

Hazard Mitigation Planning Tools for Rural Wisconsin Communities

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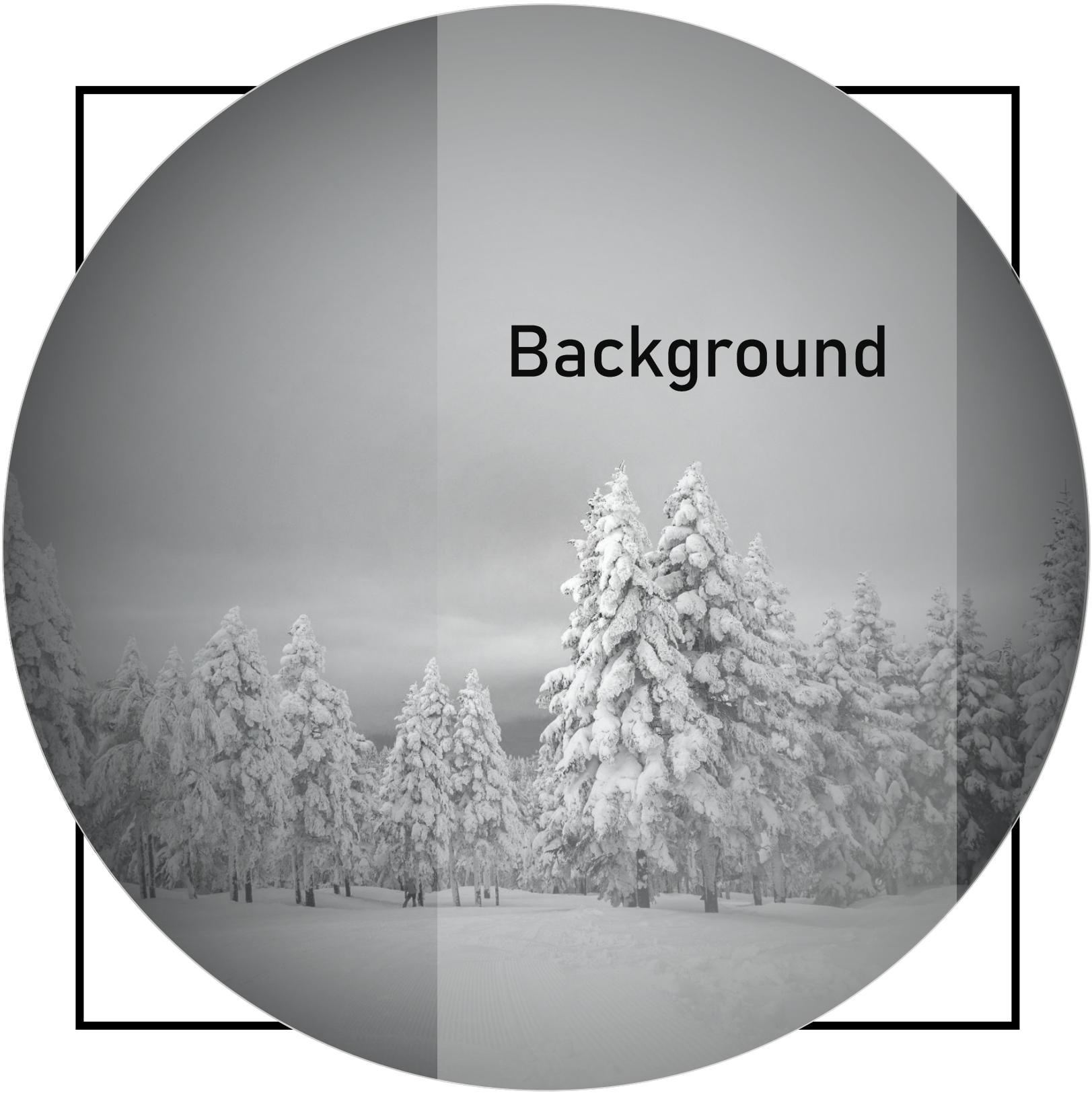
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Finally, I would like to thank my friends, family and partner for their support on this project and throughout graduate school.

Background



Executive Summary

This project develops data tools and resources to support rural Wisconsin counties in developing Hazard Mitigation Plans. It investigates how rural hazard mitigation planning can better align with local planning to conserve resources, improve data and information access for assessing hazard vulnerability, and identify implementable hazard mitigation actions at the county and sub-county level.

The deliverables from this project include an interactive mapping application, a customizable computer program for developing county-specific report drafts and a guide for updating and improving these technologies.

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation, which is broadly defined as "activities that reduce the loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters," is considered an important method of protecting community health and wellbeing. It is estimated that every dollar spent on mitigation activities saves up to 13 dollars in disaster response and recovery.[1]

Hazard mitigation planning is increasingly important as climate change exacerbates the impacts of natural hazards on communities around the world, leading to more severe storm events, extreme temperatures, increased precipitation and unpredictability. In Wisconsin, the number of natural disasters costing over a billion dollars are becoming more frequent; from 1980-2024 the annual average number of events was 1.4—but that number has risen to 5 events annually over the last five years (figure 1).

However, financial aid to aid community recovery is increasingly difficult to secure: income restrictions on individual assistance grants, administrative burden and cost-share requirements associated with recovery funding can mean that disaster-struck businesses often receive little assistance after disasters. More than 40 percent of businesses do not reopen after a major disaster, and many communities must borrow money for infrastructure repair.[3]

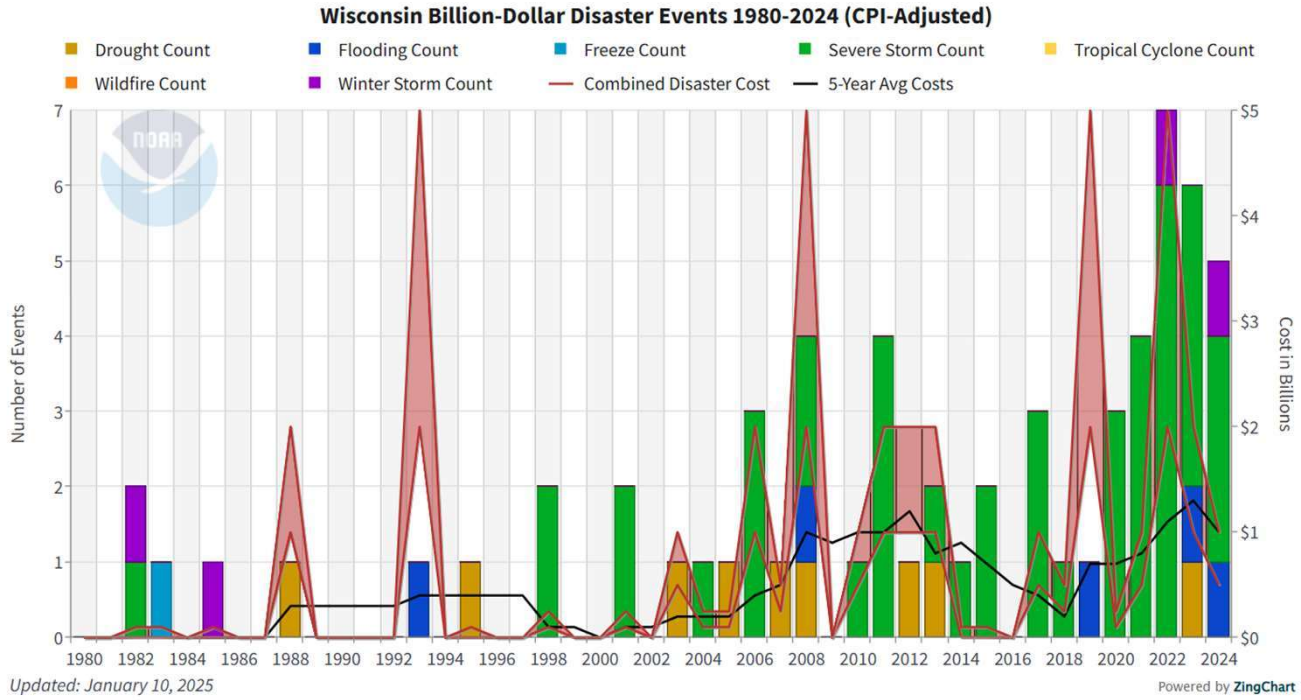


Figure 1. Billion-Dollar Disasters in Wisconsin, 1980-2024 (CPI-Adjusted)[2]

Hazard Mitigation Planning in Wisconsin

Across the nation, communities are federally required to complete Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) every five years. In Wisconsin, these plans are reviewed and approved by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM). HMPs identify major disaster risks and develop local mitigation strategies. They also make communities eligible for funding to implement mitigation projects and recover from disasters.

Problem Statement

Historically, communities have been motivated to complete HMPs because the plans make them eligible to apply for mitigation project assistance through federal grants through FEMA such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) program. However, grant cost share requirements still required communities to pay a portion of mitigation grants, a premise so unappealing that one Emergency Manager described the HMP process as “paying for a plan that makes you eligible to pay more money for projects.”

However, as federal grant funding becomes increasingly unstable, any existing incentives to write and update Hazard Mitigation Plans are disappearing. Federal funding has also historically been available to help counties write and update plans. However, changing federal rules have jeopardized these grant programs and as of March 2026, made BRIC funding unavailable for HMP writing.[4]

However, writing a quality plan is difficult, even with funding. Developing an HMP that thoroughly identifies local risks, mitigation projects, and strategic partnerships requires significant cost and effort. Meaningful engagement with participating jurisdiction requires significant communication, in-person meetings or attendance at events outside of working hours, and intensive follow up to gather the necessary information from participants. Identifying primary hazard risks and implementable mitigation activities requires thoughtful input from all participants. Federal requirements for HMPs outline minimum planning requirements which often fail to produce plans specifically tailored to unique local hazards.

Rural counties face additional barriers to climate resilience and plan writing. Rural plans may focus more on response and recovery than on true mitigation strategies due to a lack of financial resources.[5] Additionally, surveys of Emergency Managers in rural counties suggest that many do not take additional actions to ensure their HMP addresses needs of vulnerable populations, even populations that are more frequently found in rural areas, such as older, low-income or less educated population.[6]



Plan Overview

Project Goals

Goal #1: Improve Hazard Mitigation Planning processes and outcomes for rural Wisconsin counties

1. Streamline participation processes for county hazard mitigation planning to use resources more efficiently
2. Increase county engagement with smaller, more rural communities
3. Identify hazards and hazard mitigation opportunities at finer spatial scales.

Goal #2: Develop frameworks for data tool development to support decision making processes, plan writing and community engagement

1. Document process for data tool development
2. Create internal guides for updating & improving tools

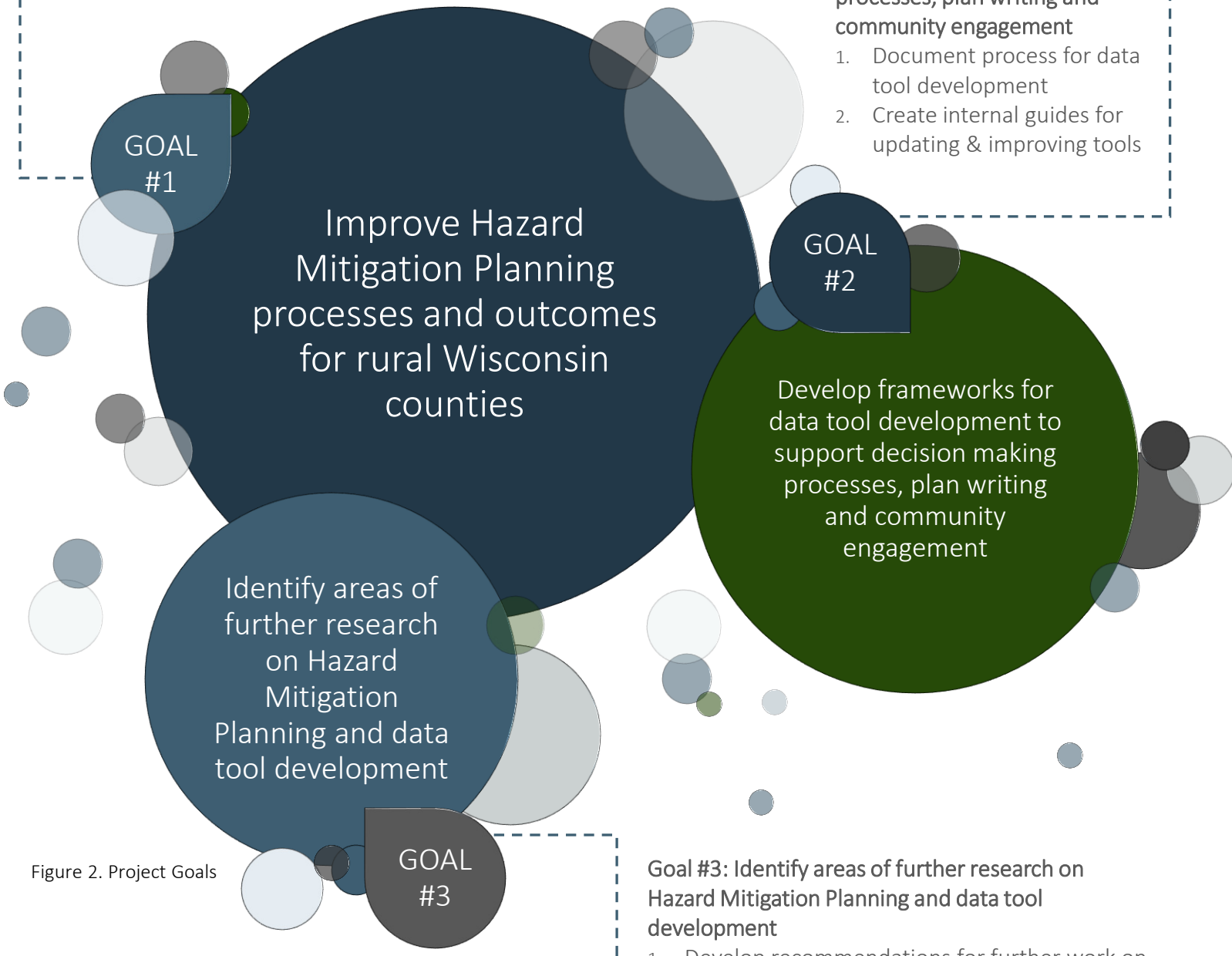


Figure 2. Project Goals

Goal #3: Identify areas of further research on Hazard Mitigation Planning and data tool development

