

## SECTION 3: PLANNING PROCESS

### INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to develop and update the 2006 Tioga County Hazard Mitigation Plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

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

1. The Plan will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural hazards facing Tioga County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. Tioga County invited all municipalities in the county to join with them in the preparation of a Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Tioga County, its 15 municipalities, and four school district are participating in the Plan as indicated in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1. Participating Tioga County Jurisdictions

Towns	Villages
Town of Barton	Village of Nichols
Town of Berkshire	Village of Owego
Town of Candor	Village of Spencer
Town of Newark Valley	Village of Waverly
Town of Nichols	School Districts
Town of Owego	Candor Central
Town of Richford	Owego Apalachin Central
Town of Spencer	Tioga Central
Town of Tioga	Spencer-Van Etten Central
Village of Candor	
Village of Newark Valley	

The Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout Plan development, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The HMP Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The natural hazard mitigation strategies identified in this Plan have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents and stakeholders.

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

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

## **HAZARD MITIGATION IN TIOGA COUNTY – PREPARING TO PLAN**

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

- Various regional, county and local agencies and governments have been involved in natural hazard risk assessment, mitigation planning and project activities, prior to and/or unrelated to the current planning effort. Such activities provide a strong foundation for subsequent efforts, and an awareness and understanding of the need for and benefits of mitigation planning across a broad range of regional, county and local governments and stakeholders. Several examples of such activities are presented here.
- 15 jurisdictions in the County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, and manage their floodplains according to the requirements of participation in that program.
- County Flood Mitigation Group:
  - FEMA Flood Education Grant: Webpage;
  - Residential Brochure;
  - Municipal Official Flood summit;
  - Installation of flood signs (elevation markers 2006 and 100 year flood levels)
- Relocation of power supply for elevators at 56 main street, clerk and courthouse
- Relocation of electrical service for courthouse
- EWP Projects (Municipality)
- Municipalities applying to Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for relocation, acquisition and elevation
- Town of Nichols, Town of Tioga, and Village of Owego have all applied for and received NYS DOS Long Term Community Recovery Strategy Grants and are developing Strategies to reduce flooding impacts on a long term basis.
- Municipalities adopting new Flood Damage Prevention Regulations according to the new 2012 FIRM maps.
- Village of Owego is elevating electrical and heating services.
- Owego Central Fire Station North Avenue is elevating boiler, electric service and communications equipment.
- Village of Owego is implementing CODE RED or NY ALERT for notifications and audible sirens through out the Village.
- Village of Owego is elevating pump room at Community Pool at Marvin Park
- Town of Owego relocated electrical service at Highway Facilities
- Town of Owego Hickories Park is relocating maintenance building
- Town of Owego is conducting overall assessment of flood mitigation measures at Hickories Park
- Under the Pro-active leadership of Nichols Town board Deputy Supervisor a joint Flood Mitigation Group was established to include Town/Village/Fire Dept./Tioga Downs/TCOEM/Nichols CCN. As such there have been 4 meetings to date concerning lessons learned and what needs to be done to better cope with the recent severe flooding from our beautiful river. Along with supporting the DMA 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for Tioga

County, we have worked to have local Town meetings to educate our constituents with respect to FMEA programs concerning Buyouts, Home raising's and Flood Proofing to enhance our ability to live alongside a normally peaceful and beautiful river. To date, there are eight buyouts being considered as well as one house raising. In addition, 5 local residents have come forth and generated a LOI to flood proof their homes as mitigation against the \$225,000 collective damage these homes suffered via Tropical storm Lee. This LOI was supported by the Nichols Deputy Supervisor and Faxed to the NYSOEM - Mitigation Dept. on 1/30/12.

- Tioga Downs provided community with extensive support during and after Tropical Storm Lee including financial, food, waste pickup via their trucks/personnel and purchasing a new boat for Nichols Fire Department for rescue efforts. In addition they have made their Regional Vice President available to support the Joint Nichols Flood Mitigation Group efforts and have superbly demonstrated Nichols Neighbors helping Neighbors policy.
- Nichols Town/Village are concurrently updating associated Flood Mitigation Plans and working session on 3/22/12 to establish efforts needed for completion and dates.
- The Tioga County Highway Department has implemented numerous culvert upgrades on county roads to improve drainage and mitigate localized flooding.
  - Co DPW replacing Gaskill Road Bridge
- EWP Projects (Halsey Valley Road and Gaskill Road)
- Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge Replacement Project (installing larger structure) FHWA
  - Numerous smaller projects ongoing

The Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District has been instrumental in implementing various streambank stabilization projects throughout the county, and generally supporting the communities with stormwater management, flood control and land-use issues:

- Hydroseeding
- EWP projects
- Stream Stabilization projects

## **PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY**

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

### **Organization of Planning Partnership**

Recognizing the need to manage natural risk within the County, and to meet the requirements of the DMA 2000, the Tioga County Legislature assigned the Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District Director with the responsibilities of managing a natural hazards mitigation plan update project.

On December 5, 2011 Tioga County was notified by NYSOEM that their application for a planning grant to update the 2006 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP 1857) was approved. Through an open bid process, the County selected a contract Planning consultant (Tetra Tech EM, Inc. –Morris Plains, NJ). A contract between Tetra Tech EM, Inc. (Tetra Tech) and the County was executed on February 2, 2012. Specifically Tetra Tech, the “contract consultant”, was tasked with:

- Working with the County’s Hazard Mitigation Committee and their partners to identify mitigation actions (Projects) for which the County and partners may seek grant funding.

