

## **Plan Maintenance Process**

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## 4.1 Overview

Over the past five years since the initial Miami County Mitigation Plan was approved, the County has followed the plan maintenance process with much success. Over thirty-six mitigation actions have been successfully completed. Under the leadership of Chairman Paul Huelskamp, the Committee held an annual mitigation meeting to report on the successfully completed mitigation activities that occurred throughout the preceding year. In addition, numerous special meetings of the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee were held to address funding needs and project coordination.

On numerous occasions special meetings of the Mitigation Committee were called to help collaborate and coordinate activities for funding sources so that mitigation projects could move forward. While not all communities may have implemented separate line items in their budget for mitigation activities, many have found the financial means to accomplish many of the goals and objectives set forth in the Plan. It is the desire of the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee to continue to follow the current plan maintenance section as it has allowed the hazard mitigation process to move forward in Miami County with positive results.

It is anticipated over time through good planning efforts and coordination between State and County Emergency Management Agencies and communities that all mitigation plans will become more enhanced and refined. It is the intention of the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee to support pre-disaster planning and project activities that can help reduce risk and mitigate future disaster costs for Miami County citizens.

## 4.2 Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating The Plan

Data listed in Miami County Hazard Risk Assessment shows Miami County's population increased from 98,868 persons in 2000 to 102,506 persons in 2010. This mirrors the historic trends of the past and seems to indicate Miami County has been a progressive county and that it will most likely experience future growth and change. As shown over the past five years since the 2006 plan approval, completed hazard mitigation activities can have a positive impact on future hazard events. It is important to continue to update the Plan periodically and maintain a monitoring system to aid in this process. This current monitoring system will also keep the Plan activities on schedule. Adjustments and revisions are an important part of any Plan since events, contingencies, and unforeseen circumstances cannot always be predicted. Community needs will change and there will be advances in technology and mitigation techniques. All these factors considered will require the Plan to be periodically updated and revised.

An annual progress meeting will also be a way to effectively monitor the Plan's success and to assure goals and objectives are met. The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee shall meet annually to review and revise the Plan's goals and objectives and to share progress of the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee shall make recommended changes and updates to activities as conditions may warrant.

Continuance of the countywide Hazard Mitigation Committee will include a representative from the following organizations:

- Miami County Emergency Management representative
- Miami County Board of Commissioners representative
- Emergency Responder representative
- County Mayor representative
- County Trustee representative
- Miami County Planning Commission representative
- Miami County Economic Development representative
- Miami County Engineer representative
- Miami Conservancy District representative
- North Miami Valley Red Cross Chapter representative
- Miami County Health Department representative
- Miami County Park District representative
- Miami County Soil & Water District representative
- Miami County Citizen-at-Large representative

The Miami County Emergency Management Agency, under the direction of the Miami County Board of Commissioners, will be responsible for contacting committee members and organizing the annual meeting. The Miami County Emergency Management Agency shall be responsible for issuing an annual report on the progress of all mitigation activities. In addition, the Miami County Emergency Management Agency shall prepare an agenda and distribute to the committee members. The meeting shall be publicly advertised and open to the public. The meeting will be held the last Wednesday in

February of each year at an announced time and location and committee members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies of the Plan. In addition to the annual meeting, members are also encouraged to bring forth at any time any concerns or ideas relative to changes in goals or strategies for discussion. The special meetings may be held on call of the Hazard Mitigation Chairperson. The Miami County Emergency Management Director shall provide quarterly updates on mitigation projects and activities through the Agency's newsletter and/or website. By providing updates, the Agency will be able to keep the public entities and general public informed as to the progress being made.

At the annual meeting the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee will review each goal and objective to determine their relevance to changing situations in the county, as well as changes in state or federal policy, and to ensure that they are addressing current and expected conditions. The activities will be ranked as ongoing, completed, deleted, or no change. The Committee will also review the risk assessment portion of the Plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified. The parties responsible for the implementation of the various action items will report on the status of their projects and will include which implementation process worked well, any difficulties encountered, how coordination efforts are proceeding, and which strategies should be revised. The following questions shall be asked:

- Are current resources appropriate, and in order, to implement the projects outlined in the Plan?
- Is the progress on track and are the outcomes as anticipated?
- Are there implementation problems? If so, what are they?
- Are all involved agencies participating or are there legal, technical, or political coordination issues? If so, how can they be addressed?
- What are additional funding sources that may be available?

The Miami County Emergency Management Agency under the direction of the Miami County Board of Commissioners will then have three months to update, make modifications to the Plan, and submit it to the committee members for approval.

The Miami County Emergency Management under the direction of the Miami County Board of Commissioners shall be the responsible party to monitor the Plan. The Miami County EMA shall at the end of each year collect and update reports from each coordinating organization indicating the status and progress on each action item or activities that occurred during the preceding year.

The Miami County EMA shall obtain information on each project activity as to whether the activity is completed, deleted, ongoing, or unchanged. If the activity is deleted or unchanged, the County EMA should report the reasoning as to why the action item was deleted or unchanged. The Miami County EMA shall also request consideration for new activities. This information will be requested from the coordinating organizations at the beginning of each year so that the Miami County EMA can prepare a report to be provided to the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee (MCHMC) and distributed

to MCHMC members along with the yearly meeting agenda at the annual Hazard Mitigation Committee meeting to be held the last Wednesday in February of each year.

The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee shall then utilize the report to assist in evaluating the Plan each year.

<b>Plan Monitoring Schedule</b>		
<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
December 31st	Year's activity reporting, cycle ends	Coordinating organizations
January 15th	Coordinating organizations prior years status reports due to Miami County EMA	Coordinating organizations
February 1st	Miami County EMA yearly reports due to Chairman of Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee (MCHMC)	Miami County EMA
February 15th	Chairperson of MCHMC distributes agenda and reports to MCHMC and stakeholders	Chairperson of MCHMC
Last Wednesday of February	MCHMC holds annual mitigation meeting	MCHMC
March 15th	Minutes of annual meeting distributed to MCHMC members and stakeholders	Chairperson and Secretary of MCHMC
April 15th	Plan amendments/updates shall be added to Plan	Miami County EMA

### 4.3 Incorporating into Existing Planning Mechanism

The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee (MCHMC) in collaboration with the Miami County Emergency Management Agency continues to put forth a dedicated effort to promote hazard mitigation activities in Miami County. It is the Committee's goal to promote projects and plans which reduce the exposure of the citizens and their property to natural and manmade hazards. The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee has met on an annual and on-call basis since 2004 to help guide and spearhead the mitigation process.

Miami County is subjected to natural and manmade hazards that threaten life and health as well as causing extensive property damage. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K, 24 USC S16S) requires that an approved mitigation plan must be prepared and approved by FEMA in order to receive federal mitigation funding. The Miami County Multi-jurisdictional Mitigation Plan was approved in 2006 and has been updated in 2011 to serve as a comprehensive guide for ongoing and future mitigation projects throughout the County.

The County and all of its incorporated municipalities have participated in the Miami County planning efforts. Since the initial 2006 Miami County Hazard Mitigation Plan approval, the County and its communities have completed numerous mitigation activities and are proud of its progress.

The Miami County Mitigation Planning Committee will oversee and regularly monitor the progress of the Plan. The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee will strive to create sustainable communities that are resistant to human and economic costs and disasters. The local planning collaborative invited to participate includes:

- Elected officials and local administrators including:
  - County Board of Commissioners
  - Mayors, Village Administrators, and Council Members
  - Township trustees, City and Village council members
- Planning expertise:
  - Miami County Area Planning
  - County Engineer
  - City Engineers
- Local Boards and Services
  - Miami County Health District
  - Miami County Park District
  - Miami Conservancy District
  - Miami County Economic Development
  - Miami County Grants
  - Troy Development Council
  - Area Chamber of Commerce
- Non-Profit Partners and Business Organizations
  - North Miami Valley Red Cross Chapter
  - Miami County Foundation

- Citizens
  - Local volunteers
- State Agencies
  - Ohio Emergency Management Agency
  - Ohio Department of Natural Resources
  - Ohio Department of Development
  - Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
  - Academic Institutes

The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee will collaborate with the above referenced administrative officials. They will work to integrate the goals of the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee into the countywide general operations. By working within these established community leaders, this Plan will more efficiently implement and finance the hazard mitigation projects and programs. The goal is to update the work plans, policies, and procedures to include sound mitigation concepts into the daily operations of all administrative programs.

Instead of relying solely on funding from hazard mitigation programs or external sources, the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee recommends that all Miami County communities including the County, Cities, Villages, Townships, and independent Boards and Agencies consider including the addition of a line item and budget solely for mitigation type projects.

The County, Cities, Villages and Townships will include directives to require its departments and agencies to evaluate and carry out mitigation activities and initiatives. The Miami County Area Planning will continue to provide, as a part of its latest Plan, revised, effective up-to-date mechanisms for integrating mitigation practices into its comprehensive planning. A primary benefit of combining these processes is that they both influence the location, type and characteristics of physical growth, specifically buildings and infrastructure.

The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee further recommends that incentive programs be developed to stimulate momentum to undertake mitigation initiatives. Public/private partnerships and the use of community volunteers and community public awareness are ways to help further the County's mitigation goals.

The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee and its represented County Agencies have developed a successful program to identify and implement numerous mitigation actions. The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee has developed a collaborative effort of mutual agreement with various agencies and organizations to:

- To help define the duties and specific responsibilities among the different agencies and organizations.
- To provide a clear statement of values, principles and community hazard mitigation goals and establishes an organization structure to assist in measuring and evaluating the Plan process.

The collaborative effort includes a clear vision between various entities and partners and generally includes:

- The vision or goal statement.
- The organization lead.
- The timeline.
- How the mutual agreement statement process is to be reviewed or revised.
- A statement on how decisions will be made.
- A statement on describing the circumstances under which each partner should consult each other.
- A statement requiring each partner or organization to submit periodic or annual reports on the progress or program.
- A statement on responsibility for actions.
- A statement on how each partner or organization with staff, provide technical resources and funding that the department, agency or organization is expected to provide.

Upon commitment from all partners and organizations involved for each mitigation activity or process, the partner or organization shall provide yearly reports to the Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee through the Miami County Emergency Management Agency which will detail the following information:

- The hazard mitigation action's objectives.
- Who the lead and supporting agencies responsible for implementation are.
- How long the project should take, including a delineation of the various stages of work along with timelines (milestones should be included).
- Whether the resources needed for implementation, funding, staff time, and technical assistance are available, or if other arrangements must be made to obtain them.
- The types of permits or approvals necessary to implement the action.
- Details on the ways the actions will be accomplished within the organization, and whether the duties will be assigned to agency staff or contracted out.
- Current status of the project, identifying any issues that may hinder implementation.

The Miami County Hazard Mitigation Committee has been successful in breaking down the mitigation projects into smaller, more manageable tasks. This way the responsible agency, department or organization can determine the particular details in order to incorporate these additional considerations into the routine of their daily operations.

Since the 1913 flood left a legacy of flood control claims along the Great Miami River running north and south through the County. The flood control measures taken after the 1913 flood have helped limit development and preserve many scenic recreational resources along the County's river corridors.

Miami County has been progressive with incorporating mitigation actions into many of their existing planning mechanisms and programs. Some of these mitigation incorporations include the following:

### **Early Planning Documents of Miami County**

Since the early 1960's the Route 25 – I-75 corridor has been driving residential, commercial, and industrial development along the County's central axis. The three communities of Piqua, Tipp City, and Troy are the urban areas of the County. Those early developments created a need for a County thoroughfare plan which was adopted in 1974. Shortly thereafter, in the mid 1970's, two planning studies were conducted on the high growth areas of the County including Camp Troy (the area between Troy and Tipp City) and the Piqua East area. In 1991, the County adopted an open space plan which provided invaluable guidance to a variety of agencies charged with the mission of protecting open space and recreational sites.

### **Miami County Comprehensive Planning Documents**

Miami County has several Comprehensive Planning Documents which provide a vision for Miami County and guides future land development. All of these planning documents are sensitive to the protection of floodplain areas and restricting development in the County's floodplains.

Comprehensive Planning Documents include:

- Bethel Township Strategic Development Plan (adopted March 2, 2005)
- City of Piqua Comprehensive Plan (adopted January 22, 2008)
- City of Tipp City Comprehensive Plan (updated January 6, 2003)
- City of Troy Comprehensive Plan (adopted February 1, 2005)
- Miami County Comprehensive Plan (updated 2006)
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Planning Documents
- Village of West Milton-Union Township Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2004)

### **Countywide Zoning & Planning Documents**

In 1972 a referendum vote supported the adoption of countywide zoning for eight of 12 townships in Miami County. (The eastern four townships have township zoning). Zoning and planning regulations have been updated numerous times over the years. They all promote floodplain overlay districts, green space, and preservation of open land.

### **Open Space Preservation**

Miami County has abundant parks and preserves located throughout the County. The Miami County Park District has many open space lands and easements to help provide for flood flow, drainage, and maintenance.

### **Farmland Preservation Measures**

Bethel Township promotes preservation of agricultural lands as an integral part of keeping Bethel Township "A model rural community" through Section 5301.691 of the Ohio Revised Code to purchase, hold, enforce agriculture, and conservation events through the Agriculture & Conservation Easement Program.

**County & Community Subdivision Regulations**

Subdivision regulations have been adopted for quite some time and have had numerous updates over the years. The County subdivision regulations govern how land will be divided. These regulations set forth design standards to be adhered to by land developers.

**Miami County Engineer Subdivision Design & Construction Standards**

The County Engineer has established design criteria to supplement the only subdivision regulations of the Miami County Zoning Commission. The plans include addressing technical specifications and construction standards for storm drainage, culverts, pavements, and roadway design.

**Miami Conservancy District Stormwater Management Program**

The Miami Conservancy District is a river management agency operating in Southwest Ohio to control flooding of the Great Miami River and its tributaries. It was organized in 1914 following the catastrophic Great Dayton Flood of the Great Miami River in March 1913, which hit Dayton, Ohio particularly hard. Designed by Arthur Ernest Morgan, the Miami Conservancy built levees, straightened the river channel throughout the Miami Valley, and built five dry dams on various tributaries to control flooding. The district and its projects are unusual in that they were funded almost entirely by local tax initiatives, unlike similar projects elsewhere which were funded by the federal government and coordinated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Miami Conservancy District has a stormwater management plan as required by Ohio law. The purpose is to reduce discharge pollutants to the maximum extent possible and to protect appropriate requirements of the Clean Water Act.

**Countywide Building Codes**

The Miami County Building Regulations oversees commercial and residential buildings with many of the cities, villages, and townships within Miami County. Potsdam is the only non-participating village, and Ludlow Falls and Laura have commercial permitting only through the Miami County Building Department. The Miami County Building Department enforces the current Ohio Building Code regulations.

Several natural resource protection plans are available to Miami County residents. Those include:

- Urban forestry and tree ordinances which reduce the damage potential of trees and alleviate the extent of fallen trees and limbs caused by wind and ice build up.
- Watershed planning efforts associated with the Great Miami & Stillwater Rivers and Honeycreek Watershed Association. Habitat restoration programs use vegetative and other natural materials to achieve stream management objectives and control erosion.
- The Great Miami and Stillwater Rivers were designated as “State Water Trails” in 2010.
- City and Village well fields protection plans.

**Miami County's Floodplain Management Program**

This program requires floodplain development permits for improvements within the designation 100-year flood hazard areas as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The goal of the program is to ensure minimal flooding effects and damage prevention.

In regulated areas, construction and fill activity is prohibited unless a floodplain development permit has been issued. All incorporated villages also now participate in the Flood Insurance Program. In addition, the Miami Conservancy District has flood control easements along the Great Miami and Stillwater Rivers and their tributaries.

**Miami County Stormwater Management Control Regulations**

The purpose of this resolution is to establish standards, principles, and procedures by which Miami County can regulate construction-oriented, earth-disturbing site development activities which cause or may cause erosion, and sediment deposition, and thereby prevent an increase in existing off-site impact potentials at lower elevations for sedimentation of lands and drainage ways, siltation of drainage waters, and the flooding of watercourses. The ordinance was adopted on February 28, 1987.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, you can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. The CRP program reduces soil erosion, the ability to protect food and fiber; reduces the sedimentation in streams and waterways; and improves wildlife habitat.

**Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)**

The Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) is a voluntary program to restore up to one million acres of farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation. Eligible producers in all states can enroll eligible land in the FWP through the Conservation Reserve Program.

Producers plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat on land enrolled in CRP. In return, FSA (Farm Service Agency) provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. FWP is designed to prevent degradation of wetland areas, increase sediment trapping efficiencies, improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

**Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)**

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary conservation program that offers landowners the means and opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property through perpetual easements, 30 year easements or Land Treatment Contracts. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) manages the program as well as provides technical and financial support to help landowners who participate in WRP.

**Ohio Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reauthorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. It supports production, agriculture, and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practice and a maximum term of ten years. Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP activities are carried out according to a plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice or practices to address the resource concerns. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions.

Ohio NRCS supports the locally led conservation effort in the delivery of conservation programs. The USDA local work group (LWG) serves as the starting point for the development and coordination of USDA programs to provide an integrated approach for addressing local natural resource concerns.

## **APPENDIX**

2011 Miami County Risk Assessment	A – 1
2008, 2009, 2010 Yearly Agendas, Minutes & Notices	A – 2
2006 Plan with 2007-2008 Updates	A – 3
2004 Risk Assessment Plan	A – 4