1. Develop recommendations for further work on data tools for Hazard Mitigation
2. Identify broader opportunities for continued work in climate resilience, rural resiliency or hazard mitigation

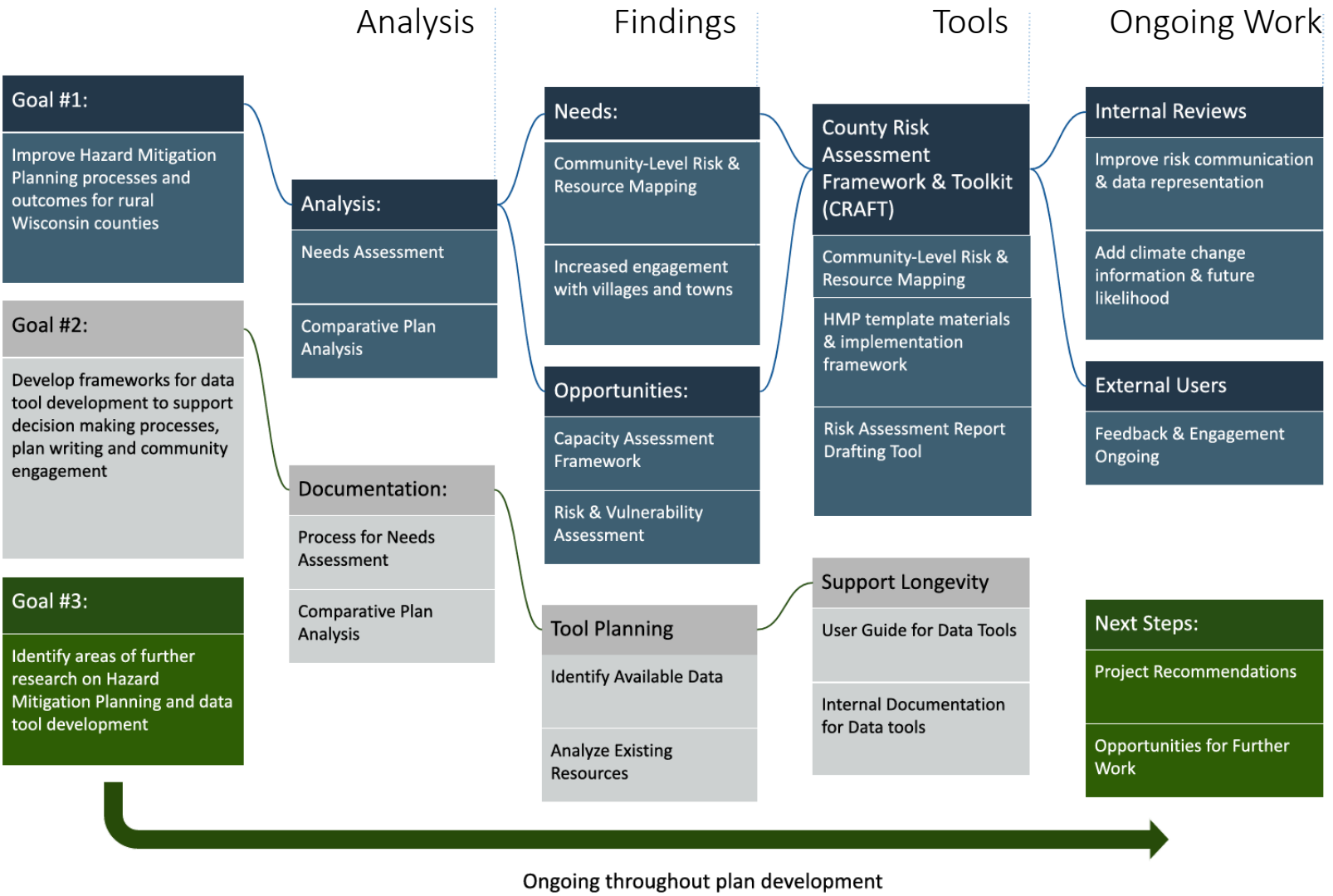


Figure 3: Planning Approach

Implications for Planners

The framework of this plan describes a process for organizing commonly used data and information into reproducible data tools for more organized and efficient plan writing. is organized into four stages. Goal 1– improving HMP processes and outcomes– describes this plan's process for developing data tools and resources to support the Hazard Mitigation Planning requirements of FEMA and WEM. It includes the planning approach for developing this resources and an implementation framework for planners and communities interested in using the projects mitigation planning tools to update their mitigation plan.

Goal #2 of this project describes processes for how this data tool can be maintained, modified and updated. The tools described in Part III of this project are designed to be updatable with

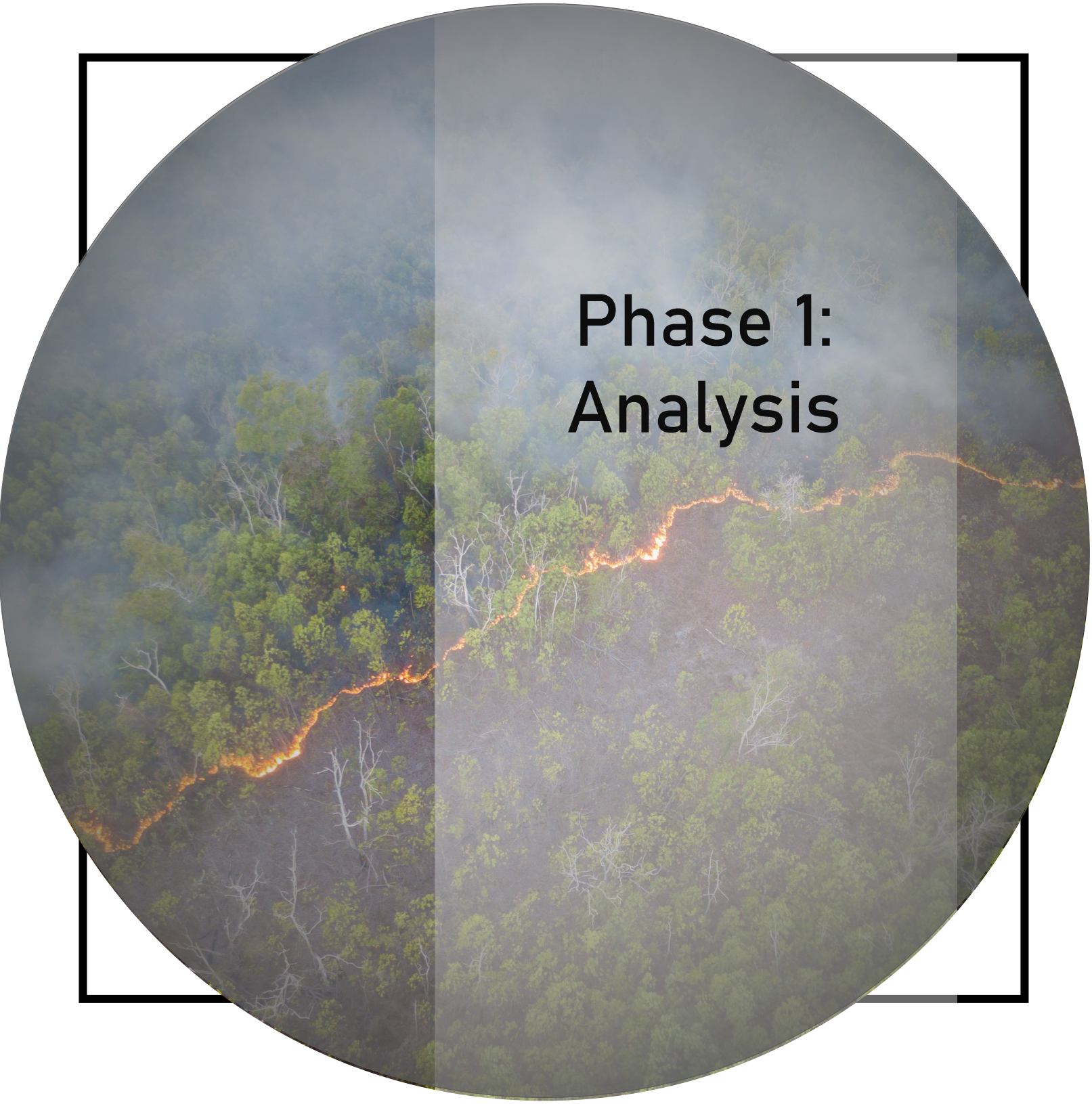


Figure 4: FEMA HMP Update Process, Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (2025 ed., p. 2)[7]

new data when they are released. Planners and policy writers can the processes for achieving Goals #1 and #2 of this project as a case study in data tool development for streamlining the administrative components of plan writing so that more time and resources can be devoted to the difficult and fruitful work of engagement. In addition to a statewide product to improve Hazard Mitigation Planning, this plan will hopefully serve as a framework for future efforts to democratize data and streamline components of statutorily required plans for under-resourced communities. Goal #3 describes next steps that can be taken to improve this toolkit and opportunities for additional projects to improve hazard mitigation resources in communities.

Alignment With Existing Plans

This project develops HMP resources that align with Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) criteria for approving Hazard Mitigation Plans (Appendix G). The application framework integrates suggested processes from FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (2025), which outlines four steps and nine recommended tasks for updating and adopting an HMP (fig. 4). This plan builds resources and recommended implementation frameworks for increasing engagement with local communities and improving identification of hyper-local risks without adding undue cost and administrative burden.



Phase 1: Analysis

Methods of Analysis

This component of the project identified opportunities for removing barriers to HMP writing and effective jurisdictional participation. A needs assessment identified current opportunities for a data tool and engagement framework. Additionally, this project used comparative analysis of a sample of approved plans to identify the most common approaches to hazard vulnerability assessment.

Needs Assessment

This project conducted a needs assessment to identify major opportunities for improving HMP resources for rural counties. Longform, semi-structured interviews with stakeholders involved in writing and reviewing Hazard Mitigation Plans, administering local zoning, and conducting outreach and education to local government officials directly informed the needs assessment. The framework for the needs assessment is diagrammed in figure 5, and a map of stakeholders interviewed for this project is documented in figure 6.

