

Chapter 10. Action Plan

10.1. Background

The culmination of the Kankakee County *Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* is the series of action items presented in this chapter. The goals and priorities of the overall program are outlined here. Specific activities pursuant to the goals and priorities are detailed in Sections 10.2 – 10.4. These sections assign recommended projects and deadlines to the appropriate offices.

Goals: The overall directions can be summarized under the five goals established by the Community Development Subcommittee and listed at the end of Chapter 4:

1. Protect the lives, health, safety, and welfare of the people of Kankakee County from the dangers of natural hazards.
2. Place a priority on protecting public services, including critical facilities, utilities, roads, and schools.
3. Educate people about the hazards they face and the ways they can protect themselves, their homes, and their businesses from those hazards.
4. Manage future development to minimize the potential for damage from natural hazards and adverse impacts on other properties.
5. Preserve and protect the rivers and floodplains of the County.

General recommendations appear at the end of Chapters 5 – 9 for each of the five general mitigation strategies. This chapter converts those general recommendations to specific action items, for the most part following the same order as Chapters 5 – 9.

Priorities: The Task Force reviewed and discussed many things that can be done to protect people and property from the natural hazards introduced in Chapter 2. It was recognized that priorities must be set so the County’s and municipalities’ resources can focus on those activities that will do the most good. Accordingly, five factors were used to prioritize what should be pursued:

1. **The greatest threats:** Efforts should focus on those hazards that present the greatest threats to the County. Chapter 3 reviewed the County’s vulnerability to the eight hazards and summarized in section 3.13.
 - a. The natural hazard that causes the most property damage is overbank flooding. Overbank flooding affects the County, Kankakee, Bradley and Bourbonnais the most. Affected to a lesser extent are Aroma Park, Manteno, Momence, and Sun River Terrace. Repetitive flood losses are almost all along the Kankakee River, in the unincorporated areas of the County. Other municipalities may have an overbank flood hazard, but current floodplain maps do not provide complete coverage of the County.

- b. Local drainage and thunderstorms come in second in causing property damage. The expected average annual property damage from tornadoes, earthquakes, winter storms and drought/heat is relatively minor. Wildfires deserve attention in Pembroke and St. Anne townships.
- c. Tornadoes potentially cause the most economic disruption. However, on a regular basis, winter storms are more disruptive and more costly to local governments more than the other hazards due to plowing and power losses.
- d. Tornadoes and drought/heat kill more people, but from overall life, safety, and health concerns, more attention should be given to winter storms and thunderstorms.

2. **Appropriate measures:** The recommended action items need to be appropriate for the type of threat presented. For example, Chapter 3's analysis notes that the major threat presented by floods and local drainage problems is property damage, so property protection and preventive measures, such as retrofitting and code enforcement should be directed toward those hazards.

On the other hand, the threat presented by winter storms and thunderstorms is primarily a life safety one. Appropriate measures for life safety threats are emergency warning and public information activities.

3. **Costs and benefits:** The Task Force considered the costs and relative benefits of alternative measures. These factors are listed in the description of each action item. It is desirable to list costs in terms of dollars, but most of the recommendations involve staff time rather than the purchase of equipment or services that can be readily measured in dollars.

In many cases, benefits, such as lives saved or future damage prevented, are hard to measure in dollars, so narrative discussions are provided. In all cases, the Task Force concluded that the benefits (in terms of reduced property damage, economic harm prevented, lives saved, and/or health problems averted) outweighed the costs for the recommended action items.

4. **Affordability:** Not only must the benefits exceed the costs, the projects must be affordable given the County's and municipalities' available resources and staffing. In some cases, the total cost was not clear, so an action item recommends pursuing more information. Action item 13, for example, calls for more research on the installation and annual maintenance costs of another river gauge.

5. **Environmental impact:** The impact of a project on both the natural and human environment was considered. Projects such as acquiring and clearing large floodprone areas were discarded because of the disruption they would cause to existing communities and neighborhoods. Action item 18 is primarily a list of measures to follow to prevent adverse environmental impacts from flood control projects.

