

Bucks County

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

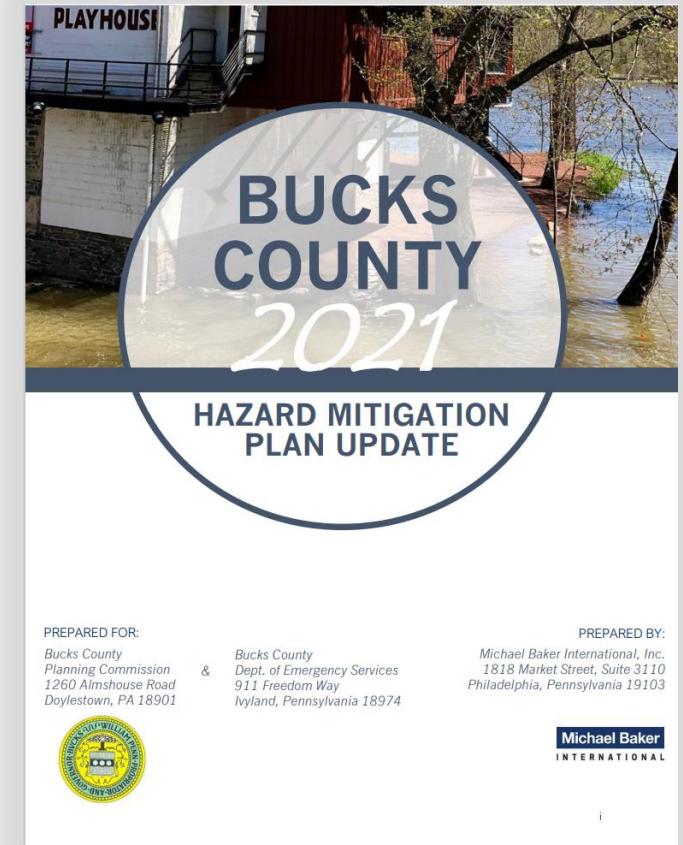
Participant Kick-Off

January 28, 2025
11:00 a.m.
&
7:00 p.m.



Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Plan Update Process
 - Outreach and Engagement
 - Risk Assessment
 - Capability Assessment
 - Mitigation Strategy
4. Project Schedule and Next Steps



The last update for Bucks County Hazard Mitigation Plan expires October 3, 2026.

