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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **County Prepares for Natural Disasters: Kankakee County to Update Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**Kankakee, Illinois (May 5, 2022)** — Kankakee County will update its plan to reduce the damages caused by severe weather such as floods, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, and thunderstorms among other events. The plan is called a Hazard Mitigation Plan and the process to update it will be funded through a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“The Plan describes the natural hazard events that have impacted the County and identifies activities and projects to reduce the risk to residents, property and infrastructure”, said Kankakee County Director of Planning, Delbert Skimerhorn. “By having an updated hazard mitigation plan, the County and participating jurisdictions will become eligible for federal funds to construct these projects.”

The Kankakee County Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will hold its first meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 9:00 A.M. The meeting will be held at the Kankakee County Administration Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor County Board Room at 189 E. Court Street in Kankakee.

The Planning Committee includes County, municipal, school, fire protection district, and hospital representatives, as well as technical partners and other stakeholders. Meetings of this committee will be conducted over the next year as working sessions so that any interested residents can attend and ask questions. The purpose of these working sessions is to gather and discuss information that will be used to update the plan.

“This mitigation plan is different from our County’s emergency response plan because it focuses on ways to reduce and prevent damages before they occur,” added Skimerhorn.

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Kankakee County operates under the township form of government, and is the governing body for Kankakee County outside of municipal jurisdictions. For more information on Kankakee County, visit <https://www.k3county.net/>. Please note that the following information is strictly a news release. We do not wish to pay for publication.