

1.0 THE PLANNING PROCESS

To develop a natural hazard mitigation plan that reflects Paulding County's true hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, the Paulding County EMA utilized a comprehensive, whole community planning process that involved jurisdictions and stakeholders from across the county. This section describes the process utilized to develop the plan and explains how stakeholders and the community were included throughout the plan development process.

1.1 PLAN DEVELOPMENT

From the outset of the project, the EMA understood that development of the mitigation plan would be a twelve to eighteen-month process. This timeframe was necessary to administer the grant, research hazards and risks, develop mitigation strategies and actions, include jurisdictions and stakeholders in the planning process, and complete the state and federal plan review process prior to adoption. Each phase of plan development included specific activities and steps, as described below.

1.1.1 Pre-Update Planning Process

Paulding County's most recent mitigation plan was adopted on March 8, 2006 and expired in 2012. In 2015, the county re-engaged in the process when they applied for and were awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM). Paulding County EMA submitted an application to PDM in mid-2015 through the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. The application identified the jurisdictions in Paulding County that would participate in the planning process. Discussions with jurisdiction officials ensued, garnering their willingness to participate in the update of the county's mitigation plan. Letters of intent to participate were received from all jurisdictions and included in the grant application. On January 15, 2016, Paulding County received notification that their PDM application had been approved for funding.

Upon award of the grant, Paulding County EMA completed the approved procurement process to identify a contractor to manage the plan update process. In March 2016, the county entered into a contract Resource Solutions Associates, LLC to coordinate the project, work with jurisdictions and stakeholders to collect information, and develop the new plan.

Late in January 2016, the Paulding County EMA Director met with Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch mitigation planner to review the requirements for plan development. The EMA Director and the Contractor then met on February 2, 2016 to develop a project timeline and to discuss methods and process for the project. The timeline began with an initial planning meeting on April 4, 2016 and culminated with a completed plan submitted to Ohio EMA and FEMA for review September 2017. This timeline would allow Paulding County to have an approved plan in place by the end of 2017.

1.1.2 Planning Team Meetings

Upon completion of all necessary grant agreements, contracts, and administrative requirements, the Contractor coordinated with EMA staff to develop an initial list of planning team members. This list included representatives from all jurisdictions and a broad range of community organizations and agencies. The complete list of invited stakeholders is included as table 1-3 later in this section. This whole community-based Hazard Mitigation Planning Team met multiple times and in multiple configurations throughout the planning process. These meetings were conducted in four distinct phases: project introduction, hazard identification and risk assessment, mitigation strategy development, and plan review.

Project Kick Off

The initial planning meeting was held April 4, 2016 at the Paulding County Nature Services Building in Paulding. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project to stakeholders and jurisdictions and provide the planning team with an overview of the planning process. The Contractor explained the importance of the hazard mitigation plan and the process by which the EMA and Contractor would work with jurisdictions and stakeholders to develop the plan.

Hazard and Risk Identification Work Sessions

The hazard and risk identification phase focused on research and information gathering. The first work session was held with village officials on July 28, 2016. That same evening, the EMA director and Contractor attended a countywide township trustees' meetings to deliver a mitigation presentation for any township official who was unable to attend the kick off meeting. Additional meetings were held with special interest groups on September 13; these groups included community and economic development, utilities and civil engineering, agriculture and natural resources, floodplain management and engineering, auditor and tax mapping, and village officials. They discussed hazards, risks, vulnerabilities, and past disasters. These of these first round of meetings focused on identifying the relevant hazards and risks and discussing the impact of disaster on each jurisdiction. Participants included mayors, administrators, village council members, trustees, fiscal officers, road/street department employees, law enforcement officials, fire service personnel, water and wastewater treatment facility staff, and other key jurisdiction employees. Local school districts, businesses, and residents were also invited to participate and provide feedback.

These focused group meetings also included stakeholders representing specific groups like financial institutions, natural resources professionals, farm service agencies, regional planning and economic development representatives, engineering, infrastructure, floodplain management, education, and tax and parcel mapping coordinators. The purpose of these meetings was to gather detailed information from stakeholders with specific expertise in these subjects. The sessions focused on gathering hazard and risk information and discussing the impact of disasters relative to each group's specific area of expertise.

Mitigation Strategy Development Work Sessions

A second round of jurisdiction-level meetings was conducted in May of 2017. These sessions focused on identifying and developing mitigation goals and strategies based on the hazards and risks identified during the previous sessions. These meetings included the same broad scope of invitees as the hazard and risk identification meetings and provided a forum for local officials and residents to discuss specific actions to help reduce disaster risk in their community. These sessions also included a discussion on the mitigation strategies identified in Paulding County's 2006 plan and any progress or status updates to those items.

