

# **Appendix I**

## *Public Outreach*

- *Planning Kickoff notices*
- *Minutes of City Council meetings*
  - *Mitigation ideas survey*
- *Public comment period outreach*

## Public Input Wanted as County Updates Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Chippewa County Office of Emergency Management is working with the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission to update the county's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as tornadoes, thunderstorms, winter storms, 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 Chippewa County MHMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Chippewa County, including the cities of Milan, Clara City, Watson, Montevideo, and Maynard. The Chippewa County MHMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of townships, school districts, and other stakeholders participating in the plan. The plan will be updated by a planning team made up of representatives from county departments, local municipalities, school districts and other key stakeholders.

"Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program," said Stephanie Weick, Chippewa 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 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 actions include improvement of roads and culverts that experience repetitive flooding; construction of safe rooms at campgrounds, public parks, mobile home parks or schools to protect lives in the event of tornados or severe wind 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 public awareness and education campaigns to help people to be prepared to take safe action before, during, or following a hazard event. 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, Chippewa County is seeking feedback from residents and businesses from across the county to incorporate into the plan:

- What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?
- Have you experienced a previous disaster event?
- What concerns do you have, and what sorts of mitigation actions or projects do you feel would help to reduce the damages of potential future events for your personal property, your community, or the county as a whole?

Comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and potential mitigation actions to be included into the plan update process should be submitted to Chippewa County Emergency Management (see contact information below). Public comments may also be submitted on the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office Facebook page where this news release will be posted.

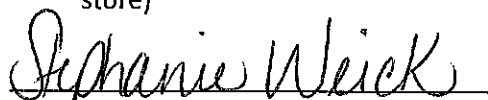
There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be posted on the county website for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota. Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the public of 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:

Chippewa County Emergency Management  
Stephanie Weick, Director  
629 N. Eleventh Street  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
320-269-2121

This notice was posted at the following locations on January 25, 2023:

- Clara City Post Office
- Maynard Post Office
- Milan Post Office
- Watson Post Office
- Montevideo Market (grocery store)



Signed by: Stephanie Weick,  
Chippewa Co. Emergency Management

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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 things like flooding, ice storms, and severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county."

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Stephanie Weick, Director  
629 N. Eleventh Street  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
320-269-2121

# BUDGER'S

*Dinner House*  
Main St. Maynard

320-367-2110

Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 5-8 p.m.

**WE WILL BE CLOSED  
SATURDAY, AUG. 13  
FOR MAYNARD ALL-CLASS REUNION**

SEE US  
FOR YOUR  
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YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR NEWSPAPER



Chippewa County Emergency Management Facebook posts notifying the public of planning process – August 2, 2022



Chippewa County Emergency Management Facebook posts asking for public input during the public of planning process – January 25, 2023



Insert scan of Clara City newspaper



## Summary of Mitigation Ideas Worksheets

Jill Rothschadl, Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power  
[jillr@mnvalleyrec.com](mailto:jillr@mnvalleyrec.com)  
320-269-2312

Hazard	Description of Concern or Proposed Mitigation Action
Trees falling on powerlines	Maintain adequate clearance around lines. Inspect and take down hazardous trees.
Powerlines falling due to strong winds	Upgrade lines/pole strength if possible in some areas Test poles for rotting/weakening

Steven Jones, City Administrator, City of Clara City

Hazard	Description of Concern or Proposed Mitigation Action
Flooding, Minnesota River and Hawk Creek	Continue with flood protection and flood mitigation in Montevideo and Clara City
Heavy Rain	Storm water ponds, water gardens, signage (for vulnerable areas)
Tornadoes	Early warning, protection for vulnerable populations and areas
Wind Damage	Early warning, building practices that encourage protection devices or anchors, tree trimming. In the winter, blowing snow and SNIRT!!  Wind breaks for blizzard areas (Highway 7 from Montevideo to Clara City, and others.)
Blizzards	Vehicles and personnel for rescues. Shelters for traveling public stuck in our communities.
Train or truck spills.	Evacuation plans and warnings. Clean-up crews. First responder training and equipment.

**Bill Pauling, Chippewa County Commissioner**

Medication idea number one

What I think we should prepare for in the event of a perfect storm pandemic

Water should be number one priority we should have a RO system (reverse osmosis) in place that can produce drinkable water enough to sustain several thousand people. I feel water is very sensual and with the grid knock down from a storm how are we going to produce it we need a mobile RO system in place The military is already figured this out and they have these systems.

#### Pandemic

We should have a place for ill people that can house a few hundred patients and keep these people away from the healthy population a pre-plan on this place would be a good plan to start with. I always try to think of an area that's only used once or twice a year that has buildings water sewer some heat (Chippewa county fairgrounds) something that could be and made into a mash style hospital.

On the last pandemic they put this sick people with the healthy people and turn what happened thousands perished because they spread the pathogen.

I was told once when I was on Pandemic vital needs committee that Hennepin County's plan of action is in a perfect storm pandemic go back where you came from Chippewa County would burst with population in just a few days

#### **Dave Lieser, Chippewa County Commissioner**

Here is my list:

1. Power outages that may extend for more than days. In my view, that would be potentially very impactful.
2. In a related issue, systematic computer failure over an extended time frame through malware, ransomware, virus, etc.
3. Extreme weather events.

#### **Jim Schmaedeka, Louriston Township**

**320-212-0642** [jimnlori@hcinet.net](mailto:jimnlori@hcinet.net)

Hazard Electrical Power outage due to weather - Could possibly bury power lines, but the high transmission lines and substations and transformers can't be buried

Wild Fires - With the CRP and CREP land around I think the county should mandate fire buffer zones around farm sites, etc.

**Name:** Jeremy Gilb, Chippewa County Highway Department

**Phone:** 320-269-2151

**Email:** [jeremy.gilb@chippewa.mn](mailto:jeremy.gilb@chippewa.mn)

Flooding

Tornados

Hail, lightning, and high windstorms

Winter Storms

Extreme heat

Extreme cold

Infectious disease

Water supply contamination



# MITIGATION IDEAS WORKSHEET

Please use the following worksheet to list your ideas for mitigation actions that you feel will help reduce the impact of future natural hazard events to the county or to your jurisdiction. Please return this form via email to your county Emergency Manager (Stephanie.Weick@Chippewa.MN) to submit your feedback.

**NAME OF JURISDICTION:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

Hazard	Description of Concern or Proposed Mitigation Action

**MEETING MINUTES  
CLARA CITYCITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday  
March 14, 2023  
6:30 PM  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
CLARA CITY, MINNESOTA**

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**Members Present:** Mayor Daniel Pieper, Rhonda Pieper, David Plagge, Mark Miller and LeAnn Nord

**Staff Present:** Steve Jones (City Administrator), Jeff Stager (Public Works Director), Matt Blum (Care Center Administrator), Shane Nord (Fire Chief), Derek Olson (Sheriff), City Engineer Mike Amborn

**Others Present:** Kali Camacho (CC Herald), Lowell Schwitters

**1. Call to Order:** By Mayor Pieper at 6:31 PM.

***Note:** This meeting is being officially recorded. Any and all commentary must be communicated through the microphones at the Council and Staff tables or through the microphone attached at the speaker's podium. Also, please silent all cell phones and do not use them during the meeting.*

**2. Additions/Deletions/Modifications to Agenda**

- 1) (8C) Fire Dept. Request-Permission for Alcohol Use
- 2) (13-B) Revised Engineers Report and Revised Resolution

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve the additions to the agenda.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

- (A) Planning Commission February 1, 2023 **Cancelled**
- (B) EDA February 13, 2023 **Cancelled**
- (C) Regular Council Meeting February 14, 2023

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (Plagge, R. Pieper) to approve the minutes as presented.

**4. Licenses and Permits:**

(A) **Approval of License and Permit Consent Items.** *If acceptable, please approve the following agenda items in one motion without further discussion. If not acceptable, please request that any objectionable item(s) be moved to 3(B), non-consent licenses and permits or into the new business section of the agenda and then proceed to approve the remaining item(s) in a single motion.*

(1) **Review of the “Application for Construction Permit(s)”** for the month of February 2023 approved by City Staff: **NONE**

(B) **Non-Consent License and Permit Items:** **NONE**

**5. Public Hearing-** **NONE**

**6. Correspondence, Notices and Communications:** **NONE**

**7. Appearance or Citizens with Scheduled Items for City Council to Consider.**  
*(Items must be included in the City Council Agenda to be considered.)* **NONE**

**8. Reports from Staff and Administrative Officers**

(A) **Public Works Department** (Jeff Stager, Director of Public Works)  
**No further information given.**

(B) **Ambulance Service** (Ben Schoep, President) **Not in attendance.**

Consideration of approval for new employee Nicholas Pieper for ambulance service-first responder.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 3-0-2 (Plagge, Miller) Plagge, Miller and Nord AYE, D. Pieper and R. Pieper ABSTAIN.

(C) **Fire Department** (Shane Nord, Fire Chief) see *attached report*  
Chief Nord gave a brief update on activities, and explained about the “Use of Alcohol” request for the Retired Firefighter Dinner.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve the use of alcohol for March 20<sup>th</sup> Retirement Party on City Property.



(D) **Clara City Care Center** (Matt Blum, Administrator) –*See agenda item No. 13 A*

(E) **City Administrator** No further information supplied.

(F) **Sheriff Dept**— Sheriff Olson was on hand to give a report of activities since January, and to review the Preliminary Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, further conversation, and a request for assistance was asked by staff to the Sheriff to help approach MNDOT about the winter conditions on area highways.

(G) **Librarian** – Larissa Schwenk was on hand to review and discuss the annual report. Activities seem to be increasing since COVID.

**9. Reports from Boards, Commissions, Council Members and Mayor:**

(A) **Planning Commission** February 1, 2023 **Cancelled, no report.**

(B) **EDA** February 13, 2023 **Cancelled, no report.**

(C) **Council Members** No report.

(D) **Mayor** No report.

**10. Appearance of Interested Citizens:** Meeting Open to the Public to Discuss Items NOT scheduled under Item 6. *Please present yourself at the podium and after being recognized by the mayor, clearly state your name and address for the record, and then address your concern to the entire City Council, doing so within a maximum of three (3) minutes. Your items of concern will generally not be debated or discussed, but may be assigned to staff for further investigation.*  
**NONE**

**11. Old Business:** **NONE**

**12. New Business Consent Agenda:** *If acceptable, please approve the following agenda items in one motion without further discussion. If not acceptable, please request that any objectionable item(s) be moved to the end of the New Business section of the agenda and then proceed to approve the remaining item(s) in a single motion.* **NONE**

### 13. New Business:

#### (A) Consideration of Care Center Issues:

1. Approval of new employee hire(s) and termination(s) for the month period ending January 2023.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve the report.

2. Acknowledgement of the Care Center's Client Census Data for January 2023.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve the report.

3. Acknowledgement and approval of the current Financial Reporting Information and Documentation for the Care Center, such including:

- a) Balance Sheet for Clara City Care Center as of January 31, 2022
- b) Actual vs Budget Statement of Operations for Care Center as of January 31, 2022 Accounts Receivable Aging Report as of December 2022.
- c) Accounts Receivable aging report as of December 2022.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (Plagge, Miller) to approve the Reports (3a, 3b, 3c).

4. **Approval of the AP Check Register** of the Clara City Care Center thru January 31, 2023 in the total amount of \$667,313.93 check numbers 53288 thru 53388.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve the AP Check Register.

5. **Approval of the Care Center's Electronic Payments** for the Month of January 2023.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Miller) to approve the

**Electronic Payments.**

6. **Consideration of Resolution No. 2023-006 approving increase in the interfund/intercity transfer of funds to the Care Center.**

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Nord) to approve the Resolution No. 2023-006.

7. **Consideration of approving the purchase of network server.**

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (Nord, R. Pieper) to approve the Purchase of Network Server as show in the agenda.

8. **Consideration of approving the purchase and installation of 2x4 concrete slabs to be placed between patios at Prairie Park Place.**

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve the installation of 2x4 concrete slabs as bid in the agenda.

- (B) **Review bids and consider Resolution No. 2023-007 setting assessment rates and calling for final assessment hearing for the proposed 2023 street and utility projects (Engineers Report and Resolution Revised).**

City Engineer Mike Amborn was on hand to discuss and review the bids for the 2023 Street and Utility Projects.

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Miller) to approve Resolution No. 2023-007 Setting Assessment Rates and calling for Final Assessment Hearing.

- (C) **Consideration of request to advertise for seasonal employees-Public Works Dept.**

**Action Taken:** M/S/P 5-0 (Plagge, Miller) to advertise for 3 seasonal employees at the rates set in the agenda.



**(D) Consideration of 2023 Aquatic season pay scales, advertising and rules.**

**Action Taken: M/S/P 5-0 (Plagge, Miller) to approve the general plan for the summer (with flexibility) and advertise for employees at the rates set in the agenda packet.**

**(D) Consideration of holding goal setting sessions**

**It was the consensus of the City Council to go ahead with plans for Goal Setting. A doodle poll will go out to council and staff to find the most appropriate dates and time.**

**(F) Annual Review Schedule**

**After review, and discussion about possibly adding Matt Blum to the process, the consensus was to go ahead as scheduled with the reviews.**

**(G) Consideration of appointment to Planning Commission**

**Action Taken: M/S/P 5-0 (Nord, Miller) to appoint Troy Sweep to fill the vacant Planning Commission position.**

**14. Approval for the Payment of Claims and Appropriations**

**(A) Consideration for the approval of the City's Verified Claims for the Period ending February 2023**

**Action Taken: M/S/P 5-0 (Plagge, Miller) to approve the verified claims.**

**(B) Consideration of approving the City's Electronic Payments for the Month ending February 2023**

**Action Taken: M/S/P 5-0 (R. Pieper, Plagge) to approve Electronic Payments.**

**Note: The City Council had a question about Miscellaneous**

**Vendors and how they were listed, staff will report back.**

**15. CLOSED SESSION: NONE**

**16. Announcements—*No action is required***

(A) The next regular City Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm.**

(B) The 2023 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization-LBAE meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm.**

**17. Adjournment—at 8:30 PM**

Steven C. Jones, Acting Recording Secretary

**By:** Daniel Pieper, Mayor\_\_\_\_\_

**Attest:** Steven C. Jones, Acting Secretary\_\_\_\_\_

**REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 10, 2023**

The regular meeting of the City Council of Maynard was held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at the Maynard Community Center. Acting Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Roberts, Maurice, Degner, Pierskalla, Clerk Strassburg and Miller

Absent: Groothuis

Also present: S. Weick, M. Mickels, D. Mueller, J. Suckow and J. McDonald

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Stephanie Weick of Chippewa County was here to go over the Hazard Mitigation Strategies. After a brief review it was decided to move forward with the plan that is in place.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Council reviewed quotes for a new mower. It was decided to sell the current mower privately rather than trade and order the new mower from Warren's. Streets will be swept as soon as we are able. As of right now there is no immediate flood concern.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The new Can-Am ATV is here. Pancake feed was Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Meyer is working with a local person to open a new business in town.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

We received an estimate on block work to start redoing landscape around the Community Center. We will not know exactly how much will need to be done until we remove the old retaining wall. Miller said that could begin soon.

**MOTION BY MAURICE AND SECOND BY PIERSKALLA TO ACCEPT THE ESTIMATE BY LAKE COUNTRY. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Zoning permit issued to 310 Jessie for doors, windows, steps and railings. Quote from Leap Forward for IT support for office.

**MOTION BY MAURICE AND SECOND BY PIERSKALLA TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH LEAP FORWARD. MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY DEGNER AND SECOND BY PIERSKALLA TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Representative called from Clara City Care Center asking if in the case of emergency that our Event Center could be utilized. Council agreed that would be fine.

**CONCERNS OF COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS:**

Question on when train cars will be picked up. That will be done on BNSF's time. Resident interested in community involvement, Strassburg took her number for future projects. Maurice wondering if council packets could be done a full week before meeting, that would be fine except for bills. Cargill is looking to do tour with FD.

**MOTION BY MAURICE AND SECOND BY PIERSKALLA TO ADJOURN AT 7:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**



Milan Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 2, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ronald Anderson called the monthly meeting to order on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 7:00 p.m. in Milan Community Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Ronald Anderson, Heidi Hanson, Jeff Higgins, Jennifer de Calderen and Katrina Lund

Also Present: Vernon Berge, Gary Andrews, Gary Kleven, Ann Thompson, Merle Hilden, Paul Belseth, Roni Bryan, Tom Tillma, Sue Tillma, Gwen Olson, Stephanie Weick and Martha Rodriguez.

Motion was made by council member Hanson, seconded by council member Lund to approve April 17, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion was made by council member Lund, seconded by council member Higgins to approve April 24, 2023 special meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Dittbenner presented the water report to council via paper. He was absent.

Gwen Olson will look into finding a few donations for the new deliberators that were purchased.

Stephanie Weike was at the meeting the discuss the Hazardous mitigation plans. More information will be available when all aspects are put together.

Concerns of the public:

None

Old business:

RLF reports were reviewed and approved.

The church is looking at quotes for a generator for the emergency shelter at Kvistseid.

. Council member Hanson stated that the Coucnil was elected to work for the residents of the City. When 75% of the residents that came to the meeting that were against Chickens why would we continue to pursue this action. Motion was mady be council member Higgins, seconded by council member Lund to approve more information on pros and cons along with more knowledge. Also draft a possible ordinance. Motion was passed with 3 in favor and 1 against.

Council member de Caldren gave an update on the park. Currently looking to hire someone to design the layout and the process or implementing the new park if the grant is approved.

Council discussed the possible corrections to cars parked in lot uptown, fence around Milan Blacksmith and Johns Machine.

New Business:

Motion was made by council member Hanson, seconded by council member Lund to approve Resolution R5-23A. Motion passed. Ron Anderson abstained.

CITY OF MILAN CHIPPEWA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. R5-23A

RESOLUTION APPROVING NO PARKING EITHER SIDE OF THE STREET FROM  
201 NORTH 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET DRIVEWAY TO THE CORNER AND  
202 NORTH 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET DRIVEWAY TO THE CORNER

WHEREAS, the corner of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and TH 40 need turning radius for residents backing out of driveways and vehicles entering North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from TH 40 and

WHEREAS, the City has received complaints of poor sight at the intersection of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and TH 40 due to these vehicles parking so close to the corner,

WHEREAS, TH 40 carries numerous vehicles throughout the day turning on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; and

WHEREAS, North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street carries numerous vehicles throughout the day turning on TH 40; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the sight distance and safety of the intersection No Parking is recommended along both sides from 201 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street driveway to the corner of TH 40 and 202 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street driveway to the corner of TH 40; and

WHEREAS, City of Milan is in agreement with the recommended area signs of No Parking here to the Corner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Milan City Council that No Parking be established on both at 201 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Driveway to the corner of TH 40 and 202 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Driveway to TH 40.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Milan, Minnesota, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2023.

The Ordinance to allow 3 dogs intown verses 3 is on hold until more information is available on neighboring towns.

The library veranda lights need to be updated and rewired. More information to be available on cost once the new light arrive. Jessie Myer to give city a quote.

Motion was made by council member Hanson, seconded by council member de Caleren to lease Berge Building out at \$1000.00 a month plus tenant pays utilities for the term or one year with the right to renew. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk and Mayor to drive around and get letters sent to residents about the state of yards and vehicles.

Motion was made by council member Higgins, seconded by council member Hanson to approve Ach bills totaling \$3,221.27. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by council member Hanson, seconded by council member Higgins to approve monthly bills totaling \$29,982.90. Motion passed unanimously. Ron Anderson abstained.

Motion was made by council member Hanson, seconded by council member Lund to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Submitted by Veronica Blommel-City Clerk

Signed: *Veronica Blommel*

CITY OF MONTEVIDEO  
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
March 20, 2023

The city council met in regular session Monday, March 20, 2023 in the council chambers at city hall. Council President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: Nathan Schmidt, Bryce Curtiss, Dan Sanborn, Beverly Olson and Steve Sulflow. Absent: None. Mayor Erich Winter present.

Also present: City Manager Robert Wolfington, City Attorney Janice Nelson, City Engineer Mike Amborn and City Clerk Glennis Lauritsen.

It was moved by Sulflow, seconded by Curtiss and unanimously passed to approve the agenda, with the following modifications:

**MODIFY:    5A)    CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VERIFIED CLAIMS FOR THE  
PERIOD ENDING MARCH 16, 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF  
~~\$131,544.06~~ \$201,551.03.**

The revised list reflects the following additions/deletions:

**LIQUOR**

Southern Glazer's of MN - Inventory	\$ 6,706.29
Johnson Brothers Liquor Co. - Inventory	7,346.15
Johnson Brothers Liquor Co. - Inventory	3,814.40
Madison Bottling Company - Inventory	2,349.95
Dahlheimer Beverage - Inventory	10,362.72
Johnson Brothers Liquor Co. - Inventory	4,588.48
Johnson Brothers Liquor Co. - Inventory	4,118.05
Breakthru Beverage - Inventory	7,493.78

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Xcel Energy - Electric bills	10,236.00
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**PUBLIC WORKS**

Heartland Electric - (6) Used Electrical Poles	3,841.56
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POOL

Associated Supply Company, Inc. - Drain Cover

9,149.59

**MODIFY: 8B) CONSIDER INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE  
ESTABLISHING A STORM WATER UTILITY FUND FOR THE  
CITY OF MONTEVIDEO.**

Ordinance provided.

It was moved by Sanborn, seconded by Olson and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2023, as presented.

4. Notices/Communications/Announcements or Appearance of Interested Citizens.

- 4(A) Stephanie Weick, Chippewa County Emergency Management Director, was in attendance to present hazard mitigation summary information and to discuss goals/strategies moving forward. Written materials had been provided to the council for discussion purposes which addressed the continuing activities being undertaken to plan for and respond to the various forms of natural disasters.

It was the consensus of the council that the Mitigation Plan, as developed and updated, accurately identifies the needs and goals of the community. Therefore, the county will continue to refine the document and present a final draft for review at a future meeting.

5. Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Sanborn, seconded by Sulflow and unanimously passed to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 5(A) VERIFIED CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 16, 2023 IN THE (MODIFIED) AMOUNT OF \$201,551.03.
- 5(B) SALE OF SEIZED/SURPLUS ITEMS BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT (2001 DODGE RAM 1500 PICKUP | 2005 NISSAN MAXIMA | 1994 DODGE DAKOTA PICKUP | 2002 SATURN COUPE | 2005 HONDA PILOT | 2003 HONDA | 2002 FORD F150 PICKUP | 2001 CHEVROLET SILVERADO.)

5(C) APPLICATION FROM CHIPPEWA COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM LAWFUL GAMBLING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS TO ALLOW RAFFLE ACTIVITY ON SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHIPPEWA COUNTY FAIR.

6. Public Hearings.

- None.

7. General Business.

7(A) STORM WATER UTILITY.

During its February 6, 2023 meeting, the council continued discussions regarding a proposed storm water utility for the city. The city's financial advisor, Ehlers, had prepared a rate structure based on planned storm water projects. Council reviewed that rate structure and had further questions regarding some of the high rate commercial customers. As a result, staff was directed to continue to work with Ehlers to provide additional information for council review. This included a more in-depth look at accounts over \$20.

The rate design proposes a Residential Equivalency Factor (REF) x Acreage x Fee (\$6.50/month). Undeveloped properties would not pay a storm water fee (vacant lots and agriculturally zoned properties); City-owned properties (except the hospital) would not pay a fee; ALL parcels would pay a minimum storm water fee of \$6.50/month; and, the maximum fee charged for any property would be \$250/month. Representatives from Ehlers were available via ZOOM to provide an updated Power Point presentation on the utility rates and to answer any questions that may remain. An additional handout was provided, which listed a number of commercial properties and the proposed monthly bill amount, ranging from \$20.28/month to the maximum \$250.00/month.

Following the presentation, it was moved by Sanborn, seconded by Olson and unanimously passed to approve the rates, as presented.

7(B) 2023 FEES & CHARGES AMENDMENT.

At the March 6, 2023 meeting, the council adopted Ordinance No. 975 - Mobile Food Trucks/Vendors. The ordinance provided that the council shall set fees for the associated license, by resolution. Staff suggested that the fee be set at \$50.00/year/unit.

BRYCE CURTISS OFFERED RESOLUTION NO. 3854, A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY'S 2023 FEES & CHARGES SCHEDULE, AND MOVED ITS ADOPTION. MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 3854 WAS SECONDED BY STEVE SULFLOW. THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR OF MOTION: BRYCE CURTISS, STEVE SULFLOW, BEVERLY OLSON, DAN SANBORN AND NATHAN SCHMIDT. THOSE VOTING AGAINST MOTION: NONE. RESOLUTION PASSED 5-0.

8. Ordinances.

8(A) ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 977 - FOOD TRUCK EXEMPTION.

Ordinance No. 977 was introduced at the March 6, 2023 meeting. The ordinance would add food trucks to the list of exemptions to requirements for a peddlers, solicitors or transient merchants license.

IT WAS MOVED BY BRYCE CURTISS THAT ORDINANCE NO. 977, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 3-6-4 OF THE MONTEVIDEO CITY CODE TO ADD FOOD TRUCKS AS EXEMPTIONS TO REQUIREMENTS FOR A PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS OR TRANSIENT MERCHANTS LICENSE, BE ADOPTED. MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 977 WAS SECONDED BY BEVERLY OLSON. THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR OF MOTION: BRYCE CURTISS, BEVERLY OLSON, STEVE SULFLOW, DAN SANBORN AND NATHAN SCHMIDT. THOSE VOTING AGAINST MOTION: NONE. ORDINANCE WAS ADOPTED 5-0.

8(B) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 978.

Agenda Item 7(A) addressed rates for a proposed storm water utility for the city and subsequently took action to approve the rates. In conjunction, it is necessary to formally establish a storm water utility fund. An ordinance was prepared by the city attorney for this purpose.

City Attorney Nelson asked for a clarification regarding municipal properties and cemeteries. In one section of the proposed ordinance, a Residential Equivalent Factor is listed for those two categories and in another section the categories are listed as exempt. Ehlers personnel indicated that those properties would be exempt, with the exception of the hospital.

Nelson also asked what the city's intent is for those properties that are inactive/not currently receiving a utility bill (meter removed, property vacant, etc.) The consensus of the council and staff was that the storm water fee should continue to be billed monthly, regardless of the status of the water/sewer services on a property.

Nelson stated she would incorporate these modifications into a revised ordinance for consideration at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

STEVE SULFLOW INTRODUCED ORDINANCE NO. 978, AN ORDINANCE  
ADDING CHAPTER 7 OF TITLE 8 OF THE MONTEVIDEO CITY CODE, STORM  
WATER DRAINAGE UTILITY.

9. Discussion and Miscellaneous.

- None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

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Glennis A. Lauritsen, Secretary

Approved by council April 3, 2023:

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President - City Council



## **Watson City Council Meeting Minutes**

April 11, 2023

Present: Mayor: Todd Tongen. Council Members: Carter Lokken, Nathan Jordahl, Cheryl Bjornstad, Todd Vogel, City Clerk: Alan Marohl. Stephanie Weik with the Sheriff's Office. 10 residents.

Mayor Tongen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Add Referendum to New Business and Interstate Power Co-Op to Maintenance Report.

**Motion to approve agenda with additions by Tongen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vogel m/s/p unanimously.**

**Motion to approve March 14th, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes by Vogel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bjornstad m/s/p unanimously.**

Stephanie Weik – Review of hazard Strategies – Watson is renewing its 5-year hazard mitigation plan. This plan allows the city to receive aid from FEMA in the case of a natural or manmade disaster. The plan goes through each risk and lays out options to reduce possible damage. Now that council has reviewed the entire plan, Stephanie will have it prepared for state approval. Council may add or change the plan but only before it is approved by the state.

Financial Report:

- Cash Balances

**Motion to approve monthly claims by Vogel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jordahl m/s/p unanimously.**

- Utilities – Delinquent accounts were sent disconnection notices.

Old Business:

- Street Sweeping – Montevideo is willing to sweep Watson's roads. The quoted prices were \$120 an hour for a sweeper and \$70 an hour for a dump truck. Montevideo estimated it would take about 20 hours to complete the whole town for a total cost of \$3,800. They were not willing to rent their equipment to Watson. The deadline to submit to MNDOT for reimbursement is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

New Business:

- Water Bill Adjustment – Marisa Trexler with her two siblings Beth and Clayton were present to discuss their late fathers water bill. Their request was to waive the late fees and have the bill partially forgiven. Council agreed to waive the late fees and stop future late charges. Council will wait to decide on forgiving a portion of the bill at a future meeting once insurance has been accounted for.
- Compost site burn – Considering the weather, council plans to burn the compost site April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- MN Basic Code Update – The league of Minnesota Cities is recommending Watson adopt the 2023 edition of the MBC. The 2023 edition includes changes to liquor licensing, Nuisance and

Peddlers, Insurance provisions, open meeting laws, and background checks being replaced by individual policy. This is the first update in four years.

**Motion to adopt the Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinance Renewal 2023 edition by Tongen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vogel m/s/p unanimously.**

- Referendum - The vote to build a new fine arts center in Montevideo will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the district office. Resident may also request an absentee ballot from the district office. Notices will be posted on the Watson Facebook page and at the post office. Alan is working with Donna Krueger to hold a meeting in Watson for residents who want to learn more.

Maintenance Report:

- Playground Equipment – Council considered how they would like to proceed with improving the Watson playground. It was decided to wait another year and let the park fund grow before making any purchases. This will also provide time to find a grant to help support the cost of renovating the playground.
- Interstate Power Cooperative – Alan asked council if they would like to look at switching from Titan Energy Systems to Interstate Power Cooperative, which is the company that Montevideo uses for its generator maintenance. Council agreed and would like to get a quote from Interstate Power Cooperative to compare prices and services.

City Clerk Report:

- A clean-up day for the county has not been decided as of yet.
- The switch to the Neptune 360 reading system should be ready for the next reading date. This will cost an additional \$1200 annually.
- Alan would like to go over some of the things he learned from the MCFOA conference at a future meeting.
- Farmers Mutual will be adding a generator to its leased land from the city.
- Alan had a meeting with a representative from Minnwest bank to propose some new options for the city. The items being Positive pay, Mobile Deposit, a city credit card, and alternatives to the city's payroll and card processing company. Council thought only the card processing and mobile deposit options need be perused.

Public Comments:

- Michael Hilden was present to express concern about his property. He is asking for the city to refrain from cutting his lilac shrubs and stop pushing snow onto his property.
- Joshua Fiscus would like to have the designation of potentially dangerous on his dog removed. His request was tabled for next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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City Clerk, Alan Marohl

## **Appendix II**

### *Meeting Summaries*

- *Kickoff meeting (invite list and slides)*
  - *Community meetings*
- *Wrap-up meeting (invite list and slides)*

**From:** [Stephanie Weick](#)  
**To:** [David Lieser](#); [Bill Pauling](#); [Candice Jaenisch](#); [Scott Williams](#); [Jeremy Gilb](#); [Derek Olson](#); [Michelle May](#); [Josh Macziewski](#); [James Schmaedeka - Louriston](#); [Ron Abel-Havelock](#); [Charles Degrote - Lone Tree](#); [Bill Luschen - Crate](#); [John Bristle-Stoneham](#); ["walt.gessler@state.mn.us"](#); [Tom Warner](#); [Ted Nelson \(ted.nelson@prairiefive.org\)](#); ["Josephs@montevideomedical.com"](#); [toddrodvogel@gmail.com](#); ["cityadmin@hcinet.net"](#); ["cityofmilan@fedteldirect.net"](#); ["cityofwatson@farmerstel.net"](#); [Casey Namken \(Casey.Namken@co.ym.mn.gov\)](#); ["Blain Johnson"](#); [Bill McGeary](#); [larissa.schwenk@pioneerland.lib.mn.us](#); [David Bothun](#); [tjtongen@farmerstel.net](#); [nelsong@hcinet.net](#); [ccpublicworks@hcinet.net](#); [drpieper@hcinet.net](#); [Sherri Broderius](#); [Jill - MN Valley \(jill@mnvalleyrec.com\)](#); [scottk@mnvalleyrec.com](#); [Robert Wolfington \(ctyadmin@montevideomn.org\)](#); [Glennis Lauritsen](#); ["aaron@montevideomn.org"](#); [olson.beverly@icloud.com](#); [n Schmidt1419@yahoo.com](#); [cdd@montevideomn.org](#); [tylersachariason@gmail.com](#); [wmckittrick@montevideoschools.org](#); ["citmay@mchsi.com"](#); [Ken Schule](#)  
**Cc:** [Stephanie Weick](#); [Kristi Fernholz](#); [Kevin Ketelsen](#)  
**Subject:** Chippewa County Multi-Hazard Mitigation plan update  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 10:42:21 AM

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## Chippewa County

### MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE – MEETING INVITATION

Greetings,

Your presence is requested at a Planning Team Meeting for the update of the **Chippewa County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**. Over the next year we will reach out with information about the plan and opportunities to participate in the planning process. 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.

**We will be holding the meeting virtually using Zoom video/phone conferencing:**

Date: Thursday, June 23, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84227998193?pwd=ZEVJQmtVb1U0S1RmbzFyZExwKzZuQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 2799 8193

Passcode: 083961

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

### **About the Plan**

The update of the Chippewa County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) is a requirement by the State of Minnesota Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 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 Chippewa County and will result in the identification of mitigation actions that will help to reduce or eliminate the impact of future hazard events, such as flooding and severe winter or summer storms.

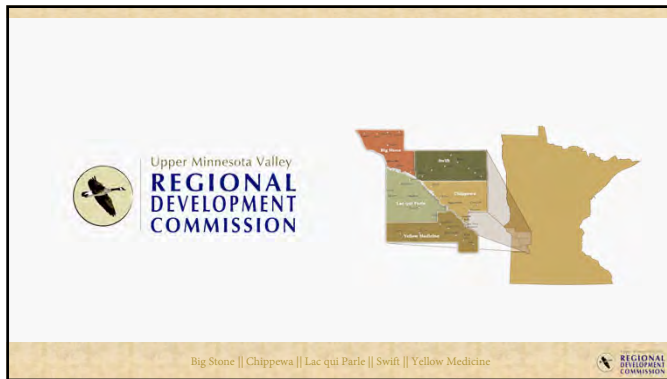
Your participation in this plan update is important for several reasons:

1. You will help to identify critical mitigation projects to implement at the county / municipal level, and how they can be integrated with existing plans, policies, or project efforts.
2. Participating jurisdictions will be eligible to apply for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funding.
3. Mitigation planning is necessary to keep our communities resilient against future disasters and reduce the costs of recovery.
4. FEMA requires documentation of how local government and key stakeholders participated in the planning process.

During this meeting we will review and prioritize the natural hazards that pose risk to Chippewa County and individual communities and discuss a range of mitigation measures for local implementation. The meeting will be facilitated by personnel from **Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission** (UMVRDC) who are working closely with us on this project.

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

Thank you,  
Stephanie Weick  
Chippewa County Emergency Management Director



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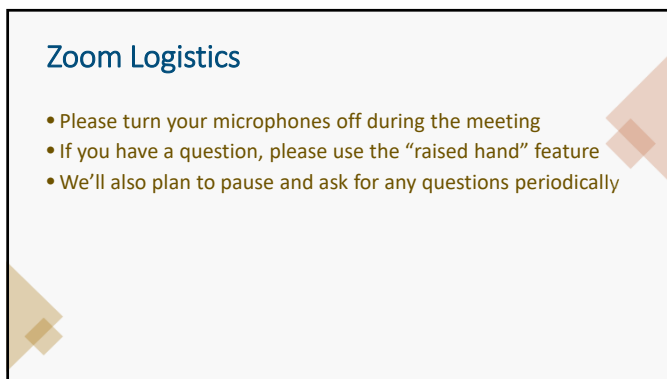
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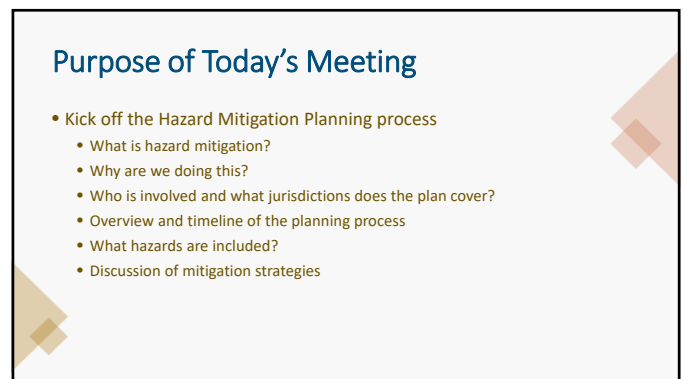
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7

### Why are we doing this? What are the benefits?

- Saves lives, protects the health of the public, and reduces potential injuries
- Prevents or reduces property damage including damage to critical facilities and infrastructure
- Reduces economic losses
- Minimizes social dislocation and stress, especially for vulnerable populations
- Reduces agricultural losses
- Reduces legal liability of government and public officials
- Maintains critical ecosystem services
- \$6 saved per \$1 spent on natural hazard mitigation projects

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### Why are we doing this? (continued)

By having a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation plan, Chippewa County and participating cities are eligible for future federal funding opportunities

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD)
- Public Assistance

Plan must be updated and approved by FEMA every 5 years

Without a FEMA-approved plan in place, you are not eligible for pre-disaster or post disaster project funding.

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### Who is involved and who does the plan cover?

The plan covers all of Chippewa County and participating jurisdictions. The planning task force includes members from a wide variety of departments, agencies, organizations and interests, including...

**Chippewa County**  
Commissioners  
Emergency Management  
Planning and Zoning  
Engineer  
Sheriff's Dept.  
Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator  
Ag and Drainage Inspector

**Cities**  
Mayors/City Council  
Clerks/Administrators  
Public Works  
Community Development  
Library  
Chamber of Commerce

**Other Jurisdictions/Agencies**  
Township officials  
Prairie Fire Rides  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
DNR Waters Area Hydrologist  
Healthcare/Public Health  
Utilities

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### Overview of Process and Timeline

Meeting #1 – Today

- Introductions
- Purpose
- Who is involved?
- Overview of process and timeline
- Hazard identification
- Mitigation strategies

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### Overview of Process and Timeline (continued)

June-November – Conduct interviews/gather information from County staff, city staff, emergency personnel, agencies, other data sources

Review and update local information

- Update lists of available resources
- Note any completed strategies and update local gaps and deficiencies
- Update demographic information
- Note any new developments
- Identify any new threats
- Update inventory of critical assets/facilities

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## Overview of Process and Timeline (continued)

### June-November (continued)

- Update local capabilities/resources
- Update hazard profiles
- Update risk assessment and vulnerability analysis
- Update GIS mapping/HAZUS analysis – UMD U-Spatial
- Develop local/County mitigation strategies for next 5 years

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## Overview of Process and Timeline (continued)

### Meeting #2 – December 2022 - Planning task force

#### Presentation of -

- Hazards prioritization
- Risk assessment and vulnerability analysis
- Draft mitigation strategies – County and cities
  - Prioritize mitigation actions

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## Overview of Process and Timeline (continued)

### December 2022 – January 2023

- Task Force review of plan draft
- Public review of plan
  - Solicit public input/comments
  - By County and local jurisdictions
- Incorporate public comments into plan where appropriate

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## Overview of Process and Timeline (continued)

### March - June 2023

- Submit plan to MN HSEM for review
- Plan is submitted to FEMA for final review
  - Any changes or edits are made
- FEMA issues "Approved Pending Adoption"
  - Each local jurisdiction adopts plan by resolution
- Final FEMA approval

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## What hazards are included?

### Natural Disasters

- Coastal erosion/flooding
- Dam/levee failure
- Drought
- Earthquakes
- Erosion/landslides/mudslides
- Extreme cold
- Extreme heat
- Flooding
- Hail
- Land subsidence (sinkholes)
- Lightning
- Tornadoes
- Windstorms
- Winter storms
- Wildfire

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## What hazards are included?

