



SECTION 3. PLANNING PROCESS

2021 HMP Changes

- All aspects of the planning process were updated for the 2021 HMP.
- Public outreach was enhanced to reach a broader audience by using additional media outlets (Facebook, Twitter) and attending already-scheduled public webinars.
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings and workshops were not held. Virtual workshops and webinars were held for the Planning Partnership, along with one-on-one calls with the County and municipalities to update their annexes.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2016 Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved. To ensure that the plan meets requirements of the DMA 2000 and that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders, and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following goals:

- The HMP will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural and human-caused hazards facing Cape May County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in the DMA 2000.
- Cape May County will invite all municipalities in the County to join with them in the preparation of the Cape May County HMP. (The County and all municipalities are participating in the HMP as indicated in Table 3-1 below.)
- The plan will consider all natural hazards of concern facing the area, thereby satisfying the natural hazard mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000.
- The HMP shall be developed following the process outlined by the DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and prevailing FEMA and NJOEM guidance. Following this process ensures all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

Table 3-1. Participating Cape May County Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions		
Cape May County		
Avalon Borough	Middle Township	West Cape May Borough
Cape May City	North Wildwood City	West Wildwood Borough
Cape May Point Borough	Ocean City	Wildwood City
Dennis Township	Sea Isle City	Wildwood Crest Borough
Lower Township	Stone Harbor Borough	Woodbine Borough
	Upper Township	

The Cape May County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from local and regional agencies and staff, as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The HMP Steering and Planning Committees, together called the Planning Partnership, solicited



information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents and stakeholders.

This section describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of the Planning Process; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Public Participation; (4) Incorporation of Existing Data, Plans, and Technical Information; (5) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (6) Continued Public Involvement.

3.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Many parties supported the preparation of this HMP update: County officials, municipal officials, the Steering Committee, Planning Committee, stakeholders and planning consultant. This planning process does not represent the start of hazard risk management in the County; rather it is part of an ongoing process that various State, County and local agencies and individuals have continued to embrace. A summary of the past and ongoing mitigation efforts is provided in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy), as well as in Volume II Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes), to give an historical perspective of the County and local activities implemented to reduce vulnerability to hazards in the planning area.

This section of the HMP identifies how the planning process was organized with the many “planning partners” involved and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

3.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Recognizing the need to manage risk within the County, and to meet the requirements of the DMA 2000, the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management led the update to the 2016 Cape May County HMP. On February 3, 2020, Cape May County Office of Emergency Management signed the Grantee-Subgrantee Agreement (PDMC-PL-02-NJ-2018-003) between the State of New Jersey and Cape May County for funds to update the Cape May County HMP. The period of performance for this grant is from October 1, 2018 and ending April 1, 2022.

Project management and grant administration has been the responsibility of the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management. Cape May County has been proactive in supporting natural hazard mitigation. This update supported implementation of projects, provided the basis of the initial mitigation strategy update, and formed problem statements to focus efforts on identifying high priority mitigation projects to reduce vulnerability to hazards of concern for the planning area.

The County selected a contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech Inc. – Parsippany, NJ) to guide the County and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process. A contract between Tetra Tech Inc. (Tetra Tech) and the County was executed in April 2020. Specifically, Tetra Tech, the “contract consultant”, was tasked with:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and Planning Committee.
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program.
- Data collection.
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Steering Committee, Planning Committee, stakeholder, public and other).
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment.
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives.
- Assistance with the review of progress of past mitigation strategies.



- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions.
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions.
- Authoring of the draft and final HMP documents.

On July 2, 2020, Cape May County Office of Emergency Management notified all municipalities within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Municipalities were provided with a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations and asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate [via a Letter of Intent to Participate (LOIP)] and to identify a primary and secondary planning point of contact to serve on a Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community. In addition, each municipal Floodplain Administrator (FPA) was identified in the LOIP and requested to actively participate in the planning process. Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and Appendix B (Participation Documentation) detail contributions provided by the FPA. All jurisdictions returned their LOIP; refer to Appendix B for copies of their LOIPs.

Steering Committee (SC) is comprised of County and municipal representatives and stakeholders that guide and lead the HMP update process on behalf of the Planning Partnership.

Planning Committee (PC) is comprised of representatives from each participating jurisdiction (County and municipal).

Planning Partnership = SC + PC

To facilitate HMP development, with support from their contract planning consultant, Cape May County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort, and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. The Steering Committee consisted of state, county, and local officials and non-government organizations (refer to Table 3-2 for a list of Steering Committee members). All municipalities participating in the plan update authorized the Steering Committee to perform certain activities on their behalf, via the LOIP. Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with:

- Providing guidance and overseeing the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.
- Establishing a timeline for completion of the plan;
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
- Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern,
- Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program,
- Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
- Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals and objectives,
- Identification and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities; and
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.
- Ensuring that the plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000, FEMA, and NJOEM guidance.
- The organizational structure was successfully implemented for the 2021 HMP updated consistent with the development of the initial 2016 planning process. The Steering Committee representation of non-municipal organizations was greatly expanded for the 2021 HMP. The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area. The members of the Steering Committee worked to maintain continuity of the process throughout the process, to overcome the issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Table 3-2. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee

Organization	Name	Title
Cape May County Office of Emergency Management	Marty Pagliughi	OEM Director
	John Edwards	OEM Deputy Director
Cape May County Planning	Leslie Gimeno	Director
	Jason Downie	GIS Specialist
Cape May County Public Works and Engineering	Robert Church	County Engineer
Cape May County Health Department	Kevin Thomas	Public Health Coordinator
Cape May County MUA	Joseph Rizzuto	Executive Director
	John Conturo	Solid Waste Program Manager
	Josh Palombo	Wastewater Program Manager
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (JCNERR)	Vanessa Dornisch	Coastal Training Program Coordinator
New Jersey Coastal Coalition	Tom Quirk	Executive Director
	Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr.	Founding Member
Cape-Atlantic Sustainable Jersey Hub	Ralph Cooper	Chair
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce	Vicki Clark	Director
Stockton University Coastal Research Center	Dr. Stewart Farrell	Director
Cape May MAC	Tom Carroll	President
	Jody Alessandrine	Director
Wetlands Institute	Lenore Tedesco	Executive Director
Heist Insurance	Thomas Heist	CEO
Ford Scott Associates	Leon Costello	Partner
Halliday Architects	Chris Halliday	Principal
Cape May Lutheran	Rev. Jeff Elliot	Pastor
	Andrew Lewis	Freelance Environmental Journalist
Avalon Borough	Scott Wahl	Business Administrator
Lomax Consulting Group	Joseph Lomax	Partner/Executive Vice President
Mott MacDonald	Thomas Thornton	Engineer
Press of Atlantic City	Joe Martucci	Meteorologist
NJ Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy	Meghan Wren	Area Planner

As part of the initial outreach to each municipality, the County outlined the planning partner expectations that outlined the responsibilities of the participants and asked each municipality to complete a LOIP if they chose to participate. By submitting the LOIP to Cape May County, each municipality authorized the Steering Committee to represent the municipality in the completion of certain portions of the planning elements. All municipalities in the County agreed to participate. Table 3-3 lists the current members of the Planning Partnership (Steering Committee and Planning Committee), at the time of this HMP’s publication. Please note that Steering Committee members are also part of the overall project Planning Partnership, fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Cape May County and the participating jurisdictions. This planning partnership (Steering and Planning Committees) were charged with the following:



- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process and assure participation expectations are met by their community.
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works).
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data.
- Support and promote the public involvement process.
- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable.
- Identify, develop, and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.
- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations.
- Develop and author a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction.
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update when requested.
- Adopt, implement, and maintain the plan update.

Table 3-3. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership (Steering Committee and Planning Committee)

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee*
Cape May County Office of Emergency Management	Marty Pagliughi	OEM Director	Steering Committee Member
	John Edwards	OEM Deputy Director	Steering Committee Member
Cape May County Planning	Leslie Gimeno	Director	Steering Committee Member
	Jason Downie	GIS Specialist	Steering Committee Member
Cape May County Public Works and Engineering	Robert Church	County Engineer	Steering Committee Member
Cape May County Health Department	Kevin Thomas	Public Health Coordinator	Steering Committee Member
Cape May County MUA	Joseph Rizzuto	Executive Director	Steering Committee Member
	John Conturo	Solid Waste Program Manager	Steering Committee Member
	Josh Palombo	Wastewater Program Manager	Steering Committee Member
New Jersey Coastal Coalition	Tom Quirk	Executive Director	Steering Committee Member
	Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr.	Founding Member	Steering Committee Member
Cape-Atlantic Sustainable Jersey Hub	Ralph Cooper	Chair	Steering Committee Member
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce	Vicki Clark	Director	Steering Committee Member
Stockton University Coastal Research Center	Dr. Stewart Farrell	Director	Steering Committee Member
Cape May MAC	Tom Carroll	President	Steering Committee Member
	Jody Alessandrine	Director	Steering Committee Member
Wetlands Institute	Lenore Tedesco	Executive Director	Steering Committee Member
Heist Insurance	Thomas Heist	CEO	Steering Committee Member
Ford Scott Associates	Leon Costello	Partner	Steering Committee Member
Halliday Architects	Chris Halliday	Principal	Steering Committee Member
Cape May Lutheran	Rev. Jeff Elliot	Pastor	Steering Committee Member
N/A	Andrew Lewis	Freelance Environmental Journalist	Steering Committee Member
Lomax Consulting Group	Joseph Lomax	Partner/Executive Vice President	Steering Committee Member



Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee*		
Mott MacDonald	Thomas Thornton	Engineer	Steering Committee Member		
Press of Atlantic City	Joe Martucci	Meteorologist	Steering Committee Member		
NJ Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy	Meghan Wren	Area Planner	Steering Committee Member		
Avalon Borough	Scott Wahl	Business Administrator	Steering Committee Member		
Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
Cape May County	Marty Pagliughi	OEM Director	X		
	John Edwards	OEM Deputy Director		X	
Cape May City	Jerry Inderwies, Jr.	City Manager	X	-	-
	Joseph Picard	PW Superintendent	-	X	-
	Louis Belasco	Floodplain Manager	-	-	X
Borough of Cape May Point	Ed Grant	Borough Administrator	X	-	-
	Anita vanHeeswyk	Commissioner		X	-
	Lou Belasco	Floodplain Administrator	-	-	X
Township of Dennis	John Berg	Emergency Management Coordinator	X	-	-
	Jessica Bishop	Administrator		X	-
	Michael Morano	Construction Official	-		X
Township of Lower Township	Ed Donohue	OEM Director	X	-	-
	Gary Douglass	Deputy OEM Director	-	X	-
	Gary Playford	Construction Official	-	-	X
Township of Middle Township	Sean McDevitt	Chief EMT/EMC/EMS	X	-	-
	Rachel Shepherd	Land Use Administrator- Construction/Zoning	-	X	-
	Salvatore DiSimone	Floodplain Manager	-	-	X
City of North Wildwood	Ronald C. Simone III	City Administrator	X	-	-
	Robert Matteucci	OEM Dep. Director	-	X	-
	Ralph Petrella, PE	City Engineer/Floodplain Manager	-	-	X
City of Ocean City	Frank Donato	OEM Coordinator	X	-	-
	Vincent Bekier	Director Operations & Engineering	-	X	-
	Mike Koochembere	Building Subcode Official	-	-	X
City of Sea Isle City	Michael Jargowsky	OEM Coordinator	X	-	-
	Thomas D'Intino	Deputy OEM Coordinator	-	-	X
	Cornelius Byrne, CFM	Construction Official/CRS Coordinator	-	-	X
Borough of Stone Harbor	Robert Smith	Borough Administrator	X	-	-
	Jonathan Lakose	OEM Coordinator	-	X	-
	Ray Poudrier	Construction Official/CFM	-	-	X
Township of Upper Township	Paul Dietrich	Municipal Engineer	X	-	X
	Scott Morgan	Director OEM	-	X	-
Borough of West Cape May	Paul Mulligan	Emergency Management Coordinator	X	-	-
	Suzanne Schumann	Municipal Clerk	-	X	-



Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee*		
	Lou Belasco	Tax Assessor/CRS Coordinator	-	-	X
Borough of West Wildwood	Jacquelyn Ferentz	OEM Coordinator	X	-	-
	Lew Ostrander	Zoning Official	-	X	-
	John Fearheller	Floodplain Administrator/Assistant to Public Works Administrator	-	-	X
City of Wildwood	Daniel Dunn	OEM Coordinator	X	-	-
	Steve Booy	Zoning Officer, NFIP Administrator	-	X	X
Borough of Wildwood Crest	Ron Harwood	Office of Emergency Management	X	-	-
	Constance Mahon	Business Administrator	-	X	-
	Patrick Malia	Floodplain Manager	-	-	X
Borough of Woodbine	William Pikolycky	Mayor/OEM Coordinator	X	-	-
	Louis Ciabatoni	Deputy OEM Coordinator	-	X	-
	Bruce Graham	Borough Engineer	-	-	X

*The Steering Committee was made up both government and non-government agencies and departments. The Committee was made up of 60% non-governmental agencies.

The jurisdictional LOIP identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. The jurisdictions in Cape May County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the hazard risks being considered in this plan. Cape May County’s intent was to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of plan participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee and engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the planning process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and to provide additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex (chapter) of the HMP (Section 9) wherein the jurisdictions have identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk; and eventually by the adoption of the updated plan via resolution.

Appendix B (Participation Documentation) identifies those individuals who represented their jurisdictions during this planning effort and indicates how they contributed to the planning process. This matrix is intended to give a broad overview of who attended meetings and when input was provided. All participants were encouraged to attend the Kick-off Meeting, Risk Assessment Meeting, and Mitigation Action Workshop. During the planning process the planning consultant contacted each participant to offer support, explain the process, meet individually to collect updated information and to facilitate the submittal and review of critical documents.

Community Rating System (CRS)

11 out of 16 communities in the County participate in CRS:

- Borough of Avalon – Class 3
- City of Cape May – Class 5
- Borough of Cape May Point – Class 6
- Township of Lower – Class 7
- City of North Wildwood – Class 6
- City of Ocean City – Class 4
- City of Sea Isle – Class 3
- Borough of Stone Harbor – Class 5
- Township of Upper – Class 5
- Borough of Wildwood Crest – Class 6
- City of Wildwood – Class 5



All municipalities actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and have designated NFIP Floodplain Administrators (FPA). All known FPAs were informed of the planning process, were provided the opportunity to review the plan including the jurisdictional annex and provide direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the Points of Contact and Administrative and Technical portions of the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

3.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

A summary of committee meetings (Steering Committee and Planning Partnership) held and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in Table 3-4 that also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (e.g., agendas, sign-in sheets, meeting notes) are in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Table 3-4 identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect all planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between the County, committee members, and the contract consultant through individual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership as described in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance). The Planning Partnership is responsible for reviewing the HMP and soliciting and considering public comment as part of the five-year mitigation plan update.

This table summarizes a list of mitigation planning activities and meetings and their respective participants. A more detailed list of participants for each meeting is provided in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Refer to DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390) for details on each of the planning requirements (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1524-20490-1790/dma2000.pdf>).

