Lanesboro City Council
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Lanesboro Community Center – City Council Chambers

Zoom is provided as a way to offer more accessibility to council and committee meetings. Full functionality is not guaranteed
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89640224053?pwd=2yaK0uxzggZFNLrrUKiTMKLXvxDYC2.1
Meeting ID: 896 4022 4053 | Passcode: 605574
Council Member Mindy Albrecht-Benson will participate remotely.

Call the Regular Meeting to Order

A. Agenda Approval
Motion _____ **Second** _____
B. Public Comments
C. Approval of Minutes
   a. Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 5, 2026
   b. Minutes of Special Meeting, January 14, 2026
   c. Minutes of Special Meeting, January 28, 2026
Motion _____ **Second** _____
D. Consent Agenda
   a. Accounts Payable
   b. 3.2% On-sale Liquor License – Commonweal Theatre Company
   c. Resolution 2026-21 – Adopting the Fillmore County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan
   d. Resolution 2026-22 – Accepting Donations to the Lanesboro Fire Department
   e. Approval of 2026 Lodging Licenses
   f. Application for Gambling Permit - Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce - August 2, 2026
   g. Temporary On-Sale Liquor License - Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce July 31-August 2, 2026
Motion _____ **Second** _____

Department Updates

A. Lanesboro Farmers Market
B. Economic Development Authority

New Business

A. Discuss Local Board of Appeal and Equalization
B. Discuss Tax Abatement and Development Agreement – Sparrow Valley Properties, LLC
Motion _____ **Second** _____
C. Consider City of Lanesboro and Lanesboro Public Utility 2025 Audit – Letters of Engagement
Motion _____ **Second** _____

Next Meeting: Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn Regular Meeting

Lanesboro City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 5, 2026
Lanesboro Community Center Meeting Room

Present Members:
☒ Mindy Albrecht-Benson ☒ Chase Bakke ☒ Joe Cullen ☒ Alicia Pearson ☒ Kathryn Wade
Staff:
☒ Mitchell Walbridge ☒ Darla Taylor ☐ David Haugen ☐ Mark Lawstuen ☐ Jerod Wagner
☒ Joseph O'Koren ☐ Michelle Marotzke
Guests: Brent Kohn, Tony Rotchadl, Brian Malm, Elve Albrecht, Susan Riggott, Jon Buggs, Peter Torkelson, Linda Hennessey, Greg Qualy, Sheryl Qualy, Jerry Ritter, Sjeila Goetzke, Sandy Webb, Anna Hanson, Elliott Riggott, Richard HOrihand; *Via Zoom*: Kristi Trisko, Delia Bell, Joe Goetzke, Hannah Winger, Tara, Deane Benson

Ashburng Street East Overlay Zone Public Hearing: Mayor Pearson called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Jerry Ritter asked about how the overlay zone would affect each property. Mr. Ritter asked about the obtainment of easements and how property lines would be determined.
- Elliott Riggott asked the City Council why TH250 is being reconstructed. Riggott also questioned the status of financing the project.

Mayor Pearson closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

Mayor Pearson called the regular meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

A. Agenda Approval: Member Wade entered a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

B. Public Comments:
- Sandy Webb thanked city staff for keeping the library open during the interim period between library directors. Sandy Webb also thanked former Library Director Tara Johnson for her years of service.
- Jon Buggs thanked the mayor for activities she participated in during 2025.

C. Approval of Minutes:
a. December 1, 2025, Regular Meeting
b. December 29, 2025, Special Meeting

Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to approve the minutes of the December meetings as submitted; Member Wade seconded the motion. During discussion on the motion, Mayor Pearson commented that she would like Omcare's name removed from the initiative title to match the City's Statement of Position on the Rural Health Innovation Initiative. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to amend her original motion to approve the minutes with the removal of Omcare from the project title; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor to amend the original motion. The motion to approve the minutes was then passed with all members voting in favor.

D. Consent Agenda:
a. Accounts Payable
b. Resolution 2026-01: Designating Official Depository
c. Resolution 2026-02: Designating Official Newspaper
d. Resolution 2026-03: Authorizing Lawful Gambling for the Lanesboro Fire Department Relief Association
e. Resolution 2026-04: Authorizing Signature Authority for the City of Lanesboro

f. Resolution 2026-05: Establishing Mileage Reimbursement Rate
g. Resolution 2026-06: Appointing Trustees for the Lanesboro Fire Department Relief Association
h. Resolution 2026-07: Appointing Lanesboro Fire Department Officers
i. Resolution 2026-08: Authorizing Membership Renewal in Regional Safety Group
j. Resolution 2026-09: Accepting Donations to Lanesboro Fire Department
k. Resolution 2026-10: Accepting Donations to Legion Lights Fund
l. Resolution 2026-11: Accepting Donations to Library Fund
m. Resignation of Tara Johnson, Library Director
n. Resignation of Eliza Mitchell, Assistant Librarian
o. Lanesboro Arts – Application & Permit for Temporary On-Sale Liquor License – February 7, 2026
p. 2025 Budget & Unaudited Fund Balances – Quarter 4 2025

Member Wade stated she would be willing to be a municipal trustee on the Lanesboro Fire Relief Association Board of Trustees. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of Member Kathryn Wade's name to Resolution 2026-06; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business

A. **Consider Settlement Agreement with Wapasha Construction Company, Inc.:** City Administrator Walbridge requested the settlement agreement be tabled to allow additional time for legal counsel to review the draft agreement. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to table the item; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
B. **Consider Calling for Public Hearing on TH250 Road/Utility Project – Municipal Consent:** Tony Rotchadl and Brian Malm, Bolton and Menk Inc., provided an update on the project's progress and gave an overview of the Municipal Consent process. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to call for a public hearing for Municipal Consent as well as instructing staff hold an additional informational meeting for the public; Member Wade seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.
C. **Consider Amendments to Ordinance 151 – Land Use – Ashburn Street Overlay Zone:** Brian Malm and Kristi Trisko, Bolton and Menk, Inc., shared an overview of the proposed ordinance language as well as the purpose and intent behind the ordinance amendment. Administrator Walbridge stated the Planning and Zoning Commission also reviewed the ordinance amendment and recommended adoption of the ordinance amendment. The amendment provides property owners with flexibility to improve their properties under reasonable setbacks. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance amendment to add the Ashburn Street East Overlay Zone and renumber Ordinance 151 sections; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
   At Administrator Walbridge's request, Member Bakke entered a motion to publish a Summary of Publication of Section 151.30 for the ordinance amendment adoption; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
D. **Consider Resolution 2026-12: Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore for 2026:** Member Albrecht-Benson stated she was willing to continue as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026. Member Wade entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-12 appointing Member Albrecht-Benson as Mayor Pro-Tem; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
E. **Consider Resolution 2026-13: Appointing Members to the Lanesboro Planning & Zoning Commission:** Mayor Pearson stated she was willing to continue serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 2026. Member Wade entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-13 appointing Mayor Pearson to the Planning and Zoning Commission; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
F. **Consider Resolution 2026-14: Appointing Members to the Lanesboro Public Utilities Commission:** Administrator Walbridge stated he received no applications for the Public Utility Commission. Because of a recent change to Minnesota statute, a commission of three members may have one of the seats designated for a city council member. Member Cullen stated he would be willing to serve as a voting member on the utility commission as he currently serves as the city council liaison. Member Wade

entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-14 appointing Member Cullen to the Lanesboro Public Utility Commission; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

G. **Consider Resolution 2026-15: Appointing Members to the Lanesboro Heritage Preservation Commission:** Administrator Walbridge stated two applications were received to fill the vacancies on the Heritage Preservation Commission. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-15 appointing Katie Holman and Christopher Martin to the Heritage Preservation Commission; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

H. **Consider Resolution 2026-16: Appointing Members to the Lanesboro Public Library Board:** Administrator Walbridge stated that Mary Junko-Isle and Gwen Harmon, whose interim terms expired on the library board, both expressed interest in reappointment. Mayor Pearson entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-16 appointing Mary Junko-Isle and Gwen Harmon to the Library Board; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

I. **Consider Resolution 2026-17: Appointing Members to the Lanesboro Park Board:** Administrator Walbridge that Samantha Hareldson and Steve Harris, both whose terms were up for renewal on the Park Board, have expressed interest in serving another term. Member Bakke entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-17 appointing Samantha Hareldson and Steve Harris to the Park Board; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

J. **City Council Board & Commission Liaisons for 2026:** Administrator Walbridge stated the City Council could appoint liaisons to the remaining city departments, otherwise the department managers could routinely report back to the City Council. The City Council preferred to communicate directly with the department heads. No action was taken.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk

Lanesboro City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Lanesboro Community Center – City Council Chambers

Present Members:
☒ Mindy Albrecht-Benson ☒ Chase Bakke ☒ Joe Cullen ☒ Alicia Pearson ☒ Kathryn Wade
Staff:
☒ Mitchell Walbridge ☒ Darla Taylor ☐ David Haugen ☐ Mark Lawstuen ☐ Jerod Wagner
☐ Michelle Marotzke ☒ Joseph O'Koren
Guests: *Via Zoom:* Sheila Walbridge, Chase Wark, Charlie, Brian Malm, Nathaniel Ajouri

Call to Order: Mayor Pearson called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. **Agenda Approval:** Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
B. **Consider Mediated Settlement Agreement with Wapasha Construction Company, Inc.**: Nathaniel Ajouri, legal counsel with Maslon LLP, summarized the mediation held on December 5, 2025, and presented the resulting Settlement Agreement. He reported that the final negotiated payment amount was $125,000, with mutual release of claims, except for claims arising under warranty provisions of the general contract.
   Ajouri recommended a technical revision to the draft agreement prior to execution. Specifically, in Part A of the Recitals, he advised revising the phrase "existing facility in Lanesboro, Minnesota" to "Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements to the new facility in Lanesboro, Minnesota" to eliminate ambiguity.
   Mayor Pearson entered a motion to approve executing the Settlement Agreement with the recommended change in wording to Section A of the Recitals; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
C. **Consider Resolution 2026-18 – Authorizing the Approval of Appraised Values, Easement Acquisition for the MN TH250 Road/Utility Improvement Project, and Offers of Compensation:** City Administrator Walbridge reported that appraisals for temporary and permanent easements required for the project are nearing completion and that the City Council must approve the certified appraisal values. Following completion, compensation offers will be presented to affected property owners.
   Brian Malm, Bolton & Menk, Inc., explained that it is standard practice for the City Council to designate an individual, typically a staff member, to present offers and negotiate within an authorized range in the event of counter offers or appraisal disputes.
   Council discussion focused on establishing an appropriate negotiation threshold. Members referenced the City's Expenditure of Funds Policy, which authorizes the City Administrator to expend up to $10,000 in unbudgeted funds, and generally agreed that this amount was appropriate for easement negotiations.
   Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-18 as drafted; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
   Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to allow the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate easement acquisition offers that do not exceed $10,000 of the certified appraised value of any parcel; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
D. **Consider Resolution 2026-19 – Authorizing Submittal and Completion of DNR Application for Easement Across State Land:** Administrator Walbridge explained that a DNR easement is required for work near the Root River Trail crossing at Parkway Avenue and Elmwood Street. Brian Malm, City Engineer, added that adoption of a resolution is required as part of the DNR application process.

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Mayor Pearson entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-19; Member Albrecht-Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

E. **Consider Utilizing Warranty Bond for Unresolved Warranty Items – 2022 Street/Utility Project:** Administrator Walbridge reported that defects remain in the 2022 Street/Utility Project and require correction. In accordance with the contract with Generation X Construction, LLC, the City issued a Notice of Defects to both the contractor and the bond company by letter dated July 31, 2025. Although the correction period expired in August 2025 and corrective work was anticipated in October 2025, no work was completed.
Brian Malm provided additional explanation regarding the warranty bond process and the company's bond role in covering defect correction costs.
Mayor Pearson entered a motion to utilize the warranty bond to get defects corrected; Member Bakke seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

F. **Consider Street/Parking Closure Application – The Filthy 50 – October 10, 2026:** A street and parking closure application was submitted for October 10, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to close portions of Parkway Avenue and Coffee Street West as part of the established race route. Administrator Walbridge noted that the applicant obtained signatures from most affected property owners indicating awareness and support.
Member Wade entered a motion to approve the street and parking closure application; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. During discussion, Member Bakke commended the cooperation extended to the City to make the event successful as well as minimizing disruptions to the downtown businesses. The motion carried with all in favor.

G. **Consider Resolution 2026-20 – Indicating Approval of a General Local Sales and Use Tax to be Authorized by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:** Administrator Walbridge presented a draft resolution identifying two potential projects for a local option sales tax: (1) the TH250 Road/Utility Project, and (2) improvements to Sylvan Parking, including the municipal campground. He explained that road and utility improvements generally fall outside the statutory scope for local sales tax authorization, presenting a risk of legislative denial, though compelling circumstances could result in approval for the TH250 project.
Administrator Walbridge recommended continuing coordination with Taft Law, consulting with Representative Greg Davids, and soliciting proposals for lobbyist services before bringing the resolution forward for Council action. Council members concurred, noting that a special meeting would be required to consider the resolution. Administrator Walbridge further noted that sales tax resolutions must be submitted to the House and Senate Tax Committee chairs no later than January 31.
Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to table Resolution 2026-20 until it is ready for consideration at a special meeting; Member Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the special meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk

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Lanesboro City Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 28, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.
Lanesboro Community Center – City Council Chambers

Present Members:
☒ Mindy Albrecht-Benson ☒ Chase Bakke ☒ Joe Cullen ☒ Alicia Pearson ☒ Kathryn Wade
Staff:
☒ Mitchell Walbridge ☒ Darla Taylor ☐ David Haugen ☐ Mark Lawstuen ☐ Jerod Wagner
☐ Michelle Marotzke ☐ Joseph O'Koren

Call to Order: Mayor Pearson called the special meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Member Joe Cullen participated remotely.

A. **Agenda Approval:** Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Member Wade seconded the motion. Members voted by roll call with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.
B. **Consider Resolution 2026-20 – Indicating Approval of a General Local Sales and Use Tax to be Authorized by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:** City Administrator Walbridge stated that legal counsel from Taft Law assisted with revising the resolution language. Administrator Walbridge explained how the Minnesota legislature will evaluate the resolution and request to authorize the local sales tax. Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-20 with the revision that Sylvan Park Amenity Improvements be listed as Project 1 and the Local share of the State-Mandated Minnesota Trunk Highway 250 Regional Road Improvement Project be listed as Project 2; Mayor Pearson seconded the motion. Members voted by roll call with all members voting in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Pearson adjourned the special meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk

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CITY OF LANESBORO

Payments

Current Period: February 2026

Payments Batch 02022026PAY $7,461.41

Refer	12312057 *LACKORE ELECTRIC MOTOR*		-		
Cash Payment	E 100-45200-401 Repairs/Maint Buildings				$475.96
Invoice 4864	1/14/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-45200-401 Repairs/Maint Buildings				$162.50
Invoice 4871	1/15/2026				
Transaction Date	1/15/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$638.46
Refer	12312058 *AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES*		-		
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-210 Operating Supplies (GE				$104.65
Invoice 1G4P-KRD7-MMMC	1/14/2026				
Cash Payment	E 220-42000-404 Repairs/Maint Machiner				$105.11
Invoice 1CQV-KTTG-RFXW	1/15/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-45200-404 Repairs/Maint Machiner				$125.39
Invoice 1WF3-DQDK-VLMM	1/14/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-210 Operating Supplies (GE				$89.45
Invoice 1Y77-M41T-VXF7	1/19/2026				
Transaction Date	1/15/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$424.60
Refer	12312059 *FILLMORE COUNTY JOURNAL*		-		
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-350 Print/Binding (GENERA	30.111 City Fee Schedule Amendment			$80.58
Invoice 188651	1/5/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-350 Print/Binding (GENERA	TH250 Project Public Hearing			$73.25
Invoice 188733	1/12/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-350 Print/Binding (GENERA	Chapter 151 Ordinance Amendment			$124.53
Invoice 188729	1/12/2026				
Transaction Date	1/15/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$278.36
Refer	12312060 *TITAN MACHINERY*		-		
Cash Payment	E 100-43100-404 Repairs/Maint Machiner				$199.89
Invoice PS1054936-1	1/7/2026				
Transaction Date	1/15/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$199.89
Refer	12312061 *GALE GROUP*		-		
Cash Payment	E 211-45500-230 Books & Movies				$87.72
Invoice 999101868346	1/9/2026				
Transaction Date	1/16/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$87.72
Refer	12312062 *PRESTON AUTO PARTS*		-		
Cash Payment	E 100-45200-210 Operating Supplies (GE	Ice Melt			$63.96
Invoice 863010	1/20/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-43100-210 Operating Supplies (GE	Relay			$15.99
Invoice 863010	1/20/2026				
Transaction Date	1/20/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$79.95
Refer	12312063 *CITY OF PRESTON*		-		
Cash Payment	E 250-46500-445 EDA Project Developme	Bluff Country Business Academy Grant Matching Funds			$1,500.00
Invoice City06855	1/13/2026				
Transaction Date	1/20/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC 10100		**Total**	$1,500.00
Refer	12312064 *MN FIRE SERVICE CERT. BOARD*		-		

CITY OF LANESBORO

Payments

Current Period: February 2026

Cash Payment	E 220-42000-208 Meetings / Trainings	FF1 Exam and FFII Exam			$262.00
Invoice 15089	1/13/2026				
Transaction Date	1/21/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$262.00
Refer	12312065 *AFLAC*	-			
Cash Payment	G 100-21707 Aflac				$33.00
Invoice 735412	1/26/2026				
Transaction Date	1/21/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$33.00
Refer	12312066 *FASTENAL COMPANY*	-			
Cash Payment	E 100-43100-210 Operating Supplies (GE				$59.19
Invoice MNPRE112850	1/7/2026				
Transaction Date	1/21/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$59.19
Refer	12312067 *LANESBORO PUBLIC UTILITIES*	-			
Cash Payment	E 100-45200-380 Utility Services (GENER	Christmas Tree Electric			$72.25
Invoice 2026-01	1/22/2026				
Transaction Date	1/22/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$72.25
Refer	12312068 *WALBRIDGE, MITCHELL*	-			
Cash Payment	E 211-45500-210 Operating Supplies (GE	Computer Monitor			$108.11
Invoice					
Transaction Date	1/26/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$108.11
Refer	12312069 *KELLY PRINTING*	-			
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-210 Operating Supplies (GE				$198.00
Invoice 235855	1/26/2026				
Transaction Date	1/27/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$198.00
Refer	12312070 *OKOREN LAW OFFICE LLC*	-			
Cash Payment	E 100-41500-304 Legal Fees				$1,828.95
Invoice 1603	1/27/2026				
Transaction Date	1/28/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$1,828.95
Refer	12312071 *MN ENERGY RESOURCES*	-			
Cash Payment	E 100-43100-380 Utility Services (GENER				$269.72
Invoice 5784686017	1/21/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-45200-380 Utility Services (GENER				$871.41
Invoice 5784393571	1/21/2026				
Cash Payment	E 100-45170-380 Utility Services (GENER				$182.49
Invoice 5785597082	1/21/2026				
Cash Payment	E 220-42000-380 Utility Services (GENER				$367.31
Invoice 5787307768	1/22/2026				
Transaction Date	1/28/2026	OPERATIONAL ACC	10100	**Total**	$1,690.93

CITY OF LANESBORO

Payments

Current Period: February 2026

Fund Summary

	10100 OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT
100 GENERAL FUND	$5,031.16
211 LIBRARY	$195.83
220 FIRE FUND	$734.42
250 EDA OPERATING	$1,500.00
	$7,461.41

Pre-Written Checks	$0.00
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	$7,461.41
Total	$7,461.41

CITY OF LANESBORO
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-21

A Resolution to Adopt the 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Lanesboro recognizes the threat of natural hazards to people and property within the City of Lanesboro; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lanesboro has participated in the development of the 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property within the City of Lanesboro from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, by adoption by the City of Lanesboro demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, approval of the 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will make Fillmore County and participating jurisdictions eligible to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANESBORO, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Lanesboro supports the hazard mitigation planning effort and wishes to adopt the 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

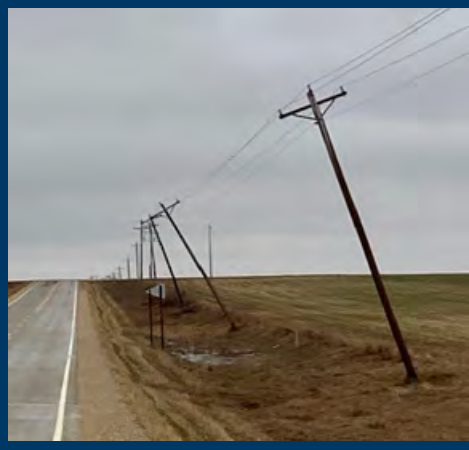
Passed by the City Council of Lanesboro, Minnesota this 2nd day of February, 2026.

_____
Alicia Pearson
Its: Mayor

Attested:

_____
Mitchell Walbridge
Its: City Administrator/Clerk

Fillmore County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan



Department of Public Safety | Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Fillmore County Minnesota

2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jason Harmening, Emergency Management Director
Fillmore County Emergency Management
901 Houston Street NW
Preston, MN 55965

507-676-8603
jharmening@co.fillmore.mn.us

Prepared By:

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Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning in Minnesota

Hazard mitigation planning refers to any sustained action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from natural disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made reducing hazards one of its primary goals, and a primary mechanism in achieving this goal is both the hazard mitigation planning process and the subsequent implementation of resulting projects, measures, and policies (FEMA, 2023b).

Since 1980, damages from natural disasters in the U.S. have exceeded $2.72 trillion. 2023 saw a record 28 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disaster events in the United States, breaking the previous record of 22 events set in 2020. Minnesota alone has experienced 59 separate billion-dollar disasters since 1980 (NCEI, 2024). Hazard mitigation planning is an effective process to prepare communities and lessen the impact of loss of life and property from future disasters. Although mitigation efforts will not eliminate all disasters, government at all levels should strive to be as prepared as possible for a disaster for the well-being of its residents.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The development of a local government plan is required to maintain eligibility for federal hazard mitigation grant funding programs. To be eligible for future mitigation funds, communities must adopt an HMP.

Researchers at the National Institute of Building Sciences looked at the results of 23 years of federally funded mitigation grants provided by FEMA, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Their findings revealed that for every $1 spent on hazard mitigation funding in the nation, $6 is saved in future disaster costs (Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council, 2019).

Fillmore County is vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards that threaten the loss of life and property. Hazards such as tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, blizzards, straight-line winds, and droughts can potentially inflict vast economic loss and personal hardship.

This planning document is accompanied by a website that allows for easy stakeholder and community engagement, as well as interactive maps, dashboards, and infographics.

A broad overview of this companion website's features is as follows:

- Homepage (featuring Declared Disasters dashboard, feedback forms, links to Fillmore County Emergency Management website, etc.)
- County Profile
- Risk Assessment & Natural Hazard Profiles
- Goals & Implementation
- Climate Change

Fillmore County HMP Website

1.1.1 Scope

U-Spatial, University of Minnesota, was contracted by Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management using FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant funds to work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to facilitate an update to the 2017 Fillmore County HMP. U-Spatial brings extensive geographic data analysis skills and hazard risk assessment expertise to the process. U-Spatial also employed the services of Hundrieser Consulting LLC for county and stakeholder outreach as well as mitigation action development related to this plan.

This HMP evaluates and prioritizes the major natural hazards affecting Fillmore County as determined by frequency of event, economic impact, deaths, and injuries. Mitigation recommendations are based on input from state and local agencies, the public, and national best practices.

This is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Fillmore County, including the cities of Canton, Chatfield, Fountain, Harmony, Lanesboro, Mabel, Ostrander, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, Rushford Village, Spring Valley, Whalan, and Wykoff. The Fillmore County mitigation activities identified in this plan also incorporate the concerns and needs of townships, school districts, and other participating entities.

Members from each of these jurisdictions actively participated in the planning process by assisting with public outreach, attending planning team meetings, providing local information, identifying mitigation actions, and reviewing the plan document (see Appendix C). The information in these forms was used to help identify mitigation actions for local implementation (see also Section 2.2). Each jurisdiction will adopt the plan by resolution after the plan is approved by FEMA. County and local city resolutions will be added by Fillmore County after final approval by FEMA (see Appendix B).

Fillmore County has specified the following goals for this plan update:

- Include more recent data documenting the critical infrastructure and hazards faced by Fillmore County.
- Reformat and reorganize the plan to reflect definitions of hazards as expressed in the 2024 Minnesota State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Reflect current hazard mitigation priorities in Fillmore County.
- Encourage recipients and sub-recipients of hazard mitigation grants to consider climate change adaptation, resiliency, and equity in their planning efforts.

1.1.2 Hazard Mitigation Definition

Hazard mitigation may be defined as any action taken to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards. The benefits of hazard mitigation planning include the following:

- saving lives, protecting the health of the public, and reducing injuries
- preventing or reducing property damage
- reducing economic losses
- minimizing social dislocation and stress
- reducing agricultural losses
- maintaining critical facilities in functioning order

- protecting infrastructure from damage
- protecting mental health
- reducing legal liability of government and public officials

1.2 State Administration of Mitigation Grants

FEMA currently has two mitigation grant programs that the State of Minnesota administers: the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. The HMGP and FMA programs are administered through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) Division. All applicants must have or be covered under an approved hazard mitigation plan. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, certain private non-profit organizations or institutions, and tribal communities.

Section 2 – Public Planning Process

2.1 Planning Team Information

The Fillmore County HMP planning team is headed by the Fillmore County emergency manager, who is the primary point of contact. Planning team members include representatives from public and governmental sectors. Table 1 identifies the planning team individuals and organizations that participated in virtual planning team meetings during the plan update process.

Note: Table 1 is not an exhaustive list of stakeholder participation in the Fillmore County HMP update. Additional participation by jurisdictional and other agency representatives is documented in Table 3 of this section, as well as in Section 3.4, Appendix C, and Appendix G. The meeting summaries in Appendix F provide a comprehensive overview of each session. This includes a complete list of invited planning team stakeholders and information on other significant opportunities for engagement during the plan update.

Find the planning team members on the Fillmore County HMP website

Table 1. Hazard Mitigation Planning (HMP) Team

Name	Agency/Organization	Participant Title
Jason Harmening	Fillmore County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director
John DeGeorge	Fillmore County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff
Mitch Lentz	Fillmore County	District 1 Commissioner
Kathryn Frette	Fillmore County	Assessor
Ronald Gregg	Fillmore County	County Engineer
Brenda Pohlman	Fillmore County Public Health	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Bobbie Hillery	Fillmore County	Administrator
Larry Hindt	Fillmore County	Commissioner
Marc Prestby	Fillmore County	Commissioner
Allison Whalen	CEDA and Fillmore County	Community and Business Development Specialist
Blake Lea	Fillmore County Land Use Department	Land Use Director
Ryan Rasmusson	Fillmore County	County Assessor
Riley Buley	Fillmore SWCD	District Administrator
Nikki Wheeler	Fillmore SWCD	Water Management Coordinator
Anne Koliha	City of Canton	Clerk
Jon Nordsving	City of Canton	Public Works Director /Fire Dept.
Michele Peterson	City of Chatfield	City Administrator
Beth Carlson	City of Chatfield	City Clerk
Brian Burkholder	City of Chatfield	Public Works Director

Name	Agency/Organization	Participant Title
Rocky Burnett	City of Chatfield	Ambulance Director/Emergency Manager
John Hanson	City Of Fountain	Public Utilities Supervisor
Alissa Stelpflug	City of Harmony	Administrator/Clerk
Mitchell Walbridge	City of Lanesboro	City Administrator
Rob Wagner	Lanesboro Fire Dept.	Chief
Karen Larson	City of Mabel	City Clerk
Adam Wilder	City of Mabel	Mayor
Steve Geving	City of Mabel Fire Dept.	Chief
Robert Mierau	City of Mabel	Public Works
Chris Grindland	City of Peterson	City Clerk
Blaise Sass	Preston Police Department	Chief of Police
Ryan Throckmorton	City of Preston	City Administrator
Ramon Hernandez	Preston Fire Department	Fire Chief
Roger Knutson	City of Rushford	Public Works Director
Tony Chladek	City of Rushford	City Administrator
Adam Eide	City of Rushford	Chief of Police
Chad Rasmussen	City of Rushford	Fire Chief
Joey Busse	City of Rushford	Ambulance Director
Tony Chladek	City of Rushford	City Administrator
Kathy Zacher	City of Rushford	City Clerk/Treasurer
Tiffany Jacobson	City of Rushford	Deputy Clerk
Mary Miner	City of Rushford Village	Clerk
Darrin Dessner	City of Rushford Village	Maintenance Supervisor
John Dols	City of Spring Valley	Emergency Management Director
Sheila Higbe	City of Whalan	City Council member
David Hallum	City of Whalan	Mayor
Becky Schmidt	City of Wykoff	City Administrator
Jane Baker	City of Wykoff	City Councilor
John Baker	City of Wykoff	City Maintenance Director
Ryan Breckenridge	City of Wykoff	Mayor
Bonnie Heidtke	Fillmore Township	Clerk
Fred Scheevel	York Township	Clerk
Brandon Koliha	Harmony Township	Supervisor
Richard Junge	Bristol Township	Supervisor
Rory Kramer	Fountain Township	Clerk
Luanne Storelee	Carrolton Township	Clerk
Cody Koebke	Bloomfield Township	Supervisor
Mike Fox	Newburg Township	Supervisor
Forrest Hayden	Chatfield Township	Clerk

Name	Agency/Organization	Participant Title
Carol Thompson	Preble Township	Clerk
Matt Schultz	Lanesboro Public Schools	Superintendent
MIchelle Weidemann	Mabel-Canton Schools	Principal
Ed Harris	Chatfield ISD 227	Superintendent
Scot Klavetter	Kingsland Public Schools	Superintendent / PK-4 Principal
Ben Bernard	Rushford-Peterson schools	Superintendent
Jennifer Backer-Johnson	Public School; ISD 499	Superintendent
Heath Olstad	Fillmore Central Schools	Superintendent / 7-12 Principal
Nicole Lehman	MN DNR	Area Hydrologist
Steve Oian	MiEnergy Cooperative	VP of Operations
Jamie Goulson	People's Energy Cooperative	Plant Accountant
Cindy Tranby	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Emergency Manager
Jeff Weiss	MN Department of Natural Resources	Regional Clean Water Hydrologist
Kong Douangdy	Minnesota Dept. of Transportation	Operations Supervisor
Jason Hovey	Dairyland Power Cooperative	Transmission Maintenance Area Supervisor
Michael Peterson	HSEM	Region 1 Regional Program Coordinator
Angie Pederson	Good Samaritan Society Home Care	Business Office Coordinator
Chye Stecher	People's Energy Cooperative	System Engineer & Mapping Supervisor
Mark Olson	Houston County Sheriff's Office	Emergency Management Director
Amy Bramwell	Mower County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director

2.2 Review of Existing Plans, Capabilities & Vulnerabilities

Fillmore County and its local communities utilize a variety of planning documents. These documents may include a Comprehensive/Master Plan, Emergency Operations Plan, Transportation Plan, etc. (see Section 5.1.4, Appendix C, and Appendix D). U-Spatial consulted planning documents that direct community development and influence land use decisions for the county and its jurisdictions to inform the HMP. The planning process also incorporated the existing natural hazard mitigation elements from previous planning efforts. In addition, the 2024 Minnesota State Hazard Mitigation Plan was consulted.

All possible types of mitigation actions (land use regulations, building codes, nature-based solutions, etc.) are considered to address current and future risks. U-Spatial consultants worked closely with the Fillmore County emergency management director, other key county staff, and local city officials to collect feedback on local mitigation capabilities and vulnerabilities that either support or hinder the ability to mitigate against natural hazards countywide and at the local level. Building codes offer a way to incorporate geographically relevant and best-available building science with policies and programs. The cities of Rushford and Spring Valley have adopted the Minnesota Building Code.

The following is a summary of the assessment tools used to gather information on local capabilities and vulnerabilities during the planning process:

Capabilities Assessment (*hazard-specific*): In this assessment, detailed information was collected from Fillmore County on current plans and programs in place (i.e., existing programs, plans, or policies) as well as program gaps or deficiencies that currently exist to mitigate against damages caused by each natural hazard addressed in the plan. Section 4 identifies current gaps and deficiencies for mitigation, and Section 5.1 describes the capabilities that Fillmore County has to support mitigation.

Local Mitigation Surveys: As part of Fillmore County's 2025 HMP update, participating jurisdictions, key county personnel, and additional agency stakeholders were asked to fill out a Local Mitigation Survey (LMS) form. Questions in the LMS form addressed the following:

- Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment & Vulnerability Analysis
- Local Mitigation Capabilities Assessment
- Local Mitigation Projects
- Survey Participants

The purpose of the survey was to gather jurisdictionally specific information needed to support the update of the plan and to help inform development of local-level mitigation actions for the next five-year planning cycle (for the full Fillmore County LMS report, see Appendix C).

2.3 Planning Process Timeline and Steps

To update the 2017 Fillmore County HMP, U-Spatial consultants worked in coordination with Fillmore County Emergency Management and members of the planning team. The updated plan includes new data documenting the types of hazards faced by Fillmore County residents and emergency planning officials as well as new thinking on how to address these hazards.

2.3.1 Fillmore County Stakeholder Coordination

Two planning team meetings took place via Zoom video conference hosted by U-Spatial. Meeting participants included representatives from Fillmore County, city and township governments, neighboring jurisdictions, and other key stakeholders. Appendix F provides documentation of stakeholder outreach and participation in the plan update

Survey forms to acquire mitigation ideas and feedback remain available on the HMP website

To provide the opportunity for public input, Fillmore County issued two news releases announcing the plan update and inviting public review and feedback on the draft plan. The news release provided information on where to view the plan and submit comments. The Fillmore County HMP website, hosted by U-Spatial, and the feedback and mitigation action ideas survey will remain available through the five-year planning period to foster public engagement. Table 2 documents dates of Hazard Mitigation update meetings and public outreach. The public feedback period for the draft plan was open from 11/20/25 to 12/4/25, for a period of 15 days. Appendix G provides documentation of the public outreach for feedback on the draft plan by Fillmore County and jurisdictions.

Table 2. Fillmore County hazard mitigation update meetings and public outreach

Event	Date	Appendix
Kickoff Webinar	7/2/24	Appendix F, Planning Team Meetings
News Release #1	9/4/24	Appendix G, Public Outreach & Engagement Documentation
Planning Team Meeting #1	1/7/25	Appendix F, Planning Team Meetings
Planning Team Meeting #2	9/22/25	Appendix F, Planning Team Meetings
News Release #2	11/20/25	Appendix G, Public Outreach & Engagement Documentation

At the close of the public outreach period, the U-Spatial consultants worked with the Fillmore County Emergency Manager and planning team to incorporate public feedback into the HMP.

For more information on the planning process, see Sections 5 and 6.

2.3.2 Overview of Jurisdictional Participation

Throughout the planning process, Fillmore County and the U-Spatial team worked to engage representatives from the county and each city in the update of the plan. Key activities for jurisdictions included assisting with public outreach, participating in planning team meetings, providing local-level information, reviewing and providing feedback to the plan update.

U-Spatial and Fillmore County actively used the following methods to engage jurisdictions in the HMP plan update process:

- **Zoom Video Conferencing**: Planning team meetings were conducted via Zoom video conferencing hosted by U-Spatial. Virtual meetings proved to be a beneficial addition to the planning process, resulting in a high turnout from jurisdictional representatives and other stakeholders, as well as providing the ability for presenters to collect, respond to, and document feedback from participants through Zoom functions such as surveys, chat, and Q&A.

- **Email Correspondence**: Email was a primary tool used to communicate with representatives from Fillmore County, municipal governments, and other stakeholders. Emails were used to distribute news releases for public outreach, to invite participation in meetings and to share meeting summaries, as well as to request local information and final review of the draft plan. Email proved to be an effective tool that resulted in increased jurisdictional participation and collection of locally specific information.

- **Surveys, forms, and polls:** Input tools such as surveys, forms, and tools were used throughout the process to efficiently collect information in a format that could directly be fed into the written hazard mitigation plan. Polls were used to elicit feedback during the planning team meetings. The Local Mitigation Survey (LMS) was used to ensure feedback from every jurisdiction for critical input such as building code use, NFIP adoption, and changes in vulnerabilities. Feedback forms were posted on the website for easy access during the plan review.

- **Phone Calls**: Phone calls were frequently used to conduct direct outreach or follow-up to jurisdictions to ensure participation or to collect information via one-on-one interviews. Phone calls proved to be an effective tool that resulted in increased jurisdictional participation and collection of quality information. Phone calls were especially useful in engaging very small communities that had limited staff or technological capabilities.

Cities participating in Fillmore County HMP update varied by population and associated government resources to participate in the planning process (e.g., personnel, time, and technology). Rural communities with smaller populations (under 500) typically had part-time elected officials, limited-to-no city staff, and reduced city hall hours in which to conduct business. Fillmore County and U-Spatial were sensitive to these local challenges and worked to help these local governments to participate using the methods that worked best to accommodate them, such as phone interviews to complete local mitigation survey forms (see Appendix C).

Table 3 provides an overview of each city's participation in the Fillmore County HMP update planning process and a reference to supporting documentation.

Table 3. Jurisdictional participation in planning process

Jurisdiction (2024 Est. Population, Esri)	News Release #1	Planning Team Mtg #1	Local Mitigation Survey	Mitigation Action Charts	Planning Team Mtg.#2	News Release #2 & Plan Review
Supporting Documentation	App. G	App. F	App. C	Sec. 5.3 App. H	App. F	App. G
Fillmore County (21,429)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Canton (334)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Chatfield (2,974)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Fountain (432)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Harmony (1,032)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Lanesboro (783)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Mabel (733)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Ostrander (158)	X		X	X		X
City of Peterson (227)	X		X	X	X	X
City of Preston (1,327)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Rushford (1,842)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Rushford Village (778)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Spring Valley (2,503)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Whalen (75)	X	X	X	X	X	X
City of Wykoff (444)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Neighboring Jurisdictions:						
Houston County					X	
Mower County		X				
Olmsted County						
Winona County						
Howard County, IA						
Winneshiek County, IA						

Section 3 – Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis

The goal of mitigation is to reduce or eliminate the future impacts of a hazard, including loss of life, property damage, disruption to local and regional economies, and the expenditure of public and private funds for recovery. Sound mitigation practices must be based on sound risk assessment. A risk assessment involves quantifying the potential loss resulting from a disaster by assessing the vulnerability of buildings, infrastructure, and people.

The risk assessments in this plan are based on widely accepted tools and databases, consultation with hazard mitigation planning expertise at FEMA and HSEM, and technical guidance from the MN DNR State Climatology Office. Geographic Information System (GIS) tools are used throughout to demonstrate geographically based risk and vulnerabilities.

3.1 Natural Hazard Identification

This assessment identifies the characteristics of natural hazard events, the severity of the risk, the likelihood of these events occurring, and the vulnerability of each jurisdiction's population and assets.

See a list of all natural hazards covered in the 2024 HMP

The cornerstone of risk assessment is identifying the hazards that affect jurisdictions. Listed below are the natural hazards addressed in the 2024 Minnesota State Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Flooding
Dam/Levee Failure
Wildfires
Windstorms
Tornadoes
Hail
Lightning
Winter Storms
Landslides (Erosion and Mudslides)
Land Subsidence (Sinkholes and Karst)
Drought
Extreme Heat
Extreme Cold
Earthquakes
Coastal Erosion & Flooding

3.1.1 Hazard Prioritization

As part of the plan update process, the planning team reviewed, updated, and prioritized the hazards faced by residents of Fillmore County, updated the existing mitigation actions published in the 2017 HMP, and proposed new mitigation actions.

The team examined the hazards identified in the 2017 HMP and adjusted them to reflect the definitions of natural hazards used in the 2024 Minnesota State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

While this HMP focuses on natural hazards, planning took place with the understanding that many non-natural hazards could occur due to natural disasters (e.g., disruption in electrical service due to downed powerlines from heavy snow, ice storms, or high wind events).

The prioritization of hazards for the Fillmore County HMP Update (Table 4) was based upon group review and discussion of the natural hazards that pose risk to the county during the HMP Planning Team Meeting #1. In the review of each hazard, the group was asked to consider if the risk to severe natural hazards had increased or decreased since the last plan, and if this affected their priority level to mitigate against that hazard. Appendix F provides the discussion notes from the meeting.

Table 4. Prioritization of hazards for 2025 Fillmore County HMP Update

Natural Hazards Addressed in the Last Plan	Current Priority
Flooding	High
Winter Storms	High
Windstorms	High
Tornadoes	High
Hailstorms	Moderate
Extreme Cold	Moderate
Drought	Moderate
Lightning	Low
Extreme Heat	Low
Wildfire	Low
Landslides	Low
Land Subsidence	Low
Dam Failure	Low

3.1.2 FEMA- and Minnesota-Declared Disasters and Assistance

Another historical perspective is derived from FEMA-declared disasters. Between 1957 and May 2025, 15 federal disasters and three emergencies were declared in Fillmore County; see details on the Fillmore County HMP website.

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 12A established a framework for state agencies to help communities recover from disaster. In 2014, Governor Mark Dayton signed legislation establishing the state's Disaster Assistance Contingency Account to assist local communities after a natural disaster when federal aid is not available. Damage required to declare a disaster is half the threshold of the federal/FEMA public assistance (only) program threshold (MN HSEM, 2019). Fillmore County has been included in six State Disaster Declarations.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, and the former Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program are FEMA-administered hazard mitigation assistance programs that provide funding for eligible mitigation planning and projects that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages (FEMA, 2021). Table 5 lists the projects in the county funded by a hazard mitigation assistance program.

Table 5. Historical hazard mitigation funding awarded in Fillmore County

Project Identifier	Sub-Grantee	Project Type	Project Total	Federal Share
DR-1225-0012-R	Tri-County Electric Cooperative	400.1: Utility Protective Measures (Electric, Gas, etc.)	$358,500	$268,875

Project Identifier	Sub-Grantee	Project Type	Project Total	Federal Share
DR-1717-0002-P	Fillmore County	91.1: Local Multihazard Mitigation Plan	$73,452	$55,089
DR-1830-0012-R	Preston	200.1: Acquisition of Private Real Property (Structures and Land) - Riverine	$57,139	$41,925
DR-4182-0002-P	Fillmore County	91.1: Local Multihazard Mitigation Plan	$31,175	$23,381
DR-1830-0008-R	Rushford	400.1: Utility Protective Measures (Electric, Gas, etc.)	$240,165	$180,039
DR-1333-0013-R	Mabel	200.1: Acquisition of Private Real Property (Structures and Land) - Riverine	$37,780	$28,335
DR-1717-0021-R	Preston	200.1: Acquisition of Private Real Property (Structures and Land) - Riverine	$41,376	$31,032
DR-1333-0003-R	Spring Valley	200.1: Acquisition of Private Real Property (Structures and Land) - Riverine	$449,539	$337,154
DR-1900-0006-F	Chatfield	601.1: Generators	$55,349	$41,512

SOURCE: (FEMA, 2025)

3.2 Community Vulnerability

The degree to which a person is vulnerable to the impacts of a hazard depends on how well they can react before, during, and after a hazardous event. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR) defines social vulnerability as "…the resilience of communities when confronted by external stresses on human health, stresses such as natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks" (ATSDR, 2020). Exacerbating these stressors are the increasing number of extreme weather events attributed to Minnesota's changing climate (MPCA, 2018).

The ATSDR created the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to help identify vulnerable communities that need support in preparing for hazards or recovering from disaster. The CDC SVI is created at the census tract level using American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data.

The SVI is included in the FEMA National Risk Index (NRI) and presented in the Risk and Vulnerability dashboard on the webpage for each hazard. Additionally, summaries of at-risk populations in each jurisdiction are available on the county profile page. Vulnerable attributes of a population are addressed with each natural hazard.

Explore population vulnerability on the Fillmore County HMP Website

The Risk and Vulnerability dashboard for each hazard also includes the FEMA Community Resilience Challenges Index (CRCI). The CRCI is a composite index of 22 community resilience indicators, including population and household characteristics, housing, healthcare, economic factors, and connection to community. The index value provides a relative composite value by census tract and is designed for emergency managers to target outreach strategies and understand the resilience challenges community members face (FEMA, 2024a).

3.3 Climate Change

Minnesota's climate change summary is informed primarily by the Midwest Chapter of the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) dated November 2023 and with interpretations from the MN DNR State Climatology Office (Wilson et al., 2023).

Rising global temperatures and the resulting increases in atmospheric moisture from evaporation of ocean waters have allowed Minnesota to become warmer, wetter, and more humid during the past several decades. The ten combined warmest and wettest years between 1895 and 2022 all occurred since 1998. Nights have warmed faster than days since 1970, and winter has warmed several times faster than summer. Even with the drought conditions of the early 2020s in Minnesota, heavy precipitation continues to show long-term increases, with damaging rain and snowfall events reported somewhere in the state each year of the decade through 2023. Despite no increase in the highest temperatures of summer, maximum annual heat index values (one measure of how hot it feels) have been rising across the state because of increased humidity during heat waves.

Even though periods of intense growing-season drought have defined the climate of the early 2020s in much of Minnesota, long-term increases in annual precipitation have continued because of heavy and even record-setting precipitation during the cold season. For instance, record-dry conditions during May through mid-August of 2021 led to parts of northwestern and northern Minnesota reaching "Exceptional Drought"—the worst category on the US Drought Monitor. A shift to a stormy pattern during the following winter and spring, however, produced unprecedented precipitation between December in May in the exact same areas, with historic flooding along the Rainy River.

The observed changes in our climate have altered growing seasons, damaged forests, challenged natural resource management, limited recreational opportunities, destroyed infrastructure, and affected the conditions of lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater aquifers that provide water for drinking and agriculture. Climate models project that temperature and precipitation increases will continue in Minnesota through the 21st century, with hotter summers and increased drought severity during dry periods as well.

To help the public understand how the changing climate has affected and is expected to affect the behavior of common weather hazards in Minnesota, the MN DNR State Climatology Office developed graphical summaries of the scientific confidence associated with each hazard's relationship to climate change (Table 6 and Table 7). Climate change in Minnesota has by far the strongest associations with (1) sharp declines in the frequency and severity of extreme cold outbreaks, tied to a persistent warming of winters, and (2) sharp increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme precipitation events. For instance, from 1970 through 2023, Minnesota's winters warmed at a rate of almost one degree F per decade, and approximately three-four times faster than summer. During that same period, the coldest night of the year has warmed almost twice as fast as winter as a whole—up to two degrees F per decade (or 20 degrees F per century).

Despite major losses to cold extremes, the warming climate and increased abundance of atmospheric moisture has led to an uptick in many heavy snowfall metrics across Minnesota, leading to moderately high confidence that the changing climate is increasing heavy snowfall events—even as other winter characteristics decline. The intensity and frequency of tornadoes and severe convective storms are weakly connected at best to recent climate changes, and since the 1950s, despite superior detection and verification capabilities, the number of damaging tornadoes rated at least F-2 or EF-2 in Minnesota

has shown no increases. Dramatic changes in the seasonal and geographical ranges of severe convective weather have, on the other hand, already affected Minnesota. In 2021, a damaging tornado crossed the Boundary Waters into Canada, becoming the latest on record so far north in the state. Then, on December 15th, an outbreak of destructive thunderstorm winds and over 20 tornadoes struck the southeastern parts of the state, producing the latest tornadoes on record by 29 days.

The climatic picture is expected to change further beyond the 2020s and especially as Minnesota approaches the middle of the 21st century (Table 7). Dramatic losses in extreme cold and additional increases in heavy and extreme precipitation are expected to remain the state's leading climate change symptoms. Although Minnesota has not yet observed increases in the frequency, severity, or duration of summertime high temperatures or drought (through 2023), climate model projections summarized in NCA5 indicate that heat waves are all but certain to increase by mid-century. A 2018 study conducted by NOAA scientists indicates that by the 2050s, heat waves in Minnesota will be more attributable to climate change than to natural variability (Lopez et al., 2018).

Table 6. Confidence that climate change has already impacted common MN weather/climate hazards

Confidence	Hazard	Recent & Current Observations
Highest	Extreme cold	Rapid decline in severity & frequency
	Extreme rainfall and heavy snowfall	Becoming larger and more frequent
Moderately High	Humid heat waves	Some increase in maximum dew point and Heat Index values since 1980
Moderately Low	Tornadoes, hail, thunderstorm winds	Intensity and frequency unchanged, but seasons expanding aggressively
Low	Drought and dry spells	Intense & major episodes in early 2020s but no long-term trend
Lowest	Summer high temperature extremes	Highest temperatures still well within historical ranges, and number of hot days increasing only slightly in isolated locations

SOURCE: (BLUMENFELD, K. MINNESOTA STATE CLIMATOLOGY OFFICE, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION, DECEMBER 21, 2023)

Table 7. Confidence that climate change will impact common MN weather/climate hazards through 2070

Confidence	Hazard	Expectations through 2070
Highest	Extreme cold	Continued rapid decrease in severity and frequency
	Extreme rainfall	Unprecedented events more common
High	Heat waves	Summer high temperatures, maximum dew point and heat index values all projected to increase
Moderately High	Drought	Increased severity likely as summer heat increases; frequency and duration projections unclear

Confidence	Hazard	Expectations through 2070
Moderately Low	Heavy snowfall	Greater extremes, but events less frequent as winter rain increases
	Tornadoes, hail, thunderstorm winds	Intensity and frequency unclear but continued seasonal expansion and larger "outbreaks" possible

SOURCE: (BLUMENFELD, K. MINNESOTA STATE CLIMATOLOGY OFFICE, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION, DECEMBER 21, 2023)

3.3.1 Climate Change Impacts and Resilience Planning

The NCA5 states that even if the world decarbonizes rapidly, the Nation will continue to face climate impacts and risks. Adequately and equitably addressing these risks involves longer-term inclusive planning, investments in transformative adaptation, and mitigation approaches that consider equity and justice. In the Midwest, rising temperatures, extreme precipitation, drought, and other climate-related events are impacting agriculture, ecosystems, cultural practices, health, infrastructure, and waterways. Communities, Indigenous Peoples, governments, and businesses are embracing adaptation approaches that include climate-smart agriculture, improved landscape management, innovative green infrastructure financing, and collaborative decision-making.

NCA5 includes these key messages for the Midwest region (Chapter 24: Midwest):

- Changes in precipitation extremes, timing of snowmelt, and early-spring rainfall are expected to pose greater challenges for crop and animal agriculture, including increased pest and disease transmission, muddier pastures, and further degradation of water quality. Climate-smart agriculture and other adaptation techniques provide a potential path toward environmental and economic sustainability.
- Increasing incidence of flooding and drought is expected to further alter aquatic ecosystems, while terrestrial ecosystems are being reshaped by rising temperatures and decreasing snow and ice cover. In response, communities are adapting their cultural practices and the ways they manage the landscape, preserving and protecting ecosystems and the services they provide.
- Climate change has wide-ranging effects on lives and livelihoods. Mitigation and adaptation strategies, such as expanded use of green infrastructure, heat-health early warning systems, and improved stormwater management systems, when developed in collaboration with affected communities, have the potential to improve individual and community health.
- Increases in temperatures and extreme precipitation events are already challenging aging infrastructure and are expected to impair surface transportation, water navigation, and the electrical grid. Shifts in the timing and intensity of rainfall are expected to disrupt transportation along major rivers and increase chronic flooding. Green infrastructure and public and private investments may mitigate losses, provide relief from heat, and offer other ways to adapt the built environment to a changing climate.
- Climate-related changes to water quantity and quality are increasing the risks to ecosystem health, adequate food production, surface water and groundwater uses, and recreation (high confidence). Projected increases in droughts, floods, and runoff events across the Mississippi River basin and the Great Lakes will adversely impact ecosystems through increased erosion, harmful algal blooms, and expansion of invasive species.

