

Agenda Item No. GB-C
Meeting Date: 08-09-2021

Subject: Consideration and Adoption of the Weld County 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Presented and written by: Merrie Garner, Carbon Valley Emergency Management Coordinator

Prepared by: Matthew B Skaggs, Chief of Police

Background: The Weld County Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated every five years, and then passes a rigorous review by the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management before being sent on to FEMA for final approval. Nearly all municipalities in Weld County participate in the plan. Participation ensures that the City of Dacono remains eligible for pre- and post-disaster funding opportunities and cost recovery.

The planning process, set by FEMA, is highly detailed and each municipality represented in the plan must also demonstrate their participation in the planning process. The plan includes a thorough community profile and risk assessment of natural hazards that are likely to affect the City of Dacono. Finally, staff must identify and include mitigation actions that demonstrate that the municipality is integrating mitigation into their planning, development, and overall strategy. It is important to note that the inclusion of specific mitigation actions does not obligate the city to complete them. Rather the plan gives the city a direction and reference point for major, expensive projects.

In the 2021 Weld County Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City of Dacono identified and included four mitigation actions:

- Grandview and York Street Flood Mitigation (continued from 2016 plan with some milestones completed)
- Design and Construction of Colorado Blvd. Bridge (continued from 2016 plan with some milestones completed)
- Grandview Blvd Roadway Design and Drainage Improvements
- Hiring of a Community Relations Coordinator

Working with the Carbon Valley Emergency Management Agency, these items will be tracked annually until the next update of the Weld County Mitigation Plan, in 2026.

The governing board of each participating municipality must formally adopt the Weld County Hazard Mitigation Plan by resolution in order for FEMA to grant final approval of the plan.

Recommended Action: Approval of Resolution 21-54, Adopting the Weld County 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Weld County 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

BACKGROUND

The 2021 Weld County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is an update to the 2016 Plan. Hazard mitigation plans are community-led efforts designed to identify, manage, and avoid risks through pre-planning. This plan is designed to reduce the risks posed by hazards that affect Weld County communities and must be updated and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years to keep it current and to maintain eligibility for certain federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants.

WHAT IS HAZARD MITIGATION?

The 2021 Weld County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is an update to the 2016 Plan. Hazard mitigation plans are community-led efforts designed to identify, manage, and avoid risks through pre-planning. This plan is designed to reduce the risks posed by hazards that affect Weld County communities and must be updated and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years to keep it current and to maintain eligibility for certain federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants.

PURPOSE

Mitigation is an investment in a community's future safety and resiliency. Recent cost-benefit studies have proven mitigation to be cost effective for communities, with mitigation projects returning six dollars for every one dollar spent. Hazard mitigation planning helps residents, business owners, elected officials, and municipal departments think through how to plan, design, build, and establish partnerships for risk reduction. Consider the critical importance of mitigation to:

- Protect public safety and prevent loss of life and injury.
- Reduce property damage to existing and future development.
- Maintain community continuity and strengthen the social connections that are essential for recovery.
- Prevent harm to a community's unique economic, cultural, and environmental assets.
- Minimize operational downtime and accelerate recovery of government and business after disasters.
- Reduce the costs of disaster response and recovery and the exposure to risk for first responders.
- Help accomplish other community objectives, such as capital improvements, infrastructure protection, open space preservation, and economic resiliency.

Additionally, Weld County and its municipalities will benefit from this project by:

- Ensuring eligibility for all sources of hazard mitigation funds made available through FEMA.
- Increasing public awareness and understanding of vulnerabilities as well as support for specific actions to reduce losses from future disasters.
- Ensuring community policies, programs, and goals are compatible with reducing vulnerability to all hazards and identifying those that are incompatible
- Building partnerships with diverse stakeholders, increasing opportunities to leverage data and resources in reducing workloads, as well as achieving shared community objectives.
- Expanding the understanding of potential risk reduction measures to include: local plans and regulations; structure and infrastructure projects; natural systems protection; education and awareness programs; and other tools.
- Informing the development, prioritization, and implementation of mitigation projects. Benefits accrue over the life of these projects as losses are avoided from each subsequent hazard event.

SCOPE

This 2021 Plan has been prepared to meet requirements set forth by FEMA and the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) in order for Weld County and its municipalities to be eligible for funding and technical assistance from state and federal hazard mitigation programs. This Plan will be updated and FEMA-approved within its five-year expiration date.