Welcome

Matthew Walters

Senior Planner

Bucks County Planning Commission

Deanna Miller

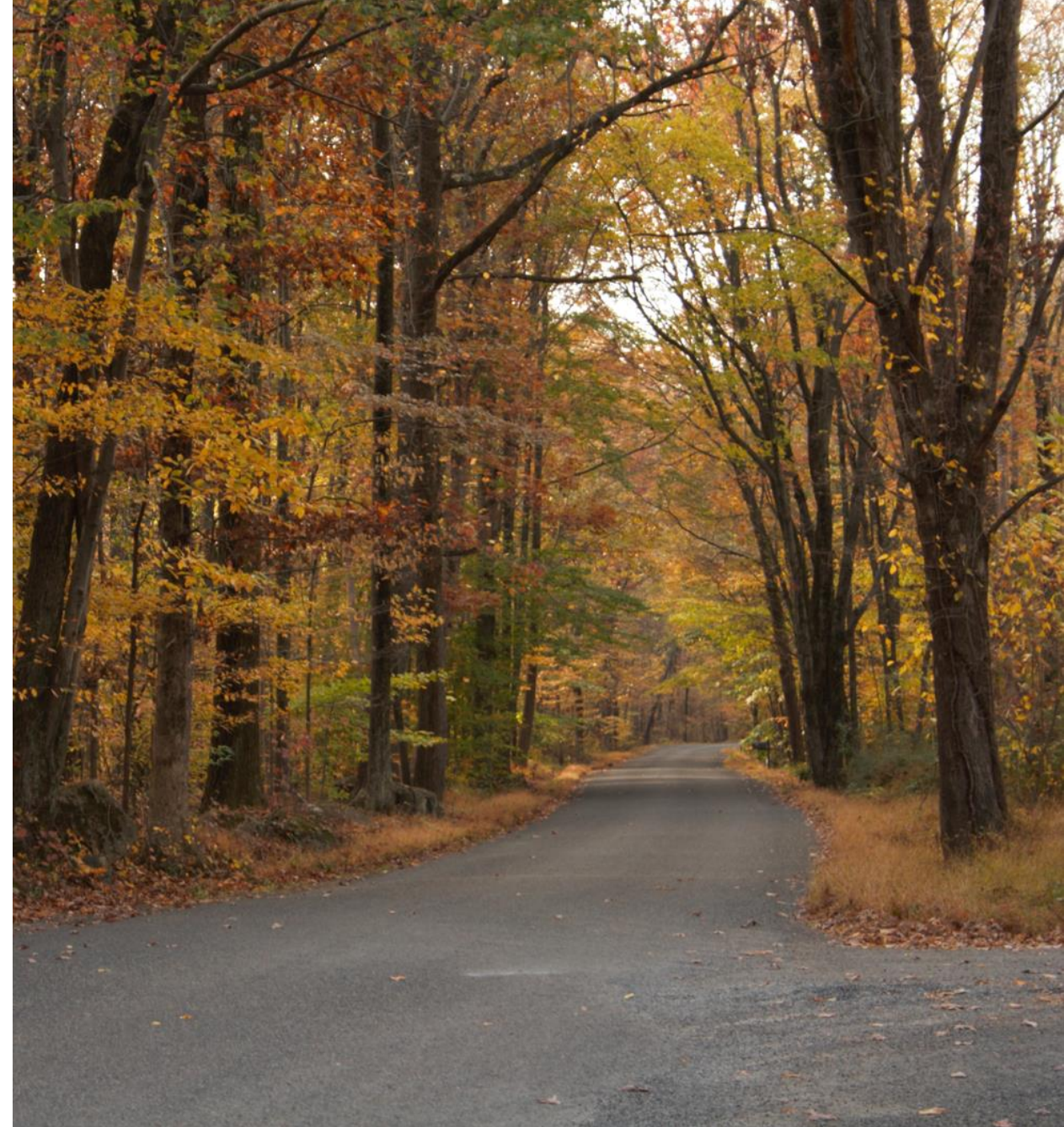
Planner/Recycling Coordinator

Bucks County Planning Commission

Jessica Jahre, AICP, CFM

Consultant Project Manager

Michael Baker International, Inc.



The background image shows a group of people in a meeting room. In the foreground, a large white table is covered with a complex mind map drawn in various colored markers (blue, orange, green, pink). The mind map has a central node with several branches, some of which are labeled with terms like 'Solutions', 'Library', 'Police', and 'Community'. Several people are seated around the table, looking at the map. A man with glasses and a mustache is visible in the upper left, and an older man with a white beard is in the upper right. A text overlay box with a blue border is positioned in the center of the image, containing instructions for submitting names and municipalities.

Please let us know you are here!

Submit your name and municipality:

1. Using the WebEx “Chat”

or

2. Emailing Jessica.Jahre@mbakerintl.com

Project Overview

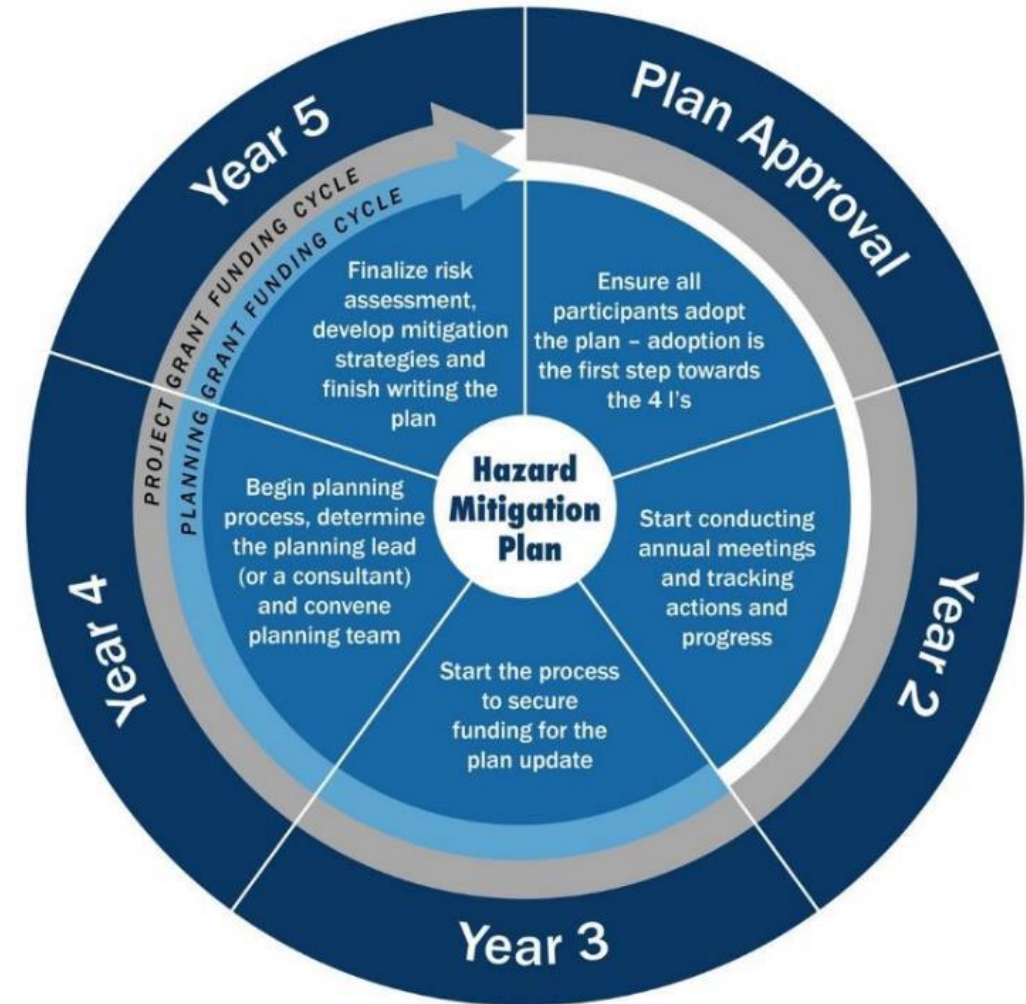
Hazard Mitigation Planning

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by **lessening the impact of disasters**.

Why Have a Plan?

- Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate local emergency response burden (and use of resources)
- Increases resilience and promotes climate adaptation
- Increases community safety
- Supports decision making
- Allows funding for certain projects



Six Step Planning Process



Who is Involved in the Update?



- Steering Committee
- Bucks County Officials
- Pennsylvania Office of Emergency Management
- FEMA Region 3
- Regional Stakeholders
- Special Districts & Authorities
- Each of the 54 municipalities in Bucks County
- Residents, businesses, other members of the public
- **Community groups and organizations**
 - Serving Socially Vulnerable Populations
 - Community Lifelines

Expectations for Participation

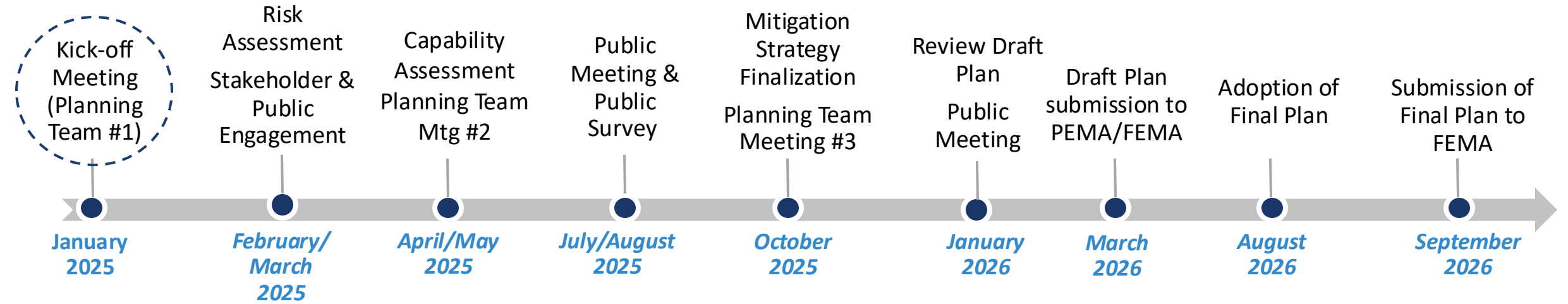
Jurisdictional Participation Requirements

- Attend meeting(s)
- Provide local information
- Fill out Hazard Identification Survey
- Complete Capability Assessment
- Detail NFIP compliance and implementation
- Develop and update mitigation action(s)
- Adopt the Plan
- Submit Adoption Verification

Who to consider from your community:

- ❖ Floodplain Administrator
- ❖ Engineer
- ❖ Planner
- ❖ Grant writer
- ❖ Economic Development/Housing
- ❖ GIS Specialists
- ❖ Department of Public Works
- ❖ Office of Emergency Management/EM Coordinator
- ❖ Administrator
- ❖ Social services

Project Schedule



Plan Update Process

Outreach and Engagement

Requirements

- Authorities and special districts must participate to receive grants
- Representatives for socially vulnerable populations
- Businesses, academia, other private organizations (utilities, major employers)
- General public

Approach

- Virtual meeting for authorities
- Public meetings
- Online surveys
- Social media campaign



- Are there organizations/contacts in your community that should be included in outreach?
- Do you have social media or other public communications that can help spread the word about the plan update?

Risk Assessment

- Identify **critical assets** and **systems** that are vulnerable under current and future conditions
- Tell story about Bucks County's risks and link to the **capabilities** and **hazard mitigation actions** of each participant
- Requires considering the effects of **climate change**, **population change**, and **land use change**

FEMA's Community Lifelines



For more information on FEMA's community lifelines, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/lifelines>

Profiled Hazards

RISK	NATURAL HAZARD	RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORY					RISK FACTOR
		PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	
HIGH	Flood, Flash Flood, Ice Jam	4	3	3	3	3	3.3
	Winter Storm	4	2	4	2	3	3.1
	Environmental Hazards	4	2	2	4	2	2.8
	Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Nor'easter	2	3	4	1	3	2.7
	Utility Interruption	3	2	3	3	1	2.5
MODERATE	Transportation Accidents	3	2	1	4	2	2.3
	Urban Fire and Explosion	3	2	1	4	2	2.3
	Gas and Liquid Pipelines	3	2	1	4	2	2.3
	Pandemic	2	3	1	1	4	2.2
	Drought	2	1	4	1	4	2.2
	Extreme Temperature	2	2	4	1	1	2.2
	Terrorism	1	4	1	4	1	2.2
	Wildfire	3	2	1	4	1	2.2
	Lightning Strike	4	1	1	3	1	2.1
	Tornado, Windstorm	2	2	2	4	1	2.1
	Landslide	3	1	2	1	3	2

RISK	NATURAL HAZARD	RISK ASSESSMENT CATEGORY					RISK FACTOR
		PROBABILITY	IMPACT	SPATIAL EXTENT	WARNING TIME	DURATION	
	Earthquake	1	2	2	2	2	1.7
	Radon	2	1	1	1	4	1.6
	Hailstorm	2	1	1	1	2	1.4
	Subsidence, Sinkhole	2	1	1	1	2	1.4
LOW	Structure Collapse (Infrastructure)	2	2	1	3	2	1.9
	Dam Failure	2	2	1	3	2	1.9

Other PEMA Hazards Not Profiled:

- Coastal erosion
- Expansive Soils
- Invasive Species
- Civil disturbance
- Cyber Terrorism
- Disorientation
- Drowning
- Levee Failure
- Mass food/Animal feed contamination
- Nuclear incident
- War and Criminal Activity

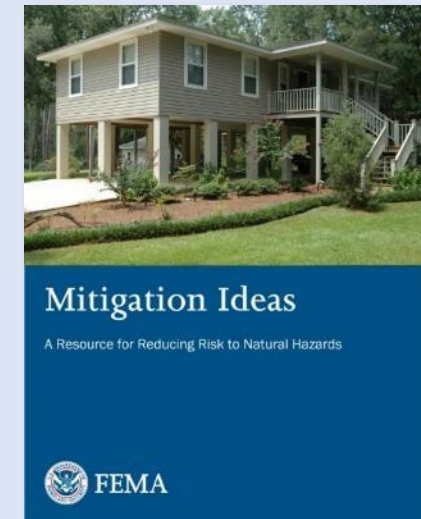
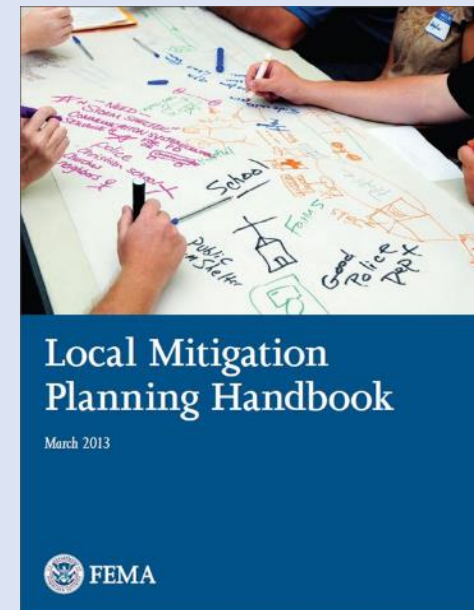
Capability Assessment

- Identifies pre- and post-disaster capabilities that could reduce losses and mitigate risks in Bucks communities, including:
 - *Planning and Regulations*
 - *Administrative and Technical capabilities*
 - *Fiscal Capabilities*
 - *Education and Outreach*
- The assessment also identifies regional, county, and local plan integration and coordination
- **This will be sent via email to fill out.**

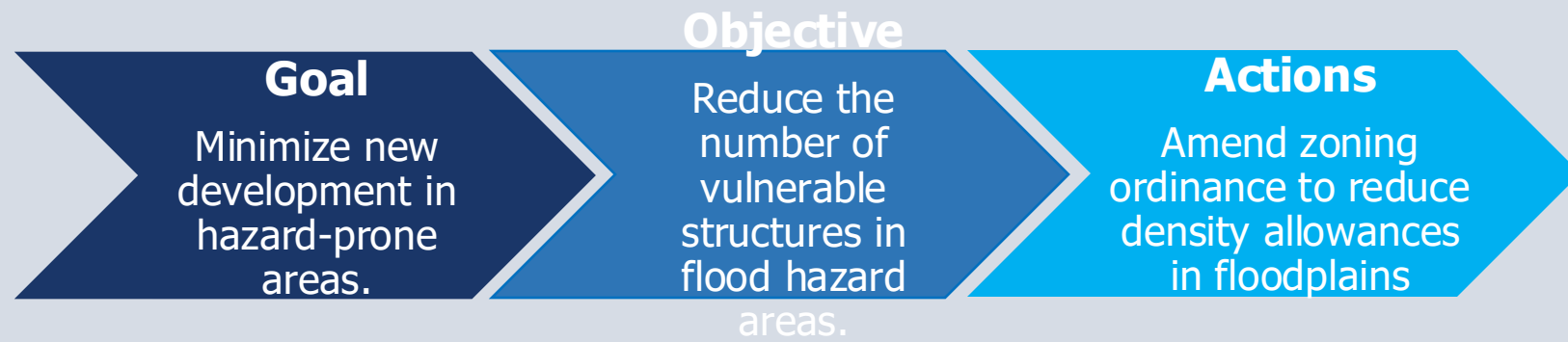
Mitigation Strategy

- Documents and analyzes a broad range of potential actions for the County
- Must link *actions* to *vulnerabilities*
- Demonstrates how the action reduces risk
- Every municipality should have at least 1 action.
- Must have at least 1 action for each profiled hazard.

- FEMA mitigation planning guidance identifies four types of mitigation activity:
 - Plans and Regulations
 - Structure and Infrastructure Projects
 - Natural Systems Protection
 - Education and Awareness Programs



Current HMP Goals*



1. **Reduce possibility of injury/death to county residents and reduce potential damage to existing community assets (including residential properties, critical facilities and infrastructure) due to natural and human-made hazards.**
2. **Promote disaster-resistant future development.**
3. **Promote hazard mitigation as a public value in recognition of its importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the population.**
4. **Protect natural resources within hazard areas and use them to reduce risk and losses.**
5. **Implement structural projects to reduce the impacts of hazards.**

**These goals are under review by the steering committee*

Mitigation Strategy Discussion

- Are there activities you have completed since 2020?
- Have you identified projects for BRIC FY2024 or FMA or Swift Current?
- Does your community have any additional mitigation needs that are not in the current HMP?



Next Steps

Next Steps

- Look for Hazard Identification Survey and capability worksheets via email.
- Please send any suggested stakeholder contact information to Jessica.Jahre@mbakerintl.com

Next Meeting – April/May, date TBD

Contact Us:

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