Key messages from the NCA5 are indicated in green throughout this document.

3.3.2 Health Impacts of Climate Change in Minnesota

Climate change already impacts our health, and these impacts are expected to worsen in the years ahead. The risks are especially high for Minnesotans who are less able to cope due to their age, income, housing insecurity, preexisting health conditions, and more.

Heat, air pollution (including wildfire smoke and allergens like pollen), extreme precipitation, floods, droughts, and ecosystem changes are all "climate hazards" that impact our health. Some of these climate hazards have a direct effect, like a heat-related illness from a heatwave, while some have an indirect impact, like exacerbation of asthma from mold growth in a flooded basement.

Heat

Minnesotans will experience a wide range of impacts from the increased frequency and severity of extreme heat events. Higher heat, increased humidity, and longer and more frequent extreme heat events can lead to direct health impacts of dehydration and heatstroke. Untreated heat stroke can lead to death. Heat-related illness directly accounted for 75 deaths in Minnesota from 2000–2022.

Heat can also worsen existing health conditions, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The people most at risk include those who are more exposed and those who may be more susceptible due to physiological reasons. People more likely to be exposed to heat include outdoor workers in agriculture and construction, student athletes, people who live in cities (due to the heat island effect), people without air conditioning, and unhoused persons.

People at higher risk because of physiological reasons include those with underlying medical conditions, pregnant people, older adults, infants, and young children.

Just as one example of the devastating effects of heat, in the summer of 2011, Minnesota had six days when the heat index was 105 degrees F or higher—and that same summer there were 1,302 emergency department visits and 3 deaths due to heat. What makes these numbers tragic is that heat-related illnesses are preventable.

Indirect impacts of extreme heat include infrastructure failures like roads buckling and power outages; strain on essential services, such as emergency medical services and law enforcement response time due to increases in crime; and disruptions to important social and economic networks, such as school and event cancellations, which reduces access to education, physical activity, and community support.

Air Pollution

In general, we breathe clean air in Minnesota, according to federal standards. But on some days and in some locations, air is unhealthy due to ozone or fine particulate matter. Greenhouse gas emissions can increase air pollution, and rising temperatures can also affect the formation and release of pollutants. Unhealthy air days are expected to become more frequent, and more intense due to climate change.

Climate change is likely to increase three main air contaminants in Minnesota: ozone, particulate matter (including wildfire smoke), and allergens. These air pollutants can cause or exacerbate cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), allergies, and asthma.

Pollen is intensifying with climate change, and can trigger allergies, asthma attacks, and affect other respiratory conditions. In Minnesota, asthma affects one in 16 children (6.4%) and one in 13 adults (7.4%). People with asthma need to be especially aware of pollen sources and seasons to prevent an allergy-related asthma attack.

There are three pollen seasons in Minnesota: trees, grasses, and weeds. Trees are the first to release pollen, typically starting in early April, grasses usually ramp up pollen release in early June, and weeds typically begin releasing pollen in mid-June and continue until the first hard frost. Research shows that the growing season for ragweed pollen, which is highly allergenic, has increased by 15 to 25 days in and around Minnesota. The lengthening pollen season is strongly related to climate change characteristics, such as lengthening of the frost-free season and later timing of the first fall frost.

Indirect health effects from air pollution can include reduced visibility on a high smog day, reduced productivity at work or school due to allergies or asthma, and reduced productivity and degradation of crops and water sources, which can lead to economic burdens.

Those most at risk include:

- Children, because they have developing lungs, are outside more, and they play vigorously and inhale more air per pound of body weight compared to adults.
- Adults over 60, because their bodies are aging.
- People with chronic respiratory or cardiovascular disease because they are more susceptible to air pollution.
- Individuals living near other sources of air pollution (such as roadways, freeways, and heavy industry), because they are chronically exposed to air pollution.
- People of color, because they are more likely to be exposed to more air pollution and have a disproportionate burden of heart and lung diseases, which may increase susceptibility.

Extreme Precipitation, Floods, Drought

Rain is falling more frequently in extreme, heavy, localized events, leading to some parts of our state experiencing flooding while other areas experience drought.

Increased frequency and severity of heavy rainfalls can lead to flooding, which results in both direct and indirect health impacts like:

- Injury or even death from drowning.
- Illnesses from being exposed to contaminated drinking water or recreational sources.
- Mental health stress from experiencing the trauma of the event or later from being displaced or dealing with damaged homes and business.
- Respiratory ailments from exposure to mold from flooded basements.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning from exposure to carbon monoxide when using secondary power sources, like generators.
- Flooding can also disrupt economic and social networks and put a strain on essential services.

The people most at risk are Minnesotans who are more likely to be exposed to flood waters, like those who live in a flood plain or near water bodies, or people who cannot easily evacuate or recover from flooding destruction, such as people who do not have reliable transportation, people who can't use

the stairs when elevators are out of service, people in wheelchairs, people with disabilities, older adults, and lower income people.

Heavy rain events can cause standing water in backyards or basements. Many homeowners have experienced wet basements, which is mentally and financially stressful, and if mold starts to grow that can become a health problem.

Localized flash flooding can also be a problem where our infrastructure is undersized, and people get caught off guard by flooded roads. This is an important public health safety concern as almost half of flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles. It takes as little as six inches of fast-moving water to knock over and carry away an adult, and as little as 12 inches can carry away a small car.

Another public health concern with precipitation changes exacerbated by climate change is waterborne disease outbreaks. Heavy downpours can lead to a host of problems, including increased runoff and sewage overflows, which can cause outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as E. coli and Cryptosporidium. Runoff can carry viruses and other disease-causing agents into wells and recreational waters, contaminating them and causing health problems.

Zoonotic Diseases

Zoonotic diseases or zoonoses are caused by germs like viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi that spread between animals and people. Increases in temperatures and changes in rain patterns are changing our ecosystems, which can affect the spread of diseases carried by insects, ticks, rodents, birds, and other animals.

Diseases from ticks include Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Babesiosis. As temperatures increase, disease-transmitting ticks will become active sooner and stay active longer, allowing more time to develop and feed on hosts. Ticks thrive in warm humid environments.

Additionally, there may be a decreased die off over the winter months if temperatures do not get very cold. An increase in winter temperatures can also lead to new tick species moving into and surviving in Minnesota, which can lead to the introduction of new diseases.

People more at risk for diseases carried by insects, ticks, and rodents are people who spend more time outdoors or are more exposed to these pests.

Harmful Algal Blooms

An increase in water temperatures can lead to blue-green algal blooms, which contain toxins that can pose harmful health risks. People or pets who drink or swim in water with dangerous levels of harmful algal bloom (HAB) contamination may experience stomach illness, skin irritation, allergic responses, and damage to the liver and nervous system. In extreme cases, dogs and other animals have died after drinking water containing these toxins.

Harmful algal blooms in Minnesota lakes result from several factors including runoff from fertilizers, discharges from waste treatment plants, warmer waters, and higher temperatures. While HABs can occur naturally, the frequency of outbreaks is increasing in part because human activities create favorable conditions for the blooms.

Zoonotic diseases and HABs can have an indirect health effect when they threaten the livelihoods of people who work in recreation-dependent economies that revolve around camping, fishing, and hunting.

Mental Health

Climate change threatens our mental health through direct exposure to a climate-related disaster (e.g., flooding); through the disruption to a major determinant of health, such as a loss of livelihood or a cultural tradition; and through awareness or uncertainty of climate change as an existential threat. These experiences may overlap and lead to compounded impacts on an individual or even an entire community, such as family farmers burdened with decadal drought who are more likely to commit suicide.

Existing research has associated several mental health conditions with climate change, such as psychological distress, grief reactions, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, interpersonal conflicts, drug or alcohol abuse, loss of identity, and suicidal ideation.

Vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, communities of color, and other marginalized communities are most at risk of climate change-related mental health impacts.

3.3.3 Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change adaptation is important for increasing the resilience of communities and the environment. The shocks caused by more extreme weather events and the stressors of longer-term changes to the climate affect all natural systems. For human communities, these impacts challenge the surroundings in which they live, the critically important ecosystem services upon which they depend, public health, local facilities and infrastructure, the safety of their residences, and the viability of their livelihoods. Development trends can further exacerbate both climate impacts and population vulnerability. Communities are only as resilient as the most vulnerable within them.

3.3.4 Climate Change Data and Tools in Minnesota

The University of Minnesota Extension and the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center coordinate the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP), which brings together federal and state agencies, organizations, and individuals statewide with an interest in climate adaptation. MCAP received funding after the 2021 legislative session to develop high-resolution (2.6 mile/4km grid) dynamically downscaled climate projections utilizing the University of Minnesota's Supercomputing Institute. This data is being made publicly accessible via the new Minnesota CliMAT—Climate Mapping and Analysis Tool. This interactive online tool provides highly localized climate projections for Minnesota. MN CliMAT is based on data from the latest generation of global climate models, called CMIP6. With the dynamically downscaled climate projection data, users can visualize even how small cities will likely be impacted in the coming decades (Liess, S. et al., 2023).

More resources are available on the climate change page of the Fillmore County website

3.4 Jurisdictional Change in Risk or Vulnerability Assessment

Jurisdictions in Fillmore County have varying vulnerabilities to and concerns about impacts to their communities. Interviews with jurisdictional representatives in addition to the Local Mitigation Survey resulted in some specific concerns (see Appendix C). Participants were asked to provide feedback on

how their community's vulnerability to natural hazards had either increased (due to changes such as development) or decreased (due to local mitigation efforts) over the past five years.

At the local jurisdictional level, several communities did note an increase in development over the last five years as a factor for an increase in vulnerability to severe weather or disaster events.

3.4.1 Jurisdictional Responses

As part of the Local Mitigation Survey form, Fillmore County Emergency Management and each city jurisdiction were asked to provide a vulnerability assessment that described what structures, systems, populations, or other community assets were susceptible to damage and loss from specific hazard events. This information was used to help tie local vulnerability back to the exposure of people, buildings, infrastructure, and the environment to the natural hazards listed in Table 4 and to assist local governments in development of related local mitigation actions to reduce risk.

The following is a compilation of common responses taken directly from jurisdictional representatives as preserved in Appendix C: Question 2 – Local Vulnerabilities. Responses here are edited only for clarity.

Fillmore County

> *All Hazards (Power Outages):* Several communities have generators at their shelter locations, however, additional generators are needed to address needs at other city shelter locations that do not have the capability yet.
>
> *Flooding:* Fillmore County has experienced flooding in the past. Some of the county has experienced flash flooding due to spring thaw in combination with rainfall. We have also experienced flooding due to extreme rainfall amounts in short periods of time. Rural Fillmore County is susceptible to roads being washed out where there is a steep grade and in low areas as well. Fillmore County has also experienced damage to bridges and culverts in the past. Fillmore County has several campgrounds that are active during spring, summer. and fall. Many of these campgrounds can be found near the Root River and other streams and are susceptible to flooding.
>
> *Ice Storms, Blizzards:* Much of Fillmore County's rural electrical service consists of overhead power lines and electrical poles. Those overhead lines and power poles are prone to failure in ice storms and blizzards with heavy snowfall and high winds that may bring down trees and branches.
> *Windstorms, Tornadoes:* Fillmore County has several campgrounds within its boundaries. The campgrounds are active during spring, summer and fall months with RVs and campers and some do not have a storm shelter. Fillmore County residents have experienced power outages from strong wind events that have brought down power lines.
>
> *Drought:* Fillmore County has experienced moderate to severe drought causing some municipalities to activate and enforce their water conservation plans.

Extreme Cold: Fillmore County has experienced extremely cold temperatures in the past. Residents without their own generators that lose power may need to shelter somewhere temporarily until power is restored. Widespread power outages would require shelters to have the capability to utilize a generator.

City of Canton

All Hazards (Power Outages): A generator is needed for our wells and fire hall and potentially for City Hall and our town hall.

Extreme Cold: We have a high population of senior citizens and low-income residents who are more vulnerable during periods of extreme cold with power outages. In the past we have experienced frozen water services and some residential homes experienced frozen pipes.

City of Chatfield

All Hazards (Power Outages): Power Outages can affect the city from severe storm outages. We also have a large population of senior citizens that do not use cell phones to receive emergency notifications. A generator has been installed at City Hall that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. Generators have been installed at our City Well #2 and our Booster Station to supply water to residents. The city has a vac truck to pump lift stations if needed.

Flooding: The city has a lift station that is prone to flooding during high rain events. Two city parks that are vulnerable to flooding and park equipment have been damaged in the past. We need to upsize several culverts to better handle high rain events.

Ice Storms, Blizzards: Much of the city's municipal electrical service consists of overhead power lines and electrical poles. Those overhead lines and power poles are prone to failure in ice storms and blizzards with heavy snowfall and high winds that may bring down trees and branches. Updated power conversions have been completed by Peoples Energy Coop.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: We have 1 mobile home park within the city that does not have a storm shelter and residents are vulnerable to high wind and tornado events. Our municipal campground is active during summer and fall months with RVs and campers and does not have a storm shelter. We also have new development in the west end of the city that should have an outdoor warning siren installed. We have experienced power outages from strong wind events that brought down power lines.

Extreme Cold: We have a high population of senior citizens and low-income residents who are more vulnerable during periods of extreme cold with power outages. In the past we have experienced frozen water services and some residential homes have experienced power outages.

Drought: Chatfield has experienced moderate to severe drought causing the city to enforce our water Conservation Plan.

City of Fountain

All-Hazards (Power Outages): We need to obtain a portable generator for our Community Center that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. We also have a large population of senior citizens that do not use cell phones to receive emergency notifications.

City of Harmony

All Hazards (Power Outages): The city needs to obtain a permanent generator for our Community Center, which serves as a local shelter for those displaced by severe storms or prolonged power outages.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: It would be beneficial for our town to have a storm shelter. Overhead electrical infrastructure is also at risk during high wind events and tornados, which may lead to power outages.

City of Lanesboro

All Hazards (Power Outages): The city of Lanesboro needs to obtain additional generators for its emergency services building and City Hall to maintain operations and provide services and shelter during power outage events.

Flooding: The city's wastewater treatment plant and power plant are both susceptible to flooding. Some roadways and transportation routes are also susceptible to flooding.

Winter Storms: Overhead electrical infrastructure is at-risk during winter storm events, which may lead to power outages.

Windstorms/Tornadoes: Overhead electrical infrastructure is at risk during high wind events and tornados, which may lead to power outages.

City of Mabel

All Hazards (Power Outages): Mabel currently has some backup generators for infrastructure. However, a backup generator at the Mabel-Canton School would be extremely helpful for a large group of community citizens to be temporarily housed during an extended power outage event. Extra portable or permanent generators are needed for the EMS/Fire Station and Daycare Facility. Our distribution system is serviced by MiEnergy, and primarily consists of overhead power lines resulting in failure due to wind or ice events.

Flooding: Mabel is prone to flooding as the Riceford Creek flows through the center of town. Mitigation projects have been completed previously. The relocation of some existing house structures is still necessary, but due to limited land availability and cost, this remains a high priority. Also, West Hwy 44 is prone to flooding cutting east bound traffic. Our Wastewater Treatment Facility and its access are located within the floodplain.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: The city has a mobile home park within our community; having a shelter is critical for these residents. In 2022 a new outdoor warning siren was installed at the Mabel Emergency Services building serving as our notification system.

City of Ostrander

All Hazards (Power Outages): The city needs to obtain a portable generator for our Community Center that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage.

Winter/Summer Storms: We are a small city and all power to the town is above ground. This is concerning especially in winter storms and extreme cold where we may experience resulting power outages from downed power lines.

City of Peterson

Flooding: Our WWTP has one lift station that services the sanitary sewer system. Sewer backups could occur during periods of significant rainfall if the lift station pumps were to fail. Most of the town does not have curb and gutter so portions could be prone to flooding during high rain events.

Flooding: The tidal sock on County Rd 25 should be inspected. If this were to fail, water from the Root River would enter this culvert and bring flood water in.

Winter Storms: Overhead electrical infrastructure is at-risk during winter storm events, which may lead to power outages.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: Overhead electrical infrastructure is at risk during high wind events and tornados, which may lead to power outages.

City of Preston

All Hazards (Power Outages): The city needs to obtain generator backup power for our emergency services building which is critical for our emergency responders to provide services to our community in the event of power failure. Additionally this location would likely be used to provide services or shelter to residents.

Flooding: The city of Preston has experienced flooding in the past. We have experienced flooding due to heavy rainfall amounts in short periods of time. Our Wastewater Treatment facility is susceptible to flooding, which could lead to sewer backups into homes.

Ice Storms, Blizzards: The city of Preston has many overhead power lines and electrical poles. Those overhead lines and power poles are prone to failure in ice storms and blizzards with heavy snowfall and high winds that may bring down trees and branches.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: The city of Preston has experienced power outages from strong wind events that have brought down power lines.

City of Rushford

Flooding: The city of Ruchford has a levee system that has been recertified after the 2007 flood. During that flood the levee held, but the flooding was due to extreme groundwater saturation and Rush Creek breaching the levee system with the water having no way to get out of our ponding areas and downtown street areas. That could happen again because of the geographic location of our community in the Rush Creek watershed district; including the possibility of a Root River flooding event. Power outages are also an issue during flood events.

Ice Storms/Blizzards: In the past these types of storms caused damage to the transmission lines coming into our city and we have no control over repairs or timelines of repairs.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: High winds have caused damage to our trees, light poles, and buildings in the past. Trees can also take down overhead power lines causing power outages.

City of Rushford Village

All Hazards (Power Outages): Storm events can cause major outages that would affect the safety of our residents. We need a generator at our City Hall/maintenance shop and lift station. The City Hall was used as a command center during the 2007 Rushford flood by multiple agencies. In the future it would be a place for residents to come in the event of an emergency. Any backup of sewage at the lift station is also a major safety concern for residents. We are a rural city so any wind or ice can cause trees to fall onto the roadway.

Flooding: We have multiple small creeks/dry runs that become raging waterways in the event of heavy rains. This can cause damage to roadways, culverts, bridges, and soil erosion to the banks. Heavy rain also washes away gravel and causes washouts along roads. We have 33 miles of gravel roads.

Windstorms, Ice Storms: We are a rural city with many trees. During these types of events roads can easily become blocked from fallen trees. With 33 miles of gravel roads to maintain it takes a long time to clear roads after a major storm.

Drought: We have not had issues with our water supply for the water tower but drought is a very real concern for residents who are farmers.

Extreme Cold: Although not a huge issue in our water district, we have had frozen pipes and water meters in some residents. We recently installed new water meters so we get alerts when a resident is using an abnormal amount of water or the temperature near their meter is close to freezing, this allows us to contact the resident and hopefully stop potential issues. Extreme cold is also a concern for our farming community in regards to their animals.

City of Spring Valley

Flooding: The city lift station is prone to flooding and we are exploring options for relocation. The creek runs through downtown which experiences flooding issues during high rain events. During such events 3 city streets and Hwy 63 are occasionally shut down with the assistance of our local emergency management and fire department.

City of Whalan

All Hazards (Power Outages): A generator for electricity and water is high on our list of needs for all forms of hazards as we currently do not have any generators.

Flooding: We have not had any flooding since the dike was built, but most of our downtown area is in the floodplain.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: We do not have a Storm Shelter, which is also a definite need for our city.

Extreme Cold, Drought: We have 3 private, but shared, wells that can be negatively impacted by both extreme cold (frozen water services) or severe drought (diminished water services) for our city.

City of Wykoff

All Hazards (Power Outages): A generator for water and our community center is high on the city's list of needs for power outages. We have a generator for our WWTP, however, our water system is vulnerable to power outages.

Flooding: Our WWTP is prone to flooding during high rain events and has flooded several times in the past due to effluent pumps that were undersized. We have upsized them but with the drought we have been experiencing they have not been tested to full capacity. With the one rain storm that delivered 4 inches of rain, it was much improved.

Windstorms, Tornadoes: We have 1 mobile home park within the city that does not have a storm shelter and residents are vulnerable to high wind and tornado events. We would like to convert our lower level of the community center to function as a storm shelter, but that would require an investment in a generator.

Other Stakeholders

MnDOT District 6

> We manage our State Highway System and it is vulnerable to many hazards listed above. The largest vulnerability for this infrastructure is observed trend in increasing extreme precipitation events (both intensity and frequency). The hydraulic assets under and upstream of the roads were designed based on outdated precipitation probabilities (typically TP-40 Design Storms since Atlas 14 was not used until about 10 years ago) and so the risk of damage and traffic impact is greater than originally designed. Additionally, there are no signs that the increasing trend of extreme precipitation will reverse, so even if there is a good deal of uncertainty for the future, it suggests this infrastructure will continue to become more vulnerable. All populations that use the State Highway System have increased risk of traffic impacts, and we are working to quantify at a high-level if there are any certain areas that may have a larger share of that risk.

3.4.2 Future Development

Because Fillmore County is vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, the county government—in partnership with the state government—must make a commitment to prepare for the management of these events. Fillmore County is committed to ensuring that county elected and appointed officials become informed leaders regarding community hazards so that they are better prepared to set and direct policies for emergency management and county response.

As part of the vulnerability assessment conducted for the Fillmore County HMP update, jurisdictions were asked to describe if there were any factors related to population growth, zoning, or development they felt have increased their community's vulnerability to future severe weather or disaster events. The following is a compilation of responses taken directly from jurisdictional representatives as preserved in Appendix C: Question 4 – Increase in Vulnerability. Responses here are edited only for clarity.

Fillmore County

> In the last five years, Fillmore County has experienced an increase in solar farms which impacts the road system and the need to maintain access.

City of Canton

> No new development.

City of Chatfield

> Since 2010, the city's population has grown from 1,206 to 3,002 with many new homes built making more properties vulnerable to damages. Homes have been built slab-on-grade, so residents do not have a basement for safety during high wind or tornado events. With an increase in population and construction of more homes and commercial properties, we have

also witnessed more stormwater discharging to our stormwater system. We feel this is due to a more impermeable surface which has increased stormwater runoff and the amount of precipitation seems to have increased per rain event.

City of Fountain

No new development.

City of Harmony

No new development.

City of Lanesboro

In the past five years, Lanesboro has identified two areas for housing development, though no development agreements or final plats have been agreed upon with the private developers.

City of Mabel

There have been no new developments within or around the City of Mabel.

City of Ostrander

No new development.

City of Peterson

No new development.

City of Preston

In 2024 the Minnesota Veterans home opened in the City of Preston, providing housing for 54 residents and 120 FTE. We had an additional two new housing developments also added within the city.

City of Rushford

Our mobile home court is seeing an increase of homes coming back into that area. The area has a storm shelter on site, but is prone to flooding.

City of Rushford Village

No new development.

City of Spring Valley

> New developments of housing and industrial lots are located on the outskirts of town and are out of the floodplain.

City of Whalan

> A new housing development is located on the outskirts of town and out of the floodplain.

City of Wykoff

> We have a new development with 9 new homes being built on slab-on-grade (no basements). In addition, our mobile home park has also expanded. These developments increase vulnerability of residents to high wind or tornado events due to their living structures. We will have to place more priority in the next budget towards getting a generator for the community center so that it can become a city-wide storm shelter.

Other Stakeholders

MnDOT District 6

> Recently, there has been an increase in new development, some of it is located upstream of the roadway. If the proper design and permits from MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit and MnDOT are obtained, then there is less risk of increasing vulnerability. However, if the development does not address increased impervious, the extra runoff can increase vulnerability to our roadway infrastructure.

In the development of local mitigation actions, all jurisdictions were encouraged to consider hazard mitigation strategies that would reduce risk in relation to future development, such as the update of local comprehensive plans, enforcement of ordinances, and incorporation of infrastructure improvements to reduce local vulnerabilities (see Appendix H).

The Fillmore County emergency management director will work to keep the jurisdictions covered by the HMP engaged and informed during the plan's cycle. By keeping jurisdictional leaders involved in the monitoring, evaluation, and update of the HMP, they will keep their local governments aware of the hazards that face their communities and how to mitigate those hazards through planning and project implementation.

Section 6 of this plan further outlines the process by which Fillmore County will address the maintenance of this plan, including monitoring, evaluation, and update of the plan, as well as implementation and continued public involvement.

Section 4 – Hazards

As part of the risk assessment, each natural hazard that poses risk to the county was independently reviewed for its past hazard history, relationship to future trends, and jurisdictional vulnerability to future events. The county also conducted a capabilities assessment to review the plans and programs that are in place or lacking (program gaps or deficiencies) for implementing mitigation efforts, as related to each natural hazard. An assessment was also conducted for local jurisdictions to identify the plans, policies, programs, staff, and funding they have in place to incorporate mitigation into other planning mechanisms (see Section 5.1 and Appendix C).

Read more about natural hazard prioritization and view interactive information on all hazards

The following hazard profiles address hazards that the Fillmore County Planning Team deemed moderate to high risk. Hazards determined to be low risk or without substantive mitigation actions are not required to be included.

4.1 Flooding

Flooding is the most significant and costly natural hazard in Minnesota. Twelve of the 18 federal disaster declarations in Fillmore County included flooding.

After several years of drought and exceptionally mild winter, the first half of 2024 was extremely wet with frequent, heavy precipitation causing widespread flooding throughout Minnesota, resulting in a Federal Disaster Declaration affecting 22 counties, including Fillmore County (FEMA, 2024d).

Fillmore County experiences an array of weather hazards, and in many years faces excessive rainfall, significant flooding, major winter storms, and intense heat. The county is in the wettest part of Minnesota and has seen some of the largest long-term precipitation increases in the state, averaging 0.49 inches of increase per decade, or a total increase of 6.4 inches from 1895 to 2024—nearly two times greater than the statewide averages during the same period (MN DNR, 2025b).

The naturally wetter climate conditions predispose Fillmore County to relatively high frequencies of flash flooding. The earliest account of a major flash flood in the county is from August 6, 1866, when intense rains led to localized flooding that killed over a dozen people, including three members of the Wisel family, whose story appeared in the Harmony/Mabel/Canton News Record Newspaper (K. Blumenfeld, personal communication, September 30, 2025).

More recently, Fillmore County was affected by the largest documented flash flood in state history, on August 18–20, 2007. Rainfall totals of 8–12 inches affected the northeastern part of the county, with 4–8 inches falling elsewhere. Severe to extreme flooding resulted, with many roads and bridges destroyed in the county, and with huge mudslides cascading down the steep hills surrounding area towns (MN DNR, 2022).

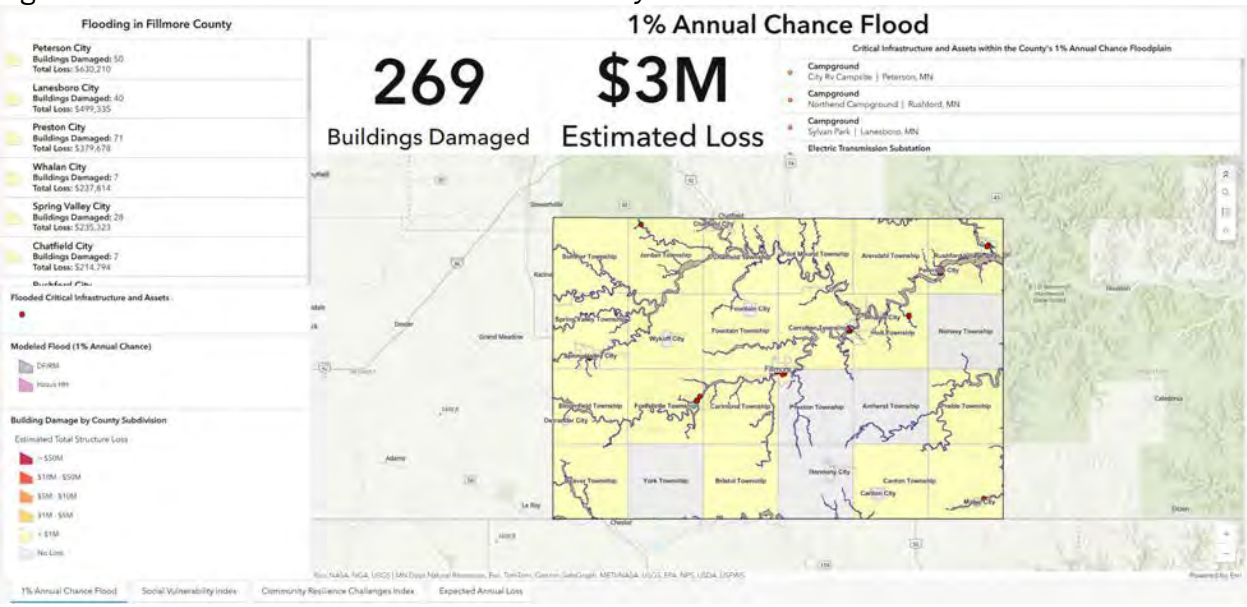
4.1.1 Probability of Occurrence

From 1997 through May 2025, the NCEI Storm Events Database has recorded 48 flood and flash flood events. Fillmore County has experienced 1.2 flash flood events per year and one riverine flood event every two years on average during this period.

View interactive maps and see information about flooding history, risk, and vulnerability

A potential risk and economic loss analysis for a 1% annual chance flood was conducted using Hazus, a nationally standardized risk modeling methodology. Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) data was used to define the 1% annual chance flood boundary. A raster layer (10-m resolution) of flood water depths within the 1% annual chance flood boundary was calculated by taking the difference between the elevation of the ground and the surface of the flood water. Static base flood elevation (BFE) data was available for some areas in the flood boundary, but the water surface elevation (WSEL) had to be calculated for the rest of the flooded areas. The method of calculating the WSEL varied by the data available. For this analysis, water surface elevations were calculated by interpolating three different datasets; the regulatory water surface elevation values of cross-section lines (primary data), the elevation values of base flood elevation lines (secondary data), and the elevation at the flood boundary where cross-section and base flood line data was not available. The resulting Hazus 1% annual chance floodplain is shown in the Flood Vulnerability dashboard on the Fillmore County HMP website (Figure 1), where it is available in an interactive form.

Figure 1. 1% Annual chance flood in Fillmore County



4.1.2 Vulnerability

Potential economic loss estimates were based on county-specific building data. Fillmore County provided parcel tax and spatial databases that included building valuations, occupancy class, square footage, year built, and number of stories. The quality of the inventory is the limiting factor to a Hazus

flood model loss estimation. Best practices were used to use local data and assumptions were made to populate missing (but required) values.

View at-risk populations in Fillmore County

Hazus reports the percent damage of each building in the floodplain, defined by the centroid of each building footprint. After formatting the tax and spatial data, 22,243 points were input to Hazus to represent buildings with a total estimated building plus contents value of $2.6 billion. Approximately 57% of the buildings (and 56% of the building value) are associated with residential housing.

The estimated loss by occupancy class for the entire county is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Summary of 1% annual chance flood loss estimation by occupancy class

General Occupancy	County Total Buildings	County Building and Contents Value	Floodplain Total Buildings	Floodplain Building + Contents Value	Buildings with damage	Building + Contents Loss
Residential	12,589	$1,470,337,097	320	$37,189,284	210	$2,234,133
Commercial	812	$193,469,892	61	$6,499,712	43	$543,571
Other	8,842	$945,628,791	71	$15,481,534	16	$256,770
Totals	22,243	$2,609,435,780	452	$59,170,530	269	$3,034,474

SOURCE: (FEMA, 2024c)

The distinction between building attributes within a parcel was not known, so the maximum percent damage to a building in that parcel was used to calculate loss estimates for the entire parcel. The sum of all the losses in each census block were aggregated to visualize the loss (see flood risk map on the HMP website). Please note: It is possible for a building location to report no loss even if it is in the flood boundary. For example, if the water depth is minimal relative to 1st-floor height, there may be 0% damage.

Hazus Critical Infrastructure Loss Analysis

Critical facilities and infrastructure are vital to the public and their incapacitation or destruction would have a significant negative impact on the community. These facilities and infrastructure were identified on the HMP website and verified by Fillmore County.

Buildings identified as essential facilities for the Hazus flood analysis include hospitals, police and fire stations, and schools (often used as shelters). Loss of essential facilities are vulnerable to structural failure, extensive water damage, and loss of facility functionality during a flood, thereby negatively impacting the communities relying on these facilities' services. The Lanesboro Community Center in Lanesboro, which is used as a shelter facility, was shown to fall within 1% annual chance floodplain. The local site should be reviewed to determine actual vulnerability.

Extreme precipitation resulting in flooding may overwhelm water infrastructure, disrupt transportation and cause other damage. Particularly where stormwater, sewage, and water treatment infrastructure is aging or undersized for more intense rainstorms, extreme rain events may pose both health and ecological risks in addition to costly damage (USGCRP, 2018b).

It is important to identify other critical infrastructure within the 1% annual chance floodplain, given the higher risk of the facility or infrastructure being incapacitated or destroyed during a flood. In Fillmore County, the following facilities were determined to be at risk in the 1% annual chance flood:

- Electric transmission substation in Spring Valley
- Electric transmission substation (unknown location)
- Wastewater facility in Preston
- Wastewater facility in Peterson,
- Wastewater facility Mabel Township
- Power plant in Lanesboro

The assets are mapped on the Fillmore County HMP website. This flood analysis did not evaluate flooding of bridges, roads, or other linear features.

There were several other important assets within the 1% annual chance flood boundary and worth further flood risk review. Buildings considered include places where critical leaders' offices may be, historical resources, hazardous waste storage, and places where populations may be exposed, such as campgrounds or mobile home parks. Significant assets vulnerable to a 1% annual chance flood in Fillmore County include 39 state-owned buildings; three buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); three campgrounds; and three treatment, storage, or disposal facilities. These places, including but not limited to those listed below, are mapped on the HMP website and should be reviewed in more detail:

- Peterson State Fish Hatchery
- Forestville-Mystery Cave State Park
- Preston Oil Products Company in Preston (treatment, storage, or disposal facility)
- Lanesboro Public Utilities in Lanesboro (treatment, storage, or disposal facility)
- Marchant Motor Co. in Spring Valley (treatment, storage, or disposal facility)
- Rushford City Mill in Rushford City (NRHP)
- Spring Valley Carnegie Library in Spring Valley (NRHP)
- Milwaukee Elevator in Preston (NRHP)
- Peterson RV Campground in Peterson
- Northend Campground in Rushford
- Sylvan Park Campground in Lanesboro

Community Vulnerability

Potential economic losses were estimated by Census Minor Civil Division. The Cities of Peterson, Lanesboro, Preston, Whalen, Spring Valley, Chatfield Rush would suffer significant estimated losses in the 1% annual chance flood. Holt and Newburg Townships also have significant estimated losses. All jurisdictions with buildings identified in the 1% annual chance flood zone can also be viewed on the Fillmore County HMP website.

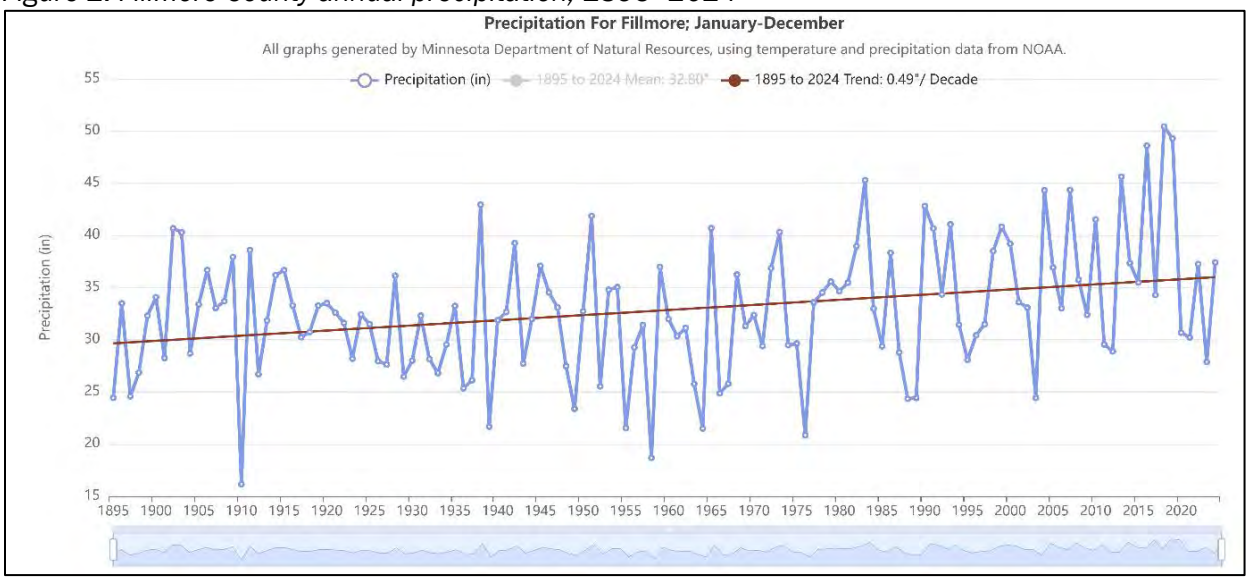
The status of jurisdictional participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and any repetitive loss properties are detailed in Section 5.1.1. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to specific hazards.

4.1.3 Flooding and Climate Change

Higher temperatures globally have evaporated more surface and ocean water into the atmosphere, which, in turn, has provided more potential moisture for precipitating weather systems. In Fillmore County, the result has been increased precipitation, with annual totals increasing at an average rate of nearly a half-inch per decade statewide since 1895 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Fillmore County annual precipitation, 1895–2024



SOURCE:(MN DNR, 2025B)

Key Message #1 in the Water Chapter of the NCA5 states that climate change will continue to cause profound changes in the water cycle.

Snow cover will decrease and melt earlier and heavier rainfall is leading to increasing flooding (Payton et al., 2023). Additional increases in heavy and extreme precipitation are expected to remain the state's leading climate change symptoms. Heavy rains are now more common in Minnesota and more intense than at any time on record. Long-term observation sites have seen dramatic increases in one-inch rains, three-inch rains, and the size of the heaviest rainfall of the year. Since 2000, Minnesota has seen a significant uptick in devastating, large-area extreme rainstorms as well. Rains that historically would have been in the 98th percentile annually (the largest 2%) have become more common (MN DNR, 2024).

This precipitation increase is found in all seasons, but spring and summer are becoming wetter at faster rates than fall and winter. Whereas temperature increases have been greatest in the northern parts of the state, precipitation increases have been well distributed geographically, and have somewhat favored southern Minnesota, which has better access to moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and is more frequently near the "low-level jet" airflow (a relatively fast-moving zone of winds in the lower atmosphere) that influences precipitation production

4.1.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management identified existing program gaps and deficiencies that make its residents more vulnerable to flooding. The following gaps and deficiencies should be addressed with new mitigation efforts to reduce that vulnerability:

Road Infrastructure: Flood mitigation for county and township roads (e.g., culvert replacements, road repair) is an ongoing need. The county and many of our townships have limited funding for road infrastructure. Fillmore County continues to assist with road infrastructure mitigation projects to reduce the impacts of localized flooding.

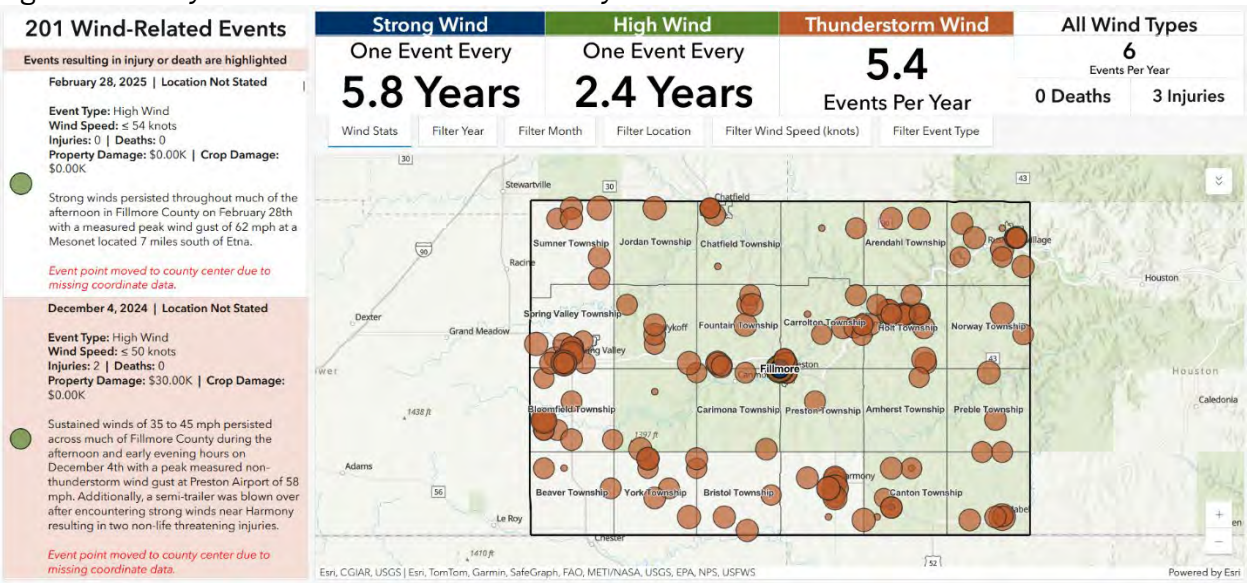
Funding: The county needs funding assistance to improve roads and culverts that experience repetitive flooding. Significant State and Federal funding is needed to construct infrastructure projects to prevent, reduce, and mitigate the impacts of high rain events and flooding.

4.2 Windstorms

A windstorm is a wind strong enough to cause damage to trees and buildings and typically exceeding 34 mph (Pielke, 2012). Windstorm events encompass a variety of types of damaging wind. The history of windstorms in Fillmore County is shown in Figure 3; an interactive version of this map can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website.

View interactive maps and see information about windstorm history, risk, and vulnerability

Figure 3. History of windstorms in Fillmore County



4.2.1 Probability of Occurrence

To determine the probability of future wind-related events in Fillmore County, records of previous wind-related events (strong wind, high wind, and thunderstorm wind) in Fillmore County were examined since 1996, the period of record all wind events have in common. The relative frequency of all wind-related events from January 1996 to May 2025 is six per year. These relative frequencies can be used to infer the probability of these events occurring in the future.

4.2.2 Vulnerability

The likelihood of a windstorm event does not vary geographically within the county, but the vulnerability of its residents is not constant. Vulnerability to injury from all kinds of windstorms decreases with adequate warnings, warning time, and sheltering in a reinforced structure. Therefore, residents living in rural areas, living alone or with limited mobility, or living in a manufactured home may be more vulnerable. Also at a higher risk to windstorms are those who work outdoors or do not have permanent housing.

Structural vulnerability depends in part upon the construction of a building and its infrastructure. Residents of mobile homes are more vulnerable to fatality or injury from windstorms because mobile homes are not able to withstand high winds as well as other structural dwellings, with 50 mph (43.4 knots) being the lower limit of wind speeds capable of damaging mobile homes (AMS, 2004). Steps to mitigate these vulnerabilities have been taken by the state, requiring all mobile home parks to provide an evacuation plan, and parks with at least 10 homes licensed after March 1, 1988 to provide a storm shelter (MDH, 2020). However, mobile home parks often do not provide the required storm shelters (Sepic, 2017). Building codes have also changed to improve the strength of new mobile home construction but there are still many older mobile homes in use that do not meet these new standards.

Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to specific hazards.

4.2.3 Windstorms and Climate Change

Lack of high-quality long-term data sets makes assessment of changes in wind speeds very difficult (Kunkel et al., 2013). In general, one analysis found no evidence of significant changes in wind speed distribution. Other trends in severe storms, including the number of hurricanes and the intensity and frequency of tornadoes, hail, and damaging thunderstorm winds, are uncertain. Since the impact of more frequent or intense storms can be larger than the impact of average temperature, climate scientists are actively researching the connections between climate change and severe storms (USGCRP, 2018a).

According to the NCA5 Key Message #5 in the Climate Trends chapter, extreme events are becoming more frequent.

4.2.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management identified program gaps and deficiencies that make its residents more vulnerable to summer storms, including windstorms, that should be addressed with new mitigation efforts to reduce vulnerability. These include:

Above-Ground Power Lines: Most power lines throughout Fillmore County are above ground, exposing them to potential damage from high wind events. The county and local jurisdictions continue to work with electric utility providers to convert overhead power lines to underground or to implement other measures to reduce risk of power failure.

Public Education: Ongoing public education is needed during tornado season to inform the public on what a tornado watch/warning is and what to do when outdoor warning sirens are activated. Fillmore County and local jurisdictions also need to continue to encourage residents to be aware of and ready for severe storm events that can lead to long-term power outages.

Storm Shelters and Tornado Safe Rooms: There are areas throughout Fillmore County without viable storm shelters or tornado safe rooms where there are populations vulnerable to high wind and storm events, such as mobile home parks and campgrounds. A coordinated approach is needed to identify where storm shelters or tornado safe rooms are needed and to evaluate whether new construction or a retrofit of facilities is possible. Finding funding for the implementation of such construction projects is also a barrier.

4.3 Tornadoes

With wind speeds reaching up to 300 mph, tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms (Hogeback, 2020). The history of tornadoes in Fillmore County is shown in Figure 4; an interactive version of this map can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website.

View interactive maps and see information about tornado history, risk, and vulnerability

Figure 4. History of tornadoes in Fillmore County

4.3.1 Probability of Occurrence

Estimating the probability of future tornadoes in Fillmore County was done using two methods. The first method summed the total number of tornadoes that either touched down in or traveled through the county. This sum was divided by the number of years tornado data was recorded, resulting in the annual relative frequency of tornado occurrences in the county. Based on records in the NCEI Storm Events Database through May 2025, there has been one tornado every 3.1 years in Fillmore County. These 23 tornadic events occurred in 13 of the 75 years on record.

Because tornadoes often cross county lines and tornadic frequency may be better understood using events from a larger area, a second method was used to describe the frequency of tornadic events within a 50-mile radius of any location within the county. A grid of 900 square-meter cells was used to cover Minnesota and 50 miles beyond its border. From the center of each cell, the number of tornadoes that intersected a 50-mile radius was counted. Each cell was assigned a total tornado line count, which was then divided by the tornado dataset's period of record, resulting in the annual relative frequency of tornadoes occurring within 50 miles of the respective cell.

For any location in Fillmore County, there was an annual frequency of 1–3 tornadoes within a 50-mile radius. The historical frequency was only slightly higher in the west than in the east of the county. These relative frequencies can be used to infer the probability of these events occurring in the future.

4.3.3 Vulnerability

The likelihood of a tornado does not vary significantly across geography within Fillmore County; however, certain populations may be more vulnerable and less resilient to the impacts of a tornado. In general, tornado casualties decrease when people receive adequate warnings with sufficient time to seek shelter in a reinforced structure. Because communication is critical before a tornadic event, certain residents may be more negatively impacted by a tornado, including those living in rural areas, individuals with limited mobility, people who do not live near an outdoor warning siren, or those who do not use social media. Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to specific hazards.

View at-risk populations in Fillmore County

People living in mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to tornadoes because they cannot withstand the strong winds produced by a tornado. An analysis by the Associated Press of NOAA storm data found that since 1996, 53% of tornado fatalities in the United States were people who remained within or attempted to flee from mobile homes (Borestein et al., 2023). While Minnesota law requires most mobile home parks to have storm shelters, many do not (Raiche, 2022).

4.3.3 Tornadoes and Climate Change

Minnesota's climate is undergoing distinct changes, but as reported by the MN DNR State Climatology Office, these changes are only weakly connected to increases in tornadoes or severe convective storms. Minnesota, like all parts of the U.S., has seen increases in the weakest class of tornadoes

(rated F-0 or EF-0), but these increases are known to be linked to improved spotting, detection, and verification procedures within the National Weather Service.

When examining tornadoes that cause significant structural damage and are rated EF-2 or above, Minnesota has seen no recent trends towards increasing frequencies—whether measured as raw counts, or as days with one or more of these tornadoes (MN DNR, 2019).

The tornado trends in Minnesota match those found nationally. NCA5 states that while the average annual number of tornadoes appears to have remained relatively constant, there is evidence that tornado outbreaks have become more frequent, tornado seasons are extending into later in the fall, and that tornado strength has increased (Marvel et al., 2023). An October 10, 2021 tornado in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness became the latest on record so far north in the state. Then, on December 15, 2021, an outbreak of destructive thunderstorm winds and over 20 tornadoes struck the southeastern parts of the state, producing the latest tornadoes on record by 29 days (Blumenfeld, K. Minnesota State Climatology Office, personal communication, December 21, 2023).

According to the NCA5 Key Message #5 in the Climate Trends chapter, extreme events are becoming more frequent.

However, climate scientists are unclear about whether the recent statistical behavior of these severe convective storm events has any relationship with the changing climate. This uncertainty results from the fact that tornadoes and their parent thunderstorms operate on smaller scales and more localized processes than the global climate. There has been some indication that, on a national basis, tornadoes are being clustered into fewer days, suggesting a greater tendency towards outbreaks. Scientific modelling studies indicate that the meteorological conditions supportive of severe thunderstorms should increase in the future, but it is unclear whether the specific conditions required for the formation of tornadoes, and particularly significant tornadoes, will increase (Kossin, 2017). Until more studies are completed, the Minnesota State Climatology Office recommends assuming that tornadoes will remain an important and dangerous part of Minnesota's climate, even if they do not increase in frequency or severity in response to changing climatic conditions.

4.3.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management identified program gaps and deficiencies that make its residents more vulnerable to summer storms, including tornadoes, that should be addressed with new mitigation efforts to reduce vulnerability. These include:

Above-Ground Power Lines: Most power lines throughout Fillmore County are above ground, exposing them to potential damage from high wind events. The county and local jurisdictions continue to work with electric utility providers to convert overhead power lines to underground or to implement other measures to reduce risk of power failure.

Public Education: Ongoing public education is needed during tornado season to inform the public on what a tornado watch/warning is and what to do when outdoor warning sirens are activated. Fillmore County and local jurisdictions also need to continue to encourage residents to be aware of and ready for severe storm events that can lead to long-term power outages.

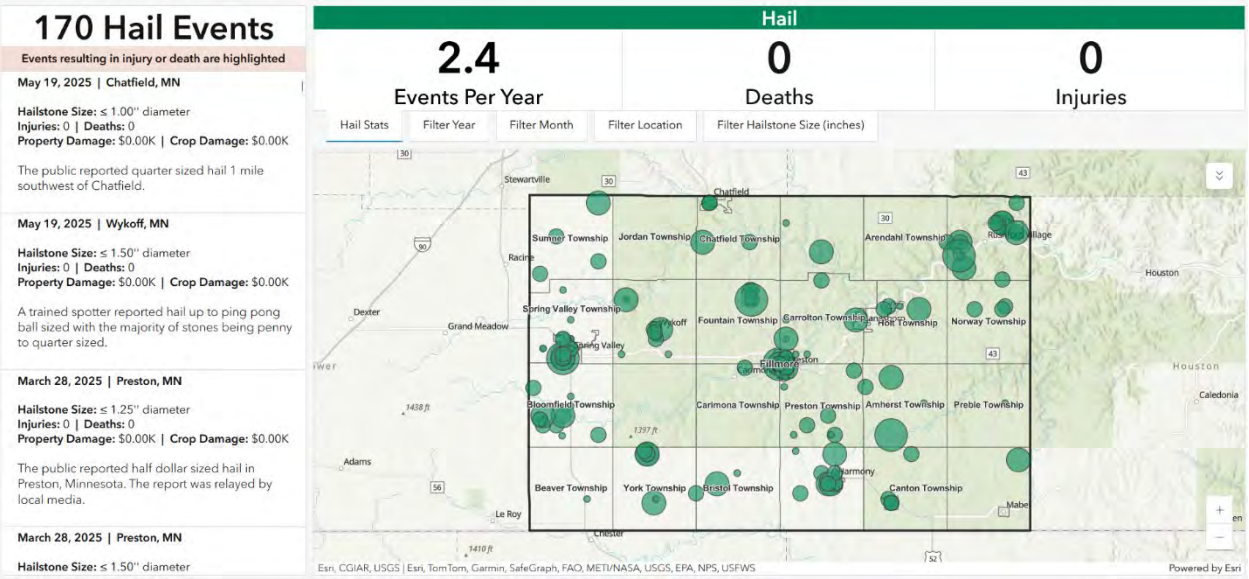
Storm Shelters and Tornado Safe Rooms: There are areas throughout Fillmore County without viable storm shelters or tornado safe rooms where there are populations vulnerable to high wind and storm events, such as mobile home parks and campgrounds. A coordinated approach is needed to identify where storm shelters or tornado safe rooms are needed and to evaluate whether new construction or a retrofit of facilities is possible. Finding funding for the implementation of such construction projects is also a barrier.