Table 3-4. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities / Efforts

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	CRS Activity 510 Step	Description of Activity	Participants
November 2018	1b, 2	-	County approves resolution to apply for FEMA mitigation planning grant	County and CMCOEM
March 2020	1b, 2	-	County conducts procurement process for contract planning support	County and CMCOEM
May 27, 2020	N/A	-	Pre-Kick Off Meeting with County	CMCOEM and Tetra Tech
June 23, 2020	2	1	All municipalities invited to participate in the planning process.	CMCOEM, all municipal governments
June 24, 2020	1b, 1c, 2, 3a, 4a	1, 2, 3	<u>Steering Committee #1</u> : Review of mitigation; Review of Steering Committee guidelines; Project schedule and data request; Hazards of concern review and updated; Stakeholders identified;	See Appendix C



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	CRS Activity 510 Step	Description of Activity	Participants
			Outreach was discussed (social media, website, brochures); Review of goals and objectives.	
July 15, 2020	1b, 2, 3a-c, 3e, 4a, 4b	1, 2	<u>Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting</u> – open to the public: Importance of mitigation and HMP; Participation Requirements; Review of Steering Committee decisions on June 24; Hazards of concern identification and previous events discussion.	See Appendix C
August 11, 2020	2, 4a, 4b, 4c	-	<u>Annex Guidance Webinar</u> – Municipal representatives were trained on how to provide data and information to fill out the capability assessment portion of their municipal annexes, identify problem areas, and update progress on previous actions.	See Appendix C
August 11, 2020	1b	2, 3	Cape May County emails neighboring counties and stakeholders, requesting their input through surveys and future review and comments on the future draft plan.	See Appendix D
August 12, 2020	1b, 2, 3a, 4a	6	<u>Steering Committee #2</u> : Project status update; confirmation of hazards of concern, critical facilities identification, goals and objectives exercise, SWOO exercise.	See Appendix C, Refer to Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy)
August 12, 2020	1b	2	Cape May Herald runs press release on the update of the HMP and opportunities for public participation.	
August 29, 2020	1b	2	Press of Atlantic City runs press release on the update of the HMP and opportunities for public participation.	See Appendix D
September 10, 2020	1b, 2	2	<u>Public Webinar</u> – Presented on the HMP update, planning process, and opportunities for the public to provide input.	See Appendix C and D
September 21, 2020	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	4	<u>Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting</u> – Presentation of draft risk assessment results, hazard ranking exercise.	See Appendix C
September 23, 2020	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	4	<u>Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting</u> – Presentation of draft risk assessment results, hazard ranking exercise.	See Appendix C
October 14, 2020	2, 4a, 4b, 4c	5, 7	<u>Annex Support Meeting</u> – Discussed annexes and introduced the mitigation strategy development and action worksheets.	See Appendix C
October 28, 2020	1b, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c	5, 7	<u>Planning Partnership Mitigation Strategy Workshop</u> – Review of FEMA and State mitigation strategy requirements; Problem statement development; Mitigation resources distributed including mitigation catalog and critical facility/lifeline risk assessment results; Review of Mitigation Action Worksheets.	See Appendix C
January 11, 2021	1b, 2	2	<u>Public Webinar</u> – Presented on the draft HMP update and opportunities for the public to provide input.	See Appendix C and D
January 25, 2021	1b, 2	8	Draft HMP posted to public project website All plan participants were notified and asked to assist with the public outreach including social media. Letters to neighboring Counties were distributed.	Public and Stakeholders
March 5, 2021	2	-	HMP submitted to NJOEM and FEMA Region II	NJOEM, FEMA Region II
Upon plan approval by FEMA	1a	-	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating municipalities	All plan participants

Notes:

Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body

1b – Public Participation





2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

Each number in column 3 identifies specific CRS 510 Plan requirements, as follows:

- 1 – organize to prepare the plan
- 2 – involve the public
- 3 – coordinate with other agencies
- 4 – assess the hazard
- 5 – assess the problem
- 6 – set goals
- 7 – review possible activities
- 8 – draft an action plan

3.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders are the individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions that have a vested interest in the recommendations of the HMP, including all planning partners. Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout the planning process. This HMP update includes information and input provided by these stakeholders where appropriate, as identified in the references.

This subsection discusses the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this HMP update, and how these stakeholders participated and contributed. This summary listing does not represent the total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process:

- All Planning Partnership meetings were open to the public and advertised via the Cape May County HMP website (<https://www.capemaycounty2020hmp.com/>).
- Municipalities were provided outreach materials to post on their websites, social media platforms, and distribute printed materials.
- Distributed a stakeholder survey and neighboring county survey to provide input regarding vulnerabilities, capabilities and mitigation projects.
- Held one-on-one teleconference meetings with stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the work and projects they do in Cape May County.
- Posted draft plan on the Cape May County HMP website and advertised using social media platforms.
- Email correspondence to regional stakeholders and neighboring counties to review the draft HMP and provide input.

3.3.1 Federal, State and County Agencies

The following describes the various departments and agencies that were involved during the planning process.

Federal Agencies

Please see Appendix B (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding federal agency participation. All responses to the stakeholder surveys may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).



FEMA Region II: Provided updated planning guidance; provided summary and detailed NFIP data for planning area; attended meetings and presented at the October 2020 Mitigation Strategy Workshop; and conducted plan review.

Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this plan update were requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

State Agencies

Please see Appendix B (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding state agency participation. All responses to the surveys may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM): Administered the planning grant; provided updated planning guidance; attended the June 2020 Steering Committee Meeting, July 2020 Kickoff Meeting, September 2020 Risk Assessment Meeting, October 2020 Mitigation Strategy Workshop, and January 2021 Draft Plan Presentation; and provided review of the draft HMP update.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: Provided information regarding dams in Cape May County; provided the Community Assistance Visit dates and associated NFIP information for all jurisdictions.

County Departments

Several County departments were represented on the Steering Committee and involved in the HMP update planning process. Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. All responses to the stakeholder surveys are in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

- Cape May County Office of Emergency Management
- Cape May County Department of Planning
- Cape May County Public Works and Engineering
- Cape May County Health Department
- Cape May County MUA

County and Regional Agencies and Commissions and Non-Profits

County

Several County departments were represented on the Steering Committee and actively involved in the HMP update planning process; refer to Table 3-2. As previously noted, Steering Committee members were invited to all meetings, were provided updates via email communication and invited to review the draft HMP.



