

IV. Plan Review and Update

A. Introduction

Periodic monitoring and reporting of progress is required to ensure that Plan goals and objectives are kept current and that local mitigation efforts are being accomplished. The Wilson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be reviewed annually or more often as the local situation may require following a disaster declaration to ensure that progress is being made on achieving stated goals and objectives. The Plan will also undergo periodic evaluation and update as required by FEMA and the State. The plan strives to provide the most relevant data and accurate data available, but understands that with each update, that more detailed data will become available and will be used accordingly; specifically, Census data reflecting the 2010 update will significantly contribute to the plan's ability to use the most accurate data. Therefore, the best available data was used in preparing the update.

B. Annual Review/Progress Report

The Wilson County Planning Director and the City of Wilson Senior Planner shall take responsibility for conducting the annual review. The annual review shall include the solicitation of comments and a report on implementation progress from the participating municipalities through re-initiation of the hazard mitigation planning team process utilized during development of the Plan. Other interested parties and the general public will be notified through a variety of media, including but not limited to, local newspapers, the Wilson County website (<http://www.wilson-co.com/>), along with the City of Wilson website (<http://www.wilsonnc.org/>) and mailed or emailed notices, of the review process and the opportunity to comment on the Plan report. No comments were received.

The annual review shall ensure:

1. That the Planning Board receives an annual report and/or presentation on the progress of Plan implementation. The report will include a status report on the implementation of mitigation actions.
2. That the County Board of Commissioners and Wilson City Council receives an annual report and/or presentation on the progress of Plan implementation along with a recommendation from each Planning Board regarding on-going implementation of the Plan.
3. The annual report will include an evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the mitigation actions included in the Plan. Specifically, the report will attend to the following questions:
 - a. Do Plan goals and objectives continue to address current and expected conditions?
 - b. Has the nature or magnitude of risks changed?
 - c. Are current resources sufficient and appropriate for Plan implementation?
 - d. Are there any implementation problems, i.e., technical, political, legal or coordination issues with other agencies?
 - e. Are implementation outcomes as expected?
 - f. Have other agencies and partners participated as proposed?
4. The annual report will recommend, as appropriate, any necessary revisions or amendments to the Plan.

If the Wilson County Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with the Wilson City Council determines that the recommendations warrant amendment of the Plan, the Board/Council may initiate an amendment through the process described below. As a CRS community, Wilson County and the City of Wilson would employ the Plan to meet the requirements of CRS Activity 510 Floodplain Management Planning.

C. Periodic Plan Review and Update

Periodic evaluation and revision of the Plan will help ensure that local mitigation efforts include the latest and most effective mitigation techniques. These periodic revisions may also be necessary to keep the Plan in compliance with Federal and State statutes and regulations. The Plan will need to be updated to reflect changes, such as new development in the area, implementation of mitigation efforts, revisions of the mitigation processes, and changes in Federal and State statutes and regulations.

In the context of a Federal disaster declaration, State and local governments are allowed to update or expand an existing plan to reflect circumstances arising out of the disaster. An updated plan in this circumstance might include a re-evaluation of the hazards and the jurisdiction's exposure to them, a re-assessment of existing mitigation capabilities, and new or additional mitigation recommendations.

As required by FEMA, the Plan shall be reviewed at a minimum every five (5) years to determine if there have been any significant changes that would affect the Plan. Increased development, increased exposure to certain hazards, the development of new mitigation capabilities or techniques, and changes to Federal or State legislation may affect the appropriateness of the Plan.

Review of the Plan

The procedure for reviewing and updating the Plan shall begin with a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of the hazard mitigation planning team. The report shall include a summary of progress on implementation of hazard mitigation strategies and a recommendation, as appropriate, from the hazard mitigation planning team for any changes or amendments to the Plan. Such report shall be prepared by the Wilson County Planning Director, in conjunction with the Senior Planner for the City of Wilson and submitted to the Wilson County Planning Board, as well as the City of Wilson Planning Board for consideration and recommendation. Each participating municipality shall also receive a copy of the report for review and comment.