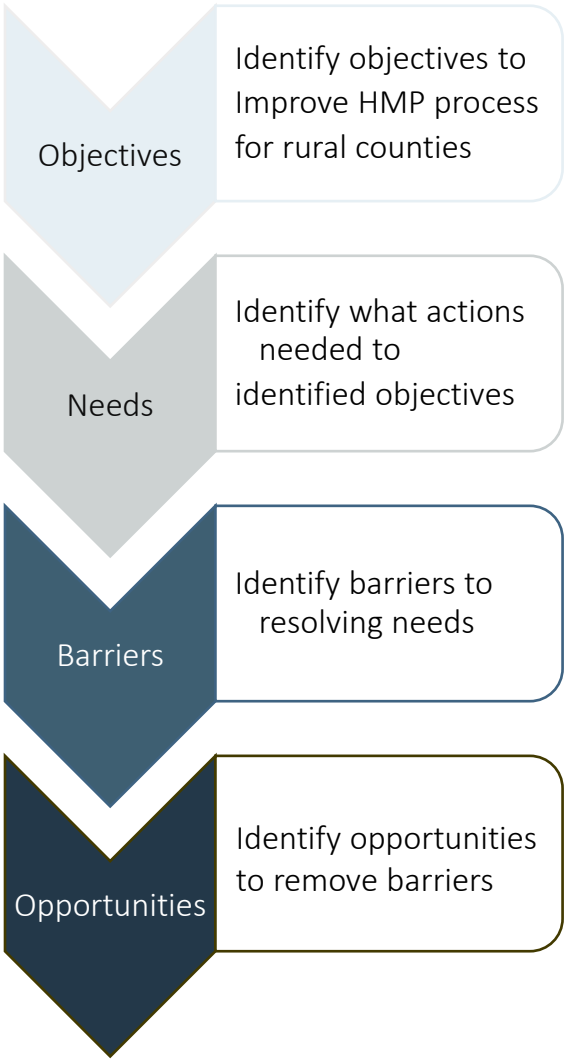


Figure 5: Framework for Needs Assessment

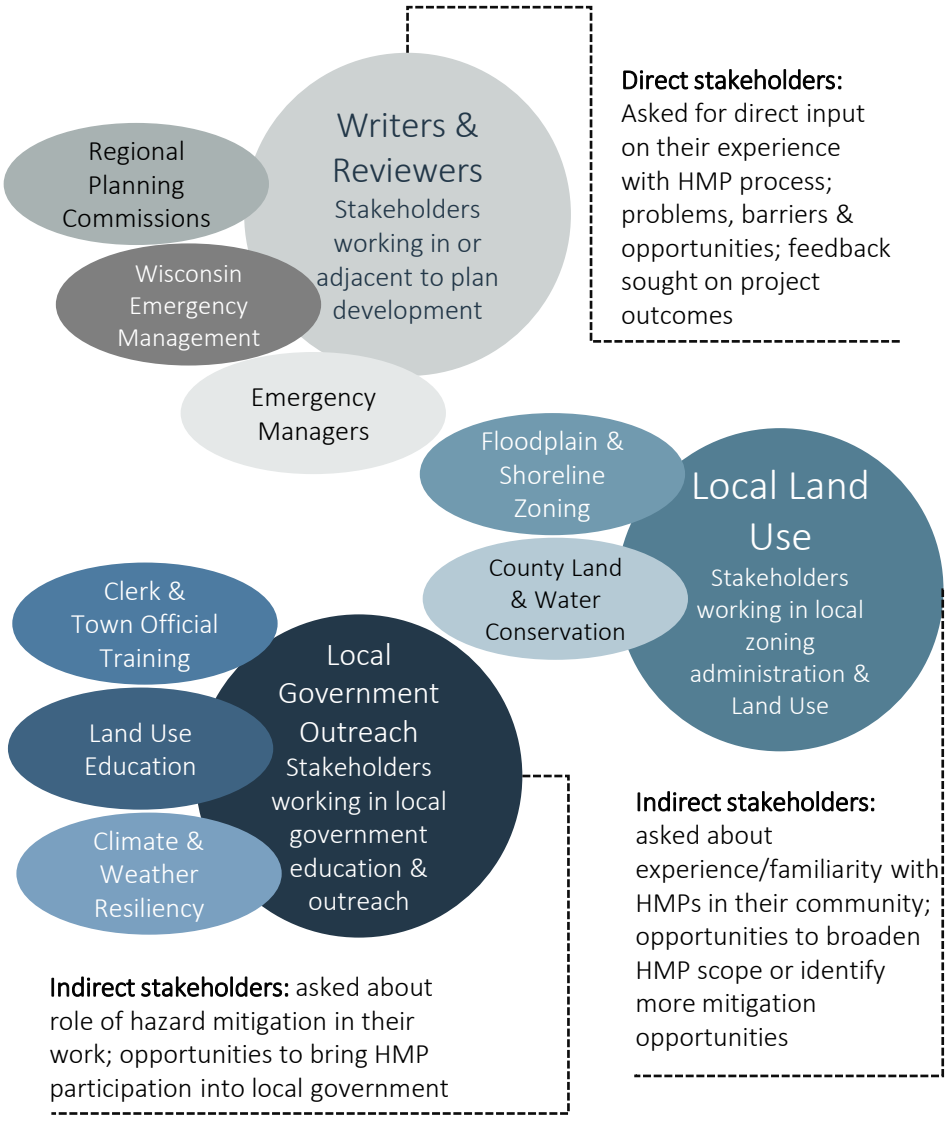


Figure 6: Diagram Showing Key Stakeholders

Comparative Plan Analysis

This project selected a representative subsample of 27 HMPs from Wisconsin Counties from eight of the nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) areas. The sample included plans developed by the RPCs, plans developed internally by County staff, and plans contracted to third party consultants. The representative sample included a more even split between plans authored by 3rd party consultants and in-house county staff than the total census of plans (fig. 7). A full list of sampled counties is available in Appendix C.

The goals of the comparative plan analysis are:

Identify key differences between hazard mitigation plans prepared by a regional planning commission, private consultant, and internally.

Examine the most common kinds of data typically collected to assess hazard risk and vulnerability in hazard mitigation plans

Investigate how issues around climate change and weather extremes currently communicated through hazard mitigation planning.

The comparative plan analysis identified the breadth of methods and data used by plans to help develop the information, analysis and model text for planning support tools discussed in Phase 3.

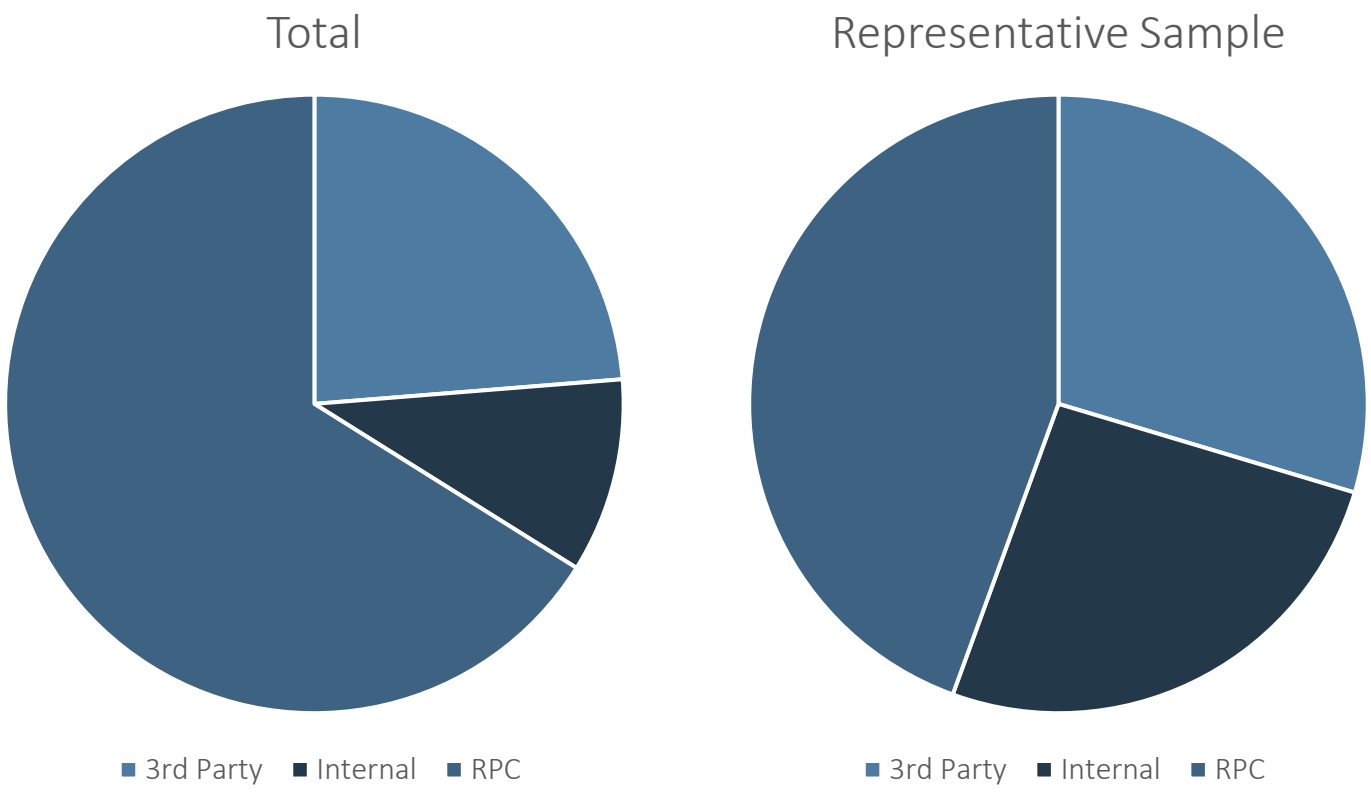


Figure 7: Representative Sample of Plans vs Total Census by Authorship



Phase 2: Findings

Needs Assessment Findings

The needs assessment highlighted several key needs:

- Using resources more efficiently
- Increase engagement with smaller, more rural communities
- Identifying hazard vulnerabilities and mitigation opportunities at finer spatial scales.

This section briefly describes the findings from the needs assessment, but key results, along with opportunities, are summarized in table 2 and at length in Appendix D.

Using Resources More Efficiently

Interviewed plan writers discussed a need to reduce the financial burden of Hazard Mitigation Planning by reducing the required effort to collect data and conduct plan updates.
County staff mentioned that the five-year update timeline was not long enough for counties to make progress on hazard mitigation projects described in previous plan iterations.

Plan writers reported that the minimum HMP requirements are costly to follow but do not guarantee a county successfully engages with stakeholders responsible for mitigation.

Interviewed county staff and local officials were frequently disconnected from or unaware of HMP processes in their communities, even if they worked in related areas such as floodplain zoning or land and water conservation. One plan writer described HMP participation as “the wrong people being in the room,” as HMP steering committee members were more often comprised of only emergency response personnel; land use, zoning and administrative personnel were missing.

Increasing Engagement with Smaller Communities

Interviewed participants, including plan writers, plan reviewers, and other stakeholders, described a need to increase reach to towns and villages.
Incorporating towns as participating jurisdictions within county-level Hazard Mitigation Planning was identified as a significant challenge.

Plan reviewers described inconsistent town-county relationships across the state, with emergency managers in some states believing the county represented town interests in the planning process, while in other counties, participating towns were viewed as independent entities.

However, there is no straightforward process to engage with communities and develop findings for updating the HMP.

Identifying Hazards:

Plan writers described improved jurisdictional engagement when hazard and risk assessments were able to show hazard risk areas and assets at the sub-county and community level.

However, developing this spatial analysis can be time consuming. In many communities, floodplain maps are out-of-date and not trusted. Flood risk from overland flow and heavy precipitation is equally worrying, but GIS information on this hazards is not widely available.

Many communities find that the risks associated with climate change are small-scale or tolerable relative to the risk or cost of mitigation activities, but the main risks associated with weather extremes are not well quantified relative to assets.

Identifying Hazard Mitigation Projects

Plan writers mentioned success with scheduling and attending in-person meetings, requesting agenda items at town and village board meetings, and engaging stakeholder entities like schools, utilities, and chambers of commerce.

County staff mentioned a need to identify and prioritize projects, increase connection to grant opportunities, and navigate permitting procedures for complex mitigation projects. These steps improve project implementation outcomes but require increased engagement across county departments and units of local government.

Goal	Needs	Barriers	Opportunities
Use available resources more efficiently	Reduce effort to collect data	Decreasing financial and resource support for rural counties updating their hazard mitigation plans	Identify minimum requirements for a valid HMP
		Hazard mitigation process is inconsistent between counties; no clear baseline for what data is needed	Centralize data resources
			Develop "base plan" that meets HMP requirements
To increase engagement with smaller, more rural communities	Improve communication about hazards and mitigation projects between Emergency Managers and local communities	No clear engagement pathway for EMs/planners to reach smaller communities	Provide education to local government officials about hazard mitigation planning
		Organization and staff structure of rural counties and small communities differ.	
	Increase interest in hazard mitigation planning among local officials	Incentives for HMP writing are disappearing ▪	Identify opportunities that still require an HMP and assess if/how HMPs still provide value
To identify hazards at sub-county levels	Improve mapping of assets for villages, cities and unincorporated areas	Time and resource intensive to produce sub-county mapping of resources and hazards	Develop low-cost, reproducible community mapping procedure/product to support engagement with local hazards
Identify hazard mitigation projects at sub-county levels	Identify and prioritize projects	Interdepartmental communication about projects varies at the county level	Support intergovernmental project collaboration & coordination
	Navigate permitting procedures	Rural counties lack staff and capacity to apply for complex or burdensome permits	Develop permitting support tools for county staff

Table 1: Summary Results of Needs Assessment

Plan Comparison Findings

Community-Level Asset and Vulnerability Mapping

Interviews conducted during the needs assessment portion of this project identified hazard and asset identification at the sub-county level as a key asset for increasing pathways for community participation in Hazard Mitigation Planning.

Community-Level Asset and Vulnerability Mapping is defined for the purposes of this project as spatial data showing the locations of key hazards and assets within unincorporated areas, villages, and cities (example shown in Figure 8).

Roughly 50% of the plans in the representative sample included some degree of community-level asset mapping (Table 2).

Question	Yes	No
Includes community-level mapping?	Brown, Door, Pepin, Pierce, Jefferson, Rock, Langlade, Vilas, Ashland, Iron, Grant, Iowa, Eau Claire, Polk	Fond du Lac, Florence, Marquette, Shawano, Outagamie, Vernon, Columbia, Dodge, Portage, Wood, Taylor, Washburn, Richland

Table 2: Sampled Plans containing Community-Level Mapping

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Methods

Methods for identifying, ranking and describing hazards vary widely by counties. This overview broadly describes variation in methodologies along with common themes to identify “base criteria” for a universal plan template and data tool.

Hazard Identification

Vulnerability was described qualitatively but took past property and crop damage into account, as well as the geographic extent of risk. Number of events and approximate locations and extent of events also included.

Counties are required to describe “hazards that affect the jurisdiction” and justify any omitted hazards. Often, hazards are identified using existing event records or federal disaster declarations. Some steering committees limit their assessment to hazards with a >10% chance of annual occurrence.