3.3.2 Regional and Local Stakeholders

All Planning Partnership meetings were announced on the Cape May County HMP project website and posted on social media to invite residents and stakeholders. In addition, the County and municipal representatives emailed regional and local stakeholders requesting their participation in stakeholder sector-specific surveys to provide input on vulnerable assets, capabilities, and current/potential future mitigation projects; and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. Refer to Appendix C (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agency attendance at meetings and Appendix D for additional details on the public and stakeholder outreach, including responses received to the surveys.

Emergency Services

Numerous Municipal OEM Coordinators participated as points of contact for municipalities and contributed to the plan. Emergency services stakeholders were contacted directly by Cape May County and participating municipalities to take a stakeholder survey which included capabilities, vulnerabilities and mitigation projects/actions. The following completed the survey:

- Cape May County Urban Search and Rescue Team
- Villas Fire Company
- Cape May Court House Fire Department
- Borough of Avalon Emergency Management Coordinator
- Borough of Wildwood Crest Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Official
- Goshen Volunteer Fire Company
- City of Cape May Fire Department
- Erma Volunteer Fire Company
- North Wildwood Office of Emergency Management
- North Wildwood Fire Department
- Sea Isle City Office of Emergency Management
- Sea Isle City Police Department
- Seaville Fire Rescue
- Township of Upper Office of Emergency Management

Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities

Hospitals and healthcare facilities that serve the County were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. No responses were received.

Transportation and Public Works

Many municipal public works departments participated as points of contact for municipalities and contributed to the plan. In addition, municipal, county and state transportation and public works departments were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. The following completed the survey:

- Cape May County Public Works and Engineering – in addition to completing the survey, the department provided representation on the 2021 HMP update Steering Committee, attended meetings, and reviewed the plan.
- North Wildwood Department of Public Works
- Borough of Stone Harbor Department of Public Works

Utilities

Utility providers for the County were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. No responses were received.



Business and Commerce

Businesses and commercial industries were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. The following completed the survey:

- Cape May Brewing Company

Academia

Schools, universities and other academia institutions were asked to complete the stakeholder survey. The following completed the survey:

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cape May
- Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve – in addition to completing the survey, the coastal training program coordinator served on the Steering Committee for the 2021 HMP update, attended meetings, and reviewed the plan.

Adjacent Counties

Cape May County has made an effort to keep surrounding counties and municipalities apprised of the project and allowed the opportunity to provide input to this planning process. Specifically, the following adjoining and nearby county representatives were contacted in August 2020 to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys, and to invite them to provide input to the planning process.

- Atlantic County, New Jersey
- Cumberland County, New Jersey
- Sussex County, Delaware – survey response submitted

3.3.3 Stakeholder Survey Summary

The following provides a summary of the results and feedback received by stakeholders who completed the survey. Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and integrated where appropriate in the plan.

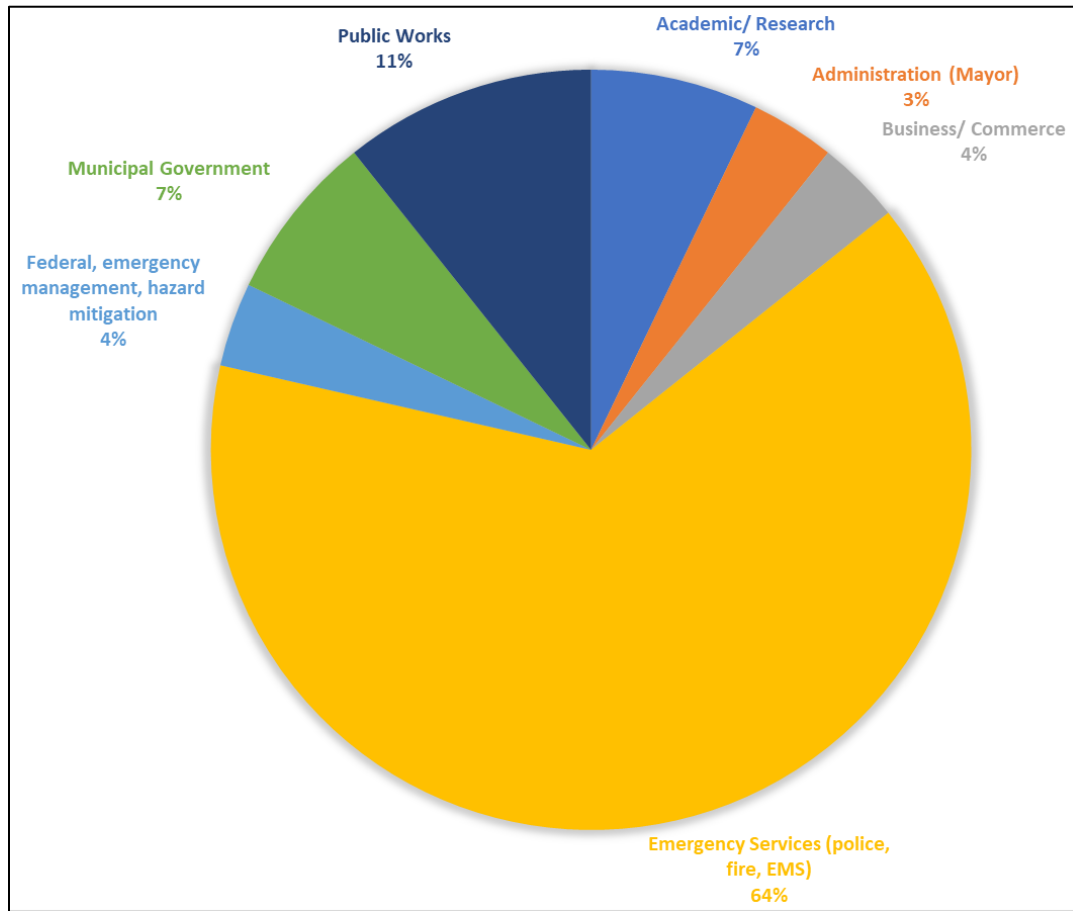
Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey was designed to help identify general needs for hazard mitigation and resiliency within Cape May County from its perspective, as well as to identify specific projects that may be included in the mitigation plan. It was distributed to identified stakeholders, including the various county and municipal departments and agencies in the county. As of January 12, 2021, 28 stakeholders completed the survey, with a majority of respondents (64%) in the emergency services category (Figure 3-1).

