

1.0 THE PLANNING PROCESS

To develop a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan that reflects Champaign County's unique hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities, the Champaign County EMA engaged in a comprehensive, whole community planning process. This process included direct participation from stakeholders and community members representing municipalities, townships, county government, and community organizations. Neighboring jurisdictions, special interest organizations, and residents were invited to participate. This section describes the process utilized to develop the hazard mitigation plan and explains how stakeholders and the community were included throughout the process.

1.1 PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Because of the stakeholder feedback necessary to develop a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan, the EMA anticipated that the planning process would take six to twelve months. This timeframe was necessary to research the county's hazards and risks, meet with jurisdiction representatives and stakeholders, develop mitigation strategies and actions, and write the revised plan. Upon completion of the plan, the state and federal review process was anticipated to take three to four additional months. This section outlines each phase of the plan development process. Because the federal standards for mitigation plans have changed significantly since the county's last plan was adopted, the EMA decided a replacement plan was necessary rather than revising the county's previously approved plan.

1.1.1 Pre-Update Planning Process

Champaign County's most recent mitigation plan was given final FEMA approval on June 12, 2006. The plan was granted approval pending adoption on April 11, 2005, but adoptions by jurisdictions did not reach FEMA until much later. On April 11, 2006, FEMA contacted the Champaign County EMA to request adoptions by local jurisdictions be submitted by June 1, 2006. It was discovered that the following adoptions had been completed: Champaign County (09-13-2005), Village of St. Paris (10-17-2005), City of Urbana (10-25-2005), Village of Woodstock (12-19-2005), Village of Christiansburg (12-20-2005), Village of Mechanicsburg (no date specified), and the Village of North Lewisburg (01-03-2006). The Village of Mutual adopted the plan on May 31, 2006, completing adoption by all municipalities and the county. Those adoptions were forwarded to FEMA and final plan approval was issued effective June 12, 2006.

In June 2011, the EMA staff began to update the 2006 plan. They gathered input regarding hazards, incidents, vulnerabilities, and mitigation goals from the six municipalities, county officials, and one township over the course of six months. These internal planning efforts continued into 2012. On April 29, 2013 Champaign County received an unfavorable review from the State of Ohio Mitigation Branch. Some information was submitted in an attempt to answer questions from FEMA's planning evaluation crosswalk, but eventually the effort to update the plan was disbanded. The federal requirements for mitigation plans changed significantly in April

2013 and those changes proved too much to accomplish given staffing limitations and newly required mitigation planning expertise.

In 2017, Champaign County's new EMA director applied for funding to hire a consultant to update the plan. The grant was approved and in October 2018, Resource Solutions Associates LLC was hired to lead the mitigation planning process.

The Consultant and Champaign County entered into a contractual agreement and began planning the project. On December 10, 2018, they met to establish timelines, review planning requirements, identify local documents to be used in the plan development, and develop the schedule for primary activities. They began work to establish the Mitigation Planning Team that would include county appointed and elected officials, municipal and township officials and employees, community response and planning partners, businesses and industries, public and post-secondary education, agricultural representatives, and private citizens. They included economic development, natural resources conservation and advocacy, social organizations, and community volunteers. EMA directors and any key officials from adjacent counties were also identified.

The EMA and Consultant worked together to find all relevant local documentation, including past and present mitigation documents, other county plans like the Logan-Union-Champaign Economic Development plan, the Champaign County Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan and Emergency Response Plan; soil surveys and watershed Discovery Reports; various GIS maps showing waterways, land use designations, utilities and infrastructure; flood maps and other risk identifiers; as well as hazard incident statistics and demographic data from the county.

A Mitigation Planning Team list was developed by the Consultant, including names, positions, contact information and alternate contacts. While this list would expand over the duration of the project, the initial list included individuals in all of the above-mentioned organizations and agencies to ensure that the whole community was represented in mitigation planning activities.

