DeKalb County
All Hazards Mitigation Plan

2016 Annual Evaluation Report

Overview

The *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* (*Plan*) was developed by the DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Committee as a multi-jurisdictional plan January 2008 and updated in June 2013. The *Plan* meets the mitigation planning requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). An adopted mitigation plan is required by FEMA, along with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), in order for a community to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds.

The *Plan* examines the natural and manmade hazards facing DeKalb County, establishes mitigation goals, evaluates existing mitigation activities throughout the County, and recommends additional mitigation steps that are appropriate to protect people, property and other assets of DeKalb County. Chapter 11 of the *Plan* provides an "Action Plan" for implementation and maintenance.

Action Item 3 calls for an annual evaluation report to be developed by the DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (Mitigation Committee). The report is to be submitted to the County Board and other pertinent agencies to ensure appropriate plan monitoring and maintenance. Annual evaluation reports are intended to provide a review of the *Plan* direction and recommendations, a summary of natural disasters that impacted DeKalb County in reporting year, and a review of the action items implemented since the *Plan* adoption, as appropriate.

The Mitigation Committee met on September 20, 2016 at the DeKalb County Legislative Center to develop this 2016 annual evaluation report. The agenda for the annual meeting is provided in Appendix A to this report. This report is based on information collected from County departments, municipalities, townships, and the Committee discussion at the October 2016 meeting.

Natural Disaster Declarations for DeKalb County since *Plan* Development

No State emergencies or federal disaster declarations were made for DeKalb County since the 2015 annual report was developed.

Status of Action Items

The Action Plan (Chapter 11) in the *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* contains 19 action items. These action items were taken from the hazard mitigation recommendations made in Chapter 5 through 10. They are identified as administrative, project or public information action items. The status of the implementation of the action items are summarized below.

Action Item 1 - Plan Adoption - Adopt this *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* by resolution.

Status: See Table 1.

Action Item 2 - Mitigation Planning Committee - The DeKalb County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will continue as a permanent advisory body in the County.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 3 - Plan Monitoring and Maintenance - A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting will be held *at least* once a year to evaluate and monitor progress on implementation. At the annual meeting, along with an assessment of the implementation efforts, the Committee will determine if other mitigation issues or efforts, based on any natural or manmade hazard occurrences or input from communities or the public, should be added to the *Plan*.

Status: The Committee met in September 20, 2016 at the DeKalb County Legislative Center. 16 people attended from DeKalb County, DeKalb County municipalities and townships, and Northern Illinois University (NIU). The agenda is provided on the last page of this report.

Action Item 4 - Building Code Improvements

Adopt the latest series International Codes. Residential and commercial code revisions should be pursued to strengthen new buildings against damage by high winds, tornadoes hail, and earthquakes.

Status: City of Sycamore adopted the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code and the 2014 Illinois Plumbing Code since the last report.

Action Item 5 - Participation in StormReady:

DeKalb County, municipalities, other agencies, universities and colleges should join, or maintain their status in, the National Weather Service's StormReady program.

Status: The City of DeKalb became a StormReady community in 2015. NIU continues to be a StormReady community and is WeatherReady National Ambassador for the program. The City of Sandwich and the Town of Cortland are considering joining the program.

Action Item 6 - Critical Facilities Design with All Hazards Protection

Offices responsible for design, construction or permitting critical facilities, including federal, state, county and municipal agencies, and institutions should ensure that the design or modification of critical facilities accounts for natural and manmade hazards and adjacent land uses.

Status: DeKalb County started the expansion of the County Jail in Sycamore.

Action Item 7 - Mitigation for Floodplain Properties and Critical Facilities

Repetitive flood loss areas within the mapped 100-year floodplain should be identified, investigated and mitigated, including critical facilities in the floodplain. The number of structures within the 100-year floodplains should be determined in detail, and mitigation opportunities for those structures should be identified.

Status: DeKalb County has completed the acquisition of the Evergreen Village Mobile Home Park located in the floodplain and floodway in unincorporated DeKalb County near Sycamore in 2015.

Action Item 8 - Include the All Hazards Mitigation Plan into Other Plans

As the county and municipalities develop or revise comprehensive or land use plans, emergency operations plans, and ordinances, the goals and guidelines of this *Plan* should be incorporated into those efforts.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing. City of DeKalb adopted a 2025 Strategic Plan in February 2016.

