

*Initial Maintenance Workgroup of the Sangamon County  
Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan  
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**PROGRESS REPORT – JULY 2010**

*During the annual period August 2009 – July 2010, the Initial Maintenance Workgroup of the Sangamon County Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan met twice at the Jerome Municipal Building, on June 22 and July 13.*

*The Chair, Derrick Pehlman, scheduled these meetings and made telephone contact with representatives of all stakeholders in the Plan. Several villages gave their regrets for both meetings and the Chair debriefed their representatives regarding annual progress. The meeting attendees represented Sangamon County, Springfield Area Home Builders Association, Springfield Park District, cities of Auburn and Springfield, and villages of Chatham, Divernon, Illiopolis, Jerome, New Berlin, Pawnee, Riverton, Rochester, Sherman and Thayer.*

*Both meetings featured a presentation by Ken Davis, Kennected Software, who spoke about the eLert Emergency Notification System, an internet-based alerting system already in use by the municipality/township/fire protection district spectrum across our county (see Goal 1, below). Rusty Tanton, Illinois Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Specialist, made a presentation at the second meeting in direct response to an inquiry during the first meeting asking about the determination for eligibility of mitigation projects seeking federal grant assistance and the application process.*

*Sangamon County's Plan lists 4 Goals within its Mitigation Strategy:*

- Goal 1 - Maintain and improve communication and cooperation between Sangamon County residents, government, and the private sector.*
- Goal 2 - Protect the lives, health, and safety of the people and animals of Sangamon County from the impact and effects of natural hazards.*
- Goal 3 - Protect existing infrastructure and design new infrastructure to be resilient to the effects of natural hazards. (roads, bridges, mass transit, utilities, water supplies, sewers, dams)*
- Goal 4 - Incorporate natural hazard mitigation into community plans and regulations.*

*Addressing Goal 1, at least 5 villages have implemented internet-based alerting systems. Weather radio use remains high in our county. The American Red Cross offers the crank-style radio for sale at its office. Sangamon County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) had its article promoting weather radio use published in the Neuhoff Communications Lincolnland Almanac 2010 (the 2009 edition was skipped for fiscal reasons). Sangamon County Highway Department annually educates the public about its winter road condition warning system through the news media. Tornadoes that struck at opposite ends of the county on August 19, 2009, in Loami and Williamsville, provided direct evidence that our response plans are coordinated with all levels of government, appropriate private agencies and volunteers. Mitigation was part of recovery efforts as the Williamsville Christian Church planned its rebuilding and some homes previously on slabs were reconstructed with basements.*

Addressing Goal 2, in this 12-month period both the village of Sherman and Springfield's White Oaks Mall received designation from the National Weather Service (NWS) as being "Storm Ready" communities. The Mall's designation was unique for NWS, which reasoned that the daily volume of shoppers qualify it as capable of being considered a small community unto itself. The Springfield Park District opened portions of South Winds Park this year extolling its accessibility for users with mobility constraints and, as construction proceeds, will give it free-standing restroom buildings which will also provide safe shelter. With this past school year, New Berlin District #16 opened its new elementary building which was constructed with a community safe area at its core, but funds are still being sought for a back-up generator for sheltering. Numerous communities have had generators installed at either their village hall or fire department. The request for Rusty Tanton to speak to our Workgroup was based on Chatham's sincere desire to provide matching funds on a project to bury utility lines to its village hall and fire department. Several communities are using their monthly water/sewer bills as a means of sending out education materials to residents about protecting themselves and their property from the impacts of natural hazard events. The Springfield Metro Sanitary District is in the midst of a major building project at its facility north of Springfield and has incorporated back-up/emergency pumps. This year's annual review of the safety program for the Lake Sangchris dam contemplated inundation consequences and included a land planner from the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission for the first time.

Addressing Goal 3, the matters discussed above regarding installed generators, burying utility lines, construction by the Sanitary District and Lake Sangchris dam safety also pertain here. Springfield's Office of Public Utilities (CWLP) is actively developing an Emergency Action Plan in the event of a breach of the Spaulding/Saddle dam leading to a loss of the city water supply. CWLP continues its ongoing tree trimming efforts around power lines. Riverton, in cooperation with Clear Lake Township, has made progress with culvert clean-outs. Chatham continues to improve its GIS system.

Addressing Goal 4, the matter discussed above regarding the Spaulding/Saddle dam also pertains here. Sangamon County has adopted an erosion control ordinance and Springfield has made progress this year toward doing so, though the matter is being held in committee at this time. Sangamon County also continues participation in the Community Rating System for the National Flood Insurance Program and promoting the adoption of International Building Codes. Reorganization in county government has placed building inspectors within the Sangamon County Department of Public Health and they are moving to the new Public Health Community Services Building as July ends. Sherman has done an assessment of local regulations (building codes specifically) to determine how they can better address the impacts of natural hazards. Pawnee's new mayor intends to place the village's ESDA program with its police chief in August to integrate community planning.

Respectfully submitted on July 29, 2010, by  
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Workgroup Secretary