### Human-caused Disasters

- Hazardous materials
- Infectious diseases
- Fire (structural)
- Water Supply Contamination
- Wastewater Treatment System Failure
- Civil Disturbance/Terrorism



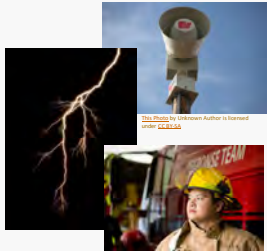
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## Risk Assessment

### Prioritizing the Disasters

- Frequency of Occurrence
- Warning Time
- Potential Severity
- Risk Level



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## Risk Assessment – Prioritizing the Disasters

### HIGH

- Frequency is likely or highly likely
- Warning time is 6 hours or less
- Potential Severity is major or substantial
- Risk level to people, animals, housing, structures and infrastructure is High or Very High

### MODERATE

- Frequency is Likely or Occasional
- Warning time is 6-12 hours
- Potential Severity is major or substantial
- Risk level to people, animals, housing, structures and infrastructure is high or limited

### LOW

- Frequency is Occasional or Unlikely
- Warning time is more than 12 hours
- Potential Severity is major to limited
- Risk level to people, animals, housing, structures and infrastructure is limited or minimal

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## 2015 Risk Assessment Results

Hazard	Priority Level	Special Areas of Concern
Tornado	3.21 – Moderate	Countywide
Winter Weather	2.99 – Moderate	Countywide
Hazardous Materials	2.87 – Moderate	Countywide, cities
Summer Storms	2.79 – Moderate	Countywide
Civil Disturbance/Terrorism	3.13 – Moderate	Countywide
Flash Flooding	2.29 – Low	Countywide
100-year Floods	2.08 – Low	Montevideo, Maynard
Structure Fires	2.71 – Moderate	All cities
Drought	2.52 – Moderate	County
Infectious Disease	2.42 – Low	County
Water Supply Contamination	2.34 – Low	County
Dam Failure	2.33 – Low	Montevideo
Wildfire	2.31 – Low	Homes/structures located near grasslands, cities within the river valley
Wastewater Treatment System Failure	2.04 – Low	County, cities

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## Risk Assessment - CPRI

- What is CPRI? Calculated Priority Risk Index
- Another tool to help prioritize disasters and mitigation strategies
- Weights the four risk assessment categories in the following way:
  - Probability = Score x .45
  - Magnitude/Severity = Score x .30
  - Warning time = Score x .15
  - Duration = Score x .10
- High priority = 4.0-3.0
- Moderate priority = 2.99-2.0
- Low priority = < 1.99

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## HAZUS Analysis

- Provided by University of MN-Duluth staff
- HAZUS is a GIS-based tool that analyzes potential physical damage, economic loss, social impacts and cost-effectiveness of mitigation strategies.
- It satisfies the FEMA required element of the hazard mitigation plan to “estimate the human and economic losses based on the exposure and vulnerability of people, buildings, and infrastructure.”

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## Identify Vulnerable Populations

- Identify groups or areas that may be more susceptible to hazards
  - Mobile home parks
  - Outdoor gathering areas (fairgrounds, campgrounds, parks)
  - Facilities – nursing homes, healthcare, mentally or physically disabled populations
  - Language barriers

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## Mitigation Strategies

### Five categories of mitigation actions -

1. Local plans and regulations
2. Structure and infrastructure projects
3. Natural systems protection
4. Education and awareness programs
5. Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support

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## Mitigation Strategies

### 1. Local Plans and Regulations

- Government, administrative, or regulatory actions or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.

- Examples include –

- Local policies, ordinances or codes
- Floodplain ordinances
- Building codes and enforcement
- Zoning ordinances
- Capital Improvement Plans



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## Mitigation Strategies

### 2. Structure and Infrastructure Projects

- Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard

- Examples include –

- Flood walls and berms
- Burying powerlines
- Tornado safe rooms
- Drainage/stormwater system improvements



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## Mitigation Strategies

### 3. Natural Systems Protection

- Actions that, in addition to minimizing hazard losses, preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.

- Examples include –

- Stream corridor restoration
- Conservation efforts
- Forest management (fire)
- Erosion control
- Stream bank/slope restoration and management



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## Mitigation Strategies

### 4. Education and Awareness

- Actions to inform and educate citizens, practitioners, public officials, and property owners about the hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

- Examples include –

- Public education
- Print, radio, TV, social media, schools, community groups



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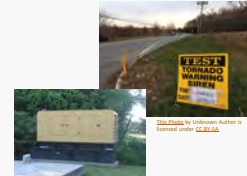
## Mitigation Strategies

### 5. Mitigation Preparedness and Response Support

- Actions that protect people and property prior to, during and immediately after a disaster or hazard event.

- Examples include –

- Emergency Operations Plans
- Emergency warning systems
- CodeRed, Storm warning sirens
- NWS storm spotter training
- Back-up power generators



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## Do you have a specific mitigation idea in mind?

**We'd love to hear it!**

**Mitigation Idea Worksheet – Please include the following...**

1. Jurisdiction name
2. Your contact information
3. The disaster related with your idea or concern
4. Any mitigations ideas you may have for your community or for the county as a whole
5. You can also submit any concerns you may have related to any disaster and we can research potential mitigation strategies
6. Submit to Steph Weick via email (provided on worksheet)

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## Next steps?

Timeline for over the next few months...(June – November)

- Planning team meets with individual jurisdictions
- Public outreach
- HAZUS analysis provided by UMD
- Update local resources/capabilities
- Update disaster histories since 2015
- Update critical facility maps
- Discuss program gaps and deficiencies
- Develop/update local strategies

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Any questions?

Thank you for participating!

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## Contact Information

Kevin Ketelsen, Community Development Specialist

UMVRDC

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Email: [kevin@umvrdc.org](mailto:kevin@umvrdc.org)

Kristi Fernholz, Planning Director

UMVRDC

Phone: 320-289-1981, ext.106

Email: [Kristi.Fernholz@umvrdc.org](mailto:Kristi.Fernholz@umvrdc.org)

Stephanie Weick, Director

Chippewa County Emergency Management

Phone: (320) 269-2121

Email: [Stephanie.Weick@Chippewa.MN](mailto:Stephanie.Weick@Chippewa.MN)

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## **Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force Meeting #1 June 23, 2022, 3:00pm – Meeting Summary and Documentation**

### **Summary**

On Thursday, June 23, 2022, Chippewa County Emergency Management convened key county, city, and township representatives, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and other stakeholders to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Planning Team Meeting for the update of the Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the meeting was to formally present information about the Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan update and to discuss key items that would inform plan development. The meeting was held via Zoom webinar video conference and was facilitated by Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission.

### **Invitation and Invited Attendees**

Chippewa County Emergency Management invited representatives from the various jurisdictions, departments, organizations, and agencies that were included on the county's previous hazard mitigation planning task force, which includes elected officials, city/county departments, 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 meeting invitation and the county's planning task force contact list is provided in the plan Appendix.

### **Attendees of 6.23.22 meeting (3:00-4:00pm, via Zoom)**

Steph Weick, Chippewa County Emergency Management  
Kristi Fernholz, UMRDC staff  
Kevin Ketelsen, UMRDC staff  
Todd Vogel, City of Watson, City Council  
David Bothun, Countryside Public Health  
Bill McGeary, Swift County Emergency Management  
Jeremy Gilb, Chippewa County Engineer  
Bill Pauling, Chippewa County Commissioner  
Michelle May, Chippewa County Auditor/Treasurer/Administrator  
David Lieser, Chippewa County Commissioner  
Jack Gottfried, City of Montevideo Community Development  
Jim Schmaedeka, Township Association Officer  
Robert Wolfington, City of Montevideo City Manager  
Josh Macziewski, Chippewa County Ag and Drainage Inspector  
Blain Johnson, Lac Qui Parle County Emergency Management  
Jill Rothschild, Minnesota Valley REC

### **Presentation and Meeting Summary**

Kevin Ketelsen of the UMRDC led the meeting and gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the purpose of the meeting, hazard mitigation and the overall process/timeline. A PDF of the presentation slides is included with this meeting summary. The slides were also emailed out after the meeting by Steph Weick, Chippewa County Emergency Manager to everyone on the invitee list.

The slides covered the following topics:

- Purpose of the meeting
- Mitigation definition

- Mitigation benefits
- List of invited participants/organizations
- Overview of process and proposed timeline
- Included hazards – Natural and human caused
- Description of risk assessment
- Overview of Hazus
- Overview of vulnerable populations
- Types of mitigation strategies
- Instructions on how to complete the Mitigation Idea Worksheet
- Time for questions
- Project contact information

While the meeting was primarily informational, there were a couple opportunities for group discussion. The first was on the how townships would be involved in the planning process and what actions they needed to take to be covered by the plan. Townships will continue to be included in the process and be asked for input, but they are not required to officially adopt the plan. When the County adopts the plan, it will cover the unincorporated areas of the county, which includes the townships.

There was also discussion on the list of potential hazards to be included in the plan. Primarily, the discussion centered on coastal erosion/flooding, earthquakes, and land subsidence/sinkholes. After discussing the validity of these disasters, it was decided to leave them all in for now and where each jurisdiction begins discussion, they can decide at that time which ones to include.

The other discussion centered on adding electrical outages and cyber-attack/security as stand alone disasters. It was decided by the group that power/communication outages would be discussed under each disaster as a cascading event where appropriate. Also, cyber-attack/security would be covered under the civil disturbance/terrorism disaster.

There was also a question regarding the County's status since the current plan was from 2015 (7 years prior) and whether they were still in good standing with FEMA. It was confirmed that due to the pandemic over the past two years, the County was granted an extension to update their plan as long as they were making progress toward doing so.

## **Clara City Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**October 11, 2022, 10am**

**Clara City City Hall**

1. Hazard mitigation introduction
2. Go over any gaps and deficiencies from 2015 Plan
3. Go over previous mitigation strategies and evaluate
4. Develop mitigation strategies for 2022-23 plan - Need at least one mitigation action per each identified hazard (\*see below)
  - a. Types of strategies to think about:
    - i. Plans/Regulations
    - ii. Structure/Infrastructure
    - iii. Natural systems protection
    - iv. Education and awareness
    - v. Preparedness and Response Support
  - b. Things to consider –
    - i. Are there disasters that do not impact the community or have a very unlikely chance of occurring?
    - ii. Who will implement?
    - iii. What is estimated cost? Funding sources?
    - iv. Is it cost beneficial?
    - v. How much of a priority is the action?
    - vi. Timeline for implementation
  - c. Natural Disasters – as we go through each, note any previous disaster events since 2015
  - d. Human caused disasters
5. Hazard analysis – will conduct as we go through disasters

\*C4-b. Each plan participant must identify one or more mitigation actions the participant(s) intends to implement for each hazard addressed in the risk assessment. The actions must be achievable and demonstrate how the mitigation activities reduce the risks identified in the risk assessment. The actions may apply to physical infrastructure, as well as the populations within the planning area. Actions may apply to one or more participants, as long as each participant is clearly associated with one or more actions. Non-mitigation actions can be included in a plan but will not be considered as part of the mitigation action requirement. These include actions that do not contribute to a long-term solution for the problem they are intended to address. Plan updates may validate and include previously included actions if those actions are being reconsidered for implementation to reduce the risks of identified hazards in the plan's current risk assessment.

## Summary of Gaps/Deficiencies from 2015 Plan (Community specific G/D's are bold)

### “Summer Storms” (Includes T-storms, tornadoes, lightning, hail, winds) - Gaps and Deficiencies

- As much as 10% (approximately 500 homes) in the county lack basements that would provide shelter in the event of a tornado or damaging winds from a severe thunderstorm.
- Manufactured home parks in and around **Montevideo** are quite old and do not provide on-site safety shelters for residents. Emergency management personnel notify residents of the location of the safety shelters when they move to the area. Residents are told to go directly to the **Montevideo Hospital**. Progress is being made on a safe room for 120 people near North Dale Mobile Home Park in **Montevideo**.
- Most power lines in the county are above ground and subject to damage from ice storms, wind and falling tree limbs. There are few community requirements that discourage the planting of large trees near power lines.
- **Watson**, population 205, could benefit from a safe room in the community to serve residents that do not have safe places to go during severe weather.

### Extreme Temperatures – none listed

### Flooding - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- The salvage yard near **Montevideo** needs to be moved out of the floodplain. Currently the project is not financially feasible.
- A few businesses remain in identified 100-year floodplains, including nonconforming structures and uses currently “grandfathered in” in both the **county** and **Montevideo** land use plans and ordinances.
- **Clara City** and **Maynard** have homes at risk during 100-year flood events and have not fully addressed the 100-year flood risks in its planning and zoning.
- **Montevideo** and **Granite Falls** have homes and business at risk during 100-year flood events.
- Local resources are not adequate for a severe and prolonged flood and there is a need for assistance from outside the community during an emergency.
- After the 2003 planned buyouts in **Montevideo**, 18 homes still remain in the 100-year floodplain.
- The discharge from the Willmar wastewater treatment plant is released into **Hawk Creek**. Because of the warm water, more ice builds up on **Hawk Creek**, creating a larger issue.
- DNR forestry staff suggest that the costs and hazards associated with downed trees as debris flow might be mitigated through improved “sanitation cutting” in the floodplain. There are provisions within the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) set aside program that allows limited timber cutting on lands enrolled in the program. However, the cutting must be allowed in a timber management plan prepared by a DNR forester. Not all SWCDs and landowners have been utilizing this aspect of the RIM program.

### Erosion - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- More education is needed on the devastating impacts erosion could have on the county, as well as prevention techniques.

### Droughts - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- County has no estimates of annual recharge rates or the capacities of the various aquifers.

- Water conservation provisions and use restrictions in times of drought are not included in county ordinances.
- The current county water plan recommends wellhead protection standards for adoption via ordinance by Chippewa County but has yet to be implemented.

### **Wildfires - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Currently, county zoning lacks regulations regarding vegetation on property. One of the problems with past fires is the undergrowth and overhanging trees near residential structures. Although aesthetically appealing, vegetation around homes has destroyed numerous dwellings in past fires.
- There is currently no program to ensure that fire is considered when planning conservation plantings that include woody cover. Firebreaks should be included to protect homes and woody cover as well as allowing the use of fire as a management tool. (If a tree and shrub planting is placed in the middle of a prairie planting, it may be difficult to accomplish a prescribed management burn of that property without damaging or destroying the woody component. It may also be impossible to protect that planting in the event of a wildfire.)
- Communications between DNR and local fire departments could be improved.
- Because of the rough terrain and location of wildfires many of the fire departments do not have adequate equipment to fight wildfires. Fire vehicles are not able to access these areas. More grass rigs and off-road vehicles are needed to address the problem of wild land and grass fires.

### **Dam Failure - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- None Listed.

## **HUMAN CAUSED**

### **Infectious Diseases - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Countryside Public Health has a plan in place with multiple ways to reach the public. This plan requires and receives continuous review, constant monitoring, and updates as necessary.

### **Structural Fires – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Although not in use very often, homes with chimneys pose a large threat of fires. Specialized training classes, such as chimney cleaning, safe cooking in the kitchen, and holiday hazards, could be offered to residents.
- Residents living in higher density areas should be more educated on fire prevention.
- In the back of the main street in **Montevideo** there are large power lines behind the tall buildings that limit accessibility in the event of a major structure fire.

### **Hazardous Materials – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- There is no warning system currently in place for warning residents in the rural area of a hazardous materials spill, although plans are to upgrade. Although this would be an effective warning system, emergency personnel will still need to go door-to-door to make sure everyone is out.



- Plans, policies and/or procedures are not in place to deal with a meth lab incident in the county. Law enforcement and emergency services are able to deal with meth labs, but the general public should be more educated on the risks. Lack of information and awareness has left the county susceptible to an accident that could impact a large area.

#### **Water Supply Contamination – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- The emergency response plan does not identify alternate sources of drinking water, including locates for acquiring adequate amounts of bottled water, in the event of contamination.

#### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Human-induced events, like terrorism, are not addressed in all emergency plans.

#### **Civil Disturbance – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Design and operations of facilities in the county were not developed with terrorism prevention in mind.
- Chippewa County government buildings, including the county courthouse and **city hall**, have unrestricted pedestrian access.
- The **Montevideo City Hall** and the Chippewa County Courthouse do not have fire suppression systems and are not blast resistant. Montevideo had a fire detection system installed in 2000.

## Clara City: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

Goal 1: Promote safe and accessible shelter from violent storms.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Encourage that all new homes without basements have a safe shelter where household residents may go in case of violent storms.	Construct a safe room and place in Lion's Park near the City Pool.	8-10 years	City	\$3,000	FEMA	2	Citizen Safety
	Create an Educational Packet of Emergency information for city residents and distribute information through public television and mailings.	3-5 years	City	\$500	FEMA	3	Educate citizens
Require that all manufactured homes use tie-downs.	Seek funding sources for tie-downs on existing manufactured homes.	1-2 years	City/Residents	\$250-500 per	SCDP	7	Citizen Safety
Investigate snow fences in Chippewa County.	Install a 1/2 mile Living Snow Fence along properties in the Northwest portion of the City.	5-7 years	City	Unknown	FEMA	8	Citizen Safety

### Flood

Goal 2: Improve the safety and security Wastewater Treatment Plants/lift stations.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Protect Clara City's Lift Station.	Build a berm along Hawk Creek.	2 years	City	Unknown	FEMA	1	Citizen Safety
Goal 3: Minimize the flooding along Hawk Creek.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Work with the city of Willmar to keep ice out of Clara City and Maynard.	The cities of Clara City and Maynard should participate in dialogue with the Hawk Creek Watershed District, the city of Willmar and the MPCA. Investigate the diversion of water to Grass Lake especially during flooding. Consider seeking state or federal funding.	Recurring	Clara City, Maynard, Willmar, Hawk Creek Watershed District	\$20,000	FEMA/ DNR/ ACOE	5	Citizen Safety
Protect the homes in Clara City that is danger of seasonal flooding in response to the ice dams at the bridges.	Annually review the plan of action which addresses flooding. This plan includes early sandbagging and having equipment available to move ice which will reduce flooding.	Recurring	City	Unknown	FEMA	4	Citizen Safety

Clara City: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

Civil Disturbance/Terrorism

Goal 1: Protect critical infrastructure.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Install security measures at city water treatment plants.	A. Install alarms on buildings.	3-4 years	City	\$300-500	--	6	Citizen Safety

## Mitigation Ideas

Steven Jones, City Administrator, City of Clara City

Hazard	Description of Concern or Proposed Mitigation Action
Flooding, Minnesota River & Hawk Creek	Continue with flood protection and flood mitigation in Montevideo and Clara City
Heavy Rain	Storm water ponds, water gardens, signage (for vulnerable areas)
Tornadoes	Early warning, protection for vulnerable populations and areas
Wind Damage	Early warning, building practices that encourage protection devices or anchors, tree trimming. In the winter, blowing snow and SNIRT!!  Wind breaks for blizzard areas (Highway 7 from Montevideo to Clara City, and others.)
Blizzards	Vehicles and personnel for rescues. Shelters for traveling public stuck in our communities.
Train or truck spills.	Evacuation plans and warnings. Clean-up crews. First responder training and equipment.

## **Clara City Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**October 11, 2022**

**10:00am-12:00pm**

### **Clara City Community Building**

The City of Clara City held a meeting to discuss updating the community's hazard mitigation planning strategies on October 11, 2022 at 10am at the Clara City Community Building. Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission facilitated the meeting. Representatives of the City were in attendance as well as Stephanie Weick, County Emergency Management Director (see attached attendance sheet). Ketelsen gave a background on hazard mitigation and the purpose of having a plan in place and why they were updating the County's plan. The group was presented gaps and deficiencies from the 2015 plan and were asked if any of Clara City's had been addressed since then. There was then discussion on the City's 2015 mitigation strategy and what had been done or if they would like to modify or eliminate any of them. The group decided to eliminate the strategy of discussing the Hawk Creek ice dam issue with the City of Willmar as they felt the problem is more likely downstream. Another strategy (construction of a berm along Hawk Creek to protect the city's lift station) was removed as it is scheduled to be completed soon.

The bulk of the remainder of the meeting was to discuss the mitigation strategies for the plan update. Since the last plan, a new requirement that came about was that each of the hazards listed in the State of MN Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be addressed and for each hazard listed in the plan, there needs to be at least one mitigation strategy. The committee chose to eliminate dam/levee failure, erosion/landslides/mudslides, coastal erosion/flooding, land subsidence (sinkholes), earthquakes from the list of disasters due to their extremely low probability of occurrence. Also as part of the discussion on each disaster, the committee was asked to perform a hazard analysis scoring exercise to help the City prioritize the mitigation strategies.

Upon completion of the discussion, Ketelsen explained the next steps being that he would type up a summary of the meeting and the new mitigation strategy for their review. After that, it would be presented to the City Council for review and inclusion in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be submitted to FEMA for final approval.

2 hours

## Hazard Mitigation Attendance/Sign-in Sheet

Name of Jurisdiction: Clara City

Date: 10-11-22

[illegible]

## **Maynard Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**October 25, 2022, 10am**

**Maynard City Hall**

1. Hazard mitigation introduction
2. Go over any gaps and deficiencies from 2015 Plan
3. Go over previous mitigation strategies and evaluate
4. Develop mitigation strategies for 2022-23 plan - Need at least one mitigation action per each identified hazard (\*see below)
  - a. Types of strategies to think about:
    - i. Plans/Regulations
    - ii. Structure/Infrastructure
    - iii. Natural systems protection
    - iv. Education and awareness
    - v. Preparedness and Response Support
  - b. Things to consider –
    - i. Are there disasters that do not impact the community or have a very unlikely chance of occurring?
    - ii. Who will implement?
    - iii. What is estimated cost? Funding sources?
    - iv. Is it cost beneficial?
    - v. How much of a priority is the action?
    - vi. Timeline for implementation
  - c. Natural Disasters – as we go through each, note any previous disaster events since 2015
  - d. Human caused disasters
5. Hazard analysis – will conduct as we go through disasters

\*C4-b. Each plan participant must identify one or more mitigation actions the participant(s) intends to implement for each hazard addressed in the risk assessment. The actions must be achievable and demonstrate how the mitigation activities reduce the risks identified in the risk assessment. The actions may apply to physical infrastructure, as well as the populations within the planning area. Actions may apply to one or more participants, as long as each participant is clearly associated with one or more actions. Non-mitigation actions can be included in a plan but will not be considered as part of the mitigation action requirement. These include actions that do not contribute to a long-term solution for the problem they are intended to address. Plan updates may validate and include previously included actions if those actions are being reconsidered for implementation to reduce the risks of identified hazards in the plan's current risk assessment.

## Summary of Gaps/Deficiencies from 2015 Plan (Community specific G/D's are bold)

### “Summer Storms” (Includes T-storms, tornadoes, lightning, hail, winds) - Gaps and Deficiencies

- As much as 10% (approximately 500 homes) in the county lack basements that would provide shelter in the event of a tornado or damaging winds from a severe thunderstorm.
- Manufactured home parks in and around **Montevideo** are quite old and do not provide on-site safety shelters for residents. Emergency management personnel notify residents of the location of the safety shelters when they move to the area. Residents are told to go directly to the **Montevideo Hospital**. Progress is being made on a safe room for 120 people near North Dale Mobile Home Park in **Montevideo**.
- Most power lines in the county are above ground and subject to damage from ice storms, wind and falling tree limbs. There are few community requirements that discourage the planting of large trees near power lines.
- **Watson**, population 205, could benefit from a safe room in the community to serve residents that do not have safe places to go during severe weather.

### Extreme Temperatures – none listed

### Flooding - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- The salvage yard near **Montevideo** needs to be moved out of the floodplain. Currently the project is not financially feasible.
- A few businesses remain in identified 100-year floodplains, including nonconforming structures and uses currently “grandfathered in” in both the **county** and **Montevideo** land use plans and ordinances.
- **Clara City** and **Maynard** have homes at risk during 100-year flood events and have not fully addressed the 100-year flood risks in its planning and zoning.
- **Montevideo** and **Granite Falls** have homes and business at risk during 100-year flood events.
- Local resources are not adequate for a severe and prolonged flood and there is a need for assistance from outside the community during an emergency.
- After the 2003 planned buyouts in **Montevideo**, 18 homes still remain in the 100-year floodplain.
- The discharge from the Willmar wastewater treatment plant is released into Hawk Creek. Because of the warm water, more ice builds up on Hawk Creek, creating a larger issue.
- DNR forestry staff suggest that the costs and hazards associated with downed trees as debris flow might be mitigated through improved “sanitation cutting” in the floodplain. There are provisions within the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) set aside program that allows limited timber cutting on lands enrolled in the program. However, the cutting must be allowed in a timber management plan prepared by a DNR forester. Not all SWCDs and landowners have been utilizing this aspect of the RIM program.

### Erosion - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- More education is needed on the devastating impacts erosion could have on the county, as well as prevention techniques.

### Droughts - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- County has no estimates of annual recharge rates or the capacities of the various aquifers.



- Water conservation provisions and use restrictions in times of drought are not included in county ordinances.
- The current county water plan recommends wellhead protection standards for adoption via ordinance by Chippewa County but has yet to be implemented.

### **Wildfires - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Currently, county zoning lacks regulations regarding vegetation on property. One of the problems with past fires is the undergrowth and overhanging trees near residential structures. Although aesthetically appealing, vegetation around homes has destroyed numerous dwellings in past fires.
- There is currently no program to ensure that fire is considered when planning conservation plantings that include woody cover. Firebreaks should be included to protect homes and woody cover as well as allowing the use of fire as a management tool. (If a tree and shrub planting is placed in the middle of a prairie planting, it may be difficult to accomplish a prescribed management burn of that property without damaging or destroying the woody component. It may also be impossible to protect that planting in the event of a wildfire.)
- Communications between DNR and local fire departments could be improved.
- Because of the rough terrain and location of wildfires many of the fire departments do not have adequate equipment to fight wildfires. Fire vehicles are not able to access these areas. More grass rigs and off-road vehicles are needed to address the problem of wild land and grass fires.

### **Dam Failure - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- None Listed.

## **HUMAN CAUSED**

### **Infectious Diseases - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Countryside Public Health has a plan in place with multiple ways to reach the public. This plan requires and receives continuous review, constant monitoring, and updates as necessary.

### **Structural Fires – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Although not in use very often, homes with chimneys pose a large threat of fires. Specialized training classes, such as chimney cleaning, safe cooking in the kitchen, and holiday hazards, could be offered to residents.
- Residents living in higher density areas should be more educated on fire prevention.
- In the back of the main street in **Montevideo** there are large power lines behind the tall buildings that limit accessibility in the event of a major structure fire.

### **Hazardous Materials – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- There is no warning system currently in place for warning residents in the rural area of a hazardous materials spill, although plans are to upgrade. Although this would be an effective warning system, emergency personnel will still need to go door-to-door to make sure everyone is out.

- Plans, policies and/or procedures are not in place to deal with a meth lab incident in the county. Law enforcement and emergency services are able to deal with meth labs, but the general public should be more educated on the risks. Lack of information and awareness has left the county susceptible to an accident that could impact a large area.

#### **Water Supply Contamination – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- The emergency response plan does not identify alternate sources of drinking water, including locates for acquiring adequate amounts of bottled water, in the event of contamination.

#### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Human-induced events, like terrorism, are not addressed in all emergency plans.

#### **Civil Disturbance – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Design and operations of facilities in the county were not developed with terrorism prevention in mind.
- Chippewa County government buildings, including the county courthouse and **city hall**, have unrestricted pedestrian access.
- The **Montevideo City Hall** and the Chippewa County Courthouse do not have fire suppression systems and are not blast resistant. Montevideo had a fire detection system installed in 2000.

## City of Maynard: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

#### Goal 1: Promote safe and accessible storm shelters from violent storms.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Encourage that all new homes without basements have a safe shelter where household residents may go in case of violent storms.	Create an Educational Packet of Emergency information for city residents and distribute information through public television and mailings.	1-2 years	City	\$500	FEMA	4	Citizen Safety

### Flood

#### Goal 2: Improve the safety and security Wastewater Treatment Plants/lift stations.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Protect Maynard's Wastewater Treatment Plant.	Build a berm along Hawk Creek.	2 years	City	Unknown	FEMA/ DNR	1	Citizen Safety

#### Goal 3: Minimize the flooding along Hawk Creek.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Work with the city of Willmar to keep ice out of Clara City and Maynard.	The cities of Clara City and Maynard should participate in dialogue with the Hawk Creek Watershed District, the city of Willmar and the MPCA. Investigate the diversion of water to Grass Lake especially during flooding. Consider seeking state or federal funding.	Recurring	Clara City, Maynard, Willmar, Hawk Creek Watershed District	\$20,000	FEMA/ DNR/ ACOE	5	Citizen Safety
Protect residences in Maynard.	Build a berm along east side of Hawk Creek.	2 years	Maynard	Unknown	FEMA/ DNR	2	Citizen Safety
Protect cemetery in Maynard.	Build a berm along Hawk Creek.	2 years	Maynard Lutheran Church	Unknown	FEMA/ DNR	3	Prevent Flooding

### Civil Disturbance/Terrorism

#### Goal 1: Protect critical infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Install security measures at city water treatment plants.	A. Install alarms on buildings.	3-4 years	City	\$300-500	--	6	Citizen Safety

## **Maynard Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**October 11, 2022**

**10:00-11:30am**

### **Maynard Community Building**

The City of Maynard held a meeting to discuss updating the community's hazard mitigation planning strategies on October 25, 2022 at 10am at the Maynard Community Building. Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission facilitated the meeting. Representatives of the City were in attendance as well as Stephanie Weick, County Emergency Management Director (see attached attendance sheet). Ketelsen gave a background on hazard mitigation and the purpose of having a plan in place and why they were updating the County's plan. The group was presented gaps and deficiencies from the 2015 plan and were asked if any of Maynard's had been addressed since then. There was then discussion on the City's 2015 mitigation strategy and what had been done or if they would like to modify or eliminate any of them. The group decided to eliminate the strategy of discussing the Hawk Creek ice dam issue with the City of Willmar as they felt the problem is more likely downstream. There was also some brief discussion on the aging utility poles and potential flooding near the wastewater treatment facility and cemetery. There was also some discussion on how flooding had been alleviated somewhat by the new road/bridge on the southwest part of town and how it has allowed water to flow more freely.

The bulk of the remainder of the meeting was to discuss the mitigation strategies for the plan update. Since the last plan, a new requirement that came about was that each of the hazards listed in the State of MN Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be addressed and for each hazard listed in the plan, there needs to be at least one mitigation strategy. The committee chose to eliminate dam/levee failure, erosion/landslides/mudslides, coastal erosion/flooding, land subsidence (sinkholes), and earthquakes from the list of disasters due to their extremely low probability of occurrence. Also, as part of the discussion on each disaster, the committee was asked to perform a hazard analysis scoring exercise to help the City prioritize the mitigation strategies.

Upon completion of the discussion, Ketelsen explained the next steps being that he would type up a summary of the meeting and the new mitigation strategy for their review. After that, it would be presented to the City Council for review and inclusion in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be submitted to FEMA for final approval.

1.5 hours

## Hazard Mitigation Attendance/Sign-in Sheet

Name of Jurisdiction: Maynard

Date: 10/25/22

[illegible]

## **Milan Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**November 14, 2022, 5:30pm**

### **Milan City Hall**

1. Hazard mitigation introduction
2. Go over any gaps and deficiencies from 2015 Plan
3. Go over previous mitigation strategies and evaluate
4. Develop mitigation strategies for 2022-23 plan - Need at least one mitigation action per each identified hazard (\*see below)
  - a. Types of strategies to think about:
    - i. Plans/Regulations
    - ii. Structure/Infrastructure
    - iii. Natural systems protection
    - iv. Education and awareness
    - v. Preparedness and Response Support
  - b. Things to consider –
    - i. Are there disasters that do not impact the community or have a very unlikely chance of occurring?
    - ii. Who will implement?
    - iii. What is estimated cost? Funding sources?
    - iv. Is it cost beneficial?
    - v. How much of a priority is the action?
    - vi. Timeline for implementation
  - c. Natural Disasters – as we go through each, note any previous disaster events since 2015
  - d. Human caused disasters
5. Hazard analysis – will conduct as we go through disasters

\*C4-b. Each plan participant must identify one or more mitigation actions the participant(s) intends to implement for each hazard addressed in the risk assessment. The actions must be achievable and demonstrate how the mitigation activities reduce the risks identified in the risk assessment. The actions may apply to physical infrastructure, as well as the populations within the planning area. Actions may apply to one or more participants, as long as each participant is clearly associated with one or more actions. Non-mitigation actions can be included in a plan but will not be considered as part of the mitigation action requirement. These include actions that do not contribute to a long-term solution for the problem they are intended to address. Plan updates may validate and include previously included actions if those actions are being reconsidered for implementation to reduce the risks of identified hazards in the plan's current risk assessment.

## Summary of Gaps/Deficiencies from 2015 Plan (Community specific G/D's are bold)

### “Summer Storms” (Includes T-storms, tornadoes, lightning, hail, winds) - Gaps and Deficiencies

- As much as 10% (approximately 500 homes) in the county lack basements that would provide shelter in the event of a tornado or damaging winds from a severe thunderstorm.
- Manufactured home parks in and around **Montevideo** are quite old and do not provide on-site safety shelters for residents. Emergency management personnel notify residents of the location of the safety shelters when they move to the area. Residents are told to go directly to the **Montevideo Hospital**. Progress is being made on a safe room for 120 people near North Dale Mobile Home Park in **Montevideo**.
- Most power lines in the county are above ground and subject to damage from ice storms, wind and falling tree limbs. There are few community requirements that discourage the planting of large trees near power lines.
- **Watson**, population 205, could benefit from a safe room in the community to serve residents that do not have safe places to go during severe weather.

### Extreme Temperatures – none listed

### Flooding - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- The salvage yard near **Montevideo** needs to be moved out of the floodplain. Currently the project is not financially feasible.
- A few businesses remain in identified 100-year floodplains, including nonconforming structures and uses currently “grandfathered in” in both the **county** and **Montevideo** land use plans and ordinances.
- **Clara City** and **Maynard** have homes at risk during 100-year flood events and have not fully addressed the 100-year flood risks in its planning and zoning.
- **Montevideo** and **Granite Falls** have homes and business at risk during 100-year flood events.
- Local resources are not adequate for a severe and prolonged flood and there is a need for assistance from outside the community during an emergency.
- After the 2003 planned buyouts in **Montevideo**, 18 homes still remain in the 100-year floodplain.
- The discharge from the Willmar wastewater treatment plant is released into Hawk Creek. Because of the warm water, more ice builds up on Hawk Creek, creating a larger issue.
- DNR forestry staff suggest that the costs and hazards associated with downed trees as debris flow might be mitigated through improved “sanitation cutting” in the floodplain. There are provisions within the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) set aside program that allows limited timber cutting on lands enrolled in the program. However, the cutting must be allowed in a timber management plan prepared by a DNR forester. Not all SWCDs and landowners have been utilizing this aspect of the RIM program.

### Erosion - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- More education is needed on the devastating impacts erosion could have on the county, as well as prevention techniques.

### Droughts - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- County has no estimates of annual recharge rates or the capacities of the various aquifers.

- Water conservation provisions and use restrictions in times of drought are not included in county ordinances.
- The current county water plan recommends wellhead protection standards for adoption via ordinance by Chippewa County but has yet to be implemented.

### **Wildfires - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Currently, county zoning lacks regulations regarding vegetation on property. One of the problems with past fires is the undergrowth and overhanging trees near residential structures. Although aesthetically appealing, vegetation around homes has destroyed numerous dwellings in past fires.
- There is currently no program to ensure that fire is considered when planning conservation plantings that include woody cover. Firebreaks should be included to protect homes and woody cover as well as allowing the use of fire as a management tool. (If a tree and shrub planting is placed in the middle of a prairie planting, it may be difficult to accomplish a prescribed management burn of that property without damaging or destroying the woody component. It may also be impossible to protect that planting in the event of a wildfire.)
- Communications between DNR and local fire departments could be improved.
- Because of the rough terrain and location of wildfires many of the fire departments do not have adequate equipment to fight wildfires. Fire vehicles are not able to access these areas. More grass rigs and off-road vehicles are needed to address the problem of wild land and grass fires.

### **Dam Failure - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- None Listed.

## **HUMAN CAUSED**

### **Infectious Diseases - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Countryside Public Health has a plan in place with multiple ways to reach the public. This plan requires and receives continuous review, constant monitoring, and updates as necessary.

### **Structural Fires – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Although not in use very often, homes with chimneys pose a large threat of fires. Specialized training classes, such as chimney cleaning, safe cooking in the kitchen, and holiday hazards, could be offered to residents.
- Residents living in higher density areas should be more educated on fire prevention.
- In the back of the main street in **Montevideo** there are large power lines behind the tall buildings that limit accessibility in the event of a major structure fire.

### **Hazardous Materials – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- There is no warning system currently in place for warning residents in the rural area of a hazardous materials spill, although plans are to upgrade. Although this would be an effective warning system, emergency personnel will still need to go door-to-door to make sure everyone is out.



- Plans, policies and/or procedures are not in place to deal with a meth lab incident in the county. Law enforcement and emergency services are able to deal with meth labs, but the general public should be more educated on the risks. Lack of information and awareness has left the county susceptible to an accident that could impact a large area.

#### **Water Supply Contamination – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- The emergency response plan does not identify alternate sources of drinking water, including locates for acquiring adequate amounts of bottled water, in the event of contamination.

#### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Human-induced events, like terrorism, are not addressed in all emergency plans.

#### **Civil Disturbance – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Design and operations of facilities in the county were not developed with terrorism prevention in mind.
- Chippewa County government buildings, including the county courthouse and **city hall**, have unrestricted pedestrian access.
- The **Montevideo City Hall** and the Chippewa County Courthouse do not have fire suppression systems and are not blast resistant. Montevideo had a fire detection system installed in 2000.

## City of Milan: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

Goal 1: Have safe and accessible safe rooms from violent storms.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Encourage homes without basements to have a safe room where household residents may go in case of violent storms.	Complete an annual mailing of the Emergency Preparedness Guide.	Recurring	City Clerk	\$500	FEMA	4	Educate citizens on where to go and what to do in event of hazardous weather
Goal 2: Improve severe storm warning system for all county residents.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Assess adequacy of existing civil defense sirens.	Purchase a new warning siren.	1 year	City	\$17,000	FEMA	2	Ensure entire town is within warning siren hearing area
Ensure that all sectors of the county have immediate severe weather warnings and weather radios.	Obtain funding for the new radio system for EMS and FD in event of a system change.	3-4 years	City	Unknown	County	5	Provide coverage to FD/EMS and increase safety

### Wildfire

Goal 3: Protect the safety of residents and firefighters.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Increase access to equipment suitable to fighting wildfires.	Purchase a grass rig.	1 year	Fire Department	\$55,000	FEMA/MnDNR	3	Increase FD Preparedness

### Water Supply Contamination

Goal 2: Protect residents from contaminated ground water.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Improve or build proper water supply treatment plants.	Build a Water Treatment Plant, water mains, and water storage area with high security.	2 years	City/ WSN Engineering	\$3,500,000	USDA/ DEED	1	Provide potable water to residents

## **Milan Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**November 14, 2022**

**5:30 to 7:00pm**

### **Milan City Hall**

The City of Milan held a meeting to discuss updating the community's hazard mitigation planning strategies on November 14, 2022 at 5:30pm at the Milan City Hall. Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission facilitated the meeting. Representatives of the City were in attendance as well as Stephanie Weick, County Emergency Management Director (see attached attendance sheet). Ketelsen gave a background on hazard mitigation and the purpose of having a plan in place and why they were updating the County's plan. The group was presented gaps and deficiencies from the 2015 plan and were asked if any of Milan's had been addressed since then. There was then discussion on the City's 2015 mitigation strategy and what had been done or if they would like to modify or eliminate any of them. The planning committee was asked about the % of homes without basements and they estimated that less than 10% had basements as the land in the area is fairly dry and well drained. The committee was asked about their grass firefighting equipment and stated that their two grass rigs and UTV were in good condition. When reviewing the 2015 community strategies, the planning committee would like to keep everything except the purchase of a new grass rig as that was no longer a need. There was some discussion about warning siren coverage and how the southwestern part of town couldn't always hear it. The strategy listing the improvements to the water treatment/supply system was modified to leave just the proposed security measures.

The bulk of the remainder of the meeting was to discuss the mitigation strategies for the plan update. Since the last plan, a new requirement that came about was that each of the hazards listed in the State of MN Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be addressed and for each hazard listed in the plan, there needs to be at least one mitigation strategy. The committee chose to eliminate dam/levee failure; erosion, landslides, and mudslides; coastal erosion/flooding; land subsidence (sinkholes); and earthquakes from the list of disasters due to their extremely low probability of occurrence. Also, as part of the discussion on each disaster, the committee was asked to perform a hazard analysis scoring exercise to help the City prioritize the mitigation strategies.

Upon completion of the discussion, Ketelsen explained the next steps being that he would type up a summary of the meeting and the new mitigation strategy for their review. After that, it would be presented to the City Council for review and inclusion in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be submitted to FEMA for final approval.

## Hazard Mitigation Attendance/Sign-in Sheet

Name of Jurisdiction: City of Milan

Date: 11/14/22

[illegible]

**Montevideo Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting, October 6, 1pm**

**Montevideo City Hall**

**Agenda**

Sign-in sheet – document local match

Go over critical facilities map – update as needed

Current land use map – still current?

Local resources/capabilities worksheet

Go over gaps/deficiencies

Areas of new development? Residential, commercial, industrial, institutions?

VA home

What properties are still left in floodplain?

Potential shelter locations? Fairgrounds? Any parks?

Vulnerable populations? Elderly, handicapped, ethnicities, proximity to river/hazardous materials?

Major employers?

Mobile home park – shelter completed since last time

Who to serve on local planning committee? And when to meet?

## **Montevideo Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting, October 6, 1pm (1 hour)**

### **Montevideo City Hall**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Robert Wolfington (City Manager), Stephanie Weick (County EM), and Kevin Ketelsen (UMVRDC) met on October 6, 2022 to begin work on the City of Montevideo's section of the Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

They went over the 2015 critical facilities map and updated as needed. Robert would provide a copy of the most current City land use map.

Ketelsen led Robert through the Local resources/capabilities worksheet and completed it for the City.

Ketelsen brought along a copy of the 2015 gaps/deficiencies that were identified in the 2015 plan. They were discussed and noted whether they had been addressed or were still relevant. They also discussed four strategies from the 2015 plan that pertained to Montevideo and noted any accomplishments.