Based on these factors, the Task Force prioritized the possible activities that could be pursued. Some possible projects, such as dredging the length of the Kankakee River, were not pursued because they did not meet the above criteria. The result is 26 action items that address the major hazards, are appropriate for those hazards, are cost-effective, are affordable, and have minimal impact on the human and natural environment.

Action items: Twenty-five action items are recommended in the following pages. Each action item starts with a short description, followed by five subheadings that identify

- Earlier sections of this *Plan* that discuss the topic and make recommendations
- The agency or office responsible for implementing the action item,
- The deadline for accomplishing the action item,
- The cost of implementation, and
- The benefits of implementing the action item.

All of the action items can be tied to the above listed goals and the recommendations in Chapters 5 – 9. These relationships are shown in the table on page 10-19. These recommendations and the discussions in the earlier chapters provide more background and direction on each action item.

Section 10.2 identifies administrative tasks needed to administer and support *Plan* implementation. Section 10.3 includes the 18 programmatic action items that are recommended. Section 10.4 lists four public information action items that form the public information program strategy credited separately by the Community Rating System. Sections 10.5 and 10.6 provide proposed resolutions for the County Board and City Councils/Village Boards to pass to put the Action Plan in effect within their jurisdiction.

10.2. Administrative Action Items

This section identifies three action items that are needed to administer and support the recommendations of the rest of this chapter: adopting the *Plan*, charging the Community Development Subcommittee with monitoring its implementation, and applying to the Community Rating System to receive recognition and provide an additional incentive for implementation of the action items.

1. Plan Adoption: The County, each municipality, and Kankakee Community College will adopt this *Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* by passing the resolution in Section 10.5 or 10.6, as appropriate. The County's resolution charges the Planning Department with the tasks described in the next action item. The municipal resolutions adopt the action items that are pertinent to the community and assigns a person responsible for them.

Responsible office: County Board, Village Boards and City Councils, Kankakee Community College Board of Trustees.

Deadline: September 1, 2013

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: Formal adoption of the plan ensures that County and municipal staffs are authorized and instructed to implement the action items. Adoption is also a requirement for recognition of the plan by mitigation funding programs and the Community Rating System.

2. Monitoring and Reporting: A plan is worthless if there is no instrument for ensuring that it is carried out. Accordingly, the Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission is proposed to monitor the implementation of this *Plan*, report to the County Board and municipalities on its progress, and recommend revisions to this *Plan* as needed. The Commission would:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues,
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants,
- Monitor implementation of this Action Plan,
- Report on progress and recommended changes each year to the County Board and each municipality, and
- Draft the five-year update mandated for continued FEMA recognition of the *Plan*.

The Commission would not have any powers over County or municipal staff. It would be purely an advisory body. Its primary mitigation duty is to collect information and report to the County Board, the municipalities, and the public on how well this *Plan* is being implemented.

The Commission would be, in effect, Kankakee County's hazard mitigation conscience, reminding the agencies and municipalities that they are all stakeholders in the *Plan*'s success. The resolution charges it with seeing the *Plan* carried out and recommending changes that may be needed. While it has no formal powers, its work should act as a strong incentive for the offices responsible for the action items to meet their deadlines.

The resolution in Section 10.6 calls for each municipality to appoint a mitigation liaison who is to attend the meetings of the Commission when it reviews mitigation issues. The liaison is to report on his or her community's activities and provide input for the annual plan implementation progress reports.

Responsible office: Chair, Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission and each municipality. Staff support for the Commission and drafting the reports will be provided by the County Planning Department.

Deadline: The annual progress report would be due by September 30 of each year, the same deadline that other progress reports are due to the Community Rating System. A five year update is required for continuing credit of this *Plan* under the Community Rating System and FEMA's mitigation funding programs.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: Those responsible for implementing the various recommendations have many other jobs to do. A monitoring system helps ensure that they don't forget their assignments or fall behind in working on them. The *Plan* will be evaluated in light of progress, changed conditions, and new opportunities.

