Stryker, Highway Supt
Village of Dundee	Tony DeStephen, Assessor	Andrew Howell, Highway Supt
Village of Penn Yan	Randy Jensen, Streets Supt.	Don Rapalee, Streets Supt Bruce Lyon, Building and Zoning

County Departments

Yates County and applicable departments are also participants in the Hazard Mitigation Plan and includes the following.

Table 2-3 Participating County Departments

Department	Phase 1 2005 - 2009 Planning Contact	Phase 2 2010 Planning Contact
Emergency Mgt.	Glen Miller, Director	Glen Miller, Director
Public Health	Lauren Snyder, Director	Deborah Minor, Director
Sheriff	Ronald Spike, Sheriff	Ronald Spike, Sheriff
Highways	David Hartman, Superintendent	David Hartman, Superintendent
Planning	Chris Wilson, Planner	Shawna Bonshak, Planner
Buildings & Grounds	Bruce Warfield, Supervisor	Bruce Warfield, Supervisor

Supporting Agencies

The following agencies provided planning support, technical input and advice to Yates County in development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Representatives and contacts from supporting agencies changed through the planning process depending on the special knowledge or program experience required and the availability of personnel.

- Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District
- NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO)
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- NYS Department of Code Enforcement
- National Weather Service (NWS), Binghamton, NY
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Description of Planning Events and Participant Activities

Four types of planning meetings, briefings and workshops were used to review planning goals, evaluate mitigation issues and to seek input from the participating jurisdictions in development of the hazard mitigation plan.

Kick-Off Meetings

A series of Kick-Off meetings were held with the participating jurisdictions between June of 2005 and March of 2006, as noted in Table 2-4 below. The purpose of the local Kick-Off meetings were to outline the goals and scope of the hazard mitigation planning process and identify what information and input would be required from plan participants. An important outcome of the Kick-Off meetings was to begin work with community leaders to formulate hazard mitigation strategies and proposed projects that would become a core product of the hazard mitigation plan.

A general Kick-Off meeting that included representatives of most of the participating jurisdictions and support agencies was held on June 20, 2005. The meeting notification, agenda, the list of invitees and participants are included in Attachment 1 to this plan. For jurisdictions that could not attend the June 20, 2005 meeting, or for plan participants who wanted follow-up and special assistance in beginning their hazard mitigation planning work, additional Kick-Off meetings were held ‘as requested’ on the following dates, which are also noted in Table 2-4 below.

June 7, 2005	November 16, 2005	November 21, 2005
February 20, 2006	February 15, 2006	March 10, 2006

Hazard Analysis

Hazard Analysis – New York (HAZNY) is the State’s interactive hazard evaluation program used to examine the kinds of hazards that could potentially affect Yates County. It allowed plan participants to rank and categorize the threat and vulnerability of each hazard and identify how each can impact local citizens, facilities and essential services in their communities. The HAZNY meeting was held August 11, 2009 and county-wide participation is listed in Table 2-4 below. The meeting notice, list of invitees, agenda and the report or findings of the HAZNY workshop are included in Appendix 3 to this plan. The HAZNY documents in Appendix 3 note that follow-up meetings were to be held on October 15 and November 5, 2009, but there are no records available and local officials recall they were probably small group work-sessions held to complete tasks and review the hazard and vulnerability assessment.

The HAZNY is a mitigation planning tool used throughout New York State to insure that local officials have a fundamental knowledge of the range of hazards and vulnerabilities their communities face, and it helps build consensus among community leaders as they develop goals

and strategies to mitigate local hazards. The HAZNY is also an early and important step in preparing a comprehensive risk assessment for the Hazard Mitigation plan.

Local/On-Site Planning Activities

As the Hazard Mitigation planning process continued through the two phases described in Section C above, it was necessary to conduct various on-site meetings with local officials in the participating jurisdictions; and on occasion planning materials and documents were obtained using email and telephone. Table 2-4 below outlines the local meeting dates and the kinds of information exchanges that occurred, as well as noting confirmation of the participant's review of the draft hazard mitigation plan. The purpose and outcomes of these local/on-site activities included the following.