Action Item 9 - Continued NFIP Compliance

Floodplain management is the cornerstone of participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Communities which participate in the NFIP are expected to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations.

Status: No community assistance contacts or visits were conducted by FEMA of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) since the 2013 Plan update. The City of DeKalb and the City of Sycamore participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS).

Action Item 10 – Grant Funding for Safe Rooms

Pursue grant funding for the construction of safe rooms, in homes, businesses, at critical facilities, health care facilities, and schools. The first priority for any available funding should be schools.

Status: NIU has been working to identify opportunities for additional safe rooms as funds become available. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 11 - Watershed Studies

DeKalb County should pursue the study of the County's watersheds for purposes of stormwater management, flood control, and water quality concerns. This effort will

foster the understanding of impact of development on existing flood problems and identify ways to reduce future flood problems.

Status: FEMA's Risk MAP is studying the East Branch South Branch of the Kishwaukee River, where these is also Watershed-Based Plan that was adopted in 2014 as an amendment to the DeKalb County Stormwater Management Plan.

Action Item 12 - Mapping of Hazards

Natural and manmade hazard mapping should be developed on a countywide basis, as part of the County's GIS mapping effort.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing. The County's Information Management Office (GIS Department) has updated their website. The new site offers a web based application that provides the ability to view, query and print various maps and data (see: http://dekalbcounty.org/IMO/gisweb.html).

Action Item 13 - Structural Flood Control Projects

DeKalb County and/or municipalities should support and cost-share on feasible structural flood control projects as they are identified in watershed plans.

Status: Communities continue to improve the enforcement of erosion and sediment control requirements.

Action Item 14 - Drainage System Maintenance

The South Branch and the East Branch of the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River, and their tributaries, are in need of stream maintenance in both rural and urban areas.

Status: The Cities of DeKalb, Sandwich and Sycamore, and Town of Cortland are continuing their drainage maintenance programs. The County Highway Department has performed miscellaneous projects that include roadway drainage improvements including open ditches and pipes. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 15 - NOAA Weather Radios All Hazards for Critical Facilities, Homes, and Businesses

Ensure that all critical facilities (as defined by this *Plan*) in the County, municipalities, institutions, and animal care facilities, have enhanced NOAA Weather Radios All Hazards that include additional media alerts, and encourage homes and businesses to allow have weather radios.

Status: NIU upgraded to a 300 Watt digital weather radio transmitter. The antennae will be replaced as budget becomes available.

Action Item 16 - Improved Threat Recognition

DeKalb County, municipalities, and Kishwaukee College should seek funding for improved outdoor warning sirens.

Status: As part of the recovery from the 2015 tornado, a new siren was installed in Fairdale. The City of Sandwich replaced two old sirens and the Sandwich Park District installed lightning detectors at ball fields.

Action Item 17 - Improved Emergency Response

Working through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), DeKalb County and the municipalities should update all state and federal required emergency response plans for natural and manmade hazards.

Status: The LEPC continues to meet quarterly. In 2015 the County adopted a launch and recovery plan (an initiative that followed the Fairdale tornado in 2015). This Action Item is ongoing. Cortland is currently updating their emergency operations plan (EOP). NIU has submitted their 2016 EOP update to IEMA. The County will update their EOP in 2017.

Action Item 18 - Property Protection Checklist

A checklist should be prepared for use by all agencies throughout the County for evaluating properties that are exposed to flood damage, and to examine property protection alternatives.

Status: No progress made on this Action Item.

Action Item 19 - Information for Floodplain Property Owners

Due to their particular vulnerability to damage, properties in floodplains should be provided with information and advice on property protection measures. Special attention should be given to repetitive loss and high hazard areas.

Status: The City of DeKalb and the City of Sycamore conducted their annual outreach to floodplain residents as part of their participation in the CRS. City of Sandwich also providing mitigation information, including social media. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 20 - Educate Property Owners on Safe Rooms

Use available brochures and other information to educate residents, businesses, school communities and other property owners about safe rooms for tornados. Encourage retrofitting of existing buildings to include safe rooms, and the construction of safe rooms in new building designs.