3. Community Rating System: With help from the Insurance Services Office, the Planning Department will develop an abbreviated application to the Community Rating System that includes those activities undertaken by communities in Kankakee County and/or are recommended by this *Plan*. The Department will host a workshop to review the application. Participants will determine whether to apply for a Community Rating System flood insurance premium rate discount. If so, they would submit an application.

Background information: Section 1.5.

Responsible office: Kankakee County Planning Department. Technical support and a workshop can be provided by the Insurance Services Office.

Deadline: Conduct a workshop for the County and all municipalities to review their activities and prepare an application by March 31, 2014.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: There are many benefits to CRS participation, as explained in Section 1.4. In addition to saving residents money, the CRS has been shown to provide an effective incentive to implement and maintain floodplain management activities, even during times of drought.

10.3. Program Action Items

4. Development Regulations: As comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and subdivision ordinances are being revised by the County and the municipalities, the following provisions should be incorporated into them:

- Setting aside floodplains and wetlands as open space,
- Requiring utility lines to be buried,
- Requiring drainageways to have maintenance easements or otherwise be set aside from development,
- Identifying who is responsible for maintenance activities in easements,
- Requiring new manufactured housing communities to have storm shelters, and
- Requiring developers to contribute to a fund that will pay for appropriate hazard protection measures, such as rain gauges and outdoor warning systems.

Background information: Sections 5.1 – 5.6, 5.9 (recommendations 1 and 2), 7.2, and 7.7 (recommendation 4).

Responsible office: County Planning Department, municipal planners or engineers.

Deadline: The County Planning Department will provide model ordinance language to the Spring 2014 mitigation review meeting of the Regional Planning Commission. Communities will review the language and incorporate it as appropriate when their relevant plans and ordinances are up for review.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: By incorporating mitigation provisions into other plans and regulations, more offices will be implementing mitigation activities, hazardous areas will be avoided, and new developments will be better protected.

5. Building Code Improvements:

- Aroma Park, Grant Park, and Hopkins Park should adopt the latest International series of codes (I-Codes), the new national standard that is being adopted throughout the country.
- Bradley and Herscher should request a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) survey. The other communities should request one after they have adopted the I-Codes.
- Kankakee Community College should require that all construction projects receive a building permit from the City of Kankakee, thereby assuring that the latest I-Code standards will be met.
- Every community should update its building code at least every five years.

Background information: Sections 5.3, 5.9 (recommendations 3, 4 and 5).

Responsible office: County Planning Department, municipal building or code enforcement offices, Kankakee Community College Physical Plant.

Deadline: The first three actions should be completed by January 1, 2014.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: Adoption of the I-Codes will improve the hazard protection standards for new construction and will ensure a consistent set of building standards across the County. It will also assist communities to improve their BCEGS rating. A new BCEGS rating will better convey the community's code administration program and identify if there are any weaknesses that should be addressed.

6. Regulation Administration: While current regulatory programs appear to be well administered, the following improvements would help:

- Code administrators need to ensure that newly installed manufactured homes, especially those in manufactured housing communities, are being properly installed to protect them from wind damage and that all provisions of their floodplain management regulations are being enforced.

- This is particularly important for the County, Essex, Hopkins Park, Kankakee, and Manteno, which have large numbers of manufactured homes.
- Aroma Park, and Kankakee should ensure that at least one regulatory staff member becomes a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®).
- Bourbonnais, Bradley, and Manteno should ensure that their CFMs obtain the training needed to keep their certification.

Background information: Sections 5.4 – 5.5, 5.9 (recommendations 7 and 9).

Responsible office: County Planning Department, municipal building or code enforcement offices.

Deadlines: Ongoing. The CFM exam is given several times each year.

Cost: Staff time. The CFM exam is \$100 per person plus Association dues (\$20/year). There could also be a cost for the required continuing education, depending on how the credits are earned.