1.1.2 Planning Team Meetings

Project Kick Off and Hazard Identification

The initial countywide planning meeting was held at the Champaign County EMA on February 5, 2019. At this meeting, representatives of all jurisdictions, many local government employees and elected officials, and other community stakeholders and representatives heard about the project timeline, goals, and requirements. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, provide input, make requests for later meetings, and share their concerns in a countywide setting. Stakeholders were asked to complete worksheets that identified hazards and consequences affecting their jurisdiction. This process included a discussion of the hazards that impact each community, the type and severity of damages, and overall vulnerability. Stakeholders completed worksheets that characterized storms and other incidents by frequency, severity/magnitude, damages, and protective actions taken. They also provided feedback on the consequences of each hazard. This work followed discussion about the hazard

consequences, and the Consultant and EMA staff were available for questions throughout the session. While participants completed worksheets in jurisdictional groups, the discussions were county-wide, involving all present, and the effects of hazards countywide was considered and discussed.

On February 27, 2019 the EMA staff and the Consultant attended the Champaign County Township Trustee and Municipal Official's winter quarterly meeting to again discuss the project and collect information. Because this group included different individuals than the kick-off meeting, additional questions were asked about hazards, vulnerabilities, and damages. This meeting reached many county officials who did not attend the kick-off, most of the county's township trustees, and several township fiscal officers.

Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Work Sessions

The risk and vulnerability assessment phase focused on research and information gathering. Jurisdiction-specific work sessions were conducted to identify local vulnerability and analyze the impact of incidents on each jurisdiction.

On March 4 and 5, 2019, the Consultant and EMA staff met with individual jurisdictions to discuss hazard vulnerability and critical infrastructure protection needs. They also addressed the status of mitigation actions identified in the previous mitigation plan. Participants provided input regarding critical assets and infrastructure, areas with specific or heightened risk or vulnerability, and areas where mitigating actions would have a positive effect on future disaster loss in each jurisdiction. Discussions addressed vulnerabilities across the entire county as well as within the specific jurisdiction. Participants included mayors, administrators, city/village council members, trustees, fiscal officers, road/street department employees, law enforcement officials, fire service personnel, water and wastewater treatment facility staff, farmers, and other key jurisdiction employees.

Work sessions were also conducted with the county engineer to discuss waterway and roadway maintenance and damages; Soil and Water Conservation District staff to discuss agricultural conservation and preservation practices that protect land and soils; and economic development officials to discuss the integration of mitigation into development concerns and activities. These sessions focused on gathering risk and vulnerability information and discussing the impact of disasters relative to each group's specific area of expertise.

Mitigation Strategy Development Work Sessions

Mitigation strategy sessions focused on developing mitigation goals and strategies for each jurisdiction. The Consultant prepared a worksheet for strategy selection by jurisdiction officials that was customized to the risks and vulnerabilities of each jurisdiction. As participants selected, modified, and added strategies for their jurisdiction, they prioritized the hazards by severity of the damages typically incurred and by the impact on human lives and property. A hazard that is likely to cause death or injury ranked higher than one that does not result in loss of life. Property damage that prevented residents and businesses from utilizing their property ranked higher than less inhibiting damage. Incidents that damaged natural resources and key

assets that could not be restored to the original condition were more highly ranked than those that could be repaired. Strategies that apply to specific groups, such as agriculture, natural resources, county and township infrastructure, and specific activities such as community development were discussed in both jurisdictional meetings and special interest group sessions.

Because strategies would be assigned to jurisdictions, the attachment of each strategy to a key stakeholder within the jurisdiction was determined by jurisdiction officials. All assignments of strategies were done within the jurisdictional staff of elected and appointed officials; the stakeholders felt they had control only over their own employees and officials. No assignments were made to federal or state employees or agencies, and none were assigned to private entities or non-profit organizations outside the purview of the county or municipality.

Each strategy included a timeline for completion; for most, this began with adoption of the plan and continued for the duration of the five-year plan period. Because stakeholders do not have control over grant availability, cannot foresee the particular hazards that will impact the jurisdiction in the near future, and do not know what competing priorities may influence the ability to complete mitigation strategies, this was the most logical approach.