Wolfington noted areas of new development in the community such as the site of the new VA home, new residential complex and proposed site of additional housing at the site of the school's former performing arts center.

There was discussion about what remained in the floodplain and the status of the properties. The City bought one property this year and would like to buy another with grant funds if possible. There was also discussion on how many commercial properties were left in flood plain. It was estimated there were 8-10 still left.

Shelter locations were discussed. One in mobile home park. Other potential shelter locations included Fairgrounds, Smith Park, and ball field complex

Vulnerable populations were discussed. Nursing homes, schools, and daycares. There is a substantial number of Hispanic residents and the City typically offers Spanish versions of most communication and works with the Hispanic community leaders.

Discussion about storm warning sirens and their condition. Weick noted that they are in good working condition and that one recently had a battery replaced (\$4,000). Wolfington thought the city was well covered and they don't get many if any complaints.

There was discussion on who would serve on local planning committee and the best time to meet.

City manager – Robert Wolfington

Community Development – Jack Gottfried

Mayor/City Council – 2-3 individuals - Nathan Schmidt (also vol. firefighter), Bev Olson

Building inspector/official – Brad Henricksen

Chamber of Commerce – Dustin Satrowski, current president

Public works/Streets– Aaron Blom

Utilities - Byron Hayunga

Electricity –Xcel covers most of the town, MN Valley Coop might cover far eastern part

Emergency services – Police Dept. – Ken Schule; Fire Dept. - Mitch Stueck; Ambulance – CCH (Hospital)

School – Robert will reach out and invite

Countryside Public Health – Robert will reach out and invite

Wolfigton stated that early afternoon should work for the group. Committee meeting was tentatively set for November 10 at 1pm at City Hall. Ketelsen would prepare information for the committee to review prior to the meeting.

@ City Hall

Name of Jurisdiction: Montevideo

Date: 10/6/22

[illegible]



## **Montevideo Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**November 10, 2022, 1pm**

**Montevideo City Hall**

1. Hazard mitigation introduction
2. Review previous mitigation strategies and evaluate
3. Develop mitigation strategies for 2022-23 plan - Need at least one mitigation action per each identified hazard (\*see below)
  - a. Types of strategies to think about:
    - i. Plans/Regulations
    - ii. Structure/Infrastructure
    - iii. Natural systems protection
    - iv. Education and awareness
    - v. Preparedness and Response Support
  - b. Things to consider –
    - i. Are there disasters that do not impact the community or have a very unlikely chance of occurring?
    - ii. Who will implement?
    - iii. What is estimated cost? Funding sources?
    - iv. Is it cost beneficial?
    - v. How much of a priority is the action?
    - vi. Timeline for implementation
  - c. Natural Disasters – as we go through each, note any previous disaster events since 2015
  - d. Human caused disasters
4. Hazard analysis – will conduct as we go through disasters

\*C4-b. Each plan participant must identify one or more mitigation actions the participant(s) intends to implement for each hazard addressed in the risk assessment. The actions must be achievable and demonstrate how the mitigation activities reduce the risks identified in the risk assessment. The actions may apply to physical infrastructure, as well as the populations within the planning area. Actions may apply to one or more participants, as long as each participant is clearly associated with one or more actions. Non-mitigation actions can be included in a plan but will not be considered as part of the mitigation action requirement. These include actions that do not contribute to a long-term solution for the problem they are intended to address. Plan updates may validate and include previously included actions if those actions are being reconsidered for implementation to reduce the risks of identified hazards in the plan's current risk assessment.

## City of Montevideo: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

#### Goal 1: Adopt a wellhead protection ordinance as proposed in the county Comprehensive Water Plan.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Buy out willing sellers of their structures in the 100-year floodplain including businesses in Montevideo.	Work with the state and federal government to provide funding to acquire and remove non-conforming structures in Flood A & B Zones. – Continue to work on, have bought out three properties since 2014 and one in 2022, with hopes to acquire one more if possible. Once the levee project is complete, new floodplain maps are supposed to come out late October and City Hall will then be in Zone C.	Unknown	City	\$1,000,000	FEMA/ CDBG/ SCDG/ HUD/ EDA	2	Citizen Safety

#### Goal 2: Improve the safety and security of the Montevideo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Rebuild the levee in Montevideo to protect the Wastewater Treatment Plant.	Continue Levee Project – Phases 2 & 3 – Phase 3B is going on right now and when complete will finalize project.	2 years	City Administration	\$13,000,000	FEMA/ ACOE/ MN State	1	Citizen Safety

#### Goal 4: Improve the safety and security of flood prone areas throughout Chippewa County.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Address flooding issues as a region.	Creation of network of print, radio, social medias that reach all citizens with maps of risk areas, shelters, contact information and what to do in the event of an event. – City has put together a fairly comprehensive flood related document and is available on their website and is available in Spanish.	Recurring	Community Development	Staff Time	--	3	Citizen Education

Hazardous Materials

Goal 2: Protect residents from contaminated ground water.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Improve or build proper water supply treatment plants.	Build a Water Treatment Plant, water mains, and water storage area with high security. - <a href="#">Complete</a>	2 years	City/ WSN Engineering	\$3,500,000	USDA/ DEED	1	Provide potable water to residents

## **Montevideo Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**November 10, 2022**

**1:00 to 2:30pm**

### **Montevideo City Hall**

The City of Montevideo held a meeting to discuss updating the community's hazard mitigation planning strategies on November 10, 2022 at 1pm at the Montevideo City Hall. Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission facilitated the meeting. Representatives of the City were in attendance as well as Stephanie Weick, County Emergency Management Director (see attached attendance sheet). Ketelsen gave a background on hazard mitigation and the purpose of having a plan in place and why they were updating the County's plan. The group was presented gaps and deficiencies from the 2015 plan and were asked if any of Montevideo's had been addressed since then. There was then discussion on the City's 2015 mitigation strategy and what had been done or if they would like to modify or eliminate any of them. At a prior meeting with City Administrator Robert Wolfington, it was determined that a lot of progress had been made on the 2015 strategies. The City would continue to look to acquire properties in the floodplain as funding and opportunities presented themselves. The City's levee around the wastewater treatment plant is close to being completed and will result in new floodplain maps. The City also completed upgrades to its water treatment plant/mains including improved security. The City will also continue to send out flood-related information to residents on an annual basis.

The bulk of the remainder of the meeting was to discuss the mitigation strategies for the plan update. Since the last plan, a new requirement that came about was that each of the hazards listed in the State of MN Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be addressed and for each hazard listed in the plan, there needs to be at least one mitigation strategy. The committee chose to coastal erosion/flooding, land subsidence (sinkholes), and earthquakes from the list of disasters due to their extremely low probability of occurrence. Also as part of the discussion on each disaster, the committee was asked to perform a hazard analysis scoring exercise to help the City prioritize the mitigation strategies.

Upon completion of the discussion, Ketelsen explained the next steps being that he would type up a summary of the meeting and the new mitigation strategy for their review. After that, it would be presented to the City Council for review and inclusion in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be submitted to FEMA for final approval.



## **Watson Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**September 7, 2022, 8am**

### **Watson Community Building**

1. Go over any gaps and deficiencies from 2015 Plan
2. Go over previous mitigation strategies and evaluate
3. Develop mitigation strategies for 2022-23 plan - Need at least one mitigation action per each identified hazard (see below)
  - a. Types of strategies to think about:
    - i. Plans/Regulations
    - ii. Structure/Infrastructure
    - iii. Natural systems protection
    - iv. Education and awareness
    - v. Preparedness and Response Support
  - b. Things to consider –
    - i. Are there disasters that do not impact the community or have a very unlikely chance of occurring?
    - ii. Who will implement?
    - iii. What is estimated cost? Funding sources?
    - iv. Is it cost beneficial?
    - v. How much of a priority is the action?
    - vi. Timeline for implementation
  - c. Natural Disasters – as we go through each, note any previous disaster events since 2015
  - d. Human caused disasters
4. Hazard analysis – will email out to Alan to forward to City Council, etc.

C4-b. Each plan participant must identify one or more mitigation actions the participant(s) intends to implement for each hazard addressed in the risk assessment. The actions must be achievable and demonstrate how the mitigation activities reduce the risks identified in the risk assessment. The actions may apply to physical infrastructure, as well as the populations within the planning area. Actions may apply to one or more participants, as long as each participant is clearly associated with one or more actions. Non-mitigation actions can be included in a plan but will not be considered as part of the mitigation action requirement. These include actions that do not contribute to a long-term solution for the problem they are intended to address. Plan updates may validate and include previously included actions if those actions are being reconsidered for implementation to reduce the risks of identified hazards in the plan's current risk assessment.

## Summary of Gaps/Deficiencies from 2015 Plan (Community specific G/D's are bold)

### “Summer Storms” (Includes T-storms, tornadoes, lightning, hail, winds) - Gaps and Deficiencies

- As much as 10% (approximately 500 homes) in the county lack basements that would provide shelter in the event of a tornado or damaging winds from a severe thunderstorm.
- Manufactured home parks in and around **Montevideo** are quite old and do not provide on-site safety shelters for residents. Emergency management personnel notify residents of the location of the safety shelters when they move to the area. Residents are told to go directly to the **Montevideo Hospital**. Progress is being made on a safe room for 120 people near North Dale Mobile Home Park in **Montevideo**.
- Most power lines in the county are above ground and subject to damage from ice storms, wind and falling tree limbs. There are few community requirements that discourage the planting of large trees near power lines.
- **Watson**, population 205, could benefit from a safe room in the community to serve residents that do not have safe places to go during severe weather.

### Extreme Temperatures – none listed

### Flooding - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- The salvage yard near **Montevideo** needs to be moved out of the floodplain. Currently the project is not financially feasible.
- A few businesses remain in identified 100-year floodplains, including nonconforming structures and uses currently “grandfathered in” in both the **county** and **Montevideo** land use plans and ordinances.
- **Clara City** and **Maynard** have homes at risk during 100-year flood events and have not fully addressed the 100-year flood risks in its planning and zoning.
- **Montevideo** and **Granite Falls** have homes and business at risk during 100-year flood events.
- Local resources are not adequate for a severe and prolonged flood and there is a need for assistance from outside the community during an emergency.
- After the 2003 planned buyouts in **Montevideo**, 18 homes still remain in the 100-year floodplain.
- The discharge from the Willmar wastewater treatment plant is released into Hawk Creek. Because of the warm water, more ice builds up on Hawk Creek, creating a larger issue.
- DNR forestry staff suggest that the costs and hazards associated with downed trees as debris flow might be mitigated through improved “sanitation cutting” in the floodplain. There are provisions within the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) set aside program that allows limited timber cutting on lands enrolled in the program. However, the cutting must be allowed in a timber management plan prepared by a DNR forester. Not all SWCDs and landowners have been utilizing this aspect of the RIM program.

### Erosion - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- More education is needed on the devastating impacts erosion could have on the county, as well as prevention techniques.

### Droughts - Program Gaps and Deficiencies

- County has no estimates of annual recharge rates or the capacities of the various aquifers.

- Water conservation provisions and use restrictions in times of drought are not included in county ordinances.
- The current county water plan recommends wellhead protection standards for adoption via ordinance by Chippewa County but has yet to be implemented.

### **Wildfires - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Currently, county zoning lacks regulations regarding vegetation on property. One of the problems with past fires is the undergrowth and overhanging trees near residential structures. Although aesthetically appealing, vegetation around homes has destroyed numerous dwellings in past fires.
- There is currently no program to ensure that fire is considered when planning conservation plantings that include woody cover. Firebreaks should be included to protect homes and woody cover as well as allowing the use of fire as a management tool. (If a tree and shrub planting is placed in the middle of a prairie planting, it may be difficult to accomplish a prescribed management burn of that property without damaging or destroying the woody component. It may also be impossible to protect that planting in the event of a wildfire.)
- Communications between DNR and local fire departments could be improved.
- Because of the rough terrain and location of wildfires many of the fire departments do not have adequate equipment to fight wildfires. Fire vehicles are not able to access these areas. More grass rigs and off-road vehicles are needed to address the problem of wild land and grass fires.

### **Dam Failure - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- None Listed.

## **HUMAN CAUSED**

### **Infectious Diseases - Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Countryside Public Health has a plan in place with multiple ways to reach the public. This plan requires and receives continuous review, constant monitoring, and updates as necessary.

### **Structural Fires – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Although not in use very often, homes with chimneys pose a large threat of fires. Specialized training classes, such as chimney cleaning, safe cooking in the kitchen, and holiday hazards, could be offered to residents.
- Residents living in higher density areas should be more educated on fire prevention.
- In the back of the main street in **Montevideo** there are large power lines behind the tall buildings that limit accessibility in the event of a major structure fire.

### **Hazardous Materials – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- There is no warning system currently in place for warning residents in the rural area of a hazardous materials spill, although plans are to upgrade. Although this would be an effective warning system, emergency personnel will still need to go door-to-door to make sure everyone is out.



- Plans, policies and/or procedures are not in place to deal with a meth lab incident in the county. Law enforcement and emergency services are able to deal with meth labs, but the general public should be more educated on the risks. Lack of information and awareness has left the county susceptible to an accident that could impact a large area.

#### **Water Supply Contamination – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- The emergency response plan does not identify alternate sources of drinking water, including locates for acquiring adequate amounts of bottled water, in the event of contamination.

#### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Human-induced events, like terrorism, are not addressed in all emergency plans.

#### **Civil Disturbance – Program Gaps and Deficiencies**

- Design and operations of facilities in the county were not developed with terrorism prevention in mind.
- Chippewa County government buildings, including the county courthouse and **city hall**, have unrestricted pedestrian access.
- The **Montevideo City Hall** and the Chippewa County Courthouse do not have fire suppression systems and are not blast resistant. Montevideo had a fire detection system installed in 2000.

## City of Watson: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

#### Goal 1: Improve severe storm warning systems for all county residents.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Assess adequacy of existing emergency warning sirens and emergency operation centers.	Purchase a portable generator and transfer switch.	2 years	City	\$6,500	FEMA	2	Ensure that shelters have emergency back-up systems for citizen welfare
	Obtain funding to build a City Maintenance Shop/Emergency Operations Center.	3-5 years	City	\$300,000	USDA	3	Need to store City Equipment and be accessible

### Wastewater Treatment System Failure

#### Goal 1: Improve the safety and security of Granite Falls and other flood-prone areas.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Ensure that all public wastewater facilities are working properly through improvements, updates, and building.	Purchase safety equipment for operating lift stations.	2 years	City	Unknown	FEMA/ USDA	1	Protect water safety and supply

### Structure Fire

#### Goal 1: Provide safety to residents.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
1. Provide adequate and timely fire protection for all cities in Chippewa County. <b>*New Objective</b>	A. Build a satellite fire station for the Montevideo Fire Department located in the City of Watson. <b>*New Strategy</b>	3-10 years	Montevideo Fire Department, City of Watson	Unknown	USDA	4	Citizen Safety

## **Watson Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting**

**September 7, 2022**

**8:00-9:30am**

### **Watson Community Building**

The City of Watson held a meeting to discuss updating the community's hazard mitigation planning strategies on September 7, 2022 at 8am at the Watson Community Building. Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission facilitated the meeting. Representatives of the City were in attendance as well as Stephanie Weick, County Emergency Management Director. Ketelsen gave a background on hazard mitigation and the purpose of having a plan in place and why they were updating the County's plan. The group was presented gaps and deficiencies from the 2015 plan and were asked if any of Watson's had been addressed since then. There was then discussion on the City's 2015 mitigation strategy and what had been done or if they would like to modify or eliminate any of them. The bulk of the remainder of the meeting was to discuss the mitigation strategies for the plan update. Since the last plan, a new requirement that came about was that each of the hazards listed in the State of MN Hazard Mitigation Plan needs to be addressed and for each hazard listed in the plan, there needs to be at least one mitigation strategy. The committee chose to eliminate flooding, dam/levee failure, erosion/landslides/mudslides, coastal erosion/flooding, land subsidence (sinkholes), earthquakes from the list of disasters due to their extremely low probability of occurrence. The committee also decided to change "Wastewater Treatment System Failure" to "Wastewater Collection Failure" since the City no longer operates a wastewater treatment facility. The collected wastewater from Watson is now piped to the City of Montevideo for treatment and discharge.

Upon completion of the discussion, Ketelsen explained the next steps being that he would type up a summary of the meeting and the new mitigation strategy for their review. After that, it would be presented to the City Council for review and inclusion in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be submitted to FEMA for final approval.

City of Watson Hazard Mitigation Meeting  
Sept 7, 2022 - 8am

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Kevin Ketelsen	UMVRDC
Todd Vogel	watson city Council
Alan Marohl	Clerk / Treasurer
Todd Tongen	Watson Mayor
Stephanie Weick	Emergency Management

## Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Agenda

March 9, 2023, 10am

Chippewa County Courthouse

### I. Brief recap of hazard mitigation

### II. Review list of disasters that could impact Chippewa County from State HM Plan – any to remove/add? (*Bolded disasters were included in 2015 Plan*)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Flooding   | 9. <b>Lightning</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> )      |
| 2. <b>Wildfire</b>  |   |
| 3. <b>Windstorms</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> )   | 10. <b>Winter Storms</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> ) |
| 4. <b>Tornadoes</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> )    | 11. <b>Erosion, Landslides and Mudslides</b>                                    |
| 5. <b>Hail</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> )         | 12. Coastal Erosion and Flooding  |
| 6. <b>Dam/Levee Failure</b>   | 13. Land Subsidence (Sinkholes and Karst)                                       |
| 7. <b>Extreme Heat</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> ) | 14. <b>Extreme Cold</b> ( <i>included under Violent Storms/Extreme Temps</i> )  |
| 8. <b>Drought</b>   | 15. Earthquakes   |

### III. Review the hazard scoring

### IV. Questions to ask of the group –

- a. Any changes related to disasters since 2015?  
New areas of development?
- a. Have any disasters become worse? Less impactful?
- b. Any new areas of vulnerability?

### V. Review Gaps/Deficiencies and 2015 strategies - As we review them think about:

- a. What has been accomplished?
- b. What is no longer relevant?
- c. Any new strategies to add or modify?
- d. Have any of the priorities changed?

### VI. What is next?

## **Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Meeting**

**March 9, 2023, 10am-12pm**

**Chippewa County Courthouse**

The County hazard mitigation planning committee met on March 9, 2023 to review the gaps/deficiencies and strategies from the 2015 hazard mitigation plan. Several representatives of county departments and public organizations were present (see attached sign-in sheet). Kevin Ketelsen from the UMRDC facilitated the meeting. Those in attendance introduced themselves. Ketelsen shared a brief summary of what hazard mitigation planning was and why the County was doing it.

The first item of discussion was the review of the list of disasters included in the plan. The previous plan had "Violent Storms" which included wind, tornados, lightning, hail, and extreme temperatures. To be consistent with the State of MN plan, the County will break out each of those individual disasters. The committee decided not to include coastal erosion and flooding, land subsidence (sinkholes), and earthquakes due to their non-existence or extreme unlikelihood of them happening. The committee then reviewed the hazard analysis scoring results which assigned a weighted value to each disaster based on probability, severity, warning time, and duration. There was some discussion on where tornados ranked, but after going through the definitions of the scoring ranges, it was decided that it was in the appropriate rank.

Next the committee reviewed the gap/deficiencies from the 2015 plan and noted which were addressed and which remained. Similarly, Ketelsen led the group through the 2015 strategies and there was discussion on each related to whether it was still relevant, needed to be modified or if it could be removed. There was good discussion on a lot of topics.

Ketelsen shared that he planned to incorporate the changes into the plan and that there would be another task force meeting with everyone again sometime later in the spring. He hopes to have a draft of the plan complete by late spring/early summer.

Meeting concluded at 12pm.

# Hazard Mitigation Attendance/Sign-in Sheet

Name of Jurisdiction: Chippewa County

Date: 3-9-23

Time: 10am - 12pm -

Name	Organization	Position
Kevin Ketelsen	UMV RDC	Planner
Stephanie Wuck	Chippewa Sheriff's office	EM
Josh Macziewski	chippewa Drainage	Drainage Inspector
Zach Bothum	Chippewa SWCD	District Manager
Deek Olson	Chippewa County Sheriff	Sheriff
David Lieser	Ch. Co. Commis.	Commissioner
JoAnn Blomme	Chippewa Co. L+R M	Environmental Tech
Kevin Enevaldsen	Chippewa Highway	
Jeremy Gilb	Chippewa Highway	County Engineer
PAUL COYOUNG	PRAIRIE FIVE P&E	Transit Director
Jim Schmaedek	chippewa Co. Townships	chairman
Bill Pauling	CHIPPWA CO Commissioner	Commissioner
David Bothum	Countryside PH	EP Coordinator

**From:** [Stephanie Weick](#) on behalf of [Kevin Ketelsen](#)  
**To:** [David Lieser](#); [Bill Pauling](#); [Stephanie Weick](#); [Candice Jaenisch](#); [Scott Williams](#); [Jeremy Gilb](#); [Derek Olson](#); [Michelle May](#); [Josh Macziewski](#); [James Schmaedeka - Louriston](#); [Ron Abel-Havelock](#); [Lone Tree Twp Treasurer](#); [Crate Twp Chair](#); [John Bristle-Stoneham](#); [walt.gessler@state.mn.us](#); [Tom Warner](#); [Ted Nelson](#) ([ted.nelson@prairiefive.org](#)); ["Josephs@montevidomedical.com"](#); [toddrodvogel@gmail.com](#); [Windy Block](#); [Milan City Clerk](#); [Watson City Clerk/Mayor](#); [Casey Namken](#) ([Casey.Namken@co.ym.mn.gov](#)); ["Blain Johnson"](#) ([blain.johnson@lqpc.com](#)); [Bill McGeary](#) ([bill.mcgeary@co.swift.mn.us](#)); [larissa.schwenk@pioneerland.lib.mn.us](#); [David Bothun](#) ([David@countyside.co.swift.mn.us](#)); [tjtongen@farmerstel.net](#); [nelsong@hcinet.net](#); [ccpublicworks@hcinet.net](#); [drpieper@hcinet.net](#); [Sherri Broderius](#); [Jill - MN Valley](#) ([jill@mnvalleyrec.com](#)); [scottk@mnvalleyrec.com](#); [Robert Wolfington](#) ([ctyadmin@montevidomn.org](#)); [Monteideo City Clerk](#); ["aaron@montevidomn.org"](#); [olson.beverly@icloud.com](#); [nschmidt1419@yahoo.com](#); [cdd@montevidomn.org](#); [tylersachariason@gmail.com](#); [wmckittrick@montevidoschools.org](#); [Maynard Clerk](#); [Zach Bothun](#); [JoAnn Blomme](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan WRAP-UP meeting  
**Start:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 1:00:00 PM  
**End:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 2:00:00 PM  
**Location:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179177464?pwd=dmQvTIV0ZUQvU3JuVjVnRFhWZ1pGUT09>

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-----Original Appointment-----

From: Stephanie Weick On Behalf Of Kevin Ketelsen  
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 2:43 PM  
To: David Lieser; Bill Pauling; Candice Jaenisch; Scott Williams; Jeremy Gilb; Derek Olson; Michelle May; Josh Macziewski; James Schmaedeka - Louriston; Ron Abel-Havelock; Charles Degrote - Lone Tree ; Bill Luschen - Crate; John Bristle-Stoneham; 'walt.gessler@state.mn.us'; Tom Warner; Ted Nelson ([ted.nelson@prairiefive.org](#)); 'josephs@montevidomedical.com'; [toddrodvogel@gmail.com](#); 'cityadmin@hcinet.net'; 'cityofmilan@fedteldirect.net'; 'cityofwatson@farmerstel.net'; Casey Namken ([Casey.Namken@co.ym.mn.gov](#)); 'Blain Johnson' ([blain.johnson@lqpc.com](#)); Bill McGeary ([bill.mcgeary@co.swift.mn.us](#)); [larissa.schwenk@pioneerland.lib.mn.us](#); David Bothun ([David@countyside.co.swift.mn.us](#)); [tjtongen@farmerstel.net](#); [nelsong@hcinet.net](#); [ccpublicworks@hcinet.net](#); [drpieper@hcinet.net](#); Sherri Broderius; Jill - MN Valley ([jill@mnvalleyrec.com](#)); [scottk@mnvalleyrec.com](#); Robert Wolfington ([ctyadmin@montevidomn.org](#)); Monteideo City Clerk; 'aaron@montevidomn.org'; [olson.beverly@icloud.com](#); [nschmidt1419@yahoo.com](#); [cdd@montevidomn.org](#); [tylersachariason@gmail.com](#); [wmckittrick@montevidoschools.org](#); 'citmay@mchsi.com'; Zach Bothun; JoAnn Blomme  
Subject: Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan WRAP-UP meeting  
When: Thursday, June 22, 2023 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).  
Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179177464?pwd=dmQvTIV0ZUQvU3JuVjVnRFhWZ1pGUT09>

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Kevin Ketelsen <[kevin@umvrdc.org](mailto:kevin@umvrdc.org)> <<mailto:kevin@umvrdc.org>>  
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 2:36 PM  
To: Kevin Ketelsen; Stephanie Weick  
Subject: Chippewa Co. Hazard Mitigation Plan Task Force Meeting  
When: Thursday, June 22, 2023 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada).  
Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179177464?pwd=dmQvTIV0ZUQvU3JuVjVnRFhWZ1pGUT09> <<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179177464?pwd=dmQvTIV0ZUQvU3JuVjVnRFhWZ1pGUT09>>

SECURITY NOTICE: External Email Source

Please exercise caution before clicking on any links or attachments, especially from unknown senders. Report suspicious email to Chippewa County IT.

Good afternoon,

You are invited to attend the Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan wrap-up meeting. Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) will provide an overview of the past year's activities, including changes to the document from 2015, highlights of the various communities' mitigation strategies, and an outline of the next steps. The meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, June 22 at 1pm via Zoom (see link below). This will be the last planning task force meeting before the plan is finalized and made available for public review and comment this summer. If you thought of any additional mitigation projects as a result of this spring's flooding, this meeting would be a good time to share them so they can be included in the plan. We hope you are able to attend.

Thank you,

Stephanie Weick

Chippewa County Emergency Manager

UMVRDC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179177464?pwd=dmQvTlV0ZUQvU3JuVjVnRFhWZlplGUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 7917 7464

Passcode: 607708

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83179177464#,,,,\*607708# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,83179177464#,,,,\*607708# US

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 831 7917 7464

Passcode: 607708

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179177464?pwd=dmQvTlV0ZUQvU3JuVjVnRFhWZlplGUT09>

Email invite list for 6/22/23 Wrap up meeting

<b>Name</b>	<b>Org/position</b>	<b>Attend?</b>
Kevin Ketelsen	UMVRDC/Planner	Yes
Stephanie Weick	Chippewa County EM Director	Yes
Scott Williams	Chippewa County Land and Resource Department Director	Yes
Casey Namken	Yellow Medicine County EM Director	Yes
Kristi Fernholz	Planning Director, UMVRDC	Yes
Zach Bothun	Chippewa County SWCD	Yes
Bill Pauling	Chippewa County Commissioner	Yes
David Lieser	Chippewa County Commissioner	Yes
Thomas Fleming	Emergency Medical Services Manager, CCM Health	Yes
Alan Marohl	City of Watson City Clerk	Yes
Candice Jaenisch	Chippewa County Commissioner	No
Jeremy Gilb	Chippewa County Engineer	No
Josh Macziewski	Chippewa County SWCD	No
JoAnn Blomme	Chippewa County Environmental Department	No
Michelle May	Chippewa County Administrator	No
Derek Olson	Chippewa County Sheriff	No
Tom Warner	Chippewa County SWCD	No
Steven Jones	Clara City City Administrator	No
Gary Nelson	Clara City Mayor	No
Jeff Sager	Clara City Public Works Director	No
Gary Nelson	Clara City Mayor	No
Jack Gottfried	City of Montevideo Community Development Director	No
Wade McKittrick	Montevideo Schools Superintendent	No
Sherri Broderius	Superintendent MACCRAY Schools	No
Veronica Blommel	City of Milan City Clerk	No
Nicole Strassburg	Maynard City Clerk	No
Richard Groothuis	Maynard Mayor	No
Robert Wolfington	Montevideo City Manager	No
Glennis Lauritsen	Montevideo City Clerk	No
Aaron Blom	Montevideo Public Works Director	No

Nathan Schmidt	Montevideo City Council President	No
Beverly Olson	Montevideo City Council	No
Tyler Sachariason	Montevideo Chamber of Commerce, Montevideo School Board	No
Todd Tongen	City of Watson Mayor	No
Todd Vogel	City of Watson, City Council	No
James Schmaedeka	Louriston Township	No
Ron Abel	Havelock Township	No
Charles DeGrote	Lone Tree Township Treasurer	No
Bill Luschen	Crate Township Chair	No
John Bristle	Stoneham Township	No
Joseph Skallerud	Chippewa County-Montevideo Hospital Safety Director	No
Scott Kubesh	Member Services Manager, Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Assn	No
Jill Rothschadl	Office Manager, Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association	No
Larissa Schwenk	Head Librarian, Clara City, Maynard, Milan, Montevideo, and Granite Falls Libraries	No
Walt Gessler	Wildlife Area Manager, Minnesota DNR, Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Area	No
Blain Johnson	Lac qui Parle EM	No
Bill McGeary	Swift County EM	No
Ted Nelson	Prairie Five Rides, Program Manager	No
David Bothun	Countryside Public Health	No

## Chippewa County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Taskforce Meeting #2

June 22, 2023  
1:00pm  
Virtual (Zoom)



Upper Minnesota Valley  
**REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION**

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## Welcome and Introductions

### Planning Team -

- Kevin Ketelsen, Community Development Specialist, UMRVDC
- Kristi Fernholz, Planning Director, UMRVDC
- Stephanie Weick, Director, Chippewa County Emergency Management

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## Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Wrap up the planning process and provide an update on what has been done over the past year.
  - Changes to the plan
  - Planning process, input, data gathering
  - Strategies and funding sources
  - Next steps

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## What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation may be defined as any action taken to eliminate or reduce the future risk to human life and property from natural and human caused hazards.

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## Changes to the plan document

- FEMA added a few new policies effective April 2023
  - One strategy per disaster per jurisdiction
  - Focus on underserved populations
- Reorganized format to be more similar to the State's plan
- Tried to remove any unnecessary information


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## Planning process –

- Held virtual kickoff meeting in June 2022
- Posted notices on Emergency Management Facebook
- Published in Clara City Herald
- Posted notices in communities – post offices, grocery store
- Attended annual township meeting in April
- Met with local community committees as well as county committee
- Attended city council meetings
- Held virtual wrap-up meeting (today)



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## Local Capacity Assessments

- Sent out to city clerks and administrators
- Updated the list of current plans, policies and ordinances in place
- Self evaluated local capacities in terms of technical, fiscal, administrative, and political areas

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## Local Committee Meetings

- Held last summer and fall in each of the five communities
- Consisted of local representatives
  - City clerk/administrators
  - Elected officials
  - Public works/utilities
  - Emergency responders
  - UMRDC and County Emergency Management

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## Local Committee Meetings

- Reviewed gaps and deficiencies from 2015 plan
- Review strategies from 2015 plan and evaluated
- Conducted a hazard analysis using Calculated Priority Risk Index (CPRI)
- Developed new list of strategies for next five years

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## Hazard Analysis

Used the Calculated Priority Risk Index (CPRI)

- Scoring exercise that evaluates each potential disaster by:
  - Probability (45%)
  - Severity (30%)
  - Warning time (15%)
  - Duration (10%)
- Assigns a weighted value to each of the above
- Helps identify what disasters need to be addressed and can help to prioritize

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## Hazard Analysis (County results)


Hazard/Disaster	Probability (45%)	Magnitude/Severity (30%)	Warning Time (15%)	Duration (10%)	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windscreens	3	3	4	1	<b>2.95</b>
Hail	3	3	4	1	<b>2.95</b>
Extreme cold	4	2	1	3	<b>2.85</b>
Winter storms	4	2	1	3	<b>2.85</b>
Tornadoes	2	4	4	1	<b>2.8</b>
Dam/Levee Failure	3	4	4	4	<b>2.65</b>
Drought	3	2	1	4	<b>2.5</b>
Flooding	3	3	2	4	<b>2.5</b>
Extreme Heat	3	2	1	3	<b>2.4</b>
Lightning	3	1	2	1	<b>2.05</b>
Wildfire	1	2	4	3	<b>1.95</b>
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	1	1	1	3	<b>1.2</b>
Coastal erosion and flooding	N/A - Were not considered to be threats to the County.				
Land subsidence (sinkholes/faults)					
Earthquakes					
<b>Human Caused Disasters</b>					
Hazardous materials incident	3	3	4	3	<b>3.15</b>
Water supply contamination	2	4	4	4	<b>3.1</b>
Structural fire	3	3	4	2	<b>3.05</b>
Wastewater treatment failure	2	3	4	4	<b>2.8</b>
Infectious diseases	1	3	3	4	<b>2.65</b>
Civil disturbance/terrorism/Cyber attack	2	2	3	2	<b>2.15</b>

Hazard Priority Risk Ranking Categories	
Score	Priority Level
3.0-4.0	High
2.0-2.99	Moderate
0-1.99	Low


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## Updated maps

Tornado Paths, 1956-2021



Proposed Flood Map, 2023



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## Hazus Analysis

- Done by U-Spatial Research Computing, University of Minnesota – Duluth
- Looked at vulnerability of properties to 1% annual chance flood
- Required component of plan
- Used proposed FEMA flood maps

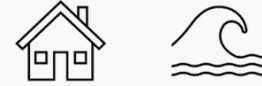
Overview of 1-percent annual chance flood loss estimation in Chippewa County



Map source: U-Spatial Research Computing, University of Minnesota Duluth; FEMA, 2021

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## Hazus Analysis



Summary of 1-percent annual chance flood loss estimation by occupancy class

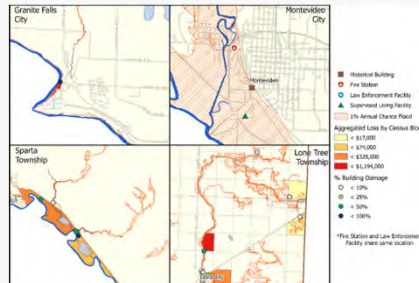
General Occupancy	County Total Buildings	County Building and Contents Value	Floodplain Total Buildings	Floodplain Building + Contents Value	Buildings with damage	Building + Contents Loss
Residential	7,603	\$921,242,248	118	\$22,906,950	22	\$1,588,422
Commercial	624	\$257,317,516	113	\$20,340,000	2	\$1,752
Other	4,339	\$484,673,750	56	\$13,481,650	16	\$541,308
Totals	12,566	\$1,663,233,514	287	\$56,728,600	40	\$2,131,482

Source: (FEMA, 2021)

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## Hazus Analysis

Communities with significant estimated 1-percent annual chance flood loss



Map source: U-Spatial Research Computing, University of Minnesota Duluth; FEMA, 2021

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## Hazus Analysis

1-percent annual chance flood building-related loss estimates by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction (county subdivision)	Count of Buildings in Floodplain	Estimated Building and Contents Loss *
Big Bend Township	1	\$16,789
Clara City City	5	\$36,349
Granite Falls City	1	\$1,193,544
Granite Falls Township	4	\$9,337
Havelock Township	4	\$31,531
Kragero Township	3	\$2,388
Leenthrop Township	3	\$191,007
Lone Tree Township	4	\$331,047
Rheiderland Township	1	\$74,283
Rosewood Township	1	\$2,403
Sparta Township	9	\$226,812
Tunberg Township	4	\$15,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$2,131,482</b>

Source: FEMA, 2021

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## Updated Disaster Events/Community Data

Updated disaster information and community data using...

- Anecdotal evidence of past disasters from local planning committees
- Event data from National Centers for Environmental Information/NOAA
- Climate change data from MN DNR
- County Assessor's office
- County Emergency Management
- Local and State Planning Documents
- U.S. Census/American Community Survey



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## Common Strategies

- Work with the MN DNR and FEMA to modernize floodplain maps.
- Encourage residents to sign up for CodeRED emergency notifications.
- Tree trimming around powerlines.
- Identify locations for safe rooms in campgrounds and other outdoor gathering spaces.
  - Potential locations:
    - Buffalo Lake Park (aka, County Park #1)
    - Upper Campground at LqP State Park
    - Chippewa Co. Fairgrounds
    - Lagoon Park (Montevideo)
    - Watson



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### Clara City Strategies

- Conduct prescribed burns of the grassy natural area west of the school.
- Work with property owners in northwest part of the community to plant a living snow fence or other alternative windbreak such as snow piles.
- Continue to work with County EM and school to prepare, plan and train for hazardous materials response.



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### Maynard Strategies

- Build a berm(s) along Hawk Creek to protect wastewater treatment plant, Lutheran Cemetery and residences
- Replace Fire Department UTV
- Continue discussions with Xcel Energy regarding the replacement of utility poles and transformer.
- Increase protection/security of City wells, City Hall, & Events Center by installing alarms and/or surveillance system



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### Milan Strategies

- Work to establish a designated local community shelter at the church basement and equip with new portable generator.
- Develop a local communication plan to notify residents of community shelter availability during/after future storm events.
- Hire an assistant street employee or alternative contractor to help with snow removal on an as-needed basis.



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### Montevideo Strategies

- Work with State and Federal agencies to provide funding to acquire and remove non-conforming structures in the floodplain
- Storm shelters/restrooms for the fairgrounds and Lagoon Park
- Provide back-up generator for the Public Works Building so it could be used as a command center during disaster situations



Photo credit: Tom Cherveny / West Central Tribune

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### Watson Strategies

- Provide a community safe room for residents without basements
- Designate the Community Building as community shelter if needed during or after disaster events and equip with basic supplies
- Acquire back-up generator for wastewater lift station



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### County Strategies

- Work with the MN DNR and FEMA to modernize floodplain maps.
- Encourage residents to sign up for CodeRED emergency notifications.
- Identify locations for safe rooms in campgrounds and other outdoor gathering areas in cities and the greater county.
  - Potential locations:
    - Buffalo Lake Park (aka, County Park #1)
    - Upper Campground at LqP State Park
    - Chippewa Co. Fairgrounds



**CodeRED**



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## County Strategies (continued...)

- Test/upgrade aging power lines/poles where needed.
- Improve efficiency of emergency response boundaries in rural areas for local departments.
- Work with large livestock and grain operations to train and develop plan for fire response at these large rural facilities.
- Continue and expand the monitoring of ground water levels in order to control consumption during a drought.



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## Potential Funding Sources



### FEMA

- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)

### MN DNR

- Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program (FHM)

### USDA

- Community Facilities Program

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## FEMA Programs



**Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)** - Reduce the risk of flood damage to NFIP-insured buildings.

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – Rebuild after a major disaster in a way that reduces future disaster losses.

**Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)** – Help reduce risks from future disasters and natural hazards.

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG)** – Funds equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

**Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S)** - Supports projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. *(Part of AFG program)*

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## MN DNR FHM



- The **Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program (FHM)** was created to reduce the damaging effects of floods.
- Grants to local units of government can be up to 50% of the total cost of a project.
  - Structural acquisition in the 100-year floodplain
  - Levees, ring dikes, and flood walls
  - Elevating existing structures
  - Flood warning systems
  - Public education
  - Flood insurance studies
  - Floodplain mapping
  - Comprehensive watershed plans
  - Flood storage easements
  - Cost share on federal projects

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## USDA Rural Development

### Community Facilities – Direct Loan and Grant Program

- Funds public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
- Storm warning sirens
- Grants are based on local income levels



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## Next Steps...



- Complete the document
- Internal review by County staff
- Public comment period
- MN HSEM review
- FEMA review
- Local adoption by resolutions

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Any questions?

Do you have any additional  
mitigation strategies/ideas?  
...Especially after this  
spring's flooding?

---

Thank you for attending!



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## Contact Information

Kevin Ketelsen, Community Development Specialist  
UMVRDC

Phone: 320-289-1981, ext.111

Email: [kevin@umvrhc.org](mailto:kevin@umvrhc.org)

Stephanie Weick, Director

Chippewa County Emergency Management

Phone: (320) 269-2121

Email: [Stephanie.Weick@Chippewa.MN](mailto:Stephanie.Weick@Chippewa.MN)

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## **Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force Meeting #2 June 22, 2023, 1:00pm – Meeting Summary and Documentation**

### **Summary**

Chippewa County Emergency Management invited key county, city, and township representatives, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and other stakeholders to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Task Force Meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to formally present activities that had been done over the past year in updating the plan. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom and was facilitated by Kevin Ketelsen of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission.

### **Invitation and Invited Attendees**

Chippewa County Emergency Management invited representatives from the various jurisdictions, departments, organizations, and agencies that were included on the county's previous hazard mitigation planning task force, which includes elected officials, city/county departments, schools, other stakeholder contacts, and neighboring jurisdictions identified to be invited to participate in the plan update process. A copy of the meeting invitation and the county's planning task force contact list is provided in Appendix II.