4.4 Hail

Hailstorms occur throughout the year though are most frequent between May and August (NWS, 2020). Although hailstorms rarely cause injury or loss of life, they do cost Minnesota nearly $16 million in property and crop damage each year (CEMHS, 2023). In 2017, 44% of properties in Minnesota were affected by damaging hail events (Samanta & Wu, 2017). The history of hail in Fillmore County is shown in Figure 5; an interactive version of this map can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website.

View interactive maps and see information about hail history, risk, and vulnerability

Figure 5. History of hail in Fillmore County



4.4.1 Probability of Occurrence

To determine the probability of future hailstorms in Fillmore County, records of previous hail events in the county were examined for the period of record. From January 1955 through May 2025, the relative frequency of hail events was 2.4 per year. This relative frequency can be used to infer the probability of hail events occurring in the future. Please note that public reports of hail are often secondary to those of thunderstorm winds or tornadoes because if either damaging winds or tornadoes occur, the damaging wind and/or tornado are more important to the reporter and may result in underreporting of hail events.

4.4.2 Vulnerability

Fillmore County's agricultural lands and structures are vulnerable to hail damage and its residents to injury and possibly death. Data from the Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database for the United States (SHELDUS) was examined to identify the county's monetary losses due to hail damage to crops, property, injury, and death. From 1960 through 2022 Fillmore County reported nearly $4.5 million in hail damages, ranking 58th among Minnesota counties in total hail damages. Fillmore County's losses are primarily due to crop damages reported at $3,415,385, followed by $1,064,290 in property damages. Crop indemnity payments due to hail totaled $3,554,100 for the period of record spanning 1989–2022 (CEMHS, 2023).

Within Fillmore County, the vulnerability of jurisdictions to hailstorms does not vary geographically. As with all summer storms, those who work outdoors or do not have permanent housing are at greater risk during hailstorms.

Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to specific hazards.

4.4.3 Hail and Climate Change

Trends in severe storms, including the numbers of hail and damaging thunderstorm winds are uncertain. Since the impact of more frequent or intense storms can be larger than the impact of average temperature, climate scientists are actively researching the connections between climate change and severe storms (Marvel et al., 2023). The NCA reports that in Minnesota's neighboring Great Plains region, hail size, frequency of large hail, and length of hail season are projected to increase through the rest of this century (Knapp et al., 2023). The occurrence of very heavy precipitation has increased in Minnesota in recent decades, and future projections also indicate this will continue (Blumenfeld, K. Minnesota State Climatology Office, personal communication, December 21, 2023).

According to the NCA5 Key Message #5 in the Climate Trends chapter, extreme events are becoming more frequent.

4.4.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management identified program gaps and deficiencies that make its residents more vulnerable to summer storms, including hailstorms, that should be addressed with new mitigation efforts to reduce vulnerability. These include:

Above-Ground Power Lines: Most power lines throughout Fillmore County are above ground, exposing them to potential damage from high wind events. The county and local jurisdictions continue to work with electric utility providers to convert overhead power lines to underground or to implement other measures to reduce risk of power failure.

Public Education: Ongoing public education is needed during tornado season to inform the public on what a tornado watch/warning is and what to do when outdoor warning sirens are activated. Fillmore County and local jurisdictions also need to continue to encourage residents to be aware of and ready for severe storm events that can lead to long-term power outages.

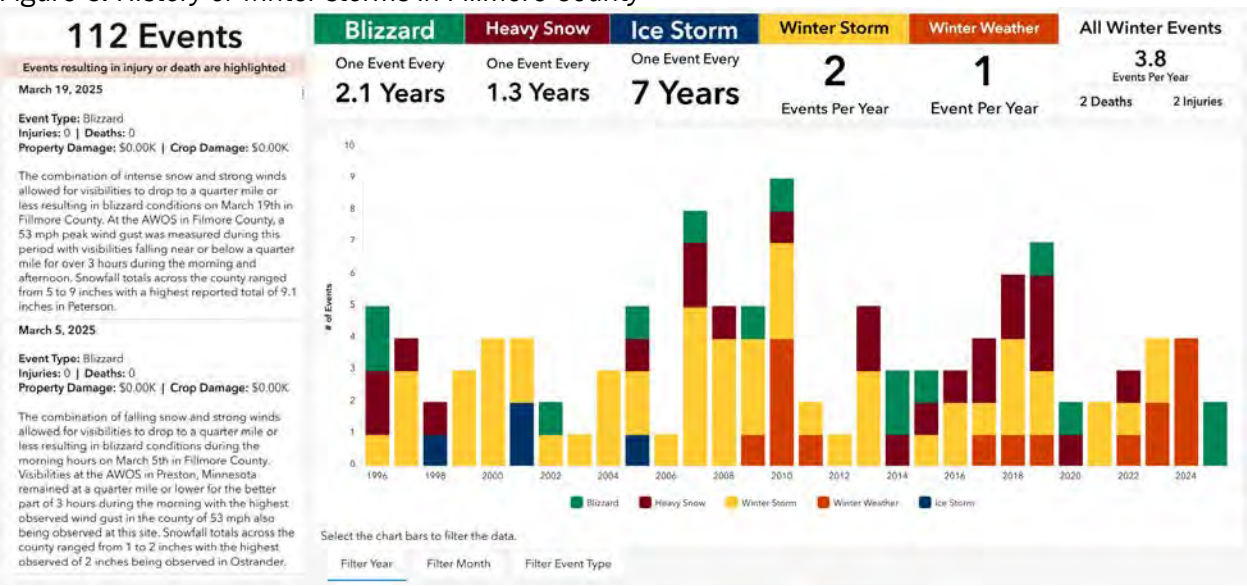
Storm Shelters and Tornado Safe Rooms: There are areas throughout Fillmore County without viable storm shelters or tornado safe rooms where there are populations vulnerable to high wind and storm events, such as mobile home parks and campgrounds. A coordinated approach is needed to identify where storm shelters or tornado safe rooms are needed and to evaluate whether new construction or a retrofit of facilities is possible. Finding funding for the implementation of such construction projects is also a barrier.

4.5 Winter Storms

Winter storms encompass several different winter weather events that the National Weather Service (NWS) organizes into the following categories: blizzard, heavy snow, ice storm, winter storm, and winter weather. Winter weather events are common in Minnesota and can be costly. According to the Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database (SHELDUS), winter weather events in Minnesota have cost more than $1.02 billion in damages since 1960 (CEMHS, 2023). The history of winter storms in Fillmore County is shown in Figure 6; an interactive version of this map can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website.

View interactive maps and see information about winter storm history, risk, and vulnerability

Figure 6. History of winter storms in Fillmore County



4.5.1 Probability of Occurrence

To determine the probability of future winter-related storm events in Fillmore County, records of previous events (blizzards, heavy snows, ice storms, winter storms, and winter weather) were summed and divided by the dataset's period of record, resulting in the annual relative frequency of winter-related storms. Based on records in the NCEI Storm Events Database through May 2025, the relative frequency of winter-related storm events in Fillmore County is 3.8 per year. This relative frequency can infer the probability of these events occurring in the future.

4.5.2 Vulnerability

Transportation systems, electrical distribution systems, and structures are vulnerable to winter storms throughout the county. These events do not vary geographically within the county; all jurisdictions are equally vulnerable. While it is highly likely these events will continue occurring annually, the amount of snow and ice and number of winter-related storm events to occur each year are unpredictable. Citizens living in climates such as these must always be prepared for situations that put their lives or property at risk. It is important that extra consideration be given to the vulnerable populations discussed in Section 3.2. Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to specific hazards.

4.5.3 Winter Storms and Climate Change

Historically, winter storms have had a large impact on public safety in Minnesota. If the frequency of snowstorms and annual total snowfalls increase, as anticipated effects of Climate Change, the effects on public safety will also increase. Pressures on energy use, reduced reliability of services, potential outages, and potential rise in household energy costs are major climate change risks to public health that can occur from winter weather.

Table 7 in Section 3.3 discusses confidence that climate change will impact common Minnesota weather/climate hazards beyond 2025, there is some weak evidence that warming winters may make heavy snowfall events less frequent as winter warms.

4.5.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management identified several program gaps and deficiencies that make its residents more vulnerable to severe winter storms. The following gaps and deficiencies should be addressed with new mitigation efforts to reduce that vulnerability:

Above-Ground Power Lines: Most powerlines throughout Fillmore County are above ground, exposing them to impacts/damage from winter high wind and ice events, potentially leading to localized or extensive power outages.

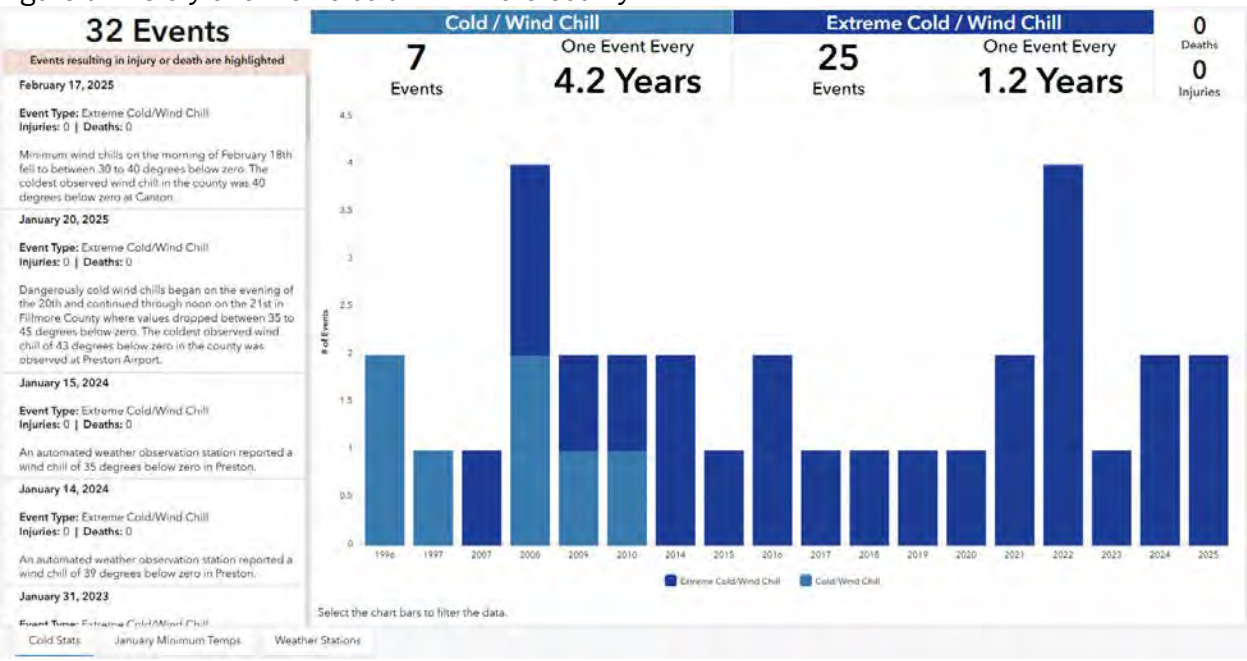
Public Education: Ongoing public education is needed to encourage residents to be ready for long-term power outages or to be snowed in during dangerous winter events such as ice storms and blizzards.

4.6 Extreme Cold

Due to Minnesota's position in the middle of the continent and subsequent climate, the state may experience extremely frigid temperatures in winter. Winter in Fillmore County can be especially dangerous when low temperatures and wind create arctic-like wind chills. The history of extreme cold in Fillmore County is shown in Figure 7; an interactive version of this dashboard can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website.

View interactive maps and see information about extreme cold history, risk, and vulnerability

Figure 7. History of extreme cold in Fillmore County



4.6.1 Probability of Occurrence

To determine the probability of future cold-related events in Fillmore County, records of previous cold/wind chill and extreme cold/wind chill events were summed and divided by the dataset's period of record, resulting in the annual relative frequency. Based on records in the NCEI Storm Events Database through May 2025, the relative frequency of extreme cold/wind chill events in Fillmore County is one every 1.2 years. (NCEI, 2025). This relative frequency can be used to infer the probability of these events occurring in the future.

4.6.2 Vulnerability

The risk of extreme cold does not vary geographically within the county. Citizens living in climates such as these must always be prepared for situations that put their lives or property at risk. The youngest and more elderly residents, homeless persons, individuals with chronic medical conditions, and those who are working or recreating outdoors are most at risk for frostbite and hypothermia (MDH, 2021).

View at-risk populations in Fillmore County

It is not always the depth of the cold that poses a threat but rather unpreparedness for the cold, such as an individual with a vehicle breakdown who lacks a personal winter safety kit in the vehicle. The cost of propane can make rural residents more vulnerable to issues with extreme cold. A propane shortage and resulting crisis, such as that which occurred in 2014, may increase the cost of heating homes and farms to a prohibitive amount (Eaton, 2014). The Minnesota Department of Commerce presents options and suggestions for homeowners who use propane on their website.

The CDC publication "Extreme Cold: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety" outlines preparation measures that individuals can take to reduce their vulnerability to extreme cold.

Highlights in this document include advice about travel preparations, securing your home water supply, and safety during recreation (CDC, 2021).

Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to extreme cold.

4.6.3 Extreme Cold and Climate Change

Although climate research indicates that Minnesota's average winter lows are rising rapidly, and our coldest days of winter are now warmer than we have ever recorded, cold temperatures have always been a part of Minnesota's climate, and extreme cold events will continue.

As the climate changes, an increase in extreme precipitation or storm events could lead to a higher risk of residents being exposed to cold temperatures during power outages or other storm-related hazards. Extreme and changing temperatures are already challenging aging infrastructure and are expected to impair surface transportation and the electrical grid.

> Key Message #4 in NCA5 in the Midwest Chapter states that green infrastructure and public and private investments may mitigate losses, provide relief from heat, and offer other ways to adapt the built environment to a changing climate.

4.6.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management identified several program gaps and deficiencies that make its residents more vulnerable to extreme cold. The following gaps and deficiencies should be addressed with new mitigation efforts to reduce that vulnerability:

Generators for Backup Power to Critical Facilities & Shelters: Not all healthcare facilities utilized for the care of residents & visitors, including designated severe weather/emergency shelters (schools, churches, etc.) have backup power to run heating systems in the event of a power outage.

Public Education: Ongoing public education is needed to encourage residents to be prepared for extreme weather, including power outages during periods of extreme cold. Fillmore County Emergency Management continues to do public education through the local schools, senior and health care centers, and local government for severe weather awareness.

4.7 Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is characterized by high temperatures combined with exceptionally humid conditions. In the United States, extreme heat is the deadliest weather-related hazard and causes more deaths than flooding, tornadoes, and hurricanes combined. While heat waves are infrequent in a northern state like Minnesota, they can have severe consequences for residents who are not acclimatized to their effects (Runkle et al., 2022).

While Fillmore County has ranked extreme heat as a low-priority hazard, it is included in this plan due to its significant health impacts. The Minnesota Climate Action Framework states a goal for every county in Minnesota to profile the risk of extreme heat in its jurisdiction, regardless of its prioritization of this hazard. Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Health support this inclusion as a form of outreach. Counties do not need to have

mitigation action addressing extreme heat unless the hazard is also a moderate or high priority for the county

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues heat advisories and extreme heat warnings based on the heat index, which is a combination of air temperature and relative humidity that determines how hot it feels. The heat index threshold differs based on locality, since people in colder climates are less prepared for heat events than people who live in warmer climates (NWS, 2025b).

The National Weather Service issues extreme heat watches, heat advisories, and extreme heat warnings based on the heat index, which is a combination of air temperature and relative humidity that determines how hot it feels. The heat index threshold differs based on locality, since people in colder climates are less accustomed to and prepared for heat events than people who live in warmer climates (NWS, 2025b).

More recently, the NWS has developed the HeatRisk tool to issue a forecast of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period. It is intended to provide risk guidance to decision-makers and heat-sensitive populations. Historical data from the HeatRisk tool, available back to 2015, provide a more comprehensive look at extreme heat events beyond those reported as Extreme Heat Events in the Storm Events Database. The HeatRisk tool takes into consideration:

- How unusual the heat is for the time of year
- The duration of the heat, including both daytime and nighttime temperatures
- If those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NWS, 2025a).

Impacts of extreme heat are far-reaching and can be severe. Some impacts include infrastructure failures, such as roads buckling and power outages; strain on essential services, such as increased demand for emergency medical services and law enforcement (Guo, 2017; Williams et al., 2020); and disruptions to important social and economic networks, such as school and event cancellations, which reduce access to education, physical activity, and community support.

View interactive maps and see information about extreme heat history, risk, and vulnerability

Fillmore County's agricultural lands and structures are vulnerable to heat damage. Residents can suffer from increased heat-related illnesses, exacerbation of pre-existing chronic conditions, and even death (Moss, 2017). In the United States, heat is estimated to result in $100 billion in economic losses annually, primarily due to lost productivity, and it accounts for $1 billion in direct healthcare costs each year (American Public Health Association, 2025). In 2022, extreme heat led to 682 emergency department visits, 63 hospitalizations, and two deaths in Minnesota (MDH, 2025).

Extreme heat exacerbates poor air quality conditions because the stagnant air during a heat wave increases ozone and particulate pollution (Center for Science Education, 2025). Air pollution is particularly harmful for people over the age of 65, children under the age of five, outdoor workers, and people with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions. The Minnesota Extreme Heat Toolkit further details the health effects of poor air quality.

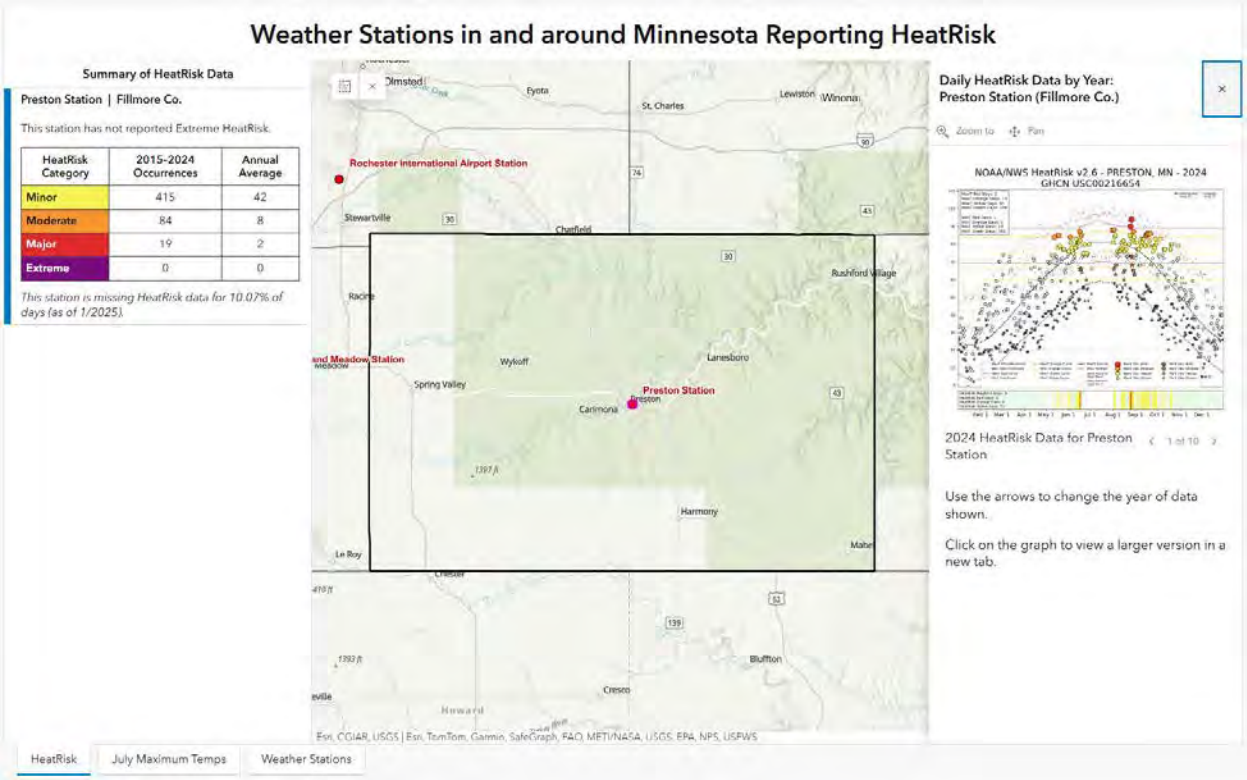
Data from the Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database (SHELDUS) for the United States was examined to identify the county's monetary losses due to heat damage to crops. Ranking 24th among Minnesota's 87 counties in crop indemnity payments, heat-related losses for Fillmore County totaled over $2 million for the period of record spanning 1989 to 2022 (CEMHS, 2023).

View interactive maps and see information about extreme heat history, risk, and vulnerability

The history of extreme heat events in Fillmore County is shown in Figure 8; an interactive version of this chart can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website. This dashboard summarizes the occurrences of days when each HeatRisk category threshold was met for each year from 2015–2024. For the purposes of hazard mitigation planning, we have considered days in the following HeatRisk categories as extreme heat-related events:

- Major (Red) Category: a level of heat that affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts are likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries, and infrastructure.
- Extreme (Magenta) Category: level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts are likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries, and infrastructure.

Figure 8. History of extreme heat in Fillmore County



4.7.1 Probability of Occurrence

To determine the probability of future heat-related events in Fillmore County, the average number of days exceeding the major or extreme HeatRisk categories is used to reflect heat events in the county. From 2015–2024, Preston Station in Fillmore County reported 19 major heat events, an average of two per year. In the same period, Caledonia Station in neighboring Houston County has reported two extreme events and 18 major events. This relative frequency can infer the probability of these events occurring in the future.

Based on records in the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC) that date back to 1991, the average daily maximum temperature for July in Fillmore County has historically been in the 80–81 °F range (MRCC, 2021), which is below the 90 °F for 2–3 days criteria for "extreme" heat events (FEMA, 2024b). However, Preston Weather Station has reported daily maximum temperatures above 90 °F a total of 262 times, an average of eight days per year. This historical average can be used to infer future events, although climate change projections show an increase in the number of days that exceed 90 °F by mid-century (see Section 4.7.3).

4.7.2 Vulnerability

The Minnesota Department of Health updated the Minnesota Extreme Heat Toolkit in 2025 to help local governments prepare for extreme heat events. In their toolkit, they note extreme heat events are often dubbed "silent killers" because deaths and illnesses from these events are often misunderstood and underreported. In fact, extreme heat kills more people in the United States than all extreme weather events combined (Adams-Fuller, 2023). Minnesota does not have a mandated reporting system to report deaths and illnesses linked to extreme heat (MDH, 2025), but is important to not underestimate the danger of extreme heat events within the state.

High temperatures can be exacerbated by the urban heat island effect in developed areas, an effect that amplifies temperatures in areas with a higher concentration of impervious and paved surfaces. These types of surfaces absorb more heat and hold it for longer than vegetation cover (EPA, 2019). Impervious surfaces are not spread evenly throughout the county, and attention should be given to cities or areas within the county where this type of surface cover is most dense. Impervious surfaces are estimated to cover 2.2% of Fillmore County (MDH & University of Minnesota, 2019) and the city with the highest concentration is Lanesboro at 14.6%. The distribution of heat-trapping surfaces and their proximity to tree canopy are more important than their total area.

The distribution of impervious surfaces can be viewed in the Extreme Heat Risk & Vulnerability dashboard in the Exposure tab. The metro counties have an additional layer that demonstrates tree canopy, an effective mitigation of extreme heat: urban tree canopy of at least 40% can result in as much as 7–9 °F cooler temperatures (Ziter et al., 2019).

Rural areas have higher rates of heat-related emergency department visits compared with urban areas (MDH, 2024), and Americans living in rural areas are twice as likely as those in urban areas to have pre-existing health conditions that make them more vulnerable to extreme heat (Pohl, 2025). Rural agricultural regions can have higher rates of humidity due to moisture-producing crops like corn (Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, 2016), which produces evapotranspiration, or "corn sweat," that can add as much as 5–10 °F to the dew point temperature (Steil, 2016).

Key Message #3 in the Midwest Chapter of the NCA5 lists strategies, such as expanded use of green infrastructure and heat-health early warning systems, have the potential to improve both individual and community health (Wilson et al., 2023).

Everyone is susceptible to extreme heat, but certain individuals are at a higher risk of developing heat-related illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), population groups more vulnerable to extreme heat include:

- Older adults (≥65 years old). The elderly cannot easily adjust to sudden changes in temperature and are more likely to have a chronic medical condition or take medication affecting their body's ability to control its temperature.
- Infants and children. Young children and infants have limited control of their surroundings and rely on others to keep them cool and hydrated.
- Individuals with chronic health conditions. These individuals are less likely to respond to changes in temperature, may be taking a medication which exacerbates the effects of extreme heat, or have a condition that is a risk factor for heat-related illness (e.g., heart disease, mental illness, poor blood circulation, and obesity).
- People with low income. These individuals may not be able to afford to properly cool their home and may face transportation challenges when trying to access cooling shelters.
- Athletes and people working outdoors. Both groups are likely to exert energy while being exposed to the heat (CDC, 2020).

Table 9 shows characteristics that MDH has determined make individuals more at risk to adverse health effects from extreme heat, including how that vulnerability ranks among Minnesota counties. The indicator's percentile rank within Minnesota determines the vulnerability level of Fillmore County for that indicator (e.g., the 81st –100th percentile is associated with the highest vulnerability compared to other Minnesota counties). For more information on what makes individuals and communities more vulnerable, see the Minnesota Extreme Heat Toolkit.

Table 9. Populations vulnerable to extreme heat in Fillmore County

Vulnerability Indicator	Percentage of Population	Percentile Rank within Minnesota	Vulnerability Level
Adults with COPD	8.5%	94th	Highest
Adults with a self-care disability	4.1%	79th	High
Adults with coronary heart disease	8.8%	79th	High
Adults with diabetes	12.2%	66th	High
Families at less than 200% of poverty level	16.2%	26th	Low
Households where a person age 65 or over lives alone	13.4%	41st	Moderate
Households with no computing device	10.3%	94th	Highest
Households with no vehicle available	5.9%	65th	High
Households with rent over 50% of income	2.4%	17th	Lowest
Medicare beneficiaries who are electricity-dependent	4.0%	31st	Low
Medicare–Medicaid-enrolled beneficiaries	2.9%	37th	Low
People age 5 or over with limited English	2.6%	71st	High
People age 65 or over	21.8%	60th	Moderate
People over age 16 who work outdoors	10.2%	74th	High

Vulnerability Indicator	Percentage of Population	Percentile Rank within Minnesota	Vulnerability Level
People under age 5	5.7%	45th	Moderate
People who are experiencing homelessness	0.1%	29th	Low
People who are uninsured	7.8%	93rd	Highest
People who do not identify as "White alone, not Hispanic or Latino"	5.4%	2nd	Lowest

Facilities where vulnerable populations may be concentrated, such as prisons, group homes, and childcare centers, are at higher risk during heat events.

View interactive information about at-risk populations in Fillmore County

Warming temperatures will continue to increase the risk of extreme heat, especially among these already vulnerable populations. Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to extreme heat.

4.7.3 Extreme Heat and Climate Change

Minnesota's annual average temperature has increased more than 3 °F since record-keeping began in 1895, and nine of Minnesota's hottest 16 years on record have occurred since the year 2000 (MCAP, 2024). Climate models project that temperature and precipitation increases will continue in Minnesota through the 21st century, with hotter summers and increased drought severity during dry periods as well. Already, the maximum annual heat index values have been rising across the state, because increased humidity during heat waves (Blumenfeld, K. Minnesota State Climatology Office, personal communication, December 21, 2023). In Fillmore County, the average temperature from July to September has increased 0.05 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1895.

Nights are warming at a much higher rate than days in Minnesota. In Fillmore County, nighttime minimum temperatures from July to September have increased at a rate of 0.2 degrees Fahrenheit per decade (MN DNR, 2025b). While 94% of Minnesota households have some form of air conditioning (including central air, room units, dehumidifiers, and ceiling fans), only 68% have the central air conditioning that can provide reliable whole-house cooling (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2023). Furthermore, homes with air conditioning equipment may not use it; for example, low-income homes might not turn on their units due to the associated costs, and homes in areas with higher crime rates may be reluctant to use window units for security reasons (EPA, 2006).

The average number of days per year with temperatures over 90 °F under a very high carbon emissions (SSP 585), mid-century (2040–2059) scenario is illustrated in the Climate Dashboard on the Plan website.

Table 10 compares historical temperature averages to projections under a high emissions (SSP 585) scenario, demonstrating how many more days will reach above 90 °F and nights where the minimum does not go below 75.2 °F. The data in the table is taken from Minnesota CliMAT, an interactive online

tool that provides highly localized climate projections for Minnesota and visualize how even specific towns will likely be impacted in the coming decades (Liess, S. et al., 2023). While models differ on how many degrees of warming will be caused by climate change, all models agree that temperatures will continue to rise.

Table 10. Historical vs projected number of days reaching temperature thresholds in Fillmore County

	Historical (1995–2014)	Projected (2040–2059)	Change
Days Above 90	18.35	39.90	+21.54
Nighttime Minimum > 75.2	0.71	4.59	+3.89

Greenhouse gas concentrations will continue rising through the century, and the air's ability to trap heat from the Earth's surface will increase accordingly. Warming of the atmosphere will evaporate even more water into the air, further limiting the amount of cooling Minnesota will be able to achieve at night and during the winter. As warmer winters and warmer baseline conditions transition into summer, it will be much easier to attain extreme heat (MN DNR, 2025a).

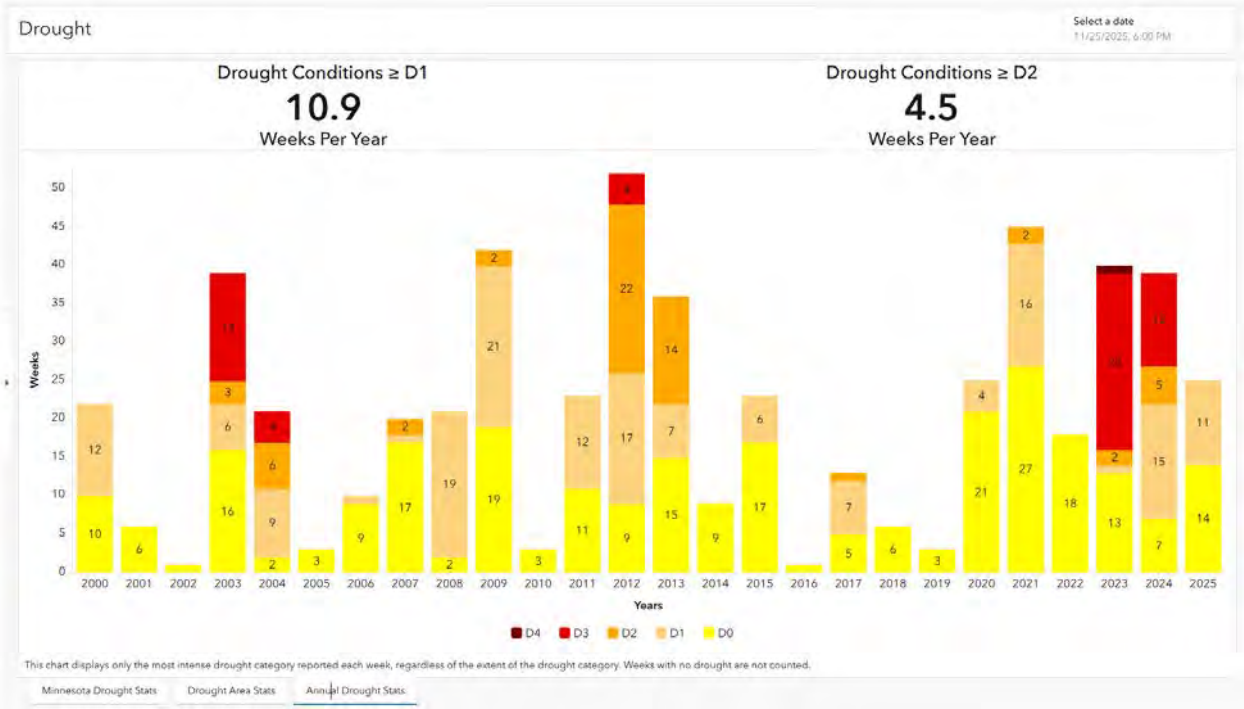
4.7.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

The planning team ranked extreme heat as a low-priority hazard for the 2025 HMP. Gaps and deficiencies were not addressed.

4.8 Drought

There are numerous approaches to assessing drought conditions. The current gold standard for accurate drought conditions in the United States is the United States Drought Monitor (USDM). Annual drought statistics since 2000 can be seen in Figure 9; an interactive version of this dashboard can be found on the Fillmore County HMP website.

Figure 9. Annual drought statistics in Fillmore County since 2000



See interactive information about drought, including history and the USDM Dashboard, on the Fillmore County HMP website

4.8.1 Probability of Occurrence

To determine the probability of future droughts in Fillmore County, records of previous droughts were summed and divided by the dataset's period of record, resulting in the annual relative frequency of droughts. The USDM database was examined from January 2000–September 2025 for any occurrence of drought ≥ D1 in Fillmore County, regardless of the duration of the drought. According to the weekly reported data, the relative frequency of the county experiencing drought conditions ≥ D1 is 16.2 weeks per year, and the relative frequency of drought conditions ≥ D2 is 7.9 weeks per year (NDMC, 2025b). The relative frequency of past droughts can be used to infer the probability of similar droughts occurring in the future.

4.8.2 Vulnerability

One way to identify county assets vulnerable to drought is by examining the impacts of previous droughts. Overseen by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC), the Drought Impact Reporter (DIR) is a comprehensive database that gathers drought-related reports from a variety of sources and identifies the sector(s) impacted by each drought. The NDMC (NDMC, 2025b) defines a drought impact as "[a]n observable loss or change that occurred at a specific place and time because of drought." A drought meeting this definition is categorized based on the sector(s) the drought impacts; therefore, a single drought affecting multiple sectors will be counted once for each respective sector it impacted.

DIR records show seven reported drought incidents in Fillmore County from 2000 to 2024, impacting seven sectors with greatest impacts to the following sectors: agriculture; business & industry; and relief, response & restrictions (NDMC, 2025a). Since droughts are regional in nature, jurisdictions within Fillmore County do not vary in their vulnerability to drought; however, the impact from droughts are not equal.

Drought conditions may impact soil moisture reserves, groundwater supplies, lake levels, and stream flows. Water-dependent industries that experience the greatest impacts include: agriculture, public utilities, forestry, and tourism (MN DNR, 2021). In addition, droughts may negatively affect an individual's health by contributing to poor air quality caused by wildfire smoke and particulate matter, or a dusty environment. The 2021 drought resulted in elevated fire danger in roughly the northern two-thirds of the state, and record high particulate readings across Minnesota due to the Canadian wildfires (Huttner, 2021). Populations vulnerable to these conditions include children, older adults, and those with respiratory issues.

According to the DIR, Fillmore County's agriculture sector has been impacted by drought more than once, and with 77% of Fillmore County's land devoted to cultivated crops, the county's agriculture community is also vulnerable to the economic impact a drought may have on crops. From 1989–2022, Fillmore County received $29,067,464 (2021 ADJ) in crop indemnity payments due to drought, placing it as the 29th-highest-paid county in Minnesota (CEMHS, 2023).

Section 3.4 provides jurisdictional responses to localized vulnerabilities to specific hazards.

4.8.3 Drought and Climate Change

Droughts have been happening throughout Minnesota's history. While the degree at which climate change will impact future droughts is not certain, an increase in efforts and resources are being devoted to project these impacts. In 2023, the NCA5 was completed by the U.S. Global Change Research Program. It provided a comprehensive scientific review of how climate change is impacting the U.S. as well as providing climate change projections.

According to the report, a warming climate is contributing to oscillations between extreme droughts and floods, threatening the agriculture and livestock in the Midwest which produces more than 30% of the world's corn and soybeans (Wilson et al., 2023). Climate change is attributed to an estimated $31.9 billion (2022 USD adjusted) of US crop indemnity payments over the last 30 years, with the largest portion of payments going to farmers affected by drought (Wilson et al., 2023). In Minnesota, drought alone represents 25% of the total crop indemnity payments made in the state (CEMHS, 2023).

Climate projections indicate an increase in annual precipitation of 0.2%–0.5% in the western Midwest and the increase in cumulative runoff is expected to continue through the midcentury (Wilson et al., 2023).

> Key Message #5 in the Midwest Chapter of the NCA5 states that managing extremes is necessary to minimize impacts on water quality and quantity. The extreme variability between wet and dry periods is expected to negatively impact the water quality and quantity of the Mississippi River System and adversely affect dependent ecosystems and commerce (Wilson et al., 2023).

4.8.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management did not identify any program gaps or deficiencies that make its citizens more vulnerable to drought.

4.9 Dam Failure

The MN DNR Dam Safety Program has the mission of protecting the life and safety of people by ensuring that dams are safe. Minnesota's Dam Safety Program sets minimum standards for dams and regulates the design, construction, operation, repair, and removal of both privately and publicly (non-federal) owned dams (MN DNR, 2020). The federal government is responsible for regulating and maintaining dam safety of federally owned dams. No single agency regulates all federally owned dams. 42% of federal dams are owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Reclamation. The remaining federal dams are owned and managed by other federal agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, the Department of Defense, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, among others (Normand, 2019). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Dam Safety Program is the largest dam safety program in the U.S. The Commission works with federal and state agencies to ensure and promote dam safety of over 3,000 dams across the U.S. The Commission inspects projects on an unscheduled basis to investigate potential dam safety problems; complaints about constructing and operating a project; safety concerns related to natural disasters; and issues concerning compliance with the term and conditions of a license (FERC, 2020).

The Brightsdale Dam experienced failure in 1950. Information about its location was not found. The concrete spillway and abutments collapsed and the right earthen embankment washed out. The dam was removed in the 1950's.

The Lanesboro Dam experienced failure in January 1984. A portion of the earthen powerhouse canal dike washed out without warning, possibly related to work that had been done on the dike several months before. The damage was repaired. The Lanesboro Stone Dam on the South Branch of the Root River, was built in 1868 and is one of only six gravity arch dams left in the United States and still is used to generate electricity. It is included in the National Registry of Historic Places and is registered with Minnesota's State Historic Preservation Office. During the 2017 Special Legislative Session, the Minnesota legislature granted the City of Lanesboro $4 million dollars for the repair of the Historic Lanesboro Stone Dam (City of Lanesboro, 2025)

Dam Inventory: The National Dam Inventory reports that there are 20 dams in Fillmore County. Dams are mapped on the MN State 2024 HMP website. Fillmore County has one dam classified as a High Hazard Dam, the Lanesboro Dam. The two dams classified as Significant Hazard Dams, the Horihan-Hazel Group Dam and the Fillmore County Road 21 Dam, are both built for flood control north of Lanesboro on tributaries to the Root River. There are 36 dams classified as Low Hazard Dams in Fillmore County. The Minnesota Dam Safety Program office was consulted to identify dam incidents and concerns.

4.9.1 Probability of Occurrence

Extreme precipitation is only one factor contributing to dam failure, and the possibility of failure is dam-specific, relating to both environmental and structural conditions. A high hazard dam has some risk of failure. Total dam failures are extremely unlikely if the dam is maintained in compliance with Minnesota's Dam Safety Program. The likelihood of failure in Fillmore County is low.

4.9.2 Vulnerability

Although dam regulatory authorities differ between various federal and state agencies, all authorities attempt to classify dams according to the potential impacts from a dam failure or mis-operation. In response to the numerous classification systems, FEMA's Interagency Committee on Dam Safety created a downstream hazard potential classification system that is adaptable to any agency's current system. Table 11 provides an overview of the main criteria agencies consider when determining a dam's downstream hazard potential. This classification system does not imply that the dam is unsafe, but rather categorizes dams based on the probable loss of human life and the impacts on economic, environmental, and lifeline interests (FEMA, 2004).

Table 11. Downstream hazard potential classification criteria

Hazard Potential Classification	Loss of Human Life	Economic, Environmental, Lifeline Losses
Class III (Low)	None expected	Low and generally limited to owner
Class II (Significant)	None expected	Yes
Class I (High)	Probable - one or more expected.	Yes (but not necessary for this classification)

SOURCE: (USACE, 2008)

Dams for which a hazard potential has not been designated, or is not provided, are classified as "Undetermined."

An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is a document that identifies potential emergency conditions at a dam and specifies preplanned actions to be followed during a dam failure to minimize property damage or loss of life. An EAP is required for Class I dams and strongly recommended for Class II dams (MN DNR, 2020). Lanesboro Dam had an Emergency Operations Plan last updated in 2023 and the dam undergoes regular inspections.

The 34-foot-high Lanesboro Dam has a maximum storage of about 1000 acre- feet of water over a six-acre area. The maximum discharge is 16,500 cfs. Two parks and a large pond downstream of the dam would likely mitigate major damage to life and property downstream. The public library and community center, Parkway Road, the power plant, and the Sylvan Campground are downstream of this dam in the 1% annual chance flood boundary. The northern part of the City of Lanesboro (estimated population 783, 2024) is directly downstream of this dam and a residential area is largely in the 1% annual chance floodplain.

4.9.3 Dam Failure and Climate Change

Dams are designed based on assumptions about a river's annual flow behavior that will determine the volume of water behind the dam and flowing through the dam at any one time. Changes in weather patterns due to climate change may change the hydrograph or expected flow pattern. Spillways are put in place on dams as a safety measure in the event of the reservoir filling too quickly. Spillway overflow events are mechanisms that also result in increased discharges downstream. It is conceivable that bigger rainfalls at earlier times in the year could threaten a dam's designed margin of safety, causing dam operators to release greater volumes of water earlier in a storm cycle in order to maintain the required margins of safety. Such early releases of increased volumes can increase flood potential downstream.

Climate change may increase the probability of design failures. Some spillways may not be large enough to convey the increased flow pattern. An undersized spillway could lead to dam overtopping and failure.

The partial failure of the Rapidan Dam in Blue Earth County in June of 2024 highlighted the growing threat climate change poses to the country's aging infrastructure as extreme weather becomes more common and severe. The Rapidan Dam is a Significant Hazard Dam in "poor" condition. About 20% of Minnesota's Significant and High Hazard Potential Dams are in "fair" or "poor" condition, with a few in "undefined" condition, and about 70% of these dams were built before 1970 (USACE, 2024). These older dams are growing increasingly taxed by extreme weather, especially in the Midwest (Harrison, 2024). Climate change is adding a new level of uncertainty that needs to be considered with respect to assumptions made during the dam construction.

While the Rapidan Dam partial failure did not result in mass inundation, it sent an estimated 11.6 million cubic yards of sediment downstream. The sediment was high in phosphorus and nitrogen because of nearby agricultural runoff. The impacts to the fish habitat and ecology of the stream may not be known for years (MPR News, 2024). The sediment loading behind older dams adds another compounding threat of dam failure to the stream and structures below.

4.9.4 Program Gaps and Deficiencies

Fillmore County Emergency Management did not identify any program gaps or deficiencies that make its citizens more vulnerable to drought.

Section 5 – Mitigation Strategy

The goal of mitigation is to protect lives and reduce the impacts of future hazard events, including property damage, disruption to local and regional economies, the amount of public and private funds spent on recovery, and to build disaster-resistant communities. Mitigation actions and projects should be based on a well-constructed risk assessment as provided in Section 3 of this plan and on the HMP website. Mitigation should be an ongoing process, adapting over time to accommodate a community's needs.

5.1 Community Capability Assessments

The capability assessment identifies current activities and existing planning tools used to mitigate hazards. The capability assessment identifies the policies, regulations, procedures, programs and projects that contribute to the lessening of disaster damages. The assessment also evaluates these capabilities to determine whether the activities can be improved to more effectively reduce the impact of future hazard events. The following sections identify existing plans and mitigation capabilities within all of the communities:

- Appendix D: Lists the plans and programs in place in Fillmore County as related to hazard mitigation.
- Appendix C: As part of the Fillmore County HMP update, the county and city governments were asked to participate in filling out a "Local Mitigation Survey" (LMS) form to report on their current mitigation capabilities and program gaps. Appendix C provides the LMS reports gathered for Fillmore County.

Information from the capability assessments was used to support development of local mitigation actions for implementation over the next five years (see column *Comments on Implementation & Integration).*

5.1.1 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

The NFIP is a federal program created by Congress to mitigate future flood losses nationwide through sound, community-enforced building and zoning ordinances and to provide access to affordable, federally backed flood insurance protection for property owners. The NFIP is designed to provide an insurance alternative to disaster assistance to meet the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government that states that if a community will adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risks to new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. Jurisdictional participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is outlined below (G. Bennett MN DNR, personal communication, July 23, 2025).

Fillmore County

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 4/16/1974 (Emergency Entry); 9/18/1987 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 52
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: Adopted 8/6/2019 (Effective 8/12/2019); Amended 2/6/2024 (Section 610.04(6))
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map:8/6/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Cristal Adkins, Assistant Land Use Director (cadkins@co.fillmore.mn.us)

City of Canton

- Status: Not Participating
- Entry Date: NA
- FEMA Map: No Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain:
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: NA
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: NA
- Floodplain Administrator: NA

City of Chatfield

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 4/15/1982 (Emergency Entry); 8/02/1982 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 4/19/2017 (Olmsted Co.); 8/15/2019 (Fillmore Co.)
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 7
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 5/13/2019 (Effective 6/21/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map:5/13/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Logan Tjossem, Planning & Zoning Administrator (chatplanningdept@ci.chatfield.mn.us)

City of Fountain

- Status: Not Participating
- Entry Date: NA
- FEMA Map: No Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: NA
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: NA
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: NA
- Floodplain Administrator: NA

City of Harmony

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 4/17/2009 (Emergency Entry); 8/15/2019 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: No Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: NA
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 8/12/2008
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: 8/12/2008
- Floodplain Administrator: Miles Petree, Zoning Director (migaloe@hotmail.com)

City of Lanesboro

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 4/24/1974 (Emergency Entry); 9/2/1981 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 40
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 6/3/2019 (Effective 6/10/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map:6/3/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Mitchell Walbridge, City Administrator/Clerk (mwalbridge@lanesboro-mn.gov)

City of Mabel

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 4/15/1974 (Emergency Entry); 3/2/1981 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 4
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 6/12/2019 (Effective 6/27/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: 6/12/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Karen Larson, City Clerk (info@cityofmabel.com)

City of Ostrander

- Status: NA
- Entry Date: NA
- FEMA Map: NA
- Current Effective Map Date: NA
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: NA
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: NA
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: NA
- Floodplain Administrator: NA

City of Peterson

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 8/7/1978 (Emergency Entry); 5/5/1981 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 50
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 6/12/2019 (Effective 6/19/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: 6/12/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Violet Richardson, City Clerk/Treasurer (petersoncity@gmail.com)

City of Preston

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 1/10/1975 (Emergency Entry); 8/1/1979 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 71
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 7/1/2019 (Effective 7/11/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: 7/1/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Ryan Throckmorton, City Administrator (rthrockmorton@prestonmn.org)

City of Rushford

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 5/24/1978 (Emergency Entry); 5/23/1980 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 10
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 6/24/2019 (Effective 7/4/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map:6/24/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Jack O'Donnell, Chairperson (citykaz@goacentek.net)

Rushford Village

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 5/24/1993 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 0
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 5/21/2019 (Effective 5/30/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map:5/21/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: John Pettit, Zoning Administrator (crv@acegroup.cc)

City of Spring Valley

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 4/24/1974 (Emergency Entry); 9/2/1981 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 28
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 5/13/2019 (Effective 7/5/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: 5/19/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Deb Zimmer, City Clerk/Treasurer (cityclerk@springvalley-mn.com)

City of Whalan

- Status: Participating
- Entry Date: 8/23/1974 (Emergency Entry); 3/2/1981 (Regular Entry)
- FEMA Map: FEMA Mapped High Risk Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: 7
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: 7/8/2019 (Effective 7/22/2019)
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: 7/8/2019
- Floodplain Administrator: Teresa Grossell, City Clerk (cityofwhalan@goacentek.net)

City of Wykoff

- Status: Not Participating
- Entry Date: NA
- FEMA Map: No Special Flood Hazard Areas
- Current Effective Map Date: 8/15/2019
- Potential Buildings Damaged in Floodplain: NA
- Adoption of Current Floodplain Ordinance: NA
- Adoption of latest DFIRM Map: NA
- Floodplain Administrator: NA

Following a damaging flood event, any impacted jurisdiction would work with the MN DNR to use a form to track cumulative improvements and repetitive losses in the floodplain. The affected jurisdiction would also review the Minnesota Post-Flood Substantial Damage Playbook for Local Officials.

5.1.2 Repetitive Loss Properties

Repetitive loss properties are defined as properties with two or more flood insurance claims of $1,000 or more in any rolling 10-year period. Property owners are asked to consider mitigation activities such as acquisition, relocation, or elevation, among other options. FEMA's Repetitive Loss (RL) properties strategy is to eliminate or reduce the damage to property and the disruption to life caused by repeated flooding of the same properties. Property owners are notified of their status by FEMA.

A Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property is defined as a residential property that is covered under an NFIP flood insurance policy and:

a) That has at least four NFIP claim payments (including building and contents) over $5,000 each, and the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeds $20,000; or
b) For which at least two separate claims payments (building payments only) have been made with the cumulative amount of the building portion of such claims exceeding the market value of the building.
c) For both (a) and (b) above, at least two of the referenced claims must have occurred within any 10-year period and must be greater than 10 days apart.

Fillmore County has nine RL properties and two SRL properties. Most of these properties are located in Preston (three RL properties) and Spring Valley (five RL properties and one SRL property) For more on the areas that flood repeatedly in Fillmore County, see the Fillmore County Flooding page.

5.1.3 Previous Integration of Hazard Mitigation into Planning Mechanisms

Fillmore County and its incorporated communities are encouraged to integrate relevant information from this mitigation plan into their other planning mechanisms. This demonstrates local progress in mitigation efforts and strengthens the overall mitigation planning process. As part of this plan update, communities were asked to report whether and how information from the 2017 plan was incorporated into other planning mechanisms (e.g., plans, policies, programs, partnerships, or other documents). The following provides an overview of their responses.

Fillmore County

Fillmore County incorporated the 2017 hazard mitigation plan through the continued planning and programmatic efforts of the Fillmore County Emergency Management Department for public education and outreach on severe weather awareness and update of the county Emergency Operations Plan. Fillmore County incorporated the prior plan into flood risk reduction efforts with the 2024 amendment of the Fillmore County floodplain ordinance to not allow the new dwellings within floodplain areas. The Fillmore County Highway Department also cleaned ditches to help prevent over-the road flooding during high rain events, as well as armored bridges with rip rap to prevent flood damage to the structures. The plan was integrated into the highway department's winter road safety efforts by planting living snow fences to minimize snow drifting over roadways.

City of Canton

The City of Canton has worked with engineers to develop plans for infrastructure improvements throughout the street located underneath the streets along with improvements to city well and wastewater facilities. The plans were submitted to USDA Rural Development for funding assistance. The city has now recently received funding assistance and is in the process of developing the plans further with the city engineers for construction in the next upcoming two years.