Benefits: Closer scrutiny of manufactured housing installation will help ensure that they are securely connected to the foundation and protected from flooding. Certification will ensure that staff understand their responsibilities under the National Flood Insurance Program.

7. Floodplain Mapping: This item has been completed.

8. Stormwater Management: This item has been completed.

9. Property Evaluations: Each entity should assess its critical facilities and publicly owned buildings and their insurance policies for exposure to damage from:

- Flooding,
- High winds,
- Lightning,
- Hail,
- Power losses from downed lines, and
- Other natural and technological hazards, as appropriate.

Nearby Kane County is developing a checklist for a similar project. FEMA's new National Mitigation Data Collection Tool provides software to help record and analyze information related to flooding. These two activities should be reviewed to determine the appropriate evaluation tools and approach for Kankakee County. Should major work be needed to protect a facility, and it can be shown that the project would be cost-effective, funding assistance could be applied for from IDNR, IEMA, or FEMA.

Background information: Sections 6.1 – 6.7 and 6.10 (recommendation 2).

Responsible office: County Planning Department and municipal engineers

Deadline:

- Establish evaluation procedures by June 2014
- Do at least 25% of the facilities within each jurisdiction each following year

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: Keeping critical facilities and other public buildings operational during and after a natural disaster, hazardous materials spill, or other type of emergency is vital to public health and safety. This action item would provide a summary for each facility of its exposure to damage by natural hazards and other known hazards and a general blueprint of what could be done to reduce that exposure. It is hard to put a dollar value on potential damage averted, but damage to even one critical facility could exceed \$100,000 in repair costs and the ripple effect on other people and property.

10. Repetitive Loss Evaluations: The County will apply for funds to support an evaluation of all 124 properties in the 16 repetitive loss areas. If funded, the County will conduct a field survey to collect more data on each property. The data will be recorded in FEMA's new software for mitigation of repetitive loss properties, which will provide more detailed mitigation recommendations than those in Chapter 6. The owners will be contacted before this work.

Each owner will receive a report itemizing what could be done to reduce the building's exposure to repetitive flooding. If the recommendations are for acquisition or elevation of the structure, and it can be shown that the project would be cost-effective, funding assistance could be applied for from IDNR, IEMA, or FEMA.

Background information: Sections 3.4, 6.1 – 6.8 and 6.10 (recommendation 6).

Responsible office: County Planning Department, with support from Kankakee and Aroma Park for the properties in their jurisdiction.

Deadline: Apply for funding by the deadlines for the Flood Mitigation Assistance, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, as appropriate.

Cost: Based on a similar project underway in Kane County, it is expected that this project would cost \$30,000. It would be dependent on funding support from one of FEMA's mitigation programs.

Benefits: Repetitive flooding takes its toll on people and property and leads to deterioration of neighborhoods over time. Reducing the damage caused by repetitive flooding will address the number one reason why the National Flood Insurance Program has to raise premium rates. Lower cost projects can be funded by the owners, resulting in no cost to the County or municipality. If an acquisition or elevation project is recommended, a favorable benefit/cost ratio is a prerequisite for financial assistance.

11. Property Protection Assistance: The findings in action item 10, Repetitive Loss Evaluations, will provide more detailed information on appropriate property protection measures for typical floodprone buildings in the County. Some of these will necessitate state or federal funding support, while others could be accomplished at relatively low cost, such as:

- Berms and regrading for shallow surface flooding,
- Local drainage improvements,
- Clearing defensible space and retrofitting buildings for wildfire protection,
- Sewer backup protection,
- Relocating furnaces and water heaters out of basements,
- Tornado safe rooms, and
- Installing lightning rods.

Implementing such projects would be greatly supported if there was technical and financial assistance. The funding sought for action item 10 will be used to help design a program of technical assistance and financial incentives (such as rebates or cost sharing) to encourage low cost property protection measures on private property. Alternatives will be explored and explained to the municipalities. Each community can opt for a level of involvement appropriate for its hazards and financial situation.