### **Attendees of 6.22.23 meeting (1:00-2:00pm, via Zoom) (See attached list for list of invitees)**

- Kevin Ketelsen, UMRDC/Planner
- Stephanie Weick, Chippewa County EM Director
- Scott Williams, Chippewa County Land and Resource Department Director
- Casey Namken, Yellow Medicine County EM Director
- Kristi Fernholz, Planning Director, UMRDC
- Zach Bothun, Chippewa County SWCD
- Bill Pauling, Chippewa County Commissioner
- David Lieser, Chippewa County Commissioner
- Thomas Fleming, Emergency Medical Services Manager, CCM Health

### **Presentation and Meeting Summary**

Kevin Ketelsen of the UMRDC led the meeting and gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the purpose of the meeting and highlighted the various achievements and tasks accomplished over the past year in updating the plan. A PDF of the presentation slides is included with this meeting summary. The slides were also emailed out after the meeting by Steph Weick, Chippewa County Emergency Manager to everyone on the invitee list.

The slides covered the following topics:

- Purpose of the meeting
- Mitigation definition
- Changes to the document
- Overview of the planning process
- Capability assessments
- Hazard analysis scoring results
- Summary of Hazus analysis
- Summaries of County/community strategies
- Summary of potential funding sources
- Next steps

- Time for questions
- Project contact information

At the end, there was time for questions and/or comments. There was one comment (David Lieser) on how electrical outages would be catastrophic and if there was anything that could be done to mitigate for prolonged outages due to storms, rolling blackouts, terrorism, etc. Ketelsen noted that there is discussion about preventing power outages within some of the disaster sections (wind, winter storms, tornados, etc.) and strategies included (like tree trimming around powerlines, replacing old poles, and backup generation) and would talk to Steph about it. There was another comment (Bill Pauling) stating that he was surprised that infectious diseases were ranked somewhat low in the hazard analysis scoring exercise, especially given we just came out of the pandemic. Ketelsen responded that the lower scoring was likely due to the fairly low probability of a global pandemic occurring. We hadn't experienced a widespread pandemic like COVID for around 100 years prior, so that is likely why it scored low (probability is weighted more heavily than other factors).

## **Appendix III**

*Update/Reports on 2015 Strategies*

### Summary of 2015 Mitigation Actions that were Completed, Modified or Removed in 2023

Goal/Objective (Goal and Obj. #'s reference 2015 plan)	2015 Strategy	Description
<b>Violent Storms, Goal 2, Obj. 3 -</b> Ensure that all communities and rural areas of the county have immediate access to severe weather warnings and communications.	A. Educate the public on the use of weather radios.	<b>MODIFIED</b> - Weather radios are not utilized as much as they used to be, especially with the advent of cell phones and mobile devices. The planning committee would rather focus their efforts on encouraging residents to sign up for CodeRED notifications.
	B. Make weather radios available to rural residents.	
<b>Violent Storms, Goal 3, Obj. 1 -</b> Encourage that all new local electrical distribution lines be placed underground when applicable.	N/A	<b>REVISED</b> – This objective was revised to broaden the options to include other alternatives of preventing power outages due to strong winds and ice. The planning committee noted that burying powerlines in the rural area is not always the best solution and sometimes leads to more trouble. One factor is that gophers have a tendency to chew the lines underground causing outages and finding the area to repair is difficult and costly. Identifying and strengthening poles and lines may be more cost effective in rural areas.
<b>Windstorms, Winter storms, Goal 1, Obj. 2 -</b> Investigate snow fences in Chippewa County.	A. Purchase and install a ½ mile living snow fence along properties located in the northwest portion of Clara City.	<b>MODIFIED</b> - There have been conversations with the landowner, but they are currently unwilling to work with the City/County to plant a windbreak. However, they are willing let snow crews pile snow in the area during the winter months to provide a temporary “snow fence.”
<b>Tornados, Windstorms, Goal 1, Obj. 3 -</b> Require all new manufactured home parks to provide safe shelter for park residents either through a structure on site or a plan of evacuation to safe shelter off site.	B. Seek financial assistance for a safe shelter at Raveling Manufactured Home Park near Montevideo.	<b>REMOVED</b> – The planning committee noted that there are a limited number of mobile homes remaining in the county and would not be feasible to construct a safe room.
<b>Flooding, Goal 1, Obj. 3 -</b> Relocate Flinn's Salvage Yard	A. Work with the state and federal government to secure funding to relocate this nonconforming use.	<b>MODIFIED</b> – Reworded to include other non-conforming uses in floodplain. The planning committee knew of other scrap yards/properties also located in the floodplain and did not want to single out any one business.
<b>Flooding, Goal 3, Obj. 2 -</b> Protect the homes in Clara City that is danger of seasonal flooding in response to the ice dams at the bridges.	A. Annually review the plan of action which addresses flooding. This plan includes early sandbagging and having equipment available to move ice which will reduce flooding.	<b>WILL BE COMPLETE</b> – Clara City will get rip rap installed along Hawk Creek to protect from floodwaters with 2019 FEMA money. Also, stream barbs were installed north of Clara City to slow water flow and debris during high water levels.

<b>Flooding, Goal 4, Obj. 1</b> – Address flooding issues as a region.	A. Work with state agencies, local governments and emergency managers to address flooding issues as a region. Creation of network of print, radio, social medias that reach all citizens with maps of risk areas, shelters, contact information and what to do in the event of a flood.	<b>COMPLETE</b> – The County has conducted person-to-person discussions with property owners impacted by flood areas and will continue to do so.
<b>Flooding, Goal 4, Obj. 1</b> – Address flooding issues as a region.	B. Work regionally to improve the flood forecast system.	<b>REMOVED</b> – The County did not feel that the flood forecast system was inadequate and improving it would be the responsibility of state and federal agencies.
<b>Flooding, Goal 4, Obj. 3</b> - Identify flood concerns in Chippewa County Townships.	A. Identify residences prone to flood hazards for future buyouts.	<b>REMOVED</b> – The County is aware of properties still remaining in the floodplain. When the new flood maps are complete, an updated list can be generated through the County's GIS.
<b>Erosion, Goal 1, Obj. 2</b> - Prevent possibility of damage from river and ravine erosion, landslides, and slope failure.	A. Review, update, and enforce zoning ordinances that prohibit building in areas that are susceptible to water erosion, landslides, and slope failure.	<b>COMPLETE</b> – the County zoning ordinance includes bluff line setbacks
<b>Drought, Goal 1, Obj. 1</b> - Encourage use of water meters to monitor water consumption.	A. Most communities have water meters. Make sure that water consumption information is available during drought times.	<b>REMOVED</b> – All communities have water meters. Monitoring well levels would provide more information to City leaders on impact of drought conditions.
<b>Drought, Goal 2, Obj. 1</b> - Coordinate with and encourage cities within the county to adopt complementing wellhead protection ordinances/plans	A. Actions by County Board and City Councils.	<b>COMPLETE, MODIFIED (Objective)/REMOVED (Strategy A)</b> – The cities in the county have all adopted wellhead protection plans/ordinances. Now the focus is on keeping them updated and enforced as required by the State of MN.
<b>Wildfire, Goal 2, Obj. 2</b> - Identify dry hydrants within the county.	A. Identify the location of all dry hydrants on a map.	<b>COMPLETE</b> – the locations of dry hydrants are mapped and known

<b>Infections Disease, Goal 2, Obj. 1</b> - Maintain and update material, plans, and agreements for addressing infectious diseases.	A. Continue cooperation between Countryside Public Health and County Emergency Manager.	<b>MODIFIED</b> – The planning committee felt that coming out of the recent pandemic, one of the things they learned was the importance of their communication network with other agencies and local providers. The potential diseases may change, but having solid relationships and communication channels contributes to overall efficiency and operations regardless of the situation.
<b>Structural Fire, Goal 1, Obj. 3</b> - Provide adequate and timely fire protection for all cities in Chippewa County.	A. Build a satellite fire station for the Montevideo Fire Department located in the City of Watson.	<b>REMOVED</b> – Since Montevideo has taken over fire response duties, the City of Watson has been pleased with the response times and services provided. The feasibility of building a new fire hall in Watson would be low considering the community's small size and current satisfaction with Montevideo's FD's level of service.
<b>Hazardous Materials, Goal 3, Obj. 1</b> - Adopt new technology and obtain training to improve the county's ability to respond to a disaster.	H. Purchase sensor to detect anhydrous ammonia leaks.	<b>REMOVED</b> – The County chose to remove this strategy as it was unknown what further precautions could be taken. Also, there have not been many, if any incidents involving anhydrous ammonia leaks. Further, it is out of the County's control and would be up to the owner of the tanks to install sensors.
<b>Hazardous Materials, Goal 4, Obj. 1</b> - Implement procedures or programs that address gaps or deficiencies in dealing with hazardous materials.	A. Work to get farmers and fertilizer plants to secure ammonia tanks.	<b>REMOVED</b> – The County chose to remove this strategy as it was unknown what further precautions could be taken. Also, there have not been many, if any incidents involving anhydrous ammonia leaks. Further, it is out of the County's control and would be up to the owner of the tanks to install sensors. Also, it was decided to remove the goal altogether as the strategies did not seem to correlate.
<b>Hazardous Materials, Goal 4, Obj. 2</b> – Work with County and cities to address clean up of illegal drug labs.	A. Educate the public on the dangers of drug labs	<b>MODIFIED</b> – As methamphetamine production has shifted outside of the US, illegal drug labs are no longer much of an issue. However, new illegal drugs such as fentanyl and other opiates are more common and can be more dangerous. As the drug scene continues to evolve, the County felt it best to educate the public to report any suspicious activities if they see them.
<b>Water Supply Contamination, Goal 2, Obj. 1</b> - Provide adequate drinking water in the event of ground water contamination.	A. Identify alternate drinking water sources during an emergency in the Emergency Operations Plan	<b>COMPLETE</b> – Back up water supply is included in the County's Emergency Operations Plan.
<b>Civil Disturbance/Terrorism, Goal 3, Obj. 1</b> – Increase level of security with landscape design and lighting.	A. Continue review of facilities and make changes as needed.	<b>MODIFIED</b> – Reworded the objective to remove language about landscape design and include restricted access points and increased surveillance.
<b>Civil Disturbance/Terrorism, Goal 3, Obj. 2</b> – Separate parking facilities from arenas.	A. Continue review of parking for events.	<b>REMOVED</b> – There are no arenas or major parking facilities in the county. Current parking for events and larger facilities (schools, shopping areas, hospital, etc.) can be monitored if necessary.

## APPENDIX III: 2023 UPDATE/REPORT ON CITY SPECIFIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

### Clara City: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

#### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

##### Goal 1: Promote safe and accessible shelter from violent storms.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Encourage that all new homes without basements have a safe shelter where household residents may go in case of violent storms.	Construct a safe room and place in Lion's Park near the City Pool. <i>*Remove, planning committee no longer feel there is a need as the school gym could serve as a saferoom if needed.</i>	8-10 years	City	\$3,000	FEMA	2	Citizen Safety
	Create an Educational Packet of Emergency information for city residents and distribute information through public television and mailings. <i>*Modified to include electronic means of communication and notification such as Nixle and CodeRED.</i>	3-5 years	City	\$500	FEMA	3	Educate citizens
Require that all manufactured homes use tie-downs.	Seek funding sources for tie-downs on existing manufactured homes. <i>*Remove as there are very few mobile homes and City does not enforce building code due to staffing limitations.</i>	1-2 years	City/ Residents	\$250-500 per	SCDP	7	Citizen Safety
Investigate snow fences in Chippewa County.	Install a 1/2 mile Living Snow Fence along properties in the Northwest portion of the City. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	5-7 years	City	Unknown	FEMA	8	Citizen Safety

#### Flood

##### Goal 2: Improve the safety and security Wastewater Treatment Plants/lift stations.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Protect Clara City's Lift Station.	Build a berm along Hawk Creek. <i>*Completed in 2022</i>	2 years	City	Unknown	FEMA	1	Citizen Safety



Goal 3: Minimize the flooding along Hawk Creek.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Work with the city of Willmar to keep ice out of Clara City and Maynard.	The cities of Clara City and Maynard should participate in dialogue with the Hawk Creek Watershed Project, the city of Willmar and the MPCA. Investigate the diversion of water to Grass Lake especially during flooding. Consider seeking state or federal funding. <i>*City would like to remove as it is not feasible.</i>	Recurring	Clara City, Maynard, Willmar, Hawk Creek Watershed District	\$20,000	FEMA/ DNR/ ACOE	5	Citizen Safety
Protect the homes in Clara City that is danger of seasonal flooding in response to the ice dams at the bridges.	Annually review the plan of action which addresses flooding. This plan includes early sandbagging and having equipment available to move ice which will reduce flooding. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	Recurring	City	Unknown	FEMA	4	Citizen Safety

## Civil Disturbance/Terrorism

Goal 1: Protect critical infrastructure.							
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Install security measures at city water treatment plants.	A. Install alarms on buildings. <i>*Planning committee would like to modify to install security cameras on City Hall/Community Building.</i>	3-4 years	City	\$300-500	--	6	Citizen Safety

## City of Maynard: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

#### Goal 1: Promote safe and accessible storm shelters from violent storms.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Encourage that all new homes without basements have a safe shelter where household residents may go in case of violent storms.	Create an Educational Packet of Emergency information for city residents and distribute information through public television and mailings. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	1-2 years	City	\$500	FEMA	4	Citizen Safety

### Flood

#### Goal 2: Improve the safety and security Wastewater Treatment Plants/lift stations.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Protect Maynard's Wastewater Treatment Plant.	Build a berm along Hawk Creek. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	2 years	City	Unknown	FEMA/ DNR	1	Citizen Safety

#### Goal 3: Minimize the flooding along Hawk Creek.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Work with the city of Willmar to keep ice out of Clara City and Maynard.	The cities of Clara City and Maynard should participate in dialogue with the Hawk Creek Watershed District, the city of Willmar and the MPCA. Investigate the diversion of water to Grass Lake especially during flooding. Consider seeking state or federal funding. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	Recurring	Clara City, Maynard, Willmar, Hawk Creek Watershed District	\$20,000	FEMA/ DNR/ ACOE	5	Citizen Safety
Protect residences in Maynard.	Build a berm along east side of Hawk Creek. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	2 years	Maynard	Unknown	FEMA/ DNR	2	Citizen Safety
Protect cemetery in Maynard.	Build a berm along Hawk Creek. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	2 years	Maynard Lutheran Church	Unknown	FEMA/ DNR	3	Prevent Flooding

### Civil Disturbance/Terrorism

#### Goal 1: Protect critical infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Install security measures at city water treatment plants.	A. Install alarms on buildings. <i>*Keep in 2023 plan</i>	3-4 years	City	\$300-500	--	6	Citizen Safety

## City of Milan: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

#### Goal 1: Have safe and accessible safe rooms from violent storms.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Encourage homes without basements to have a safe room where household residents may go in case of violent storms.	Complete an annual mailing of the Emergency Preparedness Guide.  <i>*Keep in 2023 Plan</i>	Recurring	City Clerk	\$500	FEMA	4	Educate citizens on where to go and what to do in event of hazardous weather

#### Goal 2: Improve severe storm warning system for all county residents.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Assess adequacy of existing civil defense sirens.	Purchase a new warning siren. <i>*County/City will investigate coverage</i>	1 year	City	\$17,000	FEMA	2	Ensure entire town is within warning siren hearing area
Ensure that all sectors of the county have immediate severe weather warnings and weather radios.	Obtain funding for the new radio system for EMS and FD in event of a system change. <i>*Remove, communication is adequate</i>	3-4 years	City	Unknown	County	5	Provide coverage to FD/EMS and increase safety

### Wildfire

#### Goal 3: Protect the safety of residents and firefighters.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Increase access to equipment suitable to fighting wildfires.	Purchase a grass rig. <i>*Remove, the department has a grass rig</i>	1 year	Fire Department	\$55,000	FEMA/MnDNR	3	Increase FD Preparedness

### Water Supply Contamination

#### Goal 2: Protect residents from contaminated ground water.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Improve or build proper water supply treatment plants.	Build a Water Treatment Plant, water mains, and water storage area with high security. <i>*Complete</i>	2 years	City/ WSN Engineering	\$3,500,000	USDA/ DEED	1	Provide potable water to residents

## City of Montevideo: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

### Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

#### Goal 1: Adopt a wellhead protection ordinance as proposed in the county Comprehensive Water Plan.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Buy out willing sellers of their structures in the 100-year floodplain including businesses in Montevideo.	Work with the state and federal government to provide funding to acquire and remove non-conforming structures in Flood A & B Zones. – <b>Continue to work on, have bought out three properties since 2014 and one in 2022, with hopes to acquire one more if possible. Once the levee project is complete, new floodplain maps are supposed to come out late October and City Hall will then be in Zone C.</b>	Unknown	City	\$1,000,000	FEMA/ CDBG/ SCDG/ HUD/ EDA	2	Citizen Safety

#### Goal 2: Improve the safety and security of the Montevideo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Rebuild the levee in Montevideo to protect the Wastewater Treatment Plant.	Continue Levee Project – Phases 2 & 3 – <b>Phase 3B is complete. Waiting for levee to be certified.</b>	2 years	City Administration	\$13,000,000	FEMA/ ACOE/ MN State	1	Citizen Safety

#### Goal 4: Improve the safety and security of flood prone areas throughout Chippewa County.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Address flooding issues as a region.	Creation of network of print, radio, social medias that reach all citizens with maps of risk areas, shelters, contact information and what to do in the event of an event. – <b>City has put together a fairly comprehensive flood related document and is available on their website and is available in Spanish.</b>	Recurring	Community Development	Staff Time	--	3	Citizen Education

## Hazardous Materials

### Goal 2: Protect residents from contaminated ground water.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Improve or build proper water supply treatment plants.	Build a Water Treatment Plant, water mains, and water storage area with high security. - <b>Complete</b>	2 years	City/ WSN Engineering	\$3,500,000	USDA/ DEED	1	Provide potable water to residents

## City of Watson: Goals, Objectives, and Mitigation Strategies

## Violent Storms and Extreme Temperatures

### Goal 1: Improve severe storm warning systems for all county residents.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reasoning for Rank
Assess adequacy of existing emergency warning sirens and emergency operation centers. <i>The County operates the warning siren.</i>	Purchase a portable generator and transfer switch. <b>*Complete</b>	2 years	City	\$6,500	FEMA	2	Ensure that shelters have emergency back-up systems for citizen welfare
	Obtain funding to build a City Maintenance Shop/Emergency Operations Center. <b>*Keep in 2023 plan</b>	3-5 years	City	\$300,000	USDA	3	Need to store City Equipment and be accessible

## Wastewater Treatment System Failure

### Goal 1: Improve the safety and security of Granite Falls and other flood-prone areas.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
Ensure that all public wastewater facilities are working properly through improvements, updates, and building.	Purchase safety equipment for operating lift stations. <b>*Complete, battery backup has been addressed</b>	2 years	City	Unknown	FEMA/ USDA	1	Protect water safety and supply

## Structure Fire

### Goal 1: Provide safety to residents.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Rank	Reason for Ranking
1. Provide adequate and timely fire protection for all cities in Chippewa County.	A. Build a satellite fire station for the Montevideo Fire Department located in the City of Watson.	3-10 years	Montevideo Fire Department,	Unknown	USDA	4	Citizen Safety

	<p>*City has been very satisfied with Monte FD response times/service. Likelihood that a new fire department facility would be built in Watson is low due to high cost.</p>		City of Watson				
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## **Appendix IV**

### *Local Capability Assessments*

## **Chippewa County Hazard Mitigation Plan Capability Assessment Public Survey:**

### **What is a Capability Assessment?**

The purpose of conducting a capability assessment is to determine the ability of a given jurisdiction to implement a mitigation strategy. As in any planning process, based on an understanding of those jurisdictions that are tasked with strategy implementation, it is important to know what actions are feasible. More specifically, the capability assessment helps to determine what mitigation actions are likely to be implemented over time given the fiscal, technical, administrative and political framework of the jurisdiction.

It also provides an opportunity to assess existing plans, policies and processes in place. What follows is a basic self-assessment survey that will allow us to identify the extent of continuity, advantages and strengths existing within your cities and county.

While plans, policies and ordinances may exist, sometimes they exist in name only. Meaning while plans, policies and ordinances might exist, they may not be used in the governance the jurisdiction. In the very last row titled "Score," representatives of local jurisdictions were to indicate to the best of their ability, the degree to which they believe the totality of the plans, policies and ordinances are actually utilized using "H" for highly used; "M" for moderately used and an "L" for low use.

### **Definitions of Acronyms**

- HMP: Hazard Mitigation Plan
- DRP: Disaster Recovery Plan
- CLUP: Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- FMP: Floodplain Management Plan
- SMP: Storm water Management Plan
- EOP: Emergency Operations Plan
- COOP: Continuity of Operations Plan
- TRANS: Transportation Plan
- CIP: Capital Improvements Plan
- COMP: Comprehensive Plan
- REG-PL: Regional Planning
- HPP: Historic Preservation Plan
- ZO: Zoning Ordinance
- FDPO: Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance
- NFIP: National Flood Insurance Program
- BC: Building Codes



**Table 1: Evaluation of Existing Plans, Policies and Ordinances Summary**

	Jurisdictions					
Plans/Policies	<i>Clara City</i>	<i>Milan</i>	<i>Montevideo</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>Maynard</i>	<i>Chippewa County</i>
HMP	X	X	X	X	X	X
DRP			X (County)		X	X
CLUP			X	X	X	
FMP			X	X		
SMP			X		X	
EOP	X (County)	X (County)	X (County)	X (County)	X (County)	X (County)
COOP			X			X
TRANS			X			X
CIP	X		X		X	
COMP	X	X	X		X	X
REG-PL			X		X	X
HPP			X		X	
ZO	X	X	X	X	X	X
FDPO			X			
NFIP	X		X		X	X
BC		X	X		X	
<b>Score</b>	H	M	H	L	L	H

**Part 2: Assessment of Local Capability:**

Part two of this self-assessment was used to determine the technical, administrative/institutional, fiscal, and political capabilities of local jurisdictions.

**Capability Definitions:**

Technical capability can be defined as possessing the skills and tools needed to improve decision-making, including the development of sound mitigation actions.

Fiscal capability or the ability to take financial action is closely associated with the amount of money available to implement policies and projects. This may take the form of grants received or state and locally based revenue.

Administrative and institutional capability is defined as jurisdictions staffing abilities and the existing organizational structures needed to implement mitigation strategies.

Political capability is the level of interest that both the citizens and government officials of a given jurisdiction has in conducting mitigation projects.

An “L” indicates low capability; an “M” indicated moderate capability; and an “H” indicates high capability.

**Table 2: Assessment of Local Capability**

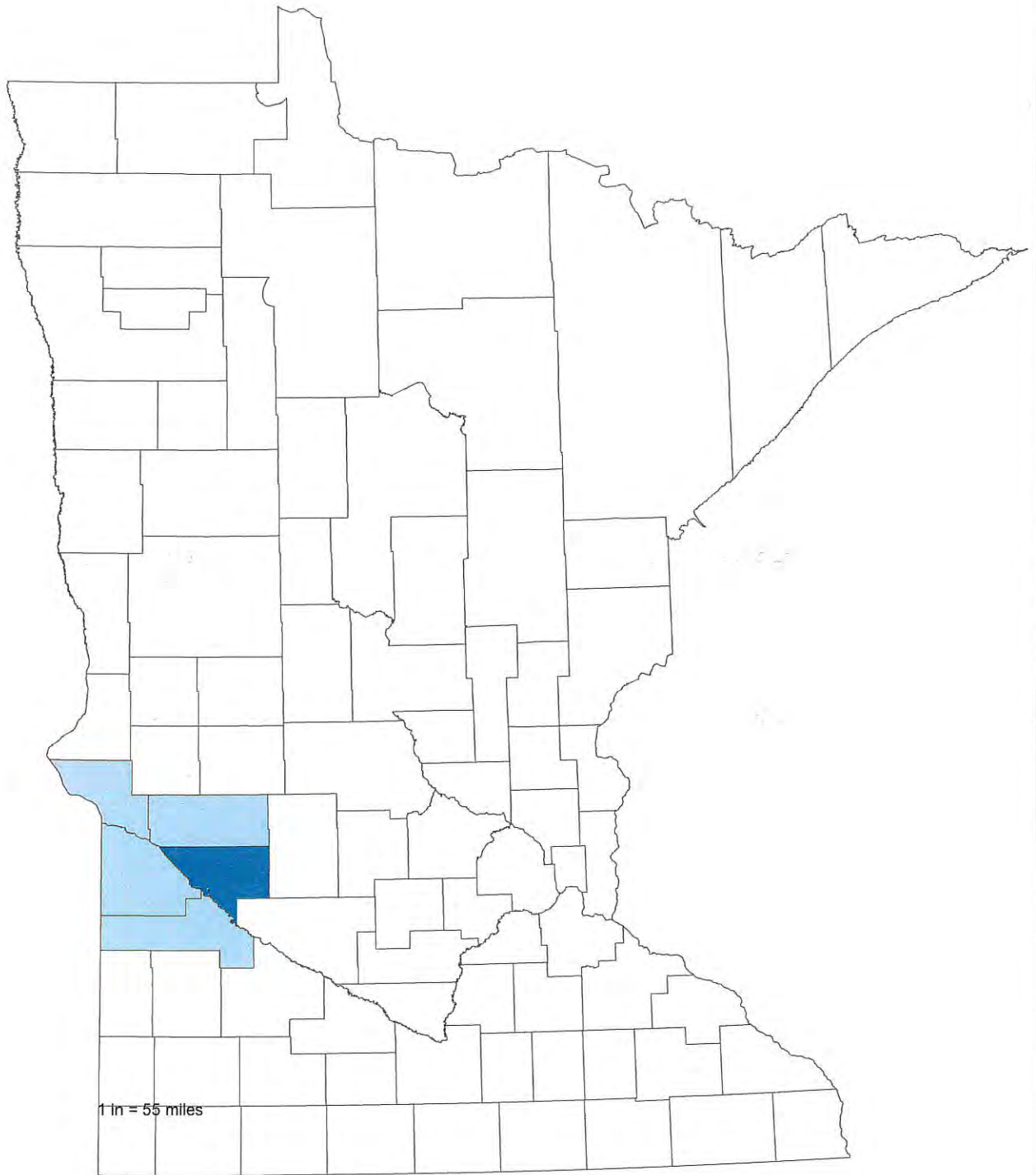
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Technical Capability</b>	<b>Fiscal Capability</b>	<b>Administrative Capability</b>	<b>Political Capability</b>
<b>Clara City</b>	M	L	M	M
<b>Montevideo</b>	H	H	H	H
<b>Watson</b>	M	L	M	M
<b>Milan</b>	M	M	H	H
<b>Maynard</b>	H	L	M	M
<b>Chippewa County</b>	H	H	H	H

# Appendix V

## *Maps*

- County Location Map
- Civil Divisions Map (Cities, townships)
- Hydrology and Drainage Map
- Natural Features
- Population by Census Block
- Transportation Infrastructure Map
- Land Cover Map
- Zone A Flood Zones and Proposed Zone A Flood Zones (2023)
  - County Map
  - Clara City map
  - Maynard map
  - Milan map
  - Montevideo map
  - Watson map
- Wildfire Hazards Map
- Tornado Paths (1956-2021)
- Land Use Maps
  - Clara City
  - Maynard
  - Milan
  - Montevideo
  - Watson
- Feedlot Locations Map

State Overview  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

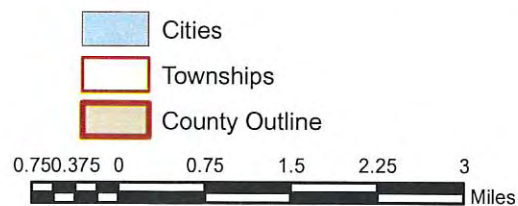
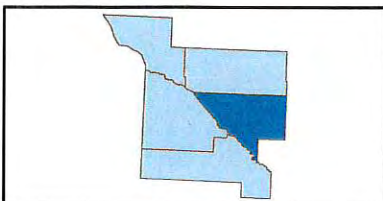


**Region 6W**

**County**

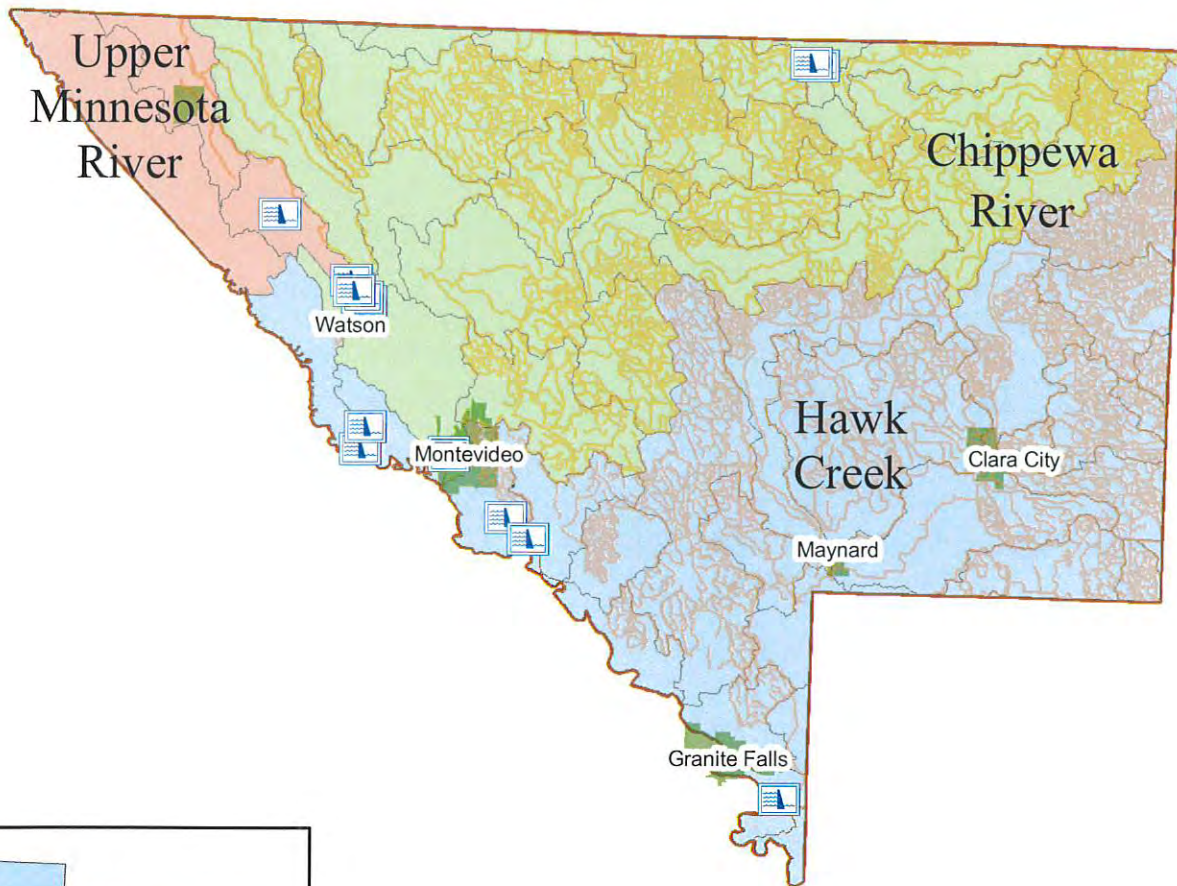


# Civil Divisions Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning





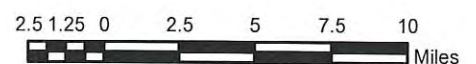
Hydrology and Drainage  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



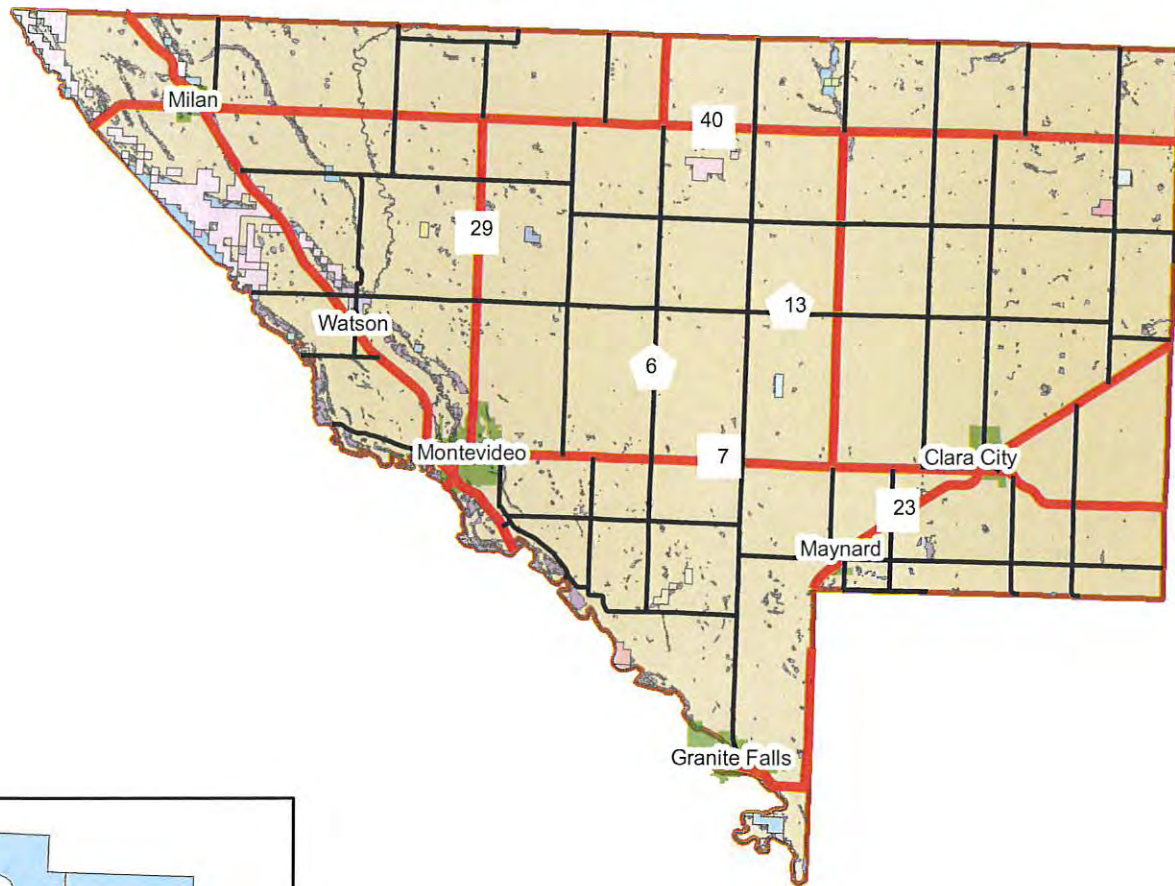
**Watersheds Dams Drianage Ditch**



Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR

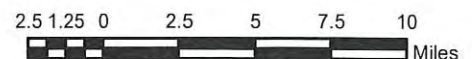


# Natural Features Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



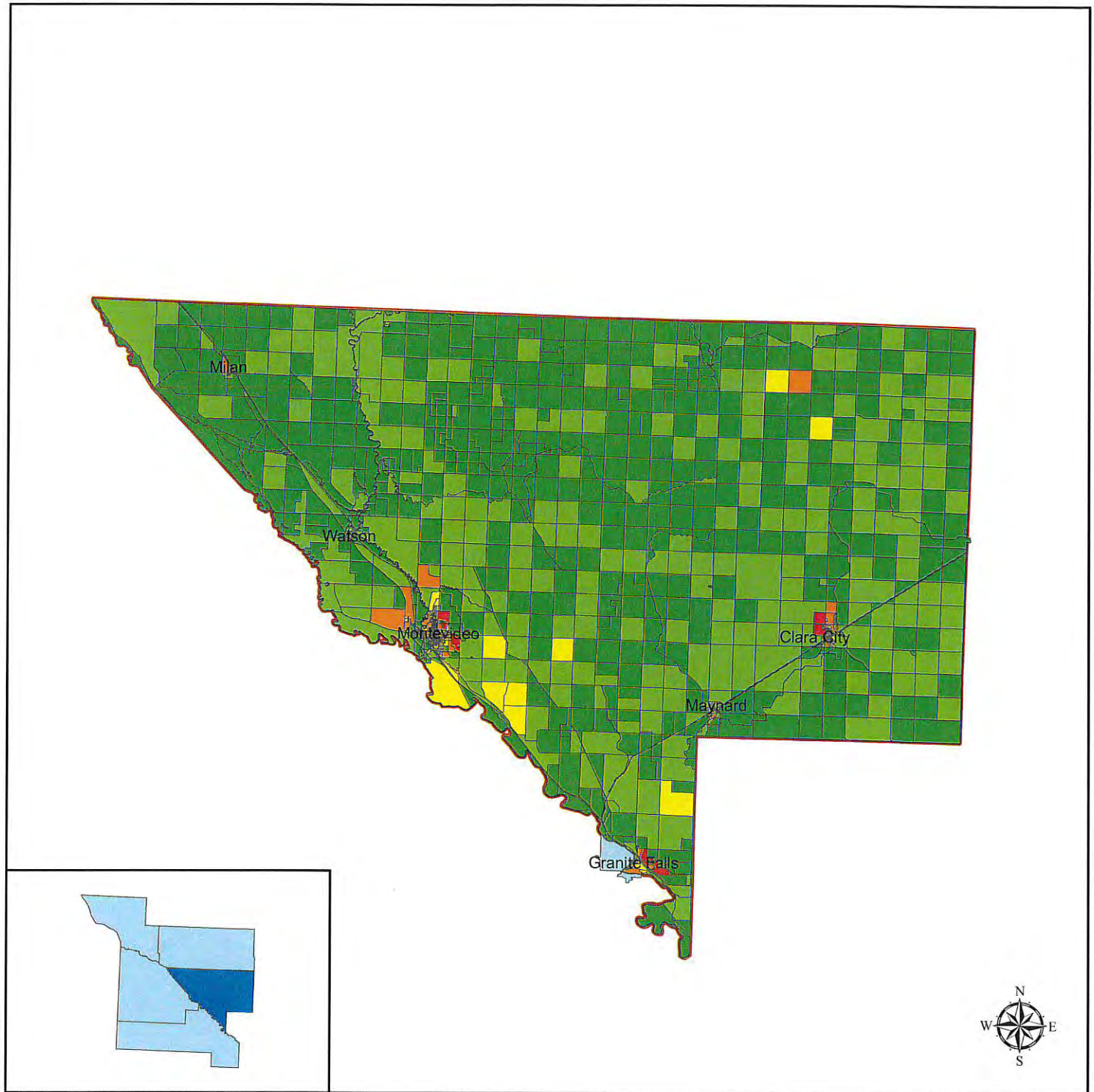
— CSAH	<b>Public Lands</b>	CUKA WMA	NUMO WMA
— Highways	<b>Public Lands</b>	DIV OF FISH & WILDLIFE	SENA WMA
<b>Wetlands</b>	ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS	FRANKO WMA	SHAKOPEE WMA
<b>Type</b>	BERGO WMA	GNEISS OUTCROPS SNA	SPARTAN WMA
Lacustrine	BLM	GRACE WMA	SWEEN WMA
Palustrine	BOIKE WMA	LAC QUI PARLE ST PARK	TUNSBURG WMA
Riverine	C.T. ROLLINGS-CHIP CO WMA	LAC QUI PARLE WMA	WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA
	CHIPPEWA	MILAN WMA	

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR





Population by Census Block  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