Town of Wyalusing Map

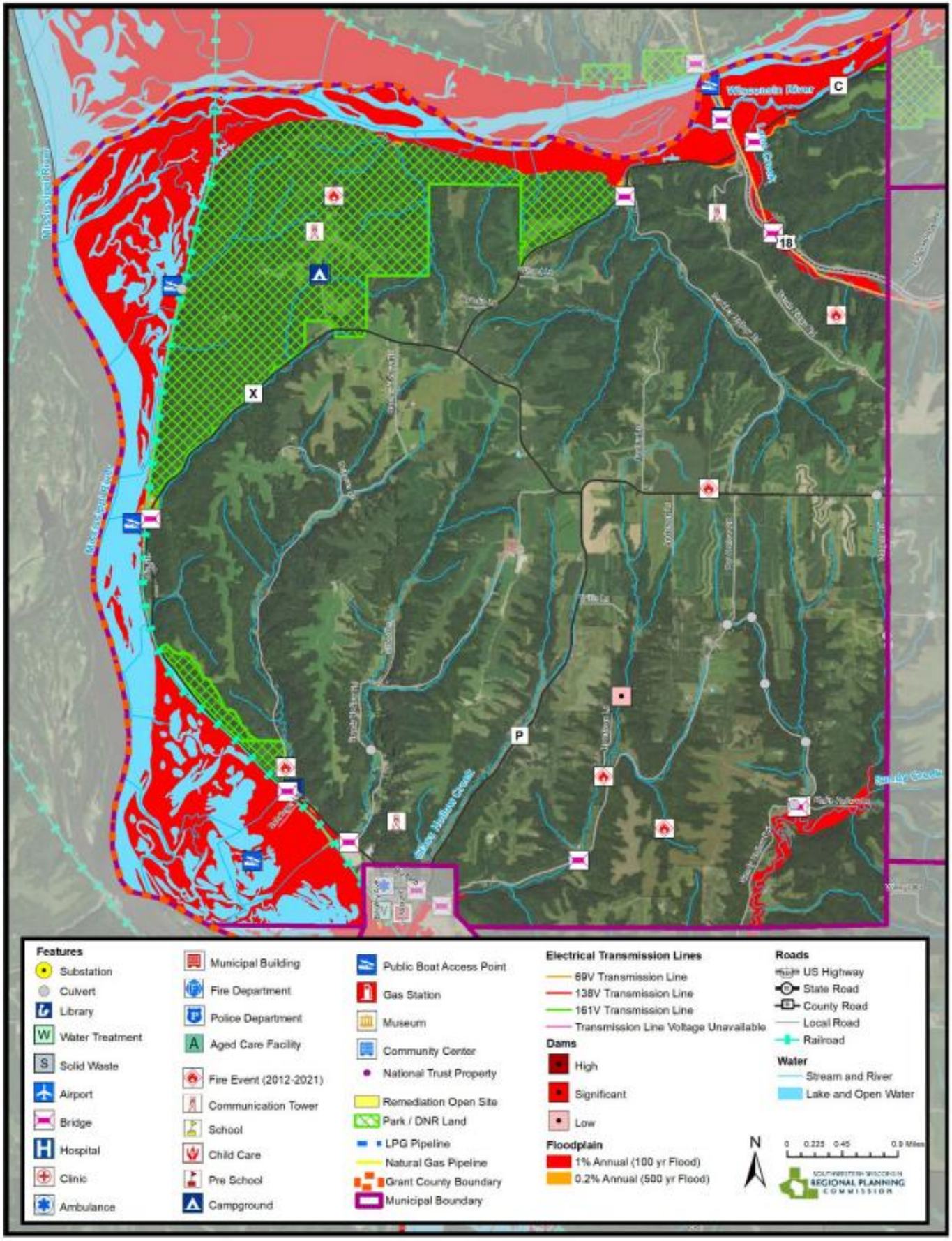


Figure 8: Example of Community Level Asset Mapping[8]

Hazard Ranking

HMPs frequently rank described hazards to identify hazards of greatest concern, though this is not strictly required by WEM guidance. Approaches to ranking hazards vary by plan authorship. Several common methods for identifying and ranking hazard priorities are briefly described in Appendix E.

Location, Extent and Magnitude

WEM requires a description of the geographic locations at risk from the hazard. Some hazards, such as weather events, may affect the entire jurisdiction. Other hazards, such as flooding or wildfires, may have unique geographies.

Vulnerability

Vulnerability is the most context-specific component of the risk assessment. WEM requires that plans include "a description of which assets, including structures, systems, populations and other assets as defined by the community, within locations identified to be hazard prone, are at risk from the effects of the identified hazard(s)" and how hazards are expected to impact those assets. The impact assessment can use historical data (such as crop or damage data).

The vulnerability assessment should identify not only historically impacted assets, but also any new or modified assets since the last plan update. For an index of frequently addressed topics in vulnerability assessments, see Appendix F.

Probability of Future Occurrence

WEM requires that plans quantitatively describe the "likelihood of the hazard occurring or reoccurring." Probability of future occurrence is most often calculated by dividing #events/study time frame (i.e. 6 events over 30 years = 20% chance annual occurrence).

Community Capacity Assessment

In addition to assessing hazard risk, Hazard Mitigation Plans must assess participating jurisdictions' capacity to develop and implement mitigation activities in response to identified hazards.

This project finds that the level of assessment of community-specific hazard needs and mitigation actions vary widely based on plan authorship.

Plans written by RPCs typically develop a detailed narrative assessment of capacity in their counties by assessing the following areas:

- Planning and regulatory tools
- Physical Construction improvements
- Emergency Preparedness and Communication Activities
- Educational and Outreach Activities
- Strategic partnerships

- Administrative and technical Staff
- Financial Resources
- Other Mitigation And Emergency Management Challenges

Three RPCs (SWRPC, WCRPC and CARPC), seek direct or in-person engagement with participating jurisdictions. These plans map local recommendations to cities, villages, towns and school districts with the study county and provides a narrative overview of the hazards and assets. They also provide recommendations to initiate or expand on for the study county.

Other RPCs such as the NWCRPC and NWRPC, conduct capability assessments to determine the capacity of participating jurisdictions and the study county. Specific mitigation, emergency response and preparedness measures may be developed for the county and major cities, but not smaller jurisdictions.

These plans may use surveys to towns to gain information about hazard issues, request input on past and future mitigation measures and document information for the HMP update. However, response rates to virtual surveys can be low (one effort achieved 50% response).

Even among RPCs, the detail and extent of community capacity assessment varies. The most intensive plans examine community capacity by looking at a wide range of tools and resources for each participating jurisdiction.

Plans written internally or by third party consultants rarely include capacity assessments for specific communities. They generally include information on jurisdiction-specific mitigation activities as RPC plans. The level of specificity of mitigation actions varies widely between plans.

This analysis suggests that HMP template resources for counties should emphasize collecting information unique to participating jurisdictions to develop capacity assessments unique to the local level.

Implications for Community Engagement Framework

This analysis suggests that providing detailed spatial analysis of assets and vulnerabilities within the study county's villages, cities and unincorporated areas is often only available when counties can contract with RPCs, and only when RPC HMP writers have intentionally developed plan development processes that target local communities through tailored spatial data.



Phase 3: Tool Implementation and Evaluation

Overview

This section of the plan outlines the HMP tools and resources developed for rural Wisconsin counties and a suggested implementation strategy for communities interested in using the data tools and resources developed by this project. Its intended audience is:

1. "Plan writers"—planners and emergency managers engaged in writing or updating a Hazard mitigation plan
2. Local officials interested in engaging more with hazard mitigation planning, improving community capacity, or implementing a hazard mitigation action.

Data Tools and Resources

County Risk Assessment Framework & Toolkit

The County Risk Assessment Framework & Toolkit (CRAFT) is a data tool that uses statistical information and model language to draft a report that satisfies Wisconsin Emergency Management requirements for the Risk Assessment portion of the HMP. CRAFT

CRAFT uses the free and open-source statistical language R and ArcGIS Pro software to analyze and aggregate publicly available data to the county and subcounty level, organize that information into a report, and provide spatially detailed information on community-specific risks and assets to improve the resources available for engaging communities in Hazard Mitigation Planning.

CRAFT has three components: a Risk Assessment Tool that produces a draft report of hazard vulnerability data and model narrative language to satisfy the Risk Assessment component of WEM's HMP requirements. The HMP Template tool is a process-based template supports communities in meeting WEM's HMP requirements while also providing a straightforward and reproducible engagement strategy for plan writers to engage with participating jurisdictions. Community-Level Asset Mapping produces a set of maps showing at the community level that county HMP writers may use to engage local governments in conversations about risk and assets during plan writing.

Risk Assessment Tool

The Risk Assessment tool uses publicly available data to The WEM Criteria for the Risk Assessment include information on the "type, location and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction" as well as "information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events." For the complete criteria, please see Appendix G: WEM Plan Review Tool.

HMP Template Tool

The HMP Template Tool is a template plan that counties may follow to develop an engagement strategy, complete the necessary steps to update their risk assessment, and develop a plan draft. The template is designed so a county following the template will meet WEM's required plan elements. The full template is available in Appendix H. For the complete criteria used by WEM to assess HMP drafts, please see Appendix G: WEM Plan Review Tool.

Data Sources & Organizational Framework of CHART

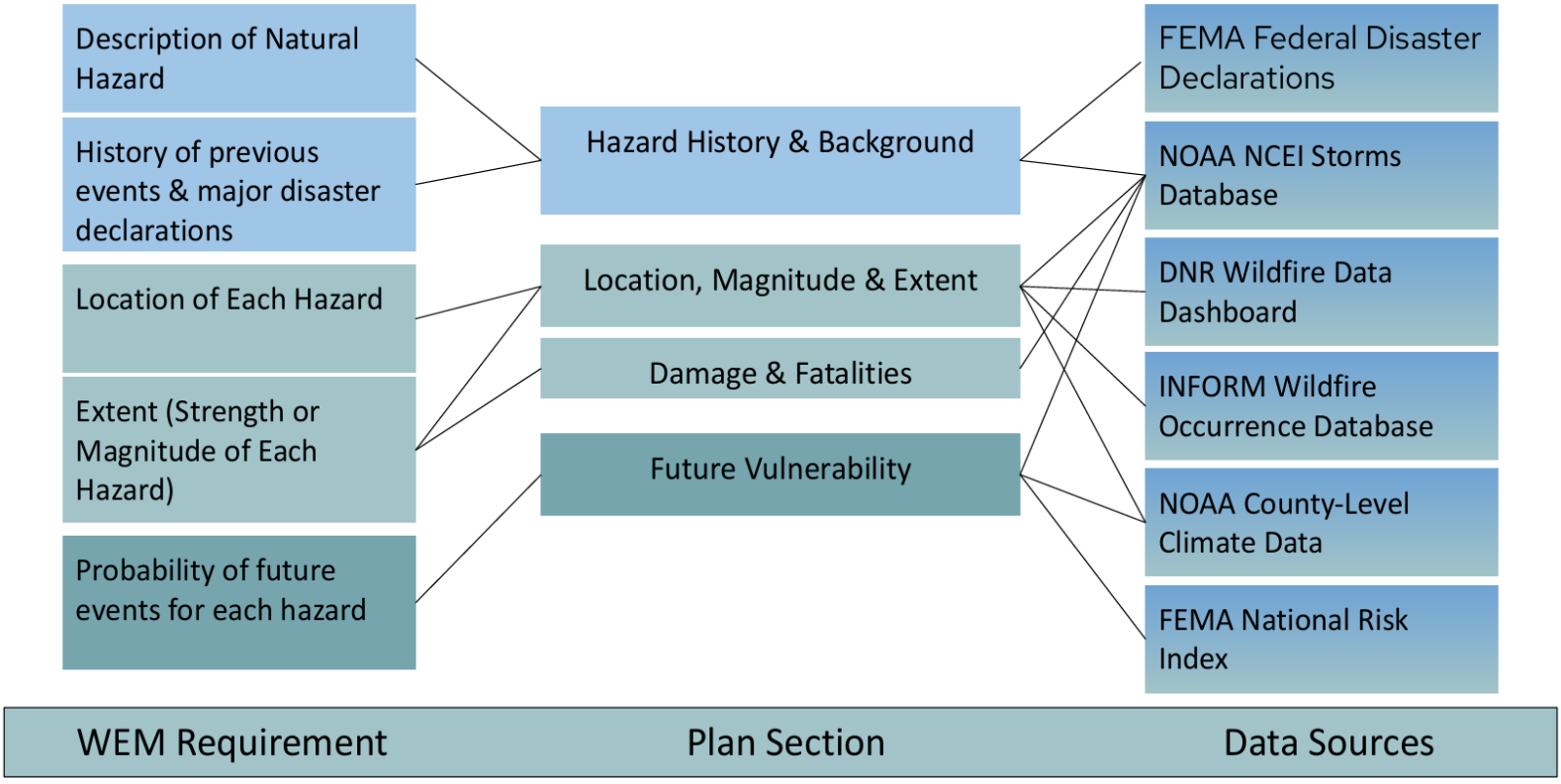


Figure 9: Data Sources and Organizational Framework of CHART

Community-Level Asset Mapping

Community- level asset mapping complements the plan elements developed by CHART and the HMP Template tool. These maps are available for all local units of government within Wisconsin and can be incorporated into participant outreach to help local governments better understand their current assets and vulnerabilities in Hazard Mitigation Planning. These maps currently includes all the information shown in figure 10; however, the tool that produces the maps is highly flexible and new spatial information, including regional or local information, can be added to the project. Examples of Community-Level Asset Maps are shown in Figure 11.