The Stakeholder Survey was broken down into 4 sections: Hazard and Damage Identification, Community Preparedness, Project Identification, and COVID-19, each detailed below. Survey results were shared with the Steering Committee and Planning Partnerships in scheduled meetings for consideration in the development of mitigation strategies.



Figure 3-1. Summary of Stakeholder Sector



Hazard and Damage Identification

The majority (57%) of survey respondents identified that buildings and facilities belonging to their organization have been impacted by a natural hazard, specifically severe weather events and flooding. Areas along beaches and other low-lying areas, including barrier islands, were identified as vulnerable to flooding and erosion. Specific areas identified include Diamond Beach, County Route 619, Cape May Point, and the Delaware side of Lower Township.

With facilities having been previously impacted by hazard events, over half (56%) of respondents indicated that their facilities and transportation infrastructure are adequately prepared for withstanding natural disasters. However, the majority (57%) of respondents indicated that their utility infrastructure and service were not adequately equipped to withstand disasters and do not have the ability to provide interrupted service to the facilities. Most (79%) survey respondents indicated that they were aware of the number and location of vulnerable populations in their community; however, additional information about these populations is needed.

Community Preparedness

The majority of respondents (61%) believe that local public education and awareness programs are effective at informing residents about disasters and preparedness and reducing personal risk. However, 29% of respondents believe that the programs are not effective. Just over half (54%) of respondents think that the public, particularly vulnerable populations are aware of, understand, and take advantage of emergency warning systems. Only about one third of the respondents indicated that they believe private businesses in the community play a direct critical



role in their organization's operation and daily function. More survey participants (47%) do not believe that private businesses in the community play a direct role in their organization's operations and daily function, while 10% of respondents do not know.

Most respondents (97%) stated that their organization has an emergency response plan, with over half (65%) of those respondents indicating that their plan covers potential impacts from a pandemic. When asked about additional plans, the respondents indicated the following:

- 86% are covered by an emergency operations plan
- 54% are covered by a continuity of operations plan
- 40% are covered by a continuity of government plan
- 40% are covered by an evacuation plan; and
- 14% were unsure of any plans

Project Identification

Respondents identified the following projects or programs that could reduce their organization's vulnerability to damages, including operation of service:

- Tree plans and debris management plan.
- Improvements to emergency services facilities and maintain infrastructure.
- Bolster digital technology and cloud capabilities for remote work.
- Continual training.

The following were identified as recently implemented projects that reduced vulnerabilities to hazard events:

- Emergency generators have been added or upgraded.
- Liberal use of telework during the pandemic, acquiring more remote work/collaboration software/tools, use of virtual deployments.
- New remote work programs for COVID allow continuity of services for events.
- Tide flex valve R&R; video inspection of all storm water system piping; proper maintenance of the entire storm water system; repairing problem areas.
- New development flood resiliency requirements (active and ongoing); electronic data and files backups in safe locations (active and ongoing); third party contracts for resources and damage mitigation and repair (active and ongoing); beach and dune re-nourishment (active and ongoing).
- The Borough is in the process of installing flood siren and signs.
- We started a program for any storm we automatically storm standby and clear all access roads of trees a debris where most fire depts won't cut trees and assist with trying to keep roads passable.
- Flood management; RFP for public safety facility.
- Beach Replenishment; installed Bulkhead adjacent to beach, storm drain repair on Delaware Avenue; street end bulkhead repairs; seawall Repairs; pump station project Old New Jersey (not yet complete).
- Army Corp recently dredged sand onto our beaches. Elevation of County Road 625; installation of water pumps in vulnerable areas.
- Generator installed at our Municipal Building; bulkhead replaced on Lake Lily which collects storm water to be pumped away.
- CODE RED System for early warning; OTT Hydro system for tidal information for our barrier island (Strathmere); CERT program education of our residents; Storm ready Community; CRS program; Storm water program; Army Corps Beach replenishment programs Strathmere Beach.
- The construction of the bulkhead on the ocean front, beach replenishment projects, and pumping stations.



- City of Cape May received Beach replenishment in the Spring of 2020 (Coast Guard Beach) and a Fall Replenishment is scheduled for Fall of 2020 in the Cove Area.
- We installed Flood zone signs
- Hazard Mitigation Plan, Stormwater improvements, infrastructure improvements, flood prone planning.