- Identify potential mitigation sites and proposals
- Evaluate and prioritize mitigation projects
- Collect and exchange project data, maps, work descriptions and cost estimates for hazard mitigation proposals
- Review and provide opportunities for feedback regarding hazard mitigation proposals, projects, plan preparation and implementation

June 2010 Planning Workshop

As the second phase of the hazard mitigation planning process began in 2010, it was determined that another general meeting of the plan participants was needed to insure planning continuity, integration and implementation. The notifications, participants and agenda for this workshop are noted in Table 2-4 and meeting documents are included in Appendix 1 to this plan. The purpose and outcomes of the June 2010 planning workshop included the following.

- There were several new officials and representatives in the participating jurisdictions that required orientation to the hazard mitigation planning process and familiarization with planning work that had occurred previously
- There was a postponement in the planning process between Phases I and II, so even those participants involved in the earlier phase required an update about planning work that had been undertaken previously and what activities remained
- The workshop was an opportunity to review the mitigation strategies and goals that had been produced earlier in the planning process and allowed the participants to refine and amend their proposals and consider new or updated projects

Table 2-4 Participation Summary

Local Input and Participation Summary				
Jurisdiction/Agency	Kick-off Briefing(s)	Hazard Analysis (HAZNY) Participation	Local/On-Site Planning Activities	June 2010 Planning Workshop
County Administrator	6/20/05 County Administrator	Yes	4/20/2010	
County Legislators	6/20/05 1	3	4/20/2010 3 Draft Reviews 9/24/10	2
Public Health Director	6/20/05 Yes		Plan Input 2005 & 2008 Draft Review 9/15/2010	
Emergency Management	6/20/05 3	3	Continuous/Multiple	Director Public Safety Asst Administrator
Sheriff	6/20/05 Supervisor	Supervisor	Plan Input 2005	
Soil/Water District	6/20/05 Yes	Yes	Continuous/Multiple Draft Review	Soil & Water Specialist
Highway Superintendent	6/20/05 Yes	Yes	Draft Review 9/24/10	Deputy Highway Supt
County Planner			Meeting 5/21/2010 Meeting 7/8/2010 Draft Review 9/1/2010	
LEPC	6/20/05 1	7		
County EMS	6/20/05 1	Yes	Continuous/Multiple	
County 911		Yes		
County NIMS Coord		Yes		

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Table 2-4 Participation Summary (continued)

Jurisdiction/Agency	Kick-Off Briefing(s)	Hazard Analysis (HAZNY) Participation	Local/On-Site Planning Activities	June 2010 Planning Workshop
Town of Barrington	6/20/05 Town Supervisor Highway Supt. Town Clerk	Highway Supt Town Clerk Councilman	Meeting 6/7/05 Meeting 3/10/06 Meeting 2/9/07 10 phone/email exchanges Draft Review 9/24/10	Highway Supt Dep Supervisor Town Clerk
Town of Benton	3/10//2006 Highway Supt. Town Clerk	Highway Supt Fire Chief Building/Zoning	Meeting 3/10/06 Meeting 2/9/07 10 phone/email exchanges	Highway Supt Building/Zoning
Town of Italy	6/20/05 Supervisor	Highway Supt	6 phone/email exchanges Draft Review 9/15/10	Highway Supt Supervisor Councilman
Town of Jerusalem	Nov. 16-17, 05 Supervisor Highway Supt.	Highway Supt Building/Zoning	Meeting 5/15/08 9 phone/email exchanges Draft Review 8/29/10	Highway Supt Supervisor Dep Supervisor
Town of Middlesex	11/21/05 and 2/20/06 Supervisor Highway Supt.	Building/Zoning Highway Supt Councilman	13 phone/email exchanges Draft Review 8/20/10	Highway Supt Supervisor County Legislators (2) Building/Zoning
Town of Milo	11/16/05 and 2/15/06 Town Clerk Highway Supt.	Highway Supt Councilman	11 phone/email exchanges Project Proposals June 2010 Draft Review 9/27/10	Highway Supt Building/Zoning
Town of Potter	11/21/05 and 2/20/06 Supervisor Highway Supt. Assessor	Supervisor	6 phone/mail exchanges Project Proposals June 2010 Draft Review 9/24/10	Councilman
Town of Starkey	6/7/05 Highway Supt.	Dep Supervisor Highway Supt. Clerk Building/Zoning	12 phone/email /fax exchanges Project Proposals June 2010 Draft Review 8/31/10	Highway Supt Supervisor
Town of Torrey	6/20/05 Highway Supt.	Highway Supt. Building/Zoning	7 phone/fax/email exchanges Draft Review 8/25/10	Highway Supt Supervisor Councilman