Final Plan Review

After the plan draft was created, the contractor met with local officials and others to explain the organization of the plan, the descriptions and information in the hazard identification and risk assessment, the mitigation strategy format and components, and the remaining timeline for the project. The EMA Director and the Contractor were available for questions, concerns about availability if there were any, and advice on how to submit feedback. This was done immediately prior to the public plan review period so stakeholders understood how to review the plan and provide feedback, as well as the process that was followed and the deadlines for comments. This September 14, 2017 meeting gave participants detailed information on how to find and respond to the publicly posted documents. A hand out provided information for them to take home, explaining how to find the plan and submit comments.

Jurisdictions and stakeholders were provided with electronic access to the plan through the Contractor's website and were asked to provide feedback. A printed copy of the plan was available upon request to the EMA Director. Planning team members were asked to submit their feedback through the form provided on the website or by email directly to the Contractor, but phone calls were also accepted if respondents were more comfortable with that.

Following the planning team's review orientation, the two-week public review period began. From September 14 - 28, 2017, the plan was available electronically on the Contractor's website and in print form at the EMA for any member of the public to review and provide comment. The public was notified and reminded of the plan review period through news releases to local media outlets, letters to jurisdictions including villages and townships, posts on the EMA's website and social media accounts, and flyers and notices in county office buildings. All news releases and notices included locations where the plan could be viewed electronically or in print as well as contact information for the Contractor and EMA staff.

The EMA Director and the Contractor reviewed all comments and questions received from stakeholders and the public; appropriate revisions were incorporated into the plan. After final revisions were complete, the plan was submitted to the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch for state review on October 27, 2017. Upon state and federal approval, the formal adoption process began. This process explained in section 4.0 Plan Adoption.

As Ohio EMA reviewed the plan, it was discovered that the Village of Grover Hill had not participated in any of the planning meetings; however, the EMA Director had talked about

several mitigation ideas with the mayor over the past few months so it was his opinion that the village would want to participate in the plan. The Contractor reached out individually to the village officials to ensure that they were included in the planning process. On December 5, 2017, the Contractor spoke with the village clerk-treasurer by telephone about the plan, its purpose, and the various components of the plan. A link was provided for them to access the draft plan. It was discovered that a miscommunication had occurred between village officials about who was going to attend meetings, and unbeknownst to them, no one had actually attended. On December 5 and 6, 2017, the mayor and the clerk-treasurer reviewed the entire draft plan on behalf of the Village of Grover Hill. On December 6, 2017, the clerk-treasurer sent an email to the Contractor giving approval from the mayor for the draft plan. The mayor agreed with the plan contents and asked for no changes or additions, and re-affirmed the village intent to participate.

Table 1-1 includes a complete list of planning team meetings and work sessions conducted throughout the planning process.

Table 1-1: Planning Team Meetings

Date	Location	Purpose/Audience
02/02/2016	Paulding County EMA	Meeting between EMA staff and contractor to outline project
04/04/2016	Paulding County Nature Center	Project Kick Off/Initial Planning Meeting
07/28/2016	Paulding County EMA	Meeting with Villages to Review HIRA and incident history
07/28/2016	Paulding County EMA	Meeting with Townships to Review Project
09/13/2106	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Economic and Community Development Officials
09/13/2016	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Engineering and Utilities to review HIRA and incidents
09/13/2016	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Agriculture and Natural Resources to review HIRA and incidents
09/13/2106	Paulding County Court House	Meeting with Auditor, GIS, and Tax Mapping to review mapping needs and process, and HIRA
09/13/2106	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Office	Meeting with Village Mayors to discuss HIRA and incidents
05/08/2017	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Villages to review, prioritize, and assign strategies
05/09/2016	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Economic and Community Development officials to review strategies, etc.
05/09/2017	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Auditor, GIS, FPM, Engineer, and Tax Map Office to review strategies, etc.
05/09/2016	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Natural Resources, Watershed representatives, and Agriculture to review strategies, etc.
05/09/2017	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with Village, Township, and other stakeholders regarding strategies, etc.

Date	Location	Purpose/Audience
09/14/2017	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with county and village officials to review draft plan and to instruct them on how to review and submit comments
09/14/2107	Paulding County Nature Center	Meeting with volunteer officials and general public to review draft plan and to instruct them on how to review and submit comments

1.2 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

With eleven incorporated villages and a population of approximately 19,614, many stakeholders in Paulding County were identified as having a role in the mitigation planning process. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team included broad participation from these identified stakeholders. In some cases, due to the small population, individuals wore more than one hat, so to speak, in the planning process. With only so many individuals to assume leadership tasks, most of them filled multiple roles in community leadership.