City of Chatfield

The City of Chatfield successfully integrated the county's previous Hazard Mitigation Plan into our existing city plans and policies by aligning the plans goals with the strategic priorities outlined in our Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and departmental goals. We coordinated across departments to ensure that the plan's initiatives were included into ongoing projects, budgets, and community engagement efforts.

City of Fountain

The City of Fountain has had administrative turnover in the last 5 years and does not have any documentation to confirm how or if the plan was specifically incorporated into any city plans or policies. Programmatically, the city does incorporate mitigation into our city safety planning through a Public Works Director that serves as our Emergency Manger. The Fountain Fire Department also participates in the NWS storm spotter program. We work with the MPCA for flooding and the city is a member of MnWARN. The city uses our Website, Facebook, and our Emergency Notification system to update our residents and keep them informed.

City of Harmony

City Council adopted the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan by signed resolution. However, due to administrative turnover within the city over the past five years, the City of Harmony does not have documentation confirming if or how the plan was incorporated into any of the city's planning efforts.

City of Lanesboro

The City of Lanesboro integrated the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan into several existing planning mechanisms. Specifically, relevant information and strategies from the plan were incorporated into the City's Emergency Action Plan for the Lanesboro dam, ensuring consistency in hazard identification, response protocols, and communication procedures. The plan also informed updates to City department policies, guiding the operations of emergency response departments and public utilities, aligning response practices with county-level hazard mitigation goals. Additionally, the Hazard Mitigation plan is referenced in the City's staff Safety Plan, which is maintained and overseen by the Staff Safety Committee to promote coordinated preparedness and response measures across departments.

City of Mabel

The City of Mabel integrated Fillmore County's 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan into our existing city plans and policies, such as continuing to enforce our building permit requirements and local floodplain ordinance. We have also increased use of our website and city newsletter to help keep residents informed about severe weather and flood conditions. We have been working to reduce flood risk in the city and have been working with the MN DNR and FEMA to access funds for land acquisition in order to relocate homes out of the flood prone areas.

City of Ostrander

The City of Ostrander Council adopted the 2017 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan. We have also adopted the MN DNR floodplain maps and enforce a floodplain ordinance. Our floodplain is minimal for Ostrander, affecting just the northwest corner of the city. We have an emergency siren located at the city hall, that is connected to Fillmore County to warn residents of bad weather. The city has also updated all of its infrastructure with all new storm sewer, lift station and well. We have generators at all locations in case of power outages.

City of Peterson

The City of Peterson participated in the development and adoption of the 2017 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Currently, the city has not formally integrated the plan into other local planning mechanisms such as a comprehensive plan, capital improvement program, or stand-alone emergency operations plan. This is primarily due to the city's limited staff capacity and the absence of long-range planning documents typically maintained by larger municipalities. Although the plan has not been formally embedded into other documents, the city references the hazard mitigation strategies during discussions of infrastructure maintenance, storm response, and coordination with Fillmore County Emergency Management. The City of Peterson intends to explore opportunities to incorporate relevant hazard mitigation goals into future budgeting, infrastructure improvements, and policy updates as resources allow.

City of Preston

We have continued to implement priorities such as Electrical improvements and stormwater improvements in our Capital Improvement Plans as well as aligning floodway properties in our comprehensive plan for future acquisition.

City of Rushford

The City of Rushford has integrated the past Fillmore County HMP into our overall planning process across city programmatic efforts, including budgeting for public works projects, the process of equipment replacement, coordinating with all city departments, and the planning processes for departmental coordination and cooperative efforts.

City of Rushford Village

The City of Rushford Village has adopted the MN DNR Floodplain Plan. Our Zoning Board enforces it.

We have an emergency siren located in South Rushford, the most densely populated section of Rushford Village, that is connected to Fillmore County to warn residents of bad weather.

City of Spring Valley

The City of Spring Valley integrated the 2017 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan by our continued enforcement of the city's Land Usage Ordinance and floodplain district regulations.

City of Whalan

The City of Whalan has had turnover in elected officials and staff since participating in the county's past plan in 2017. We do not have any specific information on how the prior plan may have been incorporated into any plans; however, we have maintained our regular efforts to keep residents informed via our website and announcements at City Council meetings. We also have maintained and tested our outdoor warning siren to ensure it is functioning.

City of Wykoff

The City of Wykoff integrated the 2017 Fillmore County HMP by working to mitigation actions we had for severe storm events and flooding in the last plan. The city installed a new rotating warning siren, which is serving our city and several outlying areas. The city also addressed stormwater management infrastructure improvements. With completion of a new street project, the city replaced several sewer lines that were damaged and have decreased the flooding at the plant by 75%. Since the last plan update, the city has also addressed flood risk reduction by working on a 5-year plan to upgrade several troubled areas of storm drainage. We have continued to incorporate public outreach regarding severe weather and preparedness by using our city Website, Facebook, and the city's emergency text alert system.

5.1.4 Plans and Programs in Place to Address Natural Hazards

Fillmore County has numerous plans and programs in place to address natural hazards. Some of these programs are specific to a hazard and others address impacts and human safety for many types of events ("All-Hazards"). To group related natural hazards, "Summer Storms" encompasses Tornadoes, Windstorms, Lightning, and Hail. The plans and programs in place by Fillmore County to support mitigation for the hazards addressed in this plan are described as follows:

All Hazards

Fillmore County Zoning Ordinance: The Fillmore County Zoning Ordinance guides where development is allowed to reduce risks from future development.

All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan: Fillmore County Emergency Management maintains an all-hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which lays out concepts and operating guidelines for all incident management and support functions that may be needed to ensure life safety, incident stabilization, and property preservation during an incident and the transition to recovery.

Emergency Notification System: Fillmore County maintains the CodeRED Emergency Notification System which allows residents and visitors to sign up ("opt-in") to receive severe weather alerts targeted to their location, along with other local emergency alerts. A link to sign up for the system is located on the Fillmore County Emergency Management website page. Fillmore County also uses IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert Warning System), which allows for targeted and county-wide emergency notifications to both residents and visitors (not an "opt-in" service).

Preparedness Outreach & Education: Fillmore County Emergency Management utilizes the Fillmore County website, Fillmore County Sheriff's Office website page, and local news media to communicate with the public on emergency preparedness, severe weather, and other hazard conditions throughout the year. The Fillmore County Emergency Management website page provides information and resource links for public education on emergency preparedness. The county also receives all products/statements issued by the National Weather Service, and in turn shares or incorporates these into its community outreach and public education. Promotion of the use of NOAA weather radios occurs during the NWS Severe Weather Awareness Week as well as throughout the year. Fillmore County Emergency Management provides special presentations or other planning assistance as requested to local governments, schools, or other local organizations and facilities within the county.

Mass Care Sheltering: In the event of a disaster where temporary sheltering is needed, Fillmore County Emergency Management works in coordination with Fillmore County Public Health, the American Red Cross, and local governments/Fire & EMS to provide mass care services as needed. The county EOP includes plans, procedures, and resources available for mass care sheltering.

Backup Power: Fillmore County works to ensure the continuity of operations of county government services and critical infrastructure in the event of an extended power outage. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to assess where backup power is needed and to obtain emergency generators.

Schools Support: Fillmore County Emergency Management coordinates with local school districts as needed on related emergency planning and preparedness, including support for specific trainings, exercises, equipment, and relay of county-level emergency notifications. School districts have their own policies, decision-making protocols, and communications plans in place to determine the need to close school and to notify targeted audiences in the event of severe weather, extreme temperatures, or other events that pose risk to students and staff.

Regional Collaboration: Fillmore County Emergency Management works closely with the neighboring emergency managers on a range of planning, training, and exercises to support all-hazards preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities. Fillmore County Emergency Management also works closely with our regional National Weather Service (NWS) office, having access to all live and on-demand briefings, announcements, and educational opportunities, and contact information for direct collaboration as needed.

Severe Winter Storms

Winter Weather Statements (Watch, Advisory, Warning, etc.): Fillmore County Emergency Management works to relay winter weather statements received from the NWS to help alert residents and visitors to hazardous conditions.

Winter Hazard Awareness Week: Fillmore County participates in the Winter Hazard Awareness Week campaign sponsored by MN HSEM and the National Weather Service each November.

The week-long effort provides specific information each day covering the topics of winter weather, outdoor winter safety, indoor winter safety, and winter driving safety. Fillmore County Emergency Management promotes and shares information during the week via social media and area news media. Communities, schools, churches or other civic programs are encouraged to share locally.

Snow Removal & Ice Control: The Fillmore County Highway Department conducts winter road maintenance on county roads in accordance with the Fillmore County Removal Policy. Other road jurisdictions conduct winter road maintenance on their respective road systems in accordance with each of their established policy and/or practice.

Severe Summer Storms

Severe Weather Statements (Watch, Advisory, Warning, etc.): Fillmore County works to relay severe spring and summer weather statements (such as for thunderstorms, windstorms, or tornadoes) received from the NWS to help alert residents and visitors to hazardous conditions.

Outdoor Warning Sirens: Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout the county and are tested monthly by the Fillmore County Sheriff's Office in coordination with local jurisdictions. Warning sirens are owned and maintained by the cities where they are located.

Skywarn® Program: Fillmore County Emergency Management works with the National Weather Service to offer Storm Spotter training on an annual basis to local fire and law enforcement departments and area residents that wish to be trained as spotters. SkyWarn Storm Spotters help to keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to their local NWS office.

Severe Weather Awareness Week: Fillmore County participates in the Severe Weather Awareness Week campaign sponsored by MN HSEM and the NWS each April. The week-long effort provides specific information each day covering the topics of severe weather alerts and warnings, lightning, hail, floods, tornadoes (with statewide drills), and extreme heat. Each topic covered includes factsheets, checklists, data, and other resources. Fillmore County Emergency Management promotes and shares information during the week via social media with communities, schools, churches or other civic programs are encouraged to share locally.

Vegetation Management: The Fillmore County Highway Department conducts vegetation management along county roads to reduce the risk of downed trees or branches resulting from severe spring and summer storm events. Local road authorities and electric utility providers also work to manage vegetation near power lines to reduce the risk of downed lines and power outages.

Extreme Cold

Emergency Notifications: Extreme cold temperature warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. Fillmore County Emergency Management works to relay extreme cold

temperature warnings from the NWS to help alert residents and visitors to hazardous conditions. The Fillmore County Emergency Management Office also encourages residents to follow local news or NWS weather applications to receive severe weather and extreme temperature notifications.

Extreme Cold Safety Awareness: Fillmore County Emergency Management and Fillmore County Public Health promote public awareness of personal safety measure to take during periods of extreme cold, such as sharing information via Facebook posts.

Emergency Sheltering: In the event of an extended power outage coupled with a period of extreme cold, Fillmore County Emergency Management will work with Fillmore County Public Health and local Fire or EMS agencies as needed to assist vulnerable residents such as the elderly who may need temporary sheltering.

Drought

Public Awareness & Outreach: In the event of extreme drought conditions, Fillmore County works in concert with the NWS, MN DNR, and local communities to raise public awareness of drought conditions and recommended water use restrictions as per MN DNR guidance.

Precipitation Monitoring: The Fillmore County SWCD participates in the MNgage Minnesota Volunteer Precipitation Observing Program, which is administered by the DNR Minnesota State Climatology Office. Data collected by volunteers is entered into a database for various studies and weather prediction simulations, including the assessment of drought severity and impacts.

Flooding

Floodplain Management: Fillmore County Floodplain Ordinance, Zoning ordinance section 610, establishes the floodplain district and zoning regulations and conditional uses permitted within the floodway, flood fringe, and general floodplain districts within the county. The Fillmore County Land Use Department maintains and enforces the floodplain management ordinance for the county. The department also assists county residents in determining whether their property is affected by an officially mapped flood area.

Shoreland Ordinance: Fillmore County Zoning Ordinance Zoning Ordinance 612 establishes allowable uses and development standards in shoreland areas designated within the county.

Subdivision Ordinance: Fillmore County Zoning Ordinances (amended 2004) is established to regulate the subdividing of land in Fillmore County.

Transportation Plan: The Fillmore County Highway Department maintains update of the county's planned construction projects. Annual transportation improvement projects include those that address localized flood risk reduction for roads, bridges, and culverts.

Minnesota Buffer Law: The Fillmore County SWCD administers the state Buffer Law and provides technical assistance on buffer compliance by landowners. Buffers benefit bank stabilization and reduced erosion and sedimentation into ditches, streams, rivers, and lakes.

One-Watershed One Plan (1w1P): The Fillmore County SWCD is a participant in the Root River One Watershed, One Plan partnership. The RR 1W1P planning area encompasses more than 1.3 million acres, which is spread across 6 counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted and Winona. The plan addresses regional watershed planning which include measures for flood mitigation.

Dam/Levee Failure

Fillmore County does not have any plans in place regarding dam or levee failure.

5.2 Mitigation Goals

The goals and strategies for natural hazards in the 2024 Minnesota State Hazard Mitigation Plan were adopted for use in the Fillmore County Plan. This framework, as outlined below, will allow for integration of the mitigation actions that are listed by Fillmore County and its jurisdictions into the state plan. The state will then be able to develop a statewide strategy that will benefit all of Minnesota.

Flooding Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss and economic disruption due to all types of flooding (riverine, flash, coastal, dam/levee failure).

Wildfire Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss, natural resource and economic disruption due to wildfires (forest, prairie, grass, and peat bogs).

Windstorms Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss, and economic disruption due to windstorms.

Hail Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property damage, and economic disruption due to hailstorms.

Winter Storms Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss, and economic disruption due to winter storms (blizzard, ice, and ice storm).

Lightning Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property losses, loss of services, and economic disruption due to lightning.

Tornado Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss, and economic disruption due to tornadoes.

Drought Goal: Reduce economic loss and environmental impacts due to drought.

Extreme Heat Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, and economic disruption due to extreme heat.

Extreme Cold Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, and economic disruption due to extreme cold.

Dam/Levee Failure Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss, natural resource and economic disruption due to dam/levee failure.

Erosion/Landslide/Mudslide Goal: Reduce deaths, injuries, property loss, and economic disruption due to hillside, coastal, bluff: caused primarily by oversaturation of soil.

5.3 Mitigation Action and Project Strategies

The mitigation actions in this plan are summarized into four main strategy types, as described in the FEMA publications *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (2013) and *Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards* (2013). Minnesota HSEM determined a fifth strategy type for use within the state: Mitigation Preparedness and Response. The strategies and example actions are listed in Table 12.

Table 12. Mitigation strategies and action types

Mitigation Strategy	Description	Example Mitigation Actions
Local Plans and Regulations	These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes, that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.	• Comprehensive plans • Land use ordinances • Planning and zoning • Building codes and enforcement • Floodplain ordinances • NFIP Community Rating System • Capital improvement programs • Open space preservation • Shoreline codes • Stormwater management regulations and master plans
Structure and Infrastructure Projects	These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards. Many of these types of actions are projects eligible for funding through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance program.	• Acquisitions and elevations of structures in flood-prone areas • Utility undergrounding • Structural retrofits • Floodwalls and retaining walls • Detention and retention structures • Culverts • Safe rooms
Natural Systems Protection	These are actions that minimize damage and losses and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.	• Sediment and erosion control • Stream corridor restoration • Forest management • Conservation easements • Wetland restoration and preservation

Mitigation Strategy	Description	Example Mitigation Actions
Education and Awareness Programs	These are actions to inform and educate residents, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as StormReady or Firewise Communities. Although this type of mitigation reduces risk less directly than structural projects or regulation, it is an important foundation. A greater understanding and awareness of hazards and risk among local officials, stakeholders, and the public is more likely to lead to direct actions.	• Radio or television spots • Websites with maps and information • Real estate disclosure • Presentations to school groups or neighborhood organizations • Mailings to residents in hazard-prone areas. • StormReady Certification • Firewise Communities
Mitigation Preparedness and Response	This is a State of Minnesota mitigation strategy with the intent of covering preparation and actions that protect life and property during a natural disaster.	• Emergency operations plan • Flood fight plans and preparedness • Dam emergency action plans • Warning • Backup power • Emergency capabilities

Local leaders work together with the Fillmore County emergency management director to assure that the hazards and mitigation actions included in this plan are accurate and addressed in their jurisdictions. Development of mitigation actions for the county and each city was informed by a community's hazard and risk assessment; identification of local vulnerabilities, and review of capabilities in place to address mitigation. Planning team members, local elected officials and staff from Fillmore County and each city actively participated in the development and review of mitigation action charts for implementation through participation in planning team meetings (see Appendix F) and development of Local Mitigation Surveys (see Appendix C). Additional jurisdictional and public feedback was incorporated following news releases inviting public input to the planning process (see Appendix G).

The Fillmore County risks and mitigation activities identified also incorporate the concerns and needs of townships, school districts, and other entities participating in this plan. Appendix H contains the jurisdictional mitigation action charts for the cities participating in the plan update.

See Mitigation Actions for all jurisdictions and provide ongoing feedback on the HMP website

The following is an overview of the mitigation action charts and a description of each element of the chart.

Number (#)
Each mitigation action is identified by a number.

Hazard
Each mitigation action is identified by the natural hazard it relates to. Actions that fall under "All Hazards" relate to both natural and non-natural hazards. "Severe Winter Storms" includes blizzards, heavy snow, ice storms, winter storms, and winter weather. "Severe Summer Storms" includes windstorms, tornadoes, lightning, and hail.

Mitigation Strategy
Each mitigation action is identified by one of the following five mitigation strategies.

- Local Planning and Regulations
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects
- Natural Systems Protection
- Education and Awareness Programs
- Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support

See Table 12 for a description of each mitigation strategy and related types of actions.

Mitigation Action
Each mitigation action provides a concise, action-oriented description of the action or project to be undertaken.

Status
The status of each mitigation action is indicated by one of the following categories:

- New – New actions that have been identified since the last plan.
- Existing – Actions that are carried over from the last plan or have been updated.
- In Progress – Actions from the last plan that are currently being acted upon.

Mitigation actions that have been completed or deleted from the 2017 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan are identified and reported on in Appendix H. Completed and deleted mitigation actions are not carried over into the updated mitigation action chart.

Priority
In the review and discussion of selected mitigation strategies and actions, the planning team ranked mitigation actions by priority for implementation. Table 13 provides criteria that were taken into consideration in the process.

Time frame
Each mitigation action identifies the anticipated timeframe for implementation within the next five-year planning cycle. If a mitigation action is considered an ongoing effort, the next five-year period in which the activity would occur is listed. If a mitigation activity has a defined period for implementation (e.g., a specific year), it will be noted.

Responsibility
Each mitigation action identifies what personnel, department, or agency will serve as lead for the administration or implementation of the action.

Table 13. Criteria for Mitigation Action Priority Ranking

Ranking	Criteria
High Priority	• Methods for reducing risk from the hazard are technically reliable. • The jurisdiction has experience in implementing mitigation measures. • Mitigation measures are eligible under federal grant programs. • There are multiple mitigation measures for the hazard. • The mitigation measure(s) are known to be cost-effective. • The mitigation measures protect lives and property for a long period or are permanent risk reduction solutions.
Moderate Priority	• Mitigation methods are established. • The jurisdiction has limited experience with the types of measures that may be appropriate to mitigate the hazard. • Some mitigation measures are eligible for federal grants. • There is a limited range of effective mitigation measures for the hazard. • Mitigation measures are cost-effective only in limited circumstances. • Mitigation measures are effective for a reasonable period.
Low Priority	• Methods for reducing risk from the hazard are not well-established, are not proven reliable, or are experimental. • The jurisdiction has little or no experience in implementing mitigation measures, and/or no technical knowledge of them. • Mitigation measures are ineligible under federal grant programs. • There is a very limited range of mitigation measures for the hazard, usually only one feasible alternative. • The mitigation measure(s) have not been proven cost-effective and are likely to be very expensive compared to the magnitude of the hazard. • The long-term effectiveness of the measure is not known or is known to be relatively poor.

Comments on Implementation & Integration

Each mitigation action provides a description of how the jurisdiction will work to implement the mitigation action and incorporate the activity into other existing planning mechanisms. This can include description of methods for public outreach, enforcement of policies, development of plans, and coordination of key staff and partnership efforts.

Possible Funding

Each mitigation action identifies where potential funding may come from to support implementation of the mitigation activity, such as existing county or city funding, state, or federal funding. Projects that may be eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding are noted.

5.3.1 Fillmore County Mitigation Action Chart

The Fillmore County Mitigation Action Chart is provided in Table 14 on the following page. Appendix H provides the mitigation action charts developed for each city participating in the HMP update. A report on the status of mitigation actions related to natural hazards included in the 2017 plan update can be found in Appendix E.

See Mitigation Actions for all jurisdictions and provide ongoing feedback on the HMP website

Table 14. Fillmore County Mitigation Action Chart, 2026–2031

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Utilize effective methods to share information with the community about severe weather, extreme temperatures, and personal preparedness.	Existing High 2026-2031	Fillmore County Emergency Management (FCEM)	FCEM utilizes the county website, Sheriff's Office website, and local news media to communicate with the public on emergency preparedness, severe weather, and other hazard conditions throughout the year. The county's EM webpage provides information and resource links for public education on emergency preparedness. FCEM receives all products/statements issued by the National Weather Service, and in turn shares or incorporates these into its community outreach and public education. Promotion of the use of NOAA weather radios occurs during the NWS Severe Weather Awareness Week as well as throughout the year. FCEM provides special presentations or other planning assistance as requested to local governments, schools, or other local organizations and facilities within the county.	Internal: FC SO/EM External: FEMA EMPG
2	All Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Conduct outreach to encourage residents to opt-in for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM	Fillmore County uses social media, county board meetings and local newspapers to increase awareness of residents to sign up for CodeRED.	Internal: FC SO/EM
3	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Adopt and enforce regulations governing new construction to prevent damage to buildings and infrastructure from severe weather events.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	FC Land Use Dept. (P&Z)	The Fillmore County Zoning Ordinance guides where development is allowed. Land Use Permits are provided on the county website. State covers electrical inspections for the county.	Internal: FC Land Use Dept.
4	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Implement existing plans and policies in place that help to mitigate against the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards to future development.	Existing High 2026-2031	FC Land Use Dept. (P&Z)	The Fillmore County Zoning Ordinance guides where development is allowed to reduce risks from future development. Fillmore County's zoning ordinance additionally addresses things like shorelands, floodplains, bluff lands, and soil erosion control. The Fillmore County Highway Department has a 5-year plan that incorporates road, bridge and culvert improvement projects.	Internal: FC Land Use Dept.

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Utilize departmental staff and elected officials to work together to accomplish identified mitigation efforts.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with other county depts.	Fillmore County has an Emergency Manager with shared duties as a Deputy Sheriff. The Fillmore County Sheriff is also the Assistant Emergency Manager. The County Highway Dept. has an Engineer that works with county highway staff to maintain and repair roads as needed. Fillmore County Public Health has a coordinator that assists with emergency planning and preparedness. Fillmore County EM staff work to support municipal EM response and training efforts. Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation works to identify areas of concern in regards to flooding and identifies projects to mitigate potential flooding in areas of concern.	Internal: FC general cross dept. funding
6	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Develop and sustain partnerships with outside agencies, organizations, businesses, and neighboring jurisdictions to accomplish mitigation efforts.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with other county depts.	Fillmore County works with its townships and municipalities to identify needs and support them. Fillmore County also works with the MN DNR and MNDOT as projects present themselves. SWCD and Fillmore County are partners with the MN DNR, working together on projects. FCEM also works closely with the neighboring emergency managers on a range of planning, training, and exercises to support all-hazards preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities. Fillmore County Emergency Management also works closely with our regional National Weather Service (NWS) office.	Internal: FC SO/EM
7	All Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Ensure the county's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is updated and addresses policies & procedures needed to support EM functions prior to, during, and following a disaster.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM	FCEM maintains an all-hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which lays out concepts and operating guidelines for all incident management and support functions that may be needed to ensure life safety, incident stabilization, and property preservation during an incident and the transition to recovery.	Internal: FC SO/EM

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
8	All Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Identify critical infrastructure or facilities that need backup generators and work to obtain them.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with other county depts.	Fillmore County works to ensure the continuity of operations of county government services and critical infrastructure in the event of an extended power outage. FCEM is working with local jurisdictions to identify shelters that need back up power.	Internal: FC SO/EM, FC Hwy. External: USDA Community Facilities Grant Program
9	All Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Ensure that plans, procedures, and designated facilities are in place to provide temporary sheltering due to a severe weather or other disaster event.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM & Public Health	In the event of a disaster where temporary sheltering is needed, FCEM works in coordination with Fillmore County Public Health, the American Red Cross, and local governments/Fire & EMS to provide mass care services as needed. The county EOP includes plans, procedures, and resources available for mass care sheltering.	Internal: FC SO/EM, FC PH External: Red Cross, Local Govt's
10	All Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Encourage schools and other facilities that house seniors or other vulnerable populations to have emergency plans in place to deal with severe weather, extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	FCEM continues to work with local jurisdictions provide outreach to and support to schools and other facilities on emergency planning. Schools and long-term care (LTC) facilities are required to have such plans in place. FCEM provides direct training or planning support as requested.	Internal: FC SO/EM External: Schools, LTC Facilities
11	All Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Identify and work to secure internal as well as external funding (grant or loan sources) to help accomplish mitigation activities in the county.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	FCEM, Other County depts as related	Fillmore County primarily uses its own budget to address mitigation projects. Federal EMPG funding is used to help support the county's EM program. FCEM will work to assist communities to apply for outside grant funding for eligible mitigation projects as applicable, including from FEMA, MN DNR, USDA, and other state, federal, or local resources.	Internal: FC SO/EM, FC PW, FC P&Z External: FEMA EMPG, FEMA HMGP, MN DNR FHM, USDA CF
12	All Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Work with GIS to enhance mapping layers available to respond to emergencies. These layers will include child care settings, schools, at-risk populations, etc.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	FCEM, FC PH in coord with GIS	Fillmore County continues to work with service providers to develop and incorporate new technology to assist responses. Public Health is in the processing of conducting a new update for at-risk populations with support from GIS.	Internal: FC GIS

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
13	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Enforce policies and ordinances that address development in high-risk flood areas.	Existing High 2026-2031	Zoning Dept., Land Use Dept.	Fillmore County Floodplain Ordinance, Zoning ordinance section 610, establishes the floodplain district and zoning regulations and conditional uses permitted within the floodway, flood fringe, and general floodplain districts within the county. The floodplain ordinance was amended in 2024 to not allow the new dwellings within floodplain areas. The Fillmore County Land Use Dept. maintains and enforces the floodplain management ordinance for the county. The department also assists county residents in determining whether their property is affected by an officially mapped flood area.	Internal: FC Land Use (P&Z)
14	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work with area watershed organizations to address mitigation plans and projects that address risk reduction for localized flooding and erosion.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM, Land Use Dept.	The Fillmore County SWCD and Fillmore County are participants in the Root River One watershed, One plan partnership. The RR 1W1P planning area encompasses more than 1.3 million acres, which is spread across 6 counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted and Winona. The plan addresses regional watershed planning which include measures for flood mitigation.	External: MN Board of Soil & Water Resources
15	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Plan for and implement measures to address flood risk reduction projects for roads, bridges, and culverts throughout the county.	Existing High 2026-2031	Highway Dept.	The Fillmore County Highway Dept. maintains update of the county's planned construction projects. Annual transportation improvement projects include those that address localized flood risk reduction for roads, bridges, and culverts.	Internal: FC Hwy.
16	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Conduct property buyouts to acquire homes affected by repetitive flooding and physically relocate or remove those homes to eliminate future flood damages.	Existing Low 2026-2031	FCEM	The City of Mabel is interested in conducting property buyouts and relocations of some existing homes that repetitively flood from Riceford Creek. FCEM will assist the city as needed on this project, which may include grant applications to FEMA or MN DNR for grant funding to conduct buyouts.	External: FEMA HMGP / FMA grants, MN DNR FHM grant

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
17	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Work with the City of Peterson to implement the Root River flood control project.	In-Progress High 2026	FCEM, Highway Dept in coord with City of Peterson (lead resp.)	A new flood control structure will be installed in the City of Peterson in 2026 to avoid flood waters from the Root River to enter town. FCEM and FC Highway Department are working with the city on the planning for this project.	Internal: FC Hwy. External: City of Peterson, MN DNR FHM or FEMA HMGP grant funding
18	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Strategically place river gauges throughout county to monitor water levels.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with MNDNR, USGS	Fillmore County continues to work with the MN DNR and USGS to monitor and implement monitoring gauges that they have placed. Additional ones will be installed as funding becomes available.	External: MN DNR, USGS
19	Severe Winter Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	Implement snow removal and ice control to ensure the safety of county roads impacted by winter storms.	Existing High 2026-2031	Highway Dept.	The Fillmore County Highway Dept. conducts winter road maintenance on county roads in accordance with the Fillmore County Removal Policy. Other road jurisdictions conduct winter road maintenance on their respective road systems in accordance with each of their established policy and/or practice.	Internal: FC Hwy.
20	Severe Winter Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Install living snow fences along road corridors to reduce snow drifting.	Existing Low 2026-2031	Fillmore SWCD	Fillmore County Highway Dept. has planted living snow fences to minimize snow drifting over the roadways. The department will continue to implement similar projects in other road areas as needed. The Fillmore SWCD does not cost share this practice, but do provide low-cost trees during our tree sales and offer to assist with planting design.	External: FC SWCD (low-cost tree sales)
21	Severe Winter Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Procure rescue equipment capable of traversing deep snow for search and rescue of stranded motorists and other vulnerable subjects as needed.	New Moderate 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with local FD's/EMS	Fillmore County Sheriff's Dept. local jurisdictions fire / law enforcement work collaboratively on identifying and procuring winter rescue equipment.	Internal: FC SO/EM
22	Severe Summer Storms	Education & Awareness Programs	Work with the National Weather Service (NWS) to provide SkyWarn training and develop a network of trained Storm Spotters throughout the county.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with NWS	FCEM works with the NWS to offer this training on an annual basis to local fire and law enforcement departments and local residents that wish to be trained as spotters.	External: NWS

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
23	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Ensure outdoor warning sirens are located where needed and functioning properly.	Existing High 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout the county and are tested monthly by the Fillmore County Sheriff's Office in coordination with local jurisdictions. Warning sirens are owned and maintained by the cities where they are located. FCEM will assist any cities that are in need of new outdoor warning sirens in looking for possible grant funding, such as from the USDA or FEMA grant programs.	Internal: FC SO/EM External: Local Gov't Funding, USDA CF Grant Program, FEMA HMGP
24	Severe Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Address the need for the construction of storm shelters or tornado safe rooms in areas where residents or visitors are vulnerable to high wind events, such as mobile home parks and campgrounds.	Existing High Ongoing	FCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	FCEM will assist any communities in their effort to assess and address the need for construction of a storm shelter or tornado safe room. Grant funding may be available for tornado safe rooms from FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant program funding, based on application approval.	Internal: FC SO/EM External: Local Gov't, FEMA HMGP
25	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Encourage municipal and rural electric cooperatives to address burying powerlines or strengthening power poles to avoid power outages from high wind events and storms.	Existing High Ongoing	FCEM, local jurisdictions in coord with electric utility providers	FCEM works with our utility coops and local governments on these efforts as needed. FEMA HMGP grant funding may be a source for powerline infrastructure retrofits that eligible rural and municipal electric coops can apply for. MiEnergy Cooperative and People's Energy Cooperative have both expressed interest in the possibility to apply for FEMA grant funding to convert OH power lines to UG.	External: Electric Coops, FEMA HMGP
26	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Manage trees and other vegetation along roads from severe storm events to reduce risk to powerlines and passing motorists.	Existing Moderate Ongoing	Highway Dept. and Local Utility Coops	Fillmore County Highway Dept. regularly conducts vegetation management along county roads to reduce the risk of downed trees or branches resulting from severe spring and summer storm events. Local utility providers also work to manage vegetation near power lines to reduce the risk of downed lines and power outages.	Internal: FC Hwy External: Utility Coops

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
27	Extreme Cold/Heat Temps	Education & Awareness Programs	Provide outreach and education to the public on personal safety measures to take during periods of extreme cold or extreme heat.	In-Progress High 2024	FCEM, FC Public Health	FCEM works to share information received from the NWS when periods of extreme cold or heat are forecast and occurring. FCEM utilizes the county EM website page, and EM Facebook. Local radio and TV stations also provide this information to the public. School Districts have plans and policies in place for delaying or closing school to protect students from extreme temps.	Internal: FC SO/EM, FC PH
28	Extreme Cold/Heat Temps	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Work with local jurisdictions to plan for temporary warming/cooling facilities and promote their use for those that are vulnerable to extremely heat or cold temperatures (i.e., homeless, elderly)	Existing High 2025-2030	FCEM & Public Health in coord with local jurisdictions	FCEM addresses planning for extreme temperature sheltering within the county EOP and in coordination with Fillmore County Public Health and local jurisdictions. Designated facilities in the county are identified for use for emergency warming/cooling centers.	Internal: FC SO/EM, FC PH External: Local Gov'ts
29	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations	Continue to participate in the MnGAGE precipitation monitoring program to help track and report data related to periods of drought.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	Fillmore SWCD	The Fillmore County SWCD participates in the MNgage Minnesota Volunteer Precipitation Observing Program, which is administered by the DNR Minnesota State Climatology Office.	External: SWCD, MN DNR
30	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations	Encourage communities to establish and enforce watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	Existing High Ongoing	FCEM in coord with MN DNR and local jurisdictions	FCEM encourages city and townships to promote drought awareness to residents on limiting non-essential water usage. Local communities will be encouraged to establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought.	Internal: FC SO/EM External: MN DNR Local Gov'ts

Section 6 – Plan Maintenance

6.1 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Updating the Plan

The Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) should be considered a living document. The plan should be updated and approved by FEMA at least every five years. The guidance in this section will function as the primary tool when reviewing progress on the implementation of the Fillmore County HMP.

The Fillmore County emergency management director (EMD) is the individual responsible for leading all efforts to monitor, evaluate, and update the HMP within the five-year window. Throughout the five-year planning cycle, the Fillmore County EMD will work with an emergency managers group to help monitor, review, evaluate, and update the HMP. The group will include township representatives and designated city emergency managers from participating cities, and include other city elected officials or staff as needed. Representatives from agencies or organizations that are involved with related mitigation work in the county as well as those that work with underserved communities or socially vulnerable populations will also be invited to participate in the group. The Fillmore County EMD will conduct quarterly outreach to and communicate with the group on emergency management matters regarding severe weather awareness, local preparedness, mitigation, and response & recovery as needed. Additional stakeholders will be added based on need or in response to severe weather events.

If necessary, the Fillmore County EMD will convene the group to meet more regularly to monitor plan implementation progress and reassess needs and opportunities. This could be done in response to funding cycles of programs that provide resources for hazard mitigation activities. If there is a need for a special meeting due to new developments or a declared disaster occurring in the county, the group will meet to update pertinent mitigation strategies. Depending on Fillmore County opportunities and fiscal resources, mitigation projects may be implemented independently by individual communities or through local partnerships.

The group will continue to review the HMP goals and objectives to determine their relevance to changing situations in Fillmore County. In addition, state and federal policies will be reviewed to ensure they are addressing current and expected conditions. The group will also review the risk assessment portion of the plan to determine if this information should be updated or modified. The parties responsible for the various implementation actions will report on the status of their projects, and will include which implementation processes worked well, any difficulties encountered, how coordination efforts are proceeding, and which strategies should be revised.

Updates or modifications to the HMP during the five-year planning process will require a public notice and a meeting prior to submitting revisions to the individual jurisdictions for approval. The plan will be updated via written changes, submissions as the group deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by county commissioners.

During the five-year plan period, the EMD will require all relevant county departments and jurisdictions to report on the status of their mitigation actions using the worksheets provided in Appendix I. This information will be used to track progress for the next plan update. Additionally, the EMD will establish

and implement an HMP maintenance schedule. Forms for these purposes are drawn from FEMA's 2023 Local Mitigation Planning Handbook and can be found in Appendix I (FEMA, 2023a).

The EMD will also solicit feedback from the emergency managers group using the following prompts (also found in Appendix I):

- Are there any new representatives from jurisdictions, agencies, or organizations that you feel should be included in our stakeholder outreach?
- Do you feel your community has any new vulnerabilities that may be impacted by hazard events? (critical infrastructure, systems, or populations)
- Has your community identified any new mitigation activities that would help reduce risk to future hazard events?
- Are there any funding opportunities or other resources that may be available to help implement local mitigation activities?
- How is your community integrating information from the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms (such as plans, policies, or partnerships)?

6.2 Implementation

Fillmore County and its included municipalities share a common HMP and work together closely to develop, revise, and implement it. This HMP provides a comprehensive chart of mitigation actions for Fillmore County and its jurisdictions (see Appendix H and Section 5.3). The cities participating in the HMP planning process identified the specific mitigation strategies that they would seek to implement in their communities during the five-year planning cycle. These mitigation actions are provided in Appendix H.

Several implementation tools are available to address hazards. The strategies to use will be part of an ongoing discussion as Fillmore County looks for opportunities for plan implementation. The following tools will be considered:

Education: In many cases, education of residents has been identified as one of the most effective mitigation strategies.

Capital Investments: Capital investments such as fire and ambulance equipment, sprinkler systems, and dry hydrants are tools that can limit risks and impacts of natural and manmade hazards.

Data Collection and Needs Assessments: Data collection and needs assessments can aid in gaining a better understanding of threats and allow planning for mitigation strategies accordingly. As resources are limited for this part of the planning process, additional data collection is likely to be an ongoing activity as resources become available.

Coordination: Responsibilities for mitigation strategies run across various county departments, local fire and ambulance departments, city and township governments, and a host of state and federal agencies. Ongoing coordination is an important tool to ensure resources are used efficiently. Coordination can also avoid duplication of efforts or prevent gaps that are created because of unclear roles and responsibilities. The mitigation plan review process can function as a tool to have an ongoing discussion of roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for coordination.

Regional Cooperation: Counties and public safety services providers throughout the region often share similar challenges and concerns. In some cases, a regional approach may be warranted as a mitigation strategy in order to save resources. Mutual aid agreements are a tool already in use for a number of services. Needs assessments for fire and ambulance services and development of assistance for volunteer recruiting, training, and retention could benefit from a regional approach. Cooperation among counties could also help in lobbying for certain funding priorities that address concerns relating to challenges in service delivery in rural areas. Organizations such as FEMA Region 5 and the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) through the Regional Program Director can offer tools and resources to assist in these cooperative efforts.

Regulation: Regulation is an important mitigation tool for Fillmore County. Regulation plays a vital role in land use, access to structures, and the protection of water resources and public health.

6.3 Continued Public Involvement

Continued public involvement is critical to the successful implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Fillmore County Emergency Management Director and the emergency managers group will continue to engage new public stakeholders in planning discussions and project implementation during the five-year cycle of this plan.

The Fillmore County HMP website provides opportunities for continued public involvement and feedback

To seek continued public participation after the plan has been approved and during the five-year window of implementation for this plan, Fillmore County will take the following measures:

- The Fillmore County HMP website link will be posted on the Fillmore County Emergency Management website. The website provides a PDF of the plan for download and an interactive experience for the public to understand the planning process, where county-specific vulnerabilities lie, national best practices, as well as a chance to submit feedback. Collected feedback will be reviewed during the five-year plan cycle and will be noted for future update of the plan or addressed as necessary.
- Following any major storms or natural disasters, Fillmore County Emergency Management will seek to gather concerns and new ideas for mitigation from local residents to include in the next update of the plan. This may be done through public meetings, outreach via social media, or news releases via local media.
- Each community participating in the plan will be responsible for keeping their local government, schools, and community members updated and engaged in the implementation of their respective mitigation action charts (see Appendix H or the Fillmore County HMP website). Each respective jurisdiction will be required to report on the status of mitigation actions in their charts to the Fillmore County EMD.
- Fillmore County and its jurisdictions will use numerous means of public outreach to engage new public stakeholders in providing input on mitigation concerns, including those from underserved communities or socially vulnerable populations. Outreach methods may include presentations at city council or township board meetings, sharing information at special

events, working with local schools and partner organizations, and posting information in areas that are used to communicate with the public (bulletin boards, websites, social media, and local media sources that communities use to inform and engage the public). As mitigation projects are implemented, jurisdictions will work to keep the public updated and engaged in those local efforts.

- To ensure an equitable outreach strategy continues after the plan is adopted, the planning team will continue to seek to engage with underserved and vulnerable populations during the next five years. This will vary across jurisdictions, as underserved or vulnerable populations will differ across the planning area. Methods of engagement will include those listed above, as well as working with partner agencies, local organizations, facilities, or community interest groups (e.g., schools, nursing homes, Rotary Club) to conduct more targeted outreach or presentations to share information on hazard mitigation and solicit for feedback on concerns and ideas.

Appendices

Appendix A – References

Appendix B – Adopting Resolutions

Appendix C – Local Mitigation Survey Report

Appendix D – Plans & Programs in Place

Appendix E – Past Mitigation Action Review Status Report

Appendix F – Planning Team Meetings

Appendix G – Public Outreach & Engagement Documentation

Appendix H – Mitigation Actions by Jurisdiction

Appendix I – Plan Maintenance & Monitoring Worksheets

Appendix A – References

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Appendix B – Adopting Resolutions

Appendix C – Local Mitigation Survey Report

Fillmore County
LOCAL MITIGATION SURVEY

As part of the Fillmore County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan update, the **Local Mitigation Survey (LMS)** Form is used to gather jurisdictionally-specific information that is used to meet FEMA requirements and to support development of local mitigation actions.

Jurisdictions to Complete LMS:

This form is to be completed by representatives from **Fillmore County** and the **cities of Canton, Chatfield, Fountain, Harmony, Lanesboro, Mabel, Ostrander, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, Rushford Village, Spring Valley, Whalan, and Wykoff.**

Additional stakeholders on the Fillmore County HMP contact list are also invited to provide feedback to this form in the designated areas. (See "Other Stakeholders" section with each question).

LMS - Main Point of Contact (Name, Work Title, and Email)

Fillmore County	Jason Harmening, Emergency Management Director jharmening@co.fillmore.mn.us
City of Canton	Anne Koliha, City Clerk, clerk@cantonmn.com Jon Nordsving, Public Works Director, publicworks@cantonmn.com
City of Chatfield	Rocky Burnett, Ambulance Director/Emergency Manager, rburnett@ci.chatfield.mn.us
City of Fountain	Mary Tjepkes Clerk/Treasurer fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net
City of Harmony	Alissa Stelpflug, City Administrator, alissa@harmonymn.gov
City of Lanesboro	Mitchell Walbridge, City Administrator, MWalbridge@lanesboro-mn.gov
City of Mabel	Robert Mierau, Public Works Director, publicworks@cityofmabel.com Karen Larson, City Clerk karen.larson@cityofmabel.com
City of Ostrander	Wendy Brincks, City Clerk cityclerk@cityofostrander.com
City of Peterson	Violet Richardson, Clerk; Chris Grindland, Public Works; petersoncity@gmail.com
City of Preston	Ryan Throckmorton, City Administrator, rthrockmorton@prestonmn.gov
City of Rushford	Kathy Zacher, City Clerk/Treas. citykaz@goacentek.net
City of Rushford Village	Mary Miner, City Clerk crv@acegroup.cc
City of Spring Valley	Deb Zimmer, Clerk/Treasurer debzimmer@springvalley-mn.com
City of Whalan	Teresa Grossell, Clerk/Treasurer cityofwhalan@goacentek.net
City of Wykoff	Rebecca Schmidt City Administrator cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Chad Hanson, MnDOT District 6, Emergency Management Coordinator, chad.hanson@state.mn.us

Review: Prioritization of Hazards

During the Fillmore County HMP Planning Team Meeting #1, participants determined the following natural hazards below to be of high, moderate, or low priority as they relate at a countywide level. Hazards noted as high or moderate priority are considered to be of greatest risk and concern, reflecting the frequency of past events, the probability of future events, and the severity of impacts that can

occur. Hazards listed as a low priority are considered to be of lower risk and concern, reflecting an infrequency of past events and/or occurring without significant impacts to local vulnerabilities.

Prioritization of Hazards for 2025 Fillmore County Update

Natural Hazards	Current Priority
Flooding	High
Winter Storms	High
Windstorms	High
Tornadoes	High
Hailstorms	Moderate
Extreme Cold	Moderate
Drought	Moderate
Lightning	Low
Extreme Heat	Low
Wildfire	Low
Landslides	Low
Land Subsidence	Low
Dam Failure	Low

SURVEY QUESTIONS (1-15)

#1 - HAZARD IDENTIFICATION **Does the priority level listed for any of the hazards in the table above differ for your jurisdiction? If so, please describe how.**	
Fillmore County	Flooding is the most concerning because it can affect the 411 miles of County roads and 466 bridges throughout the County. The second is Winter storms which can be a challenge keeping the road passable for travel public and emergency response units.
City of Canton	Canton would rate Flooding a low priority and the rest of the list we agree with the ratings.
City of Chatfield	Chatfield would rate windstorms and tornadoes as a moderate hazard, given the history in our community these have not been a strong threat. Recent years have proven that Extreme Cold is a high hazard, as well as Drought given the lack of snow/rainfall the past few years.
City of Fountain	Fountain would rate windstorms and tornadoes as moderate hazards. Extreme cold would be high as well as drought.
City of Harmony	Harmony would like Lightning rated as moderate given our history in the community.
City of Lanesboro	The list, as presented, is accurate for our jurisdiction.
City of Mabel	List is representative
City of Ostrander	Flooding would be a low priority for Ostrander, we agree with the remainder of the list
City of Peterson	We agree with the list.
City of Preston	The list aligns with our jurisdiction.
City of Rushford	The list fits the priorities for us.

City of Rushford Village	We agree with the list
City of Spring Valley	I agree with the list.
City of Whalan	We agree with the list.
City of Wykoff	I agree with the list.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#2 - LOCAL VULNERABILITIES **Describe any <u>specific</u> community assets (infrastructure, systems, or populations) that are susceptible to damage or loss from natural hazard events in your jurisdiction.** Consider how recent severe storms or other natural hazard events have caused damages or threatened life safety to people in your community. Please list the natural hazards and related local vulnerabilities separately.	
Fillmore County	**Power Outages** –Fillmore County has backup generators that serve several of their office buildings, Jail and Emergency Operations Center. Many municipalities also have generators that serve as backups. Several communities have generators at their shelter locations; however, additional generators are needed to address needs at other city shelter locations that do not have the capability yet. **Flooding** – Fillmore County has experienced flooding in the past. Some of the county has experienced flash flooding due to spring thaw in combination with rainfall. We have also experienced flooding due to extreme rainfall amounts in short periods of time. Rural Fillmore County is susceptible to roads being washed out in where there is a steep grade and in low areas as well. Fillmore county has also experienced damage to bridges and culverts in the past. Fillmore County has several campgrounds that are active during Spring, Summer, and Fall. Many of these campgrounds can be found near the Root River and other streams and are susceptible to flooding. **Ice Storms/Blizzards** - Much of Fillmore County's rural electrical service consists of overhead power lines and electrical poles. Those overhead lines and power poles are prone to failure in ice storms and blizzards with heavy snowfall and high winds that may bring down trees and branches. **Windstorms, Tornadoes** – Fillmore County has several campgrounds within its boundaries. The campgrounds are active during spring, summer and fall months with RVs and campers and some do not have a storm shelter. Fillmore County residents have experienced power outages from strong wind events that have brought down power lines. **Drought** -Fillmore County has experienced moderate to severe drought causing some municipalities to activate and enforce their water conservation plan. **Extreme Cold-** Fillmore County has experienced extremely cold temperatures in the past. Residents without their own generators that

	lose power may need to shelter somewhere temporarily until power is restored. Widespread power outages would require shelters to have the capability to utilize a generator.
City of Canton	**All Hazards - Power Outages** - A generator is needed for our wells and fire hall and potentially for city hall and town hall. **Extreme Cold** - We have a high population of senior citizens and low-income residents who are more vulnerable during periods of extreme cold with power outages. In the past we have experienced frozen water services and some residential homes experienced frozen pipes. **HazMat** - Highway 52 running through the middle of town presents a great hazard to our community. There are several trucks passing through town carrying hazardous materials.
City of Chatfield	**All Hazards - Power Outages** can affect the city from severe storm outages. A generator has been installed at City Hall that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. Generators have been installed at our City Well #2 and our Booster Station to supply water to residents. The city has a vac truck to pump lift stations if needed. We also have a large population of senior citizens that do not use cell phones to receive emergency notifications. **Flooding** - We have a city lift station that is prone to flooding during high rain events. Two city parks that are vulnerable to flooding and park equipment have been damaged in the past. We need to upsize several culverts to better handle high rain events. **Ice Storms/Blizzards** - Updated power conversions have been completed by Peoples Energy Coop. Much of the city's municipal electrical service consists of overhead power lines and electrical poles. Those overhead lines and power poles are prone to failure in ice storms and blizzards with heavy snowfall and high winds that may bring down trees and branches. **Windstorms, Tornadoes** - We have 1 mobile home park within the city that does not have a storm shelter and residents are vulnerable to high wind and tornado events. Our municipal campground is active during summer and fall months with RVs and campers and does not have a storm shelter. We also have new development in the west end of the city that should have an outdoor warning siren installed. We have experienced power outages from strong wind events that brought down power lines. **Extreme Cold -** We have a high population of senior citizens and low-income residents who are more vulnerable during periods of extreme cold with power outages. In the past we have experienced frozen water services and some residential homes exAll Hazards – Power Outages

	Drought - Chatfield has experienced moderate to severe drought causing the city to enforce their water Conservation Plan. **Highway 52** - Highway 52 running through the middle of town presents a great hazard to our community. There are several trucks passing through town carrying hazardous materials. We have had two crashes in recent years involving vehicles carrying hazardous material within our downtown commercial district.
City of Fountain	**All-Hazards** - We need to obtain a portable generator for our Community Center that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. We also have a large population of senior citizens that do not use cell phones to receive emergency notifications.
City of Harmony	**All Hazards - Power Outages:** We need to obtain a permanent generator for our Community Center, which serves as a local shelter for those displaced by severe storms or prolonged power outages. **Windstorms, Tornadoes** - It would be beneficial for our town to have a storm shelter. Overhead electrical infrastructure is also at risk during high wind events and tornados, which may lead to power outages. **Highway 52** - Highway 52, which runs through our town, poses a significant risk to our community due to the frequent passage of trucks transporting hazardous materials.
City of Lanesboro	**All Hazards - Power Outages:** Lanesboro needs to obtain additional generators for its emergency services building and city hall to maintain operations and provide services and shelter during power outage events. **Flooding -** Both Lanesboro wastewater treatment plant and power plant are susceptible to flooding. Some roadways and transportation routes are also susceptible to flooding. **Winter Storms -** Overhead electrical infrastructure is at-risk during winter storm events, which may lead to power outages. **Wind/Tornadoes -** Overhead electrical infrastructure is at risk during high wind events and tornados, which may lead to power outages.
City of Mabel	**Power Outages -** Mabel currently has some backup generators for infrastructure. However, a backup generator at the Mabel-Canton School would be extremely helpful for a large group of community citizens to be temporarily housed during an extended power outage event. Extra portable or permanent generators are needed for the EMS/Fire Station and Daycare Facility. Our distribution system is serviced by MiEnergy, and primarily consists of overhead power lines resulting in failure due to wind or ice events.