The report shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Plan. Specifically, the evaluation shall involve a review of the consistency of day-to-day land use decisions to determine if the hazard mitigation policies are being implemented. The review shall recommend if Plan amendments are warranted and if any revisions to local government regulatory tools (zoning, subdivision regulations, etc.) are necessary to assist in implementing the policies of the Plan.

If the Wilson County Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with the Wilson City Council determines that such a report raises issues that warrant modification of the Plan, or if the Wilson County or City of Wilson Planning Board(s) or any of the participating municipalities recommends that issues have been raised which warrant modification of the Plan, the Board of Commissioners/City Council may initiate an amendment as delineated below, or may direct the Planning Director or Senior Planner to undertake a complete update of the Plan with participation from all municipalities included in the Plan.

Wilson County's Planning Director, along with the City of Wilson's Senior Planner are responsible for conducting the annual review amongst all participating localities. This annual review may constitute a convening of the Stakeholder Committee, or may be initiated via email/telephone/ mailing. This update process yielded revisions to Section II, pg. 7-25, mitigation action accomplishments per locality, as well as hazard occurrences in Appendix A. Only staff level comments were received through the annual review process.

Procedure for Amending the Plan

An amendment to the Plan shall be initiated by the Wilson County Board of Commissioners or Wilson City Council either at its own initiative or upon the recommendation of the Planning Board(s), the Planning Director, Senior Planner, the elected board of a participating municipality, or any other person or agency who demonstrates that an amendment should be considered.

Upon initiation of a text or map amendment, the Planning Director or Senior Planner shall re-convene the hazard mitigation planning team which shall include representation from each of the participating municipalities. Other interested parties as identified through participating local governments and through public announcements via newspapers the County website (<http://www.wilson-co.com/>) and City website (<http://www.wilsonnc.org/>) (and municipal websites as available) shall be invited to be a part of the review process. The planning team will consider and reach consensus on any proposed amendment(s) which shall then be forwarded to all affected parties, including, but not limited to, County/City departments, municipalities, and other interested agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service for a forty-five (45)-day review and comment period.

At the end of the comment period, the proposed amendment shall be forwarded along with all review comments to the Planning Board(s) for consideration. If no comments are received from the reviewing department or agency within the specified review period, such shall be noted in the report to the Planning Board(s).

North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) Review and Approval

The Planning Board(s) approved Plan amendment shall be forwarded to NCEM for review and approval prior to further action by the County or participating municipalities.

Planning Board Review and Recommendation

The Planning Board(s) shall consider NCEM review comments and make changes as appropriate. The Planning Board(s) shall then submit a recommendation on the NCEM approved amendment to the Board of Commissioners/City Council within sixty (60) days. Failure of the Planning Board(s) to submit a recommendation within this time period shall constitute a favorable recommendation.

In deciding whether to recommend approval or denial of an amendment request, the Planning Board(s) shall consider whether or not the proposed amendment is necessary based upon one or more of the following factors:

- a) There are errors or omissions made in the identification of issues or needs during the preparation of the original Plan;
- b) New issues or needs have been identified which were not adequately addressed in the original Plan;
- c) There has been a change in projections or assumptions from those on which the original Plan was based.

Board of Commissioners Review and Approval

Upon receiving the recommendation of the Planning Board(s), the Wilson County Board of Commissioners/City Council shall hold a public hearing. The Board/Council shall review the Planning Board(s) recommendation (including the factors delineated above), the report and recommendation from the Planning Director or Senior Planner, any additional comments from the participating municipalities, and any oral or written comments received at the public hearing. Following that review, the Board of Commissioners/City Council shall take one of the following actions:

- a) Adopt the proposed amendment as presented or with modifications.
- b) Deny the proposed amendment.
- c) Refer the amendment request back to the Wilson County/Wilson City Planning Board for further consideration.
- d) Defer the amendment request for further consideration and/or hearing.

Participating Municipalities Review and Approval

Once the Wilson County Board of Commissioners has adopted the amendment, the elected board of each participating municipality shall adopt the amendment.