From the beginning of the planning process, the EMA attempted to include the whole community in the mitigation planning process. The input and opinions of the general public were viewed as critical to the process, as were the opinions of elected and appointed officials and key community leaders. A broad, inclusive list of planning team members was developed with the intention of including any, every, and all agencies with an interest or role in emergency management, and thus in disaster mitigation. As the process unfolded and planning began, a whole community planning approach was used to achieve these goals.

The initial invitation to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team was extended to the following officials, leaders, and stakeholders from Paulding County and adjacent jurisdictions:

- Incorporated jurisdictions (county and village officials, elected and appointed)
- Township representatives (trustees, fiscal officers, appointed officials)
- Specialized disciplines, including fire service, law enforcement, engineering, utilities, public health, healthcare, hospitals, business and industry, education and academia, nonprofits, social agencies, and stakeholders as part of the general public
- Specific appointed officials, including the county floodplain manager, GIS mapping specialist, conservation specialists, regional planning, building and zoning officials, development officials, fire chiefs, police chiefs, public health commissioners, extension agents
- Economic development organizations such as economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, and tourism and visitor's bureaus
- Key elected officials such as the county auditor, treasurer, engineer, and commissioners
- Emergency management officials from the adjacent counties
- Non-profit agencies including American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, Citizen Corps, and United Way as well as community action groups

- Special interest groups such as watershed coalitions, conservancy districts, federal partners, state agencies with facilities in the county, and others with a special interest in the well-being of Paulding County
- Residents, businesses, and stakeholders from the general public

1.2.1 Jurisdiction Participation

All incorporated jurisdictions in Paulding County chose to participate in the countywide hazard mitigation plan. Participating jurisdictions included the villages of Antwerp, Broughton, Cecil, Grover Hill, Haviland, Latty, Melrose, Oakwood, Paulding (county seat), Payne, and Scott. Paulding County participated on behalf of all other areas, but participation was solicited through both county officials and the township sub-structure of government to reach those community members who live in the rural areas. This methodology assured the rural interests would be included in the mitigation plan.

In Ohio, every county is divided into sub-sections called “townships”. Townships are small sections of land, sometimes as small as six square miles. Incorporated jurisdictions (villages and cities) lay on top of the townships, and supersede the township authority as governance for those parcels is absorbed by the municipality. In general, the remaining land outside the municipalities is considered “township”, and the elected officials duties are primarily road upkeep and cemetery maintenance. Historically, in Ohio, many trustees of townships have been farmers who used their own equipment to plow snow from roadways.

Townships originally provided a means to identify plats of land and to create the verbiage to create documents like deeds. In Ohio, townships may choose to be zoned, but other land use planning is done by the county level of government. Townships can provide very basic services such as plowing snow from tertiary roads and maintaining cemeteries. Townships do not have the same full authorities as municipalities and counties. Townships cannot levy taxes, and must participate in most programs as an unincorporated area of the county, through the county government officials.

County government handles services including ditch maintenance, plowing and repair of main and secondary roadways, bridge and culvert maintenance, most land use planning, community development, emergency management, and many other humanitarian and financial functions on behalf of the township. Many daily functions of government are handled by the county because townships must, by law, meet at least annually.

Residents living outside incorporated jurisdictions were contacted through the township trustees because that was the best way to reach out to the rural areas in an organized and comprehensive fashion, and to ensure that the entire rural community was included in the planning process. Paulding County did not intend that townships be required to adopt the mitigation plan because that is consistent with other programs of similar nature, including community planning, economic development, emergency management, law enforcement, and other forms of grant administration.

Paulding County has twelve townships: Auglaize, Benton, Blue Creek, Brown, Carryall, Crane, Emerald, Harrison, Jackson, Latty, Paulding, and Washington. While the county will officially adopt the plan on behalf of these townships, trustees, fiscal officers, and other officials were invited to planning team meetings and encouraged to participate in the planning process because of their knowledge of and connection with residents in unincorporated areas. They were asked to invite other residents of the townships to attend meetings with them.

The officials identified in table 1-2 served as the primary contact for each jurisdiction. They were asked to notify other officials and stakeholders within their jurisdiction of meetings and work sessions and invite any other residents or officials to participate in the planning meetings. These jurisdictions were invited to the initial project kick off meeting in April 2016. Work sessions soliciting input and feedback in developing the HIRA, mitigation strategies, and other parts of the plan were held in the jurisdictions for all to attend in July and September of 2016 and May and September of 2017. Jurisdictions were asked to review the draft plan and participate in the final plan review meeting in September 2017, prior to the plan's submission to state reviewers. These individuals coordinated with the EMA Director and Contractor to schedule local work sessions and invite relevant stakeholders.