Background information: Sections 6.1 – 6.7, 6.10 (recommendation 5), 9.3, 9.5, and 9.7 (recommendation 1).

Responsible office: County Planning Department

Deadline: Present a proposed program, with funding alternatives, to the Spring 2015 meeting of the Regional Planning Commission, after completion of action item 10.

Cost: Staff time to review and develop appropriate alternatives would be supported by the funding sought for action item 10. The level of financial support depends upon the community's resources. It should be noted that road-related drainage improvement projects can be funded by Motor Fuel Tax budgets.

Benefits: In some cases, staff time to provide technical information is all that is needed to guide and motivate a property owner to construct or install a property protection measure. Using a 25% rebate level, for every dollar spent by the community, \$4 will be spent to protect a property from damage. Many Chicago area communities have found these approaches to protect against local drainage and sewer backup problems to be a real cost saver compared to public works projects to control drainage or replace sewer pipes.

12. Tree City USA: Each municipality will implement an urban forestry program that qualifies it to become a Tree City, USA. To qualify for Tree City USA, a city or village must meet four standards, which are explained in more detail on page 6-9:

- A tree board or department,

- A tree care ordinance,
- A forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and
- An Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Kankakee and Momence are already Tree City USA, designees, so this action item is for them to maintain their eligibility.

Background information: Sections 6.5 and 6.10 (recommendation 4).

Responsible office: To be designated by the municipality's adopting resolution.

Deadline: Incorporate the program into the fiscal year 2015 budget cycle.

Cost: \$2 per capita, staff time. It should be noted that some communities already spend this much or more on tree trimming contracts or related work.

Benefits: In addition to improving a community's appearance, an active urban forestry program will address the major problems caused by winter storms and high winds – loss of power, telephone and cable services and damage to vehicles and buildings due to falling trees or limbs.

13. Flood Warning and Response: EMA will review what is needed to install new gauges or otherwise improve the County's flood threat recognition system. It will also explore preparing a flood stage forecast map for one or more stretches of the County's major rivers. The map will show areas that will be inundated at various flood levels and will identify properties and roads that will be affected. The map will be reviewed with affected agencies and "calibrated" to historical floods.

Background information: Sections 7.1 – 7.4 and 7.7 (recommendations 1 and 6).

Responsible office: County EMA will take the lead with support from the Planning Department's GIS staff, the County Highway Department, and each affected municipality and township.

Deadline: Report on findings at the Spring 2014 meeting of the Regional Planning Commission.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: Early recognition of an impending flood can save lives and prevent property damage. A flood stage forecast map can quickly show the impact of a predicted flood and help EMA, municipal, and township officials take appropriate actions before an area is flooded. For example, ten minutes of warning would give local authorities time to close a road or evacuate a parking lot before they are flooded. The data collected from a new gauge would also help in evaluating watershed plans and models.

14. Outdoor Warning Systems: The County will establish a program to continue to install or upgrade outdoor warning systems. Priority funding should go to Hopkins Park, Cabery, and Irwin, the only municipalities that have no outdoor warning sirens or in the case of Hopkins Park, minimal warning sirens.

Background information: Sections 7.2 and 7.7 (recommendations 3 and 4).

Responsible office: County EMA

Deadline: Begin disbursement within two months of securing the funds.

Cost: An annual budget of \$24,000 is recommended.

Each municipality or fire district will need to provide an equal share to match the County's contribution.

Benefits: Outdoor warning systems are the most effective way to protect people who are outdoors and exposed to an impending hazard, such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. By making such systems affordable for the smaller communities, many lives will be protected from such hazards. A cost-sharing approach will also ensure that new sirens will be consistent with EMA's standards.