Final Plan Review

After completion of the hazard identification and risk assessment and developing mitigation strategies, the final draft plan was completed and the plan review process commenced. A final countywide review meeting was held on June 5. This meeting was attended by jurisdictions, special interest groups, agencies and organizations, and individuals across Champaign County. At this meeting, the Consultant explained the plan's structure and organization. They also discussed formal plan adoption, annual plan maintenance and updates, and encouraged jurisdictions to review strategies at any time, especially after significant incidents. The planning team was informed of the public review period scheduled for June 6 – 23, 2019, encouraged to review and comment on the plan, and share it with others in their jurisdiction.

Table 1-1 includes a complete list of planning team meetings and work sessions conducted throughout the planning process.

Table 1-1: Planning Team Meetings

Date	Location	Purpose	Participating Stakeholders
02/05/2019	Champaign County EMA	Project Kick Off/Initial Planning Meeting	Countywide Meeting
02/27/2019	Champaign County Trustees and Mayors Meeting	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Countywide Meeting
03/04/2019	Champaign County Engineer's Office	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Champaign County Engineer
03/04/2019	North Lewisburg Village Hall	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Village of North Lewisburg Village of Woodstock
03/04/2019	Mechanicsburg Village Hall	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Village of Mechanicsburg Village of Mutual
03/04/2019	Union Township Hall	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Union Township
03/05/2019	St. Paris Village Hall	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Village of St. Paris Village of Christiansburg
03/05/2019	Champaign County EMA	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
03/05/2019	Urbana City Hall Fire Department	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	City of Urbana
03/05/2019	Champaign Economic Partnership Office	Hazard Identification and Strategy Development	Champaign Economic Partnership; Community Imp. Corp.; Urbana Zoning
05/13/2019	Champaign County Engineer's Office	Strategy Development and Implementation	Champaign County Engineer
05/13/2019	North Lewisburg Village Hall	Strategy Development and Implementation	Village of North Lewisburg Village of Woodstock
05/13/2019	Mechanicsburg Village Hall	Strategy Development and Implementation	Village of Mechanicsburg Village of Mutual
05/13/2019	Champaign County EMA	Strategy Development and Implementation; Review and Adoption Process	Champaign County EMA
05/13/2019	Champaign County EMA	Strategy Development and Implementation	Countywide Meeting
05/14/2019	St. Paris Village Hall	Strategy Development and Implementation	Village of St. Paris Village of Christiansburg
05/14/2019	Urbana City Hall	Strategy Development and Implementation	City of Urbana
05/15/2019	Champaign County EMA	Strategy Development and Implementation	Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension; Nat. Resources Conservation; Ag.
05/15/2019	Champaign County EMA	Strategy Development and Implementation	Champaign County Public Health; Urbana Hospital; social agencies
06/05/2019	Champaign County EMA	Full Draft Plan Review	Countywide Meeting

1.2 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Because of Champaign County's population and number of jurisdictions, many people participated in the mitigation planning process. The EMA used a whole community approach to and reached out to a broad group of stakeholders to encourage participation in the mitigation planning team. An inclusive list of planning team members was developed with the intention of including all jurisdictions, organizations, and agencies with an interest or role in disaster mitigation.

Invitations to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team were extended to the following officials, leaders, and stakeholders from Champaign County:

- Incorporated jurisdictions (county, city, and village officials)
- Township representatives (trustees, fiscal officers)
- Specialized disciplines, including fire service, law enforcement, engineering, utilities, public health, healthcare, hospitals, business and industry, education and academia, nonprofits, social agencies, and the general public
- Elected officials, including the county auditor, treasurer, engineer, and commissioners
- Appointed officials, including the county floodplain manager, GIS mapping specialist, conservation specialists, development officials, fire chiefs, police chiefs, public health commissioners, extension agents
- Economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, and tourism bureaus
- Emergency management officials from adjacent counties
- Non-government agencies and community action groups
- Special interest groups such as watershed coalitions, conservancy districts, federal partners, and state agencies with facilities in the county
- Residents, businesses, and the general public

Stakeholders were advised that all planning activities were open to the public and any constituent or resident was welcome and encouraged to participate.