Table 1-2: Participating Jurisdictions and Representatives

Jurisdiction	Position/Title	Representative
Bluecreek Township	Chris Laukhuf	Fiscal Clerk
Auglaize Township	Sue Ann Becher	Fiscal Clerk
Benton Township	Rachael Head	Fiscal Clerk
Brown Township	Kevin Hornish	Fiscal Clerk
Carryall Township	Deborah Wyckoff	Fiscal Clerk
Crane Township	Kristine Stuart	Fiscal Clerk
Emerald Township	Samuel Hatcher	Fiscal Clerk
Harrison Township	Kathy Feasby	Fiscal Clerk
Jackson Township	Marv Howard	Fiscal Officer
Latty Township	Susan Hinchcliff	Fiscal Clerk
Paulding Township	Jane Buchman	Fiscal Clerk
Washington Township	Neil Beining	Fiscal Clerk
Village of Antwerp	Sarah Keeran	Village Administrator
Village of Boughton	Donna Greear	Mayor
Village of Cecil	Gene Sheets	Mayor
Village of Grover Hill	John Moon	Mayor
Village of Haviland	Sandra Stoller	Fiscal Clerk
Village of Latty	Tom Sinn	Mayor
Village of Melrose	Janet Stroup	Mayor
Village of Oakwood	John Keyes	Village Administrator
Village of Paulding	Robert Fisher	Village Administrator
Village of Payne	Steven Wobler	Mayor
Village of Scott	Bryon Glass	Mayor
Paulding County	Roy Klopfenstein	County Commissioner
Paulding County	Tony Zartman	County Commissioner
Paulding County	Mark Holtsberry	County Commissioner

Jurisdiction	Position/Title	Representative
Paulding County	Edward Bohn	EMA Director

1.2.2 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

Because Paulding County's intention was to encourage broad participation in the planning process, an expansive initial invitation list was developed. Using information from multiple sources, including EMA contact lists, jurisdiction and agency websites, the Board of Elections, and general online information, a master planning team of almost ninety invitees was developed. For each contact, this master list identified name, position, agency or jurisdiction, e-mail address, telephone number, and postal address. This list included representation from business and industry, community services, economic and community development, education, government, infrastructure and engineering, natural resources and agriculture, and public safety. Emergency management officials from adjacent counties were also included on the list. For Paulding County, this included county EMA officials in Ohio and Indiana. The complete list of invited and participating stakeholders is provided in table 1-3.

Table 1-3: Participating and Invited Stakeholders

Agency/Jurisdiction	Position/Title	Representative
Cooper Farms	Representative	Gary Cooper
Farm Service Agency	Executive Director	P. Lautenschlager
Paulding County Farm Bureau	Org. Director	Roy Norman
OSU Extension Service	Ag Agent	Sarah Noggle
Alex Products Inc.	Business Mgr.	Clint Reagle
H. E. Orr Co.	CEO	Donna Garman
LaFarge North America	Rep.	Tim Weible
Spartech Corp.	Rep.	Unspecified
Defiance/Paulding Job & Family Services	Director	Corey Walker
Paulding County Auditor	Auditor	Claudia Fickel
Western Buckeye Educational Service Center	Superintendent	Brian Gerber
Antwerp Chamber of Commerce	Director	Position Open
Antwerp Community Development Committee	President	Lisa Glass
Antwerp Village	Zoning Inspector	Gabe Oberlin
Com Improvement Corp. of Antwerp, Payne, Paulding County	President	Sara Keeran
Paulding Chamber of Commerce	Director	Peggy Emerson
Paulding Chamber of Commerce	President	Chad Benschneider
Paulding Co. Library and Historical Society	Director	Susan Hill Pieper
Paulding County Economic Development Office	Director	Jerry Zielke
Paulding County Engineer/ Planning Commission	Director	Travis McGarvey
Paulding County Floodplain Manager	Floodplain Manager	Tony Windsor
Paulding County GIS Coordinator	GIS Coordinator	Brian Harder
Paulding Village	Zoning Inspector	Ron Schmidt
United Way of Paulding County	Director	Taryn Stiltner
Black Swamp Conservancy	Executive Director	Rob Krain

Agency/Jurisdiction	Position/Title	Representative
Conservation Action Project	Multi Agency Coordinator	Todd Hesterman
Maumee River Advisory County and State Scenic River	NW Ohio Manager	Christina Kuchle
Maumee River Basin Partnership of Local Govt.	MS4 Coordinator	Jennifer English
Natural Resource Conservations Service – USDA	Conservationist	Ken Kottenbrock
Paulding Co Soil and Water Conservation District	Administrator	Deb Hubbard
Paulding County Health Department	Emergency Prep Coordinator	Bill Edwards
Paulding County Hospital	Emergency Preparedness	J. Retcher
Antwerp Fire Department	Chief	Ray Friend
Antwerp Village	Police Chief	George Clemens
Auglaize Twp. Fire Department	Chief	Rob Gray
Crane Township- Cecil Fire Department	Chief	Bob Herbert
Grover Hill Village Police Department	Chief	Charles Howe
Grover Hill Volunteer Fire Department	Chief	David Volk
Latty Village Police Department	Chief	Ron Weck
Oakwood Village Police Department	Chief	Mark Garret
Oakwood Volunteer Fire Department	Chief	Kenny Thomas
Paulding County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff	Jason Landers
Paulding Village Police Department	Chief	Randy Crawford
Payne Village Police Department	Chief	Rodney Miller
Payne Village Volunteer Fire Department	Chief	Jamie Mansfield
Scott Fire Department	Chief	Jay Klopfenstein
Defiance County EMA	Director	Julie Rittenhouse
Putnam County EMA	Director	Michael Klear
Van Wert County EMA	Director	Rick McCoy
Antwerp Village	Wastewater Superintendent	Curtis Nestleroad
Paulding County Engineer	Engineer	Travis McGarvey
Paulding Village	Water Superintendent	Gary Donat
Paulding Village	Utility Supervisory	Jerry Smith
Payne Village	Water & Sewer Dept.	Winston Gross
Antwerp Local Schools	Superintendent	Martin Miller
Antwerp Village	Mayor	Ray DeLong
Divine Mercy Catholic School	Principal	Cathy Schoenauer
Oakwood Village	Mayor	Brian Ripke
Paulding Exempted Village Schools	Superintendent	William Hanek
Paulding Village Fire Department	Fire Chief	Todd Weidenhamer
Paulding Village	Mayor	Greg Reinhart
Payne Village	Mayor	Steve Wobler
Scott Village	Fiscal Clerk	Hillary Yoder
Wayne Trace Local Schools	Superintendent	Benjamin Winans

1.2.3 Planning Team Engagement

The plan development schedule included several local meetings and work sessions in the form of small group meetings. Because achieving meaningful participation from a wide range of partners through these sessions was important to the EMA and Contractor, the meeting schedule was developed to provide as many opportunities as possible for stakeholders to participate. Because some individuals wore multiple hats in the process, some people attended similar sessions more than once, and participated from varied perspectives. Meetings were held at the Nature Center because that was most convenient for most people and times were varied to accommodate their work and volunteer schedules.

Invitations to meetings and work sessions were sent to stakeholders by e-mail whenever possible as this was the most expedient and efficient method of delivering the information. With a very small staff, the EMA had limited time available to contact individual stakeholders by phone; therefore, the decision was made to utilize e-mail as the primary notification method because of its speed and broad availability. If anyone notified the EMA or Contractor that they did not have e-mail access, postal mail was the alternative notification method. If an email was returned as undelivered, follow-up was initiated for corrective action. Any continuing communication issues were addressed individually. The EMA director and the Contractor monitored email receipts and returns for the duration of the project to assure notifications were delivered effectively.

Throughout the process, the planning team was encouraged to monitor Resource Solutions' project website, located at www.consultrsa.com under "Paulding County Mitigation Plan", for access to meeting schedules, draft plan documents, meeting handouts, mitigation planning resources, contact information, and other resources relevant to the planning process. Planning team members were reminded of this resource during meetings and encouraged to share the information with additional colleagues and community members who may wish to participate. The website was utilized because the open format made content readily available stakeholders and the public and because the Contractor could quickly and easily update the content, providing the planning team with up-to-date information. Participating jurisdictions were encouraged to post a link to the project website on their agency websites to further facilitate community input and feedback.

1.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Garnering broad community participation in the mitigation planning process was a focus of both the EMA and the Contractor. Utilizing FEMA's Whole Community Planning concept, the EMA reached out to a broad scope of community partners, jurisdiction officials, community partners, and stakeholders. These representatives were invited to participate and provide input throughout the planning process. This began with the development of a broad and inclusive planning team invitation. A significant amount of time was dedicated to identifying contacts across all areas and segments of the county and creating an accurate contact list of those individuals. Invitations and reminders were sent to the planning team multiple times. Participants were encouraged to share meeting information with colleagues and community

members and encourage others to participate in the planning process. During planning team meetings and work sessions, notices were posted on doors to notify the public that the session was taking place and assist people in locating the sessions.

To provide easy, convenient access to planning information for the committee and general public, a project website was created on the Contractor's website. As previously described in section 1.2.3, the website was used to provide meeting dates and locations, contact information, mitigation planning resources, links to surveys and questionnaires, and access to draft plan documents for the planning team and general public. Planning team members and jurisdictions were encouraged to publish this link on their agency websites and any social media accounts, providing the public with access to the planning process. They were encouraged to reach out to any interested party to include them in planning efforts.

