INTRODUCTION

Under the new rules for federal mitigation funding, local governments will be required to have FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans in place as a condition to receiving federal mitigation grant funding as of November 1, 2004.

Following the Severe Weather/Tornado/Flood Disaster that was declared in the spring of 2002 (DR-1412), SEMA received flood buyout project proposals from twenty-three communities across the state. Fortunately, SEMA will be able to help some of these communities with federal mitigation grant funding after November 1, 2004; however, communities like these will still be eligible for federal disaster Public Assistance and Individual Assistance, but will not be eligible for Mitigation Assistance unless they have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan on file. Mitigation Plans will be required for all federally declared disasters: flood, earthquake, ice storm, tornado, fire, etc.

SEMA faced a significant challenge in assisting communities in developing plans in such a short time. SEMA's solution was to collaborate with the Regional Planning Commissions (RPC) of the Missouri Association of Councils of Governments (MAGOG) to develop the SEMA/MACOG Mitigation Planning Initiative. Due to funding limitations, SEMA has found it necessary to address only natural disasters with the funds provided to the communities participating in this initiative. Hazards such as HAZMAT and Terrorism will need to be addressed separately, in the future. This is one of the largest such initiatives, in overall scope, in SEMA's history.

The participating counties/cities have used SEMA's Scope of Work and participated fully in the preparation of the Mitigation Plan. Once the Mitigation Plans are approved, these counties/cities will be eligible for future Mitigation Assistance and will be able to more effectively carry out mitigation activities to lessen the adverse impact of future disasters in those communities.

The primary role of the regional planning commission is to provide a technical staff capable of providing sound advice to its membership and working for coordination of various planning and infrastructure needs among the various counties and municipalities, as appropriate.

The staff of the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission prepared the New Madrid County Hazard Mitigation Plan. BRPC, a member of MACOG, was created

August 17, 1967, by Governor Warren E. Hearnes. The commission serves the counties of Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, and Stoddard.

Assurance statements of compliance with FEMA

This county/city mitigation plan complies with SEMA's and FEMA's planning guidance: FEMA regulations, rules, guidelines, and checklists; Code of Federal Regulations; and existing Federal and State laws; and such other reasonable criteria as the President/Governor, Federal/State congresses and SEMA/FEMA may establish in consultation with County/City governments while the plan is being developed.

This plan also meets the minimum planning requirements for all SEMA mitigation programs, such as the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and where appropriate, other FEMA mitigation-related programs, such as the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the Community Rating System (CRS).

Basis for planning authority

The basis for authority to create a natural hazard mitigation plan lies in Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5165. This act was enacted under Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), P.L. 106-390. Section 104 is the legal basis for FEMA's Interim Final Rule for 44 CFR Parts 201 and 206, published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002.

Sunshine Law

In accordance with Missouri's "sunshine law" (RSMo 610.010, 610.020, 610.023, and 610.024), the public was notified each time the plan, or sections of the plan, was presented for review. Input from each public official (city and county) was solicited by mailing an explanatory letter and a copy of the particular draft. These mailings were disbursed on a schedule that allowed official sufficient time to review the draft prior to the next public County Commission, City Council, or Board of Aldermen meeting. Input for the general public was solicited through media outlets and various reminders at public gatherings.

The Planning Process

The planning process is important because it serves as a vehicle for participants to think about the future. The process is generally considered more important than the document, or "plan," that results from the process. Often, "plans" are put on the shelf, yet the thinking that went into the plans has significant influence. Planning may take a historic or futures orientation and be in response to opportunities or threats. There may be four types of local plans, depending on whether the plan was designed to take advantage of opportunities or respond to threats and whether the plan was reactive or proactive. Accordingly a 2 X 2 matrix can be used to describe the types of local hazard plans.

		In Response to Opportunities	In Response to Threats
Historic or Futures Orientation	Reactive	Emergency Services Planning	Impact Planning
	Proactive	Strategic Planning	Contingency Planning

Emergency Services Planning represents efforts to take measures to minimize the impact of a hazard event on people and property. These commonly are actions taken immediately prior to, during, or in response to a hazard event.