	Flooding - Mabel is prone to flooding as the Riceford Creek flows through the center of town. Mitigation projects have been completed previously. The relocation of some existing house structures is still necessary, but due to limited land availability and cost, this remains a high priority. Also, West Hwy 44 is prone to flooding cutting east bound traffic. Our Wastewater Treatment Facility and its access are located within the Floodplain. **Windstorms/Tornados -** We do have a mobile home park within our community. Having a shelter is critical for these residents. Currently, a new siren has been installed at the Mabel Emergency Services building serving as our notification system.
City of Ostrander	**All Hazards-** We need to obtain a portable generator for our Community Center that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. **Winter/Summer Storms** - We are a small city and all power to the town is above ground. This is concerning especially in winter storms and extreme cold where we may experience resulting power outages from downed power lines.
City of Peterson	**Flooding** - Our WWTP has one lift station that services the sanitary sewer system. Sewer backups could occur during periods of significant rainfall if the lift station pumps were to fail. Most of the town does not have curb and gutter so portions could be prone to flooding during high rain events. **Flooding** - The tidal sock on County Rd 25 should be inspected. If this were to fail water from the Root River would enter this culvert and bring flood water in. **Winter Storms -** Overhead electrical infrastructure is at-risk during winter storm events, which may lead to power outages. **Wind/Tornadoes -** Overhead electrical infrastructure is at risk during high wind events and tornados, which may lead to power outages.
City of Preston	**All Hazards - Power Outages** –We need to obtain generation for our emergency services building which is critical for our emergency responders to provide services to our community in the event of power failure, additionally this location would likely be used to provide services or shelter to residents. **Flooding** – The City of Preston has experienced flooding in the past. We have experienced flooding due to heavy rainfall amounts in short periods of time. Our Wastewater Treatment facility is susceptible to flooding, which could lead to sewer backups into homes.

	Ice Storms/Blizzards - The City of Preston has many overhead power lines and electrical poles. Those overhead lines and power poles are prone to failure in ice storms and blizzards with heavy snowfall and high winds that may bring down trees and branches. **Windstorms, Tornadoes** – City of Preston have experienced power outages from strong wind events that have brought down power lines.
City of Rushford	**Flooding** - The city has a levee system that has been recertified after the 2007 flood. During that flood the levee held but the flooding was due to extreme groundwater saturation and Rush Creek breaching the levee system with the water having no way to get out of our ponding areas, and downtown street areas. That could happen again because of the geographic location of our community in the Rush Creek watershed district; including the possibility of a Root River flooding event. Power outages are also an issue during flood events. **Ice Storms/Blizzards** - In the past these types of storms caused damage to the transmission lines coming into our city and we have no control over repairs or timelines of repairs. **Windstorms, Tornadoes** - High winds have caused damage to our trees, light poles, and buildings in the past. The trees can also take down overhead power lines causing outages
City of Rushford Village	**Power Outages-**These types of events can cause major outages that would affect the safety of our residents. We need a generator at our city hall/maintenance shop and lift station. The hall was used as a command center during the 2007 Rushford flood by multiple agencies. In the future it would be a place for residents to come in the event of an emergency. Any backup of sewage at the lift station is a major safety concern for residents. We are a rural city so any wind or ice can cause trees to fall onto the roadway. **Flooding-**We have multiple small creeks/dry runs that become raging waterways in the event of heavy rains. This can cause damage to roadways, culverts, bridges, and soil erosion to the banks. Heavy rain also washes away gravel and causes washouts along roads. We have 33 miles of gravel roads. **Windstorms/Ice Storms-**We are a rural city with many trees. During these types of events roads can easily become blocked from fallen trees. With 33 miles of gravel roads to maintain it takes a long time to clear roads after a major storm **Drought-**We have not had issues with our water supply for the water tower but drought is a very real concern for residents who are farmers.

	Extreme Cold-Although not a huge issue in our water district, we have had frozen pipes and water meters in some residents. We recently installed new water meters so we get alerts when a resident is using an abnormal amount of water or the temperature near their meter is close to freezing, this allows us to contact the resident and hopefully stop potential issues. It is a concern for our farming community in regards to their animals.
City of Spring Valley	**Floodin**g–Our lift station is prone to flooding and we are exploring options for relocation. The creek runs through downtown which does experience flooding issues during high rain events. During such events three city streets and Hwy 63 are occasionally shut down with the assistance of our local emergency management and fire department. The city has purchased properties that have experienced damage in the past.
City of Whalan	**All Hazards - Power Outages** -A generator for electricity and water is high on our list of needs for all forms of hazards as we currently do not have any generators. **Flooding** - We have not had any flooding since the dike was built, but most of our downtown area is in the floodplain. **Ice Storms/Blizzards** -MiEnergy does an excellent job of keeping the trees trimmed back and we have not had too many problems with ice storms. We have staff that maintains our city streets. **Windstorms, Tornadoes** - We do not have a Storm Shelter, which is also a definite need for our city. **Extreme Cold and Drought-** We have three private, but shared, wells that can be negatively impacted by both extreme cold (frozen water services) or severe drought (diminished water services) for our city.
City of Wykoff	**All Hazards - Power Outages** -A generator for water and our community center is high on our list of needs for power outages. We have a generator for our WWTP however our water system is vulnerable to power outages. **Flooding** - Our WWTP is prone to flooding during high rain events and has flooded several times in the past. What we found out was that our effluent pumps were undersized. WE have upsized them but with the drought we have been experiencing they have not been tested to full capacity. With the one rain storm that delivered 4 inches of rain, it was much improved. **Windstorms, Tornadoes:** We have 1 mobile home park within the city that does not have a storm shelter and residents are vulnerable to high wind and tornado events. We would like to convert our lower level of the community center to function as a storm shelter, but that would require an investment in a generator.

	Extreme Cold - The city has a meter monitoring system that alerts us to water leaks and heavy usage. If a pipe is frozen and there is no usage or if the pipe bursts, we have the capability to notify the resident within 3 hours. Being a small town, everyone in town is in touch with their neighbors and can contact city staff with any concerns. **Drought** - We have not had any difficulty with water supply during the drought. The city runs off two wells and to date has not experienced any shortages. **HazMat - Highway 80** - Highway 80 running through the middle of town presents a great hazard to our community. There are several trucks passing through town carrying hazardous materials. We have been working with the DOT to get another stop sign installed to help control the speed through town, but the DOT was unwilling to look at the issue.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	MnDOT District 6: We manage our State Highway System and it is vulnerable to many hazards listed above. The largest vulnerability for this infrastructure is observed trend in increasing extreme precipitation events (both intensity and frequency). The hydraulic assets under and upstream of the roads were designed based on outdated precipitation probabilities (typically TP-40 Design Storms since Atlas 14 wasn't used until about 10 years ago) and so the risk of damage and traffic impact is greater than originally designed. Additionally, there are no signs that the increasing trend of extreme precipitation will reverse, so even if there is a good deal of uncertainty for the future, it suggests this infrastructure will continue to become more vulnerable. All populations that use the State Highway System have increased risk of traffic impacts, and we are working to quantify at a high-level if there are any certain areas that may have a larger share of that risk.

#3 - REDUCTION IN VULNERABILITY **In the last 5 years, has your jurisdiction taken any actions to <u>reduce</u> vulnerability against future severe weather or disaster events? Please describe.**	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County floodplain ordinance was amended in 2024 to not allow the new dwellings within floodplain areas. Fillmore County Highway department has cleaned ditches flooding over the road occurred to minimize the impact. Also armored bridges with rip rap to prevent flood damage to the structures. Living snow fences have been planted to minimize snow drifting over the roadways.
City of Canton	As of 2023 all main electrical lines have been installed underground. There are plans for future infrastructure improvements with water and sewer lines and streets.

City of Chatfield	In 2015, 2017, and 2023 the city completed street reconstruction projects which included adding more storm sewer and catch basins. In 2020, the city built two retention ponds off County 10 to reduce excessive water flow into the city limits. Six out of a total of seven StormWater Capital Improvements from our 2015 Capital Plan have been completed. Over the last five years our utility companies have worked to convert overhead power lines to underground and upgrade power to the city. A generator has been installed at City Hall for creating a community shelter. In 2023, 2 generators were installed in the water system and both of our wells were added to our SCADA alarm system. A Vac truck has been purchased to pump lift station during power outages.
City of Fountain	Looking in the future the city will be working to make sure all sub-pumps are drained to the outside and not into septic.
City of Harmony	In 2020 and 2024 the City of Harmony completed street reconstruction projects which included adding more storm sewer and catch basins, as well as updating the sewer and water lines in those areas. We added new generators to both Lift Stations, Well, Sewer Plant and the Firehall.
City of Lanesboro	The City of Lanesboro continually makes improvements to electrical grid resilience including back-up generator automation, SCADA system enhancements to better monitor our water and wastewater operations, control of the city's generator, as well as our hydroplant and local solar power systems. Remote monitoring provides immediate notification of alarms and faster response times, creating a more reliable electrical supply for the city. Lanesboro also continually reviews its cyber security monitoring and control to decrease vulnerability to cyber-attacks/ incidents.
City of Mabel	The City of Mabel has recently added a backup generator at the City Hall/Community Center (2025). In 2022 a new outdoor siren was installed at the Mabel Emergency Services building serving as our notification system. A portable generator for two Lift stations (2025). Permanent generators are located at our Wastewater Treatment Facility and one of the Well houses. Currently, the City of Mabel is working with Davy Engineering, and Fillmore County to reconstruct the storm sewers on Cty Rd 28 and Cty Rd 34 with the work slated for 2026. The City Clerk and Public Works Director have met with the Regional Clean Water Hydrologist, Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Manager, and the DNR area Hydrologist to discuss Flood Mitigation Projects/Relocation.
City of Ostrander	The City of Ostrander replaced the warning siren in 2023. In 2022 the city also placed a generator at the well house and at the lift station when the city underwent a major infrastructure project.
City of Peterson	The City of Peterson has a backup generator for the lift station that can be used if the city loses power. We regularly trim branches near power lines and inspect/clean culverts to ensure water can flow out of town.
City of Preston	The City of Preston continues to monitor and construct stormwater structures and our electrical grid. Additionally, we continue to work on obtaining private property within the floodway to minimize flood

	damage. The city recently installed new battery backup sirens throughout the community.
City of Rushford	The City of Rushford has had the levee system recertified and continues to perform maintenance as directed by the ACOE every year. Public Works conducts annual training on the levee pumps, gates, and actions to take during an event. The city has a backup generator for the wastewater plant and for city hall. We also have portable generators to be able to pump out lift stations if the power is out for an extended period. The generator is also capable of running one city well. The city is moving more overhead electric lines to underground. The city is trimming and removing dead/dying trees on a routine basis and especially those around overhead electric lines. The city maintains three warning siren systems in our community to warn residents of impending bad weather. We have all sewer and water systems on a SCADA system to alert public works of any issues with wells, lift stations, etc. Since 2007 the city has completed six major street renovation projects, upgrading water, sewer, storm sewer. This has reduced I&I, increased the reliability of the mains and service lines to hundreds of residents. The city routinely repairs and improves culverts connected to the levee system and in other parts of the city's storm water system. Efforts are made to inform the public about proper use of sump pumps, not directing that flow into the sewer system. The city recently rebuilt our water tower and water reservoir to enhance reliability of those systems to serve the public
City of Rushford Village	Tree trimming is an ongoing project. Continue to work on stream/dry run banks to help stop soil erosion. Continue with road maintenance measures to make sure water runs off the roads properly, keep culverts open. In regards to extreme cold, we recently installed new water meters so we get alerts when a resident is using an abnormal amount of water or the temperature near their meter is close to freezing, this allows us to contact the resident and hopefully stop potential issues.
City of Spring Valley	Properties within the floodplain that had experienced damage during flooding events in 1999 and 2000 were purchased and removed allowing for flood water levels to recede quicker and not rise to previous high-water levels.
City of Whalan	We trim the trees as necessary, and we recently had new road construction on Main Street including water catch basins for the storm sewers.
City of Wykoff	We have just invested in a new rotating warning siren that will provide wider notification of high wind/ tornado events in the city and outlying townships. We also have an emergency text notification system that is used for many situations. We are also doing a 5-year plan to upgrade several troubled areas of storm drainage. In the last 3 years installed larger effluent pumps and graded the surrounding area around our WWTP to control the flooding at the plant. MiEnergy does an excellent job of keeping the trees trimmed back and we have not had too many

	problems with ice storms. We have an excellent staff that maintains our city streets and Highway 80 through town is taken care of in a timely manner.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	MnDOT District 6: Yes, in the past 5 years we have: 1) Repaired via lining culverts and storm sewer pipes that were in very poor condition such that a large precipitation event could cause a sinkhole under the road or shoulder. 2) Added armoring to roadway inslopes in areas prone to overtopping/erosion where we did not have the project funding to upsize the culvert capacity. 3) Added riprap to waterways to help increase the resilience along the roadways and around bridge piers. 4) This Summer (2025) we are going to be stabilizing a very steep inslope with geocells that was damaged in the 2007 Extreme Storm and the repairs made under emergency conditions are now starting to reach the end of their service life. 5) On the design side for new or replaced assets, we have modified the Hydraulic Design Process to add a Check Storm Analysis. This looks at "what if" impacts from an precipitation event larger than the design storm (i.e. 1 annual exceedance probability up [50yr goes to 100yr] or a 15% increase or looking at confidence intervals in Atlas 14/StreamStats)

#4 – INCREASE IN VULNERABILITY **In the last 5 years, has your jurisdiction experienced an <u>increase</u> in new development? Has this new development created new vulnerabilities to natural hazards in your community? Please describe.**	
Fillmore County	In the last 5 years the County has experienced an increase in solar farms which impacted the road system, and the need to maintain access.
City of Canton	No new development.
City of Chatfield	Since 2010, the city's population has grown from 1,206 to 3,002 with many new homes built making more properties vulnerable to damages. Homes have been built slab-on-grade, so residents do not have a basement for safety during high wind or tornado events. With an increase in population and construction of more homes and commercial properties, we have also witnessed more stormwater discharging to our stormwater system. We feel this is due to a more impermeable surface which has increased stormwater runoff and the amount of precipitation seems to have increased per rain event.
City of Fountain	No new development.
City of Harmony	No new development.

City of Lanesboro	In the past five years, Lanesboro has identified two areas for housing development, though no development agreements or final plats have been agreed upon with the private developers.
City of Mabel	There have been no new developments within or around the City of Mabel.
City of Ostrander	No new development.
City of Peterson	No new development.
City of Preston	In 2024 the Minnesota Veterans home opened in the City of Preston, housing for 54 residents and 120 FTE. We had an additional two new housing developments.
City of Rushford	Our mobile home court is seeing an increase of homes coming back into that area. The area has a storm shelter on site, but is prone to flooding.
City of Rushford Village	No new development.
City of Spring Valley	New developments of housing and industrial lots are located on the outskirts of town and out of the floodplain.
City of Whalan	A new housing development is located on the outskirts of town and out of the floodplain.
City of Wykoff	We have a new development with 9 new homes being built on slab-on-grade (no basements). In addition, our mobile home park has also expanded. These developments increase vulnerability of residents to high wind or tornado events due to their living structures. We will have to place more priority in the next budget towards getting a generator for the community center so that it can become a city-wide storm shelter.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Recently, there has been an increase in new development, some of it is located upstream of the roadway. If the proper design and permits from MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit and MnDOT are obtained, then there is less risk of increasing vulnerability. However, if the development does not address increased impervious, the extra runoff can increase vulnerability to our roadway infrastructure.

#5 - PUBLIC OUTREACH **How does your jurisdiction share information with community members about severe weather events and personal preparedness? If this is not something that is currently done, how could it be done in the future?**	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County uses Code Red as both the IPAWS interface and as an information dissemination platform. Social Media is also utilized to reach the public. Fillmore County participates with Severe Weather Awareness week by using our social media, newspapers and local radio stations.
City of Canton	The City of Canton utilizes its Facebook page and city website and inserts in the utility bills.
City of Chatfield	We post informational announcements on our city website, through the Code Red system, through our Police Department Facebook page, and through our cities public access channel (CCTV). Additionally, we can print information in our local newspaper. We often also make announcements at City Council meetings.
City of Fountain	Text Alerts, Utility Billing and Social Media

City of Harmony	We utilize City Notify to send alerts via phone calls and emails. Additionally, we share informational announcements on the City's Facebook page and website. For emergency events, our town is equipped with three sirens, with the primary siren featuring a battery backup for reliability. Working with Fillmore County on utilizing Code Red as an emergency alert option.
City of Lanesboro	The City of Lanesboro utilizes its Facebook page, city website, and an email distribution list to share information about severe weather events and preparedness.
City of Mabel	The City of Mabel remains active through the city website, monthly newsletters, Facebook, and bulletin boards. The city utilizes the new warning siren by testing monthly and subscribed to the annual O/M Inspection to insure proper operation. We are beginning to look at text alerts and have interest in the Code Red system.
City of Ostrander	The City of Ostrander placed a new warning siren and also uses the Code Red Warning through Fillmore County.
City of Peterson	Social Media, Newsletters.
City of Preston	Social Media, Websites or public meetings.
City of Rushford	We have three warning sirens that are exercised every day and inspected several times a year. The Fire Dept. has trained weather/storm watchers and stays in contact with the County during weather events. We also use Facebook to alert residents of weather events as well as to offer suggestions from FEMA and other emergency agencies on things they can do in their own homes to be prepared for different emergency situations.
City of Rushford Village	We have a siren in South Rushford. Information could be included in the quarterly newsletter and website
City of Spring Valley	The city website and Facebook are used to alert residents to weather events.
City of Whalan	We have a siren system.
City of Wykoff	We use the city Website, Facebook, and an emergency text alert system. We are installing a new siren next that will be set off by Fillmore County Emergency systems instead of relying on our firemen to set off.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	MnDOT District 6 shares information regarding severe weather threats via its social media channels on X (https://x.com/mndotsoutheast) and a MnDOT Facebook group for southeast Minnesota (https://www.facebook.com/groups/MnDOTsoutheast). The decision is based on geography and its effect on traffic. Some personal preparedness messages may be shared from other trusted/verified providers. Additionally, MnDOT District has an email alert service that people can sign up for. These alerts are emailed or texted to people who choose to sign up. It covers winter driving alerts, emergency events that affect traffic for extended periods of time in all seasons. The link can be found at https://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/

#6 - EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS **Does your jurisdiction encourage residents to sign up for the county's emergency notification system and/or a local emergency alert system? If yes, how? If this not something that is currently done, how could it be done in the future?**	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County has in the past disseminated information regarding our Code Red system and will continue to encourage residents to "opt in" for important notifications. Fillmore County plans on using social media, county board meetings and local newspapers to increase awareness and usage.
City of Canton	We currently do not but would add a link to our website and make a post on Facebook.
City of Chatfield	Yes. We offer a sign-up link to a City of Rochester/Olmsted County Code Red Alert System offering county and local emergency notifications, on the city website, monthly newsletter, as well as on the local Public Access Channel (CCTV).
City of Fountain	Yes we encourage signing up for Code Red.
City of Harmony	We are currently working with Fillmore County on utilizing code red as an emergency alert option. For residents to "opt in" we could offer a sign-up link on our website or Facebook page. The City of Harmony currently utilizes Notify through our local broadband provider to send out phone calls or emails.
City of Lanesboro	Lanesboro encourages residents/business owners to enroll in the Code Red system.
City of Mabel	Currently, we do not offer this option. In the future, we could add a link to the city website or by adding this option displayed through our monthly newsletter.
City of Ostrander	The city notifies residents through water bills and social media
City of Peterson	This information can be added to the newsletter and new utility applications.
City of Preston	Yes, we encourage signing up for Code Red.
City of Rushford	We have encouraged signing up for Code Red through Facebook reminders. If the County puts out information, we share it.
City of Rushford Village	We currently do not but a link could be added to our website and included in the quarterly newsletter
City of Spring Valley	A link can be added to the city website.
City of Whalan	This has not been done, but a link could be added to the city website.
City of Wykoff	On our utility application there is a place for new residents to sign up for the emergency text notifications and it is also on our webpage. We have about a 70% participation rate.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#7 - BUILDING CODES **Has your jurisdiction adopted the Minnesota State Building Code? Please clearly answer yes or no and provide supporting detail. IF YES, please describe how it is enforced. IF NO, please describe if there are other building codes or permitting processes in place to reduce the risk to future development.**

Fillmore County	No, building code is managed by requiring the use of licensed contractors on Land Use Permit applications. State covers electrical inspections for the county. The Fillmore County Zoning Ordinance guides where development is allowed to reduce risks from future development.
City of Canton	No, building regulation is enforced by the City Zoning Ordinance.
City of Chatfield	Yes, the City of Chatfield has adopted the MN State Building code. We partner with the Olmsted County Planning Department for enforcement of the building code.
City of Fountain	No. Building regulations are enforced by city code.
City of Harmony	No. Building regulation are enforced by city code.
City of Lanesboro	Lanesboro does not enforce the state building code. Building regulations are defined and enforced by adopted city ordinance code.
City of Mabel	No. Building regulations are enforced by city code.
City of Ostrander	The City of Ostrander enforces Fillmore County zoning code, state electrical inspections and the use of licensed contractors.
City of Peterson	No. Building regulation are enforced by city code.
City of Preston	No. Building regulation are enforced by city code.
City of Rushford	Yes we follow the State Building Code, we contract with CMS out of Rochester to do plan reviews and conduct inspections. The City has our own Zoning, Subdivision and Land Use ordinances which are administered through City Hall. The building permit process is started at City Hall with review and then handed over to CMS for code review/inspections. We track each permit.
City of Rushford Village	No. Zoning regulations are enforced by city ordinance
City of Spring Valley	Yes, the City of Spring Valley works with Safebuilt for code enforcement.
City of Whalan	Currently NO, but it will be once our City Zoning Ordinance Updates are completed.
City of Wykoff	The city has adopted the MN Code Book 2023 for zoning and ordinances. At the current time we have not adopted the MN State Building code, but it is something that will have to be put on the agenda.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#8 - OTHER PLANS AND POLICIES **What other plans or policies does your jurisdiction have in place to help mitigate against the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards to future development? Please describe.**	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County's zoning ordinance addresses things like shorelands, floodplains, bluff lands, and soil erosion control. Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation works to identify areas of concern in regards to flooding. SWCD identifies projects to mitigate potential flooding in areas of concern. SWCD and Fillmore County are partners with the MN DNR, working together on projects. Fillmore County has a 5-year plan that incorporates road, bridge and culvert improvement projects.
City of Canton	We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.
City of Chatfield	The city's planning and zoning department enforces the MN State Building Code and the City Code zoning requirements for new development. We have a 20-year Comprehensive Plan that is designed to

	plan for future physical growth of the city and appropriate land uses. We have a 5-year Transportation Plan that identifies and schedules road, bridge, and culvert improvement projects to reduce over-the-road repetitive flooding. The city works with our 2 mobile home parks on emergency evacuation and sheltering of residents. The city also participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and has FEMA mapped high risk areas. The city enforces Chapter 105, Floodplain Management in the city code of ordinances.
City of Fountain	We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.
City of Harmony	We have a Planning & Zoning Department that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.
City of Lanesboro	The City of Lanesboro's land use ordinances include floodplain regulations that are routinely reviewed with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Land use code and application review includes approval consideration contingent upon floodplain management best practices as defined by FEMA and the DNR.
City of Mabel	The City of Mabel does have a zoning administrator to review building permits and enforce our Floodplain Ordinance. We also have a Wellhead Protection Plan to protect our drinking water.
City of Ostrander	We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements.
City of Peterson	The City of Peterson's land use ordinances include floodplain regulations that are routinely reviewed with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Land use code and application review includes approval consideration contingent upon floodplain management best practices as defined by FEMA and the DNR.
City of Preston	Enforcement of City code, the city participates in National Flood Ins program and DNR/FEMA approved flood plain management.
City of Rushford	We enforce floodplain management ordinance (DNR/FEMA), land use management through zoning, subdivision regulations, and we have bluff land protection zones within the City. We have a Well Head Protection Plan. Our city is rather land-locked with very little space for new building of either residential or commercial within our boundaries.
City of Rushford Village	The Planning & Zoning Board enforce the City Zoning Ordinances and Floodplain regulations with the help of the MN DNR. We have backup portable generators for the lift station and pump house
City of Spring Valley	The Planning & Zoning Department enforces the floodplain management ordinances.
City of Whalan	No one can build in flood zones, and our Zoning Ordinances are in the process of being updated now.
City of Wykoff	We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	MnDOT District 6: There are several goals and plans focused on improving resilience and we have also worked to advance research to determine ways to find and rank vulnerable assets. Lots more detail available if you would like specific information on any one area.

#9 - ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY What departmental staff or elected officials in your jurisdictional help to accomplish hazard mitigation in your community? Please describe.	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County has an Emergency Manager with shared duties as a Deputy Sheriff. The Fillmore County Sheriff is also the Assistant Emergency Manager. The County Highway Department has an Engineer that works with county highway staff to maintain and repair roads as needed. Fillmore County Public Health has a coordinator that assists with emergency planning and preparedness. Fillmore County EM staff work to support municipal EM response and training efforts.
City of Canton	Canton works with Fillmore County EM to address matters.
City of Chatfield	Our Ambulance Director is our designated Emergency Manager. Our Public Works Director and our City Engineer work to address road maintenance issues regarding flooding.
City of Fountain	John Hanson Public Works Director Emergency Management, Fountain Fire Dept. with weather spotting
City of Harmony	Bill Hanlon - Emergency Management Director, Public Works Department, City Engineer, and Fire Department for storm spotting.
City of Lanesboro	The City Administrator acts as the city's Emergency Manager and collaborates with other department heads (fire chief, police chief, public utility manager, public works) to prepare hazard mitigation plans and operationalize plans when necessary.
City of Mabel	The City Clerk, Public Works Director, Fire Chief, Mayor, EMS Director, Police, and city staff work together.
City of Ostrander	The City Clerk acts as a city's Emergency manager and collaborates with the other department heads, fire chief, EMT and council
City of Peterson	The Mayor and City Staff work together as Emergency Managers.
City of Preston	The Mayor and City Administrator act as Emergency Managers
City of Rushford	City Staff, Public Works, Police, Fire & Ambulance all work together, bringing recommendations to Council. City engineers are consulted as needed depending on the situation
City of Rushford Village	The Mayor, Council and City Staff all work together as Emergency Managers
City of Spring Valley	Emergency Management, Public Works and City Engineer.
City of Whalan	Our City Council, Mayor, and Planning & Zoning Commission Members all help.
City of Wykoff	Our full council is broken into committees that address all aspects of hazard mitigation. We also have great leadership and staff in our FireDept. that steps up in any situation. Our WWTP Operator is included in any and all decisions for hazard mitigation.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#10 – PARTNERSHIPS Are there any agencies, organizations, or businesses that your jurisdiction has worked with to address mitigation efforts in your community? Please describe.

Fillmore County	Fillmore County works with its townships and municipalities to identify needs and support them. Fillmore County also works with the MN DNR and MNDOT as projects present themselves. Fillmore County has assisted with FEMA as needed during and after disasters.
City of Canton	The city works with Fillmore County Emergency Management, is a member of MN WARN, and works with MPCA and MDH.
City of Chatfield	We work with Olmsted County to control our outdoor warning sirens. We have also worked with both Olmsted and Fillmore County Emergency Management for mitigation efforts. Additionally, we are in discussion with the MN DNR to look at stream bank restoration within the city, as the current area is prone to flooding.
City of Fountain	We work with the MPCA for flooding and we are a member MNWarn
City of Harmony	We are a member of MNWarn
City of Lanesboro	The city works with Fillmore County Emergency Management to coordinate emergency siren activation, the DNR to ensure floodplain regulations are enforced correctly. The city also stays informed of the school district's crisis management plan to provide assistance as needed.
City of Mabel	We are active members of MNWarn, MRWA, and MMUA. We have worked with SWCD to identify water retention areas. We have also worked with the DNR and FEMA for land acquisition grants for flood remediation, as well as MPCA and MDH for ensuring water quality standards.
City of Ostrander	Mutual aid with Spring Valley Fire Department and DNR to regulate floodplain ordinance
City of Peterson	The city works with Fillmore County Emergency Management, is a member of MN WARN, and works with MPCA and MDH.
City of Preston	We have worked with the MN DNR on property acquisition and river restoration, as well as with FEMA and MCPA.
City of Rushford	We are members of MN Warn, MMUA, MN Rural Water. We have worked with Fillmore County Soil/Water in the past on private well sealing. MN Dept of Health and MPCA provides assistance as needed. COE provides guidance on levee maintenance. DNR/FEMA have mapped/designated flood areas in the city, and in the past have provided considerable funding. DNR Floodplain ordinance in place/ NFIP mapping in place. We have mutual aid agreements in place for fire and ambulance services
City of Rushford Village	We work with the MN DNR to help regulate floodplain regulations, MRWA is used as a resource, Fillmore County Emergency Management during storm events, We have worked with FEMA in the past.
City of Spring Valley	The city has worked with FEMA and MN DNR to obtain grants to purchase flood damaged properties.
City of Whalan	We could possibly partner with the local church in town to use their basement as a temporary storm shelter until a new one could be built.
City of Wykoff	We have worked with FEMA in the past and also with the MPCA for flooding. We are a member of MNWarn.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	MnDOT District 6: We have worked with Watershed Districts and the Army Corps of Engineers, but mostly as a permittee looking to obtain

	permits. We have also had an initial meeting with MnDNR, MPCA, Corps, BWSR, UofM (SAFL and Climate Adaptation Partnership).

#11 - PROGRAMS IN PLACE **What sort of programs does your jurisdiction participate in to help raise awareness and reduce risk from natural hazards in your community?**	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County EM works to identify potential hazards before they occur and works with local municipalities in roles like Storm Spotters. Fillmore County partners with the National Weather Service to bring training to the region that is open to the public to help identify dangerous weather conditions. Fillmore County EM works with schools and nursing homes to establish and review their emergency action plans.
City of Canton	The city shares information with the public through our official website and Facebook page.
City of Chatfield	The city shares information with the public that we receive from Olmsted County Emergency Management and continues to address mitigation measures through our public works improvement projects.
City of Fountain	The city uses our Website, Facebook and our Emergency Notification system to update our residents and keep them informed.
City of Harmony	The city shares information through our official website, Facebook page, and City Notify system to ensure residents remain informed. Our local school conducts annual tornado drills as part of their safety preparedness efforts. The fire department encourages its members to complete weather spotter training provided by the National Weather Service. Additionally, siren testing is conducted on the first Wednesday of each month. The fire department also provides fire safety training specifically tailored for the Amish community.
City of Lanesboro	The city sends information annually to residents via social media/city website with reminders about severe weather hazards. We also include severe weather information as an enclosure with our utility bills in fall/spring. The fire department encourages its members to complete weather spotter training provided by the National Weather Service.
City of Mabel	The city utilizes the city website, monthly newsletters, Facebook, Mabel Fire for its notifications to residents.
City of Ostrander	The city shares information through our city website, newsletters in the water bill and Fire Department for weather spotting and Fillmore County Emergency Notifications
City of Peterson	The city uses our Website, Facebook, and our Emergency Notification system to update our residents and keep them informed.
City of Preston	The city utilizes the city website, utility newsletters as needed. Fire Department for storm spotting.
City of Rushford	The city conducts routine siren testing; participates in Tornado Awareness Drills; firemen are trained weather spotters; and public works provides daily weather precipitation information to the National Weather Service. Public Works conducts annual training on levee equipment, operations and safety. We provide updates and notes and share information on Facebook and the city website.

City of Rushford Village	Siren testing is regularly conducted in South Rushford.
City of Spring Valley	The city uses the city website, Facebook and newsletters to notify residents.
City of Whalan	Siren Testing takes place in April during Tornado Awareness, along with the 1st Wednesday of each month.
City of Wykoff	The city uses our Website, Facebook, and our Emergency Notification system to update our residents and keep them informed.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#12 - FUNDING & OTHER RESOURCES **What funding sources are available to help your jurisdiction to accomplish implementation of mitigation activities? Please describe. Include internal local government funding as well as external funding sources (grant or loan sources from local, state, or federal agencies).**	
Fillmore County	The County primarily uses its own budget to address mitigation projects. Local, State, and Federal dollars may be available to implement conservation work to limit natural resource issues like erosion.
City of Canton	The city will work with FEMA, DNR, MDH, MPCA for sources of grant funds. The city utilizes some department budgets but mostly looks for grant fund opportunities.
City of Chatfield	The city primarily uses its own budget to address mitigation projects, such as replacement of culverts. We have also worked closely with the county highway engineer on local flood mitigation projects for roads and the county zoning department when we updated our local floodplain ordinance. In 2016 and 2019, the city submitted damages to FEMA for flooding and high wind damages. The city has also worked with the SWCD to address water retention issues in the city. We have worked closely with our power companies to reduce long term power outages.
City of Fountain	FEMA and DNR
City of Harmony	The city primarily relies on its own budget to address mitigation projects.
City of Lanesboro	The city uses its department budgets to address mitigation projects. However, on occasion, we also apply for grants through the State of Minnesota or our local community foundation to receive supplemental funding for specific projects.
City of Mabel	The city primarily uses its general budget to address mitigation projects. However, we have used and would plan on applying for grants from FEMA and the DNR.
City of Ostrander	The city relies on its own budget and is always looking for grants to assist.
City of Peterson	The city primarily uses its own budget to address mitigation projects.
City of Preston	FEMA and DNR
City of Rushford	The city has received funding in the past from FEMA, DNR, COE, and Fillmore County. The city has created ongoing funding for levee maintenance and repair within our own budgeting process. Our Public Works budget also covers some mitigation efforts; utility funds budgets plan for system upgrades of water, sewer, electric systems. General fund budget covers zoning/building process; Capital Projects fund budget covers planning for longer term improvements and equipment upgrades.

City of Rushford Village	The city primarily uses its own budget to address mitigation projects. We have had assistance from FEMA.
City of Spring Valley	The city has used grants from FEMA and MN DNR to purchase properties.
City of Whalan	The city primarily uses its own budget to address mitigation projects, but we would definitely be interested in applying for Grants to assist with meeting our unmet needs.
City of Wykoff	We have had assistance from FEMA and MN DNR. City staff is always looking for grants to assist with funding for mitigation.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	MnDOT District 6: State and Federal Transportation Funds and Grants. We also utilize FEMA and FHWA disaster assistance funds, if eligible and needed.

#13 - LOCAL MITIGATION PROJECTS **Please describe what mitigation actions would help to reduce risk to your community from future natural hazard events. Please include mitigation activities that address local vulnerabilities that were identified in Question #2. Please be as specific as possible in your responses. The mitigation actions you identify will be used to develop your local mitigation action charts. If you have any mitigation projects you are aware that your jurisdiction will be seeking to apply for FEMA HMA Grant Program funding for, please make note of that.**	
Fillmore County	**Power Outages-** Work to identify critical infrastructure that needs backup generators and implement their usage. Identify shelters that would benefit from a backup generator and work with them to obtain them. **Flooding-** Identify areas in need of updates to mitigate water issues, for example, undersized culverts that could be replaced with larger ones. A new flood control structure will be installed in the City of Peterson in 2026 to avoid flood waters from the Root River to enter town. The Floodplain ordinance was amended in 2024. **Ice storms/Blizzards-** Utilize shelters as needed, procure rescue equipment capable of traversing deep snow for search and rescue of stranded motorists and other vulnerable subjects as needed. **Windstorms/Tornadoes-** Identify potential sites and build shelters as needed to protect from a wind event. **Drought-** During periods of severe drought, educate and promote water conservation measures to the public. **Extreme Cold-** Establish warming centers and promote their use for those that are vulnerable to extremely cold temperatures.
City of Canton	**Power Outages** - Installation of generator for our city wells to supply water to city. Installation of generators at fire hall to ensure operation of the building and necessary equipment in times of need. Installation of generator at town hall to serve as a safe place to gather.

	Drought - During periods of severe drought, enforce a water conservation plan and promote water conservation awareness measures to residents.
City of Chatfield	**Windstorms/Tornadoes** – Installation of a natural gas generator at our Fire Station would ensure operation of the building and necessary equipment in times of need. The building could then also serve as a backup or overflow for members of the community to have a safe place to reside. This is especially true for our community members that live in the mobile home park. **Flooding** – Work to address flood mitigation measures for our city lift station that is prone to flooding during high rain events as well as our two city parks that are vulnerable to flooding and park equipment has been damaged in the past. We also need to upsize several culverts to better handle high rain events. **Drought** – During periods of severe drought, enforce the city's water Conservation Plan and promote water conservation awareness measures to residents. **Severe Winter/Summer Storms** – Evaluate opportunity to build a storm shelter or tornado safe room for the mobile home park in the city. Also work with the Peoples Energy Coop as needed to address future conversion projects from overhead to underground to reduce power outages from a range of severe storm events. **Extreme Cold** – Work with Olmsted County Emergency Management to establish a plan for temporary warming facilities for those in the community who are more highly vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or winter storms that result in extended power outages (i.e., homeless, elderly). Continue to implement city policies that help to address risk reduction including enforcement of building codes, floodplain management ordinance. Continue to work with Olmsted County Emergency Management to share severe weather information with the public such as participating in the Severe Weather Awareness Week and SkyWarn Storm Spotter training. Continue to encourage all residents to sign up for the county's CodeRED emergency notification system.
City of Fountain	**Extreme Cold** – Establish a plan for temporary warming facilities for those in the community who are more highly vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or winter storms that result in extended power outages homeless, elderly). **Windstorms/Tornadoes** – Installation of a natural gas generator at our Community Hall would ensure that we have a safe place for our residents. This is especially true for our community members.
City of Harmony	**Windstorms/Tornadoes** - Purchase and Installation of a permanent diesel generator at our Community Center would ensure operation of the

	building and necessary equipment in times of need. This building also serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. Overhead electrical infrastructure is inspected and trees are trimmed as needed. **Drought-** During periods of severe drought, educate and promote water conservation measures to the public. **Flooding** - Our lift station pumps are inspected and serviced annually.
City of Lanesboro	**Power Outages -** The purchase and installation of additional backup generators for the emergency services building and city hall would ensure continuity of operations during power outages. The city can also invest in more underground power infrastructure to reduce the risk of power outages during storms. **Flooding -** Formulation of a plan to install temporary or permanent flood barriers along roadways and infrastructure susceptible to flooding. **Winter Storms -** Gradually replace vulnerable overhead electrical lines with more resilient underground lines. Continue to trim and remove dead branches that encroach on power lines. Continue public education efforts about weather preparedness. **Wind/Tornadoes -** Create and identify more designated tornado shelters in high-risk areas. Ensure that shelters are equipped with emergency supplies, including backup power for critical services.
City of Mabel	**Power Outages -** Reach out to the Mabel-Canton School to verify interest in backup power generation and options. Research and verify size of generators needed at the EMS building, and Daycare Center. Continue regular maintenance and conversions to underground supply lines. **Flooding -** Work with DNR and FEMA to access funds for land acquisition in order to relocate homes out of the flood prone areas. **Windstorms/Tornadoes -** Set up a tornado shelter for residents in the trailer park. Continue working with MMUA identifying potential risks and risk abatement options. **All Hazards -** Work with Fillmore County and local residents to establish the Code Red or similar notification system.
City of Ostrander	**Natural Hazards-** Purchase generator for emergency shelter to offer residents shelter in the event of power outage **Flooding**- not an issue **Drought-** enforce the city's water conservation plan

	Severe Winter /Summer Storms - Provide a storm shelter for residents, and work with MiEnergy to provide underground services **Extreme Cold-** Establish a plan for temporary warming facilities for residents in the community who are more highly vulnerable.
City of Peterson	**Flooding** - Lift station pumps are inspected and serviced annually. Culverts are inspected and cleaned annually. **Winter Storms -** Overhead electrical infrastructure is inspected and trees are trimmed as needed. **Wind/Tornadoes -** Overhead electrical infrastructure is inspected and trees are trimmed as needed.
City of Preston	**Windstorms/Tornadoes** - Upgrade sirens to battery back up **Flooding** - work with FEMA and the DNR to establish flood plain ordinance. **Flooding** - work with city engineer to design and implement stormwater infrastructure
City of Rushford	Fl**ooding**: Purchase of additional pumps or identify sources of pumps to remove water from interior of City back out to creek or river. Follow COE recommendations for sediment removal, and levee repairs. Develop better program to inform/inspect/control individual sump pumps. I**ce storms/wind storms/tornados:** Move more overhead electrical to underground. Continue with tree removal and replanting of appropriate materials. **For all hazards**: Formally identify community gathering places for emergency shelters and provide backup generator systems. Provide for a generator system for our emergency services building. (fire,police,ambulance) so they can communicate and coordinate with city staff, county and other emergency services. Look to federal, state or county to help provide warning information for citizens for all types of situations, Code Red information, etc. Small staff does not have time to create information but would gladly share on facebook or post links on our city website. (we have done this - but we could do more)
City of Rushford Village	**Power Outages-** The purchase and installation of backup generators for the city hall, maintenance building and lift station would ensure continuous operations during power outages. Installing a generator at the city hall would provide a safe place for residents to gather. **Flooding-**Make sure culverts are not obstructed. Work with MN DNR regarding bank soil erosion. Continue with road maintenance grading so water runs off roadways correctly **Windstorms/Ice Storms-**Continue with tree trimming

	Drought-Restrict water use in the water district. Unfortunately not much can be done to help our farming community **Extreme Cold-**Continue to contact residents we receive water meters alerts from. Unfortunately, not much can be done to help our farming community
City of Spring Valley	**Power Outages**-The city has generators installed at the Fire Hall, Community Center and Ambulance Facility. **Ice storms/Wind Storms/tornados**–Electrical lines are being buried throughout town. Emergency shelter is provided at the Ambulance Facility.
City of Whalan	**Windstorms/Tornadoes** – Installation of a natural gas generator at our Town Hall (and/or Storm Shelter if one is built) would ensure operation of the building and necessary equipment in times of need. The building could then also serve as a backup or overflow for members of the community to have a safe place to reside. This is especially true for our community members that are outside on the bike trail. **Severe Winter/Summer Storms** – Evaluate opportunity to build a storm shelter or tornado safe room for those without basements or out on the bike trail. Also work with MiEnergy as needed to address future conversion projects from overhead to underground to reduce power outages from a range of severe storm events. **Extreme Cold** – Work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to establish a plan for temporary warming facilities for those in the community who are more highly vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or winter storms that result in extended power outages (i.e., homeless, elderly). Continue to implement city policies that help to address risk reduction including enforcement of building codes and floodplain management ordinance. If the local church could be a stop gap for us, we could apply for grants to build a storm shelter that could also provide public bathrooms, which currently don't exist in our city.
City of Wykoff	**Windstorms/Tornadoes** – Installation of a natural gas generator at our Community Hall would ensure that we have a safe place for our residents. This is especially true for our community members that live in the mobile home park and the new development. **Flooding** – The city needs to upsize several culverts to better handle high rain events. We also need to continue to work on our INI protocol which was instituted 3 years ago.

	Drought – During periods of severe drought, enforce the city's water Conservation Plan and promote water conservation awareness measures to residents. **Severe Winter/Summer Storms** – Convert the lower level of the Community center into a storm shelter. MiEnergy is in the beginning planning stages of doing underground service through Wykoff which will assist in power outages in the future. **Extreme Cold** – Establish a plan for temporary warming facilities for those in the community who are more highly vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or winter storms that result in extended power outages (i.e., homeless, elderly). Work with our Emergency Management to share severe weather information with the public such as participating in the Severe Weather Awareness Week and SkyWarn Storm Spotter training. Continue to encourage all residents to sign up for the county's CodeRED emergency notification system and the city's emergency text notification.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#14 - GAPS OR DEFICIENCIES **Please describe any specific gaps or deficiencies that are a barrier to implementing local mitigation measures.**	
Fillmore County	Fillmore County has limited financial resources to budget for mitigation projects. Equipment and projects are prioritized.
City of Canton	We are a small city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects so we are always looking for funding such as grants or low interest loans.
City of Chatfield	Not all our residents are signed up for the emergency alert (Code Red) notification system. We are a small city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects.
City of Fountain	We are a small city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects so we are always looking for funding such as grants or low interest loans.
City of Harmony	We are a small city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects so we are always looking for funding such as grants or low interest loans.
City of Lanesboro	Equipment upgrades and mitigation plan implementation frequently have high costs associated with them. Budgetary constraints and limitations pose a challenge to achieving the most effective hazard mitigation strategies.
City of Mabel	The City of Mabel needs financial assistance for land acquisition to relocate residents within our community. Residential relocation seems to be the most effective method to mitigate flood damages that have and may occur in the future.

City of Ostrander	We are a small city with limited financial, and staff resources to address local mitigation projects. We are always looking for funding opportunities to help support such needs.
City of Peterson	We are a small city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects.
City of Preston	Budgetary constraints and limitations pose a challenge to achieving the most effective hazard mitigation strategies.
City of Rushford	We have been fortunate to receive significant funding in the past, but realize that is not going to be available forever nor for everyone. We tend to take a pro-active stance and plan for what we know we need to do and if some grants or funds are available to help - that is great. But if we need to do it, we will find a way. Long term financial planning for purchases projects or mitigation efforts is discussed regularly by public works/staff.
City of Rushford Village	We are a small/rural city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects.
City of Spring Valley	We have limited finances and staffing to address mitigation projects.
City of Whalan	We are an extremely small city with very limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects so we are always looking for funding such as grants and human resources with expertise to make it happen.
City of Wykoff	We are a small city with limited financial and staff resources to address local mitigation projects so we are always looking for funding such as grants or low interest loans.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	

#15 - SURVEY PARTICIPANTS **Please list the names & titles of all persons that contributed information to this survey. Participant information is important to ensure good jurisdictional participation, and each person's time will count towards the 25% in-kind match requirement for the HMP update.**	
Fillmore County	Jason Harmening, Fillmore County EM Director Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD Blake Lea, Fillmore County Land Use Director Ron Gregg, Fillmore County Engineer
City of Canton	Anne Koliha, City Clerk Jon Nordsving, Public Works Director
City of Chatfield	Brian Burkholder, Public Works Director (bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us) Rocky Burnett, Ambulance Director/Emergency Manager (rburnett@ci.chatfield.mn.us) Michele Peterson, City Administrator (mpeterson@ci.chatfield.mn.us)
City of Fountain	Mary A Tjepkes City Clerk/Treasurer, John Hanson Public Works Director
City of Harmony	Alissa Stelpflug, City Administrator Bill Hanlon, Emergency Management Director Kyle Scheevel, City Council Member Brian Michel, Utility Superintendent

City of Lanesboro	Mitchell Walbridge, City Administrator
City of Mabel	Robert Mierau, Public Works Director Karen Larson, City Clerk
City of Ostrander	City Clerk, Wendy Brincks Mayor Stephanie Start Lyn Massey-Mills, City Councilor Jimmie Dean Jr., City Councilor Dan Hellerud, City Councilor DJ Start, City Councilor Jason Rice, Fire Chief
City of Peterson	Chris Grindland, City Clerk & Public Works
City of Preston	Ryan Throckmorton City Administrator
City of Rushford	Kathy Zacher, City Clerk/Treas Roger Knutson Public Works Director Dave Lombard Public Works
City of Rushford Village	Mary Miner, Clerk Judy Graham, Treasurer Trenten Chiglo, Maintenance/Public Works
City of Spring Valley	Deb Zimmer, Clerk/Treasurer
City of Whalan	Teresa Grossell, City Clerk/Treasurer David Hallum, Mayor Kim Berekvam, City Councilor Thore Johnson, City Councilor Sheila Higbe, City Councilor
City of Wykoff	Rebecca Schmidt, City Administrator
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	Chad Hanson, MnDOT District 6, Emergency Management Coordinator

Appendix D – Plans & Programs in Place

Fillmore County

HMP Plans & Programs in Place Form

EMERGENCY PLANNING CAPABILITIES	*Yes/No*	*Comments*
Emergency Notification System (please specify, i.e., CodeRED, Smart911, Everbridge, etc)	Yes	CodeRED, IPAWs
Outdoor Warning Sirens (please note locations and # per jurisdiction)	Yes	Canton 1 Chatfield 6 Fountain 1 Harmony 3 Lanesboro 2 Peterson 1 Preston 4 Mabel 1 Rushford3 South Rushford 1 Spring Valley 3 Whalen 1 Wykoff 1
Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)	Yes	EOP is updated annually
Mass Care Sheltering Plan / List of Shelter Facilities	Yes	Addressed in EOP and in coordination with local jurisdictions
Tornado Safe Rooms / Storm Shelters (please list any existing specific locations)	No	Addressed in coordination with schools & local jurisdictions with local vulnerabilities
NWS Weather Ready Nation / StormReady Certification	No	
Coordination with Schools	Yes	Tornado Drills, other trainings
Coordination with Neighboring Jurisdictions	Yes	Annual regional planning and training; statewide AMEM conference
Coordination with Local and Regional Agencies involved in mitigation	Yes	SWCD, MN DNR, MnDOT, Rural and Municipal Electric Cooperatives, Watershed Districts
Coordination with organizations or agencies addressing disaster related issues and vulnerable populations, emergency preparedness, access and functional needs populations (List as applicable)	Yes	Public Health, American Red Cross, Salvation Army

Past storm hazard data and information	Yes	Damage information is kept on file from past storm events and disaster declarations
Other (please describe)		Public Health has preparedness plans in place

PLANNING & REGULATORY CAPABILITIES	*Yes/No*	*Comments*
Comprehensive/Land Use Plan	Yes	Fillmore County Land Use Office – 2006 Comp Plan
Capital Improvements Plan	No	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	Fillmore County EDA
Climate Adaptation Plan	No	
Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)	Yes	Fillmore County COOP Plan
Transportation Plan	No	
Stormwater Management Plan / Drainage Plan	No	
Burning Permits/Restrictions (i.e., identify if issued through Sheriff's Office or MN DNR)	Yes	Mn DNR
Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan	Yes	Fillmore Co SWCD – 2017 Root River 1W1P is used as the Local Water Management Plan
Watershed Plan (One Watershed, One Plan)	Yes	Fillmore Co SWCD - 2017 Root River 1W1P
Wellhead Protection Plan	Yes	Municipal level plans are done in coordination with MDH
Forest Management Plan	No	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	No	
Participation in MN DNR Firewise Program	No	
Database of Dry Hydrants/Well Access	Yes	Auditor Treasurer in cooperation with local municipalities.
Other (please describe)		

LOCAL POLICY / PROGRAM CAPABILITIES	*Yes/No*	*Comments*
Land Use, Planning, & Zoning Ordinance	Yes	Zoning ordinance amended 2-6-2024
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	Amended 2004

MN State Building Code Enforcement	Yes	Varying Municipalities opting in. Fillmore Co does not participate
Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Yes	Zoning Ordinance/DNR
Adoption of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	Land Use Office
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	Zoning ordinance section 610
Shoreland Ordinance	Yes	Zoning Ordinance 612
Minnesota Buffer Law / Soil Erosion Ordinance	Yes	Amended 1990 – enforced by SWCD
Home Buyouts for flood or erosion mitigation	Yes	Fillmore County EM has assisted communities within jurisdiction in the past
Other natural hazard specific ordinances (i.e., stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	Yes	Fillmore Co land Use oversees
Maintenance programs to reduce risk		Highway Dept. ROW maintenance and drainage systems
Other (please describe)		

ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES	*Yes/No*	*Comments*
Emergency Management Director	Yes	Fillmore CO EM
Sheriff/Police Department	Yes	Fillmore County Sheriff Chatfield PD Preston PD Rushford PD
Floodplain Management Administrator	Yes	Land Use Department
Chief Building Official	no	
Highway Engineer	Yes	Fillmore County Highway Dept
Mapping Specialist (GIS)	Yes	Schneider Geospatial inc. (Beacon)
Public Health Coordinator/Department	Yes	Fillmore County Public Health
Planning Commission	Yes	Land Use Department
Coordination with Soil and Water Conservation District	Yes	Fillmore County SWCD
Coordination with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	2025 HMP Update Planning Team of Stakeholders

Mutual Aid Agreements in place	Yes	Regional; MAA's also existing between local fire departments
Other (please describe)		

EDUCATION & OUTREACH CAPABILITIES	*Yes/No*	*Comments*
SKYWARN Program Training with NWS (annual training)	Yes	Held in coordination with the NWS
National Weather Service – Severe Weather Awareness Weeks	Yes	Emergency Management participates in coordination with HSEM and NWS each November and April
Promotion of NOAA Weather Radios	Yes	During NWS Severe Weather Weeks and Ongoing
Other (please describe)		

Appendix E – Past Mitigation Action Review Status Report

Fillmore County

Past Mitigation Action Review Status Report

Following is a report on the status of mitigation actions related to natural hazards included in the Fillmore County **2017** Hazard Mitigation Plan. This report covers the mitigation actions that were listed for implementation by Fillmore County and by city jurisdictions or partner agencies, as applicable. The status of mitigation actions is defined as the following:

Completed – The action was a defined activity or project completed since the last plan update.