Table 2-4 Participation Summary (continued)

Jurisdiction/Agency	Kick-Off Briefing(s)	Hazard Analysis (HAZNY) Participation	Local/On-Site Planning Activities	June 2010 Planning Workshop
Village of Dresden	6/7/05 Highway Supt.	Highway Supt	9 phone/fax/email exchanges Project Proposals June 2010 Draft review 9/27/10	Highway Supt Mayor
Village of Dundee	Records Not Available	Highway Supt Village Clerk	Meeting to Develop Project Proposals June 2, 2010	Highway Supt Water Supt Sewer Supt
Village of Penn Yan	6/20/05 Police Dept	Public Works (2) Streets Dept Building/Zoning	Meeting 6/7/05 9 phone/fax/email exchanges Project Proposals June 2010 Draft Review 9/24/10	Streets Supt Building/Zoning Police Chief
NYSEMO	6/20/05 Regional Coordinator	4	Draft Review 11/3/09 Draft Review 10/09	Regional Staff
NYS Health Dept	6/20/05 Regional Office Representative	1		
National Weather Service (NWS)	6/20/05 Binghamton Forecaster	1	Plan Input 2005 & 2008	
American Red Cross	6/20/05 Disaster Services Representatives (3)	2 Disaster Coordinators	Plan Input 2005 & 2008	
Utilities		2 NYSEG		
Industry/Business	6/20/05 AES Greenridge	Ferro Corp.		

Meeting Notices and Documents (see Appendix 1)
HAZNY Notices and Documents (see Appendix 3)

Table 2-5 Functional Participation by Primary Participants

Participant	Type of Participation
Legislators and Administrator	Project Supervision and Oversight Plan Review and Input Identify and Develop Mitigation Goals and Strategies Provide Information to the Public and Seek Citizen Input
Emergency Manager and Staff	Project Supervision and Oversight Plan Review and Input Research, Data Collection and Fact-Finding Document Preparation and Organization Meeting Coordination and Presentations Identification and Evaluation of Hazards Identify and Develop Mitigation Goals and Strategies Provide Information to the Public and Seek Citizen Input
Participating Jurisdiction Representatives	Plan Review and Input Identification and Evaluation of Hazards Identify and Develop Mitigation Goals and Strategies Provide Information to the Public and Seek Citizen Input
Project Consultant	Project Guidance and Advice Research, Data Collection and Fact-Finding Document Preparation and Organization Preparation of Maps and Graphics Meeting Coordination and Presentations Identification and Evaluation of Hazards Identify and Develop Mitigation Goals and Strategies
SEMO	Project Guidance and Advice Plan Review and Input Preparation of Maps and Graphics Meeting Coordination and Presentations Identification and Evaluation of Hazards
County Public Works	Plan Review and Input Research, Data Collection and Fact-Finding Preparation of Maps and Graphics Identification and Evaluation of Hazards Identify and Develop Mitigation Goals and Strategies
County Planning	
Soil and Water Conservation District	
National Weather Service	

E. Project Timeline

210.6(c)(1)