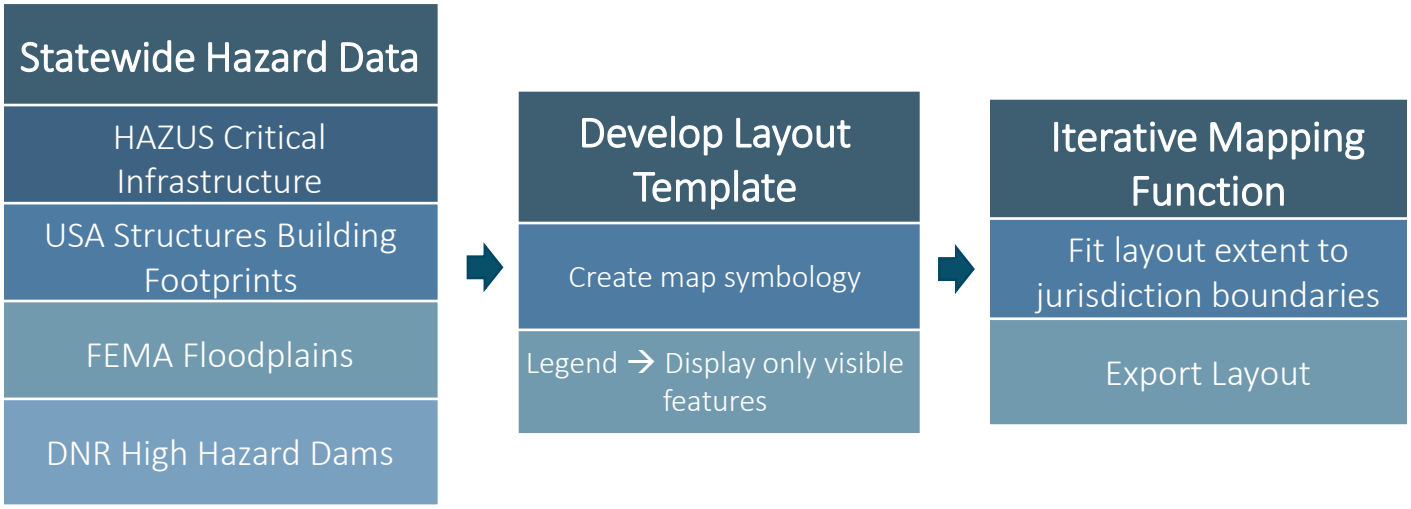


Figure 10: Data sources used in Community Asset Mapping

Implementation

Suggested Implementation Process

1. Meet the relevant players:

I. Establish steering committee members.
   A. Distribute a letter to all cities, villages and towns alerting them to the update and emphasizing upcoming opportunities to participate from high involvement (steering committee membership) to minimal involvement (completion of a virtual survey).
   B. Solicit steering committee members from primary village and city entities within the county, as well as county staff from zoning, public works, land and water resources, EMS/Police, public health, and community development, etc.

II. Establish contact with participating jurisdictions.
   A. Wisconsin Emergency Management is pushing for more participation from local units of government. The bar for participation has been set at:
      - Active participation: community representatives can participate in a public meeting, respond to surveys sent during the planning process, etc.
      - Consideration of any local hazards not applicable to the county at large
      - Develop a mitigation strategy for identified local hazards
      - Adopt the approved hazard mitigation plan.

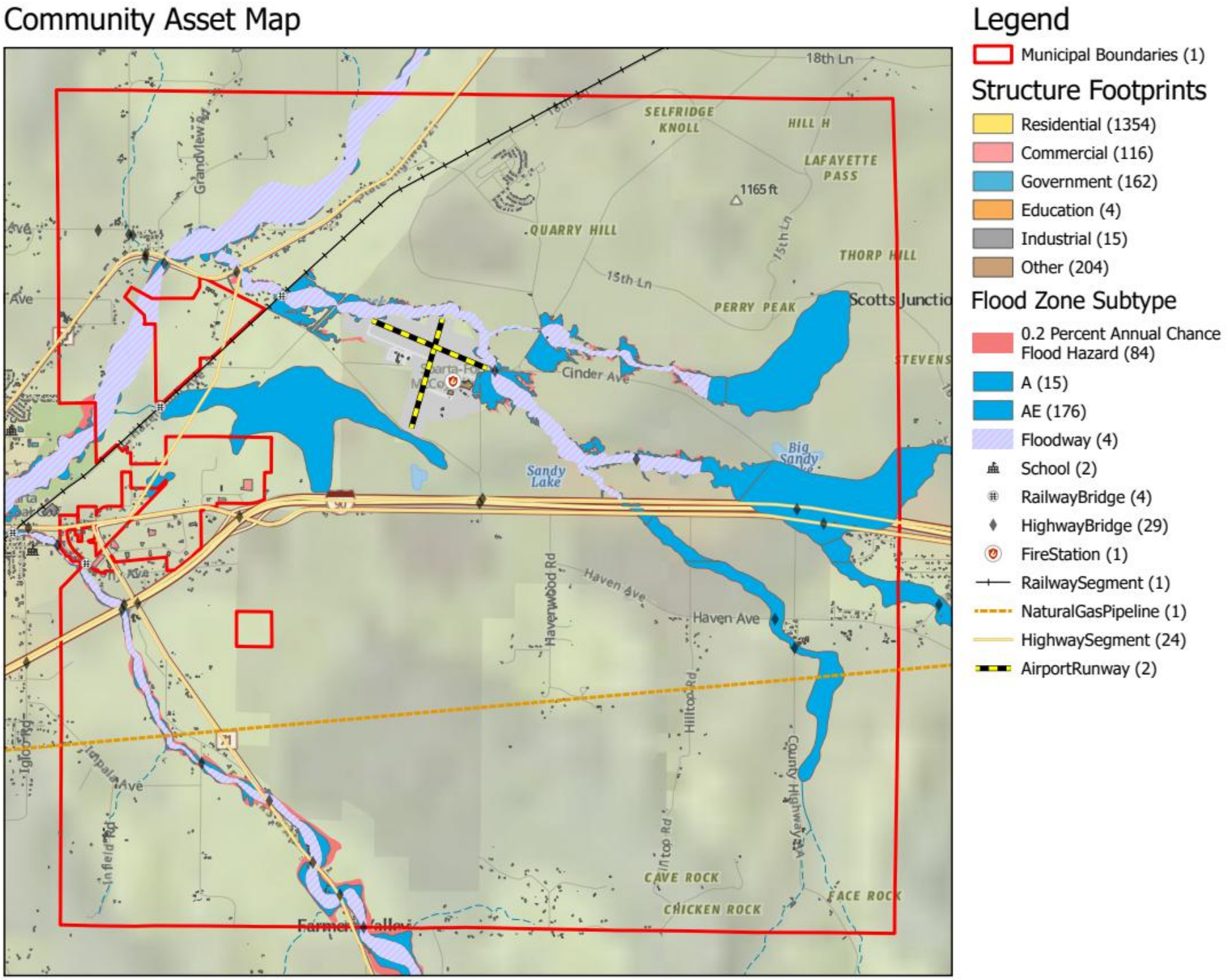


Figure 11: Example Community Asset Map for the Town of Angelo in Monroe County, Wisconsin

Community Asset Map

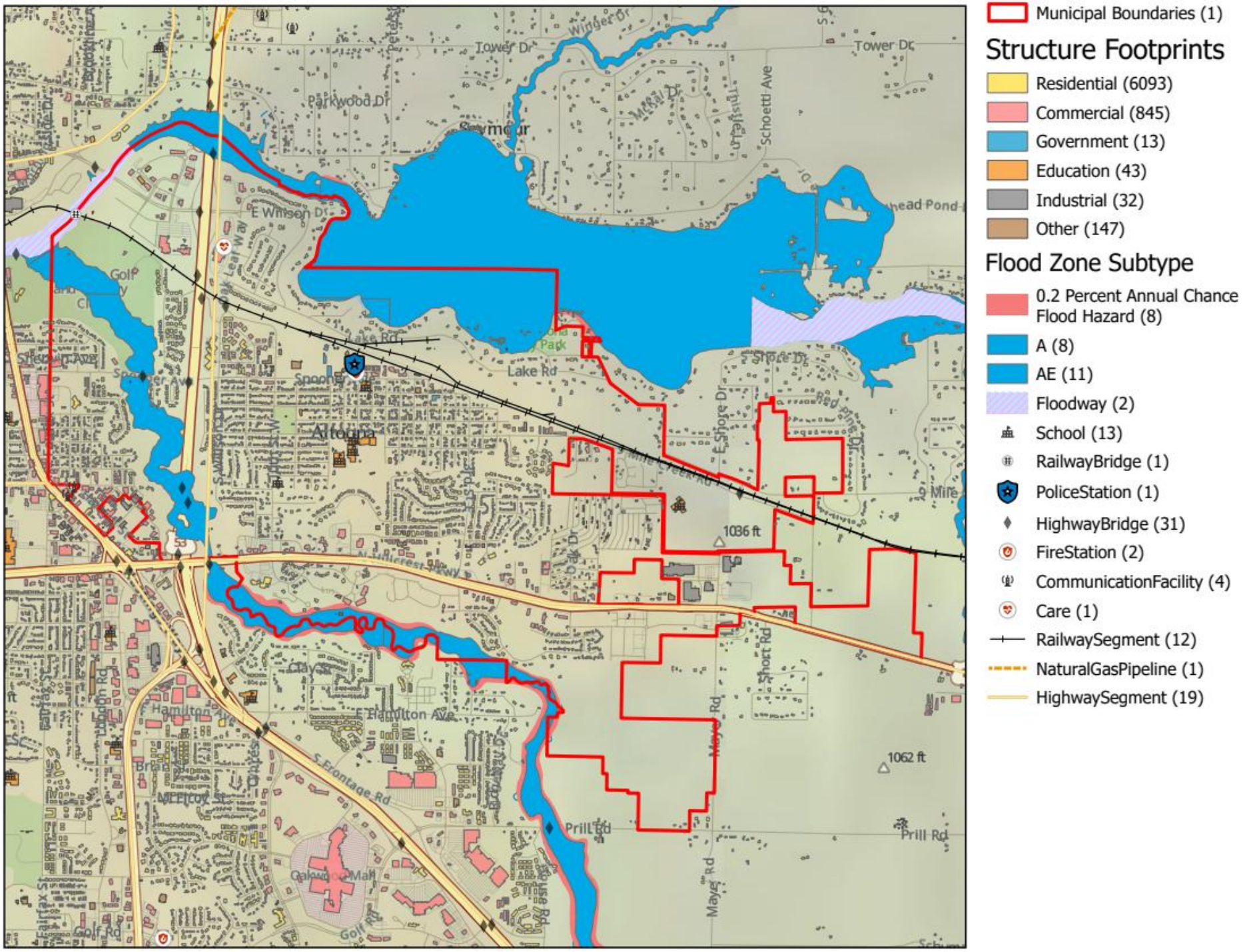


Figure 11: Example Community Asset Map for the City of Altoona, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin

B. Towns: contact town board and ask to add an agenda item to next town meeting (see Appendix I for meeting agenda template)
C. Villages: The village Board of Trustees form subcommittees that often negotiate issues and projects relevant to Hazard Mitigation Planning.
    A. Contact village clerk and/or village administrator asking for an agenda item at a board meeting or to schedule a meeting with trustees and interested departments.
        - Department representatives from Public Works, Zoning, Highways, Water Utilities and/or Community Development could also be invited to attend.
D. Cities: Contact the city clerk as well as relevant departments (Zoning, Public Works, Utilities, etc.) requesting a meeting with departments with a stake in Hazard Mitigation Planning.

II. Establish contact with other stakeholders (to attend public meetings)

2. Engage with participating jurisdictions.

I. For jurisdictions with authority to regulate development, complete the "Hazard Mitigation for Development Authorities" Worksheet (Appendix I).

3. Engage the public.

I. Hold a public meeting where members of the public and non-jurisdictional stakeholders can discuss hazard vulnerabilities, mitigation actions, and review the plan draft.
II. If holding a public meeting is truly cost prohibitive, consider publishing a public informational press release to newspapers and other media announcing the purpose of the plan. Create a web-based version of the draft plan for the public to download and invite comments. Send the press release to cities, villages, and towns. Invite comments on the draft plan through County social media accounts.
    A. Some digital engagement tools are free to local governments and can provide a forum where documents can be marked up and commented on by the public.
    B. Other free survey platforms such as SurveyMonkey, Google Forms, or even a simple email account can be used to collect comments.

4. Write the plan draft.

I. Use the Hazard Mitigation Plan Template and Section B Hazard Vulnerability Assessment as jumping-off points for writing your plan draft.
II. The data collected in steps 2 and 3 provide the majority of the plan information. Fill in narrative summaries where marked in Pink. Review plan data in Section B for accuracy and relevance; this information is automatically generated using the County Hazard Decision Tool and there may be sections that auto-populate in the report that are irrelevant to your jurisdiction, such as Coastal Hazards.

5. Submit the plan draft for formal review.



Appendices

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Ongoing Work

Improvement & Feedback Process

CRAFT is under continuing development and improvement in consultation with plan writing and reviewing stakeholders.