1.2.1 Jurisdiction Participation

All incorporated jurisdictions in Champaign County elected to participate in the countywide hazard mitigation plan. Champaign County has no border communities that are located in more than one county and have selected the alternate county for mitigation purposes.

For the purposes of plan adoption and potential grant administration, Champaign County is authorized to act on behalf of the townships. Most townships elected to participate in the planning work sessions and contributed significantly to the process. This broad participation ensured that all interests across the county, including rural and suburban areas, were represented. Because so many individuals fill more than one leadership role in the county, there was significant multi-jurisdictional consideration throughout the planning process, emphasizing the countywide focus of mitigation planning and implementation.

The officials identified in Table 1-2 served as the primary representative and point of contact for each jurisdiction. The EMA coordinated with these individuals to schedule work sessions.

Table 1-2: Participating Jurisdictions and Primary Representatives

Jurisdiction	Position/Title	Representative
COUNTY		
Champaign County	EMA Director	James Freeman
Champaign County	EMA Deputy Director	David Torsell
Champaign County	Commissioner	Steve Hess
Champaign County	Commissioner	David Faulkner
Champaign County	Commissioner	Bob Corbett
Champaign County	Engineer	Steve McCall
MUNICIPALITIES		
Christiansburg	Village Mayor	Chuck Lyons
Christiansburg	Council Member	Charles Fey
Christiansburg	Fiscal Officer	Theresa Lewis
North Lewisburg	Village Administrator	Andy Yoder
Mechanicsburg	Village Administrator	April Huggins-Davis
Mechanicsburg	Village Mayor	Greg Kimbell
Mutual	Mayor	William Brown
Mutual	Fiscal Officer	Judy Russell
St. Paris	Mayor	Brenda Cook
Woodstock	Village Administrator	Brad Herron
Urbana	City Administrator	Kerry Brugger
Urbana	City Engineer	Tyler Bumbalough

1.2.2 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

To encourage broad countywide participation in the planning process, a large group of stakeholders were included in the planning process. Using multiple information sources, including but not limited to EMA contact lists, jurisdiction and agency websites, and the Board of Elections, a master planning team of more than 65 people was developed. The master list identified the name, position, agency or jurisdiction, and contact information for each individual; it included representation from business and industry, community services, economic and community development, education, government, infrastructure and engineering, natural resources, and public safety.

Throughout the planning process, more than 70 people representing contributed to the planning process. The complete list of participating stakeholders is provided in Appendix A: Mitigation Planning Team.

The planning team's participation occurred over four phases of plan development: kick-off meeting, hazard identification and risk assessment, mitigation strategy development, and final plan review. The plan development schedule included several rounds of work sessions with additional small group meetings scheduled throughout, as described in section 1.1.2 above. The

EMA provided multiple opportunities for stakeholder participation that considered a wide variety of schedule conflicts, work situations, and other issues. Most meeting invitations were sent via e-mail as this was the quickest and most efficient communication method. When necessary, EMA staff reached out to stakeholders by phone, regular mail, or other communication mechanisms to ensure delivery of the information. The EMA and Consultant worked diligently to maintain a list of participants so those who had not yet been involved could be identified. The EMA then reached out to non-respondents individually to encourage them to participate.

1.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Throughout the planning process, the EMA identified comprehensive community participation as a priority. Utilizing FEMA's whole community planning concept, the EMA reached out to partners, jurisdiction officials, community organizations, and stakeholders across the community and invited them to participate and provide input through all phases of the planning process. Initially, the EMA and Consultant dedicated significant time to identifying contacts across all jurisdictions, subject-areas, and segments of the county and creating an accurate contact list of those individuals. Collectively, this list was referred to as the mitigation planning team, and they were invited to all work sessions throughout the process. Meetings and work sessions were also open to the public and participants were encouraged to attend all meetings that fit their schedule. Stakeholders were encouraged to invite others from their jurisdiction or agency, or the general public.