15. StormReady: This item has been completed.

16. Emergency Response Operations: To improve the County's and each municipality's abilities to respond to hazards, the following actions will be pursued:

- The coordinator/liaison will attend EMA training and participate in exercises.
- Municipal leaders will encourage residents to volunteer for CERT teams so they will have the expertise within their community, should a disaster occur.
- The County EMA and the Planning Department will jointly develop post-disaster procedures for public information, reconstruction regulation and mitigation project identification.
- The municipal coordinator/liaison will review their emergency management operations and:
 - Identify where additional activities are needed to respond to natural hazards,
 - Ensure that all relevant offices and agencies are given clear and coordinated instructions,
 - Ensure they have access to information on all critical facilities and update that information annually,
 - Develop arrangements to provide and receive aid from other communities' permit departments to assist in post-disaster damage assessment and building inspection, and
 - Attend training on damage assessment and post-disaster mitigation activities,

- County EMA will invite the municipal coordinator/liaisons to an exercise at least once a year.

Background information: Sections 7.1 – 7.5 and 7.7 (recommendations 2, 9, and 10).

Responsible office: County EMA, municipal coordinator/liaisons

Deadline:

- Each municipality will identify its emergency management coordinator/liaison when it passes its resolution to adopt this *Plan* [see Section 10.4].
- County EMA will host a county-wide meeting of emergency personnel and review procedures, mutual aid arrangements, and training needs by February 28, 2015.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: Emergency response plans that have been carefully prepared, that utilize the latest planning and management tools, that are coordinated with the affected municipalities, and that are regularly exercised will greatly improve local disaster response capabilities. Better disaster response means less loss of life, injury to people and damage to property.

17. Fire Protection Operations: The Essex, Salina, and Pembroke Fire Protection Districts will review the criteria for the Insurance Services Offices' fire department classification system. They will determine whether they have been accurately scored and, if so, they will identify steps to take that will improve both their operations and their insurance classification.

Background information: Sections 7.3 – 7.4 and 7.7 (recommendation 8).

Responsible office: Essex, Salina, and Pembroke Fire Protection Districts, with support from the Kankakee Valley Fire Chiefs Association.

Deadline: Conduct the review by February 28, 2014.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: The review will identify any shortcomings and needs of the districts.

If they are corrected, their constituents will be better protected from urban and wild fires and will benefit from reduced insurance premiums.

18. Small Flood Control Projects: When drainage improvement, flood control, or bridge and culvert repair projects are pursued, the following guidelines will be used:

- Wherever possible, flood and drainage protection measures will be incorporated into road, street, bridge and culvert improvement projects.
- Each project's study should look beyond the immediate project site to ensure that no other properties will be adversely impacted.
- Each project's study should consider protecting and improving the natural functions of the stream and floodplain, in addition to flood protection.
- The design and construction should be certified by a licensed professional engineer.
- All relevant federal, state and local permits must be obtained.
- Communities and property owners that may be affected by the project should be notified.

Background information: Sections 8.1 – 8.4 and 8.9 (recommendations 1 and 2).

Responsible office: County Engineer, municipal engineers and public works directors

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: The cost of each project will vary and may well be part of operational or street maintenance budgets.

Benefits: The benefits of each project will vary, but this approach ensures that the projects selected will provide the most protection for the cost. Several of the listed criteria assure that adverse impacts will not be transferred on to neighboring or downstream properties.

19. River Restoration Projects: The Corps of Engineers should implement its planned projects to remove sediment and restore habitat at Six-Mile Pool and the State line.

Background information: Sections 8.5 and 8.9 (recommendation 3).

Responsible office: The Planning Department, Kankakee River Basin Commission, and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

Deadline: The Planning Department and the Commission will provide a report on the Corps' progress by the Spring 2014 meeting of the Regional Planning Commission.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: The primary benefit will be improved habitat, but there will be secondary flood protection benefits from the removal of sediment and the provision of some upstream flood storage.

20. Drainage System Maintenance: Each municipality, in coordination with appropriate active drainage districts, will implement a formal and regular drainage system maintenance program. This would involve mapping the local drainage system, determin-

ing which areas can be accessed for inspection and maintenance, preparing procedures modeled on Community Rating System and IDNR program guidance, conducting an annual inspection, and removing debris as needed. It would include educating and working with homeowner associations and other non-governmental entities responsible for maintenance on their own properties.