**Population**

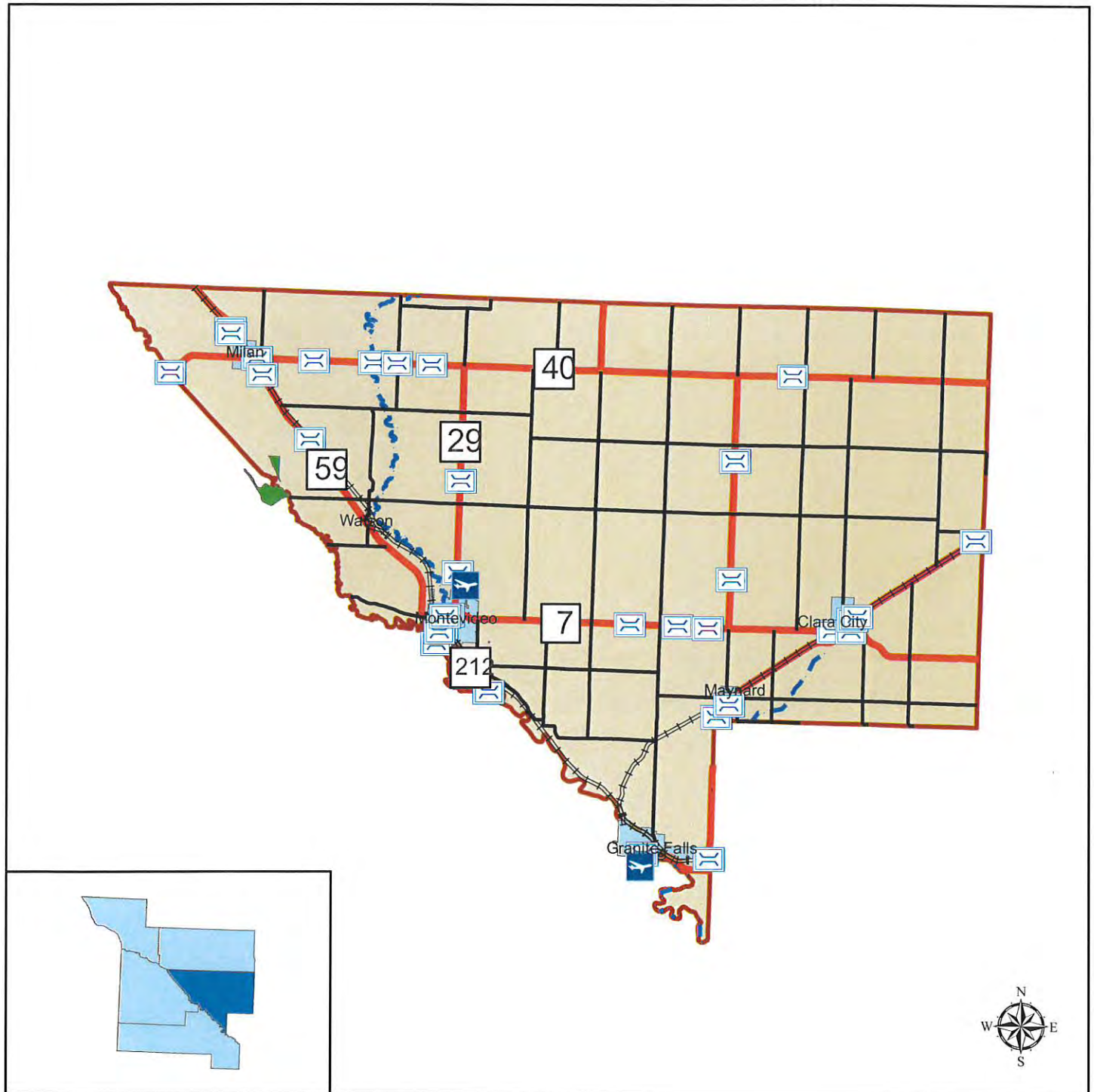
0-5	6-20	41-90
	21-40	91+

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: US Census 2020

2.5 1.25 0 2.5 5 7.5 10  
Miles

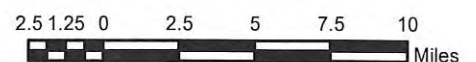


# Tranportation Infrastructure Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

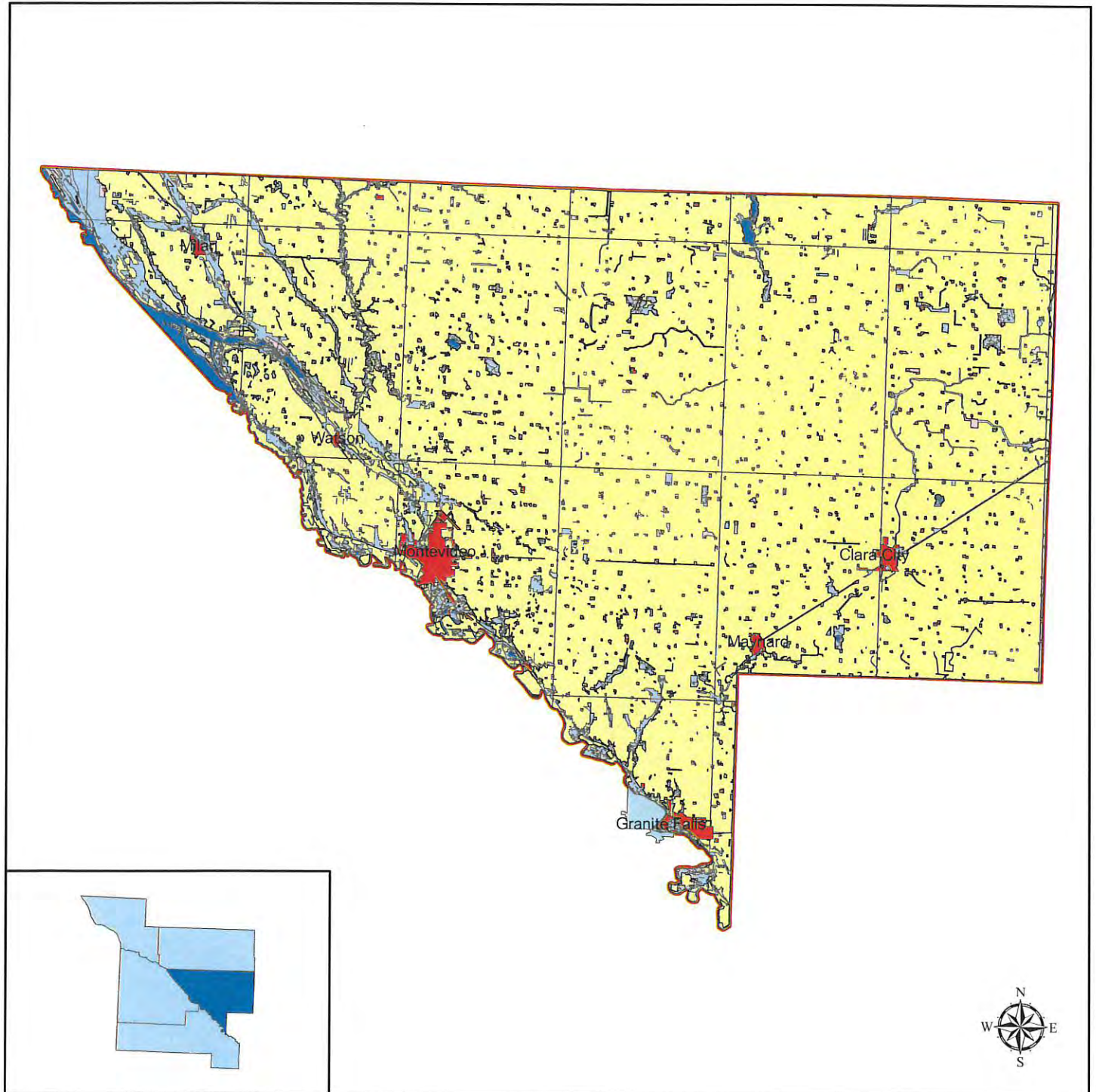


-  Airport
-  Bridges
-  Railroads
-  Highways
-  State Parks
-  Canoe Route
-  CSAH

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: US Census 2020



# Land Cover Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



**landuse**  
**LUSE\_CODE**

Impervious Surface  
Cropland and Pasture

Orchards/Vineyards/Nurseries  
Confined Feeding Operations  
Pasture/Hay  
Shrub and Brush  
Forest

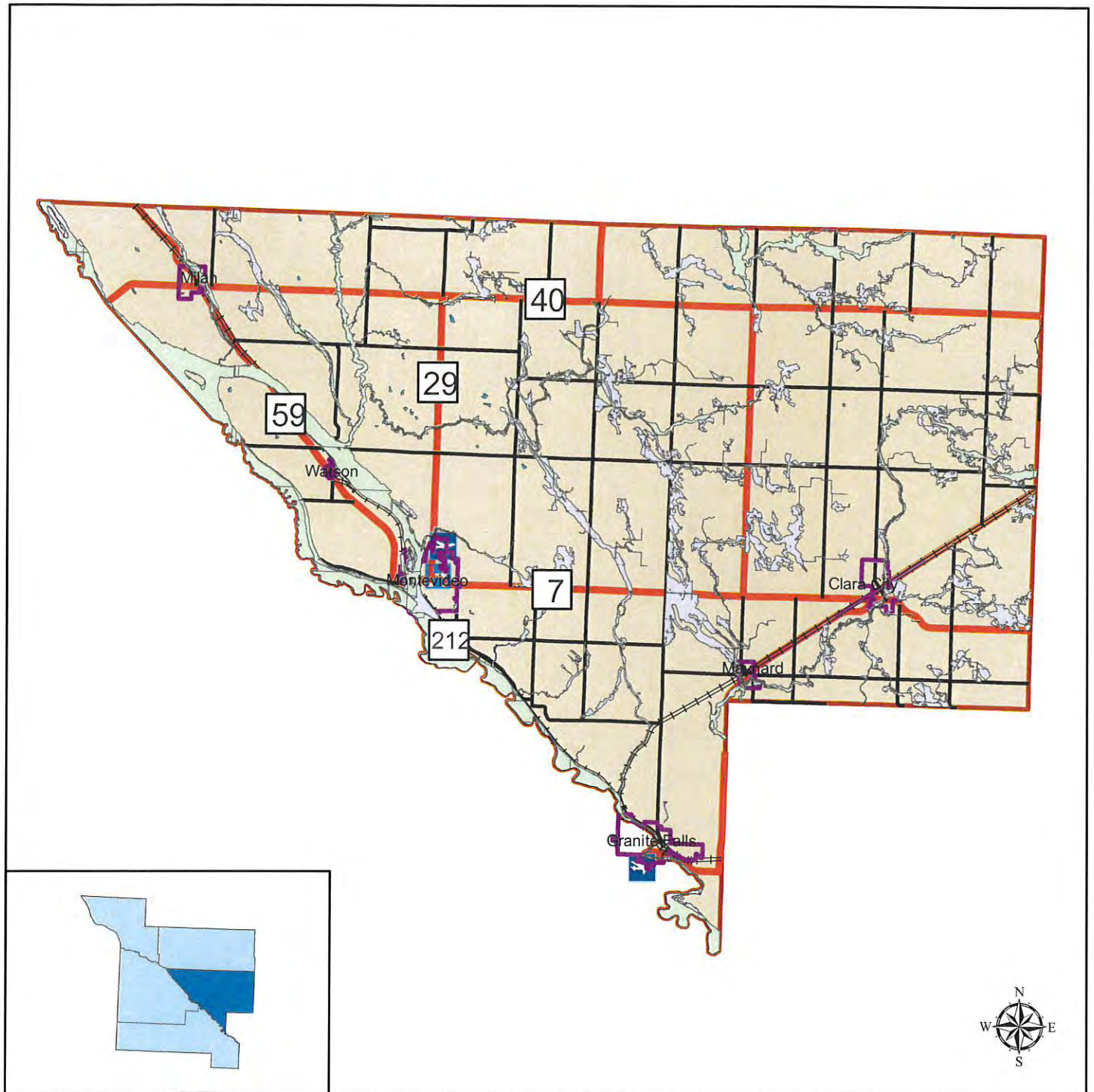
Water  
Forested Wetland  
Barn Land  
Sandy Areas

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR

0.750.375 0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3  
Miles



# A Flood Zones and Proposed Flood Zones 2023 Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



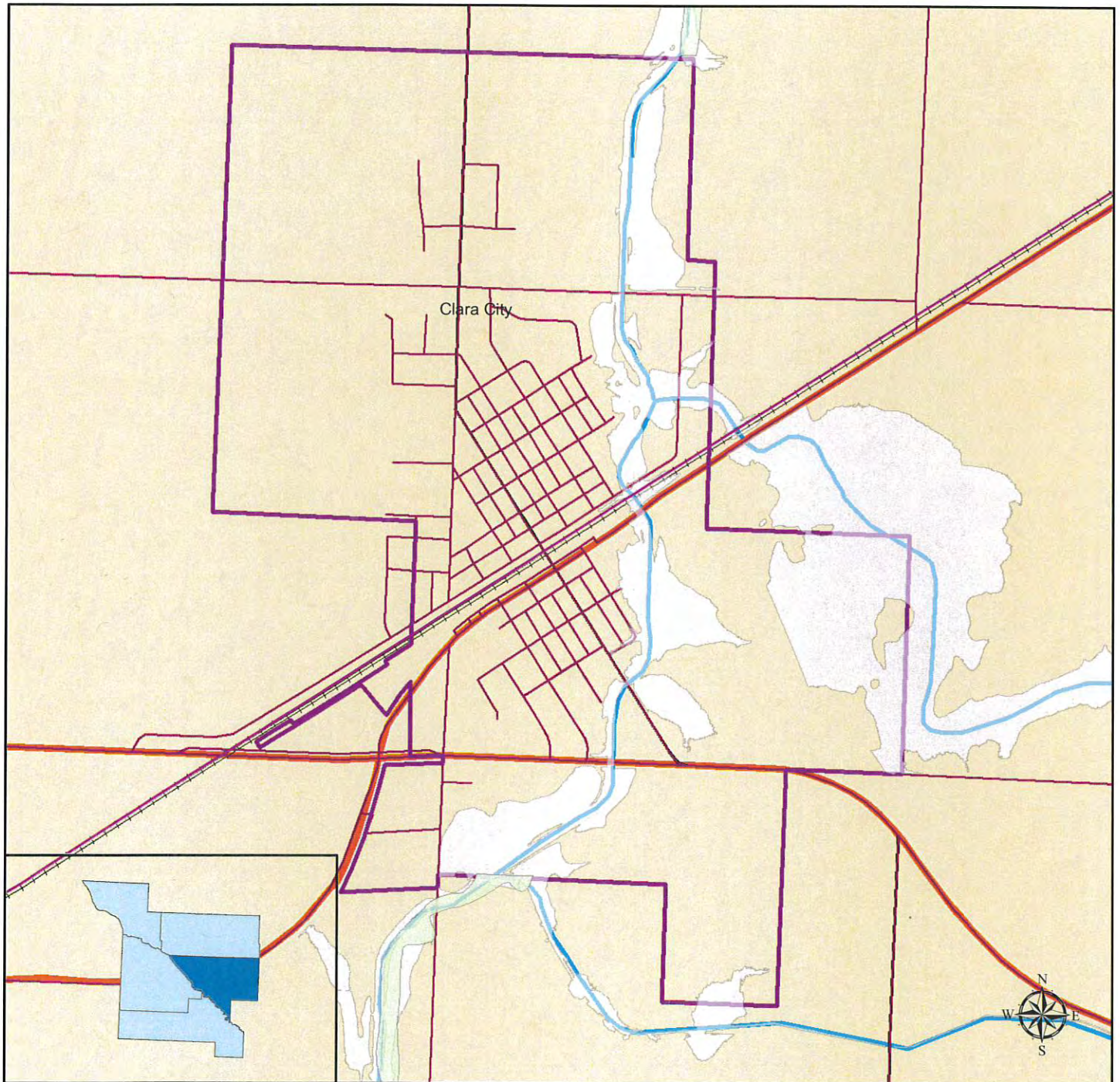
- A Flood Zones
- A Flood Zones (Proposed)
- CSAH
- Highways





Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

2.5 1.25 0 2.5 5 7.5 10  
Miles




Clara City  
A Flood Zones and  
Proposed Flood Zones 2023  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



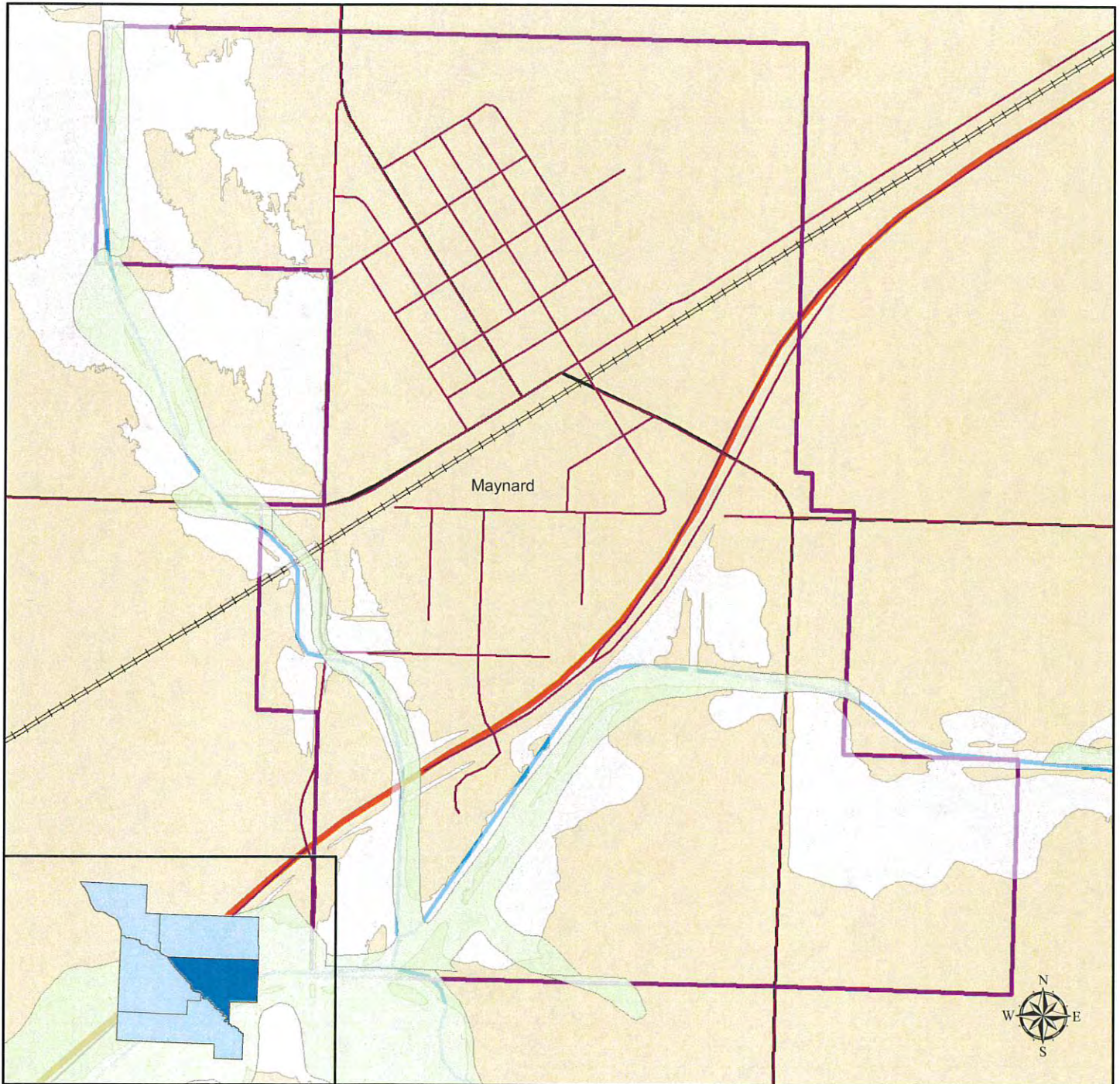
-  A Flood Zones
-  CSAH
-  A Flood Zones (Proposed)
-  Highways

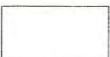



Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

0.10.05 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4  
 Miles



Maynard  
A Flood Zones and  
Proposed Flood Zones 2023  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



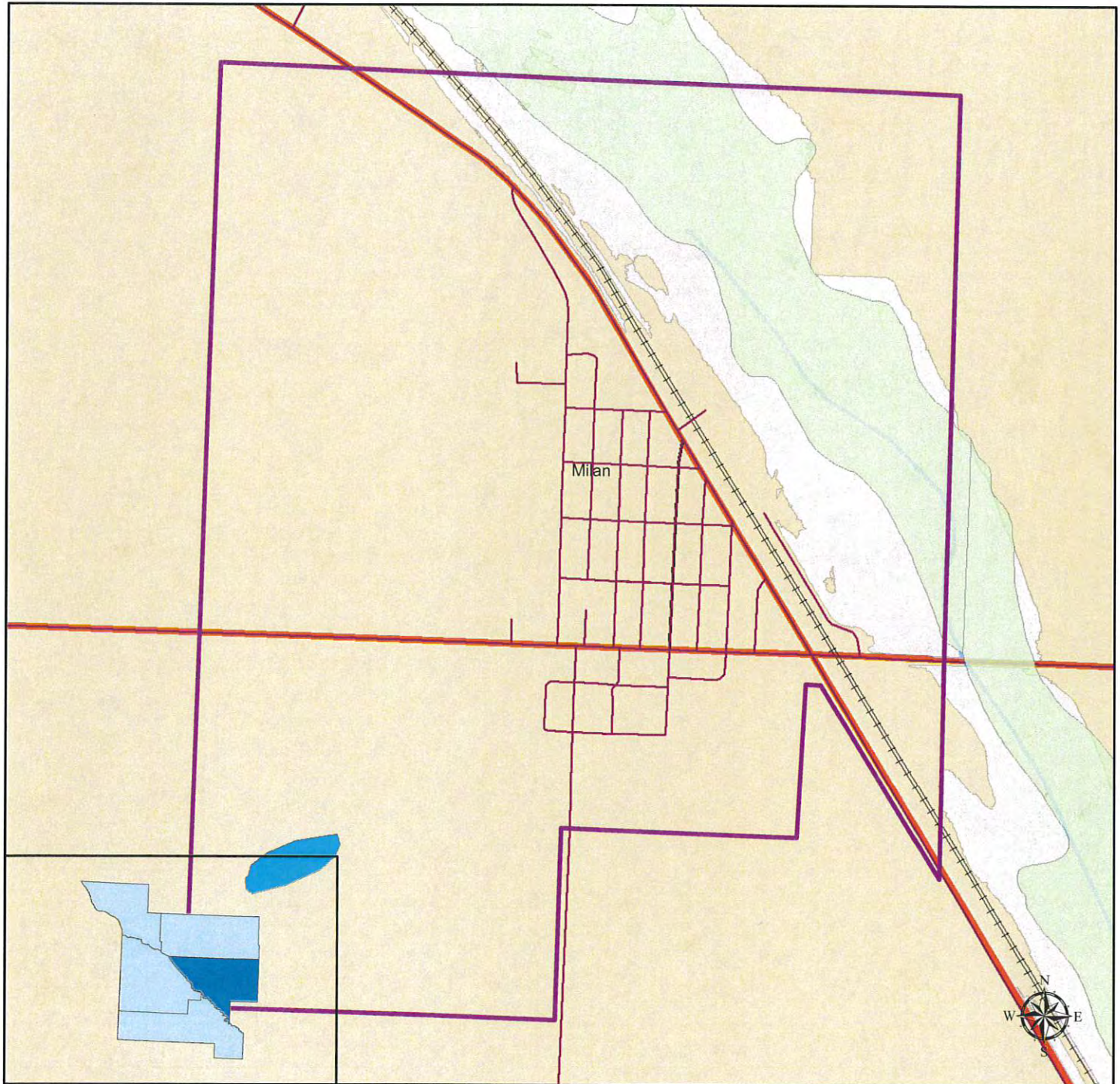
- |  |                          |   |          |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------|
|  | A Flood Zones            |  | CSAH     |
|  | A Flood Zones (Proposed) |  | Highways |

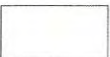



Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

0.07 0.035 0 0.07 0.14 0.21 0.28  
Miles



Milan  
A Flood Zones and  
Proposed Flood Zones 2023  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



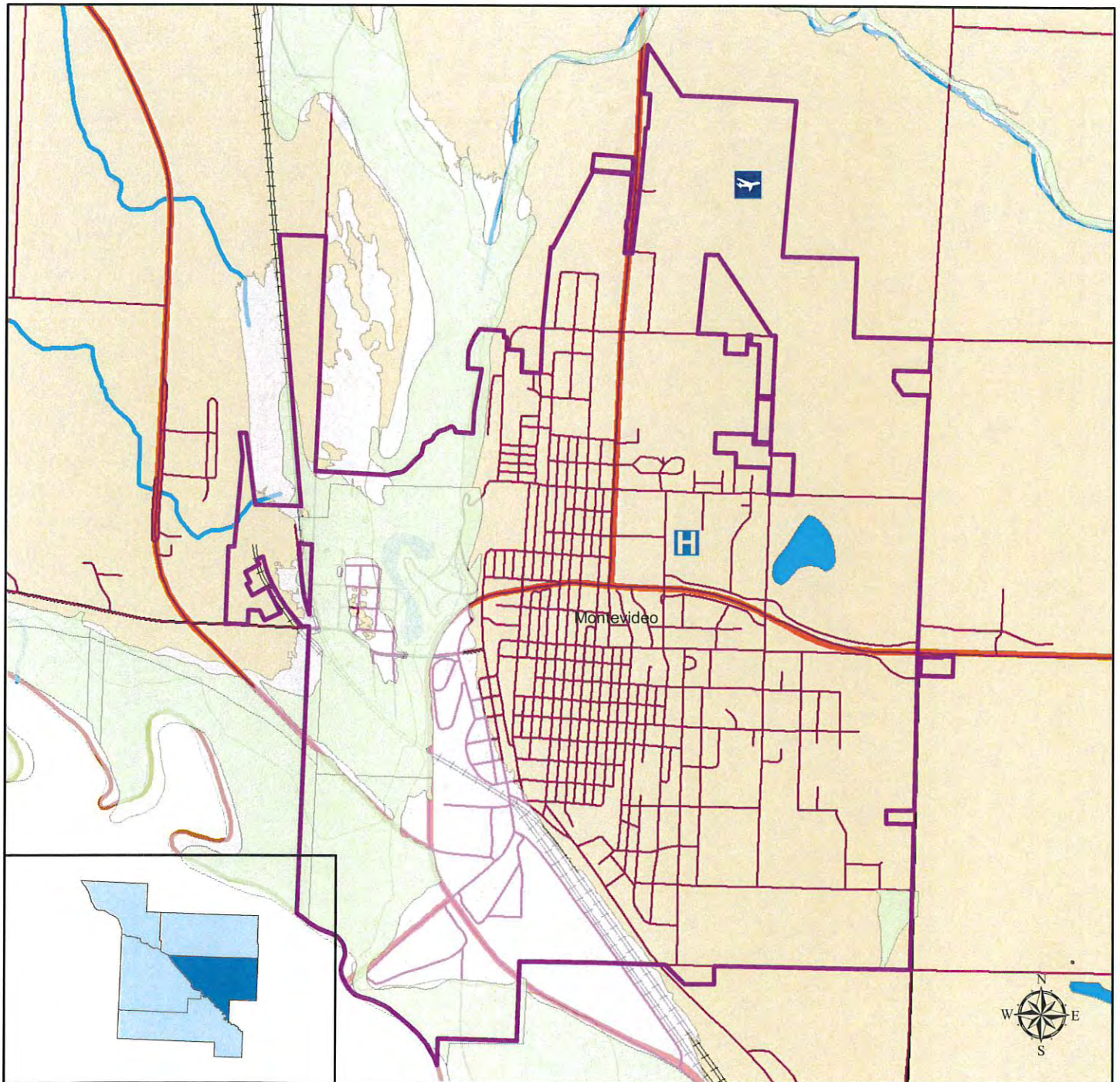
- |  |                          |   |          |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------|
|  | A Flood Zones            |  | CSAH     |
|  | A Flood Zones (Proposed) |  | Highways |





Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

0.09 0.18 0.27 0.36  
Miles



Montevideo  
A Flood Zones and  
Proposed Flood Zones 2023  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



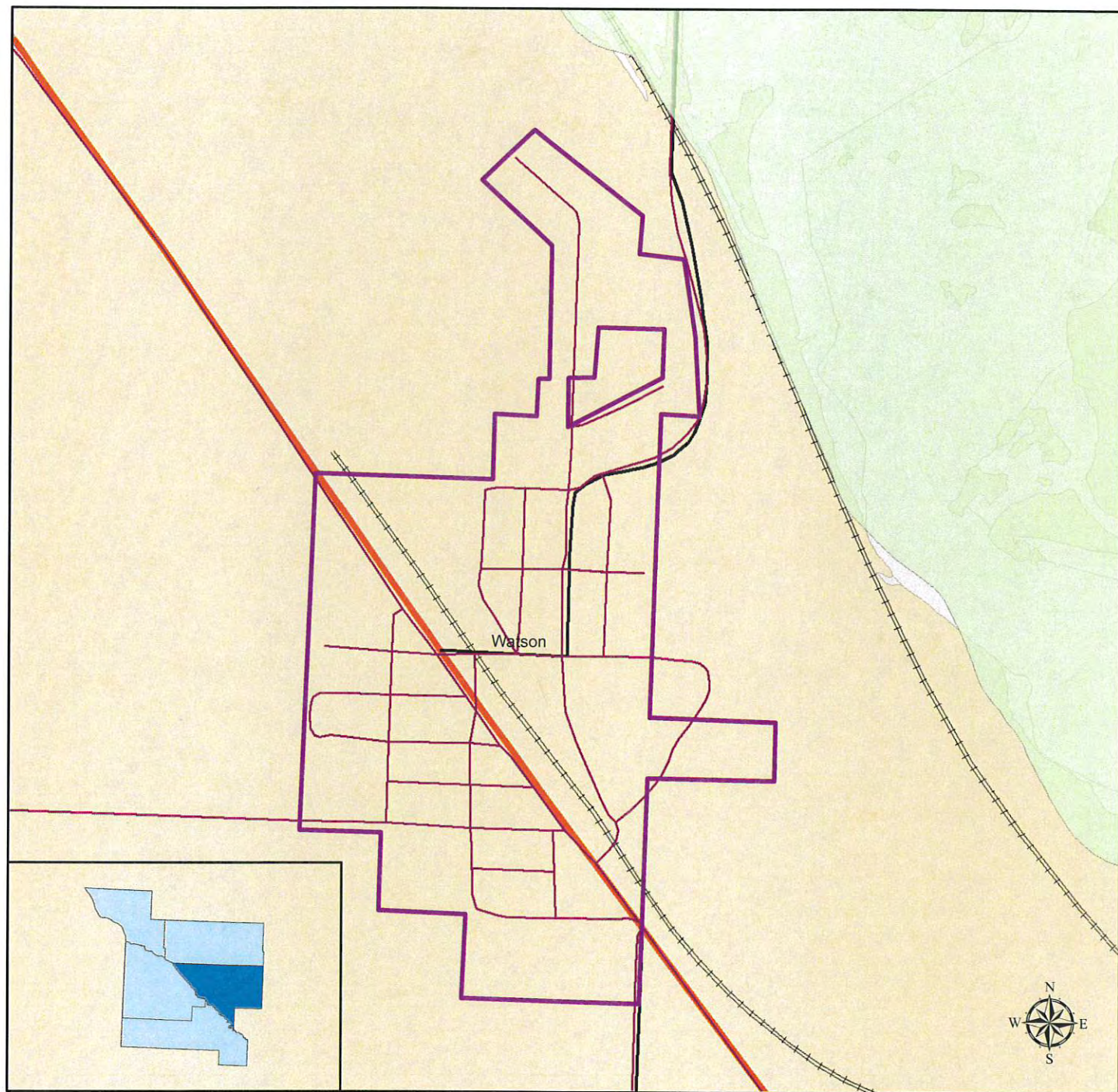
- |  |                          |   |          |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------|
|  | A Flood Zones            |  | CSAH     |
|  | A Flood Zones (Proposed) |  | Highways |





Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

0.2 0.1 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8  
Miles

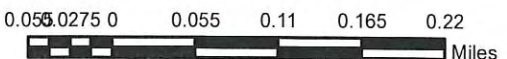


Watson  
A Flood Zones and  
Proposed Flood Zones 2023  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



- |  |                          |   |          |
|--|--------------------------|---|----------|
|  | A Flood Zones            |  | CSAH     |
|  | A Flood Zones (Proposed) |  | Highways |

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

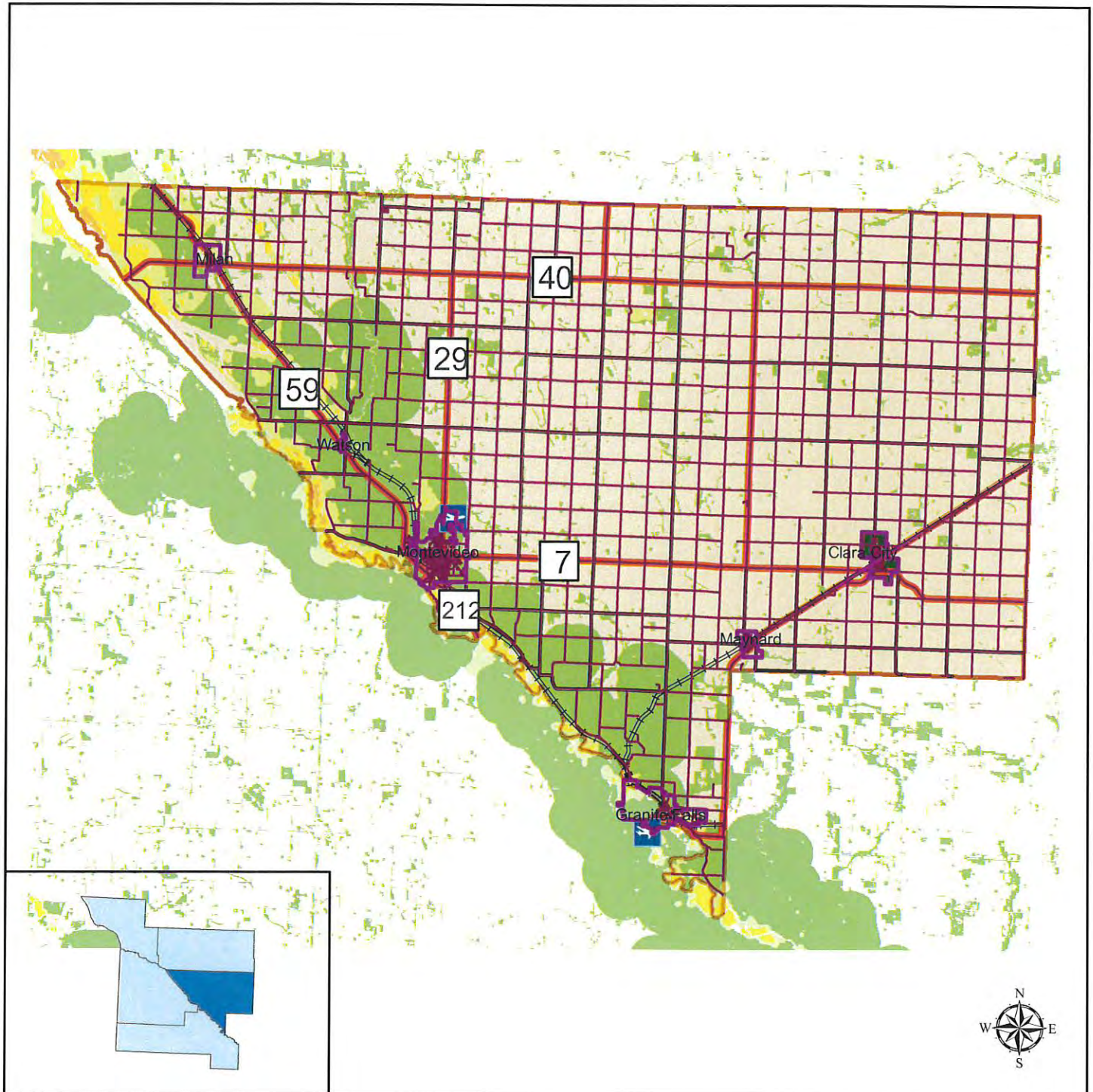




# Chippewa County Wildfire Hazards

## Chippewa County

### All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

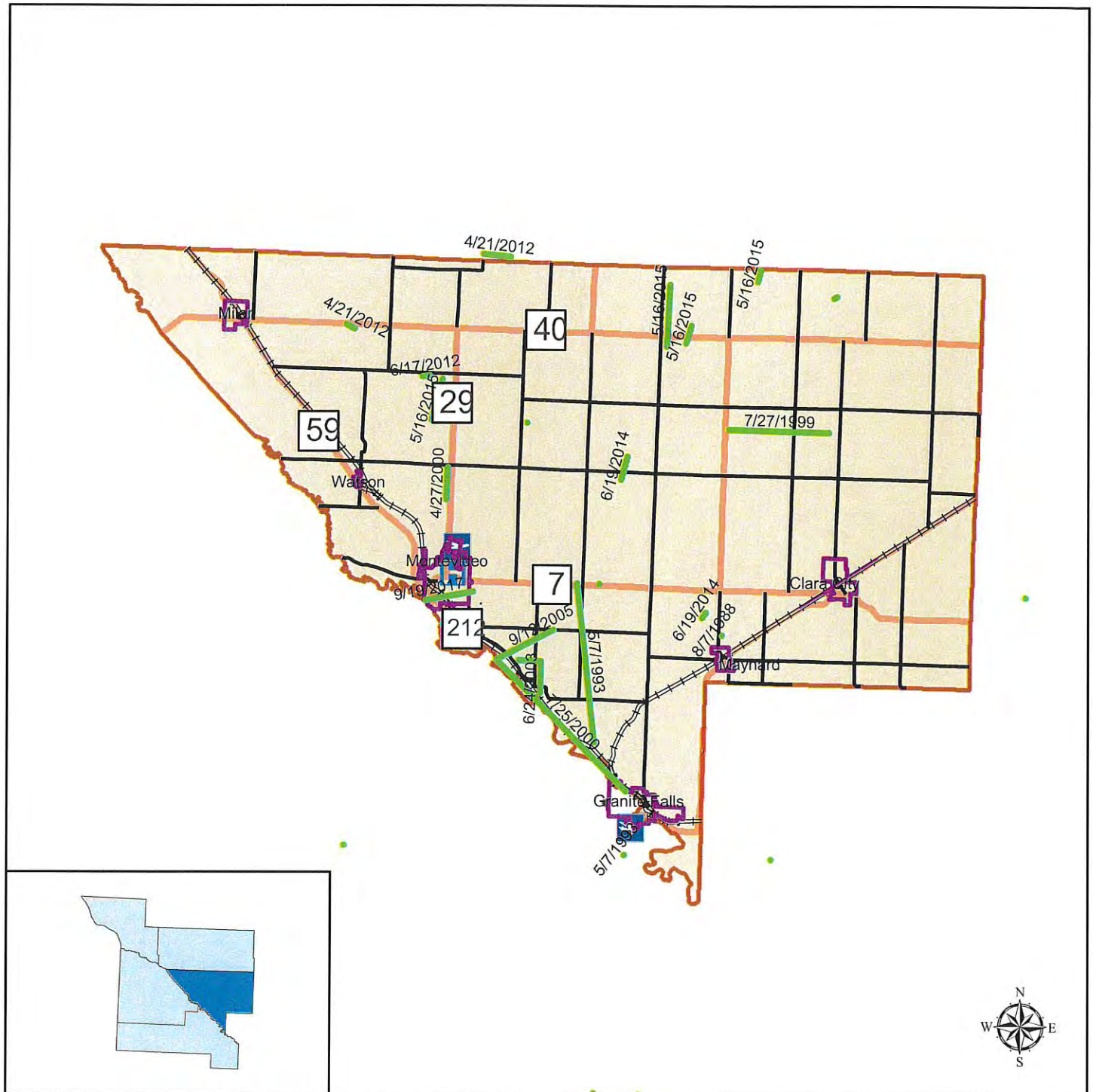


Map Created By: Chippewa County  
 Data: 2023  
 Data Source: MN DNR,  
 Chippewa County





Tornadoes 1956-2021  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



— Tornado\_Tracks

□ Cities

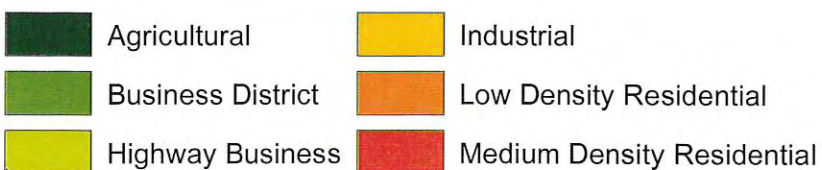
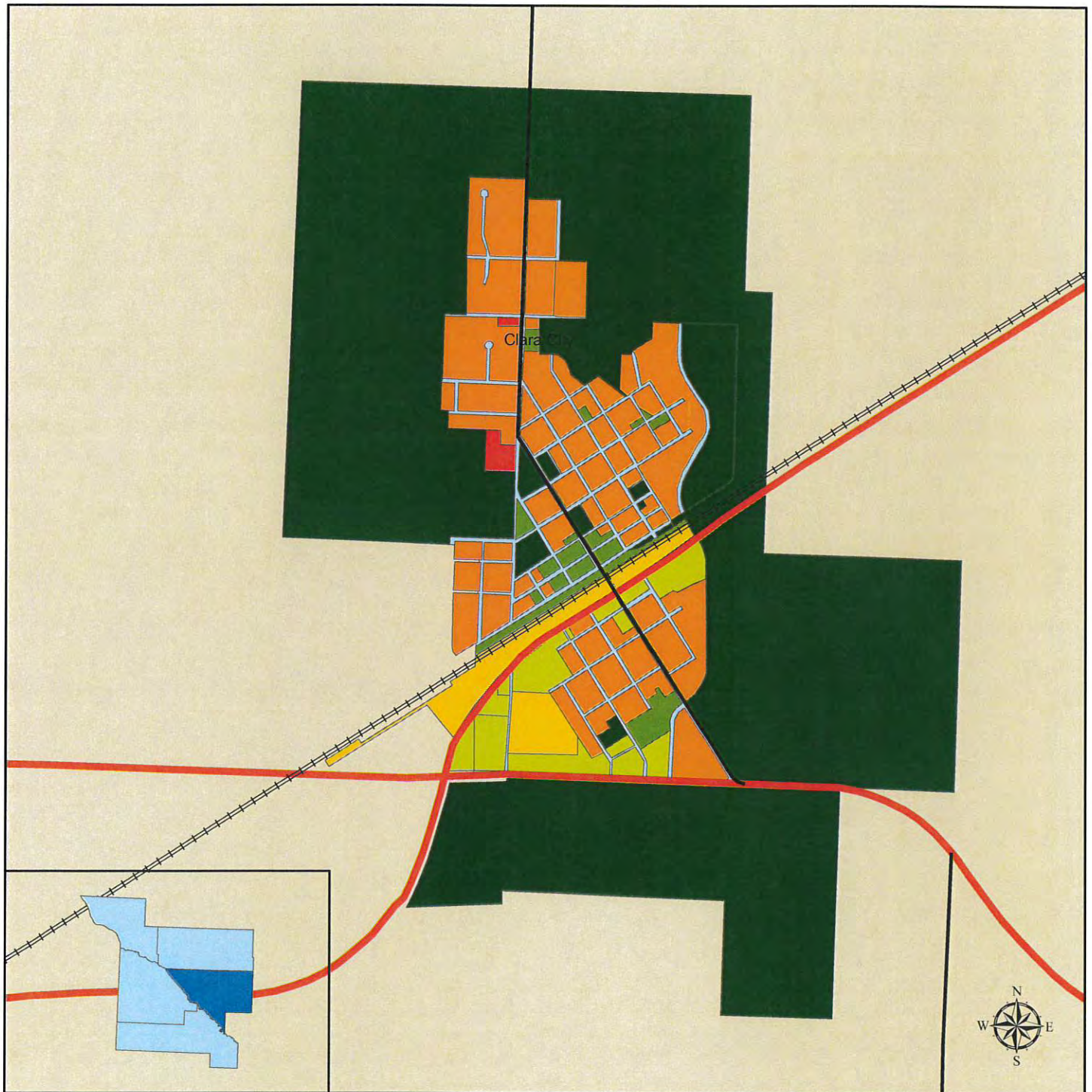
++++ Railroads