Each jurisdiction was asked to provide input about recent incidents, damage and casualties from storms and other hazards, prioritize the hazards in their jurisdiction, and assess how hazards impacting other jurisdictions might affect them. They were asked to identify the mitigation needs of the jurisdiction, including any action or project that might help reduce damages and decrease impact of any hazard. Special populations, critical infrastructure, and high-risk facilities were discussed in this context, and potential vulnerabilities were assessed. This information was compiled to develop the draft HIRA and strategies sections.

As the vulnerability statements and potential strategies were developed for each jurisdiction, draft documents were shared with the planning team. Jurisdictions were asked to share these documents with other officials, employees, and residents for feedback. Revisions were made as jurisdictions responded, including clarifications and expansion of some information.

Upon completion of the plan, a countywide plan review forum was conducted on June 5, 2019. This forum was open to the public and provided all stakeholders the opportunity to view and comment on the plan. It also provided an opportunity to discuss multi-jurisdictional implementation, ongoing countywide participation, and annual review by all jurisdictions in the coming five years. This meeting was followed by a formal public review period from June 6 – 23, 2019. The plan was posted on the Consultant's website through the entire review period. A printed copy was also available in the Champaign County EMA for anyone who preferred to view a printed copy of the plan.

The public was notified of the plan review forum and review period through notifications sent to planning team participants, letters to jurisdictions, a paid legal notice placed in the Urbana Daily Citizen, and a news release to local media outlets. All notifications included a link to view the plan online, the timeline for public review, and instructions for submitting comments and questions. Jurisdictions were encouraged to share plan review information on their websites and social media accounts.

The EMA Director and Consultant reviewed all comments and questions received through the review process and made appropriate revisions. Upon final revision, the plan was submitted to the Ohio EMA for state review before submission to FEMA for federal approval. Following federal approval, the formal adoption process began. This process is explained in section 4.0 Plan Adoption.

1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

Extensive research was conducted during the planning process. This included reviews of existing data, plans, and reports and detailed discussions with stakeholders and subject-matter experts.

To develop the county profile, various county and jurisdiction documents and plans were utilized. This research included information about community development, business and industry, land use regulations, and community life. Demographic and statistical information came from the U.S. Census Bureau and other government sources. Jurisdiction websites provided additional local information. Champaign County's comprehensive land use plan was consulted for information about individual communities, development goals, building and development restrictions and regulations, and countywide goals and objectives for community growth. The floodplain manager provided information about community participation in NFIP and CRS and communities provided jurisdictional documents and websites that confirmed and explained collaboration between jurisdictions and the county. Watershed plans and watershed discovery reports were consulted for information about local rivers, creeks, and streams.

The plan incorporates local disaster history and hazard occurrences through early 2019. This information was researched through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Storm Events Database, Ohio EMA, FEMA, Tornado History Project, Stanford University Dam Program, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and other federal, state, and private sources. This information was shared with stakeholders during planning team work sessions so that local knowledge of the impact, consequences, and recovery efforts of incidents was incorporated into the county's hazard history. Appendix B: Hazard and Vulnerability Data includes a complete list of all recorded occurrences of each hazard, organized by type.

The vulnerability assessment and risk analysis are based on multiple data sources. HAZUS projections helped establish potential losses in flood and earthquake incidents. FEMA records contained loss data based on federal disaster assistance provided in the county and the Ohio Enhanced Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft (2019) provided additional data and explanation.

Multiple sources provided information on Champaign County’s agriculture industry and natural resources, including watershed reports published by ODNR, US EPA documents, reports developed by local government agencies and watershed coalitions, and others as identified in Table 1-4. This information was combined with discussions with stakeholders and subject-matter experts to develop the mitigation plan. Local Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio State University Extension Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation District office provided information. The USDA agricultural census supplied data regarding agriculture and production.