Respondents were also asked to detail how their organization has been involved in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents detailed the following:

- Responsible for coordinating a whole of government response to the pandemic, including the response in New Jersey.
- Documents and plans in effect to continue operations during the pandemic.
- All of our educational activities are now virtual.
- We started a CDC approved cleaning and maintaining of all public restroom facilities. Increased sanitation of buildings and common areas. Practice social distancing with staff. Maintain social distancing and wear a face mask when dealing with the public. Some positions were rotated to remote work schedules.
- First respondents for Police, Fire, EMS.
- Coordinating requests for supplies from FEMA via the County OEM
- Working with our County OEM in procurement of PPE and applying for federal money for equipment used to communicate COVID related information such as sign boards.
- Protecting the public and assisting the business community.
- Assisting in transportation of County Health Department supplies.
- Immediately closed municipal buildings to the public. We have been able to conduct all business without interruption.
- Public Works has worked continuously during COVID.
- Coordinated emergency efforts since the beginning of event since early March 2020.
- We are responsible for Public Safety and have to monitor behavior of businesses and persons for compliance with Executive Orders and DOH guidance.
- Education, Transparency with information, mask wearing, social distancing, limiting contact in municipal facilities.

Respondents also answered with the following about how they believed the COVID-19 pandemic will reshape their organization's practices and business framework. A sample of the responses are provided below:

- All employees are wearing masks, move to outdoor seating only, sanitization more frequently, work from home when available, practice social distancing, not leaving the state.
- I believe many in person meetings will now be conducted virtually.
- Yes, we are re-defining continuity plans in the light of this.
- It will have no effect as we already practice basic safety precautions & take universal precautions with every call as we are exposed every time we go out on an emergency.
- Continue to be vigilant towards any aspects related to COVID and potential future pandemics. Continue to protect our manpower through questioning techniques and proper attire including masks and gloves. Tyvek suits if we encounter an individual who is positive with the COVID.
- Improve sanitation practices, evaluate emergency calls with less close personal interaction, require appropriate PPE be worn when close interaction is unavoidable, permit photographic evidence of code compliance in accordance with state rules.
- All Employees must wear mask and check temperature when arriving for work at the Ems. The Borough has installed hand sanitizer thru out buildings to improve sanitation.
- Decontamination procedures and separation.



- While we were prepared with several thousand N-95 surgical masks the rubber straps that hold the mask to your face had rotted in storage rendering them useless. We have to check emergency stockpiles on a regular basis. Being we only have a few employees/volunteers only real change regards limiting access to the offices.
- More attention to PPE for all first responders and practicing best standards to protect patients and contacts in all instances.
- Municipal owned buildings closed to the public, mask wearing, sanitization.
- We have increased our stockpile of PPE which was previously non-existent; Employees were masks in and out of the building and follow all CDC COVID 19 guidelines. We fog our buildings and equipment with BIOBLAST on a regular basis.
- We have altered our Operations Procedures to adapt to the Pandemic.
- Improved safety precautions, enhanced personal hygiene acts and overall smarter practices to remain safe.

The following services and infrastructure needs were identified by respondents as needing to be built or improved upon within their communities in order to mitigate damages experienced by the pandemic:

- Maybe more PPE production locally, training for healthcare workers (especially those in nursing homes), surge capacity for medical facilities (on site seems to be a better model than alternate care facilities), improved communication on prevention measures (e.g. wearing masks, social distance, washing hands), plans for school closures and remote learning (esp. support for working parents), increased access to local green/open space (important for mental/physical health) and increased transportation options (e.g. bike lanes, rentals, save storage/racks).
- Local testing facilities - more and quicker timeframes for results.
- Electric/cable infrastructure - more critical now that everyone works from home.
- A full time OEM position.
- Continue to update the Fire departments about the specific risks associated with this virus and continue to supply the fire departments with proper PPE to handle COVID situations.
- Some buildings are not designed to allow social distancing from existing work zones.
- Services and infrastructure were not compromised during this pandemic. EMS and fire protection services were identified as vulnerable to pandemic. Sanitation and enhanced PPE use were utilized to limit spread. This was very successful.
- Better supply chain for PPE and cleaning products to protect first responders.
- The only issue was at the Career Fire Department where they segregated the Fire Firefighters from the EMS duty crew so if they had a call where they were exposed they wouldn't contaminate the rest of the fire department. One crew was in makeshift quarters not designed for what it was used for.
- A PPE Manufacturing plant.

Respondents also identified the following challenges and obstacles their organization is facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Availability of cleaning supplies
- Availability of PPE
- Clear messaging
- Contingency/backup planning for staff
- Tracking information
- Access to community officials
- Receiving accurate information regarding current situation/resources available
- Testing capabilities



- Waste disposal

When asked if there were any procedures/protocols in place to return back to standard operations after the pandemic, 82% said yes, 11% said no, and 4% said they don't know. One respondent said they were working on a plan.

Neighboring County Survey

The neighboring county survey was sent to the surrounding counties of Cape May County due to their proximity to the county and because effects of hazard events that impact Cape May County would be similar to that of their neighbors. As of January 12, 2021, two counties completed the survey.

The Neighboring County Survey was broken down into five sections: Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Planning, Risk and Vulnerability, Evacuation and Sheltering, Information Sharing, and Projects, Grants, Education and Outreach, each detailed below.

Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations Planning

Of the two responses, both indicated that Cape May County is involved in their county's comprehensive emergency operations planning. When asked if their county is involved in Cape May County's comprehensive emergency operations planning, the same responses were given. However, both respondents indicated that neither Cape May County is involved in their county's continuity of operations plan, nor is their county involved in Cape May County's continuity of operations plan. During an emergency or disaster, communication between Cape May County and their neighbors is done through voice and radio communications, with support from previous annual planning between the counties' emergency management departments.

Risk and Vulnerability

Both survey respondents said yes when asked if their county shared risk and vulnerability assessments, including flood mapping, and HAZUS data, with Cape May County. More specifically, the counties have information sharing with Cape May County and have participated in exercises and planning sessions throughout the years.

Evacuation and Sheltering

Both respondents indicated that they collaborate with Cape May County on establishing evacuation routes and alternative evacuation routes. The same responses were given when asked if their county and Cape May County consult with each other before making evacuation decisions. Both participants said that their county collaborates on establishing shelters and consult with Cape May County on sheltering decisions.

Information Sharing

Both respondents indicated that they have access to contact information for Cape May County's Emergency Operations Centers or would know how to locate the information. Contact information is shared between counties. The respondents also described that information is shared with Cape May County during meetings, specifically during the planning and implementation phases of projects.

Projects, Grants, Education and Outreach

Respondents identified connected roadway improvement projects as requiring cross-collaboration between county boundaries. More specifically, one respondent cited the Route 347/47 reverse lane and another identified any projects that impact their evacuation routes.



Both respondents indicated that they have previously collaborated with Cape May County on grant applications. This included EMA and Hazard Mitigation and Homeland Security grant funding. Both respondents indicated that they have shared service agreements with Cape May County.

3.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens and to involve the public in the planning process, it was determined that meeting dates/locations will be made available to the public via the Cape May County OEM website dedicated to the HMP update and social media; and the draft HMP available on the Cape May County website. The participating partners also feel that community input on the HMP will increase the likelihood of hazard mitigation becoming one of the standard considerations in the evolution and growth of the County.

The Planning Partnership has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

- The Cape May County OEM created a dedicated website for this project (<https://www.capemaycounty2020hmp.com/>). The website went live in July 2020 and was continuously updated throughout the planning process. The public website contains a project overview, meeting announcements, draft documents for review and comment, and a link to the citizens and stakeholder surveys.
- All hazard mitigation Planning Partnership meetings that were open to the public were advertised on the Cape May County website and social media (Facebook and Twitter). The social media posts were shared and distributed widely across the County; refer to Figure 2-5 for an example Facebook post by the Hanover Eagle News. Additional examples of municipal outreach are presented in Appendix D.
- The Cape May County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator issued an Official News Release that announced the commencement of the HMP update and invited the public to attend the kickoff meeting and take the citizen survey.
- An on-line natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact the County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The questionnaire also asked several demographic questions to help analyze trends. The questionnaire was available on the public website from August 2020 to January 2021, and further advertised on additional County and municipal websites and on printed materials. Responses were collected and provided back to plan participants for consideration in the mitigation action development (270 responses in total). Appendix D summarizes public input received through the website, the online survey, and other sources.
- A hazard mitigation planning brochure was developed to inform the public of the planning process, provide local contact information, and encourage the public to review the plan and provide input. This brochure was provided to all plan participants in electronic and hard copy format to distribute in their offices and communities; refer to Appendix D.
- All plan participants were encouraged to distribute the project brochure and post the links to the project webpage and citizen survey. In addition, all participating municipalities were requested to advertise the availability of the project website, citizen survey and stakeholder surveys via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email blasts). Refer to Appendix D which highlights these local efforts.
- Cape May County residents were provided opportunity to comment on the draft HMP before submittal to FEMA. The HMP was posted on the HMP public website on January 25, 2021 for review. All jurisdictions were requested to assist with advertising the plan was posted via their websites and social



media. Public comments received through February 24, 2021 were distributed to Planning Partnership for their consideration.

- Additional examples of public outreach efforts, and results of surveys distributed, are presented in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation).

3.5 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Cape May County HMP strives to use the best available technical information, plans, studies and reports throughout the plan process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments is presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, is presented in the Risk Assessment, specifically in Section 5.1 Methodology and Tools, as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 5.4 (Hazard Profiles). Further, the source of technical data and information used may be found within the References section.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify the following:

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

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed during this process to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives, and strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms to accomplish complementary and mutually supportive strategies:

- Master Plans
- Building Codes
- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019)



3.6 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within the County there are many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate and coordinate with, and complement, those mechanisms.

The Capability Assessment section of Section 6 (Capability Assessment and Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, and local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9, the County and each participating jurisdiction identified how they integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (*integration capabilities*) and how they intend to promote this integration (*integration actions*). In addition, as noted above, a summary of the plan reviews indicating relevant goals and mitigation actions is provided in Appendix J. This information provided input to identify integration of mitigation concepts into the operations of the county and municipalities.

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

3.7 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Cape May County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This HMP update will be made available for review on the HMP public website. Each jurisdiction’s elected official shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the annual plan evaluation meeting (refer to Section 7 – Plan Maintenance) and posted on the public website at <https://www.capemaycounty2020hmp.com/>.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the HMP update as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Marty Pagliughi, Office of Emergency Management) is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the HMP.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

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

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee’s annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Marty Pagliughi has been identified as the ongoing County HMP Coordinator (see Section 7), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update. Contact information is:



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