Background information: Sections 8.7 and 8.9 (recommendations 4 and 5).

Responsible office: Municipal public works departments, Kankakee Community College Physical Plant, active drainage districts. Model procedures will be developed by the Planning Department based on CRS and IDNR guidance.

Deadline: Develop the model procedures by March 31, 2015, in conjunction with the CRS workshop (action item 3).

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: An obstruction to a channel, such as a plugged culvert, can result in overbank flooding during a small rainstorm. By inspecting and maintaining the drainage system, potential flood problems can be identified and corrected before the next big rain. A proactive preventive activity like this can prevent a great deal of flood damage, closed streets, and threats to people.

21. Water Use Management: The Regional Planning Department, the Kankakee River Basin Commission, and Aqua-Illinois Water Company will review the long term potential for a shortage in water supplies and diversion of water to other areas. A report will be prepared that summarizes the potential problems, analyzes alternative solutions, and makes recommendations to the County Board, city councils, and village boards.

Background information: Sections 2.7, 3.10, 5.7, and 5.9 (recommendation 11).

Responsible office: The Planning Department, the Kankakee River Basin Commission, and Aqua Illinois Water Company, with support from municipal water departments.

Deadline: Draft the study for presentation to the Regional Planning Commission by August 2015.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: The study will shed light on the problem and the possible solutions. It will help inform the public and elected officials provide a factual basis for action by the local governments and water suppliers. Such actions may prevent or reduce the adverse impacts of a drought on people, property, and habitat.

10.4. Public Information Program Strategy

22. Messages and Templates: The County Planning Department and EMA, with help from members of the Community Development Subcommittee, will prepare background information, articles, templates and other materials that can be used by anyone to communicate hazard mitigation topics, including:

- The natural hazards that threaten Kankakee County,
- What the sirens and warnings mean,
- Safety and health precautions for all types of hazards,
- Emergency and permanent property protection measures,
- Floodplain management and flood insurance information,
- The benefits of preventive measures and the need for all projects to get permits,
- What government agencies are doing and how they can help, and
- Protecting streams, water quality, wetlands and open spaces.

These materials are to be provided to County, municipal, school, Red Cross, and private offices for use in presentations, newsletter articles, webpages, brochures and other outreach projects.

Background information: Sections 5.9 (recommendation 6), 6.7, 6.10 (recommendation 1), 7.1 – 7.3, 7.7 (recommendation 7), 9.5, and 9.7 (recommendation 1).

Responsible office: County Planning Department and EMA

Deadline: Ongoing.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: By preparing a master set of locally pertinent articles and materials, each interested office only has to select the most appropriate media and distribute the messages. By simply inserting an article in a newsletter or putting it on the website, the local level of effort is greatly reduced, which increases the likelihood that the messages will get out. The messages will also be technically correct and consistent throughout the County.

23. County-Wide Activities: The following public information activities will be implemented on a county-wide basis:

- Brochures or handouts on the hazards, safety precautions, and simple property protection measures,
- Playing videos and short programs on the public access cable channel,
- Putting more information on the County's website and adding links to other sites with relevant materials, and
- An order form for free references that can be put in municipal offices and local and school libraries.

Background information: Sections 5.9 (recommendation 6), 6.7, 6.10, (recommendation 3), 9.1 – 9.5, and 9.7 (recommendations 2, 5 and 6).

Responsible office: County Planning Department and EMA

Deadline: Ongoing.

Cost: Staff time to prepare the materials. Some funding may be needed for reproduction of items like the brochures. Sponsorship could be sought from utilities or companies interested in hazard mitigation or public safety.

Benefits: There are many benefits to having a well-informed public. For example, deaths from lightning have steadily decreased over the years because people are more aware of what they should and should not do. More self-help and self-protection measures will be implemented if people know about them and are motivated to pursue them.