A complete draft of the plan was posted on the project website from September 18 through October 2, 2017 for a two-week public review period. A public meeting was held on September 14, 2017 to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the benefits of plan review, the plan organization and how to find specific points of interest, and the final approval process. The participants were encouraged to actively engage in the review process and to submit any thoughts or comments to the Contractor or the EMA Director.

All agency and jurisdiction representatives who participated on the planning team were notified of the review period by email. An official notice was also sent to each participating jurisdiction by postal mail. To notify the public, the EMA placed a news release in *The Paulding Progress* (Paulding). The EMA provided a link to the plan on their agency website and asked other organizations to do the same. All notifications included a link to the website where the plan was posted, the timeline for public review, and instructions for submitting comments. A printed copy of the plan was available at the Paulding County EMA during regular business hours for anyone wishing to view and comment on the plan but with limited computer access, special needs, or other accessibility challenges.

1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

A significant amount of research was performed to develop the hazard mitigation plan, which is based on multiple sources of information. Research was conducted through reviews of existing data, plans, and reports and through interviews and conversations with county stakeholders and subject-matter experts.

Since Paulding County's most recent plan was approved in 2006, the Contractor obtained hazard information and data from 2006 through 2017 to ensure that the new plan included current, relevant, and accurate hazard and risk information. Some information from the previous plan was transferred to this plan. All mitigation goals strategies identified in that plan were evaluated and outcomes documented; those findings appear in section 3.0 of this plan.

Additional information was identified through research of recorded events from the National Climatic Data Center Storm Events Database. Incidents that were researched included past ones included in former plans simply for verification, and new incidents after 2006 so that the most recent storms were included. Data was presented to the stakeholders represented on the planning team. Their knowledge of the impact, consequences, and recovery efforts of any past disaster incident was documented. These anecdotal points were included as appropriate in the revised plan.

The county profile includes information discovered through the study of various county documents. Information about community development, business and industry, land use regulations, and community life were researched and findings that were relevant to mitigation planning were included as parts of narratives and explanations. Online sources like US Census Bureau data were accessed for statistical data. Federal, state, and local government agency websites and reports were utilized for statistical and historic information.

The hazard identification was developed through research of actual recorded events based on records from the Storm Events Database of the National Climatic Data Center. Supporting data was obtained from the Ohio EMA, FEMA, Tornado History Project, Stanford University Dam Program, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and other sources. Planning team members provided additional detail, context, and descriptions of the community impact for many historical incidents. The most significant events for each hazard are described in narrative form in the HIRA. Appendix A includes a complete list of all recorded occurrences of each hazard, organized by type of hazard.

The vulnerability assessment and risk analysis were informed by multiple data sources. HAZUS projections helped establish potential losses in flood and earthquake incidents. The auditor provided property valuations for residential, commercial, agricultural, and exempt properties and mapping information. Current critical facility and key resource inventories were used to project loss estimates for those facilities. The 2006 Paulding County Hazard Mitigation Plan contained information that was still reflective of risks, vulnerabilities, and conditions, which were retained in this plan where applicable. FEMA documents were referenced to identify how many losses were reported, when, and because of what impact in the past. Included in this estimation were possibility, probability, magnitude, and frequency of each category of hazard and its potential impact upon Paulding County.

Watershed Discovery Reports were used to facilitate discussion about waterway and watershed management issues. There were many issues of agricultural interest as the reports were applied to Paulding County and specific points were discussed. The reports were referenced, and meeting participants were informed of those findings. Copies of the plan and online locations were offered to participants, and some natural resources stakeholders were already familiar with the Discovery Reports. Discussions took place regarding the mitigation actions and management practices that were recommended in the Discovery Reports. In some cases, local stakeholders agreed with the reports, and mitigation actions were crafted to support and facilitate the Discovery Report recommendations. In some cases, local stakeholders felt the

report was not entirely accurate, or the mitigation action was not feasible. In those cases, the mitigation actions were not included in this plan. The mitigation strategies in this plan are reflective of the plan participant input.

Table 1-4 provides a list of the sources utilized in the research phase of this project.