The EMA Director provided documents, including GIS maps, building and zoning regulations, dam safety plans, contact lists for local officials, and an array of other specific pieces of information. The county engineer provided maps of ditches on county maintenance, lists and maps of roads and bridges in the county and information regarding the local watershed.

Table 1-4 identifies the references, reports, and studies utilized in plan development.

Table 1-4: Studies, Reports, and References

Document	Author/Agency	Date
2010 United States Census	US Census Bureau	2010
Federal Disaster Declaration Statistics	FEMA	2018
HAZUS Earthquake and Flood data	Ohio EMA	2012
Champaign County Engineer’s Annual Report	Champaign County Engineer	2017
Champaign County Public Transit Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan	Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley	2018
Champaign County Building Regulations	Champaign County	2011
North Lewisburg Comprehensive Plan	LUC Regional Planning	2002
Champaign County Comprehensive Land Use Plan	LUC Regional Planning	2004
Champaign County Profile	Ohio Department of Development, Office of Research	2017
North Central Ohio Solid Waste Management Plan Draft	GT Environmental, Inc.	2014
Ohio Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan	Ohio EMA	2014
Soil Survey of Champaign County, Ohio	US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service	1994
Storm Events Database	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	2018
Urbana Comprehensive Plan	LUC Regional Planning	2009
Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan	Champaign County EMA	2006
Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Update – unapproved	Champaign County EMA	2012
State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft	Ohio EMA	2019

1.5 PLAN MAINTENANCE

Plan maintenance is a critical element of the hazard mitigation plan. Regular plan maintenance establishes hazard mitigation as part of regular community development activities, provides a mechanism for the EMA to continually engage stakeholders in issues related to disaster risk reduction, and establishes a solid groundwork for the required five-year plan update. By reviewing disaster occurrences annually and assessing progress on mitigation activities, a five-year mitigation plan update can be a quick and efficient process. Champaign County intends to follow a regular plan maintenance schedule. The EMA will lead this effort and involve stakeholders, jurisdictions, and the community, laying a solid foundation for the next plan update.

1.5.1 Plan Maintenance Methodology

The most significant challenge in plan maintenance is stakeholder participation. Plan review meetings are not always well attended, leading to limited discussion of ongoing mitigation issues. Many stakeholders have competing demands on their time as they fill multiple roles in their communities and participation in plan review meetings is often a lower priority than other responsibilities. In an effort to address this challenge, Champaign County will adopt a plan maintenance methodology that utilizes multiple engagement and communication methods to meet the needs of community leaders. Specific activities will be selected based on what will elicit the most robust participation from stakeholders and can include, but will not be limited to, the following activities:

- Jurisdiction-based meetings in cities, villages and townships
- Countywide meetings at central locations
- Written or electronic surveys/questionnaires
- Webinars/conference calls
- Post-incident review following a significant incident

As with any planning activity, the EMA will maintain documentation of participation, copies of surveys, and other communication surrounding these events.

1.5.2 Annual Plan Review

The Mitigation Planning Team will be called upon to review, evaluate, and discuss the plan annually, beginning approximately one year after the final approval of the plan and annually until the formal plan update process begins. These annual plan maintenance discussions may be conducted through traditional in-person meetings or webinars, surveys, questionnaires, or other forms of communication. The specific methodology will be determined by the EMA based on what best meets the needs of stakeholders and is appropriate at that specific time. If the community has been impacted by multiple incidents during any year, a face-to-face session should be held after post-incident response critiques are held. A comprehensive review may involve different methods for different organizations. For example, county employees may be gathered to discuss the incident, while municipalities and townships may be sent written materials and asked to submit completed documents after review at their local meetings.

Regardless of the specific method, annual plan maintenance discussions will include an assessment of disaster incidents in the previous year and a summary of the resulting damages, costs, and recovery efforts. It will define any shortages, gaps in capabilities, ineffective loss prevention actions, and any mitigation projects that would have reduced losses or eliminated costs. Status reports on mitigation projects in progress and updates on each jurisdiction's mitigation strategies and actions will also be included. The EMA will maintain records of these discussions and develop an ongoing list of strategy modifications to be considered in the plan update. The report will identify any reduction in losses due to a successful mitigation strategy, action, or project implementation.