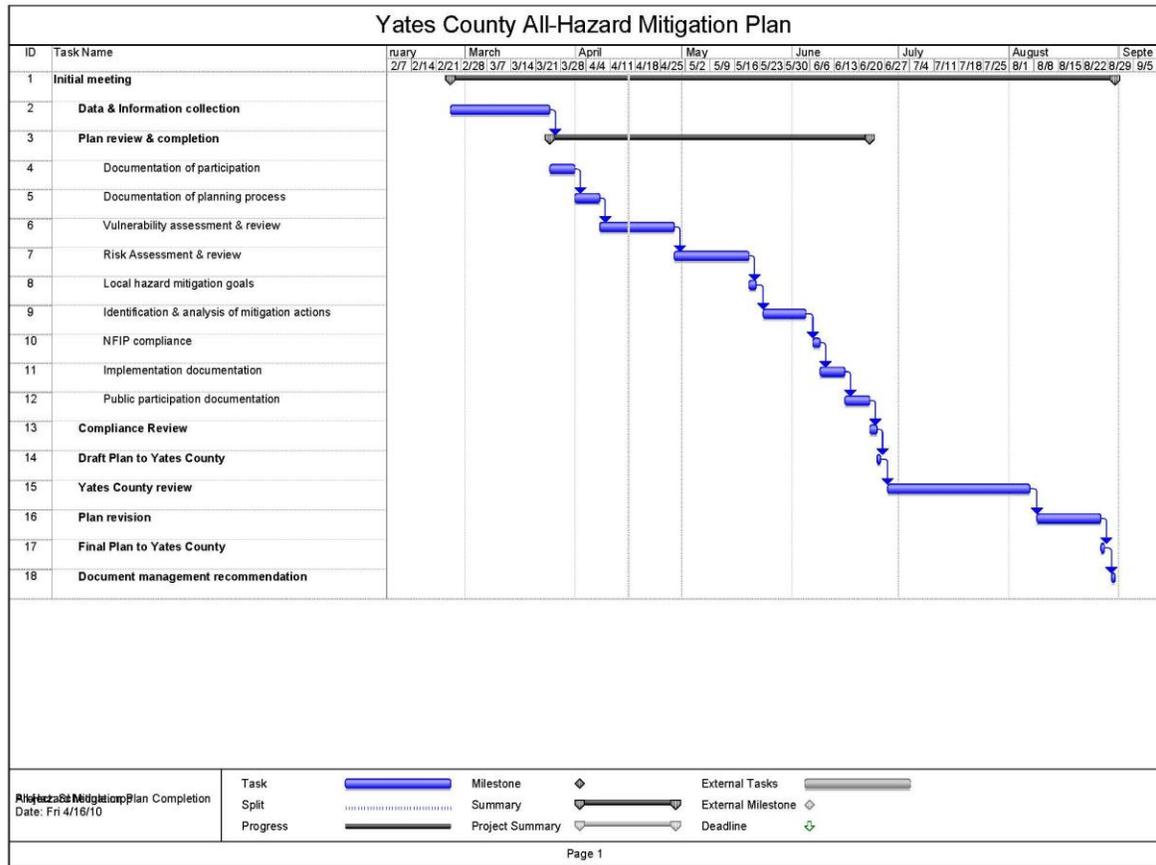
Table 2-6 Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project Timelines

