

# 5 PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCESS

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This chapter provides an overview of the overall strategy for plan maintenance and outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, updating, and evaluating the plan. The chapter also discusses incorporating the plan into existing planning mechanisms and how to address continued public involvement.

## 5.1 Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

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**44 CFR Requirement 201.6(c)(4): The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.**

### 5.1.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

With adoption of this plan, the HMPC will be tasked with monitoring, evaluation, and maintenance of the plan. The participating departments and agencies, led by the Peoria County Planning & Zoning Department, agree to:

- Meet annually and after a disaster event to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan;
- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of high priority, low- or no-cost recommended actions;
- Maintain vigilant monitoring of multi-objective, cost-share, and other funding opportunities to help the community implement the plan's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this plan;
- Keep the concept of mitigation in the forefront of community decision making by identifying plan recommendations when other community goals, plans, and activities overlap, influence, or directly affect increased community vulnerability to disasters;
- Report on plan progress and recommended changes to the Peoria County Board and elected officials; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The HMPC is an advisory body and will not have any powers over County staff. Its primary duty is to see the plan successfully carried out and to report to the community governing boards and the public on the status of plan implementation and mitigation opportunities. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, hearing stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the County website.

### **5.1.2 Plan Maintenance Schedule**

Previously, Peoria County participated in a multi-jurisdictional planning process that resulted in the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2010. For this effort, Peoria County has independently prepared a local multi-hazard mitigation plan for the unincorporated areas of the County and the newly formed HMPC agrees to meet annually and after a hazard event to monitor progress and update the mitigation strategy. The Peoria County Planning & Zoning Department is responsible for initiating these plan reviews. A five-year written update of the plan will be submitted to the IEMA and FEMA Region V per Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i) of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule.

### **5.1.3 Plan Maintenance Process**

Evaluation of progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in vulnerabilities identified in the plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting:

- Decreased vulnerability as a result of implementing recommended actions,
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions, and/or
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation).

Updates to this plan will:

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to action implementation,
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective,
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective,
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked,
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks,
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities,
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to inventories, and
- Incorporate new action recommendations or changes in action prioritization.

In order to best evaluate any changes in vulnerability as a result of plan implementation, Peoria County will implement the following process:

- A representative from the responsible office identified in each mitigation action will be responsible for tracking and reporting on an annual basis to the HMPC on action status and provide input on whether the action as implemented meets the defined objectives and is likely to be successful in reducing vulnerabilities.
- If the action does not meet identified objectives, the HMPC will determine what additional measures may be implemented, and an assigned individual will be responsible for defining action scope, implementing the action, monitoring success of the action, and making any required modifications to the plan.

Changes will be made to the plan to accommodate for actions that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review of their consistency with established criteria, time frame, community priorities, and/or funding resources. Actions that were not ranked high but were identified as potential mitigation activities will be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. Updating of the plan will be by written changes and submissions, as the Peoria County Planning & Zoning Department deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the Peoria County Board.

In coordination with the annual review meeting, the Peoria County Planning & Zoning Department will prepare annual recertification forms documenting that Peoria County is continuing to implement CRS Program activities. Updates and changes to the *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan*, including implementation status of mitigation activities, will be noted.

## 5.2 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

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**44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii):[The plan shall include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.**

Where possible, plan participants will use existing plans and/or programs to implement hazard mitigation actions. Based on the capability assessment, Peoria County will continue to plan and implement programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This plan builds upon the momentum developed through previous and related planning efforts and mitigation programs and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through the following plans:

- Peoria County Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
- Peoria County 2015 Emergency Operations Plan;
- Unified Development Ordinance;
- Capital improvement plans and budgets; and
- Other plans and policies outlined in the capability assessment.

HMPC members involved in updating these existing planning mechanisms will be responsible for integrating the findings and actions of the mitigation plan, as appropriate. This includes incorporation of mitigation actions into any updates to this Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Peoria County Emergency Operations Plan; Peoria County Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and any comprehensive County planning efforts.

The HMPC is also responsible for monitoring this integration and incorporating the appropriate information into the five-year update of the multi-hazard mitigation plan.

## 5.3 Continued Public Involvement

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**44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.**

The update process provides an opportunity to publicize success stories from the plan's implementation and seek additional public comment. Information will be posted in local newspapers, such as the *Journal Star*, and on the County website following the annual review of the mitigation plan. A public hearing(s) to receive public comment on plan maintenance and updating will be held during the update period. When the HMPC reconvenes for the update, they will coordinate with all stakeholders participating in the planning process, including those who joined the HMPC after the initial effort, to update and revise the plan. Public notice will be posted and public participation will be invited, at a minimum, through available website postings and press releases to the local media outlets, primarily newspapers. The HMPC will also coordinate this public outreach process with the public information program established pursuant to the most current guidelines from the CRS.