Table 1-4: Studies, Reports, and References

Document	Author/Agency	Date
Auglaize River Watershed Discovery Report	FEMA	2011
Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	United States Department of Agriculture	2013
Federal Disaster Declaration Statistics	FEMA	2017
Ground Water Potential Pollution Study	US Geological Service	2004
HAZUS Earthquake and Flood data	Ohio EMA	2012
Lower Auglaize River Study Plan	Ohio EPA	2014
Paulding County Community Health Needs Assessment	Paulding County Health Department and Paulding County Hospital	2014
Paulding County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2006	Paulding County EMA	2006
Soil Survey of Paulding County	USDA	1979
State of Ohio Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan	Ohio EMA	2014
Storm Events Database	NOAA	2017
Study Plan for the Lower Auglaize River Tributaries	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	2014
Study Plan for the Maumee River Basin Select Tributaries	Ohio EPA	2015
United States Census	US Census Bureau	2010/2012
Western Ohio Cropland Values	Ohio State University	2014

1.5 PLAN MAINTENANCE

Plan maintenance is a critical element of the hazard mitigation plan. Diligent plan maintenance establishes a schedule to re-engage stakeholders in the mitigation plan at regular intervals and lays a solid groundwork for the required five-year update. By reviewing disaster occurrences on an annual basis and frequently assessing the county's progress on mitigation activities, a five-year update can be a quick and efficient process. Upon approval of this plan, Paulding County is determined to follow a regular plan maintenance schedule. The EMA will lead this effort and involve stakeholders, jurisdictions, and the community, laying a solid foundation for the plan update in 2022.

1.5.1 Plan Maintenance Methodology

A significant challenge in conducting annual plan review is the difficulty in holding meetings that are well attended. Many stakeholders perceive these meetings as unnecessary or not critical and do not attend. Government officials, community leaders, and other key stakeholders also have busy schedules and competing demands on their time and must and prioritize their attendance at different events. In rural Paulding County, most jurisdictions and

organizations have only a few employees. In the villages and townships, many elected and appointed officials serve in a part-time or volunteer capacity. These staffing realities often make conducting community-wide meetings a challenge. Paulding County's plan maintenance strategy attempts to address these barriers by incorporating other communication and data-collection methods throughout the five-year life of the plan.

Traditional face-to-face meetings have been the most common method to discuss disaster responses, catastrophic incidents, and storms. Given the challenges in scheduling these, Paulding County may choose to utilize webinars, conference calls, electronic surveys, and/or questionnaires to collect feedback from stakeholders. These options are utilized frequently in today's business environment and will be accessible to most stakeholders. When these options are selected, stakeholders will be asked to dedicate the same attention to the task as they would an in-person meeting. Records of participation, copies of results, and other communication surrounding these events will be maintained just as it would be for a meeting.

1.5.2 Annual Plan Review

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will be called upon to review, evaluate, and discuss the plan annually, on or about the anniversary of the plan approval date. Annual plan maintenance discussions may be conducted through traditional in-person meetings or webinars, electronic surveys, questionnaires, or other forms of communication. The choice of methodology will be at the discretion of the EMA Director based on what best meets the needs of stakeholders and ensures that mitigation strategies are considered on a regular basis. All information-gathering efforts will include evaluation of the past year's disaster incidents and a summary of the resulting damages, costs, and recovery efforts. Status reports on any mitigation projects in process and an update on progress towards achieving the mitigation strategies and actions developed by each jurisdiction will also be included. The EMA will maintain records of these annual discussions.

As part of the annual review process, jurisdictions will be asked to conduct an internal analysis of the mitigation strategies developed by their jurisdiction and submit a short report to the EMA with their findings. The report will include an assessment of any disaster incidents that occurred during the year, a summary of damages and recovery efforts, and a status report on the status of adopted mitigation strategies as a result of those incidents. If a strategy has been completed, the jurisdiction will evaluate its effectiveness at reducing losses. This information will be shared with the countywide planning team during the annual countywide review process. The EMA will maintain a summary of these reports and findings.

The EMA may choose to convene a planning team meeting after any significant disaster or large-scale emergency to review and document any changes, needs, additions, or deletions that should be considered at the five-year update. Any time a disaster is declared in Paulding County, it is suggested that the planning team assemble after the incident is closed to review

the plan with emphasis on the strategies and the status of each. The EMA will maintain records of these meetings and findings.

At each review point, the EMA will review the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for completeness and accuracy. Loss estimates will be evaluated for ongoing accuracy and any significant developments will be added to the list and mitigation strategies will be reviewed for progress and effectiveness. All findings will be recorded and saved for the 2022 update process.

1.5.3 Community Participation

While the EMA is responsible for leading the plan maintenance effort, that process only works if stakeholders are engaged. Ongoing consideration of hazard mitigation strategies is critical to creating a resilient and sustainable community. It is the EMA's intention that the stakeholders representing the municipalities, jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations involved in plan development will continue to participate in its ongoing review and maintenance. Without their participation, ongoing input will not be comprehensive or accurate. Therefore, all parties involved in developing this plan must perceive the annual review process as critical to the pre- and post-disaster welfare of the county.

