

# Section 8: Planning Partnership

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## 8.1 Background

Section 201.6.a(4) 44 CFR states: “Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.” FEMA and NYS DHSES both encourage multi- jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of the Saratoga County HMP, a Planning Partnership was formed to pursue grant funding for the plan and to meet requirements of the DMA for as many eligible local governments in Saratoga County as possible.

The DMA defines a local government as follows: “Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.”

## 8.2 The Planning Partnership

### 8.2.1 Initial Solicitation and Letters of Intent

Saratoga County solicited the participation of all local governments in the County at the commencement of this project. Local governments interested signed a “Letter of Intent” and/or a resolution committing their participation and resources to the development of the Saratoga County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mitigation Planning Committee Expectations

The MPC agreed to the following list of expectations:

- Establish Plan development goals;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the Plan;
- Ensure that the Plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000, FEMA and NYS DHSES 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;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain the main body of the Plan in its entirety, as well as the local jurisdictional annex.

## 8.2.2 Jurisdiction Annex Updates

For the 2019 HMP Update, jurisdictions were asked to update the previously developed annexes with any new information. The designated point-of-contact for each participating jurisdiction, as well as the County, was asked to fill out the Jurisdiction Annex Update Form using the instructions provided and technical assistance provided during the Risk Assessment and Capability Review Meeting held on October 11, 2018. All updates included on the Jurisdiction Annex Update Forms were incorporated into the jurisdiction annexes. An example of this form can be found in Appendix B Planning Process.

At the Risk Assessment and Capability Review meeting, an overview was provided for each section in the annex. The meeting was designed to be instructional, but also allow for open discussion and questions. In addition, personalized technical assistance was available and provided to each jurisdiction, if needed. The MPC also was led through an exercise to review and rank risk for the County as a whole. This was a collaborative effort by all meeting attendees. Concurrently, each committee member was asked to rank each risk specifically for its jurisdiction, based on probability of occurrence and impacts to people and property.

## 8.2.3 Benefit/Cost Review

Each jurisdiction's annex includes an action plan of prioritized initiatives to mitigate natural hazards. Section 201.6. c.3iii of 44CFR requires the prioritization of the action plan to emphasize the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost/benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs. As part of jurisdiction annex updates, the MPC was asked to weigh the estimated benefits of a project versus the estimated costs to establish a parameter to be used in the prioritization of a project. This benefit/cost review was qualitative; that is, it did not include the level of detail required by FEMA for project grant eligibility under the HMGP and PDM grant programs. This qualitative approach was used because projects may not be implemented for up to 10 years, and the associated costs and benefits could change dramatically in that time. Each project was assessed by assigning subjective ratings (high, medium, and low) to its costs and benefits, as described in Table 6-1 in Section 6.

Using this approach, projects with positive benefit versus cost ratios (such as high over high, high over medium, medium over low, etc.) are considered cost-beneficial and are prioritized accordingly. For many of the initiatives identified in the action plans, participating jurisdictions may seek financial assistance under FEMA's HMGP or PDM programs. Both of these programs require detailed benefit/cost analysis as part of the application process. These analyses will be performed when funding applications are prepared, using the FEMA model process. The MPC is committed to implementing mitigation strategies with benefits that exceed costs. For projects not seeking financial assistance from grant programs that require this sort of analysis, the MPC reserves the right to define "benefits" according to parameters that meet its needs and the goals and objectives of this plan.

## 8.2.4 Completion of the Planning Process

All participating cities, towns, and villages in the County completed the planning and annex-preparation process. Completed jurisdictional annexes are presented in Section 9. Any non-participating local government within the Saratoga County planning area can “dock” to this plan in the future by following the linkage procedures defined in Appendix H.

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