Ongoing – The action is continually being implemented and moving forward. Ongoing mitigation actions will be reviewed and revised as necessary for inclusion in the plan update.

Deleted – The action is deemed as not relevant and is not considered for inclusion in the plan update.

#	Hazard	Mitigation Action	2025 Status	Comments
1	All Hazards	Increase and strengthen internet access for emergency communication.	Ongoing	Fillmore County works with area service providers to encourage development where needed
2	All Hazards	Purchase portable heating and cooling equipment.	Ongoing	Fillmore County Public Health has access to a small portable AC unit.
3	All Hazards	Purchase crowd control signage.	Completed	A-Frame signage available from both EM and Fillmore County Public Health.
4	All Hazards	Purchase new digital camera with GPS capabilities.	Complete	Advancements in technology and capabilities have brought cameras with this capability into everyday use cell phones.
5	Fire	Partner with local communities to purchase 800 MHz radios for all fire departments in the county.	Ongoing	Efforts have been made to disseminate resources to those in need.
6	All Hazards	Additional tower enhancements to ARMER system in some locations to reduce dead zones.	Ongoing	System maintained primarily by the State of Minnesota
7	Flood	Update/Reconstruct Lanesboro Dam in partnership with local and state entities.	Complete	Project completed in 2020
8	All Hazards	Purchase back-up generator for county emergency operations center.	Complete	As part of a Jail project, an EOC was added. The whole building is served by a backup generator. Generator installed at Fillmore County Office Building. Red outlets and server room on generator power.
9	All Hazards	Update and increase security for all county facilities.	Ongoing	Established Courthouse security, added video surveillance cameras in buildings.
10	All Hazards	Re-construct and update the sheriff 's office and jail.	Ongoing	New jail to be completed in 2025 with the Sheriff's Office renovation to be completed within 18 months

#	Hazard	Mitigation Action	2025 Status	Comments
11	Flood	Strategically place river gauges throughout county to monitor water levels.	Ongoing	Working with MN DNR and USGS to monitor and implement monitoring gauges that they have placed and installing additional ones as funding becomes available
12	Flood	Construct catch dams in the Willow Creek Watershed.	Ongoing	SWCD has been working with private landowners to install practices to help mitigate flood waters/heavy runoff and to keep soil in place. These practices include: cover crops, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, and continued maintenance on large dam structures.
13	Flood	Update or reconstruct dams near Mabel and Spring Valley.	Ongoing	SWCD has been completing outreach efforts with private landowners in the Mabel and Spring Valley areas for years to work towards getting flood mitigation structures on the landscape. To date, no structures have gone in as no landowners have been interested.
14	Land Subsidence	Purchase bulldozer.	Delete	Small dozer was purchased prior to 2017 by Fillmore County
15	All Hazards	Purchase trailer for transporting emergency response supplies and equipment.	Delete	Item determined to not be needed due to regional resources available.
16	All Hazards	Provide education, outreach and assistance to county residents regarding individual, family and workplace preparedness planning.	Ongoing	Promotion through events and social media is ongoing.
17	All Hazards	Work with community organizations and volunteers to establish family assistance center and sheltering plans.	Ongoing	There is a county sheltering plan in place. See EOP annexes.
18	All Hazards	Implement public information and warning strategies related to the internet, social media, print and emergency alert systems.	Ongoing	Fillmore County utilizes Code Red in conjunction with IPAWS. Code Red is capable of incorporating social media platforms. Working with National Weather Service to educate and empower low-technology adopters on warning and alert options.
19	All Hazards	Identify shelters and family reception centers and acquire site use agreements.	Ongoing	Two shelters previously identified. One in Spring Valley. One in Rushford. Efforts to identify additional facilities continue.

#	Hazard	Mitigation Action	2025 Status	Comments
20	All Hazards	Identify new mass dispensing sites and acquire site use agreements.	Ongoing	Formal Mass Dispensing Site agreements currently in place with two non-county owned locations. Two county owned locations are also established as MDS locations. Closed Points of Dispensing agreements in place with Chosen Valley Care Center, Good Shepherd Lutheran Servies, Gundersen Harmony Care Center, Gundersen Tweeten, Ostrander Care & Rehab, and Spring Valley Living. Currently working on at least one additional agreement.
21	All Hazards	Purchase weather station for dispatch and hand anemometers for law enforcement.	Delete	Fillmore County works with the NWS and storm spotters in the community and rely on their observations and reports.
22	All Hazards	Work with GIS to enhance mapping layers available to respond to emergencies. These layers will include child care settings, schools, at-risk populations, etc.	Ongoing	Fillmore County continues to work with service providers to develop and incorporate new technology to assist responses. Public Health is in the processing of conducting a new update for at-risk populations with support from GIS.
23	Flood	Implement flood infrastructure improvements through effective measures identified in the SWCD One Plan. Measure may include installing-grassed waterways, redesigned bridges, appropriately sized culverts and ditches, retention structures, storm water systems, tiling, upload storage, natural plantings, ponds, wetlands, diversion channels, buffers, no-till technologies and landslide prevention measures.	Ongoing	SWCD has been working with private landowners to implement many of these practices or to assist them in other avenues of completing these projects if we do not have financial assistance at that time. Please see the Root River One Watershed, One Plan 5-Year Assessment results at: https://www.fillmoreswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Root-River-Watershed-Communication-Page_Final.pdf & https://www.fillmoreswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Root-River-1W1P_Assessment-and-Evaluation_Final-Technical-Memo.pdf
24	Human - Related	Add additional security measures to all county public buildings.	Ongoing	Keypad entry installed at both Fillmore County Courthouse and Fillmore County Office Building. Public Health has fully secured entry.
25	Flood	Construct 2,000-acre feed storage upstream of the City Mabel.	Delete	SWCD reviewed this action and is unable to offer an explanation for the need.

#	Hazard	Mitigation Action	2025 Status	Comments
26	All Hazards	Purchase proper protective equipment for staff responding to all-hazards emergencies.	Ongoing	Fillmore County works with Public Health to identify needs for responding staff and provide equipment as needed. Public Health completed and ongoing as needed to manage cache.

Appendix F – Planning Team Meetings

Fillmore County HMP Planning Team Meeting #1
1/8/25 Meeting Summary & Documentation

Synopsis: On January 8, 2025 Fillmore County Emergency Management convened key county, city, and township representatives, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and other stakeholders to participate in the 1st Planning Team Meeting for the update of the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The meeting was held via Zoom webinar video conference and was facilitated by Stacey Stark and Bonnie Hundrieser of the U-Spatial@UMD project team.

The purpose of the meeting was to present on the update of the Fillmore County HMP update and gather stakeholder feedback on several key discussion items, including:

1) Prioritization of the natural hazards to be profiled in the plan,

2) Identification of local vulnerabilities (i.e., infrastructure and populations),

3) Ideas for local mitigation actions for implementation, and

4) Review of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding opportunities.

Stakeholder Invitations: Fillmore County Emergency Management invited all stakeholders included on the county's HMP Update Jurisdictional Contact List, which includes the key County Contacts, City Contacts, Township Contacts, Other Stakeholder Contacts, and Neighboring Jurisdiction Contacts identified to be invited to participate in the plan update process. Contacts were encouraged to engage additional staff or to send someone in their stead if they could not attend.

Presentation Overview: The Power Point presentation covered the following items:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Meeting Purpose & Agenda
- Overview of HMP Key Points
- Overview of Plan Content (Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, Vulnerability Analysis, Update of Hazard Prioritization)
- Overview of Mitigation Actions and FEMA Grants
- Overview of Mitigation Strategies for the development of mitigation actions
- Discussion of ideas for local mitigation ideas
- Overview of Next Steps following Planning Team Meeting #1

Materials: The following meeting summary includes documentation of the stakeholders that participated in the meeting, poll results, questions or comments provided during the meeting, and information on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program. A list of stakeholders invited to participate is also included. A copy of the meeting invitation and a handout of the Power Point presentation slides accompany this meeting summary.

To submit comments or questions regarding this meeting summary, please contact:
Jason Harmening, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director
jharmening@co.fillmore.mn.us

Meeting Participants

Following is a list of representatives that participated in Planning Team Meeting #1. These individuals will be considered as part the formal planning team recorded in Table 1. Hazard Mitigation (HMP) Team of the Fillmore County HMP Update.

	Name	Organization	Job Title
1	Jason Harmening	Fillmore County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director
2	Steve Oian	MiEnergy Cooperative	VP of Operations
3	John DeGeorge	Fillmore County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff
4	Matt Schultz	Lanesboro Public Schools	Superintendent
5	Mitchell Walbridge	City of Lanesboro	City Administrator
6	Ben Bernard	Rushford-Peterson schools	Superintendent
7	Rob Wagner	Lanesboro Fire Dept.	Chief
8	Jennifer Backer-Johnson	Public School; ISD 499	Superintendent
9	Mary Miner	City of Rushford Village	Clerk
10	Michele Peterson	City of Chatfield	City Administrator
11	Beth Carlson	City of Chatfield	City Clerk
12	Brian Burkholder	City of Chatfield	Public Works Director
13	Rocky Burnett	City of Chatfield	Ambulance Director/Emergency Manager
14	Cindy Tranby	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Emergency Manager
15	Bonnie Heidtke	Fillmore Township	Clerk
16	Ed Harris	Chatfield ISD 227	Superintendent
17	Nikki Wheeler	Fillmore SWCD	Water Management Coordinator
18	Allison Whalen	CEDA and Fillmore County	Community and Business Development Specialist
19	Scot Klavetter	Kingsland Public Schools	Superintendent / PK-4 Principal
20	Sheila Higbe	City of Whalan	City Council member
21	Fred Scheevel	York Township	Clerk
22	Nicole Lehman	MN DNR	Area Hydrologist
23	Mitch Lentz	Fillmore County	District 1 commissioner
24	Kathryn Frette	Fillmore County	Assessor
25	Roger Knutson	City of Rushford	Public Works Director
26	Adam Eide	City of Rushford	Chief of Police
27	Chad Rasmussen	City of Rushford	Fire Chief
28	Joey Busse	City of Rushford	Ambulance Director
29	Tony Chladek	City of Rushford	City Administrator
30	Kathy Zacher	City of Rushford	City Clerk/Treasurer
31	Tiffany Jacobson	City of Rushford	Deputy Clerk
32	Brenda Pohlman	Fillmore County Public Health	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
33	Jeff Weiss	MN Department of Natural Resources	Regional Clean Water Hydrologist
34	Anne Koliha	City of Canton	Clerk

35	Jon Nordsving	City of Canton	Public Works Director /Fire Dept.
36	Brandon Koliha	Harmony Township	Supervisor
37	David Hallum	City of Whalan	Mayor
38	Cody Koebke	Bloomfield Township	Supervisor
39	Chye Stecher	People's Energy Cooperative	System Engineer & Mapping Supervisor
40	MIKE Fox	Newburg Township	Supervisor
41	Amy Bramwell	Mower County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director
42	Jamie Goulson	People's Energy Cooperative	Plant Accountant
43	Robert Mierau	City of Mabel	Public Works
44	Ronald Gregg	Fillmore County	County Engineer
45	John Dols	City of Spring Valley	Emergency Management Director
46	Adam Wilder	City of Mabel	Mayor
47	FORREST HAYDEN	Chatfield Township	Clerk
48	Ryan Throckmorton	City of Preston	City Administrator
49	Rory Kramer	Fountain Township	Clerk
50	Ramon Hernandez	Preston Fire Department	Fire Chief
51	Luanne Storelee	Carrolton Township	Clerk
52	Bobbie Hillery	Fillmore County	Administrator
53	Jason Hovey	Dairyland Power Cooperative	Transmission Maintenance Area Supervisor
54	Larry Hindt	Fillmore County	Commissioner
55	Michael Peterson	HSEM	Regional Program Coordinator
56	Steve Geving	City of Mabel Fire Dept.	Chief
57	Blaise Sass	Preston Police Department	Chief of Police
58	Alissa Stelpflug	Harmony	Administrator/Clerk
59	Ryan Breckenridge	City of Wykoff	Mayor
60	Michelle Weidemann	Mabel-Canton Schools	Principal
61	John Hanson	City Of Fountain	Public Utilities Supervisor
62	Marc Prestby	Fillmore County	Commissioner
63	Becky Schmidt	City of Wykoff	City Administrator
64	Jane Baker	City of Wykoff	City Councilor
65	John Baker	City of Wykoff	City Maintenance Director
66	Richard Junge	Bristol Township	Supervisor
67	Angie Pederson	Good Samaritan Society Home Care	Business Office Coordinator

Discussion Polls

The presentation included several polling questions to generate discussion and gather specific feedback from participants that would be used to support public outreach, identify local vulnerabilities, and determine the updated prioritization of hazards for inclusion in the plan. Following are the polling questions and participant responses.

POLL #1 (Slide 9, Who Participates)

Question 1 - How can you expand participation by the county residents, including vulnerable populations, in the planning process?

Nicole Lehman	Not sure how to expand it Include Twp officers
Richard Junge	Bristol Township
Adam Wilder	Countywide mailings to get feedback from a wider range of people.
Sheila Higbe	Discussions/interviews in elder housing/ apartments in their public areas.
Bobbie Hillery	Going to the communities for their feedback such as small breakout meetings as the largest population is elderly and transportation is difficult
Bonnie Heidtke	In-person
Alissa Stelpflug	Invite managers from Harmon Place, Harmony Manor and Harmony apartment building
Ronald Gregg	Not sure
Blaise Sass	Not sure
Ben Bernard	Offered in different languages?
Jeff Weiss	Promoting the plan and why it is important, what it does, etc. Perhaps attending city council meetings, etc.
Steve Oian	SEMCAC in Rushford MN
Jason Hovey	Send out a survey to county residents.
Michele Peterson	Sharing information in various places, and different platforms.
Cody Koebke	Trying to reach out and set up meetings even if that means door to door to try to help the best possible.
Brenda Pohlman	Work with libraries, food shelves, long-term care facilities, connection with Amish community.

Question 2 - Is there someone (or an organization) missing from this planning team who you think should be involved with the Hazard Mitigation Plan Development?

Ronald Gregg	I think the list is complete
Sheila Higbe	Church groups might be a good way to identify vulnerable populations.
Cody Koebke	How about another school in the area - St. John's in Wykoff?
Bobbie Hillery	Kiwana, Lions Clubs, Community organizations
Brenda Pohlman	Long-term care facilities including nursing homes and assisted livings. Child care providers. Semcac. SE Area Agency on aging. Foodshelf providers. Local clinics and surrounding hospitals.
Nikki Wheeler	Maybe I just can't see them on the list, but SEMCAC and Maple Leaf Services
David Hallum	no
Adam Wilder	no
Nicole Lehman	no
Blaise Sass	No
Ben Bernard	None
Bonnie Heidtke	none that I can think of

Jason Hovey	Not that I know of.
Michele Peterson	Not that we can think of.
Alissa Stelpflug	Nursing Home, Clinic
Jamie Goulson	People's Energy Coop - Nick Woetzel - Dir of Eng & Op's
Richard Junge	Richard Junge

POLL #2, Slide 13 (Plan Content – Vulnerability Analysis)

Question 1 - Are there any factors in your community that may have increased the community's vulnerability? (please identify community)

Anne Koliha	Aging infrastructure	City of Canton
Mitchell Walbridge	Aging infrastructure, specifically water/sewer lines.	City of Lanesboro
Richard Junge	Amish	
Chye Stecher	As a utility, the more development/services that we provide power to, this leaves more possibility of failures. We take measures to avoid these issues, but some are inevitable with external factors.	
Rob Wagner	Campgrounds in flood zones.	Lanesboro
Cody Koebke	Certain farmers eliminating waterways in fields allowing water to flow faster as well as wash away soil causing ditches to fill and obstruct culverts.	Bloomfield Township, Fillmore county, MN
Bonnie Heidtke	Challenge to providing first responders in the health field	
Michele Peterson	Drought, Climate Change	Chatfield
Nicole Lehman	Increased rainfall frequency. Ensuring development is completed in areas that are not vulnerable to flooding or erosion concerns to steep slopes	
Mitch Lentz	Kinder Morgan Poet	Spring Valley kinder Morgan, Preston Poet
Brenda Pohlman	Lack of access to public transportation. Lack of medical, dental, and mental health services.	All county.
Ryan Throckmorton	New housing developments, Aging Wastewater Treatment Facility	City of Preston
John Hanson	none that i can think of	City of Fountain
FORREST HAYDEN	Recent flooding in June/July 2024. We are currently dealing with FEMA and they have asked if we are interested in mitigation	Chatfield Township
Sheila Higbe	unknown	Whalan

Question 2 - Are there specific areas of concern in your community that you would consider to be more highly vulnerable to damages or danger resulting from future natural hazard events? (please identify community)

Mitchell Walbridge	1. Difficulty keeping up with emergency equipment for fire department/law enforcement/EMS, and 2. Difficulty finding volunteers available for emergency response departments.	City of Lanesboro
Nicole Lehman	Blufflands, floodplains, steep slopes	
Rob Wagner	Campgrounds are situated in flood zones. some of the campgrounds have limited cellular service.	Lanesboro
Robert Mierau	Flooding	City of Mabel
Mitch Lentz	Ground water Contamination	Spring Valley kinder Morgan, Preston Poet
Alissa Stelpflug	Harmony Healthcare	Harmony
Sheila Higbe	I could see wells in the low lying areas of town being at higher risk of contamination with flooding	Whalan
Bonnie Heidtke	Loss of fire departments/ambulance services	
Blaise Sass	MN Veterans home	Preston
Ryan Throckmorton	Mobile home parks, flood areas	City of Preston
Brenda Pohlman	New Amish community growth who have less access to transportation for evacuation.	All county.
John Hanson	none that i can think of	City of Fountain
Nikki Wheeler	Residential areas within the city of Preston with large, aging, damaged, sick, dying trees in boulevards (city responsibility) that are not being managed ahead of large storms.	Preston
Rory Kramer	Roads and bridges/culverts in cases of heavy rainfalls	
Adam Wilder	Some of Mabel is in the floodplain so there are multiple buildings that would be at more of a risk.	Mabel
Cody Koebke	Some of our population in our township are elderly creating concern for safety during certain natural hazards.	Bloomfield Township, Fillmore County, MN
FORREST HAYDEN	Wondering if removing trees in the road right of way's for blow down or power line problems.	Chatfield Township
Chye Stecher	These areas would be in towns where there are more industrial, commercial, and dense residential services. These would include things like schools, post offices, hospital clinics, restaurants, etc	

POLL #3 (Slide 17) Fillmore County 2025 Update of Hazard Prioritization

Meeting participants were asked to provide feedback on what hazards they felt should be considered as low priority (not for inclusion in the plan), as well as moderate or high (profiled and addressed with mitigation actions).

13:39:52 From Cody Koebke to Hosts and panelists:
not profiled - Landslides, land subsidence, extreme heat

13:40:09 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
Can some of these items be bulked together?

Stacey Stark – We profile hazards individually, but when developing mitigation actions we do group some hazards together that would have duplicative mitigation actions (severe winter storms, severe summer storms).

13:40:11 From Michele Peterson to Everyone:
Drought is more frequent now, therefore we feel it should be considered (moderate), perhaps leave lightning out

13:40:15 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
Landslides, Drought, lightening,

13:40:23 From Nicole Lehman to Hosts and panelists:
I'd agree drought is more frequent

13:40:25 From Sheila Higbe to Everyone:
Landslides, land subsidence, dam levee failure LOW

13:40:27 From Rory Kramer to Hosts and panelists:
Lightning, Drought, Land subsidence

13:40:48 From Angie Pederson to Everyone:
landslides and dam/levee failure is low

13:41:18 From FORREST HAYDEN to Everyone:
I would agree with the 1017 list and also include lightning as a low priority

13:41:25 From Steve Oian to Everyone:
lightning, Land subsidence I feel are low

13:41:25 From Anne Koliha to Everyone:
wildfire would be low or not profiled

13:41:28 From Adam Wilder to Hosts and panelists:
lightning and landslides low priority

13:41:30 From Nicole Lehman to Hosts and panelists:
high – flooding

13:42:04 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
Land Subsidence (low)

13:42:05 From Jeff Weiss to Hosts and panelists:
I agree that droughts should be included as a priority. Maybe at a low or moderate level.

13:42:17 From Sheila Higbe to Everyone:
I feel like with drought being more prevalent we might see more risk of wildfire and lightning fire damage

13:43:06 From Mary Miner to Hosts and panelists:
I agree drought seems to be happening more often and should be considered, lightning, landslides, land subsidence can remain low

13:43:34 From Nicole Lehman to Hosts and panelists:
extreme heat is also increasing

13:43:47 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
Remove Wildfire and Lightning. I would keep land subsidence because it could include both landslide and sink holes relative to karst.

13:43:52 From Jason Hovey to Hosts and panelists:
Lightning would be low, land subsidence would be not profiled

13:44:03 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
Dam and Levee failure Low

13:44:18 From Nikki Wheeler to Everyone:
I agree with drought becoming more prevalent. With it becoming more prevalent, would bring higher concerns for wildfire, lightning fire risk. The rains we've been getting have had larger rainfall totals, combined with drought can bring more concern for large amounts of soil movement, maybe not a traditional landslide but around our many water courses.

13:45:18 From Nicole Lehman to Hosts and panelists:
agree with Nikki. Landslides can occur, don't forget 2008-2011 flooding

13:45:54 From Bobbie Hillery to Everyone:
Lanesboro has a very significant dam. When the last study was done by Lanesboro it noted the damage that could occur. May be a document to continue to include. Still probably low but is a priority

13:46:46 From Nikki Wheeler to Everyone:
Considering how some of the dams/levees responded in 2024 in our neighboring counties, it could serve us well in the future to ensure that ours are profiled and checked well.

13:46:49 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
I see Nikki (SWCD) comments about rain. Is heavy rainfall inside of windstorms?

13:46:53 From FORREST HAYDEN to Everyone:

Fillmore County has several bridges that are considered deficient. Can that be addressed in a mitigation plan?

Bonnie Hundrieser: Yes. Fillmore County will be providing further information on what critical infrastructure is considered to be at risk from natural hazards such as flooding, and will develop associated mitigation actions to address those concerns.

13:47:31 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
Flooding has been the main hazard over the past few cycles...

13:48:22 From Robert Mierau to Everyone:
City of Mabel, Flooding, Power Outages due to several factors on the list

13:49:13 From John Dols to Everyone:
Flooding and Windstorms should remain in the high category for the 2025 plan the rest could all be debated as to the severity.

13:49:52 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
Flooding, Windstorms/Tornadoes, Winter Storms, and items that cause long-term infrastructure shortages/outages.

13:49:56 From Sheila Higbe to Everyone:
Flooding, winter storms (unless people stay home) and wind storms high.

13:49:58 From Cody Koebke to Hosts and panelists:
flooding, widstorms, winter storms should all remain high priority

13:50:27 From Nicole Lehman to Hosts and panelists:
I would make drought low or moderate

13:51:00 From Jeff Weiss to Hosts and panelists:
Flooding, wind storms, winter storms hail suggested as high.

13:52:08 From Cody Koebke to Everyone:
hail could be put as moderate instead of high

13:53:20 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
Large Dam Structure: Lanesboro

13:53:32 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
Levy Structure: Rushford

13:54:07 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
Based upon previous risk and disaster experiences.

13:54:27 From Chye Stecher to Everyone:
From a electric utility standpoint, lightning, high winds/tornados, winter storms (freezing rain), and land erosion are top issues

14:03:52 From Nicole Lehman to Everyone:
Bob - Does the City of Mabel want to list some specific projects?

14:04:34 From Robert Mierau to Everyone:
Yes, possibly.

Additional discussion on development of mitigation actions and prioritization of hazards:

14:05:43 From Jeff Weiss to Hosts and panelists:
The DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Program ties into the FEMA program. The legislature provides funding to DNR to help with mitigation projects in conjunction with FEMA.

14:05:56 From Steve Oian to Everyone:
MiEnergy Cooperative would be very interested in the Grant funding to Bury Electric lines.

14:09:18 From Chye Stecher to Everyone:
People's Energy may be interested in this grant for burying lines as well

Bonnie Hundrieser: To Steve and Chye – Rural Electric Cooperatives are eligible to apply for future FEMA grant funding. I will follow up with you to get more specific information on the projects you would like to include in the plan.

14:11:24 From Jeff Weiss to Everyone:
Here is the DNR website for flood mitigation:
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/flood_damage/index.html

14:16:09 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
City of Spring Valley buried all their electric lines due to storm related power outages.

Stacey Stark to Mitch Lentz, Hosts and panelists: That is great to hear, Mitch!

14:21:11 From Sheila Higbe to Everyone:
Do the communities that have campgrounds have tornado shelters?

Bonnie Hundrieser: As part of the HMP update process, we will work to assess where there is a need for construction of storms shelters or tornado safe rooms. Areas such as schools, mobile home parks, and municipal campgrounds may apply depending on the needs of the community.

14:21:24 From Becky Schmidt to Hosts and panelists:
Wykoff will be looking into a tornado shelters.

14:22:00 From Robert Mierau to Everyone:
City of Mabel, Land acquisition for flood mitigation

14:22:24 From Nikki Wheeler to Everyone:
Flood mitigation projects in the Mabel area have been discussed for years, but as of yet, to the best of my knowledge, there has been a lack of cooperative landowners to get flood mitigation projects on the ground.

14:22:46 From Brenda Pohlman to Everyone:
There may be some long-term care facilities interested in expanding generator availability.

14:23:02 From Nicole Lehman to Everyone:
The DNR has being trying to encourage this as well. Let us know how we can help.

14:23:35 From Roger Knutson to Everyone:
It seems some of the categorization is subjective for events. Are there credible objective data sources that can help provide appropriate input for prioritization?

Stacey Stark: Great question. Some of the prioritization of hazards is somewhat subjective. It's based on how communities feel if hazard have changed since the last plan update, as well as what the county is ready to prioritize and fund. But in terms of what is really a risk to the county, we do look to the NCEI database and it gives us a very reputable database of events. We also have flood modeling tools. So in addition to subjective feedback, we will also look deep at resources for historical data. If we come up against any hazards that were determined to be of low priority that warrant a need to be profiled, we will do so.

14:25:46 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
With the flooding and heavy rains in relation to our city water treatment plants we really don't have the capacity, causing overflow gates to open and could create ground water contamination exposure especially with the karst topography and sink holes.

14:26:43 From Mitch Lentz to Hosts and panelists:
Our systems were designed years ago and need major updates and upgrades

Fillmore County 2025 Prioritization of Hazards

The chart below reflects the planning team's feedback of hazards on the prioritization of hazards for the Fillmore County 2025 HMP Update.

HAZARD	Fillmore County 2025
Flooding	High
Winter Storms	High
Windstorms	High
Tornadoes	High
Hail	Moderate
Lightning	Low
Extreme Cold	Moderate
Extreme Heat	Low*
Drought	Moderate
Wildfire	Low
Landslides	Low
Land Subsidence	Low*
Dam/Levee Failure	Low

***Land Subsidence – karst data will be reviewed for Fillmore County.**

***Extreme Heat will automatically be profiled in the plan, but does not need development of mitigation actions unless communities feel they are necessary.**

FEMA HMA Grant Funding:

As part of the planning team meeting, participants were informed that having a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in place is a requirement in order to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs. Examples of eligible projects were reviewed for participants to consider for potential inclusion in their local mitigation action charts, as applicable. It was noted that representatives from the county, local governments, and other stakeholder agencies/organizations must have documented participation in the planning process in order to formally adopt the plan and be eligible to apply for future FEMA HMA grants.

To learn more about FEMA's HMA grant programs, please review the following:
FEMA Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Effective July 30, 2024
At a glance info: See Table 4, Eligible Activities by Program (page 43)

FILLMORE COUNTY HMP JURISDICTIONAL CONTACT LIST

Following is a list of the stakeholders that received an invitation to participate in Planning Team Mtg. #1 and will receive the meeting summary.

To submit suggested additions to this contact list, please contact Fillmore County Emergency Management and provide the name of the jurisdiction, agency, or organization along with the person's full name, work title, and email address.

REPRESENTATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES			
Fillmore County Emergency Management	John DeGeorge	Sheriff/Deputy EM Director	jdegeorge@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Emergency Management	Jason Harmening	EM Director	jharmening@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Administration	Bobbie Hillery	County Administrator	bhillery@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Assessor's Office	Kathryn Frette	County Assessor	kfrette@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Highway Department	Ronald Gregg	County Engineer	rgregg@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Land Use Department	Blake Lea	Land Use Director / GIS	blea@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Zoning	Cristal Adkins	Zoning Administrator	cadkins@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Public Health	Jessica Erickson	Director of Nursing	jerickson@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Public Health	Brenda Pohlman	PHEP Coordinator	bpohlman@co.fillmore.mn.us
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Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Mitch Lentz	District 1 Commissioner	mlentz@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Randy Dahl	District 2 Commissioner	rdahl@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Larry Hindt	District 3 Commissioner	lhindt@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Duane Bakke	District 4 Commissioner	dbakke@co.fillmore.mn.us
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Marc Prestby	District 5 Commissioner	mprestby@co.fillmore.mn.us
CITY REPRESENTATIVES			
City of Canton	Anne Koliha	Clerk	clerk@cantonmn.com
City of Canton	Josh Nordsving	Mayor	jnordsving10@yahoo.com
City of Canton	Jon Nordsving	Public Works Director	publicworks@cantonmn.com
City of Canton	Kyle Ryan	Fire Chief	Kyleryan2002@gmail.com
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	Michelle Peterson	City Administrator	mpeterson@ci.chatfield.mn.us
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	John McBroom	Mayor	mayormcbroom@ci.chatfield.mn.us

City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	Beth Carlson	City Clerk	bcarlson@ci.chatfield.mn.us
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	Brian Burkholder	Public Works Director	bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us
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City of Fountain	John Hanson	Public Works Director	cityoffountain95@gmail.com
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City of Fountain	Jason Wright	Fire Chief	wrightjason77@gmail.com
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City of Peterson	Chirs Stenzel	Mayor	stenzel31@gmail.com
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City of Spring Valley	Tony Archer	Mayor	archertonyrn1898@gmail.com
City of Whalen	Teresa Grossell	Clerk	cityofwhalan@goacentek.net
City of Whalen	David Hallum	Mayor	david.r.hallum@gmail.com
City of Wykoff	Rebecca Schmidt	Clerk	cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov

City of Wykoff	Ryan Breckenridge	Mayor	rbreck@arvig.net
City of Wykoff	Cody Meyer	Emergency Manager/Fire	xcmeyer07@gmail.com
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LOCAL & REGIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN HAZARD MITIGATION			
MN HSEM	Mike Peterson	Region 1 Regional Program Coordinator	Michael.R.Peterson@state.mn.us
Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District	Riley Buley	District Administrator	riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org
Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District	Nikki Wheeler	Water Management Coordinator	nikki.wheeler@fillmoreswcd.org
Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)	Jessica Bronson	District Conservationist	jessica.bronson@mn.usda.gov
MnDOT District 6	Chad Hanson	Emergency Management Coordinator	chad.hanson@state.mn.us
DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division	Nicole Lehman	Area Hydrologist	nicole.lehman@state.mn.us

Forestville State Park (MN DNR)	Bob Storlie	Park Director	bob.storlie@state.mn.us
MN DNR Parks	Cindy Tranby	DNR Parks	cindy.tranby@state.mn.us
MN DNR Bike Trail	Louise Thompson	Director	Louise.thompson@state.mn.us
BUSINESSES, ACADEMIA, AND OTHER PRIVATE ORGS.			
MiEnergy	Steve Oian	VP Operations	soian@mienergy.coop
Dairyland Power	Amy Carstens	Manager	amy.carstens@dairylandpower.com
Dairyland Power	Jason Hovey	Area Supervisor	jason.hovey@dairylandpower.com
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Lanesboro Public Schools	Matt Schultz	Superintendent	mattschultz@lanesboroschools.com
Mabel-Canton Public Schools	Gary Kuphal	Superintendent	gkuphal@mabelcanton.org
Rushford Peterson Public Schools	Ben Bernard	Superintendent	benbernard@r-pschools.com
Leroy-Ostrander Public Schools	Jennifer Backer-Johnson	Superintendent	jbjohnson@leroy.k12.mn.us
NONPROFIT ORGS/COMMUNITY-BASED ORGS THAT WORK WITH UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AND SOCIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS			
American Red Cross	Eli Szydlo	District Program Manager (SE)	eli.szydlo@redcross.org
Salvation Army Northern Division (MN/ND)	Major Michele Heaver	Regional Contact	michele.heaver@usc.salvationarmy.org
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	Tim Penny	President	timp@smifoundation.org
NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS			
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Mower County Emergency Management	Amy Bramwell	Emergency Managment Director	amyl@co.mower.mn.us
Olmsted County Emergency Management	Jonathan Jacobson	Emergency Managment Director	jacobson.jonathan@co.olmsted.mn.us
Winona County Emergency Management	Ben Klinger	Emergency Managment Director	bklinger@co.winona.mn.us
Winneshiek County Emergency Management (IA)	Sean Snyder	Emergency Managment Director	ssnyder@co.winneshiek.ia.us
Howard County Emergency Management (IA)	Brody Malone	Emergency Managment Director	bmalone@howardcounty.iowa.gov

From: Harmening, Jason

To: DeGeorge, John; Harmening, Jason; Hillery, Bobbie; Frette, Kathryn; Gregg, Ronald; Lea, Blake; Adkins, Cristal; Erickson, Jessica; Pohlman, Brenda; chris.hahn@cedausa.com; Lentz, Mitchel; Dahl, Randy; Hindt, Larry; Bakke, Duane; Prestby, Marc; clerk@cantonmn.com; jnordsving10@yahoo.com; publicworks@cantonmn.com; Kyleryan2002@gmail.com; mpeterson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; mayormcbroom@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bcarlson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us; rburnett@ci.chatfield.mn.us; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; tammy.danielson@good-sam.com; cityoffountain95@gmail.com; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; wrightjason77@gmail.com; cityoffice@harmonymn.gov; stdonney2002@yahoo.com; mwalbridge@lanesboro-mn.gov; jresseman@lanesboro-mn.gov; rjw3@eganco.com; bsass@prestonmn.gov; karen.larson@cityofmabel.com; awilder@mabelcanton.org; ggev27@gmail.com; publicworks@cityofmabel.com; cityclerk@cityofostrander.com; pamelamkunert@gmail.com; jrice6702@gmail.com; petersoncity@gmail.com; stenzel31@gmail.com; rthrockmorton@prestonmn.gov; allison.whalen@cedausa.com; reicks@gmail.com; ramonh@harmony1.com; bsass@prestonmn.gov; citykaz@goacentek.net; terrilbenson66@gmail.com; publicworks@acegroup.cc; 1lukaslee@gmail.com; crv@acegroup.cc; crv@acegroup.cc; debzimmer@springvalley-mn.com; archertonyrn1898@gmail.com; cityofwhalan@goacentek.net; david.r.hallum@gmail.com; cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov; rbreck@arvig.net; xcmeyer07@gmail.com; amh.371@acegroup.cc; brown@acegroup.cc; dahlhous@acegroup.cc; bloomfieldclerk@gmail.com; eabiel@outlook.com; fgarness@outlook.com; ldmarzolf@gmail.com; mvf4@acegroup.cc; chatfieldtownship@gmail.com; heidb75@gmail.com; lwinter_287@hotmail.com; rory.kramer76@gmail.com; bramkoliha@gmail.com; holt.fillmore@gmail.com; dwaldbillig@hotmail.com; phicks123@yahoo.com; brendabergan@r-pschools.com; pilotmoundclerk@gmail.com; prebletownship@gmail.com; pmfms62@gmail.com; clerkspvlytnsp@gmail.com; hockema.marianne@gmail.com; fred.4sch@gmail.com; Michael.R.Peterson@state.mn.us; riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org; nikki.wheeler@fillmoreswcd.org; jessica.bronson@mn.usda.gov; nicole.lehman@state.mn.us; bob.storlie@state.mn.us; cindy.tranby@state.mn.us; Louise.thompson@state.mn.us; soian@mienergy.coop; amy.carstens@dairylandpower.com; ja.hoffman@smmpa.org; mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop; eharris@chatfieldschools.com; heath.olstad@isd2198.k12.mn.us; klavetter.scott@kingsland2137.org; mattschultz@lanesboroschools.com; gkuphal@mabelcanton.org; benbernard@r-pschools.com; jbjohnson@leroy.k12.mn.us; eli.szydlo@redcross.org; michele.heaver@usc.salvationarmy.org; timp@smifoundation.org; mark.olson@co.houston.mn.us; amyl@co.mower.mn.us; jacobson.jonathan@co.olmsted.mn.us; bklinger@co.winona.mn.us; ssnyder@co.winneshiek.ia.us; bmalone@howardcounty.iowa.gov; news@fillmorecountyjournal.com

Cc: Bonnie K Hundrieser; Stacey Stark

Subject: 2025 Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 1:29:52 PM

Attachments: image001.png

FILLMORE COUNTY

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE – MEETING INVITATION

Greetings,

Your presence is requested at a Planning Team Meeting for the update of the **Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan.** You are requested to participate in this meeting because you have a position of administrative or departmental responsibility within the county, a municipal government, or are a key stakeholder related to the planning process. Emergency Managers from neighboring jurisdictions are also encouraged to attend so we may strengthen our shared mitigation efforts.

We will be holding the meeting virtually using Zoom conferencing:

Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025
Time: 1:00-2:30 PM
RSVP: https://umn-private.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JfdU29PwSXei11NtfF_YOQ

(CTRL Click to follow link) When you register, you will be placed on an RSVP list and will be sent an email confirmation. If you are not able to attend, please seek to send another representative in your stead.

About the Hazard Mitigation Plan

In order to maintain eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grant Program funding, the county's hazard mitigation plan must be updated every 5 years. Our last plan is due for an update and our planning is currently underway. The plan addresses the natural hazards that face Fillmore County and will result in the identification of mitigation actions that will help to reduce or eliminate the impact of future hazard events.

Meeting Information

This meeting will be facilitated by personnel from U-Spatial at the University of MN Duluth who are working closely with us on this project. The purpose of this meeting is to present on the update of the Fillmore County HMP update and gather stakeholder feedback on several key discussion items, including:

1) Prioritization of the natural hazards to be profiled in the plan,
2) Identification of local vulnerabilities (i.e., infrastructure and populations),
3) Ideas for local mitigation actions for implementation, and
4) Review of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding opportunities.

About FEMA HMA Grant Funding:

To learn more about FEMA's HMA grant programs, please review the following:
FEMA Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide, Effective July 30, 2024
At a glance info: See Table 4, Eligible Activities by Program (page 43)

Please note that representatives from the county, local governments, and other stakeholder agencies/organizations **must** have documented participation in the planning process in order to formally adopt the plan and be eligible to apply for future FEMA HMA grants.

We look forward to you joining us for this important meeting.

Thank you,

Deputy Jason Harmening
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
Emergency Management
Cell 507.676.8603
Office 507.765.3874
Fax 507.765.2703

FILLMORE COUNTY SHERIFF

Fillmore County
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2025
Planning Team Meeting #1

JANUARY 8, 2025

U-SPATIAL
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

Welcome & Introductions

U-Spatial@UMD Project Leads

Stacey Stark
Project Manager
U-Spatial@UMD

Bonnie Hundrieser
HM Planning Specialist
Hundrieser Consulting LLC

Fillmore County Project Lead

- Jason Harmening, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director

Please type your name and representation in the CHAT – so others know who is here

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Meeting Participation

To make a comment or ask a question, please use the chat or raise your hand to speak.

PLEASE REMAIN MUTED AND VIDEO OFF SO EVERYONE CAN HAVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE.

USE CHAT:

- To send a message to everyone
- To send a message to individuals or the presenters
- To send a message to host to ask for help or ask a question that isn't for the whole group. The host is Stacey Stark.

ASK TO SPEAK:

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Meeting Purpose & Agenda

The purpose of this meeting is to formally convene the Fillmore County HMP Planning Team for a presentation on the plan update and to discuss key items required for the plan update.

Agenda

- Overview of HMP Key Points
- Review of Past Plan Hazard Risk Priorities, Hazard Profiles, and Current Hazard Prioritization
- Overview of Mitigation Strategies
- Overview of FEMA HMA grant program
- Discuss local mitigation ideas
- Overview of Next Steps

PRESENTER : STACEY STARK

Overview of HMP Key Points

FILLMORE COUNTY 2025 HMP UPDATE

PRESENTER : BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Plan Requirement

The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000).

- The development of a local government plan is required to maintain eligibility for FEMA HMA grant programs.
- Plans must be updated every 5 years.
- Must address all jurisdictions and engage key stakeholders + the public
- Must be approved by FEMA for meeting all federal requirements.

Fillmore County HMP Update 2025

- Last plan was adopted in 2017.
- The updated plan will cover a 5-year window for implementation and grant program eligibility (**2026-2031**)
- Participating jurisdictions must have documented engagement in the planning process and adopt the final plan.

PRESENTER : BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Plan Purpose

The purpose of the HMP is to:

- **Conduct risk assessment** (history, future probability, impacts of natural hazards)
- **Conduct vulnerability assessment** (at-risk critical infrastructure and populations)
- **Conduct capabilities assessment** (plans, programs, policies, partnerships, funding, etc in place or that are lacking)
- **Develop plan of action** (strategies and mitigation actions for implementation).

Who the Plan Covers

This is a **multi-jurisdictional plan** that covers Fillmore County, including all cities and townships within the county.

The plan also takes into consideration the needs and concerns of other stakeholders such as schools, watershed districts, and agencies or organizations involved in mitigation or services to vulnerable populations within the county.

Who Participates

Key Stakeholders

Local government as well as related non-governmental agencies & organizations must participate.

- 2 planning team meetings
- Public outreach
- Provision of local information (LMS forms, other data)
- Mitigation Action Charts
- Final plan review

The Public

The public must have an opportunity to learn about and provide input to the plan update.

- Use of news releases, social media, local bulletin boards, and public meetings or events.
- Must document local-level concerns and mitigation ideas
- Consider how to engage with underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

POLL #1

Overview of Plan Content

FILLMORE COUNTY 2025 HMP UPDATE

Plan Content
Hazard Identification

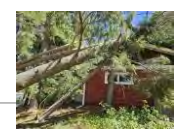
- The HMP addresses the **natural hazards** that pose risk to the county and its jurisdictions.
- Manmade hazards are not required to be addressed (per the DMA 2000).
- Hazards that are deemed to be of low risk may be omitted from the plan.
- Hazard risk may differ in cities and the county overall.

Flooding	Hail	Drought
Dam/Levee Failure	Lightning	Extreme Heat
Wildfire	Winter Storms	Extreme Cold
Windstorms	Landslides	Earthquakes
Tornadoes	Sinkholes & Karst	Coastal Erosion

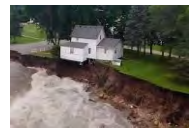
Natural hazard categories as per the State Hazard Mitigation Plan

Plan Content
Risk Assessment

- History of events
- Probability of occurrence
- Severity
- Climate Change
- Identify if and how risk priorities have changed since the last plan. (Increased / Decreased)



Plan Content
Vulnerability Analysis



- Inventory of critical infrastructure.
- Identify specific, local-level impacts and vulnerabilities.
- Includes local-level capabilities assessment that supports mitigation or identifies gaps
- Identify any factors (i.e., new development) that may increase the community's vulnerability.
- Review social vulnerability factors.

POLL #2

Timeframe for development & Plan Format

Timeframe:

The planning process generally occurs over the course of 14-18 months from start to finish.

- The Fillmore County Plan will be completed in **2025**.

Format:

- PDF document (paper version)
- Interactive website companion
- Developed and hosted by U-Spatial at UMD

Example HMP website

Hazard Prioritization

REVIEW OF THE HAZARD RISK PRIORITIES FOR FILLMORE COUNTY

Fillmore County Past Prioritization of Hazards

This is at a county level

HAZARD	Fillmore 2017
Flooding	High
Winter Storms	High
Windstorms	High
Tornadoes	Moderate
Hail	High
Lightning	High
Extreme Cold	Moderate
Extreme Heat	Moderate
Drought	not profiled
Wildfire	Moderate
Landslides	Low
Land Subsidence	not profiled
Dam/Levee Failure	Low

Fillmore County 2025 Update of Hazard Prioritization

Considerations:

- Increase/Decrease of events
- Local vulnerabilities (impacts)
- New development/population growth

HAZARD	Fillmore 2025
Flooding	
Winter Storms	
Windstorms	
Tornadoes	
Hail	
Lightning	
Extreme Cold	
Extreme Heat	
Drought	
Wildfire	
Landslides	
Land Subsidence	
Dam/Levee Failure	

POLL #3

Hazard Prioritization Poll results and discussion

Do any of these countywide hazards NOT apply in a city?

Comments or Questions?

PRESENTER : STACEY STARK

Overview of Mitigation Actions & FEMA grants

DEVELOPMENT OF MITIGATION ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Mitigation Action Charts

MACs reflect each jurisdiction's plan of action to reduce the impacts of future natural hazard events. They are based on the information gathered from each community during the planning process.

- **Must** address hazards of moderate to high priority.
- **Must** address identified local vulnerabilities.
- **Must** identify priority, status, timeframe, responsibility, how incorporation/implementation will occur, and possible funding.

★ Eligible FEMA HMA grant activities **must** be identified in the risk assessment and plan of action.

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

CITY OF BALATON — **Mitigation Action Chart**

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	Extreme Cold	Education & Awareness Programs	Conduct outreach to property owners on how to avoid freezing pipes during periods of extreme cold.	Existing High 2025-2030	City Admin / City EM	We do this as part of our outreach during periods of extreme cold. We remind homeowners to run a stream of hot water to avoid frozen pipes during periods of extreme cold.	City Funding
6	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Obtain a portable generator for our City Hall and Community Center that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage.	New High 2025-2030	City EM / City Public Works	The city will work to purchase a generator as funding is available. If necessary, we will seek possible outside grant funding.	City Funding, FEMA 5% Initiative Grant Funding
7	Severe Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Work with the local mobile home park owner to construct a storm shelter or tornado safe room.	New High 2025-2030	City EM, Public Works	The city will work with our local mobile home park operator to evaluate possible shelter solutions, or to establish an alternate facility location for residents to take shelter. The city would work with Lyon County Emergency Management to seek potential FEMA grant funding for a tornado safe room.	City Funding, FEMA BRIC grant funding
8	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish and enforce watering use restrictions when in periods of severe drought and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2025-2030	City Admin	The city will enforce emergency water use restrictions as per direction from the MN DNR. The city will also do outreach to help make residents aware of limitations on non-essential water use. We recently developed a new lawn irrigation ordinance.	City Funding
9	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Implement new storm sewer upgrades as construction projects and purchase additional pumps in the event of flooding.	Existing Moderate 2025-2030	City Public Works	Our public works staff monitors and addresses any stormwater infrastructure upgrades and equipment as needed..	City Funding

FEMA HMA Grant Funding

- All applicants **must** be covered by an approved HMP and have formally adopted the plan.
- Projects **must** be addressed in the risk assessment and be identified in the plan of action.
- Several different grant programs
- State Hazard Mitigation Officer is the main POC for questions

Example eligible grant activities:

- Property Acquisition
- Tornado Safe Rooms
- Burying Powerlines
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Soil Stabilization
- Minor Localized Flood Reduction
- Green Infrastructure
- "5% Initiative" (i.e., warning systems, generators, public awareness/education campaigns)

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

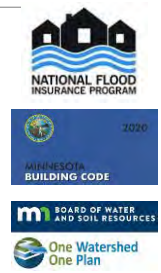
Overview of Mitigation Strategies

THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES ARE RECOMMENDED GUIDANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL MITIGATION ACTIONS

LOCAL PLANNING & REGULATIONS

These actions include policies or codes that influence the way land is developed and structures are built, and also incorporate mitigation into other plans.

- Limit or restrict development in floodplain areas
- Adopt and enforce building codes
- Improve stormwater management planning
- Incorporate mitigation into comp plans
- Enforce watering / burning restrictions during periods of drought



STRUCTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

These actions protect structures and infrastructure by changing them or removing them from danger.

- Construction of tornado safe rooms.
- Burying powerlines
- Property acquisition for properties at risk to repetitive flooding or failure to landslides
- Infrastructure retrofit (upsizing culverts, other road & bridge projects)
- Protection of vulnerable critical infrastructure such as lift stations and Fire Halls

NATURAL SYSTEMS PROTECTION

These actions use a natural systems approach to minimize damage and losses from natural hazard events.

- Tree management near roads & powerlines
- Floodplain and stream restoration
- Soil stabilization on at-risk slopes
- Wildfire fuels reduction & defensible space
- Living snow fences to reduce drifting
- Rain gardens to slow impacts of rain events

EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAMS

These actions inform and educate the community to raise awareness of hazards and ways to mitigate risk.

- Promoting sign up for CodeRED etc.
- Sharing information on severe weather awareness
- Promoting personal preparedness
- Tornado season education
- Outreach to vulnerable populations
- Wildfire safety (creation of defensible space, burning restrictions)

CodeRED®

MITIGATION PREPAREDNESS & &RESPONSE SUPPORT

These actions are typically not considered mitigation, but support reduction of the effects of damaging natural hazard events.

- Flood fight plans and equipment
- Installing generator backup power
- Development of EOPs
- Shelter planning and training
- Working with facilities that care for vulnerable populations (i.e., schools, nursing homes)
- Installation of outdoor warning sirens.
- Joining MnWARN for utility disaster mutual aid

Comments or Questions?

Do you have any ideas for specific mitigation activities for implementation?

Following Planning Team Meeting #1

COMPLETION OF LOCAL MITIGATION SURVEY FORMS

Representatives from Fillmore County and each city jurisdiction will participate in filling out Local Mitigation Survey forms. These forms include:

- Local hazard identification & risk prioritization.
- Local vulnerabilities (critical infrastructure, populations or assets)
- Local-level capabilities (programs, polices, staff, funding)
- Review past mitigation actions/identify new mitigation projects.

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Questions?

What questions do you have for U-Spatial@UMD about development of the HMP or next steps?

PRESENTER : STACEY STARK

Contact Information

Stacey Stark, MS, GISP
U-Spatial@UMD
slstark@d.umn.edu
218-726-7438

Bonnie Hundrieser, HM Planner
Hundrieser Consulting LLC
hundrieserconsulting@outlook.com
218-343-3468

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HUNDRIESER CONSULTING LLC

PRESENTER : STACEY STARK

Fillmore County HMP Planning Team Meeting #2
9/22/25 Meeting Summary & Documentation

Summary: On September 22, 2025, Fillmore County Emergency Management convened key county, city, and township representatives, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and other stakeholders to participate in the 2nd and final Planning Team Meeting for the update of the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The purpose of the meeting was to formally convene the Fillmore County HMP Planning Team for a presentation on the draft plan and discussion of key items prior to public review and submission of the plan to HSEM and FEMA. The meeting was held via Zoom webinar video conference and was facilitated by Stacey Stark and Bonnie Hundrieser of the U-Spatial@UMD project team.