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

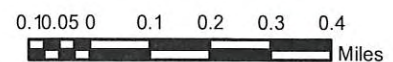
2.5 1.25 0 2.5 5 7.5 10  
Miles



Clara City Land Classification  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

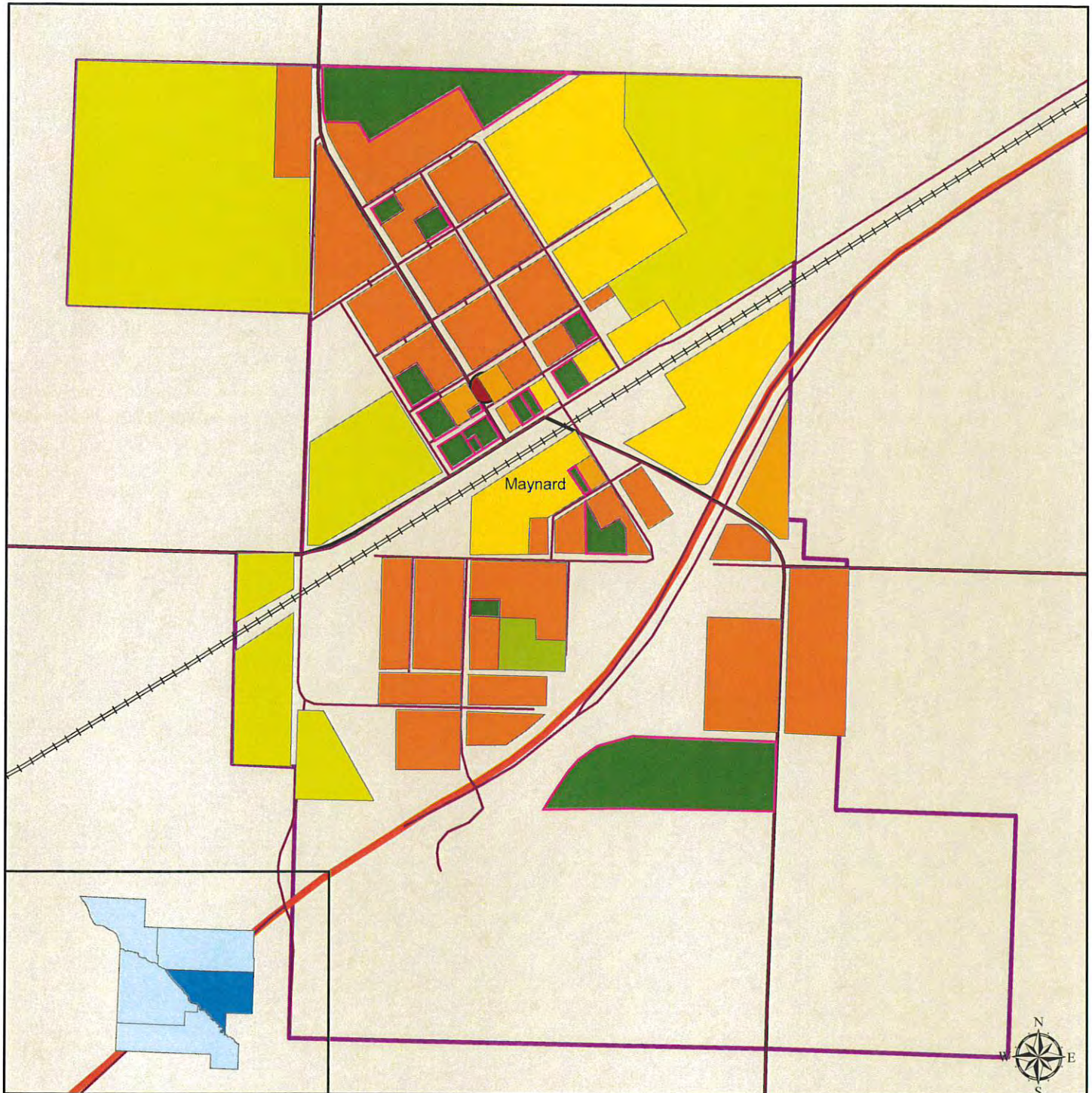


Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: US Census 2020

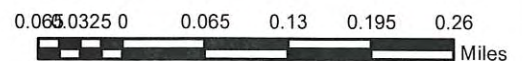




City of Maynard Land Use  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

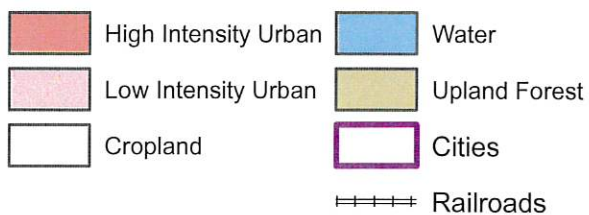
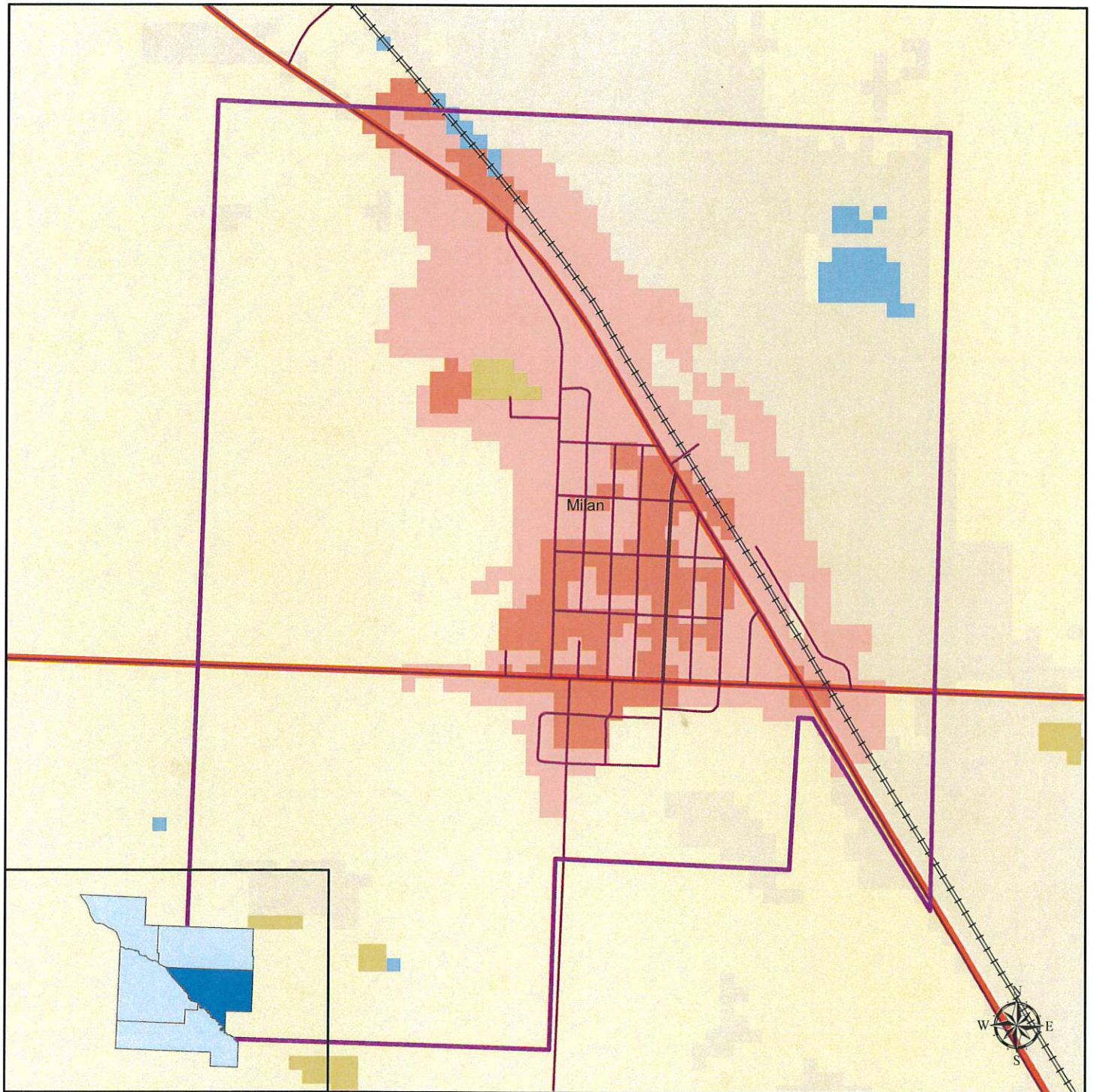


Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County





# City of Milan Land Cover Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

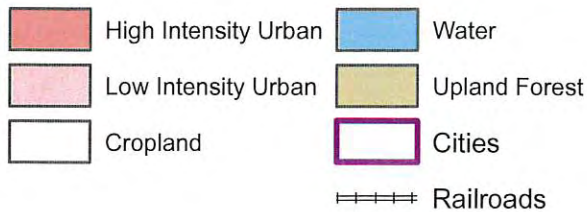
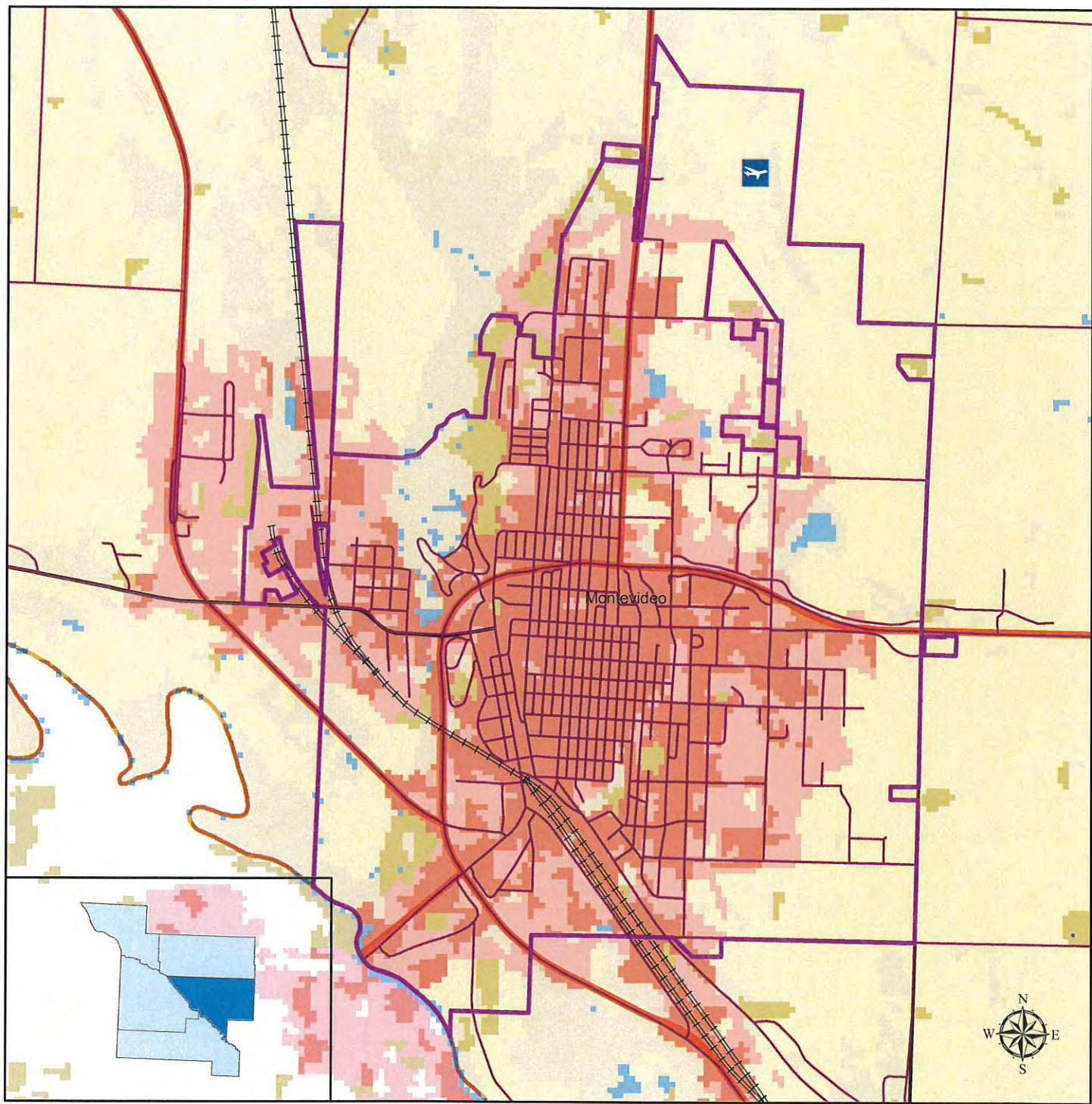


Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

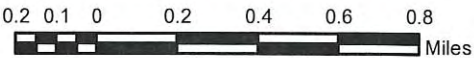




City of Montevideo Land Cover  
Chippewa County  
All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

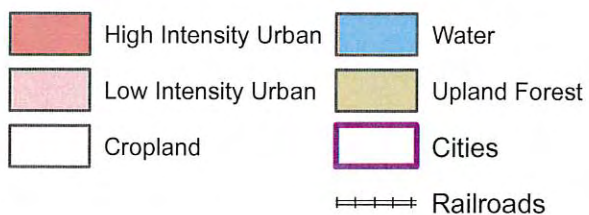
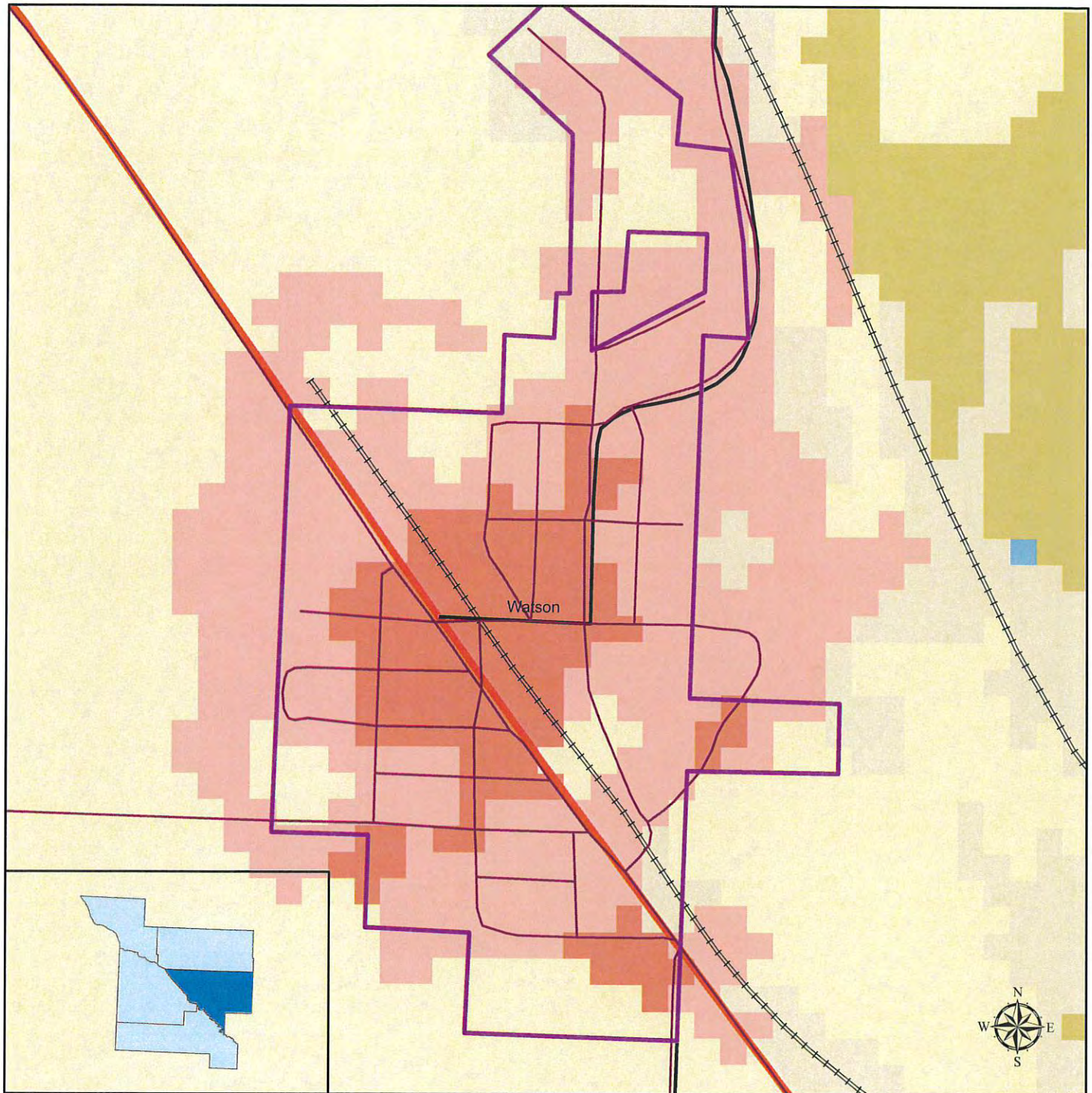


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Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County

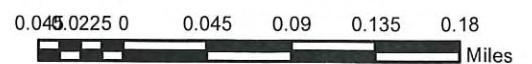




# City of Watson Land Use Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

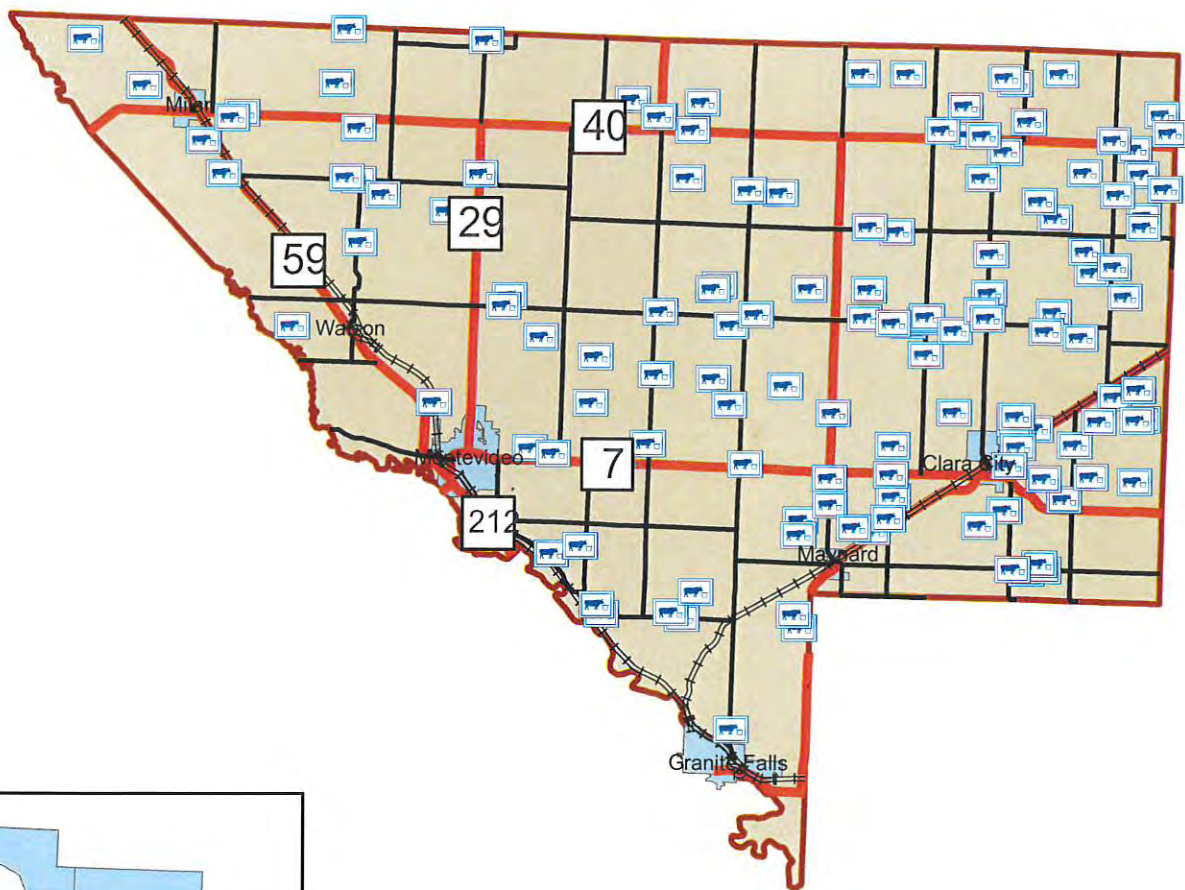






Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: MN DNR,  
Chippewa County



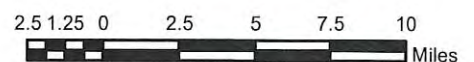


# Feedlots Chippewa County All-Hazard Mitigation Planning



-  Feedlots
-  Railroads
-  Highways
-  CSAH

Map Created By: Chippewa County  
Data: 2023  
Data Source: US Census 2020





## **Appendix VI**

*Calculated Priority Risk Index Scoring Summaries  
(Communities)*

## Chippewa County Hazard Analysis Results

Hazard/Disaster	Probability (45%)	Magnitude/ Severity (30%)	Warning Time (15%)	Duration (10%)	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windstorms	3	3	4	1	<b>2.95</b>
Hail	3	3	4	1	<b>2.95</b>
Extreme cold	4	2	1	3	<b>2.85</b>
Winter storms	4	2	1	3	<b>2.85</b>
Tornados	2	4	4	1	<b>2.8</b>
Dam/Levee Failure	1	4	4	4	<b>2.65</b>
Drought	3	2	1	4	<b>2.5</b>
Flooding	2	3	2	4	<b>2.5</b>
Extreme Heat	3	2	1	3	<b>2.4</b>
Lightning	3	1	2	1	<b>2.05</b>
Wildfire	1	2	4	3	<b>1.95</b>
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	1	1	1	3	<b>1.2</b>
Coastal erosion and flooding	N/A				
Land subsidence (sinkholes/Karst)					
Earthquakes					
<b>Human Caused Disasters</b>					
Hazardous materials incident	3	3	4	3	<b>3.15</b>
Water supply contamination	2	4	4	4	<b>3.1</b>
Structural Fire	3	3	4	2	<b>3.05</b>
Wastewater treatment failure	2	3	4	4	<b>2.8</b>
Infectious diseases	2	3	3	4	<b>2.65</b>
Civil disturbance/terrorism/ Cyber attack	2	2	3	2	<b>2.15</b>

## ProaClara City Hazard Analysis Results

Hazard/Disaster	Probability (45%)	Magnitude/ Severity (30%)	Warning Time (15%)	Duration (10%)	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windstorms	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
Hail	4	3	4	4	<b>3.7</b>
Lightning	4	2	4	1	<b>3.1</b>
Tornadoes	2	4	4	4	<b>3.1</b>
Extreme cold	4	2	1	3	<b>2.85</b>
Winter storms	4	2	1	3	<b>2.85</b>
Extreme Heat	3	2	1	4	<b>2.5</b>
Drought	3	2	1	4	<b>2.5</b>
Flooding	2	1	1	4	<b>1.75</b>
Wildfire	1	1	4	1	<b>1.45</b>
Dam/Levee Failure	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Coastal erosion and flooding	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Land subsidence (sinkholes/Karst)	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Manmade or human</b>					
Hazardous materials incident	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>
Structural Fire	3	3	4	1	<b>2.95</b>
Water supply contamination	1	3	4	4	<b>2.35</b>
Infectious diseases	1	4	1	4	<b>2.2</b>
Wastewater treatment failure	1	2	4	4	<b>2.05</b>
Civil disturbance/terrorism/ Cyber attack	1	1	4	4	<b>1.75</b>

## Maynard Hazard Analysis Results

Hazard/Disaster	Probability (45%)	Magnitude/ Severity (30%)	Warning Time (15%)	Duration (10%)	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windstorms	4	2	3	4	3.25
Extreme cold	4	2	1	3	2.85
Winter storms	4	2	1	2	2.75
Tornadoes	1	4	4	4	2.65
Lightning	2	2	4	4	2.5
Flooding	2	2	1	3	1.95
Hail	2	2	2	1	1.9
Wildfire	2	1	4	1	1.9
Drought	2	1	1	4	1.75
Extreme Heat	1	1	1	3	1.2
Dam/Levee Failure	-	-	-	-	
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	-	-	-	-	
Coastal erosion and flooding	-	-	-	-	
Land subsidence (sinkholes/Karst)	-	-	-	-	
<b>Manmade or human</b>					
Hazardous materials incident	3	3	4	4	3.25
Water supply contamination	1	4	4	4	2.65
Structural Fire	2	3	4	2	2.6
Wastewater treatment failure	2	2	4	3	2.4
Infectious diseases	2	2	1	4	2.05
Civil disturbance/terrorism/ Cyber attack	1	2	4	1	1.75

Hazard Priority Risk Ranking Categories	
Score	Priority Level
3.0-4.0	High
2.0-2.99	Moderate
0-1.99	Low

## Milan Hazard Analysis Results

Hazard/Disaster	Probability	Magnitude/ Severity	Warning Time	Duration	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windstorms	4	4	4	3	<b>3.9</b>
Winter storms	4	3	2	3	<b>3.3</b>
Tornadoes	2	4	4	4	<b>3.1</b>
Hail	3	3	4	2	<b>3.05</b>
Lightning	3	3	4	2	<b>3.05</b>
Extreme cold	3	3	1	4	<b>2.8</b>
Drought	3	2	1	4	<b>2.5</b>
Wildfire	2	2	4	2	<b>2.3</b>
Extreme heat	2	2	1	3	<b>1.95</b>
Flooding	1	1	1	2	<b>1.1</b>
Coastal erosion and flooding	-	-	-	-	-
Dam/Levee Failure	-	-	-	-	-
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	-	-	-	-	-
Land subsidence (sinkholes/Karst)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Manmade or human</b>					
Water supply contamination	2	4	4	4	<b>3.1</b>
Wastewater treatment failure	2	3	4	4	<b>2.8</b>
Hazardous materials incident	2	3	4	3	<b>2.7</b>
Infectious diseases	2	4	1	4	<b>2.65</b>
Structural Fire	2	3	4	2	<b>2.6</b>
Civil disturbance/terrorism/ Cyber attack	2	2	4	2	<b>2.3</b>

<b>Hazard Priority Risk Ranking Categories</b>	
<b>Score</b>	<b>Risk Priority Level</b>
3.0-4.0	High
2.0-2.99	Moderate
0-1.99	Low

## Montevideo Hazard Analysis Results

Hazard/Disaster	Probability (45%)	Magnitude/ Severity (30%)	Warning Time (15%)	Duration (10%)	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windstorms	4	3	2	4	3.4
Lightning	4	2	4	4	3.4
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	2	4	4	4	3.1
Winter storms	4	3	1	3	3.15
Tornados	2	4	4	4	3.1
Hail	3	2	4	4	2.95
Dam/Levee Failure	1	4	4	4	2.65
Flooding	3	2	4	1	2.65
Drought	3	2	1	4	2.5
Wildfire	2	2	4	1	2.2
Extreme heat	2	2	1	3	1.95
Extreme cold	2	1	1	3	1.65
Coastal erosion and flooding	-	-	-	-	-
Earthquakes	-	-	-	-	-
Land subsidence (sinkholes/Karst)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Manmade or human</b>					
Structural Fire	3	3	4	2	3.05
Water supply contamination	1	4	4	4	2.65
Wastewater treatment failure	1	4	4	4	2.65
Hazardous materials incident	2	2	4	2	2.3
Civil disturbance/terrorism/ Cyber attack	2	2	4	2	2.3
Infectious diseases	2	2	1	4	2.05

## Watson Hazard Analysis Results

Hazard/Disaster	Probability (45%)	Magnitude/ Severity (30%)	Warning Time (15%)	Duration (10%)	Weighted score
<b>Natural Disasters</b>					
Windstorms	3	3	4	3	3.15
Tornados	2	4	4	4	3.1
Extreme cold	4	2	1	3	2.85
Winter storms	4	2	1	3	2.85
Hail	3	2	4	2	2.75
Lightning	3	2	2	2	2.45
Extreme heat	3	2	1	3	2.4
Wildfire	2	2	4	2	2.3
Drought	2	2	1	4	2.05
Flooding	-	-	-	-	-
Coastal erosion and flooding	-	-	-	-	-
Dam/Levee Failure	-	-	-	-	-
Erosion, landslides, and mudslides	-	-	-	-	-
Land subsidence (sinkholes/Karst)	-	-	-	-	-
Earthquakes	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Manmade or human</b>					
Hazardous materials incident	2	3	4	3	2.7
Water supply contamination	1	4	4	4	2.65
Infectious diseases	2	4	1	4	2.65
Structural Fire	2	3	4	2	2.6
Wastewater treatment failure	2	2	4	4	2.5
Civil disturbance/terrorism/ Cyber attack	1	2	4	2	1.85

## **Appendix VII**

### *Community Mitigation Strategies*



## Clara City 2023 Hazard Mitigation Strategies Summary

### GOALS

- Goal 1: Minimize impacts of **flooding** along Hawk Creek
- Goal 2: Reduce impacts of **wildfire** on people and property
- Goal 3: Reduce impacts of **windstorms** on people and property
- Goal 4: Reduce impacts of **tornados** on people and property
- Goal 5: Reduce impacts of **hail** on people and property
- Goal 6: Reduce impacts of **extreme heat** on people
- Goal 7: Reduce impacts of **drought** on people and critical resources
- Goal 8: Reduce impacts of **lightning** on people and property
- Goal 9: Reduce impacts of **winter storms** on residents, property and travelers
- Goal 10: Reduce impacts of **extreme cold** on people and property
- Goal 11: Reduce impacts of **infectious disease** on residents, especially the vulnerable populations (elderly, young)
- Goal 12: Prevent and reduce **fire** related damage to people and properties
- Goal 13: Reduce impacts of a **hazardous materials** accident on people and property
- Goal 14: Protect the City's **water supply** to provide a safe source of water for businesses and residents
- Goal 15: Reduce probability of **wastewater treatment system failure**
- Goal 16: Protect residents, City staff and critical infrastructure from **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

### Clara City Mitigation Strategies/Actions

**Time Frame definitions:** Short term – 1-2 years; Mid term – 3-5 years; Long term - >5 years  
**Other definitions:** “Internal” – occurs as part of normal budgeted activities  
 County EM – County Emergency Management  
 DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 DPH – Minnesota Department of Health

ACTION #	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner(s)	Priority	Hazard
1.	Annually review the plan of action which addresses flooding. This plan includes early sandbagging and having equipment available to move ice which will reduce flooding.	Annually	Clara City, County, City of Montevideo	Internal	City	Medium	Flood
2.	Further investigate the cause and effect of ice dams on Hawk Creek	Long term	Cities of Clara City, Maynard, Willmar, Raymond; County, DNR,	Unknown	FEMA (HMGP, BRIC, FMA), DNR	Low	Flood

			Hawk Creek Watershed District				
3.	Conduct prescribed burns of the grassy natural area west of the school.	Every 3-5 years	Clara City Fire Dept.	Internal	City	Medium	Wildfire
4.	Continue to equip and train firefighters on wildfire response	Annually	Clara City Fire Dept.	Internal	City	High	Wildfire, structural fire
5.	Continue to trim trees around the community to prevent limbs from damaging property/utilities/blocking streets	Annually	Clara City Public Works	Internal	City	High	Windstorms Tornados
6.	Continue to equip and train city employees on tree trimming methods and safety	Annually	Clara City Public Works	Internal	City	High	Windstorms, tornados,
7.	Work with property owners in northwest part of the community to plant a living snow fence or other alternative windbreak such as snow piles	Mid-term	City, property owners	<\$1,000	City, SWCD	Medium	Windstorms
8.	Notify residents of shelter locations and other available resources via Nixle	Annually	City, School (safe room)	Internal	City	High	All
9.	Encourage residents to sign up for Nixle and CodeRed notifications	Annually	City, County EM	Internal	City and County EM	High	All
10.	Continue to train with County Emergency Management and neighboring jurisdictions on response plans	Annually	City, County EM, neighboring cities	Internal	City, County EM, MN HSEM	High	All
11.	Continue storm spotting training	Annually	Fire Dept.	Internal	City	High	Tornados, windstorms, hailstorms
12.	Continue to monitor City water supply levels on a regular basis	Annually	Clara City Public Works	Internal	City	High	Drought
13.	Communicate and encourage residents to conserve water during extremely dry conditions via Nixle and other communication outlets	As needed	City	Internal	City	Low	Drought
14.	Enact a water restriction ordinance If City water levels are nearing critically low	As needed	City Council	Internal	City	Low	Drought
15.	Continue to provide redundancy (alternative loops) when feasible in City water and sewer systems to avoid interruptions in service	Annually	Clara City, Public Works	Will depend on project size	City	Medium	Lightning
16.	Ensure all City buildings and electronics are grounded or equipped with surge protection	Annually	City	Internal	City	High	Lightning
17.	Work with Chippewa County, MNDOT to discuss possibility of windbreaks along State Highway 7 between Montevideo and Clara City	2023	City, Chippewa County	Internal	City	Low	Winter storms

			SWCD, MNDOT				
18.	Communicate with businesses along Highway 7 that the Community Building is available for shelter for stranded motorists during severe winter storms	2023	City, local businesses	Internal	City	Medium	Winter storms
19.	Continued winter rescue training for emergency response volunteers	Ongoing	City Fire Department	Internal	City	High	Winter storms
20.	Ensure City and Volunteer emergency responders have adequate PPE on hand and replace as needed	Annually	City	<\$500	City, MDH	Medium	Infectious disease
21.	Continue to work with County and State partners to train for potential disease outbreak	Annually	City, County EM, Countryside Public Health	Internal	City	Low	Infectious disease
22.	Continue to educate school children and community about fire prevention	Annually	Clara City Fire Dept.	<\$500	Clara City Fire Dept.	High	Structural fire, wildfire
23.	Continue to tour local industries and businesses to become familiar with layout	Annually	Clara City Fire Dept., local businesses	Internal	Clara City Fire Dept.	High	Structural fire
24.	Continue to work with County EM and school to prepare, plan and train for hazardous materials response	Annually	Clara City Fire Dept., County EM, MACCRAV School Dist.	Internal	Clara City Fire Dept., County EM	High	Hazardous materials
25.	Communicate and advocate for traffic changes around the State Highways 7/23 intersection to improve safety	Annually	Clara City, MNDOT	Internal	City	Medium	Hazardous materials
26.	Work to increase training opportunities with BNSF railroad	Annually	Clara City, BNSF	Internal	City	Low	Hazardous materials
27.	Continue to update the City's wellhead protection plan	Every 10 years	Clara City. Public Works	<\$2,500	City	High	Water supply contamination
28.	Increase protection/security of City wells, City Hall/Community Building by installing alarm and/or surveillance system	2024	Clara City Public Works	<\$2,000	City	High	Water supply contamination
29.	Continue to maintain and inspect the wastewater treatment and collection system to prevent interruption in service and potential environmental harm to Hawk Creek	Annually	Clara City Public Works	Internal	City	High	Wastewater treatment plant failure
30.	Continue to implement security efforts related to software, City facilities and services	Ongoing	City	<\$1,000	City	High	Civil disturbance /terrorism/ cyber attack

## **City of Clara City: Mitigation Goals and Strategies discussion summary**

### **Natural Disasters**

#### **Flooding**

Hawk Creek is located on the eastern side of the community and has been the focus of past flood-related events in the community. Clara City is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, but does not have a Special Flood Hazard Area identified, meaning the entire community is considered Zone C and at minimal risk. Chippewa County is expected to get new flood hazard boundary maps in 2023. The waterway is in a fairly deep channel, but has flooded as a result of ice dams in the spring. The City's main lift station is located along the creek and was recently protected from flooding as a result of rip rap on the banks along with a concrete berm and small levee. This was a strategy identified in the 2015 Plan Update. Also in the previous plan update was a strategy that called for working with the City of Willmar and the Hawk Creek Watershed District to divert water to Grass Lake upstream or look for ways to address Willmar's wastewater flow, which was believed to be a contributing factor to the ice dams. The planning committee no longer felt that much could be done about Willmar's wastewater discharge and also believed that the issue may stem from flow blockage from ice dams at bridges downstream. Other than Hawk Creek, the committee noted that there are a few small areas in town that experience some ponding, but do not result in any major damage, mainly minor inconveniences. The committee felt that the City was in a good place in terms of available resources that may be needed in the event of a flood. The County has a sandbagging machine and lights that are available for use. In addition, the City of Montevideo has pumps available to lend if Clara City should need them.

#### **Wildfire**

Fortunately, there have not been any wildfires in recent history in Clara City. Due to the surrounding agricultural fields, the area surrounding Clara City does not present much opportunity for wildfires to occur. The planning committee noted there was a small natural grassy area adjacent to the school on the western edge of the city as the only natural vegetation adjacent to the community. There is also a very slight chance that a cornfield could start on fire, but to date, that has not occurred and would not likely result in any significant property damage within the community. It was suggested that the fire department could conduct a prescribed burn of the grassy area near the school to reduce the amount of natural fuel.

#### **Windstorms**

Due to the flat topography surrounding Clara City, strong winds are an ever-present concern and nuisance. The City recently experienced some major wind damage in May 2022 resulting in several trees down. The City does a good job of keeping trees trimmed around the community to prevent damage during windstorms. The City does not actively enforce local building codes due to its small size and lack of personnel. The planning committee did not know the exact number of homes in the community without basements, but estimated it would be similar to the

approximate 10% countywide figure that was mentioned in the 2015 plan. The City had included the construction of a safe room at Lion's Park near the swimming pool as a strategy in the 2015 plan, but decided to remove it as the committee did not feel it would be utilized. It was mentioned that the MACCRAY school gym meets the requirements of a safe room and has a capacity of 1,666. This could be utilized by students and school staff if necessary. Discussions are needed with school administration as to whether it could be utilized as a community shelter, both during the school year and during summer months. Vulnerable populations identified by the committee include the elderly in the Clara City Care Center and adjacent senior living units. They have a storm plan in place for residents. The planning committee noted that there very few, if any, mobile homes located in the community and therefore did not feel any strategies were needed to address them, so they removed the 2015 strategy that would require mobile homes to use tie-downs. There is also an increasing number of Micronesians in the community, but the committee felt they have been a part of the community/area long enough that they understood warning sirens and the potential for severe weather.

The community has two outdoor warning sirens that are activated by County Emergency Management during storm warning events. City staff felt their coverage was good. In addition, the City provides emergency communication through Nixle. This system sends out alerts to residents via text message, email or over the web. City staff use Nixle to alert residents of timely events such as snow removal, interruptions in service, road closures, or other non-urgent notifications. It is not used for storm warnings as that is issued at the County level via CodeRed. Residents must sign up for both of these services to receive the alerts.

### **Tornados**

Fortunately, there have not been any tornadoes in Clara City's history. Similar to windstorms, keeping people safe is a top priority of the City. As discussed above, the City has multiple alert systems in place – outdoor warning sirens, CodeRed, and Nixle as well as local television and radio stations. The City does not have a formal designated community storm shelter and did not feel one would be utilized in the event of a tornado due to their quick onset. They felt that residents all had individual plans in the event of a tornado, whether it be to seek shelter in a basement or inner room of their own home or with a neighbor or relative. As with windstorms, the school and nursing homes have tornado plans in place (gymnasium is storm shelter) to keep students and the elderly safe.

Due to the potential rapid development of a tornado, it is important to alert residents as soon as possible. The local fire department undergoes storm spotter training on a regular basis and plans to continue doing so. A severe tornado through the heart of the community would be catastrophic and the need to respond quickly would be paramount. It is recommended that local emergency personnel continue to train with County Emergency Management and neighboring jurisdictions on response plans. The City could also send out educational informational material via Nixle during severe weather awareness week. The City is well equipped with back-up power in the form of generators to power critical facilities such as the water and wastewater systems as well as City Hall/Community Center for an emergency shelter

if needed. Keeping tree limbs trimmed is also important to prevent them from falling on powerlines and/or blocking streets.

