SECTION 8. PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

2016 Plan Update Changes

- This is a new section to Warren County's HMP.

8.1 BACKGROUND

Section 201.6.a (4) of Chapter 44 of the CFR states: "*Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.*" FEMA and NJOEM both encourage multi-jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of the Warren County and All Municipalities HMP, a planning partnership was formed to pursue grant funding for the plan and to meet DMA 2000 requirements for as many eligible local governments in Warren County as possible.

DMA 2000 defines a local government as follows: "*Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.*"

8.1.1 Initial Solicitation and Letters of Intent

Warrenc County solicited the participation of all cities, towns, townships, and boroughs in the county at the commencement of this project. All municipalities interested signed a "Letter of Intent" and/or a resolution committing their participation and resources to the development of the Warren County HMP update. Table 8-1 lists those jurisdictions that elected to participate in the update process, and have met the minimum requirements of participation as established by the county and Steering Committee.

Table 8-1. Participating Warren County Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	
Allamuchy Township	Knowlton Township
Alpha Borough	Liberty Township
Town of Belvidere	Lopatcong Township
Blairstown Township	Mansfield Township
Franklin Township	Oxford Township
Frelinghuysen Township	Town of Phillipsburg
Greenwich Township	Pohatcong Township
Hackettstown	Washington Borough
Hardwick Township	Washington Township
Harmony Township	White Township
Hope Township	Warren County
Independence Township	

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8.1.2 Planning Partner Expectations

The Planning Committee agreed to the following list of expectations:

- Review 2011 HMP goals and re-establish HMP update goals and objectives;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the HMP update;
- Ensure the HMP meets the requirements of DMA 2000, and FEMA and NJOEM guidance;
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the HMP development process;
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Organize and oversee the public involvement process and support outreach efforts in the community;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain Volume I of the HMP in its entirety and the local jurisdictional annex in Volume II.

8.1.3 Jurisdiction Annex Templates

New to the Warren County HMP update is a two-volume format, including jursidicitonal annexes for each participating jurisdiction. While the local annex format is designed to document and assure local compliance with the DMA 2000 regulations, its greater purpose and function includes:

- Providing a locally relevant synthesis of the overall HMP that can be readily presented, distributed, and maintained;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community's risk to natural hazards;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community's capabilities to manage natural hazard risk, including opportunities to improve those capabilities;
- Facilitating local understanding of the efforts the community has taken, and plans to take, to reduce their natural hazard risk;
- Facilitating the implementation of mitigation strategies, including the development of grant applications;
- Providing a framework by which the community can continue to capture relevant data and information for future plan updates.

It is recognized that each jurisdiction's annex is a "living" document, and will continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, its design is intended to promote and accommodate continued efforts to maintain the currency and improve the effectiveness of the annex as the key tool, reference, and guiding document by which the jurisdiction will implement hazard mitigation locally. The following provides a description of the various elements of the jurisdictional annex.

Section 9.X.1: HMP Points of Contact: Identifies the hazard mitigation planning primary and alternate contacts, identified by the jurisdiction as of January 2015.

Section 9.X.2: Jurisdictional Profile: Provides an overview and profile of the jurisdiction, including an identification of areas of known and anticipated future development and the vulnerability of those areas to the hazards of concern.

Section 9.X.3: Natural Hazard Event History Specific to the Jurisdiction: Identifies hazard events that have caused significant impacts within the jurisdiction, including a summary characterization of those impacts as identified by the jurisdiction since the 2011 Warren County HMP. The documentation of events and losses is critical to supporting the identification and justification of appropriate mitigation actions, including

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providing critical data for benefit-cost analysis. It is recognized that this "inventory" of events and losses is a work-in-progress, and may continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, the lack of data or information for a specific event does not necessarily mean that the jurisdiction did not suffer significant losses during that event.

Section 9.X.4: Hazard Vulnerabilities and Ranking: This HMP update identifies and characterizes the broad range of hazards that pose risk to the entire planning area; however each jurisdiction has differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability aside from the whole. The local risk ranking serves to identify each jurisdiction's degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to them, supporting the appropriate selection and prioritization of initiatives that will reduce the highest levels of risk for each community.

Full data and information on the hazards of concern, the methodology used to develop the vulnerability assessments, and the results of those assessments that serve as the basis of these local risk rankings may be found in Section 5.

- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary: Provides NFIP summary statistics for the jurisdiction.
- Critical Facilities: Identifies the number of critical facilities by type located in the FEMA-designated flood zones, based on the flood vulnerability assessment process presented in Section 5.
- Other Vulnerabilities Identified by the Jurisdiction: Presents other specific hazard vulnerabilities as identified by the jurisdiction.

Section 9.X.5: Capability Assessment: This subsection provides an inventory and evaluation of the jurisdiction's tools, mechanisms, and resources available to support hazard mitigation and natural hazard risk reduction. Within the municipal annexes, the jurisdiction's planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal capabilities are presented, respectively. Further, within the municipal annexes, the municipality's level of participation in state and federal programs is designed to promote and incentivize local risk reduction efforts.

NFIP: This subsection within the Capability Assessment documents the NFIP as implemented within the jurisdiction. This summary was based on surveys prepared by, and/or interviews conducted with, the NFIP Floodplain Administrators for each NFIP-participating community in the county. This subsection also identifies actions to enhance implementation and enforcement of the NFIP within the community.

Integration of Hazard Mitigation into Existing Planning Mechanisms: This subsection within the Capability Assessment identifies how the jurisdiction has integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework ("integration capabilities"), and/or how they intend to promote this integration ("integration actions"). Further information regarding federal, state, and local capabilities may be found in the Capability Assessment portion of Section 6.

Section 9.X.6: Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

Past Mitigation Initiative Status: Where applicable, a review of progress on the jurisdiction's prior mitigation strategy is presented, identifying the disposition of each prior action, project, or initiative in the jurisdiction's updated mitigation strategy. Other completed or on-going mitigation activities that were not specifically part of a prior local mitigation strategy may be included in this sub-section as well.

Proposed Mitigation Strategy: A summary table is presented of the jurisdiction's updated mitigation strategy. As indicated, applicable mitigation actions, projects, and initiatives are further documented on an Action Worksheet which provides details on the project identification, evaluation, prioritization and implementation

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process. These Action Worksheets are included at the end of the annex. In addition, a summary of the local mitigation strategy prioritization process discussed in Section 6 is presented in tabular format as well as an expanded version following the Action Worksheets.

Section 9.X.7: Future Needs to Better Understand Risk/Vulnerability: This subsection provides each jurisdiction the opportunity to identify any further needs to more fully understand their risk and/or vulnerability to the hazards of concern identified.

Section 9.X.8: Hazard Area Extent and Location: Each annex includes two maps illustrating identified hazard zones, critical facilities, and areas of NFIP RL and SRL properties. Further, these maps show areas of known or anticipated future development, as available and provided by the jurisdiction.

Workshops and additional meetings (via in person, email and/or teleconference) to complete the jurisdictional annexes were held with the Steering and Planning Committees throughout the planning process. In summary, all participating communities and the county completed the planning partner expectations and annex-preparation process. Details regarding these meetings are described further in Sections 3 (Planning Process) and 6 (Mitigation Strategy). Completed jurisdictional annexes are presented in Section 9.

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