Project Recommendations

- WEM mentioned wanting more engagement from school districts. In rural areas, school districts and voting centers can be remote and in need of additional emergency planning. More work around how to effectively engage school districts and other special districts would be beneficial.
- This project focuses on engaging local jurisdictions with land use authority; a better framework for engaging and incorporating other stakeholders such as special purpose districts is needed.
- Facilitate better connections between County and local government staff about mitigation projects, including:
    - Projects not typically considered "mitigation projects" that may have mitigatory outcomes built in (agricultural conservation, building restoration, etc.)
    - Multiple interviewees noted that the main motivation for participating in Hazard Mitigation Planning is additional project funding. Increase educational opportunities to learn about project funding, including state opportunities such as the Wisconsin Pre-Disaster Flood Resiliency Program.
- Comparison of engagement rates for different types of outreach to cities, villages and towns: is there a significant difference in engagement when web surveys are sent vs. when meetings are scheduled?
- Develop survey tools for EMS seeking to engage their participating jurisdictions quickly and effectively; historically, participation with surveys has been low. What are the best low-effort ways to effectively engage participating communities?
- Develop tools to support grant applications and connect mitigation projects to funding outside of Hazard Mitigation Planning (and to connect projects to Hazard Mitigation Planning Funding where available)

Opportunities for Further Work

- Identify additional strategies for communicating climate change to plan participants.
    - One project: identify total rainfall associated with hazard events from NCDC, and calculate the return period of historical storm events using Atlas 14. Recompute new return periods using new rainfall DDF estimates from Atlas 15 or the Wisconsin Rainfall Project.
- Interviewees mentioned increasing concern not with riverine flooding but areas vulnerable to overland flow. Use a gridded NRCS curve method (or by small watershed) to identify areas vulnerable to overland flooding during historic and projected rainfall return periods.

County	RPC Region	Plan Development	County	RPC Region	Plan Development
Brown	BLRPC	Internal	Vernon	MRRPC	RPC
Door	BLRPC	Internal	Columbia	N/A	Internal
Florence	BLRPC	RPC	Dodge	N/A	3rd Party
Fond Du Lac	ECRPC	Internal	Jefferson	N/A	3rd Party
Marquette	ECRPC	3rd Party	Rock	N/A	RPC
Menominee	ECRPC	3rd Party	Langlade	NCWRPC	RPC
Outagamie	ECRPC	3rd Party	Portage	NCWRPC	Internal
Pepin	MRRPC	Internal	Vilas	NCWRPC	RPC
Pierce	MRRPC	RPC	Wood	NCWRPC	3rd Party
Ashland	NWRPC	RPC	Grant	SWRPC	RPC
Iron	NWRPC	RPC	Iowa	SWRPC	RPC
Taylor	NWRPC	Internal, RPC	Richland	SWRPC	3rd Party
Washburn	NWRPC	3rd Party	Eau Claire	WCRPC	RPC
			Polk	WCRPC	RPC

Goal	Needs	Barriers	Opportunities
Use available resources more efficiently	Reduce effort to collect data	Decreasing financial and resource support for rural counties updating their hazard mitigation plans	Identify minimum requirements for a valid HMP
		Hazard mitigation process is inconsistent between counties; no clear baseline for what data is needed	Centralize data resources
			Develop "base plan" that meets HMP requirements
	Ensure effort and resources to collect result in highest-value HMP possible	Hazard assessment does not connect to or share resources with related county processes, such as public health, county clerk responsibilities, or service provision	Identify opportunities to share HMP resources within and between counties
		Many HMP update processes do not capture year-over-year mitigation projects, changes in staff, or help increase capacity	Identify cost-benefit of different HMP approaches; make recommendations about best value
To increase engagement with smaller, more rural communities	Improve communication about hazards and mitigation projects between Emergency Managers and local communities	No clear engagement pathway for EMs/planners to reach smaller communities	Provide education to local government officials about hazard mitigation planning
		Organization and staff structure of rural counties and small communities differ.	
	Increase interest in hazard mitigation planning among local officials	Incentives for HMP writing are disappearing ▪	Identify opportunities that still require an HMP and assess if/how HMPs still provide value
To identify hazards at sub-county levels	Improve mapping of assets for villages, cities and unincorporated areas	Time and resource intensive to produce sub-county mapping of resources and hazards	Develop low-cost, reproducible community mapping procedure/product to support engagement with local hazards
	Quantify main risks associated with changing weather extremes relative to county assets	Difficult to identify all county assets affected by changing weather extremes	
		Available hydrologic information low	Develop hydrologic resources & communication procedures for county & public audiences
	Improve quality of available floodplain mapping to boost trust	Trust in floodplain mapping is very low in many rural communities	Identify alternative hydrologic hazard sources; identify floodplain management strategies that best utilize available information; improve county and city/village partnerships to cooperatively manage floodplains and shoreline
Identify hazard mitigation projects at sub-county levels	Identify and prioritize projects	Interdepartmental communication about projects varies at the county level	Support intergovernmental project collaboration & coordination
	Connect to grant opportunities	Rural counties lack staff and capacity to apply and compete for grants	Identify grant opportunities Support grant administration and application procedures
	Navigate permitting procedures	Rural counties lack staff and capacity to apply for complex or burdensome permits	Develop permitting support tools for county staff

Needs Assessment Findings

The needs assessment highlighted several key needs:

- Using resources more efficiently
- Increase engagement with smaller, more rural communities
- Identifying hazard vulnerabilities and mitigation opportunities at finer spatial scales.

This section briefly describes the findings from the needs assessment, but key results, along with opportunities, are summarized in table xx and at length in Appendix xx.

Using Resources More Efficiently

Interviewed plan writers discussed a need to reduce the financial burden of Hazard Mitigation Planning by reducing the required effort to collect data and conduct plan updates. Plan updates are time and resource intensive, so many rural counties contract with their Regional Planning Commission (RPC) or a private consultant to update the plan and use the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to fund updates.

Due to increasing funding uncertainty, many counties are tasked with choosing to use their own staff time and resources to update their plans or finding a budget to hire a contractor to write the plan. For counties that choose to update their plans with internal resources, the available planning guidance requires significant effort to follow.

Interviewed participants mentioned that the five-year update timeline was not long enough for counties to make progress on hazard mitigation projects described in previous plan iterations. In general, the minimum HMP requirements are costly to follow but do not guarantee a county successfully engages with related county processes, such as public health, county clerk responsibilities, or service provision.
Interviewed county staff and local officials were frequently disconnected from or unaware of HMP processes in their communities, even if they worked in related areas such as floodplain zoning or land and water conservation. One plan writer described HMP participation as “the wrong people being in the room,” as HMP steering committee members were more often comprised of only emergency response personnel; land use, zoning and administrative personnel were missing.

Increasing Engagement with Smaller Communities

Interviewed participants, including plan writers, plan reviewers, and other stakeholders, described a need for Hazard Mitigation Planning to increase reach to smaller, more rural communities, such as towns and villages.
Incorporating towns as participating jurisdictions within county-level Hazard Mitigation Planning was identified as a significant challenge.

Plan reviewers described inconsistent town-county relationships across the state, with emergency managers in some states believing the county represented town interests in the planning process, while in other counties, participating towns were viewed as independent entities.

In general, reviewers described a desire to see more town-level participation in HMP writing.

Plan Reviewers in Wisconsin Emergency Management identified the required level of participation for participating jurisdictions as:

- Active participation: community representatives can participate in a public meeting, respond to surveys sent during the planning process, etc.
- Consideration of any local hazards not applicable to the county at large
- Develop a mitigation strategy for identified local hazards
- Adopt the approved hazard mitigation plan.

However, there is no straightforward process to engage with communities and develop findings for updating the HMP.

Identifying Hazards:

Plan writers described improved jurisdictional engagement when hazard and risk assessments were able to show hazard risk areas and assets at the sub-county and community level. However, developing this spatial analysis can be time consuming. In many communities, floodplain maps are out-of-date and not trusted. Flood risk from overland flow and heavy precipitation is equally worrying, but GIS information on this hazards is not widely available. Many communities find that the risks associated with climate change are small-scale or tolerable relative to the risk or cost of mitigation activities, but the main risks associated with weather extremes are not well quantified relative to assets.

Identifying Hazard Mitigation Projects

Identifying hazard mitigation projects specific to participating communities requires broad engagement with staff, officials and community members in the community. Plan writers mentioned success with scheduling and attending in-person meetings, requesting agenda items at town and village board meetings, and engaging stakeholder entities like schools, utilities, and chambers of commerce. Generally, this level of engagement is time- and resource-intensive.

Additionally, county staff working in land use and conservation mentioned a need to identify and prioritize projects, increase connection to grant opportunities, and navigate permitting procedures for complex mitigation projects. These steps improve project implementation outcomes but require increased engagement across county departments and units of local government.

Steering Committee Ranking

Counties using the steering committee ranking approach assemble a committee of members including local officials; nonprofit organization reps and business owners. During the planning process, committee members will assign a score of 1-3 or 1-5 (low, medium or high) to the assessed hazards for probability of occurrence. These scores are averaged to produce an overall hazard ranking.

State Ranking Criteria

Some counties follow WEM guidance by having each participating jurisdiction fill out a "Hazard Priority Matrix" template and averaging the results to develop the county-wide hazard ranking (fig. 12).

Community-engaged approach

Some counties may rank hazards via public meetings of stakeholders, leaders, town and county officials, and community members. For example, meeting attendees may vote for the three hazards they believe will pose the biggest risk their County in the next decade. Hazard types received one point for each vote to establish rankings.

Combined approaches

Some plans take a combined approach to scoring hazards. This scoring style quantitatively calculates historical occurrence, vulnerability and probability, but also incorporates a community rating from a public survey.

For counties wishing to use a hybrid ranking, but without capacity to host a public survey, a survey of local officials can be substituted for a community survey. Samples counties supplemented this with public meetings where the public had the opportunity to comment on the ranking results of officials who took the survey.

Some counties may combine steering committee rankings with other risk ratings such as the National Risk Index ranking or regional health or hazard vulnerability assessments.

Hazard	Spatial Extent	Frequently Impacted Assets	Magnitude & Impact Metrics	Additional Info
Thunderstorms, Lightning and Hail	• County-Wide	• Infrastructure • Structures • Certain types of homes • Crops/Agriculture • Human Lives	• Windspeed • Hail Size • Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Risks: Road conditions • Falling Trees • Downed Power Lines • Emergency Warning System
Tornadoes and Strong Wind	• County-Wide	• Infrastructure • Structures • Certain types of homes • Crops/Agriculture • Human Lives	• F Scale, Wind Speed, • Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Risks: Road conditions • Falling Trees • Downed Power Lines • Emergency Evacuation protocols • Emergency Warning System
Extreme Cold and Winter Weather Events	• County-Wide	• Power Grid • Human Lives • Agriculture and Livestock • Buildings • Infrastructure	• Temperature Extremes • Snowfall • Ice accumulation • Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Risks: Road conditions
Extreme Heat/Drought	• County-Wide	• Ecosystems • Agriculture and Livestock	• Temperature Extremes • Drought Severity • Cooling Degree Days • Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Urban heat islands • Power grid • Lake Water Levels
Wildfires	• Previous Wildfire Locations • County-Wide	• Ecosystems • Homes • Human Lives • Agriculture • Infrastructure • Structures	• Acres burned • Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Risk: Wildfire risk maps
Flooding and Heavy Precipitation	• Floodplains • County-Wide (for precipitation or overland events)	• Infrastructure • Structures • Certain types of homes • Crops/Agriculture • Human Lives • Water Quality • Ecosystems	• Rainfall depth • River stage • Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Risk: High Risk Dams • Depth to Water Table • Emergency Warning System
Coastal Hazards	• Coastal Flood zones	• Tourism Industry • Ecosystems • Property • Structures • Infrastructure	• Economic Losses • Loss of Life	• Vulnerable coastal areas (local & regional coastal studies) • Lake water levels • Erosion Rates
Dense Fog	• County-Wide	• Human Lives	• Loss of Life	• Road Conditions

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HMP TEMPLATE TOOL

This is a guide to help you develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each Section is based around the required plan elements for approval by Wisconsin Emergency Management.

YELLOW Highlighted sections include WEM's requirements according to federal statute, along with details from WEM about how to satisfy these requirements

PINK highlighted sections are areas for you to fill in. "Village of Wyalusing" is inserted in the first row of tables where you list your county's participating jurisdictions.

BLUE highlighted sections include additional instructions for editing the template.

There is a preliminary table of contents and list of tables and figures provided, but you will want to update these once you add text and materials specific to your county. Many plans include a section on the county's geography, economic ad demographic background, and other background information, but since this is not described in WEM's plan requirements, it is omitted from this template.

Please note that Section B: Risk Assessment is also omitted from this template. Risk assessment formats vary widely. A Risk Assessment Data Tool is under development as part of this project. Please contact jgparr@wisc.edu to see if a base risk assessment is available for your county.

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Section A: Planning Process

A1. Does the plan document the planning process, including how it was prepared and who was involved in the process for each jurisdiction? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(1))

*Involved in the process means **engaged as participants** and **given the chance to provide input** affecting the Plan's content; plan updates must include **documentation of the current planning process***

- Schedule or timeframe and activities that made up the plan's development (narrative description)
- List of participating jurisdictions
- List of representatives from each jurisdiction
  - Include person's position or title and agency
- How each jurisdiction was involved

Narrative description of the schedule/timeframe and activities that made up the plan's development

- When meetings were held, who attended, etc.

List steering committee members here; add or remove rows as necessary

Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee Members:

Name	Position or Title	Agency/Organization	Jurisdiction (if applicable)

Table 1: Steering Committee

Participating Jurisdictions:

Jurisdiction	Participating:	Not Participating:
Village of Wyalusing		

Table 2: Participating Jurisdictions

Narrative description of how each jurisdiction was involved:

- How jurisdictions were informed of the HMP update
- How jurisdictions were invited to participate (interview with plan writer to complete jurisdictional materials, invited to a meeting, agenda item on town board meeting, etc.)