- Recommending actions to ensure County and participating partners are in good standing and demonstrate continued compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations, including local floodplain ordinances and permitting requirements
- Preparation of an updated, FEMA approved All Hazards Mitigation Plan to the County

In support of these tasks, the consultant scope included:

- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Data collection
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Planning committee, stakeholder, public and other)
- Outreach to other various outside groups, facilities, and agencies as outlined in the County's original Request for Proposals for information vital to risk identification and mitigation strategies
- Review of hazards of concern, and update of hazard profiling and risk assessment
- Assistance with the development of updated mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assistance with the screening of new mitigation actions, identification of appropriate actions, and status updates of actions in the original 2006 plan.
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring of the Draft and Final Plan documents

The County formed a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Committee comprised of appropriate municipal personnel, local emergency first responders, and other stakeholders to effectively guide the overall process, provide significant input, and partner with Tetra Tech to develop a FEMA-approved Plan. Thus, the County formed the HMP committee as noted in Table 3-1.

On January 26, 2012 Tioga County notified all 15 municipalities within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Municipalities were provided with a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations and asked to formally notify the county of their intent to participate (via a Letter of Intent) and to identify a planning point of contact to serve on a Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community.

A Planning Committee was assembled to represent each of the municipalities participating in the Plan, consisting of all members of the Steering Committee, and at least one representative from each of the fifteen (15) participating municipalities, and the participating school district. Each municipality received a copy of the "Planning Partner Expectations" which outlined the responsibilities of the participants and the agreement of the partners to authorize the Steering Committee to represent the jurisdiction in the completion of certain planning elements as noted above.

The Planning Committee was charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process;
- Establish Plan development goals;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the Plan;
- Ensure that the Plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and NYSOEM guidance;
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the Plan development process;
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the Plan, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Organize and oversee the public involvement process;
- Identify, develop and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.
- Review, amend and approve all sections of the Plan;

- Develop and author the jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain the Plan.

It is noted that the Letter of Intent to Participate identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. It is recognized that the jurisdictions in Tioga County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the planning process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this Plan. It was Tioga County’s intent to encourage participation by all inclusive jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of Plan participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee and engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the Planning process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and to provide additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex (chapter) of the Plan wherein the jurisdiction has identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk; and eventually by the adoption of the Plan via resolution.

Table 3-1 shows the current municipal members of the Planning Committee, at the time of this Plan’s publication. Please note that while Steering Committee members are also part of the overall project Planning Committee, the list below only identifies those Planning Committee members representing participating municipalities. Steering Committee members are identified in Table 3-2.

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

Name	Title	Organization
Leon Carey	Supervisor	Town of Barton
Lee Virtue	CEO	Town of Berkshire
Bob Riggs	Supervisor	Town of Candor
Steven A. Sparling	Mayor	Village of Candor
Stuart L. Yetter	Supervisor	Town of Newark Valley
William Foster	Public Works Supervisor	Village of Newark Valley
Barb Crannell	Deputy Supervisor	Town of Nichols
Leon Carey	Code Enforcement Officer	Village of Nichols
Debra Standing	Planning and Zoning	Town of Owego
Kevin Millar	Deputy Mayor	Village of Owego
Martin S. Wilcox	Supervisor	Town of Richford
Arvo Routine	Supervisor	Town of Spencer
Gilbert Knapp	Village Trustee	Village of Spencer
Lewis W. Zorn	Supervisor	Town of Tioga
Kyle J. McDuffee	Mayor	Village of Waverly
Jeffrey Kisloski	Superintendent of Schools	Candor Central School District
William Russell	Superintendent of Schools	Owego Apalachin School District
Joseph Morgan	Superintendent of Schools	Spencer Van Etten School District

Name	Title	Organization
Scot Taylor	Superintendent of Schools	Tioga Central School District

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

The Steering Committee was charged with:

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

It is noted that prior to the general project Kick-Off meeting, a more limited Steering Committee was assembled to initiate the planning process and assist with overall project administration and the formation of the full Steering Committee.

On January 19, 2012, the Steering Committee met for the first time and continued to meet throughout the year. Table 3-3 shows the current members of the Steering Committee, at the time of this draft Plan’s publication.

Members of the Committee (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated on an as-needed basis to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; identify critical facilities; assist in developing mitigation goals, objectives and actions; and provide continuity through the Plan development process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated into the Plan. Each member of the HMP Committee reviewed the Plan, supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

Table 3-3. Steering Committee Members

Name	Title	Organization
Wendy Walsh*	District Manager	Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District
Debra Standinger**	Planning & Zoning Administrator	Town of Owego Planning & Zoning
Dick LeCount	Director	Tioga County Emergency Management
Judy Quigley	Attorney	Tioga County Attorney
Elaine Jardine	Planning Director	Tioga County Planning
Gary Hammond	Deputy Commissioner	Tioga County Department of Public Works
Barb Crannell	Deputy Supervisor	Town of Nichols
Kevin Millar	Mayor	Village of Owego
Bill Ostrander	GIS Manager	Tioga County Geographical Information Systems
Martha Sauerbrey	President	Tioga County Legislator & Chamber of Commerce

Name	Title	Organization
Ches Spencer	Committee Member	Town of Nichols (alternate)
Andrew Fagan	Executive Director	Tioga CCE

\*Chair

\*\*Alternate Chair

**Planning Partnership Activities**

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

After completion of the Plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will review the Plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of the five year mitigation plan update.

Table 3-4 presents a summary of the planning partnership efforts implemented during the development process for this Plan, as well as key milestones in the Plan’s development. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy.

Table 3-4. Summary of Planning Outreach

Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Attendees
1/10/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Legislative Committee Meeting to discuss resolution to accept consultant	Tioga County Legislature- 8 Legislators, Steering Committee (Elaine Jardine, Deb Standing, Dick LeCount, Wendy Walsh, Judy Quigley)
1/10/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Legislative Meeting - Approval of Tetra Tech for HMP	Tioga County Legislature- 8 Legislators & Public
1/11/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership – informed group of HMP update and process	Documentation not available.
1/19/2012	Pre-project Meeting 2	Organizational and data collection meeting, public outreach plan, review of 2006 HMP	Debra Standing – Town of Owego Paul Hoole – FEMA Region II Jomacia Johnson – FEMA Region II Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Bill Ostrander – Tioga County GIS Ches Spencer – Town of Nichols Richard LeCount – Tioga County EMO Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Dale Weston – Tioga County Leg. Chair Judith Quigley – Tioga County Attorney Alison Miskiman-Tetra Tech Jonathan Raser and Cynthia Bianco
1/19/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	School Superintendent Meeting - met with to discuss HMP and need for them to be involved	4 school superintendents, (OACSD, CCSD, TCSD, SVCSD), Dick LeCount, Wendy Walsh
1/19/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	COG meeting - attended to notify of HMP process and Kick off meeting, discussed LOIs	Dick LeCount and Wendy Walsh attended. COG members present
1/19/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Kiwanis meeting; informed group of HMP update and process	15 attendees, names not documented
1/23/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Town of Owego, regular Town Board meeting, informed group of HMP update and process	Supervisor Donald Castellucci, Jr. Council: Dean Morgan, Barbara Roberts, Wayne Moulton and Lynne Davis
1/26/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Flood Recovery Oversight Committee (FROC); status report on HMP	Marte Sauerbrey, Doug Barton, Wendy Walsh, Loretta Sullivan, Chuck Shager, John Scott, Ken DelBianco, Suzanne Horton, Dale Weston, Dick LeCount

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Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Attendees
2/6/12	Working Group Meeting 2, 3a, 3b	Data collection, public outreach, steering committee guidelines	Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech Jonathan Raser-Tetra Tech Alison Miskiman –Tetra Tech Kevin Millar-Village of Owego Bill Ostrander-Tioga County GIS Judy Quigley-Tioga County Attorney Debra Standing- Town of Owego Barb Crannell-Town of Nichols Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Planning Wendy Walsh –Tioga County
2/9/12	Steering Committee Meeting 2, 3a, 3b	Committee ground rules, approve HMP brochure, updating goals and objectives	Wendy Walsh –Tioga County Judy Quigley-Tioga County Attorney Debra Standing- Town of Owego Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Planning Jonathan Raser-Tetra Tech Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
2/14/12	Public Outreach, 1b	Interviewed by WEBO (local radio station) about HMP and mitigation strategies	Listening audience.
2/16/12	Kick-off Meeting 2, 3a, 1b, 2	Jurisdictional Kick-Off Meeting	See below matrix and meeting sign in sheet in Appendix I.
2/16/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	Public and Stakeholder Kick-off Meeting	See below matrix and meeting sign in sheet in Appendix I.
2/21/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	FROC; status update of HMP, kick off meetings	10 attendees, names not documented.
2/21/12	Public Outreach, 1b	CCE Livestock Workshop presentation; requested individuals to complete survey	20 attendees, names not documented.
2/22/12	Public Outreach, 1b	Ag Resource Group meeting; requested individuals to complete online survey	9 attendees, names not documented.
2/22/12	Working Group Meeting Goals and Objectives; Hazard Analysis Review 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a	Goals and Objectives; Hazard Analysis Review	Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Judy Quigley-Tioga County Attorney Debra Staninger-Town of Owego Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Planning Kevin Millar- Village of Owego Dick LeCount-Tioga County OEM
2/27/12	Steering Committee Meeting 2, 3a, 4a	Goals and Objectives, Hazards of Concern	Debra Standing – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Bill Ostrander – Tioga County GIS Gary Hammond-TC Public Works Marty Sauerbrey-TC Chamber of Commerce Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Barb Crannell-Town of Nichols Andy Fagan-CCR Tioga Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
3/5/12	Working Group Meeting- 2, 3a, 4a	Status Update and Action Items	Debra Standing – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Judy Quigley-Tioga County Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Dick LeCount-Tioga County Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
3/19/12	Working Group Meeting- 2,1b, 4b	Stakeholder survey input, public outreach status, municipal input status	Debra Standing – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Judy Quigley-Tioga County Ches Spencer-Town of Nichols Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
3/26/12	Steering Committee Meeting-SWOO 2, 4a, 4b	Discussion of County and municipal Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles and Opportunities as a basis for development of a comprehensive hazard mitigation catalog.	Debra Standing – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Bill Ostrander – Tioga County GIS Gary Hammond-TC Public Works Marty Sauerbrey-TC Chamber of Commerce Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Barb Crannell-Town of Nichols Andy Fagan-CCR Tioga Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech

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Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Attendees
3/28/12	Public Meeting 1b, 2	FROC Meeting	Not documented.
4/2/12	Working Group Meeting-	Status Update and Action Items	Debra Standinger – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Judy Quigley-Tioga County Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
4/16/12	Working Group Meeting, 2, 4b, 4c	Discussion of county-wide municipal initiatives, plan review and maintenance procedures	Debra Standinger – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Debra Standinger – Town of Owego Judy Quigley-Tioga County Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/7/12	Working Group Meeting, 2, 4b, 4c	Status Update and Action Items	Debra Standinger – Town of Owego Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Judy Quigley-Tioga County Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Dick LeCount-Tioga County Barb Crannell-Town of Nichols Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/9/12	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b	Jurisdictional Annex Meeting-Town and Village of Owego, Owego-Apalachin School District	Ed Hartman-Village of Owego Dean Morgan-Town of Owego Kathleen Macri-Owego Village Kevin Millar-Owego Village Wendy Walsh-Tioga SWCD Debra Staninger-Town of Owego Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Bill Russell-OASD N. Minch-Owego Town Judy Quigley-Tioga County Paul Hoole-FEMA Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/9/12	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b	Jurisdictional Annex Meeting-Town of Spencer, Village of Spencer, Town of Candor, Spencer Van Etten School District, Candor Central School District	Bob Rigos-Town of Candor Christine Lester-Spencer Village Christine Brown-Candor Village Dick Smith-Spencer Arvo Runtime-Spencer Kevin Noble-Candor Jim Douglas-Candor Jerry Hasinger-SVESD J. Ensw –Spencer Joe Morgan-SVESD Jeff Kisloski-CCSD Sydney Wade-CCSD Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/9/12	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b	Jurisdictional Annex Meeting-Town of Richford, Town of Berkshire, Town of Newark Valley, Village of Newark Valley	Stu Yetter-Newark Valley Town Chuck Meade-Newark Valley Bill Foster-Newark Valley Village Morgan Indermies-Newark Valley Village Dennis Liebe-Newark Valley Town Leon Virtue-Town of Berkshire Tom Larson-Newark Valley Town Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech

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Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Key Outcomes/Purpose	Attendees
5/10/12	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b	Jurisdictional Annex Meeting-Town of Barton, Village of Waverley	Joan Richards-Barton Jim Pratt-Barton Dan Foster-Barton Michele Wood-Waverley Grady Updyke-Waverley Don Howard-Waverley Bill Hotchkiss-Waverley Ron Keene-Waverley John Tryon-Barton Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Kevin Everley-Tioga/Barton Dick Carey-Barton Paul Hoole-FEMA Judy Quigley-Tioga County Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/10/12	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b,, 4c	Jurisdictional Annex Meeting-Town of Nichols, Village of Nichols, Town of Tioga, Tioga Central School System	Barb Crannell-Nichols Town Lesley Pelotte-Nichols Town/Village Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Debra Staninger-Owego Town Scot Taylor-TCSD Bardall L. Simmons-TCSD Ches Spencer-Nichols Town Lou Zorn-Tioga Town Wendy Walsh-Tioga County LeeAnn Tinney-Nichols Village Dick LeCount-Tioga County Robert Klorn-Tioga Town Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/21/12	Working Group meeting- 2, 4c	Municipal annex feedback, county annex discussion	Wendy Walsh – Tioga County SWCD Judy Quigley-Tioga County Elaine Jardine – Tioga County Planning Cynthia Bianco-Tetra Tech
5/29/12	Steering Committee Meeting 5a, 5b, 5c	Steering Committee meeting, hazard profiles comments, plan review and maintenance comments, annex status	Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Dick LeCount-Tioga County Bill Ostrander-Tioga County Kevin Millar-Owego Village Ellen Pratt Martha Saurbray-Tioga County Chamber of Commerce Debra Staninger-Owego Town Judy Quigley-Tioga County
6/4/12	Working Group meeting 4c, 5 a, 5b, 5c	Draft Plan status, FEMA pre-review comments, county annex discussion	Not documented.
6/25/12	Steering Committee Meeting 2, 4c	Steering Committee meeting	Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Kevin Millar-Village of Owego, Elaine Jardine-Tioga County Barb Crannell-Town of Nichols Ches Spencer-Town of Nichols Judy Quigley-Tioga County Bill Ostrander-Tioga County GIS Richard LeCounty Tioga County Debra Staninger-Town of Owego Martha Sauerbray Tioga County Legislature Gary Hammond-Tioga County
7/9/12	Public Outreach, 1b	Draft Plan posted to public website for public review.	Not applicable.
7/23/12	Steering Committee Meeting 2	Project Status Review and Action Items	Wendy Walsh-Tioga County Andy Fagan-CCE Tioga Elaine Jardine-Tioga EDP Barb Crannell-Town of Nichols Judy Quigley-Tioga County Ches Spencer-Nichols Volunteer Cynthia Bianco – Tetra Tech

Note: TBD = to be determined. Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:



- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

### **PARTICIPATION MATRIX**

Additional information concerning the meeting attendees is provided in the participation matrix which is included on the following pages. This matrix indicates New York State, County, Municipal, and stakeholder personnel participating in the planning process.

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

The participating jurisdictions agreed to abide by the Planning Partner Expectations and Planning Committee Guidelines which established a Steering Committee which would provide the core of the working group. Participation is defined as having input to the hazard analysis (providing critical facility, hazard event, vulnerability data), and as having participated in the annex workshop or alternate annex meetings as described above for the purpose of creating a mitigation strategy to be included in each municipalities annex in Section 9 of the plan.



Meeting Date	Activity/DMA 2000 Requirement	Activity	Tioga County	Town of Barton	Town of Berkshire	Town of Candor	Village of Candor	Town of Newark Valley	Village of Newark Valley	Town of Nichols	Village of Nichols	Town of Owego	Village of Owego	Town of Richford	Town of Spencer	Village of Spencer	Town of Tioga	Owego Apalachin SD	Spencer Vam Etten SD	Candor Central SD	Village of Waverly	Tioga Central School District	Owego A Central School District	Tioga County Dept of Public Work	Tioga County Emergency Manage	Tioga County Planning	Tioga County Attorney	Tioga County GIS	Tioga County Legislator	Tioga County Chamber of Comm	Tioga County Soil & Water C D	Tioga County CCR	General Public/Audience	FEMA	Tetra Tech	REAP	Red Cross	
5/10/12	Jurisdictional Annex Workshops 3e, 4a, 4b	Jurisdictional Annex Meeting-Town of Nichols, Village of Nichols, Town of Tioga, Tioga Central School System	x							x	x	x					x					x		x														
5/29/12	Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee meeting, hazard profiles comments, plan review and maintenance comments, annex status	x									x												x		x	x		x	x						x		
6/25/12	Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee meeting																																				

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement



**STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN MITIGATION PLANNING**

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

Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering and Planning Committee. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout, the planning process. In addition to “mass media” notification efforts, identified stakeholders were invited to attend the Kick-Off meeting, while key stakeholders were requested to participate on the Steering and/or Planning Committees.

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

Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this Plan where appropriate, as identified in the references

On February 2, 2012 a letter was sent to the stakeholders indicated in the following table inviting them to review the draft plan documents and to participate in the development of the Plan. Comments were directed to Ms. Wendy Walsh, the HMP point of contact who was tasked with collecting any information from the stakeholder outreach.

Table 3-5. Tioga County Stakeholders

<b>Stakeholder Category</b>	<b>Company/Organization Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Schools	Newark Valley Central School District	Ryan Dougherty
Schools	Spencer Van Etten Central School District	Joe Morgan
Schools	Waverly Central School District	Joesph Yelich
Schools	Candor Central School District	Jeff Kisloski
Schools	Owego Apalachin Central School District	Bill Russel
Schools	Tioga Central School District	Scott Taylor
Schools	Newark Valley Central School District	Martha Sauerbrey
Businesses	Chamber of Commerce	
Businesses	Lockheed Martin	
Businesses	Tioga Downs	Keith Houmes
Businesses	Leprino Foods	Les Wagner
Businesses	Wagner Lumber	Steve Gregg
Businesses	FS Lopke, Inc	
Businesses	Best Buy	
Businesses	Sanmina-SCI	
Health Care	Guthrie Clinic	
Health Care	Lourdes	
Health Care	Riverview Manor Health Care Center	Walter Jones
Fire Districts	Owego Fire District	Pete Deminco
Fire Districts	Apalachin Fire District	Paul Fredrick
Fire Districts	Nichols Fire District	Tim Pettis
Fire Districts	Candor Fire District	David Cole
Fire Districts	Wavery-Barton Fire District	Jim Van Ostrander

<b>Stakeholder Category</b>	<b>Company/Organization Name</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Fire Districts	Newark Valley Fire District	Don Liddington
Fire Districts	Berkshire Fire District	Kevin Perry
Fire Districts	Spencer Fire Distric	Ed Arrington
Fire Districts	Owego Fire District	
Fire Districts	Richford Fire District	
Non Profits	Catholic Charities	Darin Welch
Non Profits	Tioga County Open Door Mission	Andrew Zepp
Non Profits	Finger Lakes Land Trust	
Non Profits	Salvation Army	Scott MacDonald
Non Profits	Waterman Conservation Education Center	
Non Profits	RedCross	Tom Pipher
Agencies	Farm Service Agency	Suzy Daubert
Agencies	NRCS	Andrew Fagan
Agencies	CCE	Kathleen Horner
Agencies	TOP	Lee Ann Tinney
Agencies	IDA	Susan Obleski
Agencies	SRBC	Scott Cook
Agencies	NYSDEC	Bob Chadwick
Agencies	NYSDOT	Cindy Chadwick
Agencies	NYSEG	Brett Chellis
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Broome County Emergency Services	John Bernardo
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Town of Union	W. John Schaffer
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Town of Vestal	G. Rober Duell
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Cortland County Fire and Emergency Management	Dana Haff
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Town of Hartford	
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Tompkins County Dept of Emergency Response	Michael Smith
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Chemung County Emergency Management	John Ambrusch
Neighboring Towns and Counties	Bradford County Emergency Management Office	

**Municipal and Local Involvement**

The HMP Committee and/or its members and contract consultant met and communicated with relevant representatives of the towns and villages within the County to obtain data and information, review existing Plans and capabilities, and facilitate the identification of appropriate mitigation initiatives. Further, these departments have reviewed the Draft Plan and provided direct input during its development.

Throughout the course of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Committee Chair sent numerous correspondences to participating stakeholders to update them on the process, make them aware of important meeting dates and other plan review activities. These correspondence included emails, letter and phone conversations with many of the municipal and school district stakeholders. For each of the stakeholders the distribution list included:

- Town Supervisor
- Deputy Supervisor
- Town Clerk

- Highway Superintendent
- Code Enforcement
- Planning Board Members
- School District Superintendent
- Primary Point of Contact determined by stakeholder
- Secondary Point of Contact determined by stakeholder

The Committee and its members met and communicated with NYSOEM regularly to obtain mitigation planning information and general guidance for HMP preparation. Meeting sign-in sheets which indicate the municipal and stakeholder participants are provided in Appendix I.

### **Federal, State, County, and Regional Agency Involvement**

Throughout this Planning process, the County actively sought the involvement of a wide range of county, state and regional stakeholders, including:

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

Input from stakeholders specifically included:

NYSOEM: Provided program support for Planning Committee; provided data, information and guidance on mitigation planning and grant programs; provided courtesy review of Draft Plan.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Provided data and information to Plan, specifically in the area of NIFP compliance.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Region II: Provided National Flood Insurance Program data for the County and Municipalities.

USDA National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): Provided data and information to Plan.

New York State Office of Emergency Management (NYSOEM) – Region IV – Attended and supported Planning and Steering Committee meetings throughout the planning process, provided guidance and completed formal reviews of draft and final plan.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Provided data and information to plan, including NFIP statistics and information on floodplain mapping and updates. Regularly apprised of planning project.

Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District: Steering Committee member; attended Planning and Steering Committee meetings, provided information and input to Plan, reviewed plan sections, identified potential local and regional mitigation initiatives, supported local plan participation, facilitated regional outreach and awareness of project.

U.S. Geological Survey (Ithaca, NY) – reviewed and provided technical information for flood risk assessments, provided information on stream gauging network in region.

### **Tioga County Government Agencies**

Tioga County Emergency Management Office–Steering Committee members; attended Steering and Planning Committees, organized the planning process, provided information and input to Plan, reviewed Plan sections, identified county and regional mitigation initiatives.

Tioga County Planning Department – Steering Committee member, provided input to inventory and risk assessment; reviewed plan sections, identified potential county, regional and local mitigation initiatives.

Tioga County Department of Public Works – Steering Committee member, attended Steering and Planning Committee meetings, provided input to inventory and risk assessment, reviewed plan sections, identified potential county and regional mitigation initiatives.

Tioga County Legislators – Steering Committee members; provided input and information to Plan.

### **Other County Agencies**

Tioga County Highway Superintendents Association: Provided mitigation projects and Stakeholder survey input

Tioga County Council of Governments: review hazard mitigation plan; provide input through stakeholder survey

Tioga Opportunities Inc. – provide input through stakeholder survey

### **Surrounding County Agencies**

The surrounding counties of Broome, Cortland, Chemung, Tompkins, and Bradford and the towns of Union, Vestal, Hartford have been informed of plan activity, progress and opportunities for input at regular meetings of the NYSOEM District.

### **Academia**

- Binghamton University
- Cornell University

### **Hospitals and Health Care**

- Riverview
- Guthrie
- Lourdes
- UHS

### **Transportation**

- Norfolk Southern
- Tioga Transport

- Owego Harford Railroad
- Shortline

### **Utilities and Infrastructure**

- NYSEG
- United Water
- PENELEC
- CNYOG

### **Commerical and Industrial Interests**

- Historic Owego Market Place
- Waverly Business Association
- Tioga County Industrial Development Agency
- Tioga County Local Development Corporation

### **Government Agencies**

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

- Midwest Regional Climate Center (MRCC)
- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)
- New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission (NYSDPC)
- NYSOEM
- Tioga County Chamber of Commerce
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Public Participation - Citizen Involvement**

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

The Planning Committee has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:

- The public was informed of the hazard mitigation planning effort commencement at the kick-off meeting, and through press releases, new articles, and public service announcements. To inform the public of the ongoing Plan effort, updates regarding the mitigation planning process have been made at County Board of Supervisor Public Safety Committee meetings, including a meeting on regarding consultant selection, and a status presentations at the meetings.
- A public website is being maintained as another way to facilitate communication between the Planning Committee and County residents (<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>). The public website contains a project overview, Planning Committee contact information, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment. See Figures 3-1 and 3-2 for screenshots of this public website.
- Links to the public website have been established by the Towns of Owego, Barton, Waverly, and Berkshire, as well as the Owego Appalacin School District. These links are on the home web pages of each jurisdiction.
- The public has been informed of the mitigation planning process through media coverage and articles appearing throughout the planning process. Copies of these articles may be found in Appendix C.
- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Committee and citizens and involve the public in the planning process, the Plan will be available to the public through a variety of venues. A printed version of the Plan will be maintained at Tioga County Office of Emergency Services.
- The County has created a page on its website devoted to the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>) to inform residents of the project and allow for direct input. The website went live in March 2012. The page contains information on the project and methods the public can participate in the Planning process (Appendix C).
- In January 2012 a press release was sent to local media outlets including the Mornign Times, News Center, Press & Sun Bulletin, Random Harvest, Star Gazette, Owego PennySaver, The Daily Review, Tioga County Courier, WATS/WAVR, WBNG, WEBO, and WHCU. Sample news clippings are provided in Appendix C to illustrate media coverage.
- An on-line natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact the County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards

(<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>). The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The questionnaire also asked several demographic questions to help analyze trends. Responses were collected and incorporated into SWOO discussions and the catalog of mitigation actions. A summary of survey results is provided in Appendix H of this plan.

- The questionnaire has been available on the public website since March 2012, and further advertised on their website devoted to Hazard Mitigation Planning. Response rates to date are considered good. Appendix H summarizes public input received through the website, the online survey, and other sources.
- A hazard mitigation planning tri-fold brochure (see Appendix C) was developed to inform the public of the planning process, provide local contact information, and encourage the public to review the plan and provide input.
- In July 2012, the Draft Plan was posted to the public website (<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>). This is an opportunity for public comment on the Draft Plan before it while it is under review by NYSOEM. All public comments were directed to Wendy Walsh for collection and review by the planning committee. Any public comments received will be incorporated into the plan before submittal to FEMA.

Examples of public outreach efforts are presented in Appendix C. Public comments that have been received to date are documented in Appendix C.

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

The screenshot displays the Tioga County Government Website's Hazard Mitigation Plan page. At the top, the Tioga County logo is visible alongside a navigation menu with links for Government, Information, Employment, Departments, Business, and Online Services. A search bar is located below the navigation. The breadcrumb trail indicates the user's location: Departments » Emergency Management » Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan » Tioga County Multi Hazard. The page title is "Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan". A call to action requests users to complete a survey. A list of links provides access to various resources related to the plan. A weather widget at the bottom shows the current conditions in Owego, NY, and the extended forecast for the next few days.

**TIOGA COUNTY NEW YORK**

GOVERNMENT | INFORMATION | EMPLOYMENT | DEPARTMENTS | BUSINESS | ONLINE SERVICES

Search Tioga County NY... [Recall Alerts!](#) [Barton Transfer Station Bid](#) [Public Health Hot Line!](#)

You are here: [Departments](#) » [Emergency Management](#) » [Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) » [Tioga County Multi Hazard](#) Monday - Mar 12, 2012

Mitigation Plan

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Contacts

**Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan**

[print](#) | [E-mail](#)

**Please help us better serve your needs by completing our survey. Just [CLICK HERE](#) to take the survey.**

- Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update & Introduction
- What is Hazard Mitigation?
- How does this plan benefit Tioga County?
- How can I get involved in the Plan Update?
- Public Outreach Activities
- County Contacts
- Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee
- Resources & Links
- Presentations
- Forms

[back to top](#)

-- Select Department --

**Owego, NY**

Currently [Hourly Info](#) | [15 Days](#) | [Videos](#)

**Cloudy** **65°F** **RealFeel®: 66°F**  
Winds: SE at 7 mph

**Your Extended Forecast**

**Today** **69°/48°**  
A brief shower or two

**Tuesday** **66°/39°**  
Mainly clear

**Wednesday** **59°/35°**  
Mainly clear

[AccuWeather.com](#)

Source: <http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>

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

**TIOGA COUNTY**  
NEW YORK

GOVERNMENT | INFORMATION | EMPLOYMENT | DEPARTMENTS | BUSINESS | ONLINE SERVICES

Search Tioga County NY... Public Health Hot Line!

You are here: Departments » Emergency Management » Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan Monday - Mar 12, 2012

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Contacts

## Tioga County Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan

*The mission of the Tioga County Multi-Jurisdictional 2006 All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify and reduce, through cost-effective and sustainable mitigation efforts, our vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. In doing so, Tioga County seeks to create an informed and prepared community while protecting its health, safety, property, economy, quality of life, and environment.*

**Please help us better serve your needs by completing our survey. Just [CLICK HERE](#) to take the survey.**

- ⌘ [Hazard Mitigation Plan 2012 Update & Introduction](#)
- ⌘ [What is Hazard Mitigation?](#)
- ⌘ [How does this plan benefit Tioga County?](#)
- ⌘ [How can I get involved in the Plan Update?](#)
- ⌘ [Public Outreach Activities](#)
- ⌘ [County Contacts](#)
- ⌘ [Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee](#)
- ⌘ [Resources & Links](#)
- ⌘ [Presentations](#)
- ⌘ [Forms](#)

Source: <http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>

Specific comments and input received from the public and stakeholders are presented in Appendix C.

The community had an opportunity to comment on the draft HMP before submittal to NYSOEM/FEMA. The HMP was posted on the public website in June 2012 for review.

### **COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS AND PROGRAMS**

Local municipalities are charged with the development of local HMPs required under Section 322 of the Stafford Act by New York. Therefore, the Planning Committee coordinated the development of this HMP. In New York, Article 2B Section 23 of State Executive Law authorizes local communities to prepare local disaster plans based on the contention that local municipalities are best equipped to assess their strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints. Local governments have intimate knowledge of the local geography, and in a disaster, local government personnel are on the front lines providing personnel and equipment to support the community. Tioga County and the participating jurisdictions are involved in this above program, hence the development of this Plan.

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

#### **HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM**

Participation in FEMA 404 HMGP may cover mitigation activities including raising, removing, relocating or replacing structures within flood hazard areas.

#### **NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

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

For a community to be eligible in NFIP, it must adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to regulate proposed development in floodplains and officially designate a local floodplain coordinator/administrator. The intent of the program is to ensure that new construction does not exacerbate existing flood hazards and is designed to better withstand flooding. All jurisdictions in Tioga County participate in the NFIP. The communities also have Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) that at a minimum show floodways, 100-year flood zones, and 500-year flood zones. Mitigation activities related to this program are included in Section 9 and data from FEMA Region II regarding NFIP Insurance Reports was used in the risk assessment for the flood hazard included in Section 5.

Each municipality in the county has a local floodplain manager. All floodplain managers have been informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the Plan. Table 3-6 summarizes the designated Floodplain Administrators for each jurisdiction.

Table 3-6. Tioga County Floodplain Administrators

Organization	Name	Title
Town of Barton	William Hotchkiss	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Berkshire	Lee Virtue	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Candor	James Douglas	Code Enforcement Officer
Village of Candor	Michael Katchmir	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Newark Valley	Thomas J. Larson	Code Enforcement Officer
Village of Newark Valley	William C. Swagler	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Nichols	Robert Klossner	Code Enforcement Officer
Village of Nichols	Leon Carey	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Owego	Debra Standinger	Planning and Zoning Administrator
Village of Owego	James Mead	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Richford	Kevin McMahon	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Spencer	Michael Katchmir	Code Enforcement Officer
Village of Spencer	Michael Katchmir	Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Tioga	Robert Klossner	Code Enforcement Officer
Village of Waverly	Michael LeRose	Code Enforcement Officer
Tioga Central School District	N/A	N/A

Source: updated by local contacts.

**COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)**

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

In the 1990s, the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) established the CRS to encourage local governments to increase their standards for floodplain development. The goal of this program is to encourage communities, through flood insurance rate adjustments, to implement standards above and beyond the minimum required in order to:

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

CRS is a voluntary program designed to reward participating jurisdictions for their efforts to create more disaster-resistant communities using the principles of sustainable development and management. While none of the communities in Tioga County are currently participating in the program, by enrolling in CRS, county municipalities can leverage greater flood protection while receiving flood insurance discounts. Active involvement in this program is included as a mitigation activity in Section 9.

**INTEGRATION OF EXISTING DATA AND PLANS INTO MITIGATION PLAN**

The mitigation plan integrates local and federal data as discussed below.

