

SUMMARY NOTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2023 MEETING OF THE KENOSHA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN LOCAL PLANNING TEAM

INTRODUCTION

The March 15, 2023 meeting of the Kenosha County Hazard Mitigation Plan Local Planning Team was convened at the Kenosha County Center at 3:04 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Sergeant Chris Hannah, Director of the Kenosha County Division of Emergency Management. Attendance was taken by circulating a sign-in sheet.

In attendance at the meeting were the following individuals:

Local Planning Team Members

Sgt. Chris Hannah, Chair	Director, Kenosha County Division of Emergency Management
Chris Parisey, Secretary	Senior Planner, SEWRPC
Andy Buehler	Director, Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development
Richard Caravetta	Salvation Army
Curt Czarnecki	General Manager, City of Kenosha Water Utility
Laura Herrick	Chief Environmental Engineer, SEWRPC
John Holloway	Chairman, Town of Paris
Mark Jenks	Conservationist, Kenosha County Planning and Development
Randall Kerkman	Administrator, Village of Bristol
Mark Melotik	Director of Environmental Health, Kenosha County Dept. of Health
Nikki Payne	Public Involvement and Outreach Manager, SEWRPC
Craig Roepke	Chief of Fire and Rescue, Village of Pleasant Prairie

In addition, the following attendees (non-Planning Team members) were present:

Alyssa Werfelmann	Administrative Secretary, Kenosha County Division of Emergency Mgt
-------------------	--

Sgt. Hannah welcomed all attendees to the meeting and thanked them for their participation. Sgt. Hannah introduced Chris Parisey, Senior Planner, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Mr. Parisey briefly reviewed the meeting agenda and noted that this meeting was originally scheduled to be held on February 22, 2023, but was postponed due to a winter storm affecting the area. He also noted that copies of draft chapters 1-3 were posted on the SEWRPC website and LPT members were made aware of the posting via email on March 3, 2023. Summary notes from the March 28, 2022 LPT meeting were also made available on the SEWRPC website. There were no questions or comments from the LPT regarding the summary notes.

CHAPTER 1 “INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND”

Mr. Parisey began his presentation with an overview of draft Chapter 1. He gave a brief description of the study area (Kenosha County) as well as the relationship of hazard mitigation planning to other County efforts. Mr. Parisey stated that adoption of the plan update is required for the County and its communities to be eligible for FEMA funding for projects related to hazard mitigation. Mr. Parisey also emphasized that this edition of the plan will focus only on natural hazards as required by FEMA. Ms. Herrick noted that the human-induced hazards included in previous editions are better served in other guidance documents.

Mr. Parisey indicated that Tables 1.2 through 1.4 list the plan participation, outreach, and implementation efforts undertaken by each local government. These tables will not be completed until the end of the planning process and asked that if any LPT members notice any missing items that they please notify him or Sgt. Hannah. There were no questions or comments related to this material.

Mr. Parisey continued with a short discussion on plan adoption. Ms. Herrick confirmed that Kenosha County will need to adopt the plan update by resolution after FEMA approval and before the end of the grant in May 2024. She stated that there will be enough time to accomplish this and then the incorporated municipalities (cities and villages) will have a year after County adoption to also adopt the plan update.

No additional comments or questions were given from the LPT for draft Chapter 1.

[Secretary's Note: A copy of the presentation can be found on the SEWRPC website at: <https://www.sewrpc.org/hmp> under "Kenosha County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update"]

CHAPTER 2, "BASIC STUDY AREA INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS"

Mr. Parisey continued with an overview of draft Chapter 2. Mr. Parisey briefly described the inventory data that was collected and analyzed, including the County's current and projected demographic trends, and current and planned land use characteristics. It was noted that planned year 2050 data was provided by SEWRPC's *VISION 2050: A Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan*. Mr. Parisey emphasized that the background and inventory information for the County is an important element of the planning process. He also noted that a detailed list of critical community facilities in Kenosha County is included in Appendix C and to notify him or Sgt. Hannah if any corrections or additions are necessary. Mr. Jenks stated that the new Pleasant Prairie Police Department building should be completed in 2024. Ms. Herrick stated that this change will be reflected in the next edition of the plan.

Concluding Chapter 2, Mr. Parisey gave a general overview on climate change and its relative importance for hazard mitigation planning. He also emphasized that FEMA now considers this information essential and necessary for hazard mitigation. The source of climate change data and how it is presented throughout the plan was explained to the LPT attendees. Mr. Parisey stated that Figures 2.1 through 2.4 illustrate temperature and precipitation trends and projections. Mr. Buehler asked why the historical data in the WICCI reports started in 1950 and not an earlier date. Ms. Herrick said that she was not sure why WICCI chose that as a starting date, but she has seen even later start dates (1980s) for describing current climate conditions.

There were no further questions or comments on draft Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 3, "ANALYSIS OF HAZARD CONDITIONS"

Mr. Parisey began with a general overview of draft Chapter 3 and its main components. He gave a brief discussion on the hazard identification and ranking process; the risk analysis portion; and how each hazard was profiled. He then presented and explained the hazards considered for this plan update (Table 3.2).

With no questions or comments related to the layout of draft Chapter 3, Mr. Parisey continued to discuss the profiled hazards analyzed in the plan, including tornadoes, flooding, severe weather (i.e., thunderstorm-related events), extreme temperatures, Lake Michigan coastal hazards, winter storms, and drought hazard events in Kenosha County, giving particular focus on the flooding and Lake Michigan coastal hazards.

Mr. Parisey reviewed the different types of flooding concerns, recently reported flood events, and different County assets vulnerable to flooding impacts, including agriculture, transportation, and structural damages. For structural impacts caused by flooding, Mr. Parisey described the parcel-based loss analysis used to estimate potential damages caused by a 100-year flood event.

Mr. Parisey then reviewed the Lake Michigan coastal hazards, noting that the Lake is experiencing high water levels making hazard problems more evident in the County. Mr. Parisey went on to describe the current problems with unstable or failing bluffs along the shoreline in the Village of Somers and with shoreline recession and coastal flooding in the City of Kenosha and Village of Pleasant Prairie.

Following the review of hazard conditions, Mr. Holloway suggested developing a strategy or project idea to maintain current waterways in the County, particularly in response to rising water levels in the Des Plaines River watershed. Ms. Herrick asked if the suggested project to be included in the plan would be to develop a guide for maintaining the flow carrying capacity of waterways, or a pilot project. Mr. Holloway indicated this idea needed additional thought and local buy-in and offered to provide more information as the potential strategy or project is developed. Additionally, Mr. Buehler suggested including a recommendation in the plan to have the coastal communities adopt a bluff setback ordinance in response to Lake Michigan coastal hazards.

The LPT also suggested adding a table and/or map to Chapter 3 showing locations where Kenosha County roadways have been frequently overtopped during flood events. Mr. Buehler offered to provide whatever data he has, as well as coordinate with the communities in the County to collect this data. Sgt. Hannah stated that he will look into what information the Sheriff's Department may have on road closures through their dispatch records.

[Secretary's Note: After the meeting, maps of frequently flooded roadways were provided to Mr. Parisey by the Villages of Bristol, Paddock Lake, and Twin Lakes. Mr. Parisey will work to incorporate data from these maps, as well as any additional data subsequently provided, into the revised draft of Chapter 3.]

With no more questions or comments, Mr. Parisey concluded the review of draft Chapters 1 through 3.

LOCAL PLANNING TEAM INPUT ON POTENTIAL HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Before the meeting concluded, Mr. Parisey asked the LPT for additional input on hazard mitigation projects recently completed or planned to be completed during the lifespan of this plan. He presented a list of project examples and reminded the LPT that projects added to the plan can facilitate federal funding opportunities to help communities complete the project.

Mr. Parisey mentioned that the next and final LPT meeting is scheduled to be held in late 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Parisey thanked the participating LPT members for their attendance and any additional contributions to the draft plan. The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.