Phase 1 2005 - 2009	Phase 2 2010 - 2011
<p>November 2005 Mitigation grant funding approved</p> <p>Early 2006 County Administrator and Legislators briefed about project Contractor hired Initial planning work begins Review of other local and complimentary plans</p> <p>June 2006 Multi-jurisdiction planning kick-off meeting Input obtained from state/federal support agencies</p> <p>2006/2007 Began development of maps of hazards and natural profiles (with SWCS) Collected and prepared statistical and historical information of past disaster events and mitigation projects Onsite meetings with participating jurisdictions Email and phone exchange of planning information and input with participating jurisdictions Identified weather hazards and evaluated hazard risks (with NWS) Developed mitigation goals and strategies</p> <p>Late 2007 Preparation of the first plan drafts was begun Research on historical hazard data and vulnerabilities continued</p> <p>2008 8 Steering Committee Meetings were held</p> <p>August 2009 Updated the County Hazard Analysis (HAZNY) Obtained additional agency and jurisdiction input regarding mitigation priorities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--more --</p>	<p>January 2010 October 2009 Draft plan submitted to each participating jurisdiction for review Draft Plan posted on the Yates County website for public availability</p> <p>February Reviewed project scope with contractor Contractor collected and reviewed available resources, plans, data</p> <p>March Contractor resumed planning work Review of existing planning documents Review of State Crosswalk Worksheets Prepare draft revisions to Section III, Hazard Identification and Definitions</p> <p>April Collect data, maps and other supporting materials for the risk and vulnerability assessment Prepare draft revisions to Section IV, Hazard Profiles to meet SEMO review recommendations Brief and obtain input from County Legislators and Administrator Prepare for upcoming workshop and meetings to update and seek input from participating jurisdictions</p> <p>May Revise Section I, Introduction and Section II, Planning Process and Section V, Vulnerability Assessment to meet SEMO review recommendations Contact or meet with County departments, state and federal support agencies to update plan data, documentation and input Incorporate maps, tables and graphic support elements into the plan Complete risk and vulnerability assessment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-- more --</p>

Table 2-6 Phase 1 and Phase 2 Project Timelines (continued)

Phase 1 2005 - 2009 (continued)	Phase 2 2010 – 2011 (continued)
<p>October 2009 Draft Plan submitted to the Yates County Legislature members for review Draft Plan provided to Yates County Clerk for public review</p> <p>November 2009 Draft Plan submitted to SEMO for Hazard Mitigation Crosswalk Review</p>	<p>June 2010 Conduct planning workshop with participating jurisdictions Revise and update mitigation goals and actions Revise Section VI, Mitigation Strategy, Goals, Actions and Implementation; Section VII, Plan Monitoring, Maintenance and Updating; and Section VIII, Public Participation to meet SEMO review recommendation Complete updated draft plan</p> <p>July Review of draft plan by Yates County and participating jurisdictions Public review of draft plan Submit draft plan for review by SEMO</p> <p>August Incorporate final revisions Prepare final plan</p> <p>October Submit plan to State/FEMA for review</p> <hr/> <p>May – August 2011 Revise plan to address FEMA review and recommendations</p> <p>August 9, 2011 FEMA – Approved Pending Adoption</p> <p>August – October 2011 County and each participating town and village officially adopt the plan by approving a local board resolution</p>

Figure 2-1 2010 Project Schedule



F. Review of Existing Plans

201.6(b)

Yates County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (2005)

The CEMP is the county’s all-hazards disaster preparedness plan that addresses all phases of emergency management for the county, including preparedness, response and recovery. The Hazard Mitigation Plan, when completed, will become that part of the comprehensive plan addressing mitigation requirements. The CEMP forms the foundation and pattern for development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, because it sets policies and objectives for inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination of emergency management activities in the county. The integration of resources, leadership and mutual-aid set-forth in the CEMP establish the framework for implementing cooperative strategies essential in a multi-jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan. A review and update of the CEMP is scheduled to be completed in November 2010.

Community-Wide Emergency Agreements

The Yates County Office of Emergency Management maintains agreements with more than 60 public and private sector agencies and organizations that call on participants to provide and share a wide-range of community resources in a disaster or emergency. Participants in the agreements include local towns and villages, government departments and agencies, volunteer fire and ambulance services, public schools and the college, medical facilities, food pantries, human service organizations, veterinary clinics, church and religious service organizations, business, commercial enterprises and industries. The agreements were established in 2008 and provide a mechanism where participating organizations can provide, if possible, the resources and services they maintain to benefit the community in a disaster or emergency. The Agreement and a list of participants are included in Appendix 2.

Yates County Hazard Analysis (HAZNY)

The HAZNY is part of the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and is the tool used to identify, evaluate, rank and prioritize the natural and man-made hazards that can impact Yates County. The HAZNY is equally essential to the Hazard Mitigation plan in performing a comprehensive risk assessment. The HAZNY was first completed in July, 2003 and updated August 11, 2009 (see Appendix 3).