As part of the review process, jurisdictions will be asked to conduct an internal analysis of mitigation strategies and actions underway in their jurisdiction or identify strategies that should be added, modified, or deferred and provide the EMA with a report of these findings. The report will include an assessment of disaster incidents that occurred during the year, a summary of damages and recovery efforts and a status report on the adopted mitigation strategies. If a strategy has been completed, the jurisdiction will evaluate its effectiveness in reducing loss. This information will be shared with the mitigation planning team during the annual review process. The EMA will maintain a summary of these reports.

Along with these review activities, the EMA will complete an annual review of the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and note any necessary changes. Loss estimates will be evaluated for ongoing accuracy and any progress in development, changes in regulation, or other significant differences will be noted. The EMA will also identify any significant changes in the community. This could include, but is not limited to, property valuations, businesses or industries, agricultural practices, conservation practices, community development, or regulations. The EMA will also review the inclusion of mitigation in community development and make recommendations for changes to the county process that ensure mitigation strategies are included in the implementation of growth in the countywide community. The EMA Director may add other information at his/her discretion.

1.5.3 Community Participation

While the EMA is responsible for leading plan maintenance efforts, that process is only effective if stakeholders are engaged. Ongoing consideration of hazard mitigation critical to creating a resilient and sustainable community. It is the EMA's intention that the same stakeholders involved in plan development continue to participate in ongoing plan maintenance. Without their involvement, ongoing input will not be comprehensive or accurate. Therefore, all parties involved in developing this plan must perceive the annual review process as critical to the pre- and post-disaster welfare of the county. This was stressed to stakeholders throughout the plan development process.

Public involvement is an important component of ongoing mitigation efforts. Annual update meetings will be open to the public and community input will be encouraged. Public notices will be published through local media and appropriate websites and social media accounts of participating jurisdictions and agencies. Meeting announcements will include the date, time,

and location of the session and adequate notice so that people have reasonable time to plan their attendance. If surveys and other electronic tools are utilized to collect feedback from stakeholders, these documents will be made available to the community and instructions provided on how to utilize these tools. Any feedback received from the public will be reviewed by the EMA, which will also maintain documentation of public participation. The public should have open access to findings in annual reports as well as recommendations for future mitigation actions.

1.5.4 Integration with Community Planning Mechanisms

Community and economic development in Champaign County are handled by several cooperating entities with a broad reach into the various disciplines, businesses, and agencies in the county.

LUC Regional Planning Commission is a joint venture between Logan, Union, and Champaign Counties to engage in collaborative regional planning. LUC is a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) designated by Ohio Governor Kasich several years ago. The organization is involved in subdivision regulation development and enforcement, economic development, transportation development, zoning development and enforcement, and financial management of state and federal programs such as Community Development Block Grants. LUC works closely with all other local development agencies to, in part, prevent unwise development, and manage development in disaster prone high-risk areas. LUC is a membership organization. Urbana, Mechanicsburg, North Lewisburg, and St. Paris are members. Mutual, Woodstock, and Christiansburg are not. Adams, Goshen, Jackson, Johnson, Mad River, Rush, Salem, Union, Urbana and Wayne townships are members; Harrison and Concord are not.

Champaign County is zoned. Zoning is intended to guide appropriate location of commercial, agricultural, and residential entities across the county. A significant consideration in zoning approval is the impact of the potential business on local infrastructure, such as utilities, resources and roads. LUC encourages, by policy, consistency in zoning regulations between municipalities and townships, especially adjacent jurisdictions. They also advocate for consistency in all other regulation such as building codes, fire codes, and permit process.