Stakeholder Invitations: Fillmore County Emergency Management invited all stakeholders included on the county's HMP Update Jurisdictional Contact List (JCL), which includes the key County Contacts, City Contacts, Township Contacts, Other Stakeholder Contacts, and Neighboring Jurisdiction Contacts identified to be invited to participate in the plan update process. Contacts were encouraged to engage additional staff or to send someone in their stead if they could not attend. A copy of the county's Jurisdictional Contact List is included with this meeting summary.

Meeting Participants: A total of **36** people attended the meeting. Representation included elected officials and departmental staff from Fillmore County and the cities of Chatfield, Harmony, Lanesboro, Mabel, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, Rushford Village, Spring Valley, and Whalan. The cities of Canton, Fountain, Ostrander, and Wykoff were not available to participate and were not in attendance. Other stakeholders, including neighboring jurisdictions, participated in the meeting. A participant list is provided below:

1 Jason Harmening, Fillmore County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Director
2 John DeGeorge, Fillmore County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff
3 Bobbie Hillery, Fillmore County, County Administrator
4 Mitch Lentz, Fillmore County, County Commissioner
5 Larry Hindt, Fillmore County, Commissioner
6 Allison Whalen, Fillmore County EDA, Community and Business Development Specialist
7 Blake Lea, Fillmore County, Land Use Director
8 Ryan Rasmusson, Fillmore County, County Assessor
9 Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD, District Administrator
10 Nikki Wheeler, Fillmore SWCD, Water Management Coordinator
11 Michele Peterson, City of Chatfield, City Administrator
12 Alissa Stelpflug, City of Harmony, Administrator/City Clerk
13 Mitchell Walbridge, City of Lanesboro, City Administrator
14 Robert Wagner, Lanesboro Fire Dept., Chief
15 Karen Larson, City of Mabel, City Clerk
16 Robert Mierau, City of Mabel, Public Works Director
17 Chris Grindland, City of Peterson, Clerk

18 Ryan Throckmorton, City of Preston, City Administrator
19 Roger Knutson, City of Rushford, Public Works
20 Tony Chladek, City of Rushford, City Administrator
21 Mary Miner, City of Rushford Village, Clerk
22 Darrin Dessner, City of Rushford Village, Maintenance Supervisor
23 Adam G. Eide, Rushford Police Department, Chief of Police
24 John Dols, City of Spring Valley, Emergency Management Director
25 David Hallum, City of Whalan, Mayor
26 Sheila Higbe, City of Whalan, Council Member
27 Luanne Storelee, Carrolton Township, Clerk
28 Carol Thompson, Preble Township, Clerk
29 Fred Scheevel, York Township, Clerk
30 Jennifer Backer-Johnson, ISD 499, LeRoy-Ostrander, Superintendent
31 Heath Olstad, Fillmore Central Schools, Superintendent / 7-12 Principal
32 Edward Harris, Chatfield Public Schools, Superintendent
33 Cindy Tranby, Minnesota DNR, Emergency Manager
34 Steve Oian, MiEnergy Cooperative, VP of Operations
35 Kong Douangdy, MNDOT, Transportation Operations Supervisor 2
36 Mark Olson, Houston County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Director

Presentation Overview: The PowerPoint presentation covered the following items about the process and content of the plan update. A PDF of the presentation slides is included with this meeting summary.

- Meeting Purpose and Agenda
- About the Project Team
- Overview of Plan Update
- Who the Plan Covers
- Who Needs to Participate
- Overview of the Structure of the HMP (Website and PDF)
- Prioritization of Natural Hazards
- Review of Risk Assessment Factors and Hazard Profiles
- Overview of Mitigation Action Charts and FEMA HMA Grant Funding
- Review of Mitigation Strategies and Actions
- Open Discussion (Comments and Questions)
- Discussion of Next Steps & answer your questions

The opening PowerPoint presentation covered a re-cap of key points about the plan update, a review of the Risk Assessment & Vulnerability Analysis, an overview of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding; an overview of how mitigation actions are developed and an overview of the jurisdictional Mitigation Action Charts (MACs). Following the presentation, participants were provided with an opportunity to review and discuss the county and local mitigation action charts. This discussion period offered a facilitated opportunity for participants to consider any changes or new additions to the MACs prior to completion of the draft plan for public review.

FILLMORE COUNTY HMP PLANNING TEAM MEETING #2 DISCUSSION NOTES

- There were no questions or comments from participants during the meeting.

Meeting Conclusion: The meeting concluded with an overview and timeline of the upcoming next steps for public review and submission of the draft plan to HSEM and FEMA for final review and approval.

Included with this meeting summary are the following:

- Fillmore County HMP Jurisdictional Contact List
- Meeting Invitation to Stakeholders
- PowerPoint Presentation Slides

Meeting Summary Prepared By: Bonnie Hundrieser, U-Spatial@UMD Project Team

FILLMORE COUNTY HMP JURISDICTIONAL CONTACT LIST

Following is a list of the stakeholders that received an invitation to participate in Planning Team Mtg. #2 and will receive the meeting summary.

REPRESENTATION	NAME	TITLE
Fillmore County Emergency Management	John DeGeorge	Sheriff/Deputy EM Director
Fillmore County Emergency Management	Jason Harmening	EM Director
Fillmore County Administration	Bobbie Hillery	County Administrator
Fillmore County Assessor's Office	Ryan Rasmussen	County Assessor
Fillmore County Highway Department	Ronald Gregg	County Engineer
Fillmore County Land Use Department	Blake Lea	Land Use Director / GIS
Fillmore County Zoning	Cristal Adkins	Zoning Administrator
Fillmore County Public Health	Jessica Erickson	Director of Nursing
Fillmore County Public Health	Brenda Pohlman	PHEP Coordinator
Fillmore County Economic Development	Chris Hahn	Community & Business Dev. Specialist
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Mitch Lentz	District 1 Commissioner
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Randy Dahl	District 2 Commissioner
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Larry Hindt	District 3 Commissioner
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Duane Bakke	District 4 Commissioner
Fillmore County Board of Commissioners	Marc Prestby	District 5 Commissioner
City of Canton	Anne Koliha	Clerk
City of Canton	Kristy Ziegler	Mayor
City of Canton	Jon Nordsving	Public Works Director
City of Canton	Kyle Ryan	Fire Chief
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	Michelle Peterson	City Administrator
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	John McBroom	Mayor
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	Beth Carlson	City Clerk
City of Chatfield *(partly in Olmsted County)*	Brian Burkholder	Public Works Director
City of Chatfield (partly in Olmsted County)	Rocky Burnett	Emergency Manager /EMS Director
City of Fountain	Mary T Jepkes	Clerk
City of Fountain	Tammy Danielson	Mayor
City of Fountain	John Hanson	Public Works Director
City of Fountain	Ron Reisner	Zoning Administrator
City of Fountain	Jason Wright	Fire Chief
City of Harmony	Alissa Stelpflug	Administrator/Clerk
City of Harmony	Steve Donney	Mayor
City of Lanesboro	Michell Walbridge	Administrator/Clerk
City of Lanesboro	Jason Resseman	Mayor
City of Lanesboro	Rob Wagner	Fire Chief
City of Lanesboro	Blaise Sass	Police Chief
City of Mabel	Karen Larson	Clerk
City of Mabel	Adam Wilder	Mayor
City of Mabel	Steve Geving	Fire Chief
City of Mabel	Bob Mierau	Public Works Director

City of Ostrander	Wendy Brincks	Clerk
City of Ostrander	Pam Kunert	Mayor
City of Ostrander	Jason Rice	Fire Chief
City of Peterson	Chris Grindland	Clerk
City of Peterson	Chirs Stenzel	Mayor
City of Preston	Ryan Throckmorton	Administrator
City of Preston	Allison Whalen	CEDA Representative
City of Preston	Kurt Reicks	Mayor
City of Preston	Ramon Hernandez	Fire Chief
City of Preston	Blaise Sass	Police Chief
City of Rushford	Kathy Zacher	Clerk
City of Rushford	Terri Benson	Mayor
City of Rushford	RogerKnutson	Public Works Director
City of Rushford	Chad Rasmussen	Fire Chief
City of Rushford Village	Mary Miner	Clerk
City of Rushford Village	Dennis Overland	Mayor
City of Spring Valley	Deb Zimmer	Clerk
City of Spring Valley	Justin Mlinar	Mayor
City of Whalen	Teresa Grossell	Clerk
City of Whalen	David Hallum	Mayor
City of Wykoff	Rebecca Schmidt	Clerk
City of Wykoff	Ryan Breckenridge	Mayor
City of Wykoff	Cody Meyer	Emergency Manager/Fire
Amherst Township	Kelly Eide	Clerk
Arendahl Township	Keith Brown	Clerk
Beaver Township	Susan G Dahl	Clerk
Bloomfield Township	Peggy Merkel	Clerk
Bristol Township	Eunice Biel	Clerk
Canton Township	Fay garness	Clerk
Carimona Township	Linda Marzolf	Clerk
Carrolton Township	Luanne Storelee	Clerk
Chatfield Township	Forrest Hayden	clerk
Fillmore Township	Bonnie Heidtke	Clerk
Forestville Township	Lori Winter	Clerk
Fountain Township	Rory Kramer	Clerk
Harmony Township	Anne Koliha	Clerk
Holt Township	Chris Gudmundson	Clerk
Jordan Township	Danielle Hoffman	Clerk
Newburg Township	Paula Hicks	Clerk
Norway Township	Brenda Bergan	Clerk
Pilot Mound Township	Troy Danielson	Clerk
Preble Township	Carol Thompson	Clerk
Preston Township	James Stevens	Clerk
Spring Valley Township	Barbara Dittrich	Clerk

Sumner Township	Marianne L. Hockema	Clerk
York Township	Fred Scheevel	Clerk
LOCAL & REGIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN HAZARD MITIGATION		
MN HSEM	Mike Peterson	Region 1 Regional Program Coordinator
Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District	Riley Buley	District Administrator
Fillmore Soil & Water Conservation District	Nikki Wheeler	Water Management Coordinator
Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)	Jessica Bronson	District Conservationist
MnDOT District 6	Chad Hanson	Emergency Management Coordinator
DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division	Nicole Lehman	Area Hydrologist
Forestville State Park (MN DNR)	Bob Storlie	Park Director
MN DNR Parks	Cindy Tranby	DNR Parks
MN DNR Bike Trail	Louise Thompson	Director
BUSINESSES, ACADEMIA, AND OTHER PRIVATE ORGS.		
MiEnergy	Steve Oian	VP Operations
Dairyland Power	Jason Hovey	Area Supervisor
Southern MN Municipal Power Agency	Joe Hoffman	Director
Peoples COOP Power	Mike Henke	CEO
Chatfiled Public Schools	Ed Harris	Superintendent
Fillmore Central Public Schools	Heath Olstad	Superintendent
Kingsland Public Schools	Scott Klavetter	Superintendent
Lanesboro Public Schools	Matt Schultz	Superintendent
Mabel-Canton Public Schools	Gary Kuphal	Superintendent
Rushford Peterson Public Schools	Ben Bernard	Superintendent
Leroy-Ostrander Public Schools	Jennifer Backer-Johnson	Superintendent
NONPROFIT ORGS/COMMUNITY-BASED ORGS THAT WORK WITH UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AND SOCIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS		
American Red Cross	Eli Szydlo	District Program Manager (SE)
Salvation Army Northern Division (MN/ND)	Major Michele Heaver	Regional Contact
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation	Tim Penny	President
NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS		
Houston County Emergency Management	Mark Olson	Emergency Management Director
Mower County Emergency Management	Amy Bramwell	Emergency Management Director
Olmsted County Emergency Management	Jonathan Jacobson	Emergency Management Director
Winona County Emergency Management	Ben Klinger	Emergency Management Director

Winneshiek County Emergency Management (IA)	Sean Snyder	Emergency Management Director
Howard County Emergency Management (IA)	Brody Malone	Emergency Management Director

From: Harmening, Jason

To: DeGeorge, John; Harmening, Jason; Hillery, Bobbie; rrassmussen@co.fillmore.mn.us; Gregg, Ronald; Lea, Blake; Adkins, Cristal; Erickson, Jessica; Pohlman, Brenda; chris.hahn@cedausa.com; Lentz, Mitchel; Dahl, Randy; Hindt, Larry; Bakke, Duane; Prestby, Marc; Canton City Clerk; greenjaynovel@gmail.com; publicworks@cantonmn.com; Kyleryan2002@gmail.com; Michele Peterson; mayormcbroom@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bcarlson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us; rburnett@ci.chatfield.mn.us; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; tammy.danielson@good-sam.com; cityoffountain95@gmail.com; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; jason wright; cityoffice@harmonymn.gov; stdonney2002@yahoo.com; MWalbridge@lanesboro-mn.gov; jresseman@lanesboro-mn.gov; rjw3@eganco.com; Blaise Sass; karen.larson@cityofmabel.com; awilder@mabelcanton.org; ggev27@gmail.com; publicworks@cityofmabel.com; cityclerk@cityofostrander.com; pamelamkunert@gmail.com; Jason Rice; Peterson Christopher Grinland; stenzel31@gmail.com; rthrockmorton@prestonmn.gov; allison.whalen@cedausa.com; reicks@gmail.com; ramonh@harmony1.com; Blaise Sass; citykaz@goacentek.net; terrilbenson66@gmail.com; publicworks@acegroup.cc; Chad Rasmussen; City Rushford Village Mary Miner; City Rushford Village Mary Miner; debzimmer@springvalley-mn.com; justin.mlinar@gmail.com; cityofwhalan@goacentek.net; david.r.hallum@gmail.com; cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov; rbreck@arvig.net; xcmeyer07@gmail.com; Amherst TWP Kelly Eide; Arendahl TWP Keith Brown; dahlhous@acegroup.cc; bloomfieldclerk@gmail.com; eabiel@outlook.com; fgarness@outlook.com; ldmarzolf@gmail.com; mvf4@acegroup.cc; Chatfield TWP Forrest Hayden; heidb75@gmail.com; lwinter_287@hotmail.com; rory.kramer76@gmail.com; bramkoliha@gmail.com; holt.fillmore@gmail.com; dwaldbillig@hotmail.com; phicks123@yahoo.com; brendabergan@r-pschools.com; pilotmoundclerk@gmail.com; prebletownship@gmail.com; pmfms62@gmail.com; clerkspvlytnsp@gmail.com; hockema.marianne@gmail.com; fred.4sch@gmail.com; Peterson, Michael R (DPS); riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org; nikki.wheeler@fillmoreswcd.org; jessica.bronson@mn.usda.gov; chad.hanson@state.mn.us; nicole.lehman@state.mn.us; bob.storlie@state.mn.us; cindy.tranby@state.mn.us; Louise.thompson@state.mn.us; soian@mienergy.coop; jason.hovey@dairylandpower.com; ja.hoffman@smmpa.org; mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop; eharris@chatfieldschools.com; heath.olstad@isd2198.k12.mn.us; klavetter.scott@kingsland2137.org; mattschultz@lanesboroschools.com; gkuphal@mabelcanton.org; benbernard@r-pschools.com; jbjohnson@leroy.k12.mn.us; eli.szydlo@redcross.org; michele.heaver@usc.salvationarmy.org; timp@smifoundation.org; mark.olson@co.houston.mn.us; amyl@co.mower.mn.us; jacobson.jonathan@co.olmsted.mn.us; bklinger@co.winona.mn.us; ssnyder@co.winneshiek.ia.us; bmalone@howardcounty.iowa.gov; news@fillmorecountyjournal.com

Cc: slstark@d.umn.edu; Bonnie K Hundrieser

Subject: Fillmore County HMP update meeting #2

Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 1:43:22 PM

Attachments: Outlook-nd5g02yj.png
9-22-25 Fillmore County HMP Mtg #2 Invitation.docx

Good afternoon!

Attached is a meeting invitation for our 2nd Hazard Mitigation Plan Update meeting.

This meeting is at 10 am on 09/22/2025. You are invited to join our virtual meeting.

Thank you!

Jason Harmening
Emergency Management/Deputy Sheriff
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
Phone 507.765.2830
Cell 507.676.8603
Fax 507.765.2703

From: Harmening, Jason

To: DeGeorge, John; Harmening, Jason; Hillery, Bobbie; Gregg, Ronald; Lea, Blake; Adkins, Cristal; Erickson, Jessica; Pohlman, Brenda; Lentz, Mitchel; Dahl, Randy; Hindt, Larry; Bakke, Duane; Rasmusson, Ryan; Prestby, Marc; Canton City Clerk; greenjaynovel@gmail.com; publicworks@cantonmn.com; Kyleryan2002@gmail.com; Michele Peterson; mayormcbroom@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bcarlson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us; Rocky Burnett; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; tammy.danielson@good-sam.com; cityoffountain95@gmail.com; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; jason wright; cityoffice@harmonymn.gov; stdonney2002@yahoo.com; Mitchell Walbridge; jresseman@lanesboro-mn.gov; rjw3@eganco.com; Blaise Sass; Karen Larson; awilder@mabelcanton.org; ggev27@gmail.com; publicworks@cityofmabel.com; cityclerk@cityofostrander.com; pamelamkunert@gmail.com; Jason Rice; Peterson Christopher Grinland; stenzel31@gmail.com; rthrockmorton@prestonmn.gov; allison.whalen@cedausa.com; reicks@gmail.com; ramonh@harmony1.com; Blaise Sass; citykaz@goacentek.net; terrilbenson66@gmail.com; publicworks@acegroup.cc; Chad Rasmussen; City Rushford Village Mary Miner; City Rushford Village Mary Miner; debzimmer@springvalley-mn.com; justin.mlinar@gmail.com; cityofwhalan@goacentek.net; david.r.hallum@gmail.com; cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov; rbreck@arvig.net; xcmeyer07@gmail.com; Amherst TWP Kelly Eide; Arendahl TWP Keith Brown; dahlhous@acegroup.cc; bloomfieldclerk@gmail.com; eabiel@outlook.com; fgarness@outlook.com; ldmarzolf@gmail.com; mvf4@acegroup.cc; Chatfield TWP Forrest Hayden; heidb75@gmail.com; lwinter_287@hotmail.com; rory.kramer76@gmail.com; bramkoliha@gmail.com; holt.fillmore@gmail.com; dwaldbillig@hotmail.com; phicks123@yahoo.com; brendabergan@r-pschools.com; pilotmoundclerk@gmail.com; prebletownship@gmail.com; pmfms62@gmail.com; clerkspvlytnsp@gmail.com; hockema.marianne@gmail.com; fred.4sch@gmail.com; Peterson, Michael R (DPS); riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org; nikki.wheeler@fillmoreswcd.org; jessica.bronson@mn.usda.gov; "chad.hanson@state.mn.us

Cc: Bonnie K Hundrieser

Subject: Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Update meeting #2

Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:19:12 PM

Attachments: Outlook-2cc4uct1.png
Outlook-1wpunwtd.png
Outlook-ekl3ejue.png
Outlook-qmkhpyiu.png

FILLMORE COUNTY

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE – MEETING INVITATION

Greetings,

Just a reminder,

Your presence is requested at the 2nd Planning Team Meeting for the update of the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). You are requested to participate in this vital meeting because you have a position of administrative or departmental responsibility within either the county, a municipal government, or are a key stakeholder related to the planning process. Emergency Managers from neighboring jurisdictions are also encouraged to attend so we may strengthen our shared mitigation efforts. This meeting will be the final planning meeting for the HMP update process.

We will be holding the meeting virtually using Zoom webinar:

Date: Monday, September 22, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Register: **Control+Click here to follow to link to register for the meeting**
to follow to link to register for the meeting here to follow to link to register for the meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the plan and interactive website, including a review of the updated risk assessment for natural hazards that affect the county. We will also discuss the Mitigation Action Charts that will be specific to Fillmore County and each city, as well as funding opportunities available under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

Your participation in this meeting and feedback on the draft plan is important to us. The draft Fillmore County HMP is nearing completion and will be ready for review by planning team members and the public in the coming weeks.

When you register, you will automatically be placed on an RSVP list. If you are not able to attend, please consider sending another representative in your stead.

If you have already signed up for this meeting, thank you and you do not need to register again.

Thank you,

Jason Harmening
Emergency Management/Deputy Sheriff
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
Phone 507.765.2830
Cell 507.676.8603
Fax 507.765.2703

Fillmore County
Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2025
Planning Team Meeting #2

September 22, 2025

U-SPATIAL
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

Welcome & Introductions

U-Spatial@UMD Project Leads

Stacey Stark
Project Manager
U-Spatial@UMD

Bonnie Hundrieser
HM Planning Specialist
Hundrieser Consulting LLC

Fillmore County Project Lead

- Jason Harmening, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director

Please type your name and representation in the CHAT – so others know who is here

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Zoom Logistics

PLEASE REMAIN MUTED AND VIDEO OFF SO EVERYONE CAN HAVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE.

USE CHAT:

- Send a message to everyone
- Send a message to individuals or
- Send a message to host to ask for help or ask a question that isn't for the whole group. The host is Stacey Stark

ASK TO SPEAK:

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Meeting Purpose & Agenda

This meeting formally convenes the Fillmore County HMP Planning Team for a presentation on the draft plan and discussion of key items prior to public review and submission of the plan to HSEM and FEMA.

Agenda

- Recap of Key HMP Points
- Preview of Deliverables
- Review of Risk Assessment & Vulnerability Analysis in Website
- Overview of FEMA HMA Funding and Mitigation Action Charts
- Review & Feedback
- Next Steps

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Overview of Plan Update

Fillmore County is updating its **Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)** to fulfill a state & federal requirement. The plan must be updated every **5** years. The last plan was adopted in **2017**.

The purpose of the plan is to identify & assess natural hazards that pose risk to the county and its jurisdictions and **develop long-term strategies and mitigation actions** that will help to reduce or eliminate the impact of future hazard or disaster events.

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from natural disasters.

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Who the Plan Covers

This is a **multi-jurisdictional plan** that covers Fillmore County, including all cities and townships within the county.

The plan also takes into consideration the needs and concerns of other stakeholders such as schools, watershed districts, and agencies or organizations involved in mitigation or services to vulnerable populations within the county.

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Stakeholder Involvement

Planning Team

- County and local government, neighboring jurisdictions, and related agencies or organizations.
- Participation in planning team meetings, public outreach, local mitigation survey, provision of spatial or other data, and review of draft plan.

The Public

- Opportunity to learn about the plan and provide feedback on local-level concerns, mitigation ideas, and review of draft plan.

PRESENTER: BONNIE HUNDRIESER

Deliverables

PDF document:

- All FEMA required elements
- Limited figures & images
- Integrated links to website
- Local mitigation surveys
- Plans & programs in place
- Past mitigation action review
- Planning team meetings
- Outreach & engagement documentation

- Risk and vulnerability of each hazard
- Mitigation actions!

Both formats

Website companion:

- Links to PDF components
- **Interactive maps** and context
- Critical infrastructure and assets
- Simple, concise explanations
- Public input form on site

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Prioritization of Hazards for Fillmore County

NATURAL HAZARDS

- Probability and Severity of natural hazard events (risk)
- Observed increase or decrease in risk since last plan
- Jurisdictional variations in risk (i.e., local vulnerabilities, changes in development)

Natural Hazards	Current Priority
Flooding	High
Winter Storms	High
Windstorms	High
Tornadoes	High
Hailstorms	Moderate
Extreme Cold	Moderate
Drought	Moderate
Lightning	Low
Extreme Heat	Low
Wildfire	Low
Landslides	Low
Land Subsidence	Low
Dam Failure	Low

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Hazards Risk Assessment

- Validates the prioritization of hazards
- Provides probability and severity of future events as possible
- Identifies vulnerable populations and structures at risk as possible
- Considers variable geographic vulnerability
- Informs Mitigation Actions in the HMP

PRESENTER: STACEY STARK

Website Demo

Example:
z.umn.edu/GrantHMP

Comments and Questions?

Overview of Mitigation Action Charts

Mitigation Action Charts are the end product of the HMP.

They demonstrate a community's 5-year plan to:

- **Reduce future risk to natural hazard events.**
- **Address local vulnerabilities through targeted activities.**
- **Utilize local capabilities to implement actions.**

★ Eligible FEMA HMA grant activities **must** be identified in the plan of action.

FILLMORE COUNTY — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
15	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	TRANSPORTATION FLOOD RISK REDUCTION Plan for and implement measures to address flood risk reduction projects for roads, bridges, and culverts throughout the county.	Existing High 2026-2031	Highway Dept.	The Fillmore County Highway Dept. maintains update of the county's planned construction projects. Annual transportation improvement projects include those that address localized flood risk reduction for roads, bridges, and culverts.	Internal: FC Hwy.
16	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	PROPERTY BUYOUTS Conduct property buyouts to acquire homes affected by repetitive flooding and physically relocate or remove these homes to eliminate future flood damages.	Existing Low 2026-2031	FCEM	The City of Mabel is interested in conducting property buyouts and relocations of some existing homes that repetitively flood from Riceford Creek. FCEM will assist the city as needed on this project, which may include grant applications to FEMA or MN DNR for grant funding to conduct buyouts.	External: FEMA HMGP / FMA grants, MN DNR FHM grant
17	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	LOCALIZED FLOOD RISK REDUCTION Work with the City of Peterson to implement the Root River flood control project.	In Progress High 2026	FCEM, Highway Dept (in coord with City of Peterson (lead rep.)	A new flood control structure will be installed in the City of Peterson in 2026 to avoid flood waters from the Root River to enter town. FCEM and FC Highway Department are working with the city on the planning for this project.	Internal: FC Hwy; External: City of Peterson, MN DNR FHM or FEMA HMGP grant funding
18	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	RIVER GAUGES Strategically place river gauges throughout county to monitor water levels.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	FCEM in coord with MNDNR, USGS	Fillmore County continues to work with the MN DNR and USGS to monitor and implement monitoring gauges that they have placed. Additional ones will be installed as funding becomes available.	External: MN DNR, USGS

CITY OF SPRING VALLEY — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city website and Facebook are used to alert residents to weather events. We will work to share information during the NWS Severe Weather Awareness Week: in April and November.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We will work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to provide or with a link to add to the city website.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The City of Spring Valley works with Safebuilt for code enforcement. The Planning & Zoning Department enforces the floodplain management ordinance.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Reduce the risk of downed power lines from severe storm events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The City of Spring Valley licenses utility services for electricity in the city. Electrical lines are being buried throughout town. This has been an ongoing effort to reduce risk of power outages.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
5	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	Our lift station is prone to flooding and we are exploring options for relocation. Our Public Works barn is also working to address mitigation for the creek that runs through downtown and experiences flooding issues during high rain events. During such events flows city streets and Hwy 63 are occasionally shut down with the assistance of our local emergency management and fire department.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
6	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	Emergency shelter is provided at the Ambulance Facility if we need to provide shelter during an extreme cold or other hazard event.	Internal: General Fund

FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding

FEMA

Section 406
Available *after* a disaster occurs.
Focuses on mitigation measures for facilities that have actually been damaged in a particular disaster.

Section 404
Requires an approved & adopted HMP. Funds mitigation projects for both damaged and non-damaged facilities. Several different grant programs.

Example Section 404 activities:

- Property Acquisition
- Tornado Safe Rooms
- Bury Overhead Powerlines
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Soil Stabilization
- Flood Risk Reduction
- Green Infrastructure
- Other projects difficult to conduct a standard BCA (i.e., tornado warning sirens, generators for critical facilities)

Strategy #1 - Local Planning & Regulations

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Fillmore County Examples:

- Enforcement of ordinances that reduce impacts of high rain events. (Floodplain, Shoreland)
- Participation in Root River 1W1P (6 county regional watershed plan)
- Implementation of watering restrictions during periods of extreme drought.
- Enforcement of state or local regulations for new development.
- Planning for county or local flood control projects (i.e. City of Peterson – Root River)

Root River Watershed

Strategy #2 - Structure & Infrastructure Projects

Fillmore County Examples:

- Installation of new outdoor warning sirens
- Construction of tornado safe rooms
- Burying powerlines (MiEnergy Coop, People's Energy Coop)
- City of Mabel - property buyouts of homes along Riceford Creek
- Stormwater management improvements (culvert replacements), Road & Bridge projects
- Installation of river gauges to monitor water levels

Strategy #3 - Natural Systems Protection

Fillmore County Examples:

- Conduct vegetation management along roads to reduce the risk of downed trees and branches resulting from heavy snow, ice, or high winds.
- Planting Living Snow Fences to reduce snow drifting (FC Hwy. Dept, MnDOT)
- Other examples:
  - Installing Rain Gardens to reduce impacts of high rain events

Strategy #4 - Education & Awareness Programs

CodeRED

Fillmore County Examples:

- Promoting sign-up for the county's emergency notification system.
- Encouraging residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, extreme temperatures, tornado season, and power outages.
- Sharing information across platforms – county and city websites & social media, community bulletin boards, local newspapers, public meetings, or other in-person events.

Strategy #5 - Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support

Fillmore County Examples:

- Obtaining generators for backup power
- Update of county EOP
- Shelter planning
- Planning assistance to schools and LTC Facilities for vulnerable populations
- Mapping of at-risk populations (Fillmore County Public Health and GIS)
- Participation in regional EM planning, training, and exercising

Comments and Questions?

Next Steps

October, 2025

Review of Draft Plan and Public Review & Comment Period

Following Planning Team Mtg. #2

- ***This is completed***: City MAC reviews + description of "Previous Integration of Past HMP"
- Fillmore County EM review of draft plan
- Public review & comment period (News Release #2) – documentation of local postings

Next Steps

Nov-Dec, 2025

Draft Plan Submission to HSEM & FEMA, Plan Approval, and Collection of Adopting Resolutions

- Draft plan will be submitted first to HSEM and then to FEMA for approval for meeting all Federal requirements.
- Typically requires 1-2 months.
- APA letter
- EM coordination of adopting resolutions from each city.
- **Final approval letter**

Questions?

What questions do you have for U-Spatial@UMD about the draft HMP or next steps ?

Contact Information

Stacey Stark, MS, GISP
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Bonnie Hundrieser, HM Planner
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HUNDRIESER CONSULTING LLC

Appendix G – Public Outreach & Engagement Documentation

Fillmore County HMP News Release #1
Record of Public Input & Incorporation

Overview: On September 4, 2024 Fillmore County Emergency Management put out a news release titled "**Public Input Wanted as Fillmore County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan"** to announce the start of the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The news release provided information on the purpose and content of the plan, who the plan covers, stakeholders involved in the plan update and examples of hazard mitigation activities. Fillmore County used the news release to gather feedback from residents and businesses from across the county to incorporate into the plan, inviting feedback to the following:

- **What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?**
- **Are there specific populations or assets in your community that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?**
- **What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help to reduce damages of future hazard events in your community or the county as a whole?**

The public was strongly encouraged contact Fillmore County Emergency Management to submit comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and potential mitigation actions to be included into the plan update process. The public was also able to post comments electronically on county or city Facebook sites where the news release was posted.

Distribution: The news release was sent via email to the county's HMP Jurisdictional Contact List, which includes the names, titles, phone numbers, and email addresses of key stakeholders to be engaged in the HMP update, including county, city, and township contacts; other related agency and organizational stakeholder contacts, and neighboring jurisdiction contacts. (A copy of the Jurisdictional Contact List can be found in Appendix F). The news release was additionally sent to local media contacts with a request to carry the news release.

Postings: Attached is documentation of the news release postings by Fillmore County, participating jurisdictions, local media, and other stakeholders. Cities and townships were encouraged to help share the news release locally by posting it on their websites, social media, or community bulletin boards.

Public Input & Incorporation:

Following is a record of public responses to the news release and how their input will be incorporated into the plan update, and if not relevant to be addressed, why.

COMMENT #1 – Apartment Building Owner (several locations)
September 5, 2024 Email to Don Kullot, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director

Hello, I saw a post on Facebook asking for feedback on a few questions related to emergency preparedness. We own several apartment buildings in the county and when there is a tornado warning

we often get questions from tenants about where they can go since there are no basements. In some cases there are internal hallways they can use and sometimes we'll let them on the main floor of their building (if we control it without a commercial tenant in the space) if they live above a commercial space. Other times we don't have a good option for them. I would recommend the preparedness plan addresses places people without basement access can go if needed. Also, a communication poster that we can post in the building entrances on what they should do (options on other safe places in the community, what to do if they don't have time to relocate, etc) would also be great. I'm sure other landlords have similar issues. In Fillmore County we have properties in Chatfield, Preston, Harmony, Wykoff, Spring Valley, and Ostrander.

Thanks
Julie

Thanks
Julie Sogla

Fillmore County EM Return Email Response 9/20/24

Hello Julie,

Thank you for your time to respond to the news release. Your input is important regarding apartment residents who are more vulnerable to high wind or tornado events is appreciated. The Fillmore County hazard mitigation plan update will be addressing severe windstorms and tornadoes, and identifying mitigation actions to help reduce risk, such as construction of tornado safe rooms and raising public awareness. We will be incorporating your concerns into the plan.

Thank you,
Don

Don Kullot #2308 Deputy Sheriff
Emergency Mangement/Director
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
901 Houston Street NW
Preston, MN 55965
507-765-2830
dkullot@co.fillmore.mn.us

Incorporation: The Fillmore County HMP update will include in-depth hazard profiles for severe wind events (windstorms, tornadoes), an assessment of local vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions to reduce risk by the county and participating jurisdictions. This will include identifying communities that would benefit from construction of tornado safe rooms or designating storm shelters for those at greater risk, as well as different ways of providing education and outreach to the community on emergency preparedness.

<u>COMMENT #2 – City of Preston Resident</u>
September 18, 2024 Email to Don Kullot, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director

Hi Don,
My Fillmore is Alison Leathers, and I live in Preston. I wanted to provide my feedback to the questions below.

What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?
*Severe thunderstorms are our greatest hazard, and most communities in Fillmore County have flooding as a top hazard as well.

Are there specific populations or assets in your community that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?
*Yes, populations that live in structures without basements or foundations are the most vulnerable. Also homes in the flood fringe are the most vulnerable. When I lived in Nashville, TN, where most homes don't have basements, we had designated storm shelters in our neighborhood. So, if we had time to seek shelter for a tornado, we knew to go to a church down the street from where we lived that had a basement. I feel each town in Fillmore County should have a list of designated storm/tornado shelters and advertise that list through utility mailers, social media, websites, and the County should have every town's storm shelters listed. Towns should work with churches, banks, etc. to create these designated storm shelters and publish a plan to allow the public to use these shelters when needed.

What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help to reduce damages of future hazard events in your community or the county as a whole?
*My comment above about storm shelters would help reduce human injury and loss of life. Cities should have a tree check program to advertise to homeowners about how to check if their tree may be diseased or injured and more likely to fall and damage a structure in a storm. Perhaps cities could have a budget line item to check for "problem" trees and a plan to remove and replant trees. Finally, since flooding is a hazard in a lot of towns in Fillmore County, it would be good for Cities to annually communicate flood emergency plans to residents. We have tornado sirens, but how can we communicate quickly that flooding is about to occur in structures (homes, campgrounds, etc.). What is the plan for mitigation (sand bags, etc.)? Overall, Fillmore County needs to assist Cities and Townships to better communicate the procedures during storms, tornados, and floods to citizens know what to do. Even simple things like wear a bike helmet and keep your shoes on when seeking shelter from a tornado are important. Could the County help communicate what to keep in an emergency kit (radio, flashlight, first aid, etc.)? Would our town medical clinics (like Olmsted Medical in Preston) open up in emergency situations and work with volunteer EMS/Fire to provide urgent medical care? How are these medical professionals involved in mitigation plans?

And I am curious if Fillmore County has a plan for public mass shooting events? Is this something that is worth the time and effort to also communicate to the public - what to do in case of a public mass shooting event? Our children have drills at school, I feel the public needs to know there is a plan (or basic advice on what to do) in case of a public mass shooting event.

Thank you for your time and efforts!

Sincerely, Alison Leathers
Preston, MN

EM Return Email Response 9/23/24
Hello Alison,

Thank you for your time to respond to the news release. Your input to the questions have been recorded and are very helpful.

The Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan update will be addressing local vulnerabilities to natural hazards and identifying mitigation actions to help reduce risk, such as construction of tornado safe rooms and raising public awareness for emergency preparedness. We will be incorporating your concerns into the plan as we work with each community.

Regarding your last question regarding mass shootings. Yes, Fillmore County Emergency Management has worked with our Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, and local school districts on emergency response trainings and plans to an active shooter event. We do not put out information to the public in advance regarding such an event. Schools may choose to share information with parents as per their respective policies on the matter.

Mass shootings are a very sensitive topic. Plans being shared would potentially jeopardize all involved and how do we plan for it. Not knowing the how and where it could be played out, I'd hate to be a resource for how to carry such and act out.

Thank you,
Don

Don Kullot #2308 Deputy Sheriff
Emergency Mangement/Director
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
901 Houston Street NW
Preston, MN 55965
507-765-2830
dkullot@co.fillmore.mn.us

Incorporation: The Fillmore County HMP update will include in-depth hazard profiles for severe wind events (windstorms, tornadoes), an assessment of local vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions to reduce risk by the county and participating jurisdictions. This will include identifying communities that would benefit from construction of tornado safe rooms or designating storm shelters for those at greater risk, as well as different ways of providing education and outreach to the community on emergency preparedness.

From: Kullot, Don

To: Kullot, Don; DeGeorge, John; Harmening, Jason; Hillery, Bobbie; Steve Hacken; Gregg, Ronald; Lea, Blake; Adkins, Cristal; Erickson, Jessica; Pohlman, Brenda; chris.hahn@cedausa.com; Lentz, Mitchel; Dahl, Randy; Hindt, Larry; Bakke, Duane; Prestby, Marc; clerk@cantonmn.com; jnordsving10@yahoo.com; publicworks@cantonmn.com; bdrichardson0328@yahoo.com; mpeterson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; mayormcbroom@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bcarlson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; tammy.danielson@good-sam.com; cityoffountain95@gmail.com; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; wrightjason77@gmail.com; cityoffice@harmony.mn.us; stdonney2002@yahoo.com; mwalbridge@lanesboro-mn.gov; jresseman@lanesboro-mn.gov; rjw3@eganco.co; bsass@prestonmn.gov; karen.larson@cityofmabel.com; awilder@mabelcanton.org; ggev27@gmail.com; publicworks@cityofmabel.com; cityclerk@cityofostrander.com; pamelamkunert@gmail.com; jrice6702@gmail.com; petersoncity@gmail.com; stenzel31@gmail.com; rthrockmorton@prestonmn.gov; reicks@gmail.com; ramonh@harmony1.com; bsass@prestonmn.gov; citykaz@goacentek.net; terrilbenson66@gmail.com; publicworks@acegroup.cc; 1lukaslee@gmail.com; crv@acegroup.cc; crv@acegroup.cc; debzimmer@springvalley-mn.com; archertonyrn1898@gmail.com; cityofwhalan@goacentek.net; david.r.hallum@gmail.com; cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov; rbreck@arvig.net; amh.371@acegroup.cc; brown@acegroup.cc; dahlhous@acegroup.cc; bloomfieldclerk@gmail.com; eabiel@outlook.com; fgarness@outlook.com; ldmarzolf@gmail.com; mvf4@acegroup.cc; chatfieldtownship@gmail.com; heidb75@gmail.com; lwinter_287@hotmail.com; rory.kramer76@gmail.com; bramkoliha@gmail.com; holt.fillmore@gmail.com; dwaldbillig@hotmail.com; phicks123@yahoo.com; brendabergan@r-pschools.com; pilotmoundclerk@gmail.com; prebletownship@gmail.com; pmfms62@gmail.com; clerkspvlytnsp@gmail.com; hockema.marianne@gmail.com; fred.4sch@gmail.com; Michael.R.Peterson@state.mn.us; riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org; nikki.wheeler@fillmoreswcd.org; jessica.bronson@mn.usda.gov; nicole.lehman@state.mn.us; bob.storlie@state.mn.us; cindy.tranby@state.mn.us; Louise.thompson@state.mn.us; soian@mienergy.coop; amy.carstens@dairylandpower.com; ja.hoffman@smmpa.org; mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop; eharris@chatfieldschools.com; heath.olstad@isd2198.k12.mn.us; klavetter.scott@kingsland2137.org; mattschultz@lanesboroschools.com; gkuphal@mabelcanton.org; benbernard@r-pschools.com; jbjohnson@leroy.k12.mn.us; eli.szydlo@redcross.org; michele.heaver@usc.salvationarmy.org; timp@smifoundation.org; mark.olson@co.houston.mn.us; amyl@co.mower.mn.us; jacobson.jonathan@co.olmsted.mn.us; bklinger@co.winona.mn.us; ssnyder@co.winneshiek.ia.us; bmalone@howardcounty.iowa.gov

Cc: hundrieserconsulting@outlook.com

Subject: Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Press Release #1

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 2:35:23 PM

Attachments: image001.png
Press Release 1.pdf
Press Release 1.docx

Greetings,

Fillmore County Emergency Management is commencing work on the update of the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Attached is a news release for your information.

Your assistance is requested to post this news release to help notify the public about the plan update and to have an opportunity to provide feedback. If you have a website and/or Facebook page we encourage you to post the news release electronically to those places. You may also post a hardcopy of the news release in locations that are common to the public, such as City Hall. We welcome as many of ways of posting that you can cover. As part of the plan update, we must document the public outreach that was conducted.

Please send me an email letting me know when and where you posted the news release. If you have a city website or social media such as Facebook, please post to those locations. You are also encouraged to post printed hardcopies in areas such as at City Hall, the Post Office, a local Community Center or Senior Center, etc. Outreach to the public should be done in as many ways as you can to reach a wide audience.

-

All city governments within the county are requested to participate in order to meet FEMA requirements. Townships, businesses, and other agencies or organizations are also strongly encouraged to participate.

If you receive any return public comments, please notify me so we may document this and incorporate this feedback into the plan update.

The timely return of your posting documentation within the **next 7 days** is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Don

Don Kullot #2308 Deputy Sheriff
Emergency Mangement/Director
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
901 Houston Street NW
Preston, MN 55965
507-765-2830
dkullot@co.fillmore.mn.us

From:	Kullot, Don
To:	news@fillmorecountyjournal.com
Cc:	hundrieserconsulting@outlook.com
Subject:	Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Press Release
Date:	Wednesday, September 4, 2024 2:46:46 PM
Attachments:	image001.png Press Release 1.docx Press Release 1.pdf

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Good afternoon

Fillmore County Emergency Management is commencing work on the update of the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Attached is a news release for your information.

Please publish this news release at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Don

Don Kullot #2308 Deputy Sheriff
Emergency Mangement/Director
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Preston, MN 55965
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dkullot@co.fillmore.mn.us

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FILLMORE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

September 4, 2024

Public Input Wanted as Fillmore County Updates Hazard Mitigation Plan

Fillmore County residents, community leaders, business owners, area agencies and organizations now have an opportunity to share how severe weather events impact their property and lives. There is also an opportunity to share their ideas on how to reduce local impacts in the future.

The Fillmore County Office of Emergency Management is working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as tornadoes, straight line winds, ice storms, blizzards, wildfire, flooding, and extreme temperatures and identifies ways to minimize the damage of future events. As the county works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The Fillmore County HMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Fillmore County, including all cities and townships within the county. The Fillmore County HMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of school districts, watershed districts, and other related agencies, organizations, or businesses participating in the planning process. The plan will be updated by a planning team made up of representatives from county departments, local municipalities, and other key stakeholders. When completed, the plan will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval.

"Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program," said Don Kullot, Fillmore County Emergency Management Director. "Understanding the natural hazards that can cause serious impact to our communities and taking action to reduce or eliminate the impact of future disasters makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by

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things like flooding, ice storms, and severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county."

Examples of hazard mitigation include:

- Conducting public outreach on severe weather awareness and preparedness
- Improving stormwater management systems to better handle high-rain events
- Removing existing buildings from flood or erosion prone hazard areas
- Increasing defensible space around homes in high-risk wildfire areas
- Constructing tornado safe rooms in vulnerable areas such as mobile home parks
- Burying overhead powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice, or windstorms

Some mitigation activities may be eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding.

Public input is an essential part of the plan update. As part of the planning process, Fillmore County is seeking feedback from residents and businesses to incorporate into the plan. Your input will be recorded and incorporated into the planning process:

- **What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?**
- **Are there specific populations or assets in your community that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?**
- **What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help to reduce damages of future hazard events in your community or the county as a whole?**

Your feedback is wanted. Comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and your ideas for mitigation projects should be submitted to Fillmore County Emergency Management by phone, email, or by posting a comment via a social media posting of this article.

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There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be made available for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota. Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the public of these opportunities.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires counties to update their plan every 5 years to maintain eligibility for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

Contact

Don Kullot

Fillmore County Emergency Management Director

507-765-2830

dkullot@co.fillmore.mn.us

Fillmore County HMP News Release #1 (9/4/24)
Chart Documentation of News Release Postings

Jurisdiction or Agency	Posting Representative (name and title)	Date & Location of News Release Posting
Fillmore County	Bobbie Hillery, County Administrator	9-5-24 County Website, Courthouse bulletin board, and Facebook. Also submitted to the Fillmore County Journal for printed/online news.
City of Canton	Anne Koliha, City Clerk	9-6-24 City Hall, city website, and Facebook
City of Chatfield	Michelle Peterson, City Administrator	9-5-24 City Hall and website
City of Fountain	Mary Jepkes, City Clerk	9-5-24 City Hall, website, Facebook and Post office
City of Harmony	Alissa Stelpflug, City Clerk	9-5-24 City Hall, website, Facebook, and Post office
City of Lanesboro	Mitchell Walbridge	9-6-24 City Hall, website, and city email distribution list
City of Mabel	Karen Larson, City Clerk	9-6-24 City Hall, website, and Facebook
City of Ostrander	Wendy Brinks, City Clerk	9-5-24 City Hall, Post office, and city water bill mailer
City of Peterson	Chris Grindland, City Clerk	9-5-24 City Hall and Post office
City of Preston	Ryan Throckmorton, City Administrator	9-5-24 City Hall and website
City of Rushford	Kathy Zacher, City Clerk	9-5-24 City Hall, website, Facebook, library, Post office, and grocery store
City of Rushford Village	Mary Miner, City Clerk	9-5-24 City Hall, website, Community Center, Rushford Post office, and Peterson Post Office
City of Spring Valley	Deb Zimmer, City Clerk	9-9-24 City Hall, website, and Facebook
City of Spring Valley	Chris Hahn, Spring Valley EDA Director	9-9-24 Spring Valley EDA website
City of Whalan	Teresa Grossell, City Clerk	9-10-24 City Hall, website, and city bulletin board
City of Wykoff	Rebecca Schmidt, City Clerk	9-11-24 City Hall, and website
Beaver Township	Susan Dahl, Clerk	9-10-24 Township Hall bulletin board
Bloomfield Township	Peggy Merkel, Clerk	9-8-24 Township Hall bulletin board
Forestville Township	Lori Winter, Clerk	9-5-24 Township Hall bulletin board
Canton Township	Fay Garness, Clerk	9-6-24 Township Hall bulletin board
Spring Valley Township	Barb Dittrich, Clerk	9-5-24Township Hall bulletin board and Spring Valley Fire hall
Newberg Township	Paula Hicks, Clerk	9-11-24Town Hall
Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District	Riley Buley, District Administrator	9-4-24 SWCD website posting

Fillmore County HMP News Release #2
Record of Public Input & Incorporation

Overview: On November 20, 2025 Fillmore County Emergency Management put out a news release titled **"Public Comment Sought for County's Hazard Mitigation Plan"** to announce the completion of the draft Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan and invitation for public review and comment. The news release informed jurisdictional stakeholders and the public that a copy of the draft plan, interactive website, and comment form for public feedback was available online with a website link. The public review period for the draft plan was open from 11/20/25 – 12/4/25 for a total of 15 days.

Distribution: The news release was sent via email to the county's HMP Jurisdictional Contact List, which includes the names, titles, phone numbers, and email addresses of key stakeholders to be engaged in the HMP update, including County Contacts, City Contacts, Township Contacts, Other Stakeholder Contacts, and Neighboring Jurisdiction Contacts. The news release was additionally sent to local media contacts such as area newspapers, radio and television channels with a request to carry the news release.

Postings: Attached is documentation of the news release postings by Fillmore County, participating jurisdictions, and local media. Cities and townships were encouraged to help share the news release locally by posting it on their websites, social media, or community bulletin boards.

Public Input & Incorporation:
Following is a record of public responses to the Fillmore County news release and how the input will be incorporated into the plan update, and if not relevant to be addressed, why.

Public Input & Incorporation:
Following is a record of public responses to the Blue Earth County news release and how the input will be incorporated into the plan update, and if not relevant to be addressed, why.

- **There were no public comments submitted via the Fillmore County HMP website.**
- **No public input was received directly by Fillmore County Emergency Management or local jurisdictions.**

From: Harmening, Jason

To: DeGeorge, John; Harmening, Jason; Hillery, Bobbie; Gregg, Ronald; Lea, Blake; Adkins, Cristal; Erickson, Jessica; Pohlman, Brenda; chris.hahn@cedausa.com; Lentz, Mitchel; Dahl, Randy; Hindt, Larry; Bakke, Duane; Prestby, Marc; Canton City Clerk; greenjaynovel@gmail.com; publicworks@cantonmn.com; kyleryan2002@gmail.com; Michele Peterson; Rasmusson, Ryan; mayormcbroom@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bcarlson@ci.chatfield.mn.us; bburkholder@ci.chatfield.mn.us; Rocky Burnett; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; tammy.danielson@good-sam.com; cityoffountain95@gmail.com; fountaincityoffice@mediacombb.net; jason wright; cityoffice@harmonymn.gov; stdonney2002@yahoo.com; Mitchell Walbridge; jresseman@lanesboro-mn.gov; rjw3@eganco.com; Blaise Sass; Karen Larson; awilder@mabelcanton.org; ggev27@gmail.com; publicworks@cityofmabel.com; cityclerk@cityofostrander.com; pamelamkunert@gmail.com; Jason Rice; Peterson Christopher Grinland; stenzel31@gmail.com; rthrockmorton@prestonmn.gov; allison.whalen@cedausa.com; reicks@gmail.com; ramonh@harmony1.com; Blaise Sass; citykaz@goacentek.net; terrilbenson66@gmail.com; publicworks@acegroup.cc; Chad Rasmussen; City Rushford Village Mary Miner; City Rushford Village Mary Miner; debzimmer@springvalley-mn.com; justin.mlinar@gmail.com; cityofwhalan@goacentek.net; david.r.hallum@gmail.com; cityhall@cityofwykoff.gov; rbreck@arvig.net; xcmeyer07@gmail.com; Amherst TWP Kelly Eide; Arendahl TWP Keith Brown; dahlhous@acegroup.cc; bloomfieldclerk@gmail.com; eabiel@outlook.com; fgarness@outlook.com; ldmarzolf@gmail.com; mvf4@acegroup.cc; Chatfield TWP Forrest Hayden; heidb75@gmail.com; lwinter_287@hotmail.com; rory.kramer76@gmail.com; bramkoliha@gmail.com; holt.fillmore@gmail.com; dwaldbillig@hotmail.com; phicks123@yahoo.com; brendabergan@r-pschools.com; pilotmoundclerk@gmail.com; prebletownship@gmail.com; pmfms62@gmail.com; clerkspvlytnsp@gmail.com; hockema.marianne@gmail.com; fred.4sch@gmail.com; Peterson, Michael R (DPS); riley.buley@fillmoreswcd.org; nikki.wheeler@fillmoreswcd.org; jessica.bronson@mn.usda.gov; nicole.lehman@state.mn.us; bob.storlie@state.mn.us; Cindy.Tranby@state.mn.us; Louise.thompson@state.mn.us; soian@mienergy.coop; Jason.Hovey@DairylandPower.com; ja.hoffman@smmpa.org; mhenke@peoplesenergy.coop; eharris@chatfieldschools.com; Heath Olstad; Scott Klavetter; mattschultz@lanesboroschools.com; gkuphal@mabelcanton.org; benbernard@r-pschools.com; jbjohnson@leroy.k12.mn.us; eli.szydlo@redcross.org; michele.heaver@usc.salvationarmy.org; timp@smifoundation.org; mark.olson; Amy Bramwell (amyl@co.mower.mn.us); jacobson.jonathan@co.olmsted.mn.us; Ben Klinger; ssnyder@co.winneshiek.ia.us; bmalone@howardcounty.iowa.gov; news@fillmorecountyjournal.com

Cc: Bonnie K Hundrieser

Subject: Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.... Public review period.