Public Health Emergency Operations Plan

The county Public Health emergency plan addresses special health preparedness considerations for public health emergencies, natural hazards, pandemic flu outbreaks and terrorist events that threaten safety and health. Planning undertaken for health emergencies is particularly valuable to the Hazard Mitigation planning effort because the goals, strategies, data and information prepared in planning for health threats are key resources needed for implementing mitigation actions related to many hazards that have health impacts.

The Health Emergency Operation Plan also prepares and maintains an emergency response resource called the “Red Book” that is distributed and available for jurisdictions and agencies throughout the county. The Red Book contains information on how, when and where to contact various agencies that serve Yates County when an emergency arises; including emergency services, law enforcement, physicians, medical services, clinics, hospitals, nursing and adult care facilities and a host of other vital community resources. The Red Book has been valuable to the mitigation planning process because of its comprehensive scope in identifying contacts and services helpful to mitigation planning in the county.

Yates County Hazardous Material Plan

The Yates County Hazardous Material Plan maintained by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and required under provisions of the federal SARA Title, III Act, provides a plan for response to facilities that manufacture or use hazardous materials. In most situations, facilities must identify the types, amounts and locations of chemicals they use or store, and in other situations they must participate with the LEPC in planning for a chemical release or

response at or near their site. This plan provides valuable background for the Hazard Mitigation Plan in developing actions and strategies to mitigate hazardous material emergencies.

NYS State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2008)

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan is an excellent resource that provides information and guidance for development of the county plan. Many communities across New York share similar experiences and vulnerabilities to hazards. The State Plan shows how exposure, preparedness and mitigation for many hazards are often similar from region to region, while at the same time demonstrating how certain areas and communities face differing concerns and priorities.

Waterfront Revitalization Program (2008)

Provides recommendations and guidance addressing waterfront growth, development and preservation along the Keuka Outlet from Keuka Lake to the Cherry Street Bridge.

Route 14A Corridor Study (2006)

A plan to improve the safety and efficiency of the Route 14A corridor and to enhance its contribution to the character and economic development goals of the communities it serves.

Keuka Lake Watershed Land Use Planning Guide (2009), Keuka Lake Outlet Study (2005), Keuka Lake Looking Ahead (1996) and Keuka Lake Watershed Protection Plan (1996)

The *Watershed Protection Plan* looked at overall environmental, economic and development concerns that affect the lake. *Keuka Lake Looking Ahead* inventoried watershed resources, assessed physical and environmental conditions, and identified strategies for reducing or preventing pollution. The *Keuka Lake Outlet Study* addresses water quality and pollution issues, while more recently the *Land Use Planning Guide* was developed as an intermediate strategy among eight participating municipalities that profiles current land use conditions and offers a series of recommendations for future use and development affecting the watershed. All are valuable in considering hazard mitigation priorities for the area and it demonstrates how closely hazard mitigation planning is linked to other vital natural resource initiatives.

Yates County Agricultural Development and Farmland Enhancement Plan (2004)

This plan outlines the critical role and contributions that agricultural operations make to the character and economic profile of Yates County, and the plan includes recommendations that will preserve and enhance agriculture activity in the county.

Yates County Looking Ahead – A Planning and Design Guide (1990)

A county plan to provide Yates County with a strategy for managing growth into the year 2000 and beyond

NOAA “Storm Ready” Designation

Yates County has been certified by the National Weather Service as a **Storm Ready** community. This requires adoption and implementation of a range of weather preparedness activities to insure the community is ready for severe storms. Storm Ready helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs through planning, public education and awareness, plus improved access and use of weather information, notification and communication.

Storm Ready aided development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by increasing community awareness of severe weather that threatens Yates County and demonstrated that even inexpensive mitigation actions can greatly improve protection from natural hazards.