A2. Does the plan document an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(b)(2))

*Opportunity to be involved in the planning process means that stakeholders are **engaged or invited as participants** and **given the chance to provide input** affecting the Plan's content.*

- List of stakeholders: local and regional agencies that take part in hazard mitigation activities
- List of stakeholders: agencies that have the authority to regulate development
- List of stakeholders: neighboring communities
- List of stakeholders: representatives of businesses, academia, and other private organizations
- List of stakeholders: representatives of nonprofit organizations
- How each stakeholder was involved

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Name	

Local and regional agencies taking part in hazard mitigation activities		
Agencies with authority to regulate development		
Neighboring Communities		
Businesses		
School Districts		
Nonprofits		
Private Organizations		

Table 3: Participating Stakeholders

A3. Does the plan document how the public was involved in the planning process during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(b)(1))

- How the public was given the opportunity to be involved
  - The opportunity for public involvement must happen during plan development and prior to plan submission for formal review
- What the public participation entailed
- How were underserved communities and vulnerable populations provided an opportunity to be involved
  - No longer required to include "underserved communities" per April 4, 2025, Waiver to Certain Sub-elements of the Local Mitigation Planning Guide.
  - As a best practice WEM supports inclusion of the "Whole Community" in the planning process. This may include underserved communities and vulnerable population.
- How public feedback was incorporated into the Plan

Narrative description of how the public was engaged, how the public meeting was structured, what the public participation entailed, and how public feedback was incorporated into the plan.

A4. Does the plan describe the review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(b)(3))

List of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information that were reviewed

How relevant information was incorporated into the Plan

For jurisdictions with structures for which National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coverage is available, regulatory flood mapping products are required to be incorporated, if appropriate

Narrative description of how the plan reviewed and incorporated existing plans, studies, reports and technical information.

Existing Plans, Studies and Reports:

Technical information

Regulatory Flood Mapping Products:

Section B: Risk Assessment

B1. Does the plan include a description of the type, location and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction? Does the plan also include information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(2)(i))

- Description of natural hazards that affect jurisdictions in the planning area
- Rationale for any omitted natural hazards that are commonly recognized and affect jurisdictions in the planning area
- Location (geographic areas in planning area) of each hazard
- Extent (strength or magnitude) of each hazard; if using charts or scales: plan must document how the scale applies to each jurisdiction
- History of previous hazard events for each identified hazard; for plan updates: include any state or federal major disaster declarations since last update. Emphasis on significant events, as determined by the community. If no events occurred for a hazard, this must be stated
- Probability of future events for each identified hazard; must include the effects of future conditions on the type, location and range of anticipated intensities of identified hazards
  - No longer required to include "climate change (e.g. long-term weather patterns, average temperature and sea levels." per April 4, 2025, Waiver to Certain Sub-elements of the Local Mitigation Planning Guide
  - As a best practice WEM supports the inclusion of applicable data-driven information on changing future conditions in the planning process. This may include long-term weather patterns, average temperature, and lake levels.
- For multi-jurisdictional plans, when hazard risks differ across the planning area and between participating jurisdictions, the plan must specify the unique and varied risk information for each applicable jurisdiction and their assets outside the planning area

Element B:

B2. Does the plan include a summary of the jurisdiction's vulnerability and the impacts on the community from the identified hazards? Does this summary also address NFIP insured

structures that have been repetitively damaged by floods? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(2)(ii))

- Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards
  - No longer required to include "underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations" per April 4, 2025, Waiver to Certain Sub-elements of the Local Mitigation Planning Guide.
  - As a best practice WEM supports the inclusion of the "Whole Community" vulnerability in the planning process. This may include underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.
- Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets6 (including people)
  - No longer required to include "underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations" per April 4, 2025, Waiver to Certain Sub-elements of the Local Mitigation Planning Guide.
  - As a best practice WEM supports the inclusion of the "Whole Community" consequences in the planning process. This may include underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations.
- Potential impacts of each identified hazard for each participating jurisdiction; must include the effects of climate change, changes in population patterns (migration, density, or the makeup of socially vulnerable populations), and changes in land use and development
  - No longer required to describe "the effects of climate change" or "the makeup of socially vulnerable populations." per April 4, 2025, Waiver to Certain Sub-elements of the Local Mitigation Planning Guide.
  - As a best practice WEM supports the inclusion of applicable data-driven information on the effects of changing future conditions on the "Whole Community" in the planning process.
- Estimate of the numbers of repetitive and severe repetitive loss structures located in identified flood hazard areas
- Description of the types (residential, commercial, institutional, etc.) of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties identified above
- Properties at high risk of flooding that may not be NFIP repetitive loss properties, if applicable

Section C: Mitigation Strategy

C1-a: "Description of the existing authorities, policies, programs, funding and resources of each participant that are available to support the mitigation strategy"

C1-b: "Description of the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the plan; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority."

Examples: staff involved in local planning activities, public works, and emergency management; funding through taxing authority and annual budgets; regulatory authorities for comprehensive planning, building codes, and ordinances (include local floodplain regulations).

WEM Requirements C1a and C1b can be met by completing tables xx-xx during the participant engagement meetings.

Planning Capabilities are other approved regional, countywide or local plans in a community that regulate future activities and projects. Alignment between these plans and hazard mitigation activities can help identify funding opportunities for both mitigation projects and other community goals.	Village of Wyalusing															
Community Comprehensive or Master Plan																
Capital Improvements Plan																
Economic Development Plan																
Continuity of Operations Plan																
Community Wildfire Protection Plan																
Local Emergency Operations Plan																
Transportation Plan																
Parks or Open Space Plan																
Stormwater Management Plan																
Other																

Table 4: Planning Capabilities for Participating Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Do these plans address hazards? Can the plans be used to	**Improvement:** Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in

	implement mitigation actions? When where these plans last updated?	the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		
Village of Wyalusing, etc.		

Table 5: Planning Capabilities Assessment for Participating Jurisdictions

Regulatory Capabilities include powers of the participating jurisdiction to control development and land use to reduce vulnerability to hazards.	Village of Wyalusing															
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation use																
Building Codes																
Flood Insurance Rate Maps																
Floodplain Ordinance																
Substantial Damage Plan																
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinances																
Subdivision Ordinance																
Zoning Ordinance																

Table 6: Regulatory Capabilities for Participating Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Is the ordinance an effective measure for reducing hazard impacts? Is it adequately administered and enforced?	**Improvement:** Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		

Village of Wyalusing, etc.		

Table 7: Regulatory Capabilities Assessment for Participating Jurisdictions

Administrative and Technical Capabilities are skilled personnel, technological resources and programs and systems that can identify hazards, implement mitigation opportunities and improve emergency response.	Village of Wyalusing															
Administrative																
Civil Engineer																
Community Planner																
Emergency Manager																
Floodplain Administrator																
GIS Coordinator																
Planning Commission																
Public Works																
Staff Trained on Hazards/Mitigation																
Other																
Technical																
Grant Writing																
Hazard Data and Information																
GIS Analysis																
Mutual Aid Agreements																
Warning Systems/ Services																
Maintenance Programs to Reduce Risk																

Table 8: Administrative and Technical Capabilities for Participating Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations? Is staff trained on hazards and mitigation? Is coordination between agencies and staff effective?	**Improvement:** Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**

	Have these capabilities been used to assess/mitigate risk in the past?	
Town of Grant		
Village of Wyalusing, etc.		

Table 9: Administrative and Technical Capabilities Assessment for Participating Jurisdictions

Financial Capabilities are fiscal resources that can support jurisdictions in funding hazard mitigation projects.	Village of Wyalusing															
Capital Improvements Project Funding																
Community Development Block Grant																
Federal Funding Programs (Non-FEMA)																
Utility Fees (Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric)																
New Development Impact Fees																
Stormwater Utility Fees																
State Funding																
General Obligation Bonds																
Revenue Bonds																
Other																

Table 10: Financial Capabilities for Participating Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could it be used to fund future mitigation actions?	Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		
Village of Wyalusing, etc.		

Table 11: Financial Capabilities Assessment for Participating Jurisdictions

Cooperative and Outreach/Engagement Capabilities are the jurisdiction's tools for spreading awareness of hazard mitigation activities and forming partnerships to reduce vulnerabilities.	Village of Wyalusing															
Cooperative																
Service Sharing																
Intergovernmental Agreements																
Joint Mitigation Projects																
Shared Trainings																
Other Partnerships/Cooperative Work																
Community Outreach and Engagement Capabilities																
Outreach Groups/Nonprofits																
Ongoing Public Education or Information Programs																
Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs																
Public-Private Partnerships																

Table 12: Cooperative Capabilities for Participating Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** How widespread are each of these in your community? Are you in communication with the people who would help you establish these programs/relationships?	Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the plan; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		
Village of Wyalusing, etc.		

Table 13: Cooperative Capabilities Assessment for Participating Jurisdictions

C2: Does the plan address each jurisdiction's participation in the NFIP and continued - compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(ii))

WEM Requirement C2 can be met by completing this table for each participating jurisdiction during the participant engagement meetings.

Jurisdiction Name: Village of Wyalusing, etc.
For each participant, provide the NFIP participation status (participating, not participating, not mapped):
For each participant, describe the adoption of NFIP minimum floodplain management criteria via local regulation:
For each participant, describe the adoption of the latest effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), if applicable:
For each participant, describe the implementation and enforcement of local floodplain management regulations to regulate and permit development in SFHAs:
For each participant, list the appointment of a designee or agency to implement the addressed commitments and requirements of the NFIP:
For each participant, describe the implementation of substantial improvement/substantial damage provisions of their floodplain management regulations after an event:
Description of floodplain management programs/activities that contribute to continued compliance for each NFIP-participating jurisdiction capabilities; note, it is not enough to simply state "the community will continue to comply with the NFIP":

----------OR----------
Reason(s) for non-participation for any jurisdictions that do not participate in the NFIP:

Table 14: NFIP Participation for Participating Jurisdictions

C3. Does the plan include goals to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(i))

Broad Policies and goals to reduce/avoid long term vulnerabilities to identified hazards include county-wide actions like:

You can remove unnecessary hazards in this table by highlighting the hazard cell > right click> "delete row." You can add additional policy rows by highlighting one of the existing policy rows using right click > "insert" > "insert row."

Hazard	**Broad Goals to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards: (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(i))**
Tornadoes and Strong Wind	
Extreme Cold and Winter Weather Events	
Extreme Heat/Drought	

Wildfires	
Flooding and Heavy Precipitation	
Coastal Hazards	
Dense Fog	

Table 15: County-wide broad goals to reduce identified hazard vulnerabilities.

C4. Does the plan identify and analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects for each jurisdiction being considered to reduce the effects of hazards, with emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(ii))

- Analysis of a comprehensive range of actions/projects considered to address vulnerabilities identified in the risk assessment
- Actions/projects that reduce risk to existing buildings, structures, and infrastructure, as well as limit risk to new development and redevelopment
- Actions/projects specific to each hazard addressed in the risk assessment
- Actions/projects specific to each participating jurisdiction

C5. Does the plan contain an action plan that describes how the actions identified will be prioritized (including cost benefit review), implemented and administered by each jurisdiction? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(iii)); (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(3)(iv))

- Criteria for prioritizing the implementation of actions; includes the extent to which benefits are maximized, in relation to the associated costs of the action

- Position, office, department, or agency responsible for implementing each action (for each jurisdiction)
- Potential funding sources for each action; beyond generic terms such as “federal,” “state,” or “local”
- Expected timeframe for completion of each action; define general terms (i.e., “short-term” or “long-term”) if used

Analyzing a comprehensive range *means considering mitigation alternatives spanning all types of solutions. These may include local plans and regulations, structure and infrastructure projects, natural systems protection, and education and awareness programs. This analysis helps a jurisdiction select actions based on its own capabilities, as well as the social, technical and economic feasibility of the action.* ***Be sure to include*** actions/projects that reduce risk to existing buildings, structures, and infrastructure, as well as limit risk to new development and redevelopment.

