

## HANCOCK COUNTY ME HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2018 Update

### SECTION 3. PLANNING PROCESS

<b>Planning Process</b>	
<b>Requirement §201.6(b)(1):</b> (The planning process shall include) an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval.	
Element	A3. Does the plan document how the public was involved in the planning process during the drafting stage?

The Hancock County Emergency Management Agency, once again, offered to accept the responsibility for hosting the review and update of the mitigation plan for the Hancock County municipalities and its portion of the Unorganized Territory (UT).

Throughout this Plan, the terms “community” and “jurisdiction” are used interchangeably. Either word is understood to include towns and plantations.

The Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 Update was a multi-jurisdictional collaborative effort. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team sought participation through town mailings, surveys, meetings, exercises, workshops, field visits to potential project sites, postings on the Hancock County EMA website, emails, social media, and phone calls.

Participants at various meetings discussed county wide and town specific hazards and the probability and vulnerability of certain hazards. Groups also reviewed mitigation projects from the 2012 plan, new projects that have been added for the 2018 update, and discussed any additional projects that were not already identified.

Additional participation was solicited through phone and email correspondence and the Public Review and Comment session for any recommendations/comments. The Planning Team provided expertise, data and assistance in updating the Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team consisted of the following:

<b>Hancock County Planning Team</b>	
Andrew Sankey	Director, Hancock County Emergency Management Agency (HCEMA)
Bradley Nuding	Deputy Director/Planner
JoAnn Mooney	Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Rich Rothe	Consultant

#### **Hazard Mitigation Outreach Efforts**

**Striking a Balance Workshop – Recent Changes in the National Flood Insurance Program and New Storm Surge Data**, February 27, 2014. This workshop, sponsored by Hancock County Planning Commission, included a series of breakout sessions related to flood insurance. The first session included an overview of the National Flood Insurance Program and how the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 will affect Maine. The second session included a discussion of the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps, their modeling, limitations, schedule of release, appeal process and use. The third session focused on sea level rise and sea, lake and overland surge from hurricane (SLOSH) mapping – what do the new data tell us? – there will be mapped evacuation zones that did not exist before, and these will be followed by “know your zone” educational activities.

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**Sullivan Floodplain Ordinance Public Hearing**, May 11, 2016. Hancock County EMA attended a public hearing in the Town of Sullivan at which a proposed floodplain management ordinance was presented and discussed.

<b>Sullivan Floodplain Ordinance Public Hearing</b> May 11, 2016	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Agency</b>
Ray Daley	Sullivan Selectman
Gary Edwards	Sullivan
Michael Fisher	Sullivan
Rusty Gordon	Sullivan
John Guyton	Sullivan Selectman
Charles Johnson	Sullivan
Clyde Lewis	Sullivan Planning Board
Lili Pew	Ellsworth
Bob Phillips	Sullivan Board of Appeals
Lee Ramsey	Franklin
Andrew Sankey	Hancock County EMA
Betsy Wakefield	Sullivan
Roger Wakefield	Sullivan
David Witham	Sullivan
Michael Witz	Sullivan Planning Board
Marie Zwicker	Sullivan Planning Board

**County Commissioners Meeting**, June 7, 2016. Hancock County EMA met with the Hancock County Commissioners to request permission to go out to bid for contracted services to prepare the Hancock County Mitigation Plan – 2017 Update. Permission was granted.

<b>County Commissioners Meeting</b> June 7, 2016	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Agency</b>
Scott Adkins	County Administrator
Antonio Blasi	Commissioner
Percy Brown	Commissioner
Steven Joy	Commissioner
Pam Linscott	Clerk
Andrew Sankey	Hancock County EMA

**County Commissioners Meeting**, July 12, 2016. Hancock County EMA met with the Hancock County Commissioners to request approval for professional planning services for preparing the Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2017 update. Approval was granted.

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<b>County Commissioners Meeting</b> July 12, 2016	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Agency</b>
Scott Adkins	County Administrator
Antonio Blasi	Commissioner
Percy Brown	Commissioner
Steven Joy	Commissioner
Pam Linscott	Clerk
Andrew Sankey	Hancock County EMA

**Hancock County Hurricane/Storm Surge Exercise**, July 15, 2016. Hancock County EMA and the National Weather Service in Caribou sponsored a tabletop hurricane exercise designed to test core capabilities in the areas of public information and warning, community resilience, and critical transportation. For each of these areas, the exercise documented strengths and areas of needed improvement.