Impact Planning represents attempts to respond to a negative event such as structural mitigation projects that are intended to lessen the impact of a hazard by modifying the natural progression of the hazard event. They are usually designed by engineers and managed or maintained by public works staff.

Contingency planning involves developing appropriate responses to anticipated events.

Strategic planning is comprehensive and long range. It examines external opportunities and includes plans to take advantage of such opportunities.

This hazard mitigation plan is futures oriented, proactive and contains both strategic and contingency planning elements.

The planning process began with meetings with the City/County Officials to explain the proposed Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The county officials appointed citizens to serve on the Steering/Planning Committee. The Steering Committee included the mayors of each participating jurisdiction. Of particular importance to the planning process was the input from emergency management, law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel. Press releases, announcements and invitations were used to inform the public of the activities being planned. Businesses, Utilities, Media, and Education were all informed of the process and provided valuable information such as assessment values, locations, vulnerability to natural hazards, and suggested mitigation efforts.

The Capabilities Assessment and Analysis of Existing Conditions Survey provided by SEMA was presented to each participating jurisdiction. The information gathered from these surveys provided a view of the local governmental resources and provided a profile of vulnerability to natural hazards. As a result of the completed surveys, the Planning Committee then prepared preliminary goals, objectives, and actions for review. Committee meetings, facilitated by the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission began to set goals within the respective counties and cities.

Meeting formats evolved into what the Institute of Participatory Management and Planning label the “Oracle of Delphi” (See definitions Appendix F) technique for citizen participation. After the goals were condensed to achievable and manageable levels, the committees began to establish objectives for the goals. One goal was identified for each natural hazard. Three objectives that could be scheduled, budgeted and programmed were then established for each goal. The next step was to determine the Action Items that

needed to be accomplished to achieve these objectives. These steps were presented to city/county officials for review, comments and/or approval during the process. Draft copies were sent to the respective county officials for draft approval. After final approval from SEMA a copy of the final plan will be sent to the city/county officials for a Resolution to adopt the plan. It is recommended that the city/county officials appoint a custodian of the plan and to monitor its progress. A five-year review of the plan and revisions if necessary are part of the planning process.

The planning process is shown in the following steps:

1. Set Goals
2. Establish Objectives
3. Identify Action Items
4, Implementation
5. Monitor the Results
6. Review in Five Years

Participants and jurisdictions represented

The list of the primary participants in the planning process is shown below:

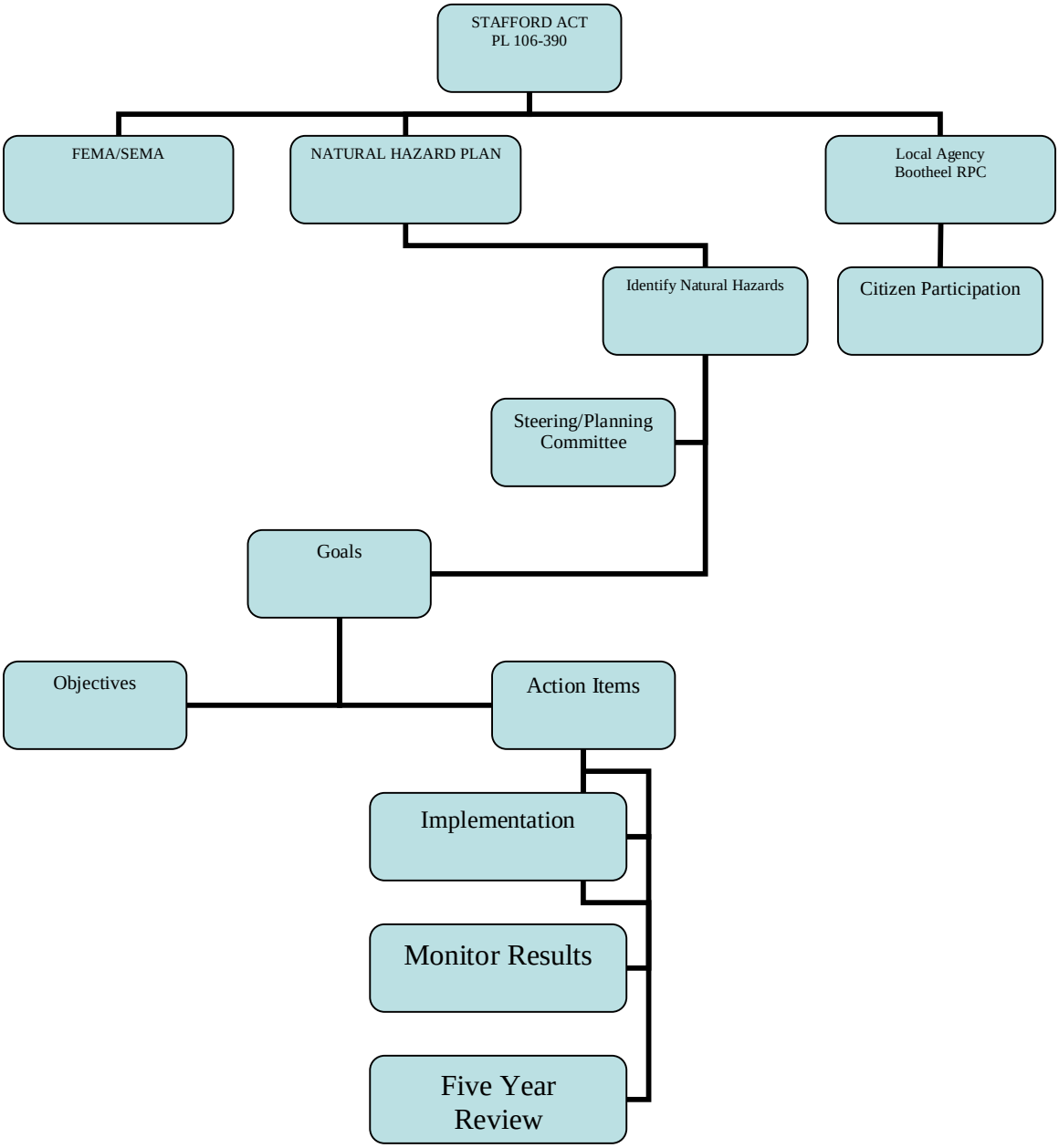
- Clyde Hawes, New Madrid County Presiding Commissioner
- Barry Bennett, New Madrid County Associate Commissioner
- Sam Pikey, New Madrid County Associate Commissioner
- Furg Hunter, City Administrator, New Madrid
- James Taul, Mayor, City of Canalou
- Joe Pride, Mayor, City of Catron
- Louise Shock, Mayor, City of Gideon
- Clennon Farr, Mayor, City of Howardville

- Frank Ash, Mayor, City of Lilbourn
- Rebecca Redden, Mayor, City of Marston
- Gene Curtis, Mayor, City of Matthews
- Pete Leija, Mayor, City of Morehouse
- Mark Baker, Mayor, City of New Madrid
- Randall Ramsey, Mayor, City of Parma
- J.D. Patton, Mayor, City of Portageville
- Don Lancaster, Mayor, City of Risco
- Leonard Thomas, Mayor, Village of North Lilbourn
- Bruce White, Mayor, City of Tallapoosa

Timeframe for preparation

The plan timelines includes the following:

- Planning mechanism by May 2003
- Hazard identification by June 2003
- Risk, capability and vulnerability sections by September 2003
- Mitigation goals, objectives, actions and strategies by November 2003
- Plan submitted to SEMA by January 2004
- Finalized plan submitted to SEMA by April 2004
- Plan approved by SEMA/FEMA by November 2004


STAFFORD ACT
PL 106-390
FEMA/SEMA
NATURAL HAZARD PLAN
Local Agency
Bootheel RPC
Identify Natural Hazards
Citizen Participation
Steering/Planning
Committee
Goals
Objectives
Action Items
Implementation
Monitor Results
Five Year
Review