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025 6:57:03 AM

Attachments: Outlook-gomcacqm.png
Fillmore HMP Press Release 2.docx

Greetings,

The public review and comment period is now open for the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan from Thursday, November 20 to Tuesday, December 4. This public review period is required prior to the plan being sent to FEMA for review. Your assistance is requested in sharing this information with the public. The **cities of Canton, Chatfield, Fountain, Harmony, Lanesboro, Mabel, Ostrander, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, Rushford Village, Spring Valley, Whalan, and Wykoff** are requested to please post this locally. Townships and other related stakeholders involved in the plan update are also encouraged to share the news release.

Instructions:

- **Please post the attached news release to areas where you share information with the public (i.e., your website, social media, or community bulletin boards)**
- **Please email me to let me know the date and location(s) of where the news release was posted.**

There are website links as well as a QR code in the news release that will take you to the HMP website that includes a PDF of the plan and local mitigation action charts. There is an online feedback form to provide any comments, questions, or other feedback. If you have not already reviewed the plan during the government review period, you are strongly encouraged to do so.

As this is a 15-day review period, please post the release promptly.

Thank you for your assistance. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jason Harmening
Emergency Management/Deputy Sheriff
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
Phone 507.765.2830
Cell 507.676.8603
Fax 507.765.2703

FILLMORE COUNTY SHERIFF

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FILLMORE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

November 20, 2025

Public Comment Sought for Fillmore County's Hazard Mitigation Plan

Fillmore County has completed an updated draft of its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) and is now seeking public feedback.

Like all Minnesota counties, Fillmore County is vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards such as tornadoes, windstorms, severe winter storms, flooding, drought, and extreme temperatures, which can threaten the loss of life and property in the county. Planning for natural disasters minimizes the impact of events that can cause vast economic loss and personal hardship.

All county residents, interested agency or organizational stakeholders are encouraged to review and offer feedback on the draft plan and proposed local mitigation actions. The review and comment period is open for a period of 15 days through December 4, 2025. The public can access the plan using the following links:

Fillmore County HMP Website Homepage (feedback form at the bottom of page)

Fillmore County Mitigation Action Charts (feedback form at the bottom of page).

The Fillmore County HMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Fillmore County, including all cities and townships within the county. The Fillmore County HMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of other key stakeholders such as school districts and related agencies, organizations, or businesses participating in the planning process.

Update of the plan has been under direction of Fillmore County Emergency Management in cooperation with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth and representatives from county departments, city and township governments and other participating stakeholders. Together, the planning team worked to identify cost-effective and sustainable actions to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life or property from natural hazards. Examples include

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infrastructure projects for areas that experience repetitive flooding; construction of safe rooms in areas where residents and visitors are vulnerable to tornadoes and severe storm events; burying powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice, or wind storms; ensuring timely emergency communication to the public through warning sirens and mass notification systems; and conducting outreach to increase public awareness of severe weather and personal preparedness.

Hazard mitigation planning helps Fillmore County and other jurisdictions protect their residents. Working with local communities through the process helps identify vulnerabilities and develop strategies to reduce or eliminate the effects of a potential hazard. In addition, increasing public awareness of natural disasters and encouraging personal preparedness helps to create a community that is resilient to disaster, and breaks the cycle of response and recovery. Updating the plan further allows Fillmore County and its jurisdictions to be eligible to apply for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant program funding for projects that help to reduce or eliminate the impacts of future natural hazard events.

Community feedback is vital to the success of the plan. Fillmore County invites public review and feedback of the draft plan prior to submitting it to the State of Minnesota and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. Comments, concerns, or questions regarding the draft plan or ideas for mitigation projects should be submitted either via the Hazard Mitigation Plan website online public feedback form or by contacting Fillmore County Emergency Management.

Contact:
Jason Harmening
Emergency Management Director/Deputy Sheriff
Fillmore County Sheriff's Office
507-765-2830
jharmening@co.fillmore.mn.us

The following QR code may be used to directly access the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan interactive website and public feedback form.

Fillmore County HMP News Release #2 (11/20/25)
Chart Documentation of News Release Postings

Jurisdiction or Agency	Posting Representative (name and title)	Date & Location of News Release Posting
Fillmore County	Bobbie Hillery, County Administrator	11/20/2025 Posted to the Fillmore County website and Facebook
City of Canton	Anne Koliha, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted to City Hall, Post Office, First SE Bank, Facebook, and City Website.
City of Chatfield	Michelle Peterson, City Administrator	11/20/2025 Posted to city website
City of Fountain	Mary Jepkes, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted to City Hall
City of Harmony	Alissa Stelpflug, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted to Facebook, City Hall, First SE Bank, Post Office, city website.
City of Lanesboro	Mitchell Wallbridge, City Administrator	11/20/2025 Posted to City Hall
City of Mabel	Karen Larson, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Facebook and City website
City of Ostrander	Wendy Brinks, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted at post office and added to city water bill
City of Peterson	Chris Grindland, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted at City Hall
City of Preston	Ryan Throckmorton, City Administrator	11/21/2025 Posted at City Hall and Facebook
City of Rushford	Kathy Zacher, City Clerk	1/20/2025 Posted to Rushford IGA, Pam's Corner, Kwik Trip, city website and Facebook.
City of Rushford Village	Mary Miner, City Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted on city website, City Hall, State Bank, Merchants bank, Rushford Foods and Post Office
City of Spring Valley	Deb Zimmer, City Clerk	11/21/2025 Posted to City Hall, Facebook
City of Whalan	Teresa Grossell, City Clerk	11/22/2025 Posted at town hall
City of Wykoff	Rebecca Schmidt, City Clerk	11/21/2025, City Hall
Lanesboro Schools	Matt Schultz, Principal	11/20/2025 Posted to school website
Spring Valley TWP	Township Clerk	11/20/2025 Posted at Spring Valley Fire Hall
Kingsland Schools	Scott Klavetter	11/20/2025 Posted to district website
Leroy Ostrander Schools	Jennifer Backer-Johnson	11/24/2025 Posted to website.

Appendix H – Mitigation Actions by Jurisdiction

City of Canton — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The City of Canton utilizes its Facebook page and city website and inserts in the utility bills.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We currently do not but would add a link to our website and make a post on Facebook.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulation is enforced by the City Zoning Ordinance. We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Obtain and install generators to provide emergency backup power to key city infrastructure and facilities.	New High 2026-2031	City PW	The city needs to install generators for our city wells to supply water to city, generators at fire hall to ensure operation of the building and necessary equipment in times of need, and installation of generator at town hall to serve as a safe place to gather. The city will purchase generators as funding is available.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
5	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The city has plans for future infrastructure improvements with water and sewer lines and streets.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
6	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department and Fillmore County Emergency Management to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund

City of Canton — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
7	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Chatfield — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We post informational announcements on our city website, Police Department Facebook page, and through our cities public access channel (CCTV). Additionally, we can print information in our local newspaper. We often also make announcements at City Council meetings. We continue to participate in the NWS Severe Weather Awareness Week and SkyWarn Storm Spotter training.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We continue to encourage all residents to sign up for the county's CodeRED emergency notification system. We offer a sign-up link to a City of Rochester/Olmsted County Code Red Alert System offering county and local emergency notifications, on the city website, monthly newsletter, as well as on the local Public Access Channel (CCTV).	Internal: General Fund External: CCTV

City of Chatfield — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city's planning and zoning department enforces the MN State Building Code and the City Code zoning requirements for new development. We have a 20-year Comprehensive Plan that is designed to plan for future physical growth of the city and appropriate land uses. We have a 5-year Transportation Plan that identifies and schedules road, bridge, and culvert improvement projects to reduce over-the-road repetitive flooding. The city works with our 2 mobile home parks on emergency evacuation and sheltering of residents. The city also participates in the NFIP and enforces Chapter 105, Floodplain Management in the city code of ordinances.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Obtain and install a generator for emergency backup power at the city's Fire Station to support emergency sheltering.	New High 2026-2031	City EM, Fire Dept.	The city wishes to install a natural gas generator at our Fire Station to ensure operation of the building and necessary equipment in times of need. The building could then also serve as a backup or overflow for members of the community to have a safe place to reside. This is especially true for our community members that live in the mobile home park. This effort is part of the city's overall emergency preparedness efforts. We will purchase a generator as funding is available.	Internal: Fire Dept. Budget

City of Chatfield Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Evaluate opportunity to build a storm shelter or tornado safe room for the mobile home park in the city and the municipal campground, and implement construction projects as feasible.	New High 2026-2031	City EM, City PW	We have 1 mobile home park within the city that does not have a storm shelter and residents are vulnerable to high wind and tornado events. Our municipal campground is active during summer and fall months with RVs and campers and does not have a storm shelter. The city will work to evaluate what sorts of options may be possible for new construction for these locations, as well as working on alternate site evacuation plans and improved public information and warning for severe storm events. Outside grant funding for construction projects would be necessary.	Internal: General Funds (EM, PW) External: FEMA HMGP grant, MHP Funding
6	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Work with the Peoples Energy Coop as needed to address future conversion projects from overhead to underground to reduce power outages from a range of severe storm events.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City PW in coord with energy coop	The city Public Works Dept. continues to coordinate with People's Energy Coop on potential OH to UG conversion projects.	External: People's Energy Coop, FEMA HMGP grant

City of Chatfield — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
7	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	New High 2026-2031	City PW	The city of Chatfield is working to address flood mitigation measures for our city lift station that is prone to flooding during high rain events as well as our two city parks that are vulnerable to flooding and park equipment has been damaged in the past. We also need to upsize several culverts to better handle high rain events. These are projects that the Public Works department will work to address and budget for in coordination with City Admin.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
8	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Implement specific city plans and policies that help to address flood risk reduction.	Existing High 2025-2030	City Admin, Planning & Zoning, Public Works	The city has a 5-year Transportation Plan that identifies and schedules road, bridge, and culvert improvement projects to reduce over-the-road repetitive flooding. The plan is updated and implemented by our Public Works department. The city also participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and has FEMA mapped high risk areas. The city enforces Chapter 105, Floodplain Management in the city code of ordinances.	Internal: General Fund
9	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	A generator has been installed at City Hall for creating a community shelter. The city will work with Olmsted County Emergency Management to determine what sort plan & procedures are needed to have in place to provide temporary sheltering should the need arise.	Internal: General Fund

City of Chatfield Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
10	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	During periods of severe drought, the city of Chatfield enforces its water Conservation Plan and promotes water conservation awareness measures to residents.	Internal: General Fund

City of Fountain — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city uses our city website, text alerts, utility billing, and city Facebook page to communicate information to our residents. The city will work to share information during the NWS Severe Weather Awareness weeks in April and November each year.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	Our City Admin / City EM will work to increase use of our city website and Facebook page to encourage residents to sign up for CodeRED. We will work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to help us with this effort.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulations are enforced by city code. We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install a natural gas generator at our Community Hall to support emergency sheltering.	New High 2026-2031	City EM / PW Dept.	The city will purchase a generator as funding is available.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
5	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The city will be working to make sure all sub-pumps are drained to the outside and not into septic. This will help mitigate against the impacts of high rain events on our I&I system.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Fountain — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
6	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	Our city Emergency Manager will work with our city government as well as Fillmore County Emergency Management to develop a plan for temporary warming facilities for those in the community who are more highly vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or winter storms and extended power outages homeless, elderly).	Internal: General Fund
7	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Harmony — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We utilize City Notify to send alerts via phone calls and emails. Additionally, we share informational announcements on the City's Facebook page and website. For emergency events, our town is equipped with three sirens, with the primary siren featuring a battery backup for reliability.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We are currently working with Fillmore County on utilizing CodeRED as an emergency alert option. For residents to "opt in" we could offer a sign-up link on our website or Facebook page. The City of Harmony currently utilizes Notify through our local broadband provider to send out phone calls or emails.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulations are enforced by city code. We have a Planning & Zoning Department that takes care of all zoning requirements. The city has no flood plains within the city boundaries.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Obtain and install generator backup power for key city facilities and infrastructure.	New High 2026-2031	City EM / PW Dept	We have added new generators to both Lift Stations, Well, Sewer Plant and the Firehall. The city wishes to obtain a permanent diesel generator for the Community Center. This building will serve as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage. The city will purchase a generator as funding is available.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Harmony — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Reduce the risk of power outages to overhead power lines from severe storm events.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	PW Dept	Overhead electrical infrastructure is inspected and trees are trimmed as needed by our Public Works dept.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
6	Severe Summer Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	Explore options to provide emergency storm sheltering to residents of the community who are more vulnerable to extreme wind or tornado events.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city feels that it would be beneficial to have a storm shelter in the community. We will look at the possibility of constructing a new storm shelter in a key location, or establishing plans to utilize the city's community center.	Internal: General Fund
7	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	Our lift station pumps are inspected and serviced annually. In 2020 and 2024 the City of Harmony completed street reconstruction projects which included adding more storm sewer and catch basins, as well as updating the sewer and water lines in those areas.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
8	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	This is part of the city's broader effort to be prepared for emergency sheltering. We are planning to utilize our Community Center, which needs a back up generator in the event of an extended power outage.	Internal: General Fund
9	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Lanesboro — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The City of Lanesboro utilizes its Facebook page, city website, and an email distribution list to share information about severe weather events and preparedness. We provide a page of Emergency Weather Information on our city website.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	Lanesboro encourages residents/business owners to enroll in the Code Red system.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulations are defined and enforced by adopted city ordinance code. The city is also working on an update to our Comprehensive Plan in 2025 which outlines our goals and strategies for future growth.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install additional backup generators for the emergency services building and City Hall.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City PW	The city needs to obtain additional generators for its emergency services building and City Hall to maintain operations and provide services and shelter during power outage events. The city will purchase generators as internal funding is available.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget, Public Utility Budget

City of Lanesboro — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Reduce the risk of downed power lines and extended power outages due to severe storm events.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City PW	The city continues to trim and remove dead branches that encroach on power lines. We will work to invest in more underground power infrastructure to reduce the risk of power outages during storms. The city continually makes improvements to electrical grid resilience including back-up generator automation, SCADA system enhancements to better monitor our water and wastewater operations, control of the city's generator, as well as our hydroplant and local solar power systems. Remote monitoring provides immediate notification of alarms and faster response times, creating a more reliable electrical supply for the city.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget, Public Utilities Budget
6	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Develop a plan to install temporary or permanent flood barriers along roadways and infrastructure susceptible to flooding.	New High 2026-2031	City PW in coord with PUC	This project is under the oversight of our city public works staff and Public Utilities Commission.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
7	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Address flood risk reduction measures for city infrastructure that is susceptible to flooding, including the city's wastewater treatment plant, power plant, and some roadways and transportation routes.	New High 2026-2031	City PW in coord with PUC	This project is under the oversight of our city public works staff and Public Utilities Commission.	Internal: Public Utilities Budget

City of Lanesboro — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
8	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Create and identify more designated tornado shelters in high-risk areas. Ensure that shelters are equipped with emergency supplies, including backup power for critical services.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city of Lanesboro will evaluate where possible storm shelters or tornado safe rooms would be of benefit in the community. In order to address construction of such facilities, significant funding would be needed. The city may seek future FEMA HMGP grant funding for safe room projects.	Internal: General Fund, PW Dept. Budget External: FEMA HMGP, other possible grants TBD
9	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund
10	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Mabel — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The City of Mabel remains active through the city website, monthly newsletters, Facebook, and bulletin boards. A new siren has been installed at the Mabel Emergency Services building serving as our notification system. The city utilizes the new warning siren by testing monthly and subscribed to the annual O/M Inspection to insure proper operation. We are beginning to look at text alerts and have interest in the Code Red system.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	Currently, we do not offer this option. In the future, we could add a link to the city website or by adding this option displayed through our monthly newsletter. We will seek assistance from Fillmore County Emergency Management.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulations are enforced by city code. The city zoning administrator reviews building permits and enforces our Floodplain Ordinance. We also have a Wellhead Protection Plan to protect our drinking water.	Internal: General Fund

City of Mabel — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install additional backup generators for key city facilities and infrastructure.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The City of Mabel has recently added a backup generator at the City Hall/Community Center (2025). A portable generator for two Lift stations (2025). Permanent generators are located at our Wastewater Treatment Facility and one of the Well houses. We would like to acquire a backup generator for the Mabel-Canton School for use in temporary sheltering to large groups of residents during an extended power outage event. Extra portable or permanent generators are also needed for the EMS/Fire Station and Daycare Facility. The city will seek to purchase new generators as internal funding is available. The city may also seek any possible outside grant funds.	Internal: PW Dept. Fund External: FEMA HMGP
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Encourage MiEnergy to convert overhead powerlines to underground to reduce power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City PW	Our distribution system is serviced by MiEnergy. They continue regular maintenance and conversions to underground supply lines as they determine are necessary and feasible. The city continues to work with MiEnergy as needed on such projects. In the future MiEnergy may seek to apply for FEMA HMGP grant funding to support such projects if necessary.	External: MiEnergy, FEMA HMGP

City of Mabel — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
6	Severe Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Set up a tornado shelter for residents in the mobile home park to help protect vulnerable residents from dangerous high wind and tornado events.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city will work with the mobile home park owner to assess what options may be possible for construction of a storm shelter or tornado safe room. The city would need to apply for FEMA HMGP grant funding or seek other additional external funding to make a construction project possible.	Internal: General Fund External: FEMA HMGP tornado safe room grant
7	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Work with the MNDNR and FEMA to obtain grant funds for land acquisition in order to relocate homes out of the flood prone areas.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City PW	Mabel is prone to flooding as the Riceford Creek flows through the center of town. Mitigation projects have been completed previously. The relocation of some existing house structures is still necessary, but due to limited land availability and cost, this remains a high priority. The City Clerk and Public Works Director have met with the DNR Regional Clean Water Hydrologist, DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Manager, and the DNR area Hydrologist to discuss Flood Mitigation Projects/Relocation. The city may also seek to apply for external grant funding from the FEMA HMGP program if necessary.	External: MN DNR FHM grant funding, FEMA HMGP grant funding

City of Mabel — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
8	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Plan for and implement projects that reduce risk of future flood events to roads and other critical infrastructure in the city.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	Our city public works department is working to asses and address issues with West Hwy 44 which is prone to flooding, cutting east bound traffic. PW is also evaluating mitigation for our Wastewater Treatment Facility and its access, which are also located within the floodplain. The city of Mable continues working with the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (MMUA) in identifying potential risks and risk abatement options.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
9	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	In-Progress High 2026	City PW	The City of Mabel is working with Davy Engineering, and Fillmore County to reconstruct the storm sewers on Cty Rd 28 and Cty Rd 34 with the work slated for 2026.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
10	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department and Fillmore County Emergency Management to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund
11	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Ostrander — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city uses our website to share news and other information with our residents. We will seek to participate in future NWS Severe Weather Awareness Weeks with Fillmore County.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city will provide reminders to residents encouraging sign up for CodeRED via our water bills and social media.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The City of Ostrander enforces Fillmore County zoning code, state electrical inspections and the use of licensed contractors. We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements.	Internal: General Fund
4	Extreme Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase a generator for the Community Center that serves as our local shelter if people are displaced from a severe storm event or extended power outage.	New High 2026-2031	City Public Works	Our city Public Works Director will work to purchase a generator as funding is available. In 2022 the city also placed a generator at the well house and at the lift station when the city underwent a major infrastructure project.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Reduce the risk of power outages to overhead power lines from severe storm events.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	PW Dept	Overhead electrical infrastructure is inspected and trees are trimmed as needed by our Public Works dept. We will work with MiEnergy to convert overhead power lines to underground utility services as possible.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget External: MiEnergy
6	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The city has updated all of its infrastructure with all new storm sewer, lift station and well. We have generators at all locations in case of power outages. Our city Public Works staff will continue to monitor and address any possible issues with handling future high rain events.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Ostrander Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
7	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	The city has plans in place to use our Community Center to serve as a temporary sheltering site.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
8	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	During periods of extreme drought the city will enforce the city's water conservation plan. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Peterson — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We share information with our residents via our city website, social media and city newsletter.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	This information can be added to the city's website, newsletter, and new utility applications.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulations are enforced by city code. The city's land use ordinances include floodplain regulations that are routinely reviewed with the MN DNR. Land use code and application review includes approval consideration contingent upon floodplain management best practices as defined by FEMA and the DNR.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Reduce the risk of downed power lines and extended power outages from the impacts of heavy snow, ice, or high wind events.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City PW in coord with MiEnergy	Public Works inspects overhead electrical infrastructure and we trims branches near power lines. We will encourage MiEnergy to convert overhead power lines to underground where possible to avoid downed power lines.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget External: MiEnergy

City of Peterson — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Ensure the city has emergency generator backup power for city services and buildings.	New High 2026-2031	City PW / City EM	The city of Peterson has identified the following critical priorities for obtaining generator backup power: 1) A generator is needed for operation of the well pump to ensure city water can continue to supply residents. 2) A generator is needed at the sewer plant to maintain the ability to treat wastewater. 3) A generator is needed at City Hall, which serves as the command post during emergencies. The city will work to purchase generators as funding is available out of the general city operating fund, but will also be seeking possible external grant funding. This may include future application for a FEMA HMGP grant.	Internal: General City Op. Funding External: FEMA HMGP Grant or other grant funding (TBD)

City of Peterson — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
6	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	Lift station pumps are inspected and serviced annually. Culverts are inspected and cleaned annually. The city has a backup generator for the lift station that can be used if the city loses power. Our WWTP has one lift station that services the sanitary sewer system. Sewer backups could occur during periods of significant rainfall if the lift station pumps were to fail. Most of the town does not have curb and gutter so portions could be prone to flooding during high rain events. The tidal sock on County Rd 25 should be inspected. If this were to fail water from the Root River would enter this culvert and bring flood water in. Our Public Works department continues to work on addressing flood mitigation for these areas of concern.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
7	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department and Fillmore County Emergency Management to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund

City of Peterson — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
8	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Preston — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We use our city website and social media to share information with the public, as well as making announcements at public meetings.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We will work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to help us put a link on our city website to direct residents where to sign up for CodeRED.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Building regulations are enforced by city code. The city also participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and has a DNR/FEMA approved floodplain management ordinance.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install generators for emergency backup power for the city's emergency services building.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin, City EM	The city is planning to obtain a generator for our emergency services building to ensure the building is functional during a power outage. Additionally, this location would likely be used to provide services or shelter to residents. The city will purchase a generator as funding is available.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Reduce the risk of power outages from strong wind events that bring down power lines.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City PW	Our public works department continues to trim trees near power lines and continue efforts to bury electrical to reduce the overhead powerlines.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
6	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Upgrade the city's outdoor warning sirens to include battery backup.	New High 2026-2031	City EM	The city recently installed new battery backup sirens throughout the community. We are continuing to work on this effort to ensure all sirens are covered.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Preston — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
7	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Continue to work with FEMA and the DNR to maintain our flood plain ordinance to be compliant with the DNR and National Flood Insurance Program.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	City Administration will work with the MN DNR Floodplain Manager to maintain the floodplain management ordinance for the city and designate a FP Manager.	External: MN DNR Floodplain Mgmt. Program
8	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Work with the city engineer to design and implement projects that improve and protect the city's stormwater infrastructure.	New High 2026-2031	City PW	The City of Preston continues to monitor and construct stormwater structures. Our Wastewater Treatment facility is susceptible to flooding, which could lead to sewer backups into homes. We are working with our city engineer to address this issue.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
9	Flooding	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Continue to work on obtaining private property within the floodway to minimize flood damage.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city continues to identify where there may be opportunities to purchase private property. This may include working with homeowners on buyouts.	External: MN DNR FHM grant program, FEMA HMGP grant program
10	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund
11	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Rushford Village — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	Information could be included on the city website and in our quarterly newsletter. We also have a siren in South Rushford that is activated to warn residents of severe wind or tornado events when necessary.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We will work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to help us post a link to direct residents to go to the county website to sign up. We could also include information in the quarterly newsletter.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	Our Planning & Zoning Board enforce the City Zoning Ordinances and Floodplain regulations with the help of the MN DNR.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install backup generators for City Hall, the city maintenance building, and for the city lift station to be prepared for power outages.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM / City PW	The purchase and installation of backup generators for the city hall, maintenance building and lift station would ensure continuous operations during power outages. Installing a generator at the city hall would provide a safe place for residents to gather. The city will work on purchasing generators as funding is available.	Internal: General Fund, PW Dept. Budget
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Reduce the risk of power outages due to downed power lines from severe storms.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	PW Dept.	Our Public Works Department continues with tree trimming on a regular basis. We are a rural city with many trees. During these types of events roads can easily become blocked from fallen trees. With 33 miles of gravel roads to maintain it takes a long time to clear roads after a major storm	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Rushford Village — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
6	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	Our city Public Works staff continue to make sure that culverts are not obstructed and continue with road maintenance grading so water runs off roadways correctly. We also are working with MN DNR regarding bank soil erosion.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
7	Extreme Cold	Education & Awareness Programs	Continue to use the city's new water meter service to alert residents to the risk of frozen pipes.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin, City PW	The city recently installed new water meters so we get alerts when a resident is using an abnormal amount of water or the temperature near their meter is close to freezing, this allows us to contact the resident and hopefully stop potential issues.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
8	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department and Fillmore County Emergency Management to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund
9	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Rushford — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city uses our city website to share information with residents as well as our city Facebook page. The city maintains three warning siren systems in our community to warn residents of impending bad weather. The Fire Dept. has trained weather/storm watchers and stays in contact with Fillmore County during weather events. We also use Facebook to alert residents of weather events as well as to offer suggestions from FEMA and other emergency agencies on things they can do in their own homes to be prepared for different emergency situations.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We have encouraged signing up for Code Red through Facebook reminders. If the County puts out information, we share it.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The City of Rushford follows the MN State Building Code, we contract with CMS out of Rochester to do plan reviews and conduct inspections. The city has our own Zoning, Subdivision and Land Use ordinances which are administered through City Hall. The building permit process is started at City Hall with review and then handed over to CMS for code review/inspections. We track each permit.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	Reduce the risk of extended power outages due to downed power lines from severe storms.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City PW	The city is moving more overhead electric lines to underground. The city is trimming and removing dead/dying trees on a routine basis and especially those around overhead electric lines.	Internal: PW Dept. Fund

City of Rushford — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install a backup generator for our emergency services building (fire, police, EMS).	New High 2026-2031	City EM / City PW	The city plans to obtain a generator for this critical facility so we can have emergency backup power to support emergency response services during extended power outages. The city will purchase a generator as funding is available.	Internal: General Fund
6	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Formally identify community gathering places for emergency shelters and provide backup generator systems.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	This is part of the city's emergency preparedness planning. We plan to formalize what would be our designated facilities and obtain backup generator power. The city will purchase any generators as funding is available. We may seek assistance from Fillmore County Emergency Management on our shelter planning efforts.	Internal: General Fund
7	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The city routinely repairs and improves culverts connected to the levee system and in other parts of the city's storm water system. The city is planning to purchase additional pumps or identify sources of pumps to remove water from interior of the city back out to the creek or river. The city is also working to develop a better program to inform, inspect, and control individual sump pumps.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Rushford — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
8	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department and Fillmore County Emergency Management to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund
9	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Spring Valley — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	The city website and Facebook are used to alert residents to weather events. We will work to share information during the NWS Severe Weather Awareness Weeks in April and November.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We will work with Fillmore County Emergency Management to provide us with a link to add to the city website.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The City of Spring Valley works with Safebuilt for code enforcement. The Planning & Zoning Department enforces the floodplain management ordinances.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Reduce the risk of downed power lines from severe storm events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The City of Spring Valley oversees utility services for electricity in the city. Electrical lines are being buried throughout town. This has been an ongoing effort to reduce risk of power outages.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
5	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	Our lift station is prone to flooding and we are exploring options for relocation. Our Public Works team is also working to address mitigation for the creek that runs through downtown and experiences flooding issues during high rain events. During such events three city streets and Hwy 63 are occasionally shut down with the assistance of our local emergency management and fire department.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
6	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	Emergency shelter is provided at the Ambulance Facility if we need to provide shelter during an extreme cold or other hazard event.	Internal: General Fund

City of Spring Valley — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
7	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will establish watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought. The city will do local outreach to help make residents aware of the ordinance and the limitations on non-essential water usage.	Internal: General Fund

City of Whalan — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin	We use our city website to share information with residents, as well as making announcements at City Council meetings. We also have an outdoor siren system that is used to warn residents of dangerous high wind or tornado events.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin	This has not been done, but a link could be added to the city website. We will seek assistance from Fillmore County Emergency Management on this effort.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2025-2026	City Admin	The city plans to adopt the MN State Building Code after we complete updates to our City Zoning Ordinance. We continue to enforce our floodplain management ordinance.	Internal: General Fund
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install backup generators for key city facilities and infrastructure to be prepared for extended power outages.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin	The city would like to install a natural gas generator at our Town Hall to ensure operation of the building and necessary equipment in times of need. The building could then also serve as a backup or overflow for members of the community to have a safe place to reside. This is especially true for our community members that are outside on the bike trail. The city will purchase a generator as funding is available.	Internal: General Fund, PW Dept. Budget
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Reduce the risk of downed power lines from severe storm events.	Existing High 2026-2031	Mayor in conjunction with City Council and MiEnergy	As of 1/1/25, it is MiEnergy Cooperative's responsibility to address future conversion projects from overhead to underground to reduce power outages from a range of severe storm event; this includes trimming trees as necessary.	External: MiEnergy

City of Whalan — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
6	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Evaluate opportunity to build a storm shelter or tornado safe room for those without basements or out on the bike trail. Implement construction projects if they are possible.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin	The city will work to assess where storm shelter or tornado safe room construction projects are most needed and if outside grant funding can be obtained to support the projects. The city will also work on an alternate plan for utilizing existing facilities such as the local church hall.	Internal: General Fund, PW Dept Budget External: FEMA HMGP Safe Room Grant
7	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	Mayor in conjunction with City Council	We have not had any flooding since the dike was built, but most of our downtown area is in the floodplain. The city recently had new road construction on Main Street including water catch basins for the storm sewers. Our public works team continues to monitor and address any areas that may be of concern in handling high rain events.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
8	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin	In the event of an extreme cold event coupled with an extended power outage, the city will work with our fire department and Fillmore County Emergency Management to address assistance such as evacuation or temporary sheltering for the elderly or other vulnerable residents.	Internal: General Fund
9	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Plan for how to mitigate against frozen water services as well as drought to our area wells.	New High 2026-2031	City Council	We have three private, but shared, wells that can be negatively impacted by extreme cold (frozen water services). It is up to each of them to mitigate impacts of extreme cold temps to the wells.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

City of Wykoff — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents to be aware of and prepared for severe weather events, periods of extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	We use the city website, Facebook, and an emergency text alert system. We are installing a new siren next that will be set off by Fillmore County Emergency systems instead of relying on our firemen to set off. We will work with our city emergency manager to share severe weather information with the public such as participating in the Severe Weather Awareness Week and SkyWarn Storm Spotter training.	Internal: General Fund
2	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	Encourage residents in our community to sign up for the county's emergency notification system.	Existing High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	On our utility application there is a place for new residents to sign up for the emergency text notifications and it is also on our webpage. We have about a 70% participation rate. We will work to also promote sign up for the Fillmore County CodeRED emergency notification system by including information on our city website and a link that goes to the county website to sign up.	Internal: General Fund
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	Incorporate mitigation strategies across the city's long-term plans and policies for future growth and new development.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	The city has adopted the MN Code Book 2023 for zoning and ordinances. We have a zoning administrator that takes care of all zoning requirements.	Internal: General Fund

City of Wykoff — Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
4	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Purchase and install backup generators for our Community Hall to serve as a shelter and for our city water system in order to be prepared for extended power outages.	New High 2026-2031	City Admin / City EM	A generator for our city water and our community center is high on our list of needs for power outages. Our water system is vulnerable to power outages, and we are working on plans to convert the lower level of the Community Center is to serve as an emergency shelter. The city will purchase new generators as funding is available.	Internal: General Fund, PW Dept Budget
5	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	Work with MiEnergy on utility projects to reduce the risk of downed power lines.	In-Progress High 2026-2031	City PW in coord with MiEnergy Coop	MiEnergy is in the beginning planning stages of doing underground service through Wykoff which will assist in power outages in the future.	External: MiEnergy
6	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	Work to address flood mitigation measures that help the city to handle future high rain events.	Existing High 2026-2031	City PW	The city is doing a 5-year plan to upgrade several troubled areas of storm drainage. In the last 3 years the city has installed larger effluent pumps and graded the surrounding area around our WWTP to control the flooding at the plant. Our public works dept. continues efforts to upsize several culverts to better handle high rain events. We are also continuing to work on our INI protocol which was instituted 3 years ago.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget
7	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Continue to use the city's meter monitoring system to help alert residents to the dangers of frozen pipes.	Existing Moderate 2026-2031	City PW Dept.	The city has a meter monitoring system that alerts us to water leaks and heavy usage. If a pipe is frozen and there is no usage or if the pipe bursts, we have the capability to notify the resident within 3 hours. Being a small town, everyone in town is in touch with their neighbors and can contact city staff with any concerns.	Internal: PW Dept. Budget

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
8	Extreme Cold	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	Be prepared to provide emergency sheltering to vulnerable residents during periods of extreme cold temperatures.	Existing High 2024-2029	City Admin, City EM	The city is working on converting the lower level of the community center to a shelter that can be used for those who are more highly vulnerable during periods of extreme cold or winter storms that result in extended power outages (i.e., homeless, elderly).	Internal: General Fund
9	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations / Education & Awareness Programs	Establish watering restrictions during drought conditions and raise public awareness of water conservation measures.	New Moderate 2026-2031	City Admin	During periods of severe drought, the city will enforce our water Conservation Plan and promote water conservation awareness measures to residents.	Internal: General Fund

Appendix I – Plan Maintenance & Monitoring Worksheets

During the five-year plan period, the Emergency Management Director (EMD) will require all relevant departments and jurisdictions to report on the status of their mitigation actions. This information will be used to track progress for the next plan update. Participating jurisdictions will use these worksheets to report on the mitigation activities listed in Appendix H.

Mitigation Action Tracking	
Name of Jurisdiction	
Reporting Period	
Describe the action or project.	
Who is responsible for the action?	
Project status:	☐ Complete ☐ In progress, anticipated completion date: _____ ☐ Not started ☐ Canceled
Progress Report	
Has there been any progress with this project so far?	
Are there any obstacles or challenges with this action so far?	
What steps do you need to take to complete this project?	
Other comments:	

Hazard Mitigation Plan Maintenance Schedule			
Plan Maintenance Step	When	How	Who
Monitoring	Twice per year.	Get status updates on jurisdictional mitigation actions, compile progress reports and identify any opportunities for improvement.	Emergency Management Director
Evaluating	Once a year or after a disaster event.	Use a standard form to review how the plan has been carried out so far and record lessons learned.	Emergency Management Director, Lead Jurisdiction Planning Department Manager
Updating	Every 5 years, or after a disaster event.	Review the plan and document necessary updates as necessary for the next plan update.	Emergency Management Director, Lead Jurisdiction Planning Department Manager

The EMD will also seek feedback from the Emergency Managers group on the following:

- Are there any new representatives from jurisdictions, agencies, or organizations that you feel should be included in our stakeholder outreach?

- Do you feel your community has any new vulnerabilities that may be impacted by hazard events? (critical infrastructure, systems, or populations)

- Has your community identified any new mitigation activities that would help reduce risk to future hazard events?

- Are there any funding opportunities or other resources that may be available to help implement local mitigation activities?

- How is your community integrating information from the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms (such as plans, policies, or partnerships)?

CITY OF LANESBORO
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22

A Resolution Accepting Donations to the Lanesboro Fire Department

WHEREAS, the City of Lanesboro is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 465.03 for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the following persons and entities have offered to contribute the cash amount set forth below to the City of Lanesboro for the support of the Lanesboro Fire Department:

Name of Donor	Amount
Richard & Diane Haight	$40.00
Gary & Judy Kingsbury	$100.00
Kara Maloney	$100.00
Philip Holtegaard	$25.00
Richard & Sharon Peterson	$120.00
Chris Mindrum	$50.00
Preston Specialties INC	$100.00

WHEREAS, all such donations have been contributed to assist the city in continued financial support for the Lanesboro Fire Department, as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is appropriate to accept the donation offered;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANESBORO, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The donations described above are accepted and shall be used towards Lanesboro Fire Department operational expenses, as allowed by law.
2. The City of Lanesboro is hereby directed to issue a receipt to the donor acknowledging the city's receipt of the donor's donation.

Passed by the City Council of Lanesboro, Minnesota this 2nd day of February, 2026.

_____
Alicia Pearson
Its: Mayor

Attested:

_____

Mitchell Walbridge
Its: City Administrator/Clerk

Permitted B&B's in Lanesboro								
Lic #	#	Name:	Physical Address:	Mailing Address:	# of Rooms	MN Lic.	Pd	City App
2026 BB-1	1	Thompson House B&B	401 Parkway Ave S	Thompson House B&B 401 Parkway Ave S Lanesboro, MN 55949	4			
2026 BB-2	2	Scandinavian Inn	701 Kenilworth Ave S	Scandinavian Inn 701 Kenilworth Avenue S Lanesboro, MN 55949	5			
2026 BB-3	3	O'Leary's B&B	707 Parkway Ave S	O'Leary's B&B 707 Parkway Avenue S Lanesboro, MN 55949	5			
2026 BB-4	4	Historic Scanlan House	708 Parkway Ave S	Historic Scanlan House 708 Parkway Avenue S Lanesboro, MN 55949	6			

Short Term Lodging in Lanesboro

Lic. #	#	Name:	Physical Address:	Mailing Address:	# of Rooms	MN Lic.	Pd	City App
2026 L-1	1	Hotel Skelly LLC	101 Parkway Ave N	Levi & Chelsey Skelly 3899 168th Ave NW Andover, MN 55304	9			
2026 L-2	2	The Stone Mill Suites	100 Beacon Street East	The Stone Mill Suites PO Box 114 Lanesboro, MN 55949	13			
2026 L-3	3	Green Gables Inn	303 Sheridan West	Evergreen Hospitality LLC 303 Sheridan West Lanesboro, MN 55949	15			
2026 L-4	4	Coffee Street Inn	305 Coffee St E	Coffee Street Inn 303 Coffee Street E Lanesboro, MN 55949	6			
2026 L-5	5	Guest Hus	610 Parkway Ave S	Guest Hus 1800 8th Ave SW Austin, MN 55912	5			
2026 L-6	6	Cottage House	209 Parkway Ave N	Cottage House PO Box 277 Lanesboro, MN 55949	15			
2026 L-7	7	Root River Inn & Suits	106 Parkway Ave S	Root River Hospitality LLC 106 Parkway Ave S Lanesboro, MN 55949	11			
2026 L-8	8	Lanesboro Lofts LLC	204 Parkway Ave N.	Joseph O'Koren PO Box 420 Lanesboro, MN 55949	1			
2026 L-9	9	Art Lofts	103 1/2 Parkway Ave N.	Lanesboro Arts PO Box 152 Lanesboro, MN 55949	1			
2026 L-10	10	Root River Inn & Suits	100 Coffee Street E	Root River Hospitality LLC 106 Parkway Ave S Lanesboro, MN 55949	4			
2026 L-11	11	Riverside Suites	208 Ashburn Street E	John Hungerholt 25276 Hwy 250 Lanesboro, MN 55949	4			
2026 L-12	12	Grandma's Trail House	100 Elmwood Street E.	Grandma's Trail House 100 Elmwood St E Lanesboro, MN 55949	8			
2026 L-13	13	Historic Knotty Pine Cabins	607 Fillmore Ave S	Historic Knotty Pine Cabins PO Box 198 Lanesboro, MN 55949	2			
2026 L-14	14	Harvey High Court Pub LLC	109 Parkway Ave N	Harvey High Court Pub LLC PO Box 25 Lanesboro, MN 55949	1			
2026 L-15	15	Cozy Cottage	203 Ashburn ST E	Jeff & Patty Brogle 30805 381st Ave Peterson, MN 55962	1			
2026 L-16	16	Parkway Place A & B	201 Parkway Ave N	Jeff & Patty Brogle 30805 381st Ave Peterson, MN 55962	2			
2026 L-17	18	Lanesboro House	107 Elmwood St E	Jill Cyr 5016 Primrose Ave Stacyville, IA 50476	6			
2026 L-19	19	Paddle On Coffee	115 Parkway Ave N	Root River Hospitality LLC 106 Parkway Ave S Lanesboro, MN 55949				
2026 L-20	20	River's Retreat LLC	109 Elmowood St E	Michelle Leon Rivers Retreat LLC 5688 Oak Forest Lane Houston, MN 55943	2			
2026 L-21	20	Root River Trail House	116 Coffee Street E	Austin Perkins 16604 750th Ave Albert Lea, MN 56007	3			

LG220 Application for Exempt Permit

An exempt permit may be issued to a nonprofit organization that:
- conducts lawful gambling on five or fewer days, and
- awards less than $50,000 in prizes during a calendar year.

If total raffle prize value for the calendar year will be $1,500 or less, contact the Licensing Specialist assigned to your county by calling 651-539-1900.

Application Fee (non-refundable)

Applications are processed in the order received. If the application is postmarked or received 30 days or more before the event, the application fee is **$100**; otherwise the fee is **$150**.

Due to the high volume of exempt applications, payment of additional fees prior to 30 days before your event will not expedite service, nor are telephone requests for expedited service accepted.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization Name: Lanesboro Chamber of Commerce
Previous Gambling Permit Number: X- 35154-24-029

Minnesota Tax ID Number, if any: [redacted]
Federal Employer ID Number (FEIN), if any: [redacted]

Mailing Address: P.O Box 348

City: Lanesboro State: MN Zip: 55949 County: Fillmore

Name of Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Jeremy Van Meter

CEO Daytime Phone: 507-467-2696 CEO Email: [redacted]
(permit will be emailed to this email address unless otherwise indicated below)

Email permit to (if other than the CEO): dtaylor@lanesboro-mn.gov

NONPROFIT STATUS

Type of Nonprofit Organization (check one):

☐ Fraternal ☐ Religious ☐ Veterans ☑ Other Nonprofit Organization

Attach a copy of one of the following showing proof of nonprofit status:

(DO NOT attach a sales tax exempt status or federal employer ID number, as they are not proof of nonprofit status.)

☑ **A current calendar year Certificate of Good Standing**
Don't have a copy? Obtain this certificate from:
MN Secretary of State, Business Services Division
60 Empire Drive, Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55103

Secretary of State website, phone numbers:
www.sos.state.mn.us
651-296-2803, or toll free 1-877-551-6767

☐ **IRS income tax exemption (501(c)) letter in your organization's name**
Don't have a copy? To obtain a copy of your federal income tax exempt letter, have an organization officer contact the IRS toll free at 1-877-829-5500.

☐ **IRS - Affiliate of national, statewide, or international parent nonprofit organization (charter)**
If your organization falls under a parent organization, attach copies of both of the following:
1. IRS letter showing your parent organization is a nonprofit 501(c) organization with a group ruling; and
2. the charter or letter from your parent organization recognizing your organization as a subordinate.

GAMBLING PREMISES INFORMATION

Name of premises where the gambling event will be conducted (for raffles, list the site where the drawing will take place): Lanesboro Community Center

Physical Address (do not use P.O. box): 202 Parkway Ave S Lanesboro, MN 55949

Check one:
☑ City: Lanesboro Zip: 55949 County: Fillmore
☐ Township: Zip: County:

Date(s) of activity (for raffles, indicate the date of the drawing): August 2, 2026

Check each type of gambling activity that your organization will conduct:

☐ Bingo ☐ Paddlewheels ☐ Pull-Tabs ☐ Tipboards ☑ Raffle

Gambling equipment for bingo paper, bingo boards, raffle boards, paddlewheels, pull-tabs, and tipboards must be obtained from a distributor licensed by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board. EXCEPTION: Bingo hard cards and bingo ball selection devices may be borrowed from another organization authorized to conduct bingo. To find a licensed distributor, go to ***www.mn.gov/gcb*** and click on ***Distributors*** under the ***List of Licensees*** tab, or call 651-539-1900.

LG220 Application for Exempt Permit

LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT (required before submitting application to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board)

CITY APPROVAL for a gambling premises located within city limits

- [x] The application is acknowledged with no waiting period.
- [ ] The application is acknowledged with a 30-day waiting period, and allows the Board to issue a permit after 30 days (60 days for a 1st class city).
- [ ] The application is denied.

Print City Name: Lanesboro

Signature of City Personnel:

Title: _____ Date: _____

The city or county must sign before submitting application to the Gambling Control Board.

COUNTY APPROVAL for a gambling premises located in a township

- [ ] The application is acknowledged with no waiting period.
- [ ] The application is acknowledged with a 30-day waiting period, and allows the Board to issue a permit after 30 days.
- [ ] The application is denied.

Print County Name: _____

Signature of County Personnel:

Title: _____ Date: _____

TOWNSHIP (if required by the county)
On behalf of the township, I acknowledge that the organization is applying for exempted gambling activity within the township limits. (A township has no statutory authority to approve or deny an application, per Minn. Statutes, section 349.213.)

Print Township Name: _____

Signature of Township Officer: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S SIGNATURE (required)

The information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that the financial report will be completed and returned to the Board within 30 days of the event date.

Chief Executive Officer's Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Signature must be CEO's signature; designee may not sign)

Print Name: Jeremy Van Meter

REQUIREMENTS

Complete a separate application for:
- all gambling conducted on two or more consecutive days; or
- all gambling conducted on one day.

Only one application is required if one or more raffle drawings are conducted on the same day.

Financial report to be completed within 30 days after the gambling activity is done:
A financial report form will be mailed with your permit. Complete and return the financial report form to the Gambling Control Board.

Your organization must keep all exempt records and reports for 3-1/2 years (Minn. Statutes, section 349.166, subd. 2(f)).

MAIL APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS

Mail application with:
- [x] a copy of your proof of nonprofit status; and
- [x] application fee (non-refundable). If the application is postmarked or received 30 days or more before the event, the application fee is **$100**; otherwise the fee is **$150**. Make check payable to **State of Minnesota**.

To: Minnesota Gambling Control Board
1711 West County Road B, Suite 300 South
Roseville, MN 55113

Questions?
Call the Licensing Section of the Gambling Control Board at 651-539-1900.

Data privacy notice: The information requested on this form (and any attachments) will be used by the Gambling Control Board (Board) to determine your organization's qualifications to be involved in lawful gambling activities in Minnesota. Your organization has the right to refuse to supply the information; however, if your organization refuses to supply this information, the Board may not be able to determine your organization's qualifications and, as a consequence, may refuse to issue a permit. If your organization supplies the information requested, the Board will be able to process the application. Your organization's name and address will be public information when received by the Board. All other information provided will be private data about your organization until the Board issues the permit. When the Board issues the permit, all information provided will become public. If the Board does not issue a permit, all information provided remains private, with the exception of your organization's name and address which will remain public. Private data about your organization are available to Board members, Board staff whose work requires access to the information; Minnesota's Department of Public Safety; Attorney General; Commissioners of Administration, Minnesota Management & Budget, and Revenue; Legislative Auditor, national and international gambling regulatory agencies; anyone pursuant to court order; other individuals and agencies specifically authorized by state or federal law to have access to the information; individuals and agencies for which law or legal order authorizes a new use or sharing of information after this notice was given; and anyone with your written consent.

This form will be made available in alternative format (i.e. large print, braille) upon request.

Minnesota Department of Public Safety
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1600, St. Paul, MN 55101
651-201-7507 TTY 651-282-6555

APPLICATION AND PERMIT FOR A 1 DAY TO 4 DAY TEMPORARY ON-SALE LIQUOR LICENSE

Name of organization	Date of organization	Tax exempt number
Lanesboro Chamber of Commerce	1-1-98	[redacted]

Organization Address (No PO Boxes)	City	State	Zip Code
100 Milwaukee Rd	Lanesboro	MN	55949

Name of person making application	Business phone	Home phone

Date(s) of event: July 31 - Aug 2

Type of organization: ☐ Microdistillery ☐ Small Brewer ☐ Club ☐ Charitable ☐ Religious ☒ Other non-profit

Organization officer's name	City	State	Zip Code
Jeremy Van Meter	Lanesboro	MN	55949
Joe Goetzke	Lanesboro	MN	55949
		MN	

Location where permit will be used. If an outdoor area, describe.
202 Parkway Ave S outdoor beer and brat tent, North of the Lanesboro Community Center

If the applicant will contract for intoxicating liquor service give the name and address of the liquor license providing the service.

If the applicant will carry liquor liability insurance please provide the carrier's name and amount of coverage.
Yes, MN Liquor Liability Assigned Risk $300,000

APPROVAL

APPLICATION MUST BE APPROVED BY CITY OR COUNTY BEFORE SUBMITTING TO ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT

Lanesboro
City or County approving the license

Date Approved: 7/31 - 8/2 2026
Permit Date

25.00
Fee Amount

Event in conjunction with a community festival ☒ Yes ☐ No

dtaylor@lanesboro-mn.gov
City or County E-mail Address

724
Current population of city

Mitchell Walbridge
Please Print Name of City Clerk or County Official

Signature City Clerk or County Official

CLERKS NOTICE: Submit this form to Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division 30 days prior to event

No Temp Applications faxed or mailed. Only emailed.

ONE SUBMISSION PER EMAIL, APPLICATION ONLY.

PLEASE PROVIDE A VALID E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE CITY/COUNTY AS ALL TEMPORARY PERMIT APPROVALS WILL BE SENT BACK VIA EMAIL. ***E-MAIL THE APPLICATION SIGNED BY CITY/COUNTY TO AGE.TEMPORARYAPPLICATION@STATE.MN.US***

EDA ANNUAL REPORT

Photo Credit: Explore Minnesota / Ryan Taylor

2025

Lanesboro
Economic Development Authority

ORGANIZATIONAL

Created EDA partnership with the City of Preston and hired Economic Development Director.

L.E.A.N. SUB-COMMITTEE AND REV PROGRAM

The Lanesboro Entrepreneurial Action Network sub-committee was reorganized with new Bylaws and is defined as a Business Retention and Expansion program. The primary focus remains the Rural Entrepreneurial Venture program, which was established through Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and is supported through a grant that was extended to June 30, 2026. The purpose of REV is business support through surveys and workshops.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Received SMIF Economic Development Grant for Bluff Country Business Academy in 2026.

New businesses in 2025:
Root River Adventure Arcade
The Lanesboro Market

Business Transitions in 2025:
Granny's Liquor - Lori Bakke to Stephen Rogers

COMMUNITY

We have begun work on evaluating opportunities for flood proofing the Lanesboro Power Plant through various grants.

The TH 250 reconstruction project is included with the L.E.A.N. Sub-committee. The REV program may provide an opportunity to consider and implement strategic activities related to business owners' concerns about that project.

We continue to work on opportunities to bring housing developers to the community.

COORDINATING WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Lanesboro EDA collaborated with the Preston EDA, Preston Area Chamber of Commerce and Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce to present an information session about the new Paid Leave program that affects nearly all Minnesota businesses.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

- **The USDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) was granted an extension for full disbursement to June 30, 2026. Since then, three loans have been disbursed:**
  - **Root River Adventure Arcade**
  - **Lanesboro Golf Club**
  - **Clara's Eatery**
- **A loan is in process from the original USDA RLF program.**
- **The RLF program assists small business owners with gap financing and flexible terms and access to additional business development programs that help them with long-term success.**

Lanesboro Economic Development Authority