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## Element D – Plan Maintenance

### Element D Requirements

D1. Is there discussion of how each community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(iii))

D1-a. Does the plan describe how communities will continue to seek future public participation after the plan has been approved?

### Public Participation

The Androscoggin County Emergency Management Agency leads the effort to adapt and update the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. ACEMA is determined to continue and improve public involvement in the hazard mitigation plan maintenance process. The Jurisdictional teams, comprised of department heads, by extension represent the public, and as such will continue to inform the process on behalf of the public. Furthermore, ACEMA will continue to provide opportunities for public engagement, allowing for public comment and valued input regarding the plan. Opportunities include,

- Plan distribution to all 14 jurisdictions, allowing for public accessibility at the city halls and town offices.
- Plan promotion, discussions pertaining to mitigation, and plan implementation during public meetings.
- Solicitation for public comment, the plan will be posted to the ACEMA website for such opportunities.
- ACEMA contact information is presented in plan, reasons being accessibility and public comment tracking.

### Element D Requirements

D2. Is there a description of the method and schedule for keeping the plan current (monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle)? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(i))

D2-a. Does the plan describe the process that will be followed to track the progress/status of the mitigation actions identified within the Mitigation Strategy, along with when this process will occur and who will be responsible for the process?

D2-b. Does the plan describe the process that will be followed to evaluate the plan for effectiveness? This process must identify the criteria that will be used to evaluate the information in the plan, along with when this process will occur and who will be responsible.

D2-c. Does the plan describe the process that will be followed to update the plan, along with when this process will occur and who will be responsible for the process?

### Plan Maintenance Procedures

**Monitoring the Plan.** Plan progress will be monitored through cyclical meetings with MEMA and/or local jurisdictions, as well as following federally declared disasters in Androscoggin County. ACEMA developed a worksheet for plan maintenance to ensure annual review and update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan occurs, see Figure 39. There, the Jurisdictional Team can track the project status and implementation, before each budget cycle, following each major event and federally declared disaster. The Hazard mitigation planning team is responsible for contact, coordination, and facilitation of the formal review process, beginning every three years of the five-year plan cycle. The County EMA also intends to work with MEMA officials, jurisdictional teams and stakeholders representing businesses, academia, and nonprofit organizations in periods following disasters to determine the best course for the region to mitigate future damages to roads, critical facilities, residential structures, and businesses. The attendees will be briefed on the mitigation plan and project application process

at each federal disaster declaration kick-off meeting. The mitigation plan and funding project application process will be address and will be reinforced via email announcements for workshops, funding opportunities and grant application deadlines.

**Evaluating the Plan.** Annually and following disaster declarations, ACEMA will review the hazards in the risk assessment in Element B and mitigation strategies in Element C to determine relevancy to variable conditions including land development in the county, as well as changes in state or federal policy to ensure that Elements

B and C reflect current and expected conditions.

**Updating the Plan.** At year three of the five-year period covered by this plan, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team will conduct a hazard analysis and risk and capabilities assessment. In collaboration with the jurisdictions, the status of current projects will be updated and add new projects as determined. The process will come to fruition through a series of compounding meetings, the kickoff meeting, the seminar, and project planning meetings, including emails, surveys, and the website, as described in Element A. Once all hazards, projects, maps, and all pertinent data have been updated, and public input recorded, the Androscoggin County Hazard Mitigation Plan draft will be submitted to MEMA for review and recommendations before the final draft is forwarded to FEMA for review and approval pending adoption (APA). After APA, the jurisdictions will adopt the plan for final approval and start another five-year plan cycle.

Project Worksheet - Maintenance	
Status Report (for plan maintenance) Year 1	
Date of Status Report:	
Project Status:	
Update Evaluation of the Problem:	
Update Evaluation of the Solution:	
Status Report (for plan maintenance) Year 2	
Date of Status Report:	
Project Status:	
Update Evaluation of the Problem:	
Update Evaluation of the Solution:	
Status Report (for plan maintenance) Year 3	
Date of Status Report:	
Project Status:	
Update Evaluation of the Problem:	
Update Evaluation of the Solution:	
Status Report (for plan maintenance) Year 4	
Date of Status Report:	
Project Status:	
Update Evaluation of the Problem:	
Update Evaluation of the Solution:	
Status Report (for plan maintenance) Year 5	
Date of Status Report:	
Project Status:	
Update Evaluation of the Problem:	
Update Evaluation of the Solution:	

Figure 39, Project worksheet for plan maintenance.



Figure 40: Minot Ave, Auburn, ME July 25, 2023, Flash Flood. Source: News Center Maine

## Element D Requirements

D3. Does the plan describe a process by which each community will integrate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate? (Requirement 44 CFR § 201.6(c)(4)(ii))

D3-a. Does the plan describe the process the community will follow to integrate the ideas, information, and strategy of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms?

D3-b. Does the plan identify the planning mechanisms for each plan participant into which the ideas, information and strategy from the mitigation plan may be integrated?

D3-c. For multi-jurisdictional plans, does the plan describe each participant's individual process for integrating information from the mitigation strategy into their identified planning mechanisms?

## Integration

County government is very limited in scope and authority in the State of Maine and does not guide and control planning or development within its borders. Within Maine, most government authority is with state statutes and rules and with municipal “Home Rule” ordinances. Jurisdictions in Androscoggin County have already incorporated strategies recommended by or consistent with this Plan into local planning mechanisms as discussed below. By adopting this plan, each community, including Androscoggin County, is agreeing to continue implementation of strategies aimed at mitigating hazards identified in this Plan. Participating jurisdictions have a variety of planning and regulatory mechanisms for managing land use at the local level, thereby minimizing the exposure of future development to natural hazards.

In total, there are 14 jurisdictions in Androscoggin County. Available planning mechanisms at the municipal level include:

- **Local flood plain management ordinances.** As documented in Element C, all 14 jurisdictions have joined the Flood Insurance Program and have adopted floodplain management ordinances.
- **Shoreland zoning ordinances.** All of the municipalities in Androscoggin County are required to have a shoreland zoning ordinance. Shoreland zoning ordinances contain requirements for locating structures outside of known flood hazard areas and/or for complying with the requirements of municipal flood plain management ordinances.
- **Subdivision review requirements.** Maine state law contains criteria that local officials must use in conducting subdivision reviews. One of the criteria contains a specific reference to FEMA’s Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps and Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and requires elevation above the 100-year flood plain:
- **Local comprehensive plans.** All 14 jurisdictions maintain comprehensive plans, which are policy document that address a wide range of issues affecting the future of the community, and those relating to public safety and environmental protection would be consistent with the strategies contained in this plan. In general, local comprehensive plans do not include recommendations on specific projects, although they may contain more general recommendations that roads and their associated infrastructure be upgraded as funds become available.
- **Capital improvement plans.** Most municipalities have capital improvement plans; most of the smaller ones do not, but they do have local budgeting processes which are used to examine potential expenditures in detail and establish overall spending priorities. In either case, the budget review process is used to evaluate and recommend a course of action for actions contained in the hazard mitigation plan.



- **Local Budgeting Processes.** These processes are used to examine potential expenditures in detail and establish overall spending priorities. The budget review process is used to evaluate and recommend a course of action for actions contained in the hazard mitigation plan; this can include road maintenance planning efforts.
- **Emergency management and mitigation planning.** Androscoggin County EMA is the catalyst for helping all jurisdictions focus on hazard mitigation planning including the consideration and refinement of information on hazards contained in this plan and mitigation projects.
- **Fire prevention planning and coordination.** Including participation in mutual aid agreements, training, and exercises.
- **Grant writing.** Most of the County’s municipalities have been active in applying for grants to address municipal priorities which might include funding for one or more of the projects contained in this plan.

In addition to the planning mechanisms detailed in Appendix A and outlined above, twelve jurisdictions of hold town meetings and two hold council meetings, both offer a public comment period, an opportunity to communicate concerns, opinions and offer solutions regarding the state of affairs. It is during such meetings, hazard mitigation activities are discussed, such as road maintenance, zoning ordinances, permitting, budgeting effort to support such activities. ACEMA will continuously encourage jurisdictions to integrate the plan requirements into existing planning mechanisms, inform the jurisdictions and the public of hazard mitigation funding opportunity workshops, maintain a copy of the 2024 Hazard Mitigation report on the ACEMA website which contains hazard mitigation resources, an overview of the hazard mitigation program and funding opportunities. ACEMA will continue to assist municipalities with the completion of FEMA Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Grant applications, project implementation, maintenance, and plan updates.



Figure 41: Woodland fire, Lewiston, ME June 6, 2022. Source: Lewiston Fire.