### **Hail**

The planning committee could recall two severe hailstorms since 2015. There was one in 2016 and one in 2022. Both events resulted in roof, window and siding damage to homes throughout the community as well as damage to vehicles that were left exposed. Early warning and education are recommended to prevent bodily injury from hail. This could be done via Nixle during the spring months or during severe weather awareness week. Encouraging residents to sign up for Nixle and CodeRed would be beneficial in keeping residents safe. Since the City does not enforce a building code, it would be very difficult to require the use of storm-resistant roofing materials, but could include information about them in educational materials or on the City website.

### **Dam/Levee Failure**

This disaster was eliminated from Clara City's list of strategies as the planning committee did not feel a dam/levee failure could impact the community.

### **Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat tends to have the most impact on the extremely young and the elderly alike. Heat related illness is common with those who fail to take precaution during extreme heat events. This can be heat stroke, dehydration, and nausea to name a few. Perhaps the greatest risk associated with this disaster is having an extended period of time without power. One of the benefits of a smaller community like Clara City is that in most instances, residents are good about checking on friends, neighbors and families during extreme heat events and ensuring that people in need of assistance are cared for. While somewhat rare, a power outage during an extremely hot period of summer is possible either due to an overwhelming demand for electricity (as there tends to be more usage from people running air conditioning units) or perhaps immediately after a severe thunderstorm. The Clara City Care Center and Prairie Park Place are equipped with back-up power to provide comfortable accommodations to their residents. In the event of a prolonged power outage during extremely hot weather, the City is capable of establishing a community shelter at the community center if needed. The City has also offered free swimming days on extremely hot days to keep children and residents cool. City staff can utilize Nixle to notify residents of these opportunities.

### **Drought**

In recent years, Chippewa County has experienced periods of "severe" and "extreme" drought (source: Drought.gov), but as weather patterns change, timely rainfall usually helps to alleviate any major concerns. At the time of this plan, Chippewa County is considered to be in "moderate" drought conditions. The planning committee felt that why conditions are drier than

normal, the City's water supply levels are at a good level and would likely remain adequate due to their proximity to Hawk Creek and the higher water table levels in the area. Another factor is that there are no large industries in town that are large consumers of water. The City has a water restriction ordinance that it could enact and enforce if conditions require, but the planning committee felt the state would likely enact a statewide conservation order before the City would feel the need to do so. The planning committee also felt that the greatest impact a drought would have on Chippewa County would be on the local economy. Extreme drought conditions would undoubtedly have an impact on crop yields in the area, resulting in diminished income for farmers. Due to the local economy's heavy reliance on agriculture, local businesses in Clara City would likely feel the impact.

### **Lightning**

Lightning occurs very frequently across the Midwest including Chippewa County. The main impact lightning causes is fire, tree damage and property damage, specifically to electrical systems. While lightning occurs every year, most lightning strikes do not result in property damage. The City recently had lightning strike their lift station resulting in an inoperable pump. Fortunately, their system has some built-in redundancy and had another pump to continue operating the system. While this type of damage is fixable and inconvenient, the wastewater system is able to operate. The main issue recently has been that parts and equipment are difficult to obtain due to supply chain issues, product shortages and the specifications of the systems. It may now take several months to receive replacement parts and equipment, when it used to be a couple weeks. But again, the City's systems are becoming increasingly more redundant and able to accommodate potential interruptions in service. The City also has back up generation available to operate facilities during outages. City facilities are currently grounded and electronics are protected with surge protection. Both of these measures will help reduce the impact of lightning damage. It would be a good practice to continue to ensure that any new City facilities include electrical grounding and continue to provide surge protection for essential electronic equipment such as computers and communication equipment.

### **Winter Storms**

Minnesota winters can be very harsh and severe winter storms can be expected on an annual basis. Heavy snow can stress roofs, ice and blowing snow can make travel dangerous and those coupled with extreme cold can result in some of the most dangerous conditions the Midwest can offer. As mentioned earlier in this section, the City does not enforce a city building code, but relies on the State Building Code to guide construction practices. Probably the main impact that winter storm events have on the community is impeding transportation routes in and out of the community. Clara City is located along State Highway 7, an east-west route between the city and Montevideo. Many residents rely on this highway to commute to work on a daily basis. The flat topography of the area does little to stop snow from blowing across the highway, greatly reducing visibility. Clara City frequently hosts stranded travelers during bad snowstorms. December 23, 2020 was a recent storm that resulted in many stranded travelers between Montevideo and Clara City. Falling snow and 60mph winds produced extremely dangerous

conditions. In addition, the storm was not forecasted and caught the area by surprise. Events like this are possible in any given year. The planning committee could recall other similar storms throughout the years leaving motorists stranded in the community or along the highway. The committee felt that one mitigation action that could be done is to put up windbreaks along Highway 7 between Clara City and Montevideo as well as on the north part of Clara City. For a windbreak along Highway 7, the City would need to partner with the County and MNDOT to work on a solution since it is out of city limits. Another mitigation action would be to communicate with the gas stations and businesses along Highway 7 that in the event of severe weather, motorists are welcome to stay at the Community Building while they wait out the storm instead of lingering around the businesses. The community could also utilize Nixle to alert residents of available shelter at the Community Building if needed.

### **Extreme Cold**

Like winter storms, extremely cold temperatures are almost an annual occurrence as well. Freezing water pipes, frostbite, hypothermia are the greatest threats from extreme cold. In Minnesota, it is also common to see an increase in fires as people try heating their homes in unsafe ways. The planning committee could recall a couple of fire calls during -70°F and -50°F windchills which resulted in dangerous conditions for firefighters and was also tough on their equipment. The -70°F windchill fire was just outside of town at a diesel repair shop in 2015 and resulted in \$30,000 in firefighting equipment damage due to the extreme cold. Ensuring that firefighting equipment is well maintained and able to work in extreme conditions is something the department strives for on an ongoing basis. Educating residents on extreme cold weather safety is another way to keep people safe. Warning them about frostbite and hypothermia as well as how to keep water pipes from freezing and bursting would likely be beneficial.

## **Human-caused or Technological Disasters**

### **Infectious Diseases**

As the Coronavirus showed, infectious diseases can be quite disruptive to society and very unpredictable. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Clara City had not experienced a widespread disease outbreak of that magnitude in recent history. There are occasional outbreaks of influenza, but those are fairly isolated in nature and health providers and caregivers are familiar with treatment. Vaccinations for various illnesses have also helped to reduce the possibility of widespread outbreaks. In the event of a widespread outbreak, the community would likely rely on outside resources for assistance such as Countryside Public Health or MN Department of Health. The committee noted that during the recent pandemic, they realized how important having an adequate supply of personal protective equipment was. During an outbreak, the City's main goal would be to keep essential governmental functions operating as best they can. They also felt staying up to date with training for local emergency personnel would be beneficial. Having communication channels available would also be helpful to notify residents of important



updates should residents need to isolate or shelter in place. Again, getting residents to sign up for Nixle alerts would be one way to get updates out quickly.

### **Structural Fire**

Since the 2015 plan update, the planning committee could recall a couple of structural fires in the community, but both structures were saved and able to rebuild. The fire department works with the school and local businesses on education and prevention throughout the year and especially in the fall during fire prevention week. The department tries to take a proactive approach to working with local businesses by annually touring local businesses and facilities to become familiar with their layouts. The department also conducts monthly training for its volunteers. One challenge they face is that when they ask local businesses to provide information about their facilities, they rarely get a response and so collecting building information can be time consuming.

### **Hazardous Materials**

The potential for a hazardous materials incident in Clara City is real and the community has experienced a significant event in 2007 when 52 train cars derailed in town. Approximately one-third of the community had to be evacuated. The potential for another incident remains due to the high number of trains that go through town on a daily basis as well as the city's proximity to the intersection of State Highways 7 and 23. The planning committee estimates that there about one train an hour with many transporting hazardous materials. Traffic counts on the state highways are also fairly high for the area with traffic counts averaging anywhere between 2,600 and 5,500 vehicles per day. It is estimated that on average, there are about four vehicle accidents a month at the intersection of Highways 7 and 23. Mitigation strategies for this type of disaster include training, planning and equipment. One of the challenges for local responders is coordinating training or getting responses from the railroad. Ideally, it would be helpful to work with the railroad on response training on a regular basis. The MACCRAY school district is another entity that local emergency responders need to continue to involve in hazardous materials response training as the school complex is located about three blocks from the railroad. In the event of a haz mat incident during the school day, the staff and students may need to be evacuated quickly. Continued regular training involving the school would be a good way to stay prepared for this type of disaster and reduce additional harm to individuals should this disaster happen. Another action that the City would like to see done is to improve the traffic flow and/or at the intersection of State Highways 7 and 23 due to the high number of accidents that occur there. Since these are state highways, MNDOT would ultimately be responsible for any changes to the intersection. City officials could continue to communicate their concerns to MNDOT and work together on a solution to make the area safer.

### **Water Supply Contamination**

The City has fortunately not had any water supply contamination events in its past history. The City does its best to secure and protect its wells from tampering. Any contamination of the wells

would be fairly catastrophic as it most likely would be long lasting and a new water supply would need to be accessed. The City plans to continue to update its wellhead protection plan as required and secure and protect its wells from any harm. The City also plans to look into additional security for the wells such as alarms and/or security cameras. The State (MDH) has recommended security fencing around well facilities, but City staff is hesitant to install them as they feel it would draw more attention to their location than leaving them as they are.

### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure**

As mentioned earlier in this document, the City has experienced some failures related to its wastewater system as one of their pumps was recently struck by lightning and was offline. While not ideal, the outage did not result in any major damage. The planning committee felt the main impact on wastewater treatment failure would be on the environment as if there were complete system failure, it is designed to be gravity fed, and therefore the City could discharge untreated wastewater into Hawk Creek as a last resort to prevent sewage backups in the community. The planning committee did not feel that the entire community would be impacted if a failure of the system were to occur. Rather it would be a few neighborhoods in low lying areas. Also as mentioned earlier, replacement parts and equipment have been difficult to acquire in recent years and may increase the time parts of the system are offline. The planning committee felt there was not a lot they could do to lessen negative impacts of a failure. They would strive to fix the system as soon as possible to prevent backups and potential environmental harm to Hawk Creek.

### **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

The City has not had any past instances or significant threats of terrorism or attack within the community other than a few disruptive residents over the years. The planning committee felt they were in a rural enough area that they would not be a prime target for any kind of attack. They felt they were prepared about as good as feasibly possible and would continue with their efforts and modify them as new threats arise. The City's computer system has anti-virus/malware protection as well as protection from their internet service provider. The City's essential services of water and wastewater do not rely on the internet to operate, so there would be no threat of potential hackers.

## City of Maynard Hazard Mitigation Strategies Summary

### GOALS

- Goal 1: Minimize impacts of **flooding** along Hawk Creek
- Goal 2: Reduce impacts of **wildfire** on people and property
- Goal 3: Reduce impacts of **windstorms** on people and property
- Goal 4: Reduce impacts of **tornados** on people and property
- Goal 5: Reduce impacts of **hail** on people and property
- Goal 6: Reduce impacts of **extreme heat** on people
- Goal 7: Reduce impacts of **drought** on people and critical resources
- Goal 8: Reduce impacts of **lightning** on people and property
- Goal 9: Reduce impacts of **winter storms** on residents, property and travelers
- Goal 10: Reduce impacts of **extreme cold** on people and property
- Goal 11: Reduce impacts of **infectious disease** on residents, especially the vulnerable populations (elderly, young)
- Goal 12: Prevent and reduce impacts of **structural fire** on people and property
- Goal 13: Reduce impacts of a **hazardous materials** accident on people and property
- Goal 14: Protect the City's **water supply** from contamination
- Goal 15: Reduce probability of **wastewater treatment system failure**
- Goal 16: Protect residents, City staff and critical infrastructure from **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

## City of Maynard Hazard Mitigation Strategy Summary

**Time Frame definitions:** Short term – 1-2 years; Mid term – 3-5 years; Long term - >5 years

**Other definitions:** “Internal” – occurs as part of normal budgeted activities

County EM – County Emergency Management

DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

DPH – Minnesota Department of Health

	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner(s)	Priority	Hazard
1.	Encourage residents to sign up for CodeRed notifications through the County EM Department	Annually	City, County	Internal	City, County EM	High	All
2.	Annually review the plan of action which addresses flooding. This plan includes early sandbagging and having equipment available to move ice which will reduce flooding.	Annually	Maynard, County EM, City of Montevideo	Internal	City, County EM	High	Flooding

3.	Further investigate the cause and effect of ice dams on Hawk Creek	Long term	Cities of Clara City, Maynard, Willmar, Raymond; County, DNR, Hawk Creek Watershed District	Unknown	FEMA, DNR	Medium	Flooding
4.	Work with FEMA, MN DNR to update floodplain boundaries for the incorporated areas of Maynard.	Mid-term	City, DNR, FEMA	Internal	DNR, FEMA	High	Flooding
5.	Build a berm(s) along Hawk Creek to protect wastewater treatment plant, Lutheran Cemetery and residences	Long term	City, DNR, FEMA, County	Unknown	City, DNR, FEMA (HMGP, BRIC, FMA)	Medium	Flooding
6.	Continue to enforce the restrictive burning ordinance	Ongoing	City	Internal	City	High	Wildfire, structural fire
7.	Continue to equip and train firefighters on wildfire response.	Annually	Maynard Fire Dept.	Internal	N/A	High	Wildfire
8.	Replace Fire Department UTV	Mid-term	Maynard Fire Dept.	\$30,000	FEMA, DNR	Medium	Wildfire, structural fire
9.	Continue to trim trees around the community to prevent limbs from damaging property/utilities/blocking streets	Every 4-5 years	Maynard Public Works	Internal	City	High	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms
10.	Notify residents of available shelters and storm safety information through utility billings	Annually	City, County EM	Internal	City, County EM	Medium	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms, extreme heat/cold
11.	Continue discussions with Xcel Energy regarding the replacement of utility poles and transformer	Ongoing	City staff	Internal	City	High	Windstorms, tornados
12.	Work with County Emergency Management to develop an Emergency Operations Plan for the rodeo and 4th of July community events in case of tornado	Annually	City, County EM	<\$5,000	City, County EM	Low	Windstorms, tornados
13.	Continue storm spotting training	Annually	Maynard Fire Dept.	Internal	Maynard Fire Dept.	High	Tornados
14.	Public education regarding severe storms in school and for community via City website	Annually	City	Internal	City	High	Tornados, windstorms, lightning, hail, winter

							storms, extreme heat/cold,
15.	Notify residents that in the event of a disaster, the City Hall/Community Building and/or City Event Center can be utilized as a relief shelter if needed.	Annually	City	Internal	City	Medium	All
16.	Notify residents via utility billings of available shelters during winter storm events	Annually	City	Internal	City	Medium	Winter storms
17.	Continue to monitor City water supply levels on a regular basis	Annually	Maynard Public Works	Internal	City	High	Drought
18.	Enact a water restriction ordinance If City water levels are nearing critically low	As need	City Council	Internal	City	Low	Drought
19.	Provide redundancy when feasible in City water and sewer systems to avoid interruptions in service	Annually	Maynard Public Works	Depends on project size	City	Low	Lightning
20.	Ensure all City buildings and electronics are grounded or equipped with surge protection	Annually	City	Internal	City	High	Lightning
21.	Educate residents on extreme cold temperature safety either via communication outlets, i.e., utility billings, newspaper, website, social media, etc.	Annually	City	Internal	City	Medium	Extreme cold

### Human Caused Disasters

	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner(s)	Priority	Hazards
22.	Ensure City and Volunteer emergency responders have adequate PPE on hand and replace as needed	Annually	City	<\$500	City, FEMA, MN DPH	Medium	Infectious disease
23.	Continue to work with County and State partners for up-to-date training and coordination in the event of a potential disease outbreak	Annually	City, County EM, Countryside Public Health	?	N/A	Medium	Infectious disease
24.	Continue to educate school children and community about fire prevention	Annually	Maynard Fire Dept.	<\$500	Maynard Fire Dept.	High	Wildfire, structural fire
25.	Continue to tour Cargill, Impact Innovations and elementary school to become familiar with layouts in the event of a fire	Annually	Maynard Fire Dept., businesses, MACCRAY school	Internal	Maynard Fire Dept.	High	Structural fire
26.	Replace Tanker truck	Long term	Maynard Fire Dept.	\$300,000 - \$400,000	DNR, USDA (Comm.)	Medium	Wildfire, structural fire

					Facilities), FEMA (AFG)		
27.	Evaluate needs for new fire hall	Long term	Maynard Fire Dept.	\$50,000	City, USDA	Medium	Wildfire, structural fire
28.	Construct new fire hall	Long term	Maynard Fire Dept.	\$1M	City, USDA (Comm. Facilities)	Medium	Wildfire, structural fire
29.	Continue to work with County EM to prepare, plan and train for hazardous materials response	Annually	Maynard Fire Dept., County EM	Internal	Maynard Fire Dept., County EM	High	Hazardous materials
30.	Encourage residents to sign up for CodeRed alerts through County Emergency Management	Annually	City, County EM	Internal	City, County EM	High	Hazardous materials
31.	Continue to update the City's wellhead protection plan	Every 10 years	Maynard. Public Works	<\$2,500	City	High	Water supply contamination
32.	Continue to maintain and inspect the wastewater treatment and collection system to prevent interruption in service and potential environmental harm to Hawk Creek	Annually	Maynard Public Works	Internal	City	High	Wastewater treatment system failure
33.	Continue to implement security efforts related to software, City facilities and services	Ongoing	City Admin.	<\$1,000	City	High	Civil Disturbance/ Terrorism/ Cyber Attack
34.	Install video surveillance/alarms at key locations in Maynard such as City Hall, wells, Event Center	Short term	City Admin., City Public Works	<\$5,000	City	High	Water supply contam./ Civil Disturbance/ Terrorism/ Cyber Attack



## **City of Maynard: Mitigation Goals and Strategies Discussion Summary**

### **Natural Disasters**

#### **Flooding**

Hawk Creek is located on the southern side of the community and has been the focus of past flood-related events in the community. The waterway is in a fairly deep channel, but has flooded as a result of ice dams in the spring. The planning committee could not recall any flood related events occurring since 2015. The City prepared for flooding in 2019, but fortunately water levels did not rise to the point of flooding. Maynard is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, but does not have a Special Flood Hazard Area identified, meaning the entire community is considered Zone C and at minimal risk, but residents have the option to purchase flood insurance if desired. Chippewa County is expected to get new flood hazard boundary maps in 2023. As of now, the City does not have a FEMA floodplain map to delineate where the floodplain boundaries are located. The City could further look into the process to develop a floodplain map for the community by contacting the MN DNR or FEMA regional office. In addition, it would be good to review their plan of action related to flooding and coordinate with the County Emergency Management department and City of Montevideo to ensure supplies and equipment are available should the need arise. Also, as mentioned in nearby Clara City's mitigation strategies, more investigation could be done to determine the causes of springtime flooding on Hawk Creek. The cities along the waterway could coordinate a study to see what exactly causes the flooding – ice jams or warm water from Willmar's wastewater treatment facility. The main threat flooding poses is toward the City's wastewater treatment facilities on the southwest part of town. The City would like to protect this critical facility by constructing a berm along Hawk Creek. The wastewater facilities are located at the confluence Hawk Creek and its tributary. In addition, the City would also like to prevent flooding to the nearby Maynard Lutheran Cemetery and residences in the area. This could also potentially be done by constructing a berm along the waterway.

#### **Wildfire**

Wildfires are not a significant threat to the community, but can occur periodically. The area most susceptible to wildfires are along the railroad right-of-way, which runs from the southwest, through the center of town and to the northeast. Sparks from the railcars sometimes ignite dry vegetation along the rails. The City has experienced these types of fires occasionally, but are quickly extinguished by the local fire department. Other susceptible areas include land consisting of set aside acres or natural vegetation. These areas are also located on the western, southern and eastern sides of the community. Within the city, burning is limited to small recreational fires, such as fire pits/rings, but large brush fires or other types of burning are prohibited by ordinance. The fire department is well equipped to handle most grass fires as they have two grass rigs and a UTV in their fleet of vehicles. The planning committee noted that the UTV is showing its age and is having some mechanical issues. The department would like to replace the unit if funding is available.

## **Windstorms**

Due to the flat topography surrounding Maynard, strong winds are an ever-present concern. The City recently experienced some major wind damage in May 2022 resulting in several trees down, roof damage, and a brief power outage (3-4 hours). The planning committee noted that they received 23 permit applications for shingling projects across the community. The City does a good job of keeping trees trimmed around the community to prevent damage during windstorms and usually trims trees every 4-5 years. The City does not actively enforce local building codes due to its small size and lack of personnel and therefore relies on the state building code. Also, there is a small number of mobile homes located in the community (less than five). The planning committee did not know the exact number of homes in the community without basements, but estimated it would be slightly less than the approximate 10% countywide figure that was mentioned in the 2015 plan. If needed, the Community Building/City Hall and the Event Center could be utilized as community shelters if power was out for an extended period of time or if homes were destroyed and/or considered unsafe. Both have access to back-up power. Notifying residents that these facilities are available during disasters as well as general storm safety information could be included in utility bill mailings in the spring.

City leaders have also noticed that utility poles in the community have not been replaced since they were installed in the late 1940s. Xcel Energy provides electricity to the community and has stated they only replace poles when they fail. Likewise, their transformer is also aging and could be in need of replacement. City leaders should continue discussions with Xcel to encourage them to replace parts of their system before it fails unexpectedly and results in a prolonged outage.

The community has two outdoor warning sirens, one that is activated by County Emergency Management and serves as the primary siren and the other is activated by City personnel if needed. The planning committee felt their siren coverage was good. Residents also have the option of signing up for CodeRed, which is an alert sent out to cell phones during severe weather warnings such as tornados, severe thunderstorms and blizzards. To receive alerts, residents must be signed up for this free service. The City could encourage residents to sign up by including information in their utility bill mailings or posting on their website.

## **Tornados**

Fortunately, there have not been any tornados in Maynard's history. Similar to windstorms, keeping people safe is a top priority of the City. As discussed above, the City has two alert systems in place – outdoor warning sirens and CodeRed as well as local television and radio stations. The City does not have a formal designated community storm shelter or saferoom, but thought that most homes had basements and those without, typically seek shelter with a friend, neighbor or family.

Due to the potential rapid development of a tornado, it is important to alert residents as soon as possible. The local fire department undergoes storm spotter training on a regular basis and plans to continue doing so. A severe tornado through the heart of the community would be catastrophic and the need to respond quickly would be critical. It is recommended that local emergency personnel continue to train with County Emergency Management and neighboring jurisdictions on response plans. The City is well equipped with back-up power in the form of generators to power critical facilities such as the water and wastewater systems as well as City Hall/Community Center for an emergency shelter if needed. Keeping tree limbs trimmed is also important to prevent them from falling on powerlines and/or blocking streets.

Maynard hosts an annual rodeo each summer which draws 1,800 to 2,000 visitors to the community. This event is held on the western edge of the community in a wide open area. The community has a large Fourth of July event as well. Should a tornado occur during either of these events, many people would be vulnerable. The City and County Emergency Management could work together to develop a small Emergency Operations Plan to prepare for a tornado during either of these events.

### **Hail**

The May 2022 storm mentioned earlier also produced large hail which resulting in roof, window and siding damage to homes throughout the community as well as damage to vehicles that were left exposed. Early warning and education are recommended to prevent bodily injury from hail. Public education could be done via utility billings during the spring months or during severe weather awareness week. Encouraging residents to sign up for CodeRed notifications through the County Emergency Management would be beneficial in making sure residents are alerted of impending severe weather.

### **Dam/Levee Failure**

This disaster was eliminated from Maynard's list of strategies as the planning committee did not feel a dam/levee failure could impact the community.

### **Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat tends to have the most impact on the extremely young and the elderly alike. Heat related illness is common with those who fail to take precaution during extreme heat events. This can be heat stroke, dehydration, and nausea to name a few. Perhaps the greatest risk associated with this disaster is having an extended period of time without power. One of the benefits of a smaller community like Maynard is that in most instances, residents are good about checking on friends, neighbors and families during extreme heat events and ensuring that people in need of assistance are cared for. While somewhat rare, a power outage during an extremely hot period of summer is possible either due to an overwhelming demand for electricity (as there tends to be more usage from people running air conditioning units) or perhaps immediately after a severe thunderstorm. The City Hall/Community Building and City

Event Center are equipped with back-up power to provide a cool shelter in the event of a prolonged power outage during extremely hot weather. Making residents aware of these facilities would be helpful should the situation arise.

### **Drought**

In recent years, Chippewa County has experienced periods of “severe” and “extreme” drought (source: Drought.gov), but as weather patterns change, timely rainfall usually helps to alleviate any major concerns. At the time of this plan, Chippewa County is considered to be in “moderate” drought conditions. The planning committee felt that why conditions are drier than normal, the City’s water supply levels have dropped a little, but remain at an adequate level and would likely remain there due to their proximity to Hawk Creek. Another factor that plays into relatively stable water levels is absence of larger industries in town that consume large amounts of water. The City has a water restriction ordinance that it could enact and enforce if conditions require and did so in 2021 at the request of the State. However, the planning committee felt that during most widespread drought periods, the state would likely enact a statewide conservation order before the City would feel the need to do so. The planning committee also felt that the greatest impact a drought would have on Chippewa County would be on the local economy. Extreme drought conditions would undoubtedly have an impact on crop yields in the area, resulting in diminished income for farmers. Due to the local economy’s heavy reliance on agriculture, local businesses would likely feel the impact.

### **Lightning**

Lightning occurs very frequently across the Midwest including Chippewa County. The main impact lightning causes is fire, tree damage and property damage, specifically to electrical systems. While lightning occurs every year and is possible at any location, most lightning strikes do not result in property damage. The City recently had lightning strike their water tower in 2014 and took out their variable frequency drive, which drives current to the motors that power the City’s wells. The City also has back up generation available to operate facilities during outages. City facilities are currently grounded and electronics are protected with surge protection. Both of these measures will help reduce the impact of lightning damage. It would be a good practice to continue to ensure that any new City facilities include electrical grounding and essential electronic equipment such as computers and communication equipment continue to be connected to surge protection. To prevent essential city services from being interrupted, the City could also work to provide redundancy within their water and wastewater systems.

### **Winter Storms**

Minnesota winters can be very harsh and severe winter storms can be expected on an annual basis. Heavy snow can stress roofs, ice and blowing snow can make travel dangerous and those coupled with extreme cold can result in some of the most dangerous conditions the Midwest can offer. As mentioned earlier in this section, the City does not enforce a city building code, but relies on the State Building Code to guide construction practices. The flat topography of the

area does little to stop snow from blowing across the farm fields, greatly reducing visibility. December 23, 2021 was a recent storm that developed with little warning and made travel in the area very difficult, if not impossible. Falling snow and 60mph winds produced extremely dangerous conditions. In addition, in 2018 the community also lost power on the southern and western parts of town as a result of a winter storm. Events like this are possible in any given year. As mentioned earlier, the City has the capability to open up the City Hall/Community Building or the City Event Center on Main Street as a community shelter if needed. Public education and notification are two areas the City could implement to keep residents safe. The City could encourage residents to sign up for CodeRed alerts through County Emergency Management. They could also notify residents that the City has the ability to open up the Community Building during power outages in the winter if people find themselves without heat and/or electricity.

### **Extreme Cold**

Like winter storms, extremely cold temperatures are almost an annual occurrence as well. Freezing water pipes, frostbite, hypothermia are the greatest threats from extreme cold. In Minnesota, it is also common to see an increase in fires as people try heating their homes in unsafe ways. Educating residents on extreme cold weather safety is one way to keep people safe. Warning them about frostbite and hypothermia as well as how to keep water pipes from freezing and bursting would likely be beneficial and reduce potential property damage. As mentioned earlier, the City has the capability to open up the City Hall/Community Building or the City Event Center as a community shelter if needed and could notify residents of this option should residents find themselves without heat and/or electricity during extremely cold weather.

## **Human-caused or Technological Disasters**

### **Infectious Diseases**

As the Coronavirus showed, infectious diseases can be quite disruptive to society and very unpredictable. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Maynard had not experienced a widespread disease outbreak of that magnitude in recent history. There are occasional outbreaks of influenza, but those are fairly isolated in nature and health providers and caregivers are familiar with treatment. Vaccinations for various illnesses have also helped to reduce the possibility of widespread outbreaks. In the event of a widespread outbreak, the community would likely rely on outside resources for assistance such as Countryside Public Health or MN Department of Health. During an outbreak, the City's main goal would be to keep essential governmental functions operating as best they can. Having an adequate supply of basic personal protective equipment on hand would help protect the health and safety of City staff. Keeping up to date with training for local emergency personnel and coordinating these efforts with other agencies would be beneficial.

### **Structural Fire**

Since the 2015 plan update, the planning committee could recall a couple of structural fires in the community. The fire department works with the school and local businesses on education and prevention throughout the year and especially in the fall during fire prevention week. The department tries to take a proactive approach to working with local businesses by annually touring larger businesses/facilities such as Cargill, the local elementary school and Impact Innovations to become familiar with their layouts should a fire occur at these locations. The department also conducts monthly training for its volunteers. Some of the department's current needs include a new fire hall and the replacement of two vehicles: the tanker truck and UTV grass rig. The current fire hall has limited space for vehicles and equipment and has forced the department to store vehicles and equipment at multiple locations. In addition, the department's current tanker trucks are approaching 40 and 50 years old. A new tanker truck for Maynard would cost more than a typical tanker as it would need to be custom made because of the low clearance of the bay doors on the current fire hall. As mentioned earlier, the department's UTV grass rig is also aging and becoming unreliable. Unfortunately, all of these items are quite costly to address and the City will need to prioritize their needs and look for potential funding sources including grant funds.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Maynard has a couple of hazardous materials threats located in or near the community. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad runs about 12 trains per day through the heart of Maynard, from the southwest to the northeast. Approximately three miles east of Maynard is the Magellan Pipeline, which transports refined petroleum from Houston, TX up to northern Minnesota and throughout the Midwest. State Highway 23 also bisects the community from the southwest to northeast. This highway connects Sioux Falls, SD to Duluth with the regional centers of Marshall, Willmar and St. Cloud located along the highway as well. Near Maynard, the highway averages a little over 3,000 vehicles per day, including trucks carrying all kinds of materials, including hazardous materials. Fortunately, there are not a lot of major hazardous materials in Maynard as Cargill no longer stores any at their site in town. The bulk of hazardous materials threatening Maynard are transported through the community either by rail or truck, thus creating a challenge for local emergency responders as they never know what is being transported at any given time, making it difficult to prepare. Local responders should continue to train and be involved with related discussions with Chippewa County Emergency Management, state/federal agencies as well as the BNSF railroad. Encouraging residents to sign up for the CodeRed alerts through the County would also help residents know what to do in the event of a major accident.

### **Water Supply Contamination**

Since water supply is one of the most critical resources for communities, it is important that the City does what it can to protect their source wells from tampering. Depending on the contaminant, the water supply may not be safe for consumption and use for many years if at all

should it be compromised. The City has fortunately not had any water supply contamination events in its past history. The City has an alarm system in place for its well house and also recently updated its wellhead protection plan/ordinance in 2022. In addition, it may be advantageous for the City to install video surveillance and alarms for its wells. Cameras could easily be mounted near the wells to provide an additional layer of security.

### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure**

Similar to providing water to residents, another essential function of the City is providing wastewater collection and treatment. The City has not had any major problems with its wastewater system aside from a few back-ups and also has a back-up generator available during power outages. They have additional pumps available to use if the system is struggling to keep up with demand. Since the system is primarily gravity fed, there is not a lot the City needs to do to keep things operating. The main thing the City can do to prevent problems is to perform regular maintenance on the system to ensure that things are running smoothly.

### **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

The City has not had any major disturbances or attacks in their history. However, in 2020 there was a minor disturbance at the local post office, which involved the burning of mail and some vandalism. This was done by a group of high school students waiting for a bus. The planning committee did not feel that Maynard would be the target of any major attacks due to their rural location and small size. Like most businesses, the City relies on computers and the internet for its day to day operations, including the wastewater system controls. The City's computers are protected by antivirus software. As mentioned earlier, the City has an alarm system on its wellhouse. It is recommended that the City expand its surveillance of critical facilities by installing cameras near the City's wells and around entry points at City Hall and the Event Center downtown. Security video systems are becoming more affordable as technology advances and for a minimum expense, the City could provide an additional layer of security at key facilities, thus deterring vandalism, thefts and tampering with City property. Having cameras at some locations could also assist law enforcement with tracking down wanted criminals.



## City of Milan Hazard Mitigation Goals and Strategies Summary

Goal 1: Minimize impacts of **flooding** on people and property

Goal 2: Reduce impacts of **wildfire** on people and property

Goal 3: Reduce impacts of **windstorms** on people and property

Goal 4: Reduce impacts of **tornados** on people and property

Goal 5: Reduce impacts of **hail** on people and property

Goal 6: Reduce impacts of **extreme heat** on people

Goal 7: Reduce impacts of **drought** on people and critical resources

Goal 8: Reduce impacts of **lightning** on people and property

Goal 9: Reduce impacts of **winter storms** on residents, property and travelers

Goal 10: Reduce impacts of **extreme cold** on people and property

Goal 11: Reduce impacts of **infectious disease** on residents, especially the vulnerable populations (elderly, young)

Goal 12: Prevent and reduce **fire** related damage to people and properties

Goal 13: Reduce impacts of a **hazardous materials accidents** on people and property

Goal 14: Protect the City's **water supply**

Goal 15: Reduce probability of **wastewater treatment system failure**

Goal 16: Protect residents, City staff and critical infrastructure from **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

**Time Frame definitions:** Short term – 1-2 years; Mid term – 3-5 years; Long term - >5 years

**Other definitions:** “Internal” – occurs as part of normal budgeted activities

County EM – County Emergency Management

DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

DPH – Minnesota Department of Health

ACTION #	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner(s)	Hazards	Priority
1.	Ensure curb/gutter and stormwater intakes are clear of leaves, grass clippings to prevent blockage	Annually	City	Internal	City	Flooding	High
2.	Consider participation in the National Flood Insurance Program	Mid-term	City Council	Internal	City	Flooding	Low
3.	Continue regular fire training	Monthly	Milan FD	Internal	Milan FD	Wildfire, structural fire	High
4.	Continue to enforce City nuisance ordinance	Ongoing	City	Internal	City	Wildfire, structural fire	Medium
5.	Fire prevention education in schools and community	October, annually	Milan FD	<\$500	Milan FD	Wildfire, structural fire	High
6.	Continue to notify electric provider to trim trees around the community to prevent limbs from damaging property/utilities/blocking streets	As needed, Annually	Otter Tail Power, City staff	Internal	City	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms	Medium
7.	Encourage Ottertail Power to bury powerlines throughout the community	Ongoing	City, Otter Tail Power	Internal	City	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms	Low
8.	Encourage residents to sign up for CodeRed notifications	Annually	City, County EM	Internal	City, County EM	All	Medium
9.	Work to establish a designated local community shelter at the church basement and equip with new portable generator	Short term	City, local church	\$5,000	City, FEMA (HMGP, BRIC)	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms, extreme heat/cold	Medium
10.	Public education/awareness regarding storms via city utility billings, website	Annually, April	City, County EM	<\$500	City	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms, extreme heat/cold, hail, lightning	Medium
11.	Notify and encourage Farmers Mutual Telephone to repair or replace the telephone service generator	Short term	City, FMTC	Internal	City	All	High

12.	Develop a local communication plan to notify residents of community shelter availability during/after future storm events	Short term	City Council	Internal	City	All	Low
13.	Continue to monitor City water supply levels on a regular basis	Ongoing	City Public Works	Internal	City	Drought	High
14.	Communicate and encourage residents to conserve water during extremely dry conditions via mailings/website/conversations	As needed	City Council, City Clerk	Internal	City	Drought	Medium
15.	Enact a water conservation/restriction ordinance if City water levels near critically low levels	As needed	City Council	Internal	City	Drought	Medium
16.	Ensure all City buildings and electronics are grounded or equipped with surge protection	Annually	City	Internal	City	Lightning	High
17.	Identify an assistant street employee or alternative contractor to help with snow removal on an as-needed basis	Short term	City Council, City Public Works	Internal	City	Winter storms	Medium

### Manmade or human caused disasters

18.	Ensure City and volunteer emergency responders have adequate PPE on hand	Annually	City Emergency Response Depts.	<\$500	City, MN DPH	Infectious disease	Low
19.	Continue to work with County and State partners to train for potential disease outbreak	Annually	City, County EM, Countryside Public Health	Internal	City	Infectious disease	Medium
20.	Continue to tour local industries and businesses to become familiar with layouts	Annually	Milan FD, local businesses	Internal	Milan FD	Structural fire	High
21.	Continue to work with County EM and surrounding departments/agencies to prepare, plan and train for hazardous materials response	Annually	Milan FD, First Responders/ EMT, County EM	Internal	City	Hazardous materials	High
22.	Continue to update the City's wellhead protection plan	Every 10 years	Milan Public Works	<\$2,500	City	Water supply contam.	High
23.	Discuss and determine best security practices for water supply and distribution system	Short term	City Council, Milan Public Works	Internal	City	Water supply contam.	Medium
24.	Remove "City Water" signage near fire hydrants to reduce threat of tampering	Short term	Milan Public Works	Internal	City	Water supply contam.	Medium

25.	Continue to maintain and inspect the wastewater collection system, lift station, generator, and treatment ponds to prevent sewer backups in the community	Annually	City of Milan Public Works	Internal	City	Wastewater treatment system failure	High
26.	Continue to implement security efforts related to software, City facilities and services	Ongoing	City	<\$500	City	Civil Disturbance /Terrorism/ Cyber Attack	High

### Natural Disasters

#### Flooding

Milan does not experience flooding as a result of any nearby waterways and scored the lowest of the potential natural disasters during their Hazard Analysis discussion. Similar to nearby Watson, the community's location on higher ground allows stormwater to drain quickly and effectively. The nearby wetland on the eastern side of the community easily accommodates heavy precipitation amounts without leading to flooding. The planning committee noted that even during the worst flooding in the area in 1996-97, the city experienced little to no flood damage. The community also recently upgraded its stormwater collection infrastructure in 2012 to further improve drainage. The committee noted that the main damage resulting from flooding is that a limited number of homes may receive water in their basements periodically. Since flooding does not have a major impact on the community, there are a limited number of mitigation actions they can pursue. One would be to ensure that curbs, gutters and stormwater intakes are clear, especially in fall when leaves and other vegetative debris tend to pile up in these locations. Another action for the City to consider is participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Currently, the City has a floodplain area mapped, but is not a participant in the NFIP. The floodplain area consists of the land on the east side of Highway 59. This land is currently undeveloped and is mostly wetlands/natural land and would be undesirable and unsuitable for development. However, participating in the NFIP would provide residents the opportunity to purchase flood insurance if desired. Participating in the NFIP would also require the City to adopt a floodplain management ordinance that meets or exceeds the minimum NFIP criteria, which would ensure that future development in the floodplain would be limited. The City has not participated in the NFIP as it does not foresee development occurring in the floodplain area and the area west of U.S. Highway 59 is on high ground and has not had a history of flooding.

#### Wildfire

Fortunately, there have not been any major wildfires in recent history in Milan. There have been a few in the rural areas outside of the community, including a small fire along the railroad in 2021. The main threat of wildfire would be on the eastern side of the community, east of U.S. Highway 59, where almost all of the land is natural vegetation. However, much of that area is considered wetland, so it would likely not pose much of a threat unless there were extremely dry conditions. A potentially vulnerable property to wildfire includes the Glacial Plains Co-op facilities, which has large grain storage structures, a weigh station/office and a natural gas storage tank. The planning committee felt the tank was far enough away from the area that there would be limited risk from fire. Another asset located near the Glacial Plains facility that could be at risk is the water filling station that the elevator uses for ag purposes and the fire department uses to fill tanker trucks. It should also be noted that for a wildfire to impact these facilities, the wind would have to be out of the northeast (which is fairly rare) to cause it to spread to this area. The other adjacent areas to Milan are used for agriculture

production and pose a very limited risk for wildfire. One way cities can reduce the chance of wildfires spreading to structures and homes is to enforce their nuisance ordinance which requires property owners to keep their properties maintained by mowing grass, preventing vegetative overgrowth and eliminating large stock piles of combustible materials.

The planning committee felt that the Milan Fire Department is currently well-equipped for grass fires. The department also has an adequate number of volunteers and train on a monthly basis. The department annually visits the local school during fire prevention week in October to educate students on fire safety and prevention.

### **Windstorms**

Milan's location in the Midwest makes it susceptible to occasional windstorms from spring to fall. Sometimes these storms can be as destructive as tornadoes. In May 2022, Milan, along with much of the surrounding area, was impacted by a derecho windstorm resulting in downed trees, damaged roofs, and a 27-hour period without power.