Status: No action.

Action Item 21 - Public Information Hazard Mitigation Materials

Prepare background information, articles, and other explanations of hazard mitigation topics.

Status: Communities continue to offer hazard mitigation information on websites and through social media, annual mailings and press releases regarding health, safety and property protection. Funding is needed for this effort. This Action Item is ongoing.

Action Item 22 - Public Information Outreach Projects

Prepare and disseminate outreach projects based on the materials provided under action item 20. Such projects should include articles in newsletters, news releases, directed mailings, handouts, websites, and displays.

Status: NIU is continuing with their outreach efforts to the NIU community. No additional progress made on this Action Item. Funding needed.

Action Item 23 - Property Protection References

Provide building departments, libraries and other interested offices with a list of references on property protection that can be ordered for free from state and federal offices. Include a request that they make the references available for public use.

Status: This Action Item is ongoing.

Plan Evaluation

Progress has continued on action items by the County and municipalities. No changes to the *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* are necessary at this time.

Summary

This 2016 annual evaluation report of the *DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan* provides a status of the implementation of the action items by participating communities and institutions. Municipalities and the County continued to implement floodplain regulations and building codes. All agencies continue to implement drainage improvement projects and other projects to reduce the potential of flood damage from riverine flooding and severe summer storms. The Mitigation Committee will continue to meet in 2017 and begin the 2018 plan update effort.

Table 1.

Status of Adoption and Approval of the DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan

Community Name	Adoption Resolution Date
Town of Cortland	8/26/2013
City of DeKalb	9/9/2013
Village of Genoa	11/4/2013
Village of Hinckley	4/6/2015
Village of Kingston	8/19/2013
Village of Kirkland	10/7/2013
Village of Lee	
Village of Malta	8/14/2013
Maple Park	9/3/2013
City of Sandwich	8/12/2013
Village of Shabbona	
Village of Somonauk	
City of Sycamore	8/19/2013
Village of Waterman	
DeKalb County	8/21/2013
Kishwaukee College	
Northern Illinois University	
Township of Kingston	
Township of Pierce	
Township of Shabbona	
Township of Squaw Grove	
Township of Sycamore	9/9/2013

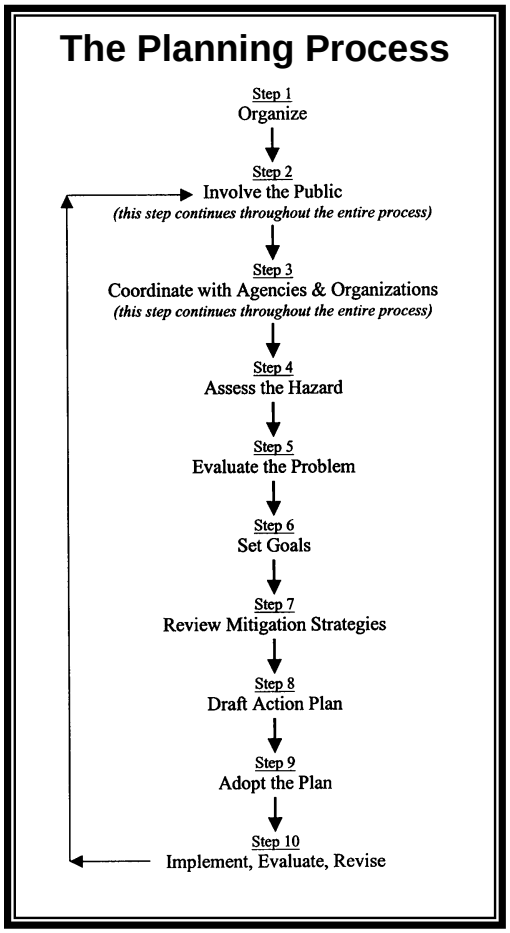
Appendix A.

DeKalb County
Hazard Mitigation Committee

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.

DeKalb County Gathertorium

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Status of 2013 "DeKalb County All Hazards Mitigation Plan"
4. Annual Report Questionnaire Status
5. Discussion of 2016 Mitigation Plan Annual Report (Planning Step 10)
6. Project and Grant Updates
7. Other Items
8. Next Meeting
9. Adjourn