Public Comment Received:

Number 1 hazards on my list would be the closure of the Mackinac Bridge for any reason.

A very close 2nd in my view is the major hazzard posed by the Enbridge pipeline under the Straits. We need only consider the economic and ecological damage caused by the oil disaster in the Gulf. Enbridge has a very poor record - consider the major leak on the Kalamazoo River.

Picture these headlines:

Byline Mackinaw City
Date: sometime soon

Embridge pipeline #5 has major rupture beneath the Straits

- 10 mile long oil slick
- All ferry traffic to Mackinac Island halted
- Hundreds of tourists stranded on island
- Freighter traffic through the Straits suspended causing major economic impact to shipping
- Area residents setting up waterfowl rescue and cleaning stations
- Area hotels receiving cancellations due to spill

This will happen, the only question is when! The pipeline is over 70 years old! The pipeline must be replaced before disaster strikes.
Natural Hazards Mitigation County Plan 5-Year Update

Introduction

In 2004, Mackinac County Office of Emergency Services, together with EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission (EUPRP&DC), facilitated the development of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for Mackinac County. The purpose of this plan is to better understand the natural hazards and their impacts on the people and property of the County. But the plan is not simply a descriptive exercise. The plan is intended as a plan of action, identifying a wide range of options to reduce the County’s vulnerability to natural hazards.

The plan was prepared as a multi-jurisdictional plan. All local units of government in the County were invited to participate in the planning process. The decision whether or not to participate in this process was and remains a local decision, based on local community needs. Communities have the options to not prepare a plan, to prepare a stand-alone plan for their jurisdiction, or to participate in a multi-jurisdictional or county-wide plan.

Mackinac County’s plan was approved by FEMA in May of 2006.

View or download the plan at www.eup-planning.org.

The EUPRP&DC will facilitate the planning process for the 5 Year Update of this plan.

Grant Info:

A PDM planning grant was awarded to Chippewa County who agreed to act as fiduciary, in the amount of $36,000 to update three separate county plans for Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties. The grant covers a time frame of 24 months starting October, 2011. FEMA is providing 75% of the cost, with the remaining 25% made up of county and local in-kind match.

Plan Requirements and Process

This plan is designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000).

The DMA 2000 established new Federal hazard mitigation project funding mechanisms and new state and local planning requirements as conditions of project funding eligibility. The DMA 2000 also provides specific criteria for the preparation and adoption of multi-jurisdictional, “all-hazards” mitigation plans by local governments to meet these requirements.
Plan Requirements continued...

requirements. The Mackinac County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update will be prepared to support the requirements of a mitigation plan for all participating local governments within the County.

The planning process will include the following:

- Re-establish steering committees in each county.
- Develop and disseminate information on planning process. Hold 1st Public Session.
- Research of hazard incidents within the last five years with GIS mapping updates.
- Survey of stakeholders and local units of governments.
- Update county profiles and maps.
- Identify criteria/assessment tools, update county risk assessment and vulnerability.
- Develop/set goals; develop problem statements; develop possible mitigation strategies and actions for correcting or mitigating problems.
- Draft an action plan and prioritize projects.
- Hold a second Public Session to review draft.
- Finish editing and finalize draft plan and maps.
- County Steering Committees will meet throughout the planning period to oversee the process and plan development.
- Upon Steering Committee’s approval of final draft, the Plan will be sent to Michigan’s State Police Emergency Management Division for review and comment.
- Revisions will be made as necessary.
- The County Plan will be submitted to FEMA for approval once State approval is received.
- Once approved by FEMA each Plan will be presented to local units of government and County Board of Commissioners for local approval and adoption.

Local Commitment

There is an economy of scale in participating in this effort. Mackinac Co. has already established a plan format and completed a detailed hazard and vulnerability analysis – countywide as of 2005. This will be updated very early in the process and local units will be able to readily adapt it for their own use.

Local jurisdictions that opt to participate will be expected to:

- Review existing information and complete a hazard profile and vulnerability assessment based on local conditions.
- Develop problem statements and local mitigation strategy.
- Identify and prioritize specific goals, objectives, and action steps.
- Review and approve draft plan documents.
- Participate in public outreach activities and meetings.
- Adopt the final draft of the plan through formal resolution.

For More Information:

More information can be viewed at
http://www.eup-planning.org
(Choose Current Projects, Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning from menu on left side.)

Contact Ellen Benoit, Project Coordinator by email at:
ellen@eup-planning.org
Or
Mike Kasper, Manager
Mackinac Co. Office of Emergency Services
emd49@mackinaccounty.net
TO: Local Elected Officials, Administrators, Clerks
   Emergency Managers
   and Other Stakeholders in Hazard Mitigation Planning Process

FROM: Ellen Benoit, Assistant Director

DATE: April 16, 2012

RE: Mackinac County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan – 5 Year Update

EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission is assisting Mackinac County’s Office of Emergency Services in conducting the five year update of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan in efforts to remain eligible for funding under several FEMA grant programs.

Hazard mitigation is intended to reduce the impact of natural hazards on our communities. Obviously, we cannot prevent torrential rains or blizzards from occurring. Planning for natural hazards and implementing mitigation measures, however, can reduce the impact of such events when they do occur. Monetary losses can be reduced. Personal injury and loss of life can be reduced. The economic and social impact on the community as a whole can be reduced.

I have enclosed a fact sheet to give you background information, to describe the plan requirements as well as to outline the benefits of participation and expectations for local commitment.

Additionally, I have included a survey to gather current information about hazards in your community. The survey can be filled out and returned by mail to our offices at P.O. Box 520, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. This survey can also be filled out on-line by downloading the PDF form at www.eup-planning.org and returned by e-mail. Return of the survey by May 15, 2012 will signify your community’s participation in this planning process. Feel free to make copies to pass on to planning commission members, emergency personnel and first responders or other you know can contribute.

Please feel free to contact me at (906) 635-1581 or by e-mail at ellen@eup-planning.org if you have any questions, concerns or would like the survey form e-mailed to you.

Thank you for your participation in this planning process. As your time is valuable I’ve included an in-kind time form to record the amount of time you spend on this survey. Please fill out and return with the survey, as your time can be included in the project as a portion of the required County In-Kind Match.
Natural Hazards Mitigation County Plan 5-Year Update Progress Report

Planning Process

1. Organize Resources

2. Assess Risks

3. Develop a Mitigation Plan

4. Implement Plan and Monitor Progress

Plan Requirements

This plan is designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000).

- Risk Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Participation by Local Units of Government (LUG)
- Implementation and monitoring strategies
- Adoption by all participating LUG
- Public Involvement

Hazard Risk Assessment

- Hazard Description
- Geographic Extent
  - Isolated = 1 pt
  - Limited = 2 pt
  - Significant = 3 pt
  - Extensive = 4 pt
- Historical Events
- Likelihood of Occurrence
  - Low = 1 pt
  - Med = 2 pt
  - High = 3 pt
- Direct/Indirect Impacts
- Population Affected
  - Low = 1 pt
  - Med = 2 pt
  - High = 3 pt
- Casualty Potential
  - Low = 1 pt
  - Med = 2 pt
  - High = 3 pt
- Economic Impact
  - Low = 1 pt
  - Med = 2 pt
  - High = 3 pt
- Local Capability
  - Low = 3 pt
  - Med = 2 pt
  - High = 1 pt
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Estimation of Potential Losses
- Mitigation Capabilities Assessment
- Overall Hazard Risk Summary

Special points of interest:
- A 5-Year Update to the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is required by FEMA.
- Participating communities are eligible for funding through FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant programs.

Benefits from Hazard Mitigation Planning

Eligibility for the following FEMA grant programs:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
Public Assistance (PA)
Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM).

Public Input Requested

Has your home ever been flooded or damaged by wildfire? Or have you been affected by any other type of natural disaster? Who knows the community better than it’s residents?

Background information about the comprehensive natural hazards mitigation plan is available on the EUPRP&DC’s website, and residents are being encouraged to complete the online survey or input data on our map editing tool that will help a study team better assess the nature, extent and probability of various hazards in Chippewa County.

Critical Facilities

- Hazard Materials Sites
- Health Facilities – Hospitals/Nursing Homes
- Emergency Response Facilities – Police & Fire Stations, Public Works sites
- Utilities – Water & Wastewater Treatment plants, Electrical Substations
- Schools
- Places of Assembly – host over 1,000 people Casino/Campgrounds/Festivals
- Transportation – Harbors, Ferries, Railroad, Airports, Bridges, Dams

For More Information:

Fill out the on-line survey or enter directly on to the map at:
http://www.eup-planning.org
(Choose Current Projects, Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning from menu on top of page.)

Contact Ellen Benoit, Project Coordinator
toll free at 1-855-885-3690
or by email at: ellen@eup-planning.org
Or
Mike Kasper, Manager
Mackinac Co. Office of Emergency Services
(906) 643-6731
EUP Regional Planning

—and Development Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: March 27, 2013

Contact: Ellen Benoit, Assistant Director
906-635-1581

RESIDENTS BEING ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE SURVEY THAT WILL HELP WHEN DEALING WITH NATURAL HAZARDS

Has your home ever been flooded or destroyed by wildfire? Or have you been affected by any other type of natural disaster? Mackinac County residents can now learn more about a comprehensive natural hazards mitigation plan for the county and its 5 municipalities, and, complete an online citizen questionnaire or enter information directly on to a map at www.eup-planning.org. Find the link under the Current Projects Menu – Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning page.

Through a grant, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Mackinac County Emergency Management Department contracted with EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission, to work with county emergency management staff and municipal representatives to update the Mackinac County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The plan is a documented evaluation of the hazards to which a community is susceptible and the extent to which these events will occur.

Background information about the plan is available on the EUPRP&DC’s website, and residents are being encouraged to complete the online survey or input data on our map editing tool that will help a study team better assess the nature, extent and probability of various hazards in Mackinac County. Contact Ellen Benoit toll free at 1-855-885-3690 for more information or a printed copy of the survey.
Eastern Upper Peninsula Residents Asked to Provide Observations for Hazard Plan

By Paul Gingras

Natural disasters that affect area residents and infrastructure in the Eastern Upper Peninsula change over time, so the local management plan to handle emergencies has to change, too. That’s why the EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission is asking the public to complete an online or written survey regarding how flooding, fires, the lack of emergency materials, and the like affect individual households in Mackinac County. The agency is updating its emergency plan and hopes to adjust response procedures, address frequently damaged infrastructure, and prevent the severity of problems associated with natural disasters. To do so, Regional Planning requires very specific information only the public can provide, explained Ellen Benoit, assistant director at Regional Planning.

“No one knows the area better than the community,” she said.

Basically, Regional Planning needs information based on conditions and situations as near
as your backyard or basement, she explained.

Much has changed since the last Mackinac County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan was put in place in 2005, she told The St. Ignace News.

Eight years ago, a big issue was flooding. More recently, the area has endured extreme low water levels and droughts have exacerbated the potential for wildfires. Responders are well versed in the hazards of snowfall, but organizations must continue to update response readiness for winter weather by addressing matters such as where snowdrifts consistently cover roadways (which could be prevented), how to adjust building codes to account for heavy snow, how to create better storm readiness strategies, where consistent flooding occurs, and other matters that lead to “repetitive losses,” Ms. Benoit explained.

Information on a culvert that washes out every year, for example, could draw funding to build a more appropriate structure through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but the Hazards Mitigation plan has to address it first.

The survey asks the public to rate the severity of problems ranging from how drought to groundwater contamination has affected individual households in recent years. It provides a way for the public to offer advice and opinions on how emergencies should be handled, and it asks how area residents think information about natural disasters should be dispersed (such as through newspapers, television, and other means). The survey also asks whether individual households are insured for natural disasters.

In addition to the survey, Regional Planning’s Web site also offers public access to a map that allows individuals to point out specific areas of concern, by placing a virtual thumbtack on the image. This leads to a pop-up box offering the option to input a brief explanation of the problem identified at a specific site in the county.

Compiling data of this kind can “protect critical assets, historical buildings, hazardous material sites,” and other Mackinac County infrastructure. Further, it is important to get feedback from the east, middle, and west end of the county, which may have different issues, she explained.

The public feedback phase is part of the process to qualify for grants through FEMA. The public has already paid for it through federal taxes. This is a way to ensure the money makes it back to the area through local projects, Ms. Benoit said.

Regional Planning is writing portions of the plan now, using data from area police, the Department of Natural Resources, and county emergency responders.
The agency will complete its document assessing the county's vulnerable areas and plans regarding how to deal with them by the end of June.

The survey is located at www.eupplanning.org. Click on Current Projects, then Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning and County Survey Link on the dropdown menu.

Further information and printed copies are available by calling Ellen Benoit at (855) 885-3690.

Click here for digital edition
TO: Local Units of Government

FROM: Ellen Benoit, Assistant Director

DATE: May 10, 2013

RE: Mackinac County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

The Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission is working with Mackinac County Emergency Management in the update of the 2005 Mackinac County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan is designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000).

The DMA 2000 established new Federal hazard mitigation project funding mechanisms and new state and local planning requirements as conditions of project funding eligibility. The DMA 2000 also provides specific criteria for the preparation and adoption of multi-jurisdictional, “all-hazards” mitigation plans by local governments to meet these requirements.

Enclosed is a short questionnaire regarding natural hazards and how they affect your jurisdiction. By answering this questionnaire and reviewing and updating the critical facilities list we are meeting the State and federal requirements for eligibility for funding by local units of government participating in the planning process. Please sign the questionnaire and fill out the amount of hours that were spent on it. The questionnaire can be returned in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

Please make copies if needed to send to public works, police, fire and any other department that may be necessary for review.

If you have any questions, I can be reached through e-mail at ellen@eup-planning.org or by telephone toll free at 1-855-885-3690. Thank you.
Hazard Mitigation Local Units of Government Questionnaire

In order to meet the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), the EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission is reaching out to local units of government, departments and other stakeholders to gather information related to natural disasters in your community. Your responses will indicate your participation in the planning process. Please consider and respond to the following questions and return to EUPRP&DC by May 31, 2013.

1) In the past 5-7 years has your jurisdiction been affected by some type of major natural or technological hazard that you have had to respond to, and what has been the effect? (e.g. flooding – sandbags, warnings, evacuations; severe winter weather – provide shelter powered by emergency generator; wildfire – warnings, evacuations, etc.)?

2) What are your jurisdictions at-risk populations and where are they located? Do you have a high elderly population, low-income, etc?

3) Are there generators installed at most of your jurisdictions critical facilities? How many do you have and do they work for preserving public health? For example, the health department has a generator, but it is not able to power cold storage for vaccines.

4) Do you feel you have the necessary resources in place for each hazard? If not, what type of additional resources do you feel are needed?
Critical facilities are buildings and infrastructure whose exposure or damage can affect the wellbeing of a large group. For example, the impact of a flood or tornado on a hospital is greater than on a home or most businesses.

Critical facilities are not strictly defined by any agency. For this mitigation planning effort, eight categories of critical facilities are being used:

1. Hazardous materials sites.
2. Health facilities: hospitals and nursing homes.
3. Emergency response facilities: police and fire stations, public works sites, etc.
4. Utilities: water and wastewater treatment plants, electrical substations, etc.
5. Schools.
6. Places of assembly, such as casinos, or campgrounds or annual festivals that host over 1,000 people.
8. Significant Historical; Cultural.

In the 2005 Mackinac County Natural Hazards Plan the following critical facilities have been identified for Hudson Township. Please update the list of what you feel are your jurisdictions critical facilities. Add or remove any critical facilities and/or provide any missing information.

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