24. Municipal Activities: Each municipality will review its needs, resources, and interest in CRS credits and will determine what public information activities it will implement. Municipalities will be supported with materials and templates provided by the County Planning Department that will help with the following:

- Articles in their newsletters,
- An annual mailing on flood protection to all residents of the floodplain,
- Appropriate handouts at permit offices for applicants and other interested parties,
- References in the local public library,
- Information and links on their website,
- Helping people obtain information from the Flood Insurance Rate Map,
- Providing technical advice to people interested in property protection,
- Making site visits to review drainage and other problems facing a property, and
- Annual Arbor Day celebrations pursuant to being a Tree City USA community.

Background information: Sections 6.5, 6.7, 6.9 (recommendations 1, 3 and 4), 9.1 – 9.5, and 9.7 (recommendations 2, 3 and 6).

Responsible office: Determined by each municipality.

Deadline: Ongoing

Cost: Staff time. There may be printing and mailing costs, depending on the extent of the project.

Benefits: Same as the previous action item.

25. Real Estate Disclosure: The County Planning Department will meet with the Association of Realtors to review ways to inform people of the natural hazards that

properties are exposed to. A special effort will be made to advise people to check out a site's flood hazard before they are committed to a purchase.

Background information: Sections 9.2 and 9.7 (recommendation 4).

Responsible office: County Planning Department

Deadline: The first meeting will be held by March 31, 2014.

Cost: Staff time.

Benefits: This action item has both a consumer protection benefit and a flood protection benefit. House hunters will be more aware of what they are purchasing and can ensure that they can afford flood insurance. They may even plan to retrofit or otherwise protect the property before they move in.

Action Items, Goals and Recommendations						
Action Item	Goal 1. Protect health and safety	Goal 2. Protect public services	Goal 3. Educate people	Goal 4. Manage future development	Goal 5. Protect rivers & floodplains	Chapter – Recommendation
10.2. Administrative Action Items						
1. Plan Adoption	X	X	X	X	X	All
2. Monitoring and Reporting	X	X	X	X	X	All
3. Community Rating System	X	X	X	X	X	All
10.3. Program Action Items						
4. Development Regulations	X	X		X	X	5-1, 5-2, 7-4
5. Building Code Improvements	X	X		X		5-3, 5-4, 5-5
6. Regulation Administration	X	X		X	X	5-7, 5-9
7. Floodplain Mapping	X		X	X	X	5-8
8. Stormwater Management	X			X	X	5-10
9. Property Evaluations	X	X				6-2
10. Repetitive Loss Evaluations	X	X	X		X	6-6
11. Property Protection Assistance	X	X	X		X	6-5, 9-1
12. Tree City USA	X	X	X	X		6-4
13. Flood Warning and Response	X	X				7-1, 7-6
14. Outdoor Warning Systems	X	X	X			7-3, 7-4
15. StormReady	X	X	X			7-5
16. Emergency Response Operations	X	X	X			7-2, 7-9, 7-10
17. Fire Protection Operations	X	X				7-8
18. Small Flood Control Projects	X	X			X	8-1, 8-2
19. River Restoration Projects					X	8-3
20. Drainage System Maintenance	X	X	X		X	8-4, 8-5
21. Water Use Management	X	X	X	X	X	5-11
10.4. Public Information Strategy						
22. Messages and Templates	X	X	X	X	X	5-6, 6-1, 7-7, 9-1
23. County-Wide Activities	X	X	X	X	X	5-6, 6-3, 9-2, 9-5, 9-6
24. Municipal Activities	X	X	X	X	X	6-1, 6-3, 6-4, 9-2, 9-3, 9-6
25. Real Estate Disclosure	X		X	X	X	9-4

This table relates the 26 action items to the 5 goals of this *Plan*. The goals are stated in full on pages 4-6 and 10-1. The table also shows the relation between the action items and the recommendations at the end of chapters 5 – 9. For example action item 6, Regulation Administration, is drawn from recommendations 7 and 9 at the end of chapter 5.