<b>Hurricane Exercise Participants</b> July 15, 2016	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Agency</b>
Matt Bartlett	Bar Harbor Fire Department
Bob Bechtold	National Park Service
Mike Bender	Mount Desert Fire Department
Alex Bernier	USCG Station Southwest Harbor
Pete Bickmore	Ellsworth Fire Department
Lisa Burton	Castine-MMA, FRD
Pete Caron	Emera Maine
Steven Cookson	CMP
John Cousins, Jr.	Maine Forest Service
Jim Daigle	Southwest Harbor Fire Department
Shawn Davis	MaineDOT
Donald Dumont	NWS Caribou
Susan Faloon	MEMA
Priscilla Farrar	NWS Caribou
John Fitzpatrick	Facilities Director, Jackson Lab
Brian Fancher	The Jackson Laboratory
Andrew Germann	USCG
Jeff Grantham	Surry Fire Department
Brenda Hendricks	CMP
Deb Henry	Hinckley Yachts
John Kelly	Public Information Officer, Acadia National Park
Kathy Knight	Northeast Regional Medical Center
Helen Kazura	HKEMA
Joe Lacerda	MaineDOT
Barbara MacPike	MDI Hospital
Michael Madell	National Park Service

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<b>Hurricane Exercise Participants</b> July 15, 2016	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Agency</b>
Stuart Marckoon	Lamoine EMA Director, Administrative Assistant
Jack Martel	Southwest Harbor Fire Chief
Al May	Maine CDC
Gayle McKeige	Northeast Regional Medical Center
James Meadows	USCG Station Southwest Harbor
Mike Miller	USCG Station Southwest Harbor
Dale Rowley	Waldo County EMA
Kevin Rousseau	MEMA
Evelyn Sargent	Mount Desert
Gary Saunders	Ellsworth Fire Department
Lisa Sherman	Northeast Regional Medical Center
Gary Stewart	Security Director Jackson Lab
Jeff Turcotte	Maine Marine Patrol
Susan Warner	Maine Dept. of Public Safety
Renee Wellman	Hancock County Regional Communication Center Director
Stuart West	Acadia National Park
Gretchen Wilson	Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce/American Red Cross

**NOAA/NWS Field Visit**, November, 2015. During several days in late November, 2015, representatives from NOAA and National Weather Service, met with Hancock County EMA to review Hancock County’s highest risk locations including the Southwest Harbor seawall, the Deer Isle causeway, and Stonington’s town pier area. They also met with Kathleen Billings-Pezaris, Stonington Town Manager, regarding flooding history and their regional mitigation needs.

**Castine Evacuation Mapping**, August 8, 2016. The Director of the Hancock County EMA met with James Goodson, Town Manager, to discuss evacuation mapping and mitigation planning for the Town of Castine.

**Hancock County Fire Fighters’ Association**, August 16, 2016. JoAnn Mooney (MEMA), Tom Redstone (MEMA) and Andrew Sankey (HKEMA) met with fire fighters from Hancock County towns to review the updated storm surge maps. Meeting participants were asked, based on the maps and local knowledge, to draw Evacuation Zones. Surge zones from a Category 1 or 2 hurricane would translate into Evacuation Zone A, and surge zones for Category 3 or 4 hurricanes would translate into Evacuation Zone B.

**Kick-Off Meeting**, December 7, 2016. This meeting was held at the Ellsworth Library. Andrew Sankey, Hancock County EMA Director, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. He stated that work is underway on updating the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He requested everyone’s help in updating the status of their projects, revising priorities where necessary, and adding new projects where applicable.

JoAnn Mooney, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, provided an overview of what’s in the current plan and stressed the importance of community involvement in the planning process. She reported that typical projects such as culvert upgrades are experiencing lengthy environmental reviews and that pre-application site visits with the regulators can help with designing permissible projects. She also

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reported that generators are now eligible projects for critical facilities and should be included as projects where applicable. Communities should view the Update as an opportunity to identify projects that will help them avoid or reduce future damages even if they aren't eligible for federal funding.

JoAnn provided an overview of the 406 program which can result in additional funding for projects following a disaster declaration. She also mentioned that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had a grant program for culverts that addresses water quality, wildlife habitat, public safety and climate resiliency such as flood protection. It is unknown if new funding will become available so communities are encouraged to visit the DEP website.

There was general agreement that the hazards identified in the 2012 plan are still current. After some discussion there was a consensus that challenges facing Hancock County, such as sea level rise and potential hurricane damages are covered by the hazards identified in the 2012 Plan.