A ***mitigation action*** *is a measure, project, plan or activity proposed to reduce current and future vulnerabilities described in the risk assessment.*

***WEM Requirement is that**

COUNTY-WIDE SPECIFIC MITIGATION ACTIONS						
Hazard	**Specific County-Wide Actions to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards:**	**Priority (Low, Med, High)**	**Responsible Agency**	**Expected Cost-Benefit*** **	**Potential Funding Sources**	**Expected Timeline**
Thunderstorms, Lightning, Hail						

Tornadoes and Strong Wind						
Extreme Cold and Winter Weather Events						
Extreme Heat/Drought						
Wildfires						
Flooding and Heavy Precipitation						
Coastal Hazards						
Dense Fog						

Table 16: Specific county-wide actions to reduce identified hazard vulnerabilities

VILLAGE OF WYALUSING SPECIFIC MITIGATION ACTIONS						
Hazard	**Specific Jurisdictional Projects and Actions to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards:**	**Priority (Low, Med, High)**	**Responsible Agency (ies)**	**Expected Cost-Benefit*** **	**Potential Funding Sources**	**Expected Timeline**
Thunderstorms, Lightning, Hail						
Tornadoes and Strong Wind						
Extreme Cold and Winter Weather Events						
Extreme Heat/Drought						
Wildfires						
Flooding and Heavy Precipitation						

Coastal Hazards						
Dense Fog						

Table 17: Jurisdiction-specific actions to reduce identified hazard vulnerabilities

Section D: Plan Maintenance

D1. Is there discussion of how each community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(iii))

How the jurisdiction(s) will continue to seek public participation after plan approval and during plan implementation, monitoring, and evaluation

D2. Is there a description of the method and schedule for keeping the plan current (monitoring, evaluating and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle)? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(i))

- How the Plan will be monitored (monitoring means tracking the implementation of mitigation actions over time)
- When the Plan will be monitored
- By whom the Plan will be monitored (title of individual or name of department or agency)
- How the Plan will be evaluated (evaluating means assessing the effectiveness of the Plan at achieving its stated purpose and goals)
- When the Plan will be evaluated
- By whom the Plan will be evaluated (title of individual or name of department or agency)
- How the Plan will be updated (updating means reviewing and revising the plan at least once every five years)
- When the Plan will be updated
- By whom the Plan will be updated (title of individual or name of department or agency)

D3. Does the plan describe a process by which each community will integrate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(ii))

Integrate *means to include hazard mitigation principles, vulnerability information and mitigation actions into other existing community planning to leverage activities that have co-benefits, reduce risk and increase resilience*

Planning mechanisms *refers to the governance structures used to manage local land use development and community decision-making, such as budgets, comprehensive plans, capital improvement plans, economic development strategies, climate action plans or other long-range plans.*

- Description of the community's process for integrating data from the hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms
- Identification of local planning mechanisms where hazard mitigation information may be incorporated
- For multi-jurisdictional plans: description of each participant's individual process for integrating information from the mitigation strategy into their identified planning mechanisms

Copy this table for each participating jurisdiction:

Participating Jurisdiction: Village of Wyalusing
Describe the community's process for integrating data from the hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms:
Identify local planning mechanisms where hazard mitigation information may be incorporated:
For multi-jurisdictional plans: describe each participant's individual process for integrating information from the mitigation strategy into their identified planning mechanisms

Table 18: Jurisdiction-specific process for plan implementation

Section E: Plan Update

E1. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in development? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(d)(3))

Changes in development *means recent development (for example, construction completed since the last plan was approved), potential development (for example, development planned or under consideration by the jurisdiction), or conditions that may*

affect the risks and vulnerabilities of the jurisdictions (for example, climate change, declining populations or projected increases in population, or foreclosures) or shifts in the needs of underserved communities or gaps in social equity. This can also include changes in local policies, standards, codes, regulations, land use regulations and other conditions.

- Changes in development in hazard prone areas that increased or decreased the vulnerability of each jurisdiction since the previous plan was approved
- If no changes in development impacted the jurisdiction's vulnerability, this must be stated with the plan
- mechanisms

Copy this table for each participating jurisdiction:

Participating Jurisdiction: Village of Wyalusing
Describe any changes in development in hazard prone areas that increased or decreased the vulnerability of each jurisdiction since the previous plan was approved
----------OR----------
If no changes in development impacted the jurisdiction's vulnerability, this must be stated with the plan

Table 19: Jurisdiction-specific developments since last plan update

E2. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in priorities and progress in local mitigation efforts? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(d)(3))

- Description of how priorities have changed since the previous plan for each jurisdiction
- If the participant(s) has no change since the last approval of the mitigation plan, this must be stated
- Identification of completed and not-completed mitigation actions from the previous plan
- Description of how the jurisdiction(s) integrated information from the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, as a demonstration of progress in local hazard mitigation efforts.

- If participant(s) did not integrate information from the previous mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, this must be stated
- mechanisms

Copy this table for each participating jurisdiction:

Participating Jurisdiction: Village of Wyalusing	
Describe how priorities have changed since the previous plan for each jurisdiction: ----OR--- If the participant(s) has no change since the last approval of the mitigation plan, this must be stated:	
Identify completed and not-completed mitigation actions from the previous plan:	
Completed:	Not Completed:
Describe how the jurisdiction(s) integrated information from the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, as a demonstration of progress in local hazard mitigation efforts: ----OR--- If the participant did not integrate information from the previous mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, this must be stated:	

Table 20: Jurisdiction-specific progress on mitigation activities since last update

Section F: Plan Adoption

DO NOT ADOPT THE PLAN UNTIL WEM HAS DETERMINED THAT THE DRAFT PLAN IS APPROVABLE PENDING ADOPTION!

After WEM issues their "meets requirements" letter, each participating jurisdiction must adopt the Plan ***within one year*** and submit an adoption resolution to WEM and FEMA for final plan approval.

- **For single-jurisdictional plans,** the jurisdiction must provide documentation of plan adoption, usually a resolution by the governing body or other authority, to receive approval
- **For multi-jurisdictional plans**, the participants must adopt the plan and provide documentation that the adoption has occurred.
    - Participants that submit their adoption documentation separately from the other multi-jurisdictional plan participants will **not** receive a new expiration date.
    - Participating jurisdictions that adopt the plan more than one year after Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) status has been issued must either:
        - Validate that their information in the plan remains current with respect to both the risk assessment (no recent hazard events, no changes in development) and their mitigation strategy (no changes necessary); or
        - Make the necessary updates before submitting the adoption resolution to FEMA.

Jurisdiction	Contact name and/or title	A. Planning Process	B. Risk Assessment	C. Mitigation Strategy	D. Plan Maintenance	E. Plan Update	F. Plan Adoption

Table 21: Participating Jurisdictions & Plan Progress Tracker (WEM)

- Make the necessary updates before submitting the adoption resolution to FEMA.

Jurisdiction	**Contact name and/or title**	**A. Planning Process**	**B. Risk Assessment**	**C. Mitigation Strategy**	**D. Plan Maintenance**	**E. Plan Update**	**F. Plan Adoption**

Table 21: Participating Jurisdictions & Plan Progress Tracker (WEM)

Suggested Meeting Materials for Participating Jurisdictions

Hazard Mitigation for Development Authorities Meeting Agenda: Suggested Attendees

Towns	Villages	Cities
Town Board Members	Village Clerk/Administrator	Planning/Zoning
Building Permit Coordinator	Village Board	Water Utilities
Roads/Highways	Zoning Administrator	Public Works
	Floodplain Manager	Floodplain Manager
	Utilities	Sustainability
	Public Works	Wastewater
	Building Inspection	Emergency Management
	Community Development	Community Development

Hazard Mitigation for Development Authorities: Suggested Meeting Itinerary

1. Attendee Sign In/Introductions
2. Review Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirements (Overview)
3. Review Plan Update Timeline
4. Review Hazard Vulnerability Assessment
5. Hazard Mitigation for Development Authorities Worksheet
6. Discuss next steps: public comment period, revisions, and approval/adoption

Hazard Mitigation for Development Authorities Worksheet

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

Thunderstorms, Lightning, Hail
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):

Tornadoes and Strong Wind
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):
Extreme Cold and Winter Weather Events
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):
Extreme Heat/ Drought
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):
Wildfires
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):
Flooding and Heavy Precipitation
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people): Estimate of the numbers of repetitive and severe repetitive loss structures located in identified flood hazard areas

Description of the types (residential, commercial, institutional, etc.) of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties identified above Properties at high risk of flooding that may not be NFIP repetitive loss properties, if applicable
Coastal Hazards
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):
Dense Fog
Vulnerability description/summary (such as a problem statement) for each participating jurisdiction to the identified hazards: Consequences or effects on the participants and their current and future assets (including people):

Hazard	Risk Rating	Probability of Future Events	Vulnerability Ranking	Overall Ranking

Capacity Assessment:

Planning Capabilities are other approved regional, countywide or local plans in a community that regulate future activities and projects. Alignment between these plans and hazard mitigation activities can help identify funding opportunities for both mitigation projects and other community goals.	Village of Wyalusing
Community Comprehensive or Master Plan	
Capital Improvements Plan	
Economic Development Plan	
Continuity of Operations Plan	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	
Transportation Plan	
Parks or Open Space Plan	
Stormwater Management Plan	
Other	

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Do these plans address hazards? Can the plans be used to implement mitigation actions? When where these plans last updated?	**Improvement:** Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Village of Wyalusing		

Regulatory Capabilities include powers of the participating jurisdiction to control development and land use to reduce vulnerability to hazards.	Village of Wyalusing
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation use	
Building Codes	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	
Floodplain Ordinance	
Substantial Damage Plan	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinances	
Subdivision Ordinance	
Zoning Ordinance	

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Is the ordinance an effective measure for reducing hazard impacts? Is it adequately administered and enforced?	**Improvement:** Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		

Administrative and Technical Capabilities are skilled personnel, technological resources and programs and systems that can identify hazards, implement mitigation opportunities and improve emergency response.	Village of Wyalusing
Administrative	

Civil Engineer	
Community Planner	
Emergency Manager	
Floodplain Administrator	
GIS Coordinator	
Planning Commission	
Public Works	
Staff Trained on Hazards/Mitigation	
Other	
Technical	
Grant Writing	
Hazard Data and Information	
GIS Analysis	
Mutual Aid Agreements	
Warning Systems/ Services	
Maintenance Programs to Reduce Risk	

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Is staffing adequate to enforce regulations? Is staff trained on hazards and mitigation? Is coordination between agencies and staff effective? Have these capabilities been used to assess/mitigate risk in the past? Do you have a floodplain manager or building zoning inspector? Do these positions coordinate with the county outside of floodplain and shoreline zoning?	**Improvement:** Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		

Financial Capabilities are the jurisdiction's ability to leverage fiscal resources that can support jurisdictions in funding hazard mitigation projects.	Village of Wyalusing
Capital Improvements Project Funding	
Community Development Block Grant	
Federal Funding Programs (Non-FEMA)	
Utility Fees (Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric)	
New Development Impact Fees	
Stormwater Utility Fees	
State Funding	
General Obligation Bonds	
Revenue Bonds	
Other	

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** Has the funding resource been used in past and for what type of activities? Could it be used to fund future mitigation actions?	Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the above section; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the

		capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		

Cooperative and Outreach/Engagement Capabilities are the jurisdiction's tools for spreading awareness of hazard mitigation activities and forming partnerships to reduce vulnerabilities.	Village of Wyalusing
Cooperative	
Service Sharing	
Intergovernmental Agreements	
Joint Mitigation Projects	
Shared Trainings	
Other Partnerships/Cooperative Work	
Community Outreach and Engagement Capabilities	
Outreach Groups/Nonprofits	

Ongoing Public Education or Information Programs	
Natural Disaster or Safety-Related School Programs	
Public-Private Partnerships	

Jurisdiction Name	**Assessment Questions:** How widespread are each of these in your community? Are you in communication with the people who would help you establish these programs/relationships?	Describe the ability of each participant to expand on and improve the capabilities described in the plan; if participants don't have the ability or authority to expand and/or improve the capabilities, they must describe this lack of ability or authority **(C1-b)**
Town of Grant		

Jurisdiction Name: Village of Wyalusing, etc.
For each participant, provide the NFIP participation status (participating, not participating, not mapped):
For each participant, describe the adoption of NFIP minimum floodplain management criteria via local regulation:

For each participant, describe the adoption of the latest effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), if applicable:
For each participant, describe the implementation and enforcement of local floodplain management regulations to regulate and permit development in SFHAs:
For each participant, list the appointment of a designee or agency to implement the addressed commitments and requirements of the NFIP:
For each participant, describe the implementation of substantial improvement/substantial damage provisions of their floodplain management regulations after an event:
Description of floodplain management programs/activities that contribute to continued compliance for each NFIP-participating jurisdiction capabilities; note, it is not enough to simply state "the community will continue to comply with the NFIP":
----------OR----------
Reason(s) for non-participation for any jurisdictions that do not participate in the NFIP:

VILLAGE OF WYALUSING SPECIFIC MITIGATION ACTIONS						
Hazard	**Specific Jurisdictional Projects and Actions to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards:**	**Priority (Low, Med, High)**	**Responsible Agency (ies)**	**Expected Cost-Benefit*** **	**Potential Funding Sources**	**Expected Timeline**
Thunderstorms, Lightning, Hail						
Tornadoes and Strong Wind						
Extreme Cold and Winter Weather Events						
Extreme Heat/Drought						
Wildfires						
Flooding and Heavy Precipitation						

Coastal Hazards						
Dense Fog						

Participating Jurisdiction: Village of Wyalusing
Describe the community's process for integrating data from the hazard mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms:
Identify local planning mechanisms where hazard mitigation information may be incorporated:
For multi-jurisdictional plans: describe each participant's individual process for integrating information from the mitigation strategy into their identified planning mechanisms

Participating Jurisdiction: Village of Wyalusing
Describe any changes in development in hazard prone areas that increased or decreased the vulnerability of each jurisdiction since the previous plan was approved
----------OR----------
If no changes in development impacted the jurisdiction's vulnerability, this must be stated with the plan

Participating Jurisdiction: Village of Wyalusing	
Describe how priorities have changed since the previous plan for each jurisdiction: ----OR--- If the participant(s) has no change since the last approval of the mitigation plan, this must be stated:	
Identify completed and not-completed mitigation actions from the previous plan:	
Completed:	Not Completed:

Describe how the jurisdiction(s) integrated information from the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, as a demonstration of progress in local hazard mitigation efforts: ----OR--- If the participant did not integrate information from the previous mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, this must be stated: