

AROOSTOOK COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – 2021 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 terms “Hazard Mitigation Planning Team” and “Planning Team” are used interchangeably to refer to the group in charge of developing this plan.**

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.

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 A.

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
Brian Goff, Assistant Planner	Aroostook County EMA
Joyce Findlen, Planner, Planning Associate	Aroostook County EMA
Anne Fuchs	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. **The pandemic of 2020 created safety concerns which made in-person meeting inadvisable.** To accommodate the communities with long driving distances to any central point, **and in light of the public participation concerns caused by the pandemic,** it was mutually agreed that plan “participation” could take many forms. These included, but were not limited to: conference calls, telecoms, one-to-one calls, surveys, emails, website notices, regular mail **and** projects. This participation is summarized in the paragraphs below and in the participation table that follows.

Local Director’s Meetings. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was discussed at the local EMA Directors’ **ZOOM meeting held on January 15, 2021. AKEMA staff explained that the plan is an update of the 5-year plan prepared in 2016, and that drafts of the various sections of the plan**

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are posted on the AKEMA website. The list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town	Representative	Title
Amity	Melissa Sherman	Town Manager
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Jonathan Cote	EMA Director
Blaine	Bob Collins	EMA Director
Bridgewater	Jill Rusby	Town Manager
Caribou	Mike Gahagan	Police Chief
Castle Hill	Adam Rider	Fire Chief
Chapman	Adam Rider	Fire Chief
Eagle Lake	John Sutherland	Town Manager
Easton	Greg White	EMS Director
Fort Fairfield	Shawn Newell	EMA Director
Grand Isle	Vern Ouellette	EMA
Houlton	Marian Anderson	Town Manager
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Bill Greaves	Emergency Management Coordinator
Ludlow	Diane Hines	Town Manager
Mapleton	Adam Rider	Fire Chief
Mars Hill	Gerald Cousins	EMA Director/Fire Chief
Reed Plantation	Diane Hines	Town Manager
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA
Weston	Dwayne Young	Admn. Asst.
AKEMA Staff		
Joyce Findllen		
Brian Goff		
John Gibson Darren Wood		

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Kick-off Meetings. Three **ZOOM** kick-off meetings were held by the Planning Team in **November, 2020** 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, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

Town/City	Representative	Title
Nov.10, 2020 9:00 AM ZOOM		
Caribou	Michael Gahagan	Police Chief
Presque Isle	Martin Puckett	City Manager
Van Buren	Vernon Ouellette	EMA Director
Washburn	Donna Turner	Town Manager
Aroostook EMA	Brian Goff	Assistant Planner
Aroostook EMA	John Gibson	Deputy Director
Consultant	Rich Rothe	Owner, Rothe Assoc.
Nov.10, 2020 6:00 PM ZOOM		
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Chad Guerrette	EMA Director
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	John Cote	
Chapman, Castle Hill, Mapleton	Sandra Fournier	Town Manager
Fort Fairfield	Shawn Newell	Police Chief
Easton	Greg White	EMA Director, Fire Chief
Aroostook EMA	Brian Goff	Assistant Planner
Aroostook EMA	Darren Woods	Director
Consultant	Rich Rothe	Rothe Associates.
Nov.12, 2020 10:00 AM ZOOM		
Caribou	Mark Gahagan	EMA/Police Department
Aroostook EMA	Brian Goff	Assistant Planner
Consultant	Rich Rothe	Owner, Rothe Assoc.

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Survey #1. In **November** of **2020**, Aroostook EMA distributed a survey to municipalities, asking about specific areas subject to flooding, winter and summer storms, wildfire **and drought** 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
Amity	Melissa Sherman	Town Manager
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Jonathan Cote	EMA Director
Ashland	Cyr Martin	Town Manager/Police Chief
Caribou	Michael Gahagan	Police Chief
Crystal	Jeremy York	Public Safety Coord..
Dyer Brook	Florence Hardy	Town Manager
Eagle Lake	John Sutherland	Town Manager
Easton	Greg White	EMS Director
Fort Fairfield	Shawn Newell	EMA Director
Fort Kent	Suzie Paradis	Town Manager
Grand Isle	Vern Ouellette	EMA Director
Hodgdon	James Griffin	Town Manager
Houlton	Marian Anderson	Town Manager
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	Bill Greaves	Emergency Management Coordinator
Linneus	Carroll Willette	Town Manager
Littleton	Dwight Cowperthwaite	Fire Chief
Madawaska	Gary Picard	Town Manager
Mapleton	Adam Rider	EMA Director, Fire Chief
Mars Hill	David Cyr	Town Manager
Monticello	Ginger Pryor	Town Manager
Perham	John Hedman	Administrator
Presque Isle	Darrell White	Fire Chief/EMA
Sherman	Debra O’Roak	Town Manager
St. John Plantation	Patrick Nadeau	EMA Director
Stockholm	Corey Dickenson	Town Clerk
Van Buren	Vern Ouellette	EMA Director
Wallagrass	Lana Voisine	Director
Westfield	Clinton Watson	Director
Westmanland	Darren Woods	EMA Director
Weston	Dwayne Young	Administrative. Asst.
Winterville Plantation	Kevin Drake	Board of Assessors

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Survey #2. In February of 2016, Aroostook EMA distributed a second survey to municipalities, asking municipalities to update the list of projects contained in the 2016 plan. Survey participants were asked to add projects, re-prioritize projects where applicable, and to indicate which projects had been completed and the year of completion. Survey responses, and the list of participants and their positions in the respective communities, included:

To be completed

Town	Representative	Title

Emails/phone calls. A number of towns sent emails to Aroostook EMA or made phone calls 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:

To be completed

Town	Representative	Title

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Public Comment Sessions. Three ZOOM public comment sessions were held by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Team in _____ of 2021 to review the final draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan update, and to solicit public questions and comments. 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, included:

To be completed

Town	Representative	Title

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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	1/21				X		
Aroostook Band of Micmacs		11/20	X				
Allagash					X		
Amity	1/21		X				
Ashland			X		X		
Blaine	1/21				X		
Bridgewater	1/21				X		
Caribou	1/21	11/20	X		X		
Castle Hill	1/21	11/20			X		
Caswell					X		
Chapman	1/21	11/20			X		
Crystal			X				
Cyr Plantation					X		
Dyer Brook			X		X		
Eagle Lake	1/21		X		X		
Easton	1/21	11/20	X		X		
Fort Fairfield	1/21	11/20	X		X		
Fort Kent			X		X		
Frenchville					X		
Garfield Plantation					X		
Glenwood Plantation							
Grand Isle	1/21		X		X		
Hamlin					X		
Hammond							
Haynesville					X		
Hodgdon			X		X		
Houlton	1/21		X		X		
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians	1/21		X		X		
Island Falls					X		
Limestone					X		
Linneus					X		
Littleton					X		
Ludlow	1/21						

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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
Macwahoc Plt.							
Madawaska			X		X		
Mapleton	1/21	11/20	X		X		
Mars Hill	1/21		X		X		
Masardis							
Merrill					X		
Monticello			X		X		
Moro Plantation							
Nashville Plantation							
New Canada							
New Limerick							
New Sweden							
Oakfield							
Orient							
Perham			X		X		
Portage Lake					X		
Presque Isle		11/20	X		X		
Reed Plantation	1/21				X		
St. Agatha					X		
St. Francis					X		
St. John Plantation			X		X		
Sherman			X		X		
Smyrna							
Stockholm			X				
Van Buren	1/21	11/20	X		X		
Wade					X		
Wallagrass			X		X		
Washburn		11/20			X		
Westfield			X		X		
Westmanland			X		X		
Weston	1/21		X		X		
Winterville Plt.			X		X		
Woodland					X		

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The following table identifies the participation status of all jurisdictions in the county. This includes participation in the preparation of the 2011 Plan, the 2016 plan, the 2021 plan, as well as the non-participants.

Summary of Participating Municipalities “X” indicates participation; “-” indicates non-participation			
Jurisdiction	Participated in 2011 Plan	Participated in 2016 Plan	Participated in 2021 Plan
Aroostook County	X	X	X
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	-	X	X
Allagash, Town of	X	X	X
Amity, Town of	-	-	X
Ashland, Town of	X	X	X
Blaine, Town of	X	X	X
Bridgewater, Town of	X	X	X
Caribou, City of	X	X	X
Castle Hill, Town of	X	X	X
Caswell, Town of	X	X	X
Chapman, Town of	X	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	X
Garfield Plantation	X	X	X
Glenwood, Town of	-	-	
Grand Isle, Town of	X	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	X
Houlton, Town of	X	X	X
Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians			X
Island Falls, Town of	X	X	X
Limestone, Town of	X	X	X
Linneus, Town of	X	X	X
Littleton, Town of	X	X	X
Ludlow, Town of	-	-	X

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Summary of Participating Municipalities “X” indicates participation; “-” indicates non-participation			
Jurisdiction	Participated in 2011 Plan	Participated in 2016 Plan	Participated in 2021 Plan
Macwahoc Plantation	-	-	
Madawaska, Town of	X	X	X
Mapleton, Town of	X	X	X
Mars Hill, Town of	X	X	X
Marsardis, Town of	-	-	
Merrill, Town of	X	X	X
Monticello, Town of	X	X	X
Moro Plantation	-	-	
Nashville Plantation	-	-	
New Canada, Town of	-	-	
New Limerick, Town of	-	-	
New Sweden, Town of	-	X	
Oakfield, Town of	-	-	
Orient, Town of	-	-	
Perham, Town of	X	X	X
Portage Lake, Town of	X	X	X
Presque Isle, City of	X	X	X
Reed Plantation	X	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	X
Smyrna, Town of	-	-	
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	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 2021 plan work in various agencies, businesses, academia and nonprofit organizations.