Public involvement is an important component of ongoing mitigation planning efforts. To encourage public involvement in plan maintenance, notices of annual plan review activities will be published through local media and appropriate websites and social media accounts of participating jurisdictions and agencies. The general public will be invited to participate in these activities and provide input. Meeting announcements will include the date, time, and location of the session and adequate notice so that people have reasonable time to plan their attendance. As with all meetings conducted during plan development, annual update meetings will be open to the public and community input will be encouraged. If surveys and other electronic tools are utilized to collect feedback from stakeholders, these documents will also be made available to the community.

1.5.4 Integration with Community Planning Mechanisms

Local government participation in plan maintenance activities is a major factor in the implementation and achievement of mitigation strategies as well as assessment for new and additional mitigation actions. This participation occurs during intentional mitigation plan review and, more importantly, during daily operations within each jurisdiction that guide the growth and development of specific communities. Villages in the county have planning commissions or a committee within the jurisdiction's elected council that addresses growth and development issues within the municipality. These commissions and committees are responsible to jurisdiction's top elected official, who is then responsible for working with the Paulding County officials who hold similar responsibility at the county government level.

An additional function of jurisdiction planning commissions and committees is to provide leadership for new development and business or residential growth in the community that complies with Paulding County development goals and standards. These entities determine what growth initiatives are implemented by the municipalities and provide leadership for

recruiting, promoting, and securing new industries, businesses, and residential facilities. These groups work with the county officials who guide the construction of new buildings and homes, and who oversee and inspect new structures.

At the county level, Paulding County's economic development is a multi-agency effort to showcase, promote, and develop Paulding County by adding productive and innovative businesses to the economy. The Paulding County Engineer leads the Paulding County Planning Commission, and they are responsible for not only growth and development of business, but also development of building standards and construction regulations. Township and village zoning inspectors work with them to establish and enforce land use rules and regulations where they are established. They also work with villages and townships to manage and facilitate physical development such as construction of buildings and installation of systems. The Paulding County Economic Development Office is the central recruiting partner, working to bring commerce and manufacturing ventures to this rural community. They are assisted by the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce, the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, and the Community Improvement Corporation of Antwerp, Payne, and Paulding County.

The floodplain manager and tax map officer are part of the county Auditor's office. Lenders work with the floodplain manager to comply with flood prevention regulations as part of the lending process, and they use external commercial providers to validate floodplain status for mortgage purposes. The lending institutions work with the floodplain manager and county Auditor to determine floodplain locations, and the zoning officers enforce land use regulations to manage construction of homes, farm facilities, and businesses. The EMA Director works with the various county officials in a non-official capacity to advise and assist in disaster mitigation efforts regarding potential development projects.

Because Paulding County is a small community, there is not a strict structure to the inclusion of mitigation efforts in economic and community development activities. The county has determined that should consider hazard mitigation with all community planning efforts, especially in the comprehensive planning efforts, and intends to include information about hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities in all planning areas in future endeavors. The EMA will share responsibility to integrate mitigation planning into economic development, land use planning, land use regulation, conservation, response plans, and other plans that are important to the daily operation of the county with other county officials. Disaster mitigation will be promoted as part of community development, making its way into a comprehensive array of disciplines and interests. Key stakeholders, including the County Commissioners, Economic Development, Regional Planning Commission, Floodplain Administrator, Engineer's Office, zoning officials, and public safety officers from across Paulding County will be important partners in this effort. These individuals will work through their respective agencies to promote mitigation planning and its inclusion in the plans, procedures, guidelines, and priorities of each agency, thus making mitigation a true community-wide effort.

1.5.5 Documentation of Plan Maintenance

Paulding County will consider communication with stakeholders and the public regarding hazard mitigation to be an annual necessity. The EMA will schedule, complete, and record these communications and the results of all meetings to facilitate an expeditious plan update in 2022. It will be the EMA's responsibility to maintain documentation of all ongoing plan maintenance activities. These records should include the date, time, and attendance at review meetings, findings of each review, and recommendations from stakeholders for changes, additions, or deletions at the next update. Results from any surveys and questionnaires used to collect information should be maintained, as well as reports submitted by jurisdictions. E-mail and written communication from stakeholders and the public should be saved for consideration during annual review activities. All reports, documents, and files can be saved electronically so that they are easier to find and less cumbersome to maintain.

1.5.6 Plan Update Cycle

Paulding County's Hazard Mitigation Plan will expire in 2022. With generous documentation of ongoing plan maintenance, the county should be positioned to submit an updated plan well before the current plan's expiration date. To ensure the appropriate timeline is met, formal efforts to update the plan will begin in mid-2020. The EMA Director will ensure that the appropriate and necessary steps are taken to complete this process.