April 2009

*Yates County Emergency Management Director
Glen Miller (left),
Receives designation from
Dave Nicosia of NWS, Binghamton*

G. Coordination with Neighboring Counties and Plans

201.6(b)

Throughout the planning process, staff met with and had regular discussions with the Emergency Management Directors in neighboring Chemung, Steuben and Ontario counties. These discussions included a review of common hazard mitigation concerns and goals in area communities and helped to identify potential mitigation strategies, resources and projects.

Yates County Emergency Management staff participated in regular monthly meetings of county emergency management staff in the Central New York-Finger Lakes region. These meetings included representatives of the New York State Emergency Management Office and the National Weather Service and reviewed hazard mitigation activities and the status of hazard mitigation planning in the region.

In preparing the Yates County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, planning staff reviewed the hazard mitigation plans for other rural, upstate New York counties, including those for Ontario, Steuben, Chemung, Oswego and Jefferson counties.

H. Citizen Participation

201.6(b)

Website and Municipal Access

The first draft and later revisions of the Hazard Mitigation plan were posted on the Yates County website beginning in May, 2009 for public access, viewing and comment. It was also announced that the draft plan is available at town and village municipal offices and the Yates County Emergency Management Office. County and municipal officials were asked to announce at local meetings and forums that the plan was available for public review at local offices and on the web.

[Yates County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Online Public Access](#)Discussion at Public Meetings

As noted above, the Steering Committee and planning team members encouraged municipal officials to seek public input and discuss the Hazard Mitigation plan at public meetings and forums whenever possible. While it is commonly acknowledged, and is described in the section below, that public participation was incorporated into the planning process, not all jurisdictions captured citizen participation activities in local records or reports. Two jurisdictions, the Town of Italy and the Town of Potter, did maintain comprehensive descriptions of their public awareness efforts – which provide a typical representation of the kind of public outreach that occurred in all participating jurisdictions.

The Town of Italy provided the following description of Hazard Mitigation plan briefings and discussions that took place at their regular public board meetings.

- March 14, 2006 – there was discussion of the kind of data, information and public input that was needed to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Planning process.
- June 9, 2009 – the public was briefed on how the Hazard Mitigation plan would support local efforts to obtain funding and resources to implement mitigation improvements.
- August 11, 2009 – it was reported to the public how local officials were participating in the Hazard Mitigation planning and meetings.
- May 11, 2010 – the importance of local participation in upcoming Hazard Mitigation activities was emphasized.
- July 13, 2010 – there was public discussion that outlined how evaluation of local road and culvert maintenance can be linked to the hazard mitigation planning. There was further public discussion of how the town highway committee was gathering data and budget information to support hazard mitigation planning.
- August 10, 2010 – there was public discussion of proposed hazard mitigation project funding for local objectives identified in the hazard mitigation plan.
- October 12, 2010 – local officials discussed their review of the draft hazard mitigation plan at their public meeting.

The Town of Potter provided the following description of Hazard Mitigation plan briefings and discussions that took place at their regular public board meetings.

- June 11, 2009 – officials briefed the public about the hazard mitigation planning process and how it would benefit projects and improvements in the Town of Potter.
- August 13, 2009 – there was discussion at the public meeting about the kinds of hazards the town faced and there was a review of how the town can identify sites and areas where improvements are needed.
- November 12, 2009 – the importance of local participation in the hazard mitigation planning was emphasized and review of the plan was continuing.
- May 13, 2010 – the role of mitigation planning in preventing hazards was emphasized at this public meeting, and there was discussion about identifying potential problems and linking them to solutions that would be included in the hazard mitigation plan.
- June 10, 2010 – there was public discussion of specific hazard mitigation projects that had been identified for the Town of Potter and submitted for inclusion in the hazard mitigation plan.
- September 9, 2010 – review of the draft hazard mitigation plan was discussed.
- July 14, 2011 – efforts to identify public participation activities related to the hazard mitigation plan were addressed.