The Champaign County Economic Development Corporation is part of the Champaign Economic Partnership, a public/private non-profit organization that serves the whole county. The Champaign Economic Partnership is doing business as the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation. Their strategic priorities include supporting industry, advocating for businesses, developing a strong workforce, collaborating with partners across the region, and connecting the business community with resources. They establish goals that take into account the strengths and weaknesses of the county's economic culture, needs of county residents, and wise use of the county's resources. They work collaboratively with the public schools, Urbana University, and the career-technical education system to positively influence workforce development as businesses and industries are recruited and retained in Champaign County.

With an office in Urbana, the Champaign Economic Partnership is a public/private non-profit that serves the whole county. As the Community Improvement Corporation for all of Champaign County, they work very closely with the various zoning and building officials in the county as well as the fire officials who assist with building plans and fire code enforcement. As a team, they work to ensure new developers that they are not building within flood plains or high-risk areas, and that business are positioned with easy access to services and infrastructure. They work with jurisdictions to develop housing, retail and support services that will provide for the employees and vendors of the business community.

The Champaign County EMA supports these development activities through participation in committees and workgroups. The EMA Director provides input in developing policies and procedures; creating and revising land use plans, economic development strategies, code enforcement policies and methods; and recruiting and retaining business across the county. Jurisdictions support the consideration of hazards and hazard mitigation as community development is planned, executed, and evaluated.

Champaign County community development officials attempt to appropriately locate entities in areas that serve their business needs, do not contribute to escalating casualty and loss due to storms and other disasters, and emphasize principles of wise land use. They concentrate on the preservation of agricultural land, protection of natural habitat, and proper use of resources and infrastructure.

Commercial development and electrical code compliance are fully regulated as part of Ohio law and floodplain regulations are strictly enforced. The State of Ohio issues plumbing permits. Local zoning officials review, approve, and inspect all other commercial construction and improvements. The county's current Land Use Plan identifies consideration of providing these inspection and enforcement services locally as a priority.

The Champaign County Land Use Plan recognizes that poorly drained soils may impact development and that mitigation measures are necessary to facilitate development in some areas. The plan encourages ditch maintenance programs to help with drainage and for agricultural use of field tile, conservation practices, and buffer zones along riparian corridors. The plan paints a strong advocacy for wise-use agricultural practices, and is supported by the Soil and Water Conservation District and individual farmers.

Champaign County's community growth is a widespread and shared responsibility. While the LUC Regional Planning, Community Improvement Corporation, Economic Development Partnership, and others take the lead in recruiting and developing new businesses, all county departments, jurisdictions, and businesses play a role in guiding that development. The county is large enough to have ample resources and expertise to succeed, but small enough that people and departments know one another, work together, and share both challenges and success.

The EMA Director monitors development through the agency's role in the development councils and through continual communication with jurisdiction officials, businesses and industries, and county officials. The Director works with fire departments that provide fire inspections, building officials who inspect construction, and business owners who execute growth initiatives. The Director has, for many years, been the primary voice of mitigation in county leadership roles, supported and enhanced by the Champaign County Commissioners and other elected officials.

The wide array of individuals involved in community development allows for a broad perspective in the development community in Champaign County. It facilitates wise development, measured growth, and true improvement without the addition of unanticipated hazard vulnerability.

1.5.5 Documentation of Plan Maintenance

The EMA will be responsible for maintaining documentation of all plan maintenance activities. This documentation should include attendance records for annual review meetings and events, contact lists of stakeholders invited to complete digital surveys, meeting notes and summaries, and recommendations from stakeholders for changes, additions, or deletions to the plan. Results from surveys and questionnaires, annual jurisdiction reports, and comments submitted by the public should also be maintained. All reports, documents, and files can be saved digitally. These records should be part of the data shared with the author of the next formal plan update.

1.5.6 Plan Update Cycle

The newly approved Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan will expire in 2024. With ongoing plan maintenance activities, the county should be positioned to submit an updated plan before the identified expiration date. To ensure the appropriate timeline is met, formal efforts to update the plan will begin in mid-2022. The EMA Director will ensure that the appropriate and necessary steps are taken to complete this process.