

Section 3. Planning Process

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was included. Specifically, this section of the plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) an introduction; (2) organization of planning process; (3) stakeholder outreach and involvement; (4) integration of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information; (5) integration with existing planning mechanisms and programs; and (6) continued public outreach.

3.1 Introduction

An approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to ensure that the plan meets the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), and supports the long-term goal of covering all jurisdictions in Allegany County under a comprehensive and cohesive countywide DMA 2000-compliant plan. The planning process included the following objectives:

- The Allegany County HMP will be multi-jurisdictional, with the intention to include all municipalities in the County. Allegany County invited all jurisdictions in the County to participate in the process of updating the plan. To date, all municipalities have participated in the 2017 plan update process, as indicated in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1. Participating Allegany County Jurisdictions

County	Towns	Villages
Allegany County	Town of Alfred Town of Allen Town of Alma Town of Almond Town of Amity Town of Andover Town of Angelica Town of Belfast Town of Birdsall Town of Bolivar Town of Burns Town of Caneadea Town of Centerville Town of Clarksville Town of Cuba Town of Friendship Town of Genesee Town of Granger Town of Grove Town of Hume Town of Independence Town of New Hudson Town of Rushford Town of Scio Town of Ward Town of Wellsville	Village of Alfred Village of Almond Village of Andover Village of Belmont Village of Bolivar Village of Canaseraga Village of Cuba Village of Richburg Village of Wellsville

County	Towns	Villages
	Town of West Almond Town of Willing Town of Wirt	

- The plan must consider natural and man-made hazards facing the county, thereby exceeding the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000.
- The plan will be developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, and prevailing FEMA and New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (NYS DHSES) guidance. Following this process ensures that all the requirements are met and support plan review.

The Allegany County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, 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 Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and historical events. In addition, the Planning Partnership took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning documents. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP update have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county, and regional agencies, County residents, and stakeholders.

3.2 Organization of Planning Process

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 developing this HMP.

3.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Project management and grant administration has been the responsibility of the Allegany County Office of Emergency Management and Fire (OEM). A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech, Inc. [Tetra Tech]) was tasked with:

- Assisting with the organization of a Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Collecting data
- Facilitating and attending meetings (Planning Partnership, stakeholder, public and other)
- Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment
- Assisting with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assisting with the review of progress of past mitigation strategies
- Assisting with the screening of mitigation actions, and identifying appropriate actions
- Assisting with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring the draft and final plan documents

In April 2016, County officials notified all municipalities within Allegany County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Jurisdictions were asked to identify planning points of contact to serve in a hazard mitigation planning partnership (Planning Partnership) and represent the interests of their communities.

To facilitate plan development, Allegany County developed a Hazard Mitigation Team to provide guidance and direction to the HMP update effort and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area.

The makeup of this Hazard Mitigation Team included representatives from the County OEM, Planning Services, Department of Public Works, Highway Superintendents Association, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Department of Health. Together, the members of the Hazard Mitigation Team had expertise in preventive measures, property protection, natural resource protection, emergency services, structural flood and hazard control projects, and public information. They applied their expertise on behalf of all participating municipalities. While all municipalities participating in the plan update authorized the Hazard Mitigation Team to carry out certain activities on their behalf, all municipalities were invited to attend and participate in all aspects of the plan update process.

The Hazard Mitigation Team was tasked with:

- Providing guidance for and oversight of the planning process
- Attending and participating in Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership meetings
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
 - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern
 - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program
 - Ensuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
 - Reviewing and updating the mitigation goals and objectives
 - Identifying and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities
 - Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NYS DHSES and FEMA

The Hazard Mitigation Team provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

The Planning Partnership was assembled to represent each of the municipalities participating in the plan update process, and consisted of all members of the Hazard Mitigation Team and at least one representative from each of the participating municipalities.

The Planning Partnership was tasked with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process
- Collect input from all departments within their community that have a stake in mitigation (planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, and public works)
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the plan update, including the use of previously developed reports and data
- Support and promote the public involvement process
- Report on progress of 2011 HMP mitigation actions, as applicable
- Identify, develop, and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives
- Review and update drafts of their jurisdictional annex
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update
- Adopt, implement, and maintain the plan update

Table 3-2 shows the current members of the Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership at the time this plan update was developed.

Table 3-2. Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership Members

Organization	Name	Title / Position	Planning Partnership	Hazard Mitigation Team
Allegany County OEM	Jeff Luckey	Director, OEM	X	X
Allegany County Planning Services	Kier Dirlam	Director, Planning Services	X	X
Allegany County Department of Public Works	Guy James	Superintendent, Public Works	X	X
Allegany County Town Highway Superintendents Association	Fred/Kevin Demick	Town Highways Superintendents Association	X	X
Allegany County Soil and Water Conservation District	Ryan Paulsen	Soil and Water Conservation District Technician	X	X
Allegany County Department of Health	Tyler Shaw	Environmental Health Director	X	X
Alfred, Town of	Brad Price	Highway Superintendent	X	
Alfred, Village of	James McNulty	Superintendent	X	
Allen, Town of	Allan Hennard	Highway Superintendent	X	
Alma, Town of	Daniel Ford	Highway Superintendent	X	
Almond, Town of	Jamie Mansfield	Superintendent of Highways	X	
Almond, Village of	John Meehan	Mayor	X	
Amity, Town of	Bill Bigelow	Highway Superintendent	X	
Andover, Town of	James Frungillo	Highway Superintendent	X	
Andover, Village of	David Truax	Mayor	X	
Angelica, Town of	Robert L. Jones	Supervisor	X	
Angelica, Village of	Fred/Kevin Demick	Highway Superintendent	X	
Belfast, Town of	William Nichols	Highway Superintendent	X	
Belmont, Village of	Greg R. Winterhalter	Highway Superintendent	X	
Birdsall, Town of	Cindy Gowiski	Supervisor	X	
Bolivar, Town of	Brad Schiralli	Superintendent of Highways	X	
Bolivar, Village of	Jim Barnes	Public Works Superintendent	X	
Burns, Town of	Steve Mullen	Highway Superintendent	X	
Canaseraga, Village of	Doug Ames	Mayor	X	
Caneadea, Town of	Dave Stenzel	Public Works Superintendent	X	
Centerville, Town of	Kalab Armison	Highway Superintendent	X	
Clarksville, Town of	Rod Sisson	Superintendent of Highways	X	
Cuba, Town of	Rob Carney	Town of Cuba	X	
Cuba, Village of	Randy L. Snyder	Deputy Superintendent of Public Works	X	
Friendship, Town of	Jamie Blouvet	Supervisor	X	
Genesee, Town of	Ben Reynolds	Superintendent of Highways	X	
Granger, Town of	Kevin L. Slack	Highway Superintendent	X	

Organization	Name	Title / Position	Planning Partnership	Hazard Mitigation Team
Grove, Town of	Kenny DeRitter	Councilman	X	
Hume, Town of	Kevin Peet	Highway Superintendent	X	
Independence, Town of	Jeri Reichman	Supervisor	X	
New Hudson, Town of	Bill Shuler	Supervisor	X	
Richburg, Village of	Gary Faulkner	Superintendent	X	
Rushford, Town of	John Jessop	Town of Rushford	X	
Scio, Town of	Glenn (Skip) Nickerson, Jr.	Highway Superintendent	X	
Ward, Town of	Sue Wlasniewski	Town Clerk/Tax Collector	X	
Wellsville, Town of	Brian Gamache	Town of Wellsville (and AC Planning)	X	
Wellsville, Village of	Randy Shayler	Mayor	X	
West Almond, Town of	Brent Platt	Supervisor	X	
Willing, Town of	Brian Matteson	Superintendent of Highways	X	
Wirt, Town of	Mike Scott	Councilman	X	

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by an updated annex in the HMP completed by each jurisdiction. In the annexes, each represented jurisdiction has individually (1) identified their planning points of contact; (2) evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern; (3) identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community; (4) identified and prioritized appropriate mitigation initiatives and actions to mitigate their hazard risk; and eventually, (5) adopted the updated plan through a resolution. Jurisdictional representatives were encouraged to include their local hazard mitigation coordinators and floodplain managers, code enforcement officials, emergency management personnel, planners, engineers, and public works/highway staff (as applicable) in information sharing and the mitigation update through invitation to public meetings, completion of worksheets, and review of the jurisdictional annex. Volume II, Section 9 of this HMP includes additional information.

3.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and communicated on an as-needed basis to share information and participate in workshops to (1) identify hazards; (2) assess risks; (3) review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; (4) assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals, objectives, and actions; and (5) provide continuity through the plan update process to ensure that natural hazard vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated into the plan update. Each member of the Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the plan update, interact with other stakeholders, and assist with public involvement efforts.

A summary of planning partnership activities, including Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership meetings held during development of this HMP update, is provided in Table 3-3. This summary table identifies only the formal meetings and milestone events held during the plan update process and does not reflect the larger universe of planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the entire

planning process. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements have been met. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, and meeting notes) can be found in Appendix B of this HMP. In addition to these meetings, Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership members, and Tetra Tech maintained consistent communication throughout the process via individual meetings, phone calls, and e-mail.

After the HMP update is completed, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership is responsible for reviewing the plan update and accepting public comment as part of an annual review and as part of the 5-year mitigation plan update.

Table 3-3. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities and Efforts

Dates	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
February 19, 2016		County begins procurement process for contract planning support	County
March 14, 2016		County contracts with private firm for planning support	County, Consultant
April 11, 2016	2	Hazard Mitigation Team (HM Team) Kickoff Meeting – discuss the planning process, focus areas of each Hazard Mitigation Team member, project schedule	County OEM, Planning Services, Department of Public Works (DPW), Town Highway Superintendents Association (THSA), Soil and Water Conservation District, and Department of Health (DOH) Consultant
April 11 – July 26, 2016	2, 3a-e	Update Risk Assessment	County OEM, Planning Services, DPW, THSA, Soil and Water Conservation District, and DOH Consultant
April 21, 2016	1b, 5c	County HMP Update Website launched	Consultant
April 26 and 27, 2016	2	Planning Partnership Kickoff Meetings – review hazard mitigation, the planning process, project schedule, and next steps	County Legislators, OEM, Planning Services, DPW, Sheriff’s Office, Soil and Water Conservation District, THSA Alfred T; Alfred V; Allen T; Alma T; Almond T; Andover T; Angelica T; Angelica V; Belmont V; Birdsall T; Bolivar T; Caneadea T; Cuba T; Cuba V; Genesee T; Granger T; Grove T; Hume T; Independence T; New Hudson T; Richburg V; Rushford T; Scio T; Ward T; Wellsville T; West Almond T; Willing T; Wirt T Ardent Solutions, Inc.; Crandall Hook and Ladder Company; Cuba Memorial Hospital; Cuba-Rushford Central School District; Friendship Police Department; Genesee Valley Central School District; New York State Police (NYSP); NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT); State University of New York – Alfred State; Wellsville Central School District; Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad (WNYP RR) Consultant

Dates	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
June 9, 2016	2, 3a-e, 4a-c	Planning Partnership Meetings – Review data collection worksheets	County OEM, DPW, THSA Alfred V; Alma T; Amity T; Angelica T; Angelica V; Birdsall T; Bolivar T; Burns T; Caneadea T; Centerville T; Cuba T; Cuba V; Friendship T; Genesee T; Granger T; Independence T; New Hudson T; Richburg V; Scio T; Ward T; Wellsville T; Willing T; Wirt T Consultant
July 20, 2016	2, 3a-e	Draft hazard profiles posted to the HMP website	Consultant
July 27, 2016	2, 4a	HM Team Meeting – Review Mitigation Goals and Objectives	County OEM, Planning Services, DPW, THSA, Soil and Water Conservation District, and DOH Consultant
July 27 and 28, 2016	1b, 2, 3a-e	Planning Partnership Meetings – Review the Updated Risk Assessment – open to the public	County Legislator, OEM, Planning Services, DOH, DPW, Soil and Water Conservation District Allen T; Amity T; Bolivar T; Cuba V; Friendship T; Genesee T; Granger T; Grove T; Independence T; New Hudson T; Rushford T; Scio T; West Almond T; Wirt T Ardent Solutions, Inc.; Houghton Volunteer Fire Department; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Consultant
July 29, 2016 to March 31, 2017	2, 4a-c	Update the Mitigation Strategy	
August 31 and September 1, 2016	1b, 2, 4b-c	Mitigation Solutions Workshops – Identify new mitigation actions to include in the updated HMP – open to the public	County OEM, DOH, DPW, Planning Services Birdsall T; Bolivar V; Cuba V; Friendship T; Granger T; Grove T; Independence T; Richburg V; Scio T; West Almond T; Wirt T Cuba Memorial Hospital; Norfolk Southern; NYSP Consultant
October 18, 2016	2	HM Team Status Meeting – Review progress and next steps	County OEM, Planning Services, DPW, THSA, Soil and Water Conservation District, and DOH Consultant
October 19, 2016 – March 23, 2017	2, 3a-e, 4a-c	Town/Village Meetings – Solicit input from the towns and villages	County OEM Alfred T; Allen T; Alma T; Almond T; Amity T; Andover T; Angelica T; Belfast T; Birdsall T; Bolivar T; Burns T; Caneadea T; Centerville T; Clarksville T; Cuba T; Friendship T; Genesee T; Granger T; Grove T; Hume

Dates	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
			T; Independence T; New Hudson T; Rushford T; Scio T; Ward T; Wellsville T; West Almond T; Willing T; Wirt T; Alfred V; Almond V; Andover V; Belmont V; Bolivar V; Canaseraga V; Cuba V; Richburg V; Wellsville V
March 24, 2017	1b, 2	Draft sections of the plan posted to the HMP website and provided to the HM Team for review	
June 15, 2017	1b, 2, 3a-e, 4a-c, 5a-c	Draft plan updated based on HM Team review	
June 16, 2017	1b, 2, 3a-e, 4a-c, 5a-c	Draft plan posted to the HMP website for public review; public notice issued	
June 28-August 1, 2017	1b, 2, 3a-e, 4a-c, 5a-c	Public review of the draft plan	
August 2, 2017	1b, 2, 3a-e, 4a-c, 5a-c	Public Meeting to receive comments on the Draft Plan from the Planning Partnership and public	
August 2-4, 2017	2	Draft plan updated based on input from the Planning Partnership and public	
August 16, 2017	2	Draft Plan submitted to NYS DHSES	
February 14, 2018	2	NYS DHSES review of Draft Plan completed	
February 16, 2018 - TBD	2	FEMA Region II review of Draft Plan	
February 14, 2018 - TBD	2	Draft Plan updated based on NYS DHSES comments	
March 22, 2018 - TBD	2	Draft Plan resubmitted to NYS DHSES as section-by-section updates were completed.	
TBD	2	Plan receives Approvable Pending Adoption status	
TBD	1a	Plan adopted by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating jurisdictions	

Notes:

- T Town
- TBD To be determined
- V Village

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

3.3 Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement

This section details the outreach to and involvement of the many agencies, departments, organizations, non-profit organizations, districts, authorities, and other entities that have a stake in managing hazard risk and mitigation, commonly referred to as “stakeholders.”

Diligent efforts were made to ensure broad regional, county, and local representation in this planning process. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process. In addition to mass-media notification efforts, stakeholders identified were invited to attend meetings and provide input on draft documents, while key stakeholders were requested to participate on the Planning Partnership. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this plan where appropriate, as identified in the references.

The following sections identify the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the update of this HMP and summarize the ways in which these stakeholders participated and contributed to the plan. This summary listing cannot represent the sum total of stakeholders that were aware of or contributed to this plan, as formal and informal outreach efforts were used throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the overall effort. Complete documentation of such broad-based and often locally focused efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process.

The Allegany County hazard mitigation planning process involved a broad range of federal, state, county, regional, and local stakeholders. The following subsection identifies those stakeholders that played a role in the planning process, identifies the nature of their involvement, and indicates how their input was incorporated in this plan, as applicable.

Federal Agencies:

FEMA Region II: Provided updated planning guidance, provided summary and detailed National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) data for planning area, and conducted plan review.

National Weather Service (NWS): Provided data and information.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency: Provided data and information.

State Agencies

New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (NYS DHSES): Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review, provided updated planning guidance, and reviewed draft and final versions of the plan prior to FEMA review.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Provided data and information; attended meeting.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT): Provided data and information.

County and Regional Agencies, Commissions and Non-Profits

Appendix F (Participation Matrix) of this HMP provides further details regarding county and regional agencies, commissions, and non-profit organizations.

Allegany County Legislature: Served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, attended meetings, provided data and information, reviewed draft and final sections of the plan, and adopted the plan.

Allegany County Office of Emergency Management and Fire: Secured and administered FEMA planning grant, managed project, served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, arranged and attended meetings, provided data and information, facilitated and supported public and stakeholder outreach, reviewed

progress on previous mitigation actions, identified ongoing and potential mitigation projects and initiatives, and reviewed draft and final sections of the plan.

Allegany County Planning Services: Served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, attended meetings, provided data and information, reviewed progress on previous mitigation actions, and reviewed draft and final plan sections.

Allegany County Department of Public Works: Served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, attended meetings, provided data and information (including countywide information such as land use, open space, population and demographics, and watersheds), reviewed progress on previous mitigation actions, and reviewed draft and final plan sections.

Allegany County Town Highway Superintendents Association: Served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, attended meetings, provided data and information, reviewed progress on previous mitigation actions, and reviewed draft and final plan sections.

Allegany County Soil and Water Conservation District: Served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, attended meetings, provided data and information, reviewed progress on previous mitigation actions, and reviewed draft and final plan sections.

Allegany County Department of Health: Served on the Hazard Mitigation Team, attended meetings, provided data and information, reviewed progress on previous mitigation actions, and reviewed draft and final plan sections.

Regional and Local Stakeholders

The Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership offered regional and local stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into the planning process. The Hazard Mitigation Team sent out information about the planning process and invitations to provide input to the following organizations:

- Academic Institutions
 - Alfred State College
 - Alfred University
 - New York State College of Ceramics (NYSCC)
 - Houghton College
- American Red Cross
 - Southwest New York (SWNY) Chapter
- Fire districts
- Utility providers
- Law enforcement agencies
- Ambulance companies
- Hospitals
 - Cuba Memorial Hospital
 - Jones Memorial Hospital
- Miscellaneous
 - Alfred Ceramic Art Museum
 - Allegany County Chamber of Commerce
 - Allegany County Veterans Service Agency
 - Wellsville Daily Reporter
- Neighborhood associations

- Cuba Lake District
- Neighboring OEMs
- Neighboring planning commissions
 - Genesee Valley Greenway
 - Rushford Lake Recreation District
- School districts
 - Alfred-Almond Central School
 - Bolivar-Richburg Central School
 - Cattaraugus-Allegany (CA) Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
 - Filmore Central School
 - Friendship Central School
 - Genesee Valley Central School
 - Houghton Academy
 - Immaculate Conception School
 - Keshequa Central School
 - Scio Central School
 - Wellsville Central School
 - Whitesville Central School
- Transportation agencies and organizations
 - Norfolk-Southern
 - Wellsville Municipal Airport
 - Western NY and PA Railroad

Many of the agencies listed above participated in a minimum of one mitigation planning activity or meeting, as shown in Table 3-3 above. Some municipal representatives on the Planning Partnership consulted with representatives of these groups in assessing progress made on mitigation actions from the 2011 plan and therefore incorporated input from the above groups into the mitigation planning process.

3.3.1 Public Outreach

Planning partners determined that draft documents will be made available to the public through an online format to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens, and to involve the public in the planning process.

The Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership have 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 kickoff meeting and through press releases, website articles, and public notices released as part of the planning process. Copies of these announcements can be found in Appendix C.
- To inform the public and County agencies of the ongoing plan update effort, information on the mitigation planning process has been provided at countywide meetings, including those of the County Board of Supervisors, County Planning Board, local emergency response agencies, and other similar regional planning group memberships.
- A public website was maintained as another way to facilitate communication between the Hazard Mitigation Team and Planning Partnership and County residents and stakeholders (<http://www.alleganycountyhmp.com>). The HMP website contains a project overview, contact information, calendar of meetings, access to the citizens’ preparedness survey, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment. Allegany County’s website was linked to the HMP website, as shown in Figure 3-1. The HMP website is shown in Figure 3-2.

- All participating municipalities were encouraged to post information to their own websites and distribute press releases on the project, including links to the project webpage, though none did so.
- The HMP will be available to the public through a variety of venues to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens and involve the public in the planning process. A printed version of the plan will be maintained at the Allegany County Planning Department.
- An online natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness for hazards that may affect Allegany County, and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/alleganyhmp>). 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.
- The questionnaire has been available on the public website since April 2016 and was advertised on the HMP website. Further, all participating jurisdictions have been requested to advertise the availability of the survey via local homepage links and other available public announcement methods (such as Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail blasts). A summary of survey results is provided in Appendix C of this plan.
- The draft plan update was posted to the public website for public review and comment in June 2017. As of February 2018, no comments were received on the website. Posting this draft was an opportunity for public comment on the draft plan update before it went under review by NYS DHSES. All public comments were directed to the Allegany County OEM for collection and review by the Hazard Mitigation Team. Any public comments received will be incorporated into the plan before it is submitted to FEMA.
- Once submitted to NYS DHSES and FEMA, the final plan will be available for public review and comment in the same manner and format as the draft plan, as well as in hard-copy format at the Allegany County Planning Department.

Figure 3-1. Allegany County OEM Webpage with Link to HMP Webpage

The screenshot shows the Allegany County OEM Webpage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home > Departments > Emergency Management and Fire'. Below this, the page is divided into two main columns. The left column is titled 'Emergency Management and Fire' and contains information for the 'Office of Emergency Management' and 'Fire Services'. The right column is titled 'Government' and lists various departments such as Board of Elections, County Administrator, County Attorney, etc. In the 'ANNOUNCEMENTS' section, the link 'Draft 2017 Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan' is circled in yellow.

Figure 3-2. Allegany County HMP Webpage

The screenshot shows the Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Project Website. The header includes the Allegany County logo and the title 'Allegany County Hazard Mitigation Plan Project Website'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a welcome message, a description of the project's goal, and information about public participation. A prominent link reads 'PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY BY CLICKING HERE'. Below this, there are sections for 'Announcements' (listing 'HMP Update Kickoff Meeting') and 'Latest Events' (listing 'Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting #1'). A sidebar on the left contains navigation links like 'Home', 'About the Project', and 'Announcements'.

3.4 Incorporation of Existing Plans, Studies, Reports, and Technical Information

The developers of the Allegany County HMP update strived to use the best available technical information, plans, studies, and reports throughout the process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and identification, development, and prioritization of County and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments are presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the sources of these data, along with technical information on how the data were used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, is presented in the Hazard Profiling and Risk Assessment Section (Section 5), specifically within Section 5.3 (Data and Methodology), as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 5.4. Furthermore, the source of technical data and information used may be found within the References section.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by Tetra Tech. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their planning and regulatory capabilities (provided in the Capability Assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Section 9) and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans and reports, were reviewed to identify:

- Existing municipal capabilities
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the County or local mitigation strategies
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives, considered in the review and update of the overall Goals and Objectives (Section 6)
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions, and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies

The following documents were reviewed during this plan update 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, including:

- NFIP Flood Insurance Studies
- New York State
 - 2011 Responding to Climate Change in New York and 2014 Supplement – Updated Climate Projections Report, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
 - General Information, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Invasive Species Council
 - 2014 Forest Ranger Division Fact Sheet, NYSDEC
 - Spill Incidents Database Search, NYSDEC
 - 2014 New York State Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES)
- Allegany County
 - 2011 Allegany County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - 2013 Allegany County Comprehensive Plan
 - Bolivar Flood Damage Reduction Project
 - Wellsville Flood Damage Reduction Project

- County and Local
 - Building Codes
 - Capital Improvement Plans
 - Comprehensive plans
 - Economic development strategic plans
 - Farmland Protection Plans
 - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - Highway Department annual reports
 - Land Use and Open Space Plans
 - NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
 - Site Plan Requirements
 - Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances

In addition to reviewing the above-listed documents to ensure consistency across County and municipal planning mechanisms for goals, objectives, and mitigation strategies, information from these documents was also incorporated directly into the HMP update. This information included demographic data; geographic information on the region (including watershed locations and greenspace/open-space areas); current strategies and tactics employed by the County; and data to strengthen hazard profiles and analyses, such as traffic and highway statistics or to explain the use of zoning ordinances to strengthen capabilities against fire, flooding, and other hazards).

3.5 Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision making. Allegany County employs many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management; therefore, it is critical that this HMP integrate and coordinate with and complement those plans and programs.

The Capability Assessment section of Chapter 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, and local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Chapter 9, the County and each participating jurisdiction have identified how they have integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational and administrative framework (“integration capabilities”); and how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7.

3.6 Continued Public Involvement

Allegany County is committed to the continued involvement of the public. Therefore, copies of the HMP will be made available for review on their public website (<http://www.alleganyco.com/departments/ems-fire/>), in hard-copy format at the County Planning Department, and within each participating town and village.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of copies of the plan will be publicized after the Planning Partnership’s annual evaluation, and posted on the public websites for the County and municipalities. Each jurisdiction’s supervisor, mayor, or clerk will 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 next 5-year mitigation plan update.

Mr. Kier Dirlam of the Allegany County Planning Department has been identified as the ongoing County Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator (see Section 7), and he is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring they are incorporated in the 5-year plan update as appropriate. Contact information is listed below:

Mailing Address: Allegany County Planning Department
 Crossroads Center
 6087 NYS Route 19N
 Belmont, NY 14813

Contact Name: Mr. Kier Dirlam, Director

E-mail Address: dirlamhk@alleganyco.com

Telephone: (585) 268-7472

Members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held, as deemed necessary by the Planning Partnership. These meetings would be held to provide the public with an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the plan.

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

After completion of this Plan Update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of 5-year mitigation plan updates.