**LOCAL DATA**

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

- Tioga County Geographic Information System (GIS) data
- Documentation of past mitigation actions and grant applications
- Historic maps and local inventory data
- Tioga County Green Infrastructure Report
- Tioga County GIS mapping of flood damaged parcels resulting from the September 2011 storm event.

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

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

- Building Codes
- Zoning Ordinances
- Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Stormwater Management
- Emergency Response Plans
- New York State Standard Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan, 2008

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

**FEDERAL AND STATE DATA**

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

- US Census data
- HAZUS-MH provided data
- FEMA “How To” Series (386-1 to 386-4, and 386-7)
- Public laws and other programs such as the NFIP were examined to complete this Plan.

A complete list of the existing data and plans used to support this HMP is included in the references section of this document. By incorporating data from existing programs into this mitigation plan, the County also was able to identify the relevance of mitigation planning to these existing programs. Implementation of this Plan through these existing plans is identified as a specific mitigation action in several areas in Section 9 of this Plan.

## REVIEW OF EXISTING REPORTS AND PLANS

A summary of the reports and plans provided by Tioga County and reviewed in the preparation of this plan is included in the following Record of Review Matrix.

Table 3-7. Record Review (Municipalities) - Record of the review of existing programs, policies, and technical documents for participating jurisdictions (all)

Existing Program/Policy/Technical Documents	Countywide *	Town of Barton	Town of Berkshire	Town of Candor	Village of Candor	Town of Newark Valley	Village of Newark Valley	Town of Nichols	Village of Nichols	Town of Owego	Village of Owego	Town of Richford	Town of Spencer	Village of Spencer	Town of Tioga	Village of Waverley	Tioga Central Sch Dist.
Tioga County Flood Insurance Study	✓																
Responding to Climate Change in New York State – Synthesis Report, 2011	✓																
Tioga County Infrastructure Plan	✓																
Tioga County Mixed Use Development and Market Analysis	✓																
Tioga County Stormwater Management Plan	✓																
Tioga County Strategic Plan	✓																
Tioga County NY Community Profile	✓																
Tioga County Tourism Annual Reports - 2009, 2010	✓																
Susquehanna Heritage Plan	✓																
Town of Barton Master Plan		✓															
Town of Berkshire Comprehensive Plan			✓														
Town of Candor Comprehensive Plan				✓													
Town of Candor Emergency Plan				✓													
Village of Newark Valley Master Plan, 2000							✓										
Town of Nichols Comprehensive Plan								✓									
Village of Nichols Comprehensive Plan									✓								
Town of Owego Comprehensive Plan										✓							
Town of Owego Erosion and Sediment Control										✓							
Village of Owego Master Plan											✓						
Town of Richford Comprehensive Plan												✓					
Town of Spencer Comprehensive Plan													✓				

Notes:

✓ = the Hazard Mitigation Plan consultant reviewed the program/policy/technical document

\* = this document may or may not include all jurisdictions



While the table above reports that many jurisdictions do have comprehensive or master plans, none of them were updated during the time period covered under Tioga County's previous All Hazards Mitigation Plan. However, there was one plan created and adopted by both the Town of Owego and Tioga County – the Stormwater Management Program Plan. This plan does call for the education and outreach and participation of the general public on various stormwater activities. While the Tioga County/Town of Owego Stormwater Management Program Plan addresses only the hazards of severe storms and floods, any activities that are accomplished in accordance with this plan will include Hazard Mitigation Plan aspects where at all possible and suitable. The next Stormwater Management Program Plan update scheduled for 2016 will include language that incorporates hazard mitigation items for severe storms and flooding.

Similarly, the County will ensure through the Hazard Mitigation Coordinator duties that all jurisdictions are aware they need to incorporate hazard mitigation plan aspects into their comprehensive and master plan updates, as well as making specific recommendations, such as having the Flood Plain Administrator review all site plan review and zoning permits within the 100-year floodplain and including the hazards map in their plan. Municipalities now in the process of creating and/or updating their plans are the Town of Spencer, Town of Nichols, Village of Owego and Town of Newark Valley, so they will be the immediate focus.

The plan update has incorporated a goals and objectives hierarchy as a basis for the planning process and to address all hazards of concern rather than providing separate goals and objectives for each hazard as in the original plan. A cross-walk indicating the relationship of the original goals and objectives with the new goals and objectives is provided in Section 6 of the plan. Goals and objectives relevant to hazard mitigation of plans (noted above) reviewed in the update process have been incorporated into the updated plan goals and objectives.

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Tioga County is committed to the continued involvement of the public. Therefore, copies of the Plan will be made available for review during normal business hours at the Tioga County Office of Emergency Services.

A notice regarding annual updates of the Plan and the location of Plan copies will be publicized annually after the Planning Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public website (<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>).

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

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the 5-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Ms. Wendy Walsh of Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District) is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Committee will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Committee. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the Plan.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7.

Tioga County is committed to the continued involvement of the public. Therefore, copies of the Plan are available for review on their public website (<http://www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/emergency-management/tioga-county-all-hazards-mitigation-plan.html>), as well as at the Clerk's Office at participating municipalities.

After completion of the Plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the HMP Committee. The HMP Committee will review the Plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation Plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the Plan and the location of Plan copies will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Ms. Wendy Walsh, has been identified as the ongoing County All Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator (see Section 7), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this Plan. Contact information is:

Wendy Walsh, District Manager  
Tioga County Soil and Water  
183 Corporate Drive  
Owego, New York 13821  
607-687- 3553  
Email: [walshw@co.tioga.ny.us](mailto:walshw@co.tioga.ny.us)

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the five-year mitigation Plan update. The HMP Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the five-year Plan update as appropriate; however, members of the HMP Committee will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the HMP Committee. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the Plan.