To mitigate for windstorms and prevent potential interruptions of electricity in the community, the planning committee felt that keeping tree limbs away from powerlines would be an easy action to take. Since the power system is owned by Otter Tail Power, residents and/or city officials would need to contact the utility if branches grew too close to the overhead lines to have them trimmed.

The City would also like to see the burying of powerlines throughout the community to reduce the threat of power outages and potential injury. However, the implementation of this action is out of their control, as it would be the responsibility of Otter Tail Power Company.

The city has one storm warning siren that is activated by County Emergency Management during severe weather events. The planning committee noted that it cannot always be heard in the southwestern part of the community. They would plan to look into this issue further with the County Management Director as the siren should be able to adequately cover the community due to its small size. If an additional siren or replacement siren is warranted, the City may apply for potential funding assistance such as USDA Rural Development.

In addition to activating the warning siren, the County Emergency Management department also issues notifications via the CodeRed emergency alerts to cell phones of county residents. However, only those who are signed up for this service receive the alerts, so encouraging residents to sign-up would provide another means of warning, especially for those who cannot always hear the outdoor warning siren.

During the planning process, there was some discussion on what facility could and should be used as a community shelter if one was needed during a prolonged power outage as the City currently does not have one established. The planning committee suggested the City Hall/Community Building and the local church basement as potential community shelter

locations. The City building would likely be the first choice as it is equipped to accommodate a portable generator. The planning committee planned to bring it up for discussion in an upcoming City Council meeting. There was also discussion on the need for a tornado saferoom, but since most homes in the community have basements and those that do not, typically seek shelter with a neighbor or nearby family member, they did not feel one would be utilized at this time.

### **Tornados**

Milan had a tornado near the community approximately two miles north of town as part of the severe weather events in late May 2022. The tornado was classified as a EF0 and had reported winds of up to 70mph. The tornado uprooted several trees and damaged farm outbuildings in the area.

Similar to windstorms, it is important to alert residents of impending tornados as soon as possible. As discussed above, the City has multiple alert systems in place – outdoor warning sirens, CodeRed as well as local television and radio stations. The local fire department undergoes storm spotter training on a regular basis and plans to continue doing so. A severe tornado through the heart of the community would be catastrophic and the need to respond quickly would be critical. Similar to the previous section, trimming trees, burying powerlines, keeping people safe and possibly preventing interruptions in essential services are the main priorities in mitigating tornados. Public education and awareness is also helpful to remind residents how to respond should a tornado occur. This can be done in early spring of each year during severe weather awareness week via the city's website and/or utility billings. Another mitigation action the planning committee noted was to encourage Farmers Mutual Telephone to replace their generator for the local phone lines. During the recent power outage in May 2022, the phone lines were also out, making communication difficult for some residents. During past power outages, phone lines were typically operable with the assistance of a back up generator.

### **Hail**

The aforementioned windstorm in May 2022 also produced significant hail damage in the surrounding area, but the planning committee noted that Milan was spared. They could not recall any major hailstorms in recent history. The most recent hailstorm they noted was in May 2012 which produced 2' diameter hailstones. Little can be done to reduce the impact hail on property. Personal property, especially vehicles, left outside during hailstorms tend to be damaged by 1" diameter hail or larger. Roofs, windows and siding are also susceptible to damage from large hailstones. Personal injury can be avoided by seeking shelter, so it is important for residents to be aware of impending storms. It should be noted that Milan is home to a large number of Micronesian residents. It is important that they are aware of the various weather patterns/storms that can occur in Minnesota as they differ significantly from the warmer western Pacific climate.



As with several other disasters, warning and educating residents are key to keeping residents safe. This can be done by encouraging residents to sign up for CodeRed notifications through the County Emergency Management Department and distributing storm warning information throughout the year. For summer storms, it would be good to send out information in April during severe weather awareness week. Both the CodeRed and storm material/information could be distributed via the City's utility billing or posted on the City's website.

### **Dam/Levee Failure**

The planning committee eliminated Dam/Levee Failure from their list of potential disasters as they did not feel it was a threat to the community as there are no dams upstream from Milan.

### **Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat tends to have the most impact on the extremely young and the elderly alike. Heat related illness is common with those who fail to take precaution during extreme heat events and those who work outside during the summer months. This can be heat stroke, dehydration, and nausea to name a few. Perhaps the greatest risk associated with this disaster is having an extended period of time without power. As mentioned earlier, the City does not have a formally designated community shelter where people could cool off, but the planning committee suggested the City Hall/Community Building or the local church as potential options. The City's building is wired to utilize a back-up power source such as a portable generator. The electrical system of the local church would need to be investigated to see if it could accommodate a portable generator. The City has two portable generators available, with one of them being quite a bit older than the other and may need some maintenance. Once the City Council decides and establishes a community shelter, they will need to notify residents of its availability during/after storm events. They may need to also establish a communication plan to get the word out during potential power outages letting residents know that it is available.

### **Drought**

In recent years, Chippewa County has experienced periods of "severe" and "extreme" drought (source: Drought.gov), but as weather patterns change, timely rainfall usually helps to alleviate any major concerns. At the time of this plan, Chippewa County is considered to be in "moderate" drought conditions. The planning committee said that while the area has been dry in recent years, the water supply levels are still adequate and the City has been told that their water supply comes from a good aquifer. If extreme dry conditions persist and the City's primary water levels drop significantly, the planning committee felt they would still have an adequate supply of water from the well near the wetlands on the east side of the community. While the water is discolored, it is safe for use. In addition, the City has a water conservation ordinance in place that they can enforce if needed, which would prohibit unnecessary water use such as washing cars, filling swimming pools, and watering lawns. The planning committee noted that they have not had to utilize this regulatory tool as residents typically don't

overconsume water, but if needed, they felt that most would quickly cooperate in conserving water if the City requested.

### **Lightning**

Lightning occurs very frequently across the Midwest including Chippewa County. The main impact lightning causes is fire, tree damage and property damage, specifically to electrical systems. While lightning occurs every year, most lightning strikes do not result in property damage. The planning committee could not recall any damaging lightning strikes in the community since the last plan update. As mentioned earlier, the City is equipped with back up generation to operate essential facilities during power outages and will work on establishing a community shelter that could be utilized during prolonged power outages. City facilities are currently grounded and electronics are protected with surge protection. Both of these measures will help reduce potential impacts of a lightning strike. It would be a good practice to continue to ensure that any new City facilities include electrical grounding and continue to provide surge protection for essential electronic equipment such as computers and communication equipment. Also, providing some public education during severe weather awareness week in April would remind residents to stay safe during severe thunderstorms. This could be done via utility billings or the City's website.

### **Winter Storms**

Minnesota winters can be very harsh and severe winter storms can be expected on an annual basis. Heavy snow loads can stress roofs, ice and blowing snow can make travel dangerous and those coupled with extreme cold can result in some of the most dangerous conditions the Midwest can offer. Due to the small size of Milan, the City does not have the staffing capacity to enforce building codes in the community. Another mitigation action that could prevent interruption in essential services is to trim tree limbs near overhead powerlines as mentioned in the windstorms and tornados sections. Since the City does not own the electric utility, they must notify Otter Tail Power or hire a tree removal contractor if there is an immediate need. The City's water and wastewater facilities are equipped with backup power, which will keep them operating during any power outage.

The planning committee felt the main issue facing the community is having an assistant snowplow operator available to help clear streets. Right now, the City has one individual that is responsible for clearing streets, but the planning committee thought it may be helpful to have another individual on call to assist during extreme snowfall events or in the case where the City employee is out of town or otherwise unavailable. The current labor shortage is an obstacle to finding a potential assistant or substitute. Another alternative could be to contact local snow removal companies or local farmers to see if they have the equipment and/or capacity to help clear streets on an as-needed basis. As mentioned with other disasters, a community shelter may be beneficial during or after severe winter storms. Finally, keeping residents notified of impending severe weather is key and can be done through the County's CodeRed notification system.

**Erosion, Landslides, and Mudslides**

The planning committee eliminated Erosion, Landslides, and Mudslides from their list of potential disasters as they did not feel it was a threat to the community as there are no highly erodible landforms in or immediately near Milan.

**Coastal Erosion and Flooding**

The planning committee eliminated this disaster from its strategy as there are no coastal areas located in or near the community.

**Land Subsidence (Sinkholes and Karst)**

The planning committee eliminated this disaster from its strategy as this type of landform is not present in the community.

**Extreme Cold**

Like winter storms, extremely cold temperatures are almost an annual occurrence in Minnesota. Freezing water pipes, frostbite, hypothermia are some of the greatest threats resulting from extreme cold. In Minnesota, it is also common to see an increase in fires as people try heating their homes in unsafe ways. Educating residents on extreme cold weather safety is another way to keep people safe. Warning them about frostbite and hypothermia as well as how to keep water pipes from freezing and bursting via mailings or the City website would likely be beneficial. Another way to keep residents safe is to notify them of available resources during prolonged periods of below normal temperatures. The City could provide this information via the City's website as conditions warrant. As mentioned earlier, the community has a large percentage of Micronesian residents and upon arrival to Minnesota, may not be familiar with the colder climate. To keep the new residents safe, the City could annually send out public information materials to educate those who have never experienced a cold climate. It could include information on proper clothing, safe ways to heat your home, and other threats mentioned above. Again, a designated community shelter would also be a great asset during prolonged periods of extreme cold. During winter storms, a shelter may prove even more useful for stranded motorists in the area. The planning committee noted Milan's location at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and State Highway 40 could make them more susceptible to stranded motorists and it would be nice to have a shelter available for them.

**Earthquakes**

The planning committee eliminated this disaster from its strategy due to the extremely low likelihood of an earthquake occurring.

## **Human-caused or Technological Disasters**

### **Infectious Diseases**

As the Coronavirus pandemic showed, infectious diseases can be very unpredictable and quite disruptive to society. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Milan had not experienced a widespread disease outbreak of that magnitude in recent history. There are occasional outbreaks of influenza or other viruses, but those cases tend to be somewhat isolated in nature and health providers and caregivers are familiar with treatment. Vaccinations for various illnesses have also helped to reduce the possibility of widespread outbreaks. In the event of a widespread outbreak, the community would likely rely on outside resources for assistance such as Countryside Public Health or MN Department of Health. The committee noted that during the recent pandemic, they realized having an adequate supply of personal protective equipment was important. With that in mind, they noted that it is important for them to have an adequate supply of PPE on hand in the event of another outbreak. They realize that being a smaller community, they would not likely be a high priority when it comes to the widespread distribution of emergency supplies, so having enough to get by for a while would be important in keeping city employees/volunteers safe. During an outbreak, the City's main goal would be to keep essential governmental functions operating as best they can. Having recently been through a pandemic, the City is better equipped and trained for this type of disaster. It would also be beneficial for emergency responders to continue to participate in any training opportunities related to this disaster. The planning committee noted that public communication is also important in keeping the public safe, but acknowledged that not everyone listens or adheres to state and local guidance.

### **Structural Fire**

In the past year, the planning committee could recall a couple of structural fires in the community, one being a complete loss. Structural fires in the community are somewhat rare, especially with fewer wood burning stoves serving as primary sources of heat in homes. As mentioned in the Wildfire section, the department is well staffed with volunteers, has mutual aid agreements in place with neighboring departments, is well equipped for their needs. The City also routinely checks their fire hydrants to ensure they are operable. The fire department works with the school and local businesses on education and prevention throughout the year and especially in the fall during fire prevention week. The department tries to take a proactive approach to working with local businesses by annually touring larger local businesses and facilities to become familiar with their layouts. The department also conducts monthly training for its volunteers.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Milan's location at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and State Highway 40 as well as having the Twin Cities and Western railroad running adjacent to Highway 59, present several opportunities for a transported hazardous materials event to occur. Fortunately, there have not been any hazardous materials events in recent history. The most recent accident involved a

train derailment over 20 years ago due to snow and ice buildup on the tracks. This accident resulted in spilled fuel from the derailed locomotive. In addition to the transportation routes, the planning committee noted a natural gas storage tank at the Glacial Plains Co-op as well as a few small businesses with small amounts on site.

Providing emergency responders with adequate equipment and gear as well as up to date training and planning are key to responding and keeping people safe. The fire and EMS departments currently participate in annual haz mat training exercises and plan to continue into the future.

### **Water Supply Contamination**

The City has fortunately not had any water supply contamination events in its past history. The planning committee noted that keeping their water supply safe was a high priority. Any contamination of the wells would be fairly catastrophic as it most likely would be long-lasting and a new water supply would need to be secured. They discussed measures such as improved security around their wells and treatment facility. However, sometimes installing additional security such as fencing around wells, draws more attention to their location and potentially puts them at greater risk of tampering. Similarly, the planning committee questioned the current “City Water” signs that are next to fire hydrants in town. They felt that this could also entice potential vandals into tampering with the water supply and should perhaps be removed. The City also plans to continually update its wellhead protection plan as required by the state to secure and protect its water supply from potential contamination.

### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure**

The City has not had experienced any major failures of its wastewater treatment system. Wastewater collections and treatment is one of the essential services the City provides. The City’s system is fairly simple in nature and consists of collection mains, a lift station and two treatment ponds. Any failures or interruptions in service would have a negative impact on households and/or businesses likely leading to costly clean up. The main threat to Milan’s wastewater system would be a power failure or mechanical failure of the lift station. Should this occur, wastewater would collect at the lift station and begin to back up in the collection system. As mentioned earlier, the City has permanent backup generator available at the lift station to mitigate for this potential disaster. The City is also diligent about regular maintenance and strives to keep everything in good working order. Any failure at the treatment ponds would likely involve mechanical failure of the transfer valves or discharge valve, which would likely be addressed before any negative impacts would be experienced as the City’s treatment ponds were designed with significant additional capacity (can accommodate a population of 550-600 people). The final treatment pond is discharged once or twice a year depending on weather conditions.

**Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

The City has not had any past instances or significant threats of terrorism or cyber-attack within the community. The planning committee did not consider Milan to be a prime target for any kind of attack. The planning committee felt the City was about as prepared as feasibly possible and would continue with their efforts and adjust to new threats as they arise. The City office entry was considered to be fairly secure with sturdy doors and could be easily locked. In addition, the City's computer system is protected by anti-virus/malware software.

## **City of Montevideo Hazard Mitigation Strategies Summary**

Goal 1: Minimize impacts of **flooding** on people and property

Goal 2: Reduce impacts of **wildfire** on people and property

Goal 3: Reduce impacts of **windstorms** on people and property

Goal 4: Reduce impacts of **tornados** on people and property

Goal 5: Reduce impacts of **hail** on people and property

Goal 6: Reduce impacts of **dam failure** on people and property

Goal 7: Reduce impacts of **extreme heat** on people

Goal 8: Reduce impacts of **drought** on people and critical resources

Goal 9: Reduce impacts of **lightning** on people and property

Goal 10: Reduce impacts of **winter storms** on residents, property and travelers

Goal 11: Reduce impacts of **erosion, landslides and mudslides** on infrastructure and developed land

Goal 12: Reduce impacts of **extreme cold** on people and property

Goal 13: Reduce impacts of **infectious disease** on residents, especially the vulnerable populations (elderly, young)

Goal 14: Prevent and reduce **fire** related damage to people and properties

Goal 15: Reduce impacts of a **hazardous materials accidents** on people and property

Goal 16: Protect the City's **water supply**

Goal 17: Reduce probability of **wastewater treatment system failure**

Goal 18: Protect residents, City staff and critical infrastructure from **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**



**Time Frame definitions:** Short term – 1-2 years; Mid term – 3-5 years; Long term - >5 years

**Other definitions:** “Internal” – occurs as part of normal budgeted activities

County EM – County Emergency Management

DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

DPH – Minnesota Department of Health

ACTION #	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner(s)	Priority	Hazard
1.	Continue to send out the Flood Protection Information packet to residents	Annually	City Admin.	\$500	City	High	Flooding
2.	Continued participation in NFIP and Community Rating System and enforcement of floodplain regulations	Ongoing	City Admin., City Council	Internal	City	High	Flooding
3.	Establish a stormwater utility program to collect revenue to fund future stormwater infrastructure projects	Short term	City Council	Internal	City	High	Flooding
4.	Regular maintenance and inspection of wastewater treatment plant levee	Annually	City Public Works, Public Utilities	Internal	City	High	Flooding, Dam Failure
5.	Work with State and Federal government to provide funding to acquire and remove non-conforming structures in the floodplain	As funding allows	City Admin., MN DNR	\$1 Million	FEMA (HMGP, BRIC, FMA), MN DNR (FHM)	High	Flooding/Dam Failure
6.	Keep yard waste and other debris free from gutters and stormwater sewer intake locations	Ongoing	City, Public Works	Internal	City	Medium	Flooding
7.	Continue regular fire training	Weekly	Monte FD	Internal	City	High	Wildfire, structural fire
8.	Continue to enforce City nuisance ordinance	Annually	City Admin.	Internal	City	Medium	Wildfire, structural fire
9.	Fire prevention education in schools and community	October, annually	Monte FD	<\$2,000	City	High	Wildfire, structural fire
10.	Upgrade or replace wildfire firefighting equipment and vehicles when needed	Long term	Monte FD	Will vary	MN DNR (VFA), FEMA (AFG)	Currently Low	Wildfire, structural fire
11.	Continue to trim trees around the community to prevent limbs from damaging property/utilities/blocking streets	Annually	Montevideo Public Works	Internal	City	High	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms
12.	Encourage Xcel to bury powerlines throughout the community	Ongoing	City, Xcel	Internal	Xcel	Medium	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms
13.	Encourage residents to sign up for Nixle and CodeRed notifications	Annually	City Admin., County EM	Internal	City, County EM	High	All
14.	Storm shelters/restrooms for the fairgrounds and Lagoon Park	Mid term	City, County Fair Board	\$1M/ \$75,000	FEMA (HMGP, BRIC), City, County Fair Board	Medium	Windstorms, tornados

15.	Distribute severe weather public education information via city utility billings, website or Nixle.	April/Oct. annually	City Admin.	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	All
16.	Develop an evacuation plan for the areas that would be impacted by dam failure.	Long term	City Admin. Public Works, Public Utilities, County EM	<\$5,000	County, MN HSEM	<b>Low</b>	Dam failure, flooding
17.	Continue to monitor City water supply levels on a regular basis	Annually	Montevideo Public Utilities	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Drought
18.	Enact a water restriction ordinance if City water levels are nearing critically low	As needed	City Council	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Drought
19.	Work with Rural Water or other local water sources to plan for water distribution should conditions warrant	As needed	Montevideo Public Utilities, City, Rural Water, local water suppliers	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	Drought
20.	Ensure all City buildings and electronics are grounded or equipped with surge protection	Annually	City Admin.	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Lightning
21.	Provide back-up power source for Public Works Building so it could be used as a command center during disaster situations	Short term	City Admin., Public Works	\$50,000	FEMA (HMGP, BRIC), City	<b>Medium</b>	Lightning, winter storms, windstorms, tornados
22.	Keep main emergency routes to the hospital open during winter snowstorms	As needed	City Public Works	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Winter storms
23.	Continue to enforce building code to ensure structures are built to withstand snow loads and winds	Annually	City Building Dept.	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	Winter storms, windstorms, tornados
24.	Continue regular inspection of retaining walls in downtown area	Annually	City Admin., Engineering consultant	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Erosion, landslides and mudslides
25.	Investigate regulatory methods preventing future development on unstable or severely sloped property	Long term	City Admin., City Attorney	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	Erosion, landslides and mudslides
26.	Ensure City and Volunteer emergency responders have adequate PPE on hand and replace as needed	Annually	Montevideo FD	<\$500	City, MN DPH	<b>Medium</b>	Infectious disease
27.	Continue to work with County and State partners to train for potential disease outbreak	Annually	City Emergency Depts., County EM, Countryside Public Health	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	Infectious disease
28.	Continue to tour local industries and businesses to become familiar with layouts	Annually	Monte FD, local businesses	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Structural fire
29.	Install fire suppression system at City Hall building	Long term	City Admin.	<\$7/sq.ft.	City, USDA (Comm. Facilities)	<b>Low</b>	Structural fire

30.	Continue to work with County EM and community partners to prepare, plan and train for hazardous materials response	Annually	Monte FD, County EM, School Dist.	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	Hazardous materials
31.	Continue to update the City's wellhead protection plan	Every 10 years	City Admin., Montevideo Public Utilities	<\$2,500	City	<b>High</b>	Water supply contamination
32.	Continue to secure and protect water supply, treatment and storage by securing and monitoring facilities	Ongoing	Montevideo Public Utilities	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Water supply contamination; Terrorism/civil disturbance/cyber attack
33.	Continue to maintain and inspect the wastewater treatment and collection system to prevent interruption in service and potential environmental harm to the Chippewa/Minnesota Rivers	Annually	Montevideo Public Utilities	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Wastewater treatment failure
34.	Continue to implement security efforts related to software, City facilities and services	Ongoing	City Admin.	<\$1,000	City	<b>High</b>	Terrorism/civil disturbance/cyber attack

## **City of Montevideo: Mitigation Goals and Strategies Discussion Summary**

### **Natural Disasters**

#### **Flooding**

Montevideo's location at the confluence of the Minnesota and Chippewa Rivers has resulted in a significant amount of flooding in the community's history. However, over the past several years, the City has implemented several flood mitigation projects and activities to greatly reduce the potential impacts of flooding in the community. The City is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program and also participates in the Community Rating System, which means the City's floodplain management practices exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP which results in reduced flood insurance premiums to residents. In addition, the City annually sends out a flood information packet to residents, which provides community flooding background, an overview of local floodplain management practices and other related resources. The recently completed wastewater treatment plant levee project was designed to protect a critical facility against significant flooding and should last for years to come. Regular maintenance and inspection will help to ensure the levee will continue to withstand future flood events. This project will result in new flood zone boundaries in the community and new maps will be released by FEMA soon. The City has also been active in acquiring homes and businesses located in the floodplain over the years and estimates there are 12 homes and 10 businesses that still need to be acquired. The City plans to continue to buyout these properties as funding and opportunities present themselves. Street flooding has also been an issue for Montevideo. The planning committee stated that some streets in low lying areas become flooded with as little as a half inch of rain. Fortunately, the impact of this flooding is rather short lived and more of an inconvenience. Keeping gutters and intakes clear of debris helps to alleviate some but not all of this issue. Street crews will continue to monitor gutters/intakes to keep them clear and the City can remind residents to keep yard waste and other debris out of the gutters as well. The downtown area has also experienced some stormwater flooding during heavy rain events and the City is currently close to establishing a stormwater utility fund to generate revenues to fund projects that will address this issue and other stormwater-related problems throughout the community.

#### **Wildfire**

Fortunately, there have not been any major wildfires in recent history in Montevideo. The planning committee recalled a grass fire on the west side of town near the highway that was the result of fireworks in 2021. Other than that, there have not been any significant wildfires within city limits. The main threat of wildfires around the community are along the rivers on the north and western parts of town, especially during dry conditions. The City is well-equipped for grass fires as they have two grass rigs and two UTVs that are both in good condition. One of the grass truck's capacity was recently upgraded to a 350-gallon tank from a 250-gallon tank. The fire department is currently well staffed with volunteers (35) and most work within the community and several are City employees, which provides for good response time. The department trains on a weekly basis and has mutual aid agreements with

neighboring departments. In addition to training and equipping the department, the City can also enforce its nuisance ordinance to keep properties from becoming overgrown with vegetation. This would help to prevent vegetative fires from jumping to nearby structures. The fire department also visits the local schools during fire prevention week to educate the students on how to prevent fires.

### **Windstorms**

Montevideo's location in the Midwest makes it susceptible to occasional windstorms from spring to fall. Sometimes these storms can be as destructive as tornados. Most recently in May 2022, Montevideo was impacted by a severe windstorm resulting in downed trees and powerlines, damaged roofs, communication failure, and miscellaneous structural damage. To mitigate for windstorms, the City conducts annual tree trimming throughout the community to prevent limbs from taking out powerlines and blocking roadways. They also enforce the state building code and have a building inspector on staff. While out of their control, the City would also like to see the continued burying of powerlines throughout the community to reduce the threat of power outages and potential injury.

Keeping people safe before, during and after severe windstorms is a top priority. A storm shelter was installed in the North Dale mobile home park on the north side of the community and can accommodate approximately 100 people. The planning committee also identified the Chippewa County Fairgrounds and Lagoon Park as two other locations that could benefit from saferooms or shelters. The fairgrounds have a few sturdy buildings including the grandstand that could be used as shelters, but would have limited capacity. A large shelter on the grounds could double as a community room or large restroom facility and serve a dual purpose. Lagoon Park is smaller park that could also benefit from a dual use shelter, potentially a restroom/shower facility. The park sees a number of campers in the warmer months and park visitors could be rather susceptible to strong storms. This shelter would need to accommodate approximately 25 individuals. Larger facilities such as schools, nursing homes, and large employers all have storm plans in place.

The community has four outdoor warning sirens that are activated by County Emergency Management during storm warning events. City staff felt their coverage was good. In addition, the City provides emergency communication through Nixle. This system sends out alerts to residents via text message, email or over the web. City staff use Nixle to alert residents of timely events such as snow removal, interruptions or changes in City services, road closures, or other non-urgent notifications. It is not used for storm warnings as that is issued at the County level via CodeRed. Residents must sign up for both of these services to receive the alerts.

### **Tornados**

Fortunately, there have not been any significant tornados in Montevideo's history. There was a smaller tornado reported in September 2017 that went through the western and southern part of town resulting in damage to trees, roofs, and siding. Thankfully, no injuries were reported.

Similar to windstorms, keeping people safe is the City's top priority. The planning committee estimated that close to 20% of residents did not have basements, which is slightly higher than the estimated percentage throughout the county (10%). There are a larger number of multi-family apartments structures in Montevideo compared to other communities in the county. There are also parts of town that have slab on grade construction due to the lower elevation and a higher water table.

Due to the potential rapid development of a tornado, it is important to alert residents as soon as possible. As discussed above, the City has multiple alert systems in place – outdoor warning sirens, CodeRed, and Nixle as well as local television and radio stations. The local fire department undergoes storm spotter training on a regular basis and plans to continue doing so. A severe tornado through the heart of the community would be catastrophic and the need to respond quickly would be critical. Similar to the previous section, trimming trees, burying powerlines, and providing shelter to vulnerable individuals by constructing/installing saferooms or shelters at the fairgrounds and Lagoon Park would help keep people safe during severe weather. Public education and awareness are also helpful in reminding residents how to prepare and respond should a tornado occur. This can be done in April of each year during severe weather awareness week via the city's website, utility mailings, or Nixle.

## **Hail**

The aforementioned windstorm of May 2022 also produced significant hail damage resulting in approximately 90% of homes having roof damage. The hail also damaged siding, vehicles, and windows. Other storms since the last plan update occurred in July 2016, July 2017 and June 2019 with hail measuring 1-2" in diameter. Hail is difficult to mitigate for as little can be done to prevent its impact on property. Public education and early notification are typically the most effective ways to prevent injury. Public education materials can be incorporated into the efforts mentioned in the previous section. The City can also encourage residents to sign up for CodeRed through the County Emergency Management and Nixle alerts from the City.

## **Dam/Levee Failure**

Dam or levee failure would have a devastating impact on the community. With three dams upstream from Montevideo, the city is perhaps more vulnerable to this disaster than most communities, but fortunately the dams are regularly inspected for their structural integrity. The Lac qui Parle dam poses the greatest risk to Montevideo should it ever fail as it holds back the largest volume of water (Lac qui Parle Lake). The Chippewa and Watson dams are smaller and hold back smaller volumes of water, but would still have an impact on the community. Any dam failure would likely impact approximately 100 residents, but it is difficult to predict the level of impact a failure would have. The City is hopeful that the flood mitigation projects it has undertaken in recent years would help mitigate for this disaster as well. The new levee at the wastewater treatment plant was designed to be 10-12" higher than the highest flood crest (1997) and should go a long way in preventing flooding to the facility. The planning committee estimated that the community had approximately 24 hours to prepare if the Lac qui Parle dam

should fail. This would give residents a chance to remove some personal belongings and evacuate. It may be helpful to have an evacuation plan in place to notify and give residents a chance to seek shelter elsewhere. While this disaster would be significant, the probability of it happening is quite low due to continuous monitoring mentioned above.

### **Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat tends to have the most impact on the extremely young and the elderly alike. Heat related illness, such as heat stroke, dehydration, and nausea are common effects on those who fail to take precaution during extreme heat events. Perhaps the greatest risk associated with this disaster is having an extended period of time without power. The planning committee said there have been periods of above normal heat in recent years that resulted in people calling City Hall asking where they could go to cool off. The City has historically directed residents to large stores such as Wal-Mart to cool off. They also noted that a few churches in the community have opened their doors as cooling stations if conditions warrant. The nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities that house vulnerable populations are equipped with back up generators to keep their residents safe and cool. The City could distribute public education materials via their website or utility billings in conjunction with the spring storms materials which would educate residents on how to stay safe during extremely hot, humid conditions. During extreme heat events, the City could also issue notifications via Nixle to inform residents on where they can seek shelter to stay cool.

### **Drought**

In recent years, Chippewa County has experienced periods of “severe” and “extreme” drought (source: Drought.gov), but as weather patterns change, timely rainfall has historically helped alleviate any major concerns. At the time of this plan, Chippewa County is considered to be in “moderate” drought conditions. The City’s utility department noted that the city water levels have dropped about 1.5’ in the past two years. The City has a water restriction ordinance that it could enact and enforce if conditions require. If dry conditions persist to the point of inadequate water levels, the City would enact their water conservation notice and likely engage in planning discussions with rural water on an alternative water source. The City has also had conversations with the National Guard Armory and local Culligan franchise about providing water buffalos or portable tanks for public use.

### **Lightning**

Lightning occurs very frequently across the Midwest including in Chippewa County. The main impact lightning causes is fire, tree damage and property damage, specifically to electrical systems. While lightning occurs every year, most lightning strikes do not result in property damage. The planning committee could not recall any damaging lightning strikes in the community since the last plan update. The City is equipped with back up generation to operate most essential facilities during power outages and has started to look into providing back-up power to the Public Works Building as it could be a good location for an emergency command



center in the event of a major disaster. City facilities' electrical systems are currently grounded, and electronics are protected with surge protection. Both of these measures will help reduce the impact of lightning damage. It would be a good practice to continue to ensure that any new City facilities include electrical grounding and continue to provide surge protection for essential electronic equipment such as computers and communication equipment. Also, providing some public education during severe weather awareness week in April would remind residents to stay safe during severe thunderstorms. This could be done via Nixle, utility billings or the City's website.

### **Winter Storms**

Minnesota winters can be very harsh and severe winter storms can be expected on an annual basis. Heavy snow can stress roofs, ice and blowing snow can make travel dangerous and adding extremely cold temperatures can result in some of the most dangerous conditions the Midwest has to offer. As mentioned earlier, the City enforces their building code which helps to ensure that roofs are built to withstand snow loads. Probably the main impact that winter storm events have on the community is impeding transportation routes within and outside of the community. Montevideo is the location of the intersections of U.S. Highways 59 and 212 as well as State Highways 7 and 29. State Highway 7 is a heavily travelled east-west route between Montevideo and Clara City. Many residents rely on this highway to commute between the two communities daily. The flat topography of the area does little to stop snow from blowing across the highway, greatly reducing visibility.

The planning committee noted a couple of major storms since the last plan update. In February of 2019, significant snowfall amounts along with strong winds and ice build-up. More recently on December 23, 2020 a winter storm producing heavy snow totals, strong winds and plummeting temperatures resulted in many stranded travelers outside of the community. The falling snow and 60mph winds produced extremely dangerous travel conditions. In addition, the storm was not forecasted and caught the area by surprise. Events like this are possible in any given year. Within the community, the City's main priority is to keep main arterial streets clear, especially routes to the hospital should they be needed. The City uses Nixle to inform residents when the snow removal ordinance is in effect. They also send out mailings to residents at the start of the winter season with helpful reminders about snow removal and keeping safe in inclement weather. As mentioned in the previous section, the City feels the Public Works building would be an ideal location for an emergency command center, but is currently lacking a back up power source. The City is investigating the possibility of providing back up power to the building in the near future.

### **Erosion, Landslides, and Mudslides**

Montevideo's location along the river valleys presents some steeply sloped areas throughout the community. The main area of concern would be the area to the east of downtown, behind the buildings on the east side of North First Street, where there is a steep slope. The area is currently supported with retaining walls, but they are beginning to be some signs of weakening.

If the wall would fail completely, the downtown area and nearby homes would be severely impacted. The City continues to monitor the structural stability of the wall and will address as needed. The City could also investigate regulatory ways, such as their zoning ordinance, to prevent future development on unstable grades or slopes.

### **Coastal Erosion and Flooding**

The planning committee eliminated this disaster from its strategy as there are no coasts located in or near the community.

### **Land Subsidence (Sinkholes and Karst)**

The planning committee eliminated this disaster from its strategy as this type of landform is not present in the community.

### **Extreme Cold**

Like winter storms, extremely cold temperatures are almost an annual occurrence as well. Freezing water pipes, frostbite, hypothermia are the greatest threats from extreme cold. In Minnesota, it is also common to see an increase in fires as people sometimes heat their homes in unsafe ways. Frozen water pipes are another common problem when there are extended periods of extremely cold temperatures and can result in significant property damage. Educating residents on extreme cold weather safety is the best way to keep people safe. Warning them about frostbite and hypothermia as well as how to keep water pipes from freezing and bursting via mailings or the City website would likely be beneficial. Another way to keep residents safe is to notify them of available resources during prolonged periods of below normal temperatures. The City could provide this information via Nixle and/or the City's website as conditions warrant. As mentioned earlier, facilities that house the vulnerable populations such as the elderly and disabled are equipped with back up power to provide heat and continued care.

### **Earthquakes**

The planning committee eliminated this disaster from its strategy due to the extremely low likelihood of an earthquake occurring.

## **Human-caused or Technological Disasters**

### **Infectious Diseases**

As the recent Coronavirus pandemic showed, infectious diseases can be quite disruptive to society and very unpredictable. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Montevideo had not experienced a widespread disease outbreak of that magnitude in recent history. There are occasional outbreaks of influenza, but those cases are fairly isolated in nature and health providers and caregivers are familiar with treatment. Vaccinations for various illnesses have also helped to reduce the possibility of widespread outbreaks. In the event of a widespread outbreak, the community would likely rely on outside resources for assistance such as Countryside Public Health or MN Department of Health. The committee noted that during the recent pandemic, they realized how important having an adequate supply of personal protective equipment was. During an outbreak, the City's main goal would be to keep essential governmental functions operating as best they can. Having recently been through a pandemic, the City is better equipped and trained for this type of disaster. They have established protocols for cleaning and sanitizing public spaces and playground equipment. Having communication channels available would also be helpful to notify residents of important updates should residents need to isolate or shelter in place. Again, getting residents to sign up for Nixle alerts would be one way to get updates out quickly. It would also be beneficial for emergency responders to continue to participate in any training opportunities with local agencies and departments related to this type of disaster.

### **Structural Fire**

In the past year, the planning committee could recall a couple of structural fires in the community, one being a complete loss. Structural fires in the community are somewhat rare, but do happen regularly. As mentioned in the Wildfire section, the department is well staffed with volunteers, has mutual aid agreements in place with neighboring departments, is well equipped for their needs and has an aerial truck for larger structural fires. The fire department works with the school and local businesses on education and prevention throughout the year and especially in the fall during fire prevention week. The department tries to take a proactive approach to working with local businesses by annually touring larger facilities to become familiar with their layouts. The department also conducts weekly training for its volunteers. Something that was identified in the 2015 plan was the lack of a fire suppression system at City Hall. The public works building, water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities are equipped with fire suppression systems, but the City Hall building is not. Installing this type of system is something that the City would still like to consider. While installing a system would be expensive and inconvenient, it would provide an added layer of safety for an essential community facility and those who work there.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Montevideo's location near several busy highways as well as having the Twin Cities and Western railroad on the southwestern part of the city, presents several opportunities for a

transported hazardous materials event to occur. There are also several stationary locations including within the industrial park, medical facilities and agricultural industries (anhydrous ammonia) that have larger quantities of hazardous materials. Staying up to date with training and planning is key to responding and keeping people safe. One potential issue involving a hazardous materials incident on one of the highways is that transportation routes in and out of town would be impacted as there are a limited number of entry/exit routes. The planning committee also noted that there are a couple of city well sites within proximity to one of the highways and could be at risk would an accident ever occur at that location. Keeping emergency responders well trained for this type of emergency is important as a quick response and coordination with other agencies can help limit the impact of this type of disaster.

### **Water Supply Contamination**

The City has fortunately not had any water supply contamination events in its past history. The City does its best to secure and protect its water source, treatment, storage and distribution from unwanted tampering. Any contamination of the wells would be fairly catastrophic as it most likely would be long lasting and a new water supply would need to be secured quickly. The water treatment plant is well secured as there are separate locked entries to each section within the structure as well an intrusion alarm. The City plans to continue to update its wellhead protection plan as required by the state and secure and protect its wells and facilities from tampering or contamination.

### **Wastewater Treatment System Failure**

The City has not experienced any major failures of its wastewater treatment system. Wastewater collections and treatment is one of the essential services the City provides. Any failures or interruptions in service would have a negative impact on households and/or businesses likely leading to costly clean up and health and safety issues. If this were to occur on a large scale and for a prolonged period of time, the City may be forced to bypass the treatment process and be forced to discharge wastewater directly into Chippewa River. If this last resort solution was necessary, the Public Utilities department would need to follow all state and federal requirements during this process as it would have a significant negative impact on the local waterways and environment.

### **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

The City has not had any past instances or significant threats of terrorism or attack within the community other than a few minor incidents involving local residents. The planning committee did not consider Montevideo to be a prime target for any kind of attack. However, Montevideo may be slightly more at risk due to the presence of the Chippewa County Courthouse as governmental facilities are sometimes the targets of upset individuals or groups. The planning committee felt the City was about as prepared as feasibly possible and would continue with their efforts and adjust to new threats as they arise. City Hall has improved their pedestrian access by securing and staffing the main entrance. In addition, the City's computer system is

protected by anti-virus/malware software to protect against external cyber attacks. The City prioritizes the health and safety of all its employees, especially those that work out in public spaces like the public works and utilities departments.

## City of Watson Hazard Mitigation Strategies Summary

### GOALS

- Goal 1: Reduce threat of wildfires in the community
- Goal 2: Reduce impacts of windstorms on structures and power supply
- Goal 3: Reduce impacts of tornados on people, properties and local economy
- Goal 4: Reduce the risk of bodily injury due to hail
- Goal 5: Reduce impacts of Extreme Heat on vulnerable residents
- Goal 6: Reduce impact of drought conditions on residents of Watson
- Goal 7: Reduce impacts of lightning on people and property
- Goal 8: Reduce impacts of Winter Storms on People, Property and Businesses
- Goal 9: Reduce impacts of Extreme Cold on People, Property and Businesses
- Goal 10: Keep residents safe during infectious disease outbreaks
- Goal 11: Reduce property damage and personal injury related to structural fire
- Goal 12: Reduce impact of hazardous materials incidents on residents and environment
- Goal 13: Reduce likelihood of public water supply contamination
- Goal 14: Provide continuous wastewater collection to residents and business while protecting local water quality
- Goal 15: Protect City data/records from online threats

### STRATEGIES/ACTIONS

**Time Frame definitions:** Short term – 1-2 years; Mid term – 3-5 years; Long term - >5 years  
**Other definitions:** “Internal” – occurs as part of normal budgeted activities  
 County EM – County Emergency Management  
 DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 DPH – Minnesota Department of Health

ACTION #	STRATEGIES	Time Frame	Responsible Entity	Estimated Cost	Funding Partner	Priority	Disaster
1.	Continue to enforce the City’s nuisance ordinance, especially related to overgrown lawns and vegetation/trees/bushes	Ongoing	City Council	Internal	City	Low	Wildfire
2.	Discuss possibility of housing firefighting equipment/vehicle in Watson with Montevideo Fire Dept.	Long range	City, Montevideo FD	Internal	City	Low	Wildfire
3.	Continued enforcement of State Building Code on new building/remodeling projects	Ongoing	City staff/City Council	Internal	City	Medium	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms, structural fire

4.	Continue to notify Xcel Energy of tree branches/limbs near powerlines	Ongoing	City	Internal	Xcel Energy	<b>Medium</b>	Windstorms, tornados, winter storms
5.	Investigate possibility of building a new City maintenance shop/emergency operations center	Long range	City	\$500,000	USDA (Comm. Facilities), City	<b>Low</b>	All
6.	Send out information about CodeRed and encourage sign-up via utility bills	Ongoing	City, County EM	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	All
7.	Provide a community safe room for residents without basements	Long term	City	\$40,000-\$50,000	City, FEMA (HMGP, BRIC)	<b>Low</b>	Windstorms, tornados
8.	Ensure that outdoor warning siren is in working order	Annually	County EM	Internal	County EM	<b>High</b>	Windstorms, tornados
9.	Distribute public education information in utility bills	Annually	City staff	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Windstorms, tornados, extreme heat/cold, hail, lightning, fire
10.	Designate Community Building as community shelter if needed during or after disaster events and equip with basic supplies (water, non-perishable items, fans, blankets, etc.)	As needed	City, County EM	<\$250	City	<b>Low</b>	Windstorms, tornados, extreme heat/cold, winter storms
11.	Issue