Integrated Public Participation

The principal method for soliciting public participation in the hazard mitigation plan was through direct contact the planning team members had with citizens and community groups. Over the planning period, members of the Steering Committee, agency contacts and representatives of the participating jurisdictions were involved in discussions and listened to the views of interested parties throughout the county related to hazard mitigation needs, proposals and improvements. Most of these personal interactions were not recorded in reports or meeting minutes, but were shared and incorporated in the planning process as hazard mitigation goals and objectives were developed.

As noted in the introduction to this plan, Yates County is sparsely populated and best known for its rural, small-town character. As a result of the strong community ties and integrated involvement of citizens and leaders among government and civic organizations, ample means and opportunities are available to insure the public has a say when it comes to the goals and content of the hazard mitigation plan. Those responsible for preparing this hazard mitigation plan - including members of the Steering Committee, agency leaders and representatives of the participating jurisdictions - are also members, or are associated with a wide range of boards, committees and public interest groups in the county. For example, members of the Steering Committee who are County Legislators are also members of their local town or village boards, where they are elected by residents to hear and represent citizen interests. Further strengthening the lines for feedback and cooperation is the recognition that local elected and agency officials in Yates County, including those responsible for preparing the hazard mitigation plan, are members of their local volunteer fire departments, civic and veterans clubs, school boards, planning and

zoning boards and related community service organizations. This kind of integrated community networking and cross-cultural participation provided a valuable and very effective platform to insure that public contributions are a fundamental part of the hazard mitigation plan. In such a close-knit communal setting, many of the hazard mitigation objectives and actions listed in Section VI of this plan would have first been discussed at the kitchen tables of local citizens or at the village restaurants where members of the public and government leaders mingle. Other examples of how this grassroots outreach worked to assimilate citizen participation into the hazard mitigation plan include the following.

- Many of the projects identified in Section VI of this plan that address flood and landslide mitigation were first proposed by the Yates County Soil and Water District or other technical specialists. In most cases, the problem areas, targeted sites and associated solutions were suggested years or decades ago and have been repeatedly discussed in the public domain as citizens and officials sought opportunities and funding to implement improvements.
- Studies and engineering analysis like those proposed to mitigate flood damage and landslides along Sunnyside Rd. in the Town of Italy (See Section VI, Flooding and Landslides, Objectives #10 and #11; and Appendix 5) included field visits and a meeting with local residents and property owners in the areas where improvements are proposed.
- A study and engineering analysis by the Town of Middlesex to address flood and erosion improvements on South Lake Rd. (See Section VI, Flooding and Landslides, Objective 10 and Appendix 5) - as well as the Town of Italy, Sunnyside Rd. study noted in the bullet above - were both co-sponsored by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, a regional public interest partnership that is dedicated to watershed protection and environmental stewardship.
- The Keuka Lake Association, which has over 1600 members who represent a cross-section of the community, has closely followed preparation of the Yates County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The mission of the Keuka Lake Association is to promote water quality and watershed protection for the Keuka basin and their goals are closely aligned with the actions and proposals outlined in the Yates County Hazard Mitigation plan.
- Many of the hazard mitigation actions outlined for Flooding and Landslides in Section VI are a direct outcome of discussions local officials had with citizens and property owners. As a result of serious flooding and even repetitive damages, the identification and design of projects identified in Section VI would have started as a response to resident inquiries and requests. In most situations, the solutions and projects needed to address the concerns of residents are proposed by the local highway superintendents or municipal engineers – and often designed by the area Soil and Water District agent – but the process to identify a problem area and a discussion of potential mitigation options would have begun while standing face-to-face with citizens and residents in the front yards of their neighborhoods.

I. Local Adoption

201.6(c)(5)

FEMA completed their review and provided '*Approval Pending Adoption*' status for the Yates County plan on August 9, 2011, indicating that the content and provisions of the plan meet federal hazard mitigation planning requirements and standards. To obtain final FEMA approval of the Yates County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Yates County Legislature and the governing board of each participating town and village must formally adopt the plan by approving a local resolution.

The sample adoption resolution (and local adopting resolutions, when available) is included in Appendix 4.