AUTHORITY

This Hazard Mitigation Plan has been adopted by Weld County and its participating jurisdictions in accordance with the authority granted to counties and municipalities by the State of Colorado. This Plan was developed in accordance with current state and federal rules and regulations governing local hazard mitigation plans. The Plan shall be monitored and updated on a routine basis to maintain compliance with the following legislation and guidance:

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 322, Mitigation Planning, as enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106- 390) and by FEMA’s Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002, at 44 CFR Part 201

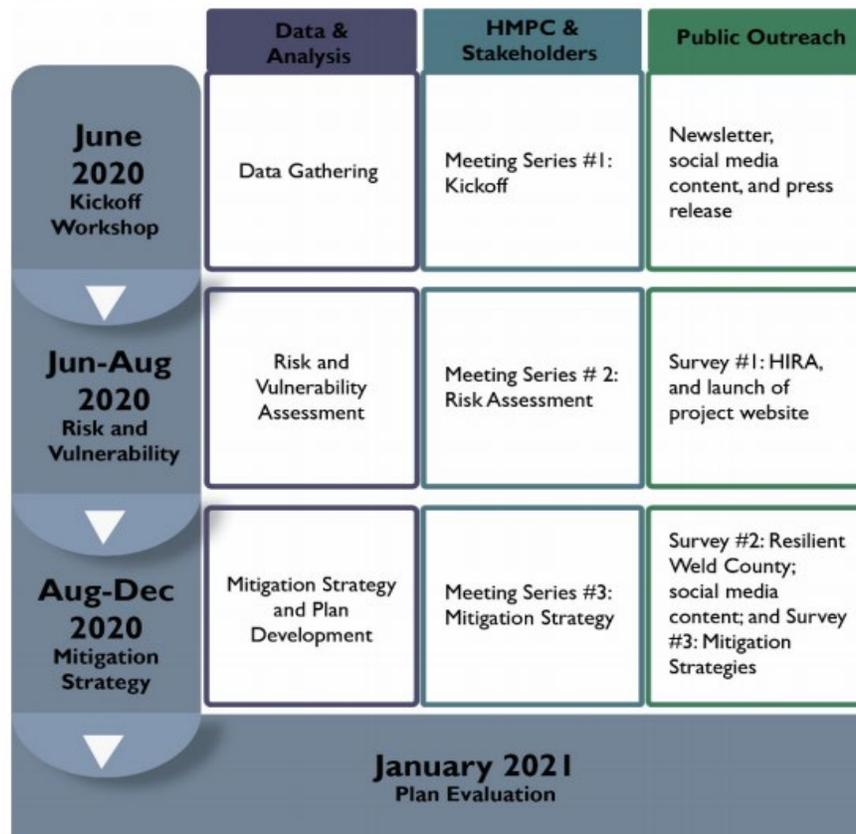
The following Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guides and reference documents were used to prepare this document:

- FEMA. Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide. October 1, 2011
- FEMA. Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Handbook. March, 2013.

UPDATE PROCESS

The planning process included data gathering and modeling while simultaneously meeting with a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) and gathering public input to support the Plan. A high-level summary is presented in Figure 8.

Figure 8. Process Timeline



The Weld County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been reviewed by the State of Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and is currently under review by FEMA. Conditional approval of the plan is expected by September 2021. The plan is considered to have final approval once it is adopted by all participating agencies.

Below is a link to the plan so it can be viewed in its entirety;

<https://www.weldgov.com/files/sharedassets/public/departments/office-of-emergency-management/documents/haz.-mitigation-plan/weld-county-hazard-migation-plan-2021.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. 21-54

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Dacono, with assistance from the Weld County Office of Emergency Management, has gathered information and prepared the “Weld County 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan” (the “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Plan is updated every five years, and then passes a rigorous review by the Colorado Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management before being sent on to FEMA for final approval; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has been prepared in accordance with FEMA requirements at 44 C.F.R. 201.6; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Plan ensures that the City of Dacono remains eligible for pre- and post-disaster funding opportunities and cost recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies the following mitigation actions applicable to the City of Dacono: (1) Grandview and York Street Flood Mitigation (continued from 2016 plan with some milestones completed); (2) Design and Construction of Colorado Blvd. Bridge (continued from 2016 plan with some milestones completed); (3) Grandview Blvd Roadway Design and Drainage Improvements; and (4) Hiring of a Community Relations Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, the governing board of each participating municipality must formally adopt the Plan by resolution in order for FEMA to grant final approval of the plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the Plan and desires by this resolution to adopt it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DACONO, COLORADO:

Section 1. The City Council hereby adopts the Weld County 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Section 2. City staff shall review the Plan periodically, and present any recommended updates to the City Council no less than every five years.

INTRODUCED, READ, and ADOPTED this 9th day of August, 2021.

CITY OF DACONO, COLORADO

Joe Baker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Valerie Taylor, City Clerk

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