<b>Kick-Off Meeting Participants</b> December 7, 2016		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Title</b>
Matt Bartlett	Bar Harbor	Fire Chief
Priscilla Farrar	(agency)	NWS
Jim Fisher	(agency)	Downeast Public Health
Helen Kazura	(agency)	HKEMA
Al May	(agency)	Maine CDC
JoAnn Mooney	(agency)	MEMA
Bradley Nuding	(agency)	HKEMA
Tom Redstone	(agency)	MEMA
Rich Rothe	(agency)	Consultant
Andrew Sankey	(agency)	HKEMA
Susan Starr	Trenton	Selectman
Richard Tupper	Ellsworth	Fire Chief

**Castine Water Continuity of Operations Exercise**, January 12, 2017. Upon the request of, and invitation by, the Castine Town Manager, Hancock County EMA facilitated a tabletop exercise at Emerson Hall. The goals of the exercise were to test the Town's current emergency plans for their ability to prioritize emergency responsibilities, formally request local and state assistance, send and retrieve pertinent information with the public, and test their redundancy backup systems to support the water/wastewater departments. Additionally, the exercise explored options for backup generator operations for specific town entities, as well as the town's ability to provide potable drinking water until their water system was fully operational. The scenario was a tropical storm with significant storm surge that caused contamination in one of their critical drinking wells, which resulted in a public health issue.

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<b>Castine Water Continuity Exercise Participants</b>	
January 12, 2017	
Castine Town Manager	Maine Drinking Water Program
Hancock County EMA	Maine Marine Patrol
Castine Utilities	Searsport Water District
Castine Fire Department	Maine Maritime Academy
Castine Water Department	Maine Rural Water Association
Castine Wastewater Department	Maine CDC
Castine Community Health	Maine DEP
Adams Elementary School Principal	

**Radio Interviews.** In order to provide as much information as possible to the public about hazard mitigation, Hancock County staff conducted a series of radio interviews. The dates and topics of the interviews included:

- Hurricane tabletop exercise interview: July 15, 2016
- Wildfire protection interview: February 3, 2017
- Severe winter storm interview: February 9, 2017
- Hazard mitigation meeting on March 28: March 21, 2017

**Hazard Mitigation Meeting, March 28, 2017.** This meeting was held at the Ellsworth Library. Andrew Sankey, Hancock County EMA Director, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. He stated that a great progress has been made on updating the Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan. JoAnn Mooney discussed the importance of the plan update, and the types of projects that might be eligible for grant funding. Copies of projects and maps for specific communities were distributed to people from those communities, with a request that the project status column be updated, that new projects be added where applicable, and that maps corrections be noted on the maps.

Those in attendance agreed that a conference call to local officials would be held on May 9, 2017, that a public review and comment meeting be held in mid to late June, and that the draft plan be submitted to FEMA by the end of June.

<b>Hazard Mitigation Meeting</b>	
March 28, 2017	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Town or Agency</b>
James Fisher	Downeast Public Health Council
Helen Kazura	Hancock County EMA
Al May	Maine CDC
JoAnn Mooney	MEMA
Bradley Nuding	Hancock County EMA
Lynn O’Kane	Ellsworth citizen
Jennifer Osborn	Ellsworth American
Tom Redstone	MEMA
Rich Rothe	Consultant
Andrew Sankey	Hancock County EMA

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### Public Comment and Review Session

On September 27, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., Hancock County EMA held a final public comment and review session on the draft Hancock County Hazard Mitigation Plan - 2017. The plan and notice of the review session were posted on the EMA website and in local newspapers, and local officials were notified by email. Members of the public were advised that they could phone in their comments on a “1-877” line.

EMA Staff members attending the meeting and participating in the call-in session included Andrew Sankey Director, Bradley Nuding, Deputy Director/Planner, and Helen Kazura, Office Administrator. MEMA staff members JoAnn Mooney and Thomas Redstone, and consultant Rich Rothe also attended the call-in session.

The Town Manager of Stonington participated in the session. Her comments included the following:

- Remove Moose Island, Bayview for the 40ft section of road/wall, and the 50 Main Street demolition project.
- Retain the Hatch Cove Road project. That one is still pending funding.
- Add the Municipal Fish Pier as a project to mitigate flood issues in the future and to increase storm resiliency.
- Add or change the Bayview to 850ft of seawall repairs to address drainage issues due to increased storms/rainfall, new materials around water/sewer lines by taking down 4 or 5 courses of wall, install proper roadbed materials, geo-fabrics, and repave to take the sink holes out from seawater intrusion and storm damage.
- Add a project to elevate the marsh area of Oceanville Road which gets cut off during extreme tides now and storm events. The area needing elevation extends for about 850 feet.

### Summary of Local Participation

The following table documents how each jurisdiction participated in the preparation of this Plan. The townships/Unorganized Territory were represented by Hancock County. In the following table, project identification was done by either the Road Commissioner (RC) or Director of Public Works (DPW).

<b>Summary of Local Participation</b>						
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Kick-Off Meeting 12/7/16</b>	<b>Planning Meeting 3/28/17</b>	<b>Public Comment, review</b>	<b>Other Planning Meetings*</b>	<b>Project Identification</b>	<b>Emails re: Plan Updating</b>
Amherst					RC	X
Aurora					RC	X
Bar Harbor	X			X	DPW	X
Blue Hill					RC	X
Brooklin					RC	X
Brooksville					RC	X
Bucksport					DPW	X
Castine				X	DPW	X
Cranberry Isles					RC	X
Dedham					RC	X
Deer Isle					RC	X

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Summary of Local Participation						
Municipality	Kick-Off Meeting 12/7/16	Planning Meeting 3/28/17	Public Comment, review	Other Planning Meetings*	Project Identification	Emails re: Plan Updating
Eastbrook					RC	X
Ellsworth	X			X	DPW	X
Franklin					RC	X
Frenchboro					RC	X
Gouldsboro					RC	X
Great Pond					RC	X
Hancock					RC	X
Lamoine				X	RC	X
Mariaville					RC	X
Mount Desert				X	RC	X
Orland					RC	X
Osborn					RC	X
Otis					RC	X
Penobscot					RC	X
Sedgwick					RC	X
Sorrento					RC	X
Southwest Harbor				X	RC	X
Stonington				X	RC	X
Sullivan					RC	X
Surry				X	RC	X
Swans Island					RC	X
Tremont					RC	X
Trenton	X				RC	X
Verona Island					RC	X
Unorganized					County Mgr.	X
Waltham					RC	X
Winter Harbor					RC	X

\*Other meetings, as described above, include regional fire fighters meeting, Castine water Continuity Exercise, and Hurricane Exercise.

### Status of Local Participation

The following table identifies all jurisdictions that participated in the preparation of the 2005 Plan, the 2012 Plan and the 2017 Plan

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<b>Summary of Local Participation</b>			
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Participated in 2005 Plan</b>	<b>Participated in 2012 Plan</b>	<b>Participated in 2017 Plan</b>
Amherst	X	X	X
Aurora	X	X	X
Bar Harbor	X	X	X
Blue Hill	X	X	X
Brooklin	X	X	X
Brooksville	X	X	X
Bucksport	X	X	X
Castine	X	X	X
Cranberry Isles	X	X	X
Dedham	X	X	X
Deer Isle	X	X	X
Eastbrook	X	X	X
Ellsworth	X	X	X
Franklin	X	X	X
Frenchboro	X	X	X
Gouldsboro	X	X	X
Great Pond	X	X	X
Hancock	X	X	X
Lamoine	X	X	X
Mariaville	X	X	X
Mount Desert	X	X	X
Orland	X	X	X
Osborn	X	X	X
Otis	X	X	X
Penobscot	X	X	X
Sedgwick	X	X	X
Sorrento	X	X	X
Southwest Harbor	X	X	X
Stonington	X	X	X
Sullivan	X	X	X
Surry	X	X	X
Swans Island	X	X	X
Tremont	X	X	X
Trenton	X	X	X
Verona Island	X	X	X
Unorganized	X	X	X
Waltham	X	X	X
Winter Harbor	X	X	X

**HANCOCK COUNTY ME HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2018 Update**

<b>Opportunity for Neighboring Communities, Regional Agencies</b>	
<b>Requirement §201.6(b)(2):</b> (The planning process shall include) an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process.	
Element	A2. Does the Plan document an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as other interests to be involved in the planning process?

Since this is a multi-jurisdictional plan, all meetings were with neighboring communities, either adjacent to each other or within the County. Opportunities for local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as other interests to be involved in the planning process were given in the form of town mailings, the Hancock County EMA website, emails and phone calls. Many of the local officials involved in the 2018 update of the plan work in various agencies, businesses, academia and nonprofit organizations.