

AROOSTOOK COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2016 Update

SECTION 3 PLANNING PROCESS

Planning Process	
Requirement §201.6(b)(1): (The planning process shall include) an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval.	
Element	A3. Does the plan document how the public was involved in the planning process during the drafting stage?

Throughout this Plan, the terms “community” and “jurisdiction” are used interchangeably. Either word is understood to include cities, plantations, towns or tribes.

The Aroostook County Hazard Mitigation Plan update was a multi-jurisdictional collaborative effort. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team sought participation through town mailings, surveys, meetings, postings on the Aroostook County EMA website, emails, facebook, and phone calls.

Participants at various meetings discussed county wide and town specific hazards and the probability and vulnerability of certain hazards. Groups also reviewed mitigation projects from the 2011 plan, new projects that have been added for the 2016 plan, and discussed any additional projects that were not already identified.

Additional participation was solicited through phone and email correspondence and the Public Review and Comment sessions for any recommendations/comments.

A separate Annex to this plan was prepared by the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and it is included in Appendix B.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team provided expertise, data and assistance in updating the plan. The Planning Team consisted of the following:

Darren Woods Director, Director,	Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency
Jesse Belanger, Deputy Director	Aroostook County EMA
Joyce Findlen, Planner, Planning Associate	Aroostook County EMA
JoAnn Mooney	Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Rich Rothe	Consultant

NOTE: Because Aroostook County covers an area the size of the state of Connecticut, time and distance was a very large challenge to the county in the planning process. To accommodate the communities with long driving distances to any central point, it was mutually agreed that plan “participation” could take many forms. These included, but were not limited to: conference calls, telecons, one-to-one calls, surveys, emails, website notices, regular mail, projects, and, where feasible, face-to-face meetings. This participation is summarized in the paragraphs below and in the participation table that follows.

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Local Director’s Meetings. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was discussed at three local EMA Director’s meetings including one on January 22, 2015 in Houlton, one on January 29, 2015 in Madawaska, and one on June 15, 2015 in Caribou. These meetings, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town	Representative	Title
January 22, 2015 - Houlton		
Amity	Margaret Frye	Town Mgr.
Bridgewater	Troy Bradstreet	EMA Dir.
Cary Plantation	Timothy McGary	EMA Dir.
Crystal	Jeremy York	EMA Dir.
Dyer Brook	Florence Hardy	EMA Dir.
Hammond	Wally Metherell	Selectmen
Hodgdon	James Griffin	Selectmen
Houlton	Butch Asselin	Town Mgr.
Island Falls	Jeremy York	EMA Dir.
Linneus	Carroll Willette	EMA Dir.
Littleton	Dwight Cowperthwaite	EMA Dir.
Ludlow	Diane Hines	EMA Dir.
Mars Hill	Darrell Wilson	Selectmen
Masardis	Nelson Craig	EMA Dir.
Monticello	Morris Pinette	EMA Dir.
New Limerick	Mark Stile	EMA Dir.
Oxbow	Steve Sherman	EMA Dir.
Presque Isle	Darrell White	EMA Dir.
Reed Plantation	Frederick Moody	Selectmen
Senator Susan Collins' Office	Phil Bosse	
Sherman	William Bistievsty	EMA Dir.
Westfield	Clinton Watson	EMA Dir.
Weston	Dwayne Young	Selectmen
January 29, 2015 - Madawaska		
Allagash	Daniel Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Fort Kent	Donald Guimond	Town Mgr.
Madawaska	Robert Boucher	Selectmen
St. Agatha	Christy Sirois	Town Mgr.
St. John Plantation	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Wallagrass	James Gagnon	EMA Dir.
June 15, 2015 - Caribou		
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Jon Cote	EMA Dir.

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Caribou	Michael Gahagan	EMA Dir.
Frenchville	Ryan Pelletier	Town Mgr.
Grand Isle	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Mapleton	Rich Wark	EMA Dir.
Presque Isle	Darrell White	EMA Dir.
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.

Kick-off Meetings. Three kick-off meetings were held by the Planning Team in March to discuss the Hazard Mitigation Plan update, the hazards to be profiled, and the importance of updating and re-prioritizing the list of local projects. These meetings were held on March 3, 2015 in Caribou, March 3, 2015 in Houlton, and March 4, 2015 in Madawaska. These meetings, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town	Representative	Title
March 3, 2015 Caribou		
Aroostook County	Paul Bernier	Public Work Dir., UT
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Michael Henderson	
Fort Fairfield	George Watson	Director, Public Works
Grand Isle	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Limestone	Jonathan Poitras	EMA Dir.
Presque Isle	Darrell White	EMA Dir.
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Washburn	Roy Guidry	EMA Dir.
Westfield	Clinton Watson	EMA Dir.
March 3, 2015 Houlton		
Bridgewater	Matthew Powers	Selectman
Crystal	Jeremy York	EMA Dir.
Island Falls	Jeremy York	EMA Dir.
Littleton	Dwight Cowperthwaite	EMA Dir.
New Limerick	Mark Stile	EMA Dir.
Sherman	William Bistievsy	EMA Dir.
Weston	Dwayne Young	EMA Dir.
March 4, 2015 Madawaska		
Allagash	Daniel Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Eagle Lake	Sandra Fournier	Town Mgr.
Fort Kent	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Madawaska	Jim Soucy	EMA Dir.
St. Agatha	Christy Sirois	Town Mgr.
Wallagrass	Jim Gagnon	EMA Dir.

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Survey #1. In January of 2015, Aroostook EMA distributed a survey to municipalities, asking about specific areas subject to flooding, winter and summer storms, and wildfire as well as “other” concerns they might have. Survey responses, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town	Representative	Title
Aroostook County	Paul Bernier	Public Works Dir., UT
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Jon Cote	EMA Dir.
Allagash	Patricia Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Amity	Glenn Williams	Town Mgr.
Aroostook Band Micmacs	Jonathan Cote	EMA Dir.
Blaine	Bob Collins	EMA Dir.
Bridgewater	Troy Bradstreet	EMA Dir.
Caribou	Michael Gahagan	EMA Dir.
Castle Hill	Richard Wark	EMA Dir.
Chapman	Richard Wark	EMA Dir.
Crystal	Jeremy York	EMA Dir.
Cyr Plantation	John Dumond	Selectman
Dyer Brook	Florence Hardy	Town Mgr.
Eagle Lake	Sandra Fournier	Town Mgr.
Fort Kent	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Grand Isle	Vernon Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Hamlin	Robert Cormier	EMA Dir.
Haynesville	Bruce Malone	Fire Chief
Hodgdon	James Griffin	Selectman
Houlton	Butch Asselin	Town Mgr.
Island Falls	Jeremy York	EMA Dir.
Limestone	Fred Vantresco	Town Mgr.
Linneus	Carroll Willette	EMA Dir.
Littleton	Dwight Cowperthwaite	EMA Dir.
Ludlow	Diane Hines	EMA Dir.
Mapleton	Richard Wark	EMA Dir.
Mars Hill	David Cyr	Town Mgr.
Monticello	Ginger Pryor	Town Mgr.
Nashville Pt.	Jim Beaulieu	EMA Dir.
New Sweden	Theresa Prue	Admin. Asst.
Orient	Melony Lowery	Town Mgr.
Portage Lake	Lawrence Duchette	Town Mgr.
Presque Isle	Darrell White	EMA Dir.
Reed Plantation	Gilberte Mayo	Town Mgr.
St. Agatha	Christy Sirois	Town Mgr.

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St. Francis	Darrell Mitchell	Selectman
St. John Plantation	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Sherman	Debra O’Roak	Town Manager
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Wade	Donna Turner	EMA Dir.
Wallagrass	James Gagnon	Town Mgr.
Washburn	Beverly Turner	Town Mgr.
Westfield	Clinton Watson	EMA Dir.
Westmanland	Erich Margeson	Selectman
Weston	Dwayne Young	Selectman

Survey #2. In May of 2015, Aroostook EMA distributed a second survey to municipalities, asking about the need for generators at critical facilities. Survey responses, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town	Representative	Title
Aroostook Band Micmacs	Jon Cote	EMA Dir.
Bridgewater	Troy Bradstreet	EMA Dir.
Dyer Brook	Florence Hardy	Town Mgr.
Fort Kent	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Grand Isle	Vernon Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Limestone	Fred Vantresco	Town Mgr.
Linneus	Carroll Willette	EMA Dir.
Littleton	Dwight Cowperthwaite	EMA Dir.
Mapleton	Richard Wark	EMA Dir.
Mars Hill	Dave Cyr	Town Mgr.
Monticello	Ginger Pryor	Town Mgr.
New Sweden	Sven Bondeson	Selectman
Portage Lake	Lawrence Duchette	Town Mgr.
St. John Plt.	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Sherman	Debra O’Roak	Town Manager
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Wade	Donna Turner	EMA Dir.
Wallagrass	James Gagnon	Town Mgr.
Weston	Dwayne Young	Adm. Asst.

Emails. A number of towns sent emails to Aroostook EMA regarding various aspects of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Most of the emails focused on projects and/or the survey. Emails sent to Aroostook EMA from various individuals, and their positions in the respective communities, included:

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Town	Representative	Title
Aroostook County UT	Paul Bernier	Public Works Dir., UT
Aroostook Band Micmacs	Jon Cote	EMA Dir.
Caribou	Mike Gahagan	EMA Dir.
Castle Hill	Jon Frederick	Town Mgr.
Chapman	Jon Frederick	Town Mgr.
Dyer Brook	Florence Hardy	Town Mgr.
Eagle Lake	Sandra Fournier	Town Mgr.
Fort Kent	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Grand Isle	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Houlton	Butch Asselin	Town Mgr.
Littleton	Dwight Cowperthwaite	EMA Dir.
Mapleton	Jon Frederick	Town Mgr.
Mars Hill	Dave Cyr	Town Mgr.
Sherman	Debbie O’Roak	Town Mgr.
St. Agatha	Christy Sirois	Town Mgr.
St. Francis	Gerald Jandrau	Fire Chief
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Wade	Donna Turner	EMA Dir.
Washburn	Beverly Turner	Town Mgr.
Weston	Dwayne Young	Adm. Asst.
Winterville Plt.	Carrie Chisholm	EMA Coord.

Public Comment Sessions. Three Public Comment Sessions were held by the Planning Team in August of 2015 to review the final draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update, and to solicit public questions and comments. These meetings were held on August 24, 2015 in Caribou and Houlton, and August 25, 2015 in Fort Kent. There were a number of minor corrections discussed at the meetings, including clarifications and updates to the projects. These meetings, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town	Representative	Title
August 24, 2015		
Caribou		
Aroostook Band Micmacs	Jonathan Cote	EMA Dir.
Fort Fairfield	Tony Levesque	Community Development Dir
Fort Fairfield	William Campbell	Police Chief
Grand Isle	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
Limestone	Fred Ventresco	Town Manager

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Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Dir.
August 24, 2015 Houlton		
Bridgewater	Matthew Powers	Selectman
Caribou	Lisa Woods	Citizen
August 25, 2015 Fort Kent		
Fort Kent	Donald Guimond	Town Manager
Fort Kent	Steve Pelletier	EMA Dir.
Fort Kent	Priscilla Staples	Town Council
Frenchville	Eric Blanchette	Public Works Dir.

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SUMMARY OF LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Municipality	EMA Directors Meetings	Kick-Off Meetings	Hazard Mitigation Survey #1	Hazard Mitigation Survey #2	Projects	Email to EMA about plan	Public Comment Session
Aroostook County UT		3/3/15	X		X	X	
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	6/15/15	3/3/15	X	X		X	8/24/15
Allagash	1/29/15	3/4/15	X		X		
Amity	1/22/15		X				
Ashland					X		
Blaine			X		X		
Bridgewater	1/22/15	3/3/15	X	X	X		8/24/15
Caribou	6/15/15	3/3/15	X		X	X	8/24/15
Cary Plantation	1/22/15						
Castle Hill			X		X	X	
Caswell					X		
Chapman			X		X	X	
Crystal	1/22/15	3/3/15	X				
Cyr Plantation			X		X		
Dyer Brook	1/22/15		X	X	X	X	
Eagle Lake		3/4/15	X		X	X	
Easton					X		
Fort Fairfield		3/3/15			X		8/24/15
Fort Kent	1/29/15	3/4/15	X	X	X		8/25/15
Frenchville	6/15/15				X		8/25/15
Garfield Plantation					X		
Glenwood Plantation							
Grand Isle	6/15/15	3/3/15	X	X	X	X	8/24/15
Hamlin					X		
Hammond	1/22/15						
Haynesville					X		
Hodgdon	1/22/15		X		X		
Houlton	1/22/15		X		X	X	
Island Falls	1/22/15	3/3/15	X		X		
Limestone		3/3/15	X	X	X		8/24/15
Linneus	1/22/15		X	X	X		
Littleton	1/22/15	3/3/15	X	X	X	X	
Ludlow	1/22/15		X				
Macwahoc Plt.							

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Municipality	EMA Directors Meetings	Kick-Off Meetings	Hazard Mitigation Survey #1	Hazard Mitigation Survey #2	Projects	Email to EMA about plan	Public Comment Session
Madawaska	1/29/15	3/4/15			X		
Mapleton	6/15/15		X	X	X	X	
Mars Hill	1/22/15		X	X	X	X	
Masardis	1/22/15						
Merrill					X		
Monticello	1/22/15			X	X		
Moro Plantation							
Nashville Plantation							
New Canada							
New Limerick	1/22/15	3/3/15					
New Sweden			X	X			
Oakfield							
Orient			X				
Oxbow Plt.	1/22/15				X		
Perham					X		
Portage Lake			X	X	X		
Presque Isle	1/22/15 6/15/15	3/3/15	X		X		
Reed Plantation	1/22/15		X		X		
St. Agatha	1/29/15	3/4/15	X		X	X	
St. Francis			X		X	X	
St. John Plantation	1/29/15		X	X	X		
Sherman	1/22/15	3/3/15	X	X	X	X	
Smyrna							
Stockholm							
Van Buren	6/15/15	3/3/15		X	X	X	8/24/15
Wade			X	X	X	X	
Wallagrass	1/29/15	3/4/15	X	X	X		
Washburn		3/3/15	X		X	X	
Westfield	1/22/15	3/3/15	X		X		
Westmanland			X		X		
Weston	1/22/15	3/3/15	X	X	X	X	
Winterville Plt.					X	X	
Woodland					X		

The following table identifies the participation status of all jurisdictions in The County. This includes participation in the preparation of the 2005 / 2007 Plans, the 2011 Plan, and the 2016 plan as well as the non-participants. Over the last decade, there has been a steady

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increase in the total number of participating communities from the 2005/2007 plan through the 2016 update.

Summary of Participating Municipalities “X” indicates participation; “-” indicates non-participation			
Jurisdiction	Participated in 2005/2007 Plan	Participated in 2011 Plan	Participated in 2016 Plan
Aroostook County	X	X	X
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	-	-	X
Allagash, Town of	-	X	X
Amity, Town of	X	-	-
Ashland, Town of	X	X	X
Blaine, Town of	X	X	X
Bridgewater, Town of	-	X	X
Caribou, City of	X	X	X
Cary Plantation	X	-	-
Castle Hill, Town of	X	X	X
Caswell, Town of	X	X	X
Chapman, Town of	-	X	X
Cyr Plantation	X	X	X
Crystal, Town of	X	-	-
Dyer Brook, Town of	X	X	X
Eagle Lake, Town of	X	X	X
Easton, Town of	X	X	X
*Fort Fairfield, Town of	X	X	X
Fort Kent, Town of	X	X	X
Frenchville, Town of	-	X	X
Garfield Plantation	-	X	X
Glenwood, Town of	X	-	-
Grand Isle, Town of	-	X	X
Hamlin, Town of	X	X	X
Hammond, Town of	-	-	-
Haynesville, Town of	X	X	X
Hersey, Town of	X	-	-
Hodgdon, Town of	-	X	X
Houlton, Town of	X	X	X
Island Falls, Town of	-	X	X
Limestone, Town of	X	X	X
Linneus, Town of	-	X	X
Littleton, Town of	-	X	X
Ludlow, Town of	X	-	-

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Summary of Participating Municipalities “X” indicates participation; “-” indicates non-participation			
Jurisdiction	Participated in 2005/2007 Plan	Participated in 2011 Plan	Participated in 2016 Plan
Macwahoc Plantation	X	-	-
Madawaska, Town of	X	X	X
Mapleton, Town of	-	X	X
Mars Hill, Town of	X	X	X
Marsardis, Town of	X	-	-
Merrill, Town of	-	X	X
Monticello, Town of	-	X	X
Moro Plantation	-	-	-
Nashville Plantation	-	-	-
New Canada, Town of	-	-	-
New Limerick, Town of	-	-	-
New Sweden, Town of	-	-	X
Oakfield, Town of	X	-	-
Orient, Town of	X	-	-
Oxbow Plantation	-	X	X
Perham, Town of	X	X	X
Portage Lake, Town of	X	X	X
Presque Isle, City of	X	X	X
Reed Plantation	-	X	X
St. Agatha, Town of	X	X	X
St. Francis, Town of	X	X	X
St. John Plantation	X	X	X
Sherman, Town of	-	X	X
Smyrna, Town of	X	-	-
Stockholm, Town of	X	-	-
Van Buren, Town of	X	X	X
Wade, Town of	X	X	X
Wallagrass, Town of	X	X	X
Washburn, Town of	X	X	X
Westfield, Town of	-	X	X
Westmanland, Town of	X	-	X
Weston, Town of	X	X	X
Winterville Plantation	X	X	X
Woodland, Town of	-	X	X

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Opportunity for Neighboring Communities, Regional Agencies	
Requirement §201.6(b)(2): (The planning process shall include) an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process.	
Element	A2. Does the Plan document an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as other interests to be involved in the planning process?

Since this is a multi-jurisdictional plan, all meetings were with neighboring communities, either adjacent to each other or within The County. Opportunities for local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as other interests to be involved in the planning process were given in the form of town mailings, the Aroostook County EMA website, facebook, emails and phone calls. Many of the local officials involved in the preparation of the 2016 plan work in various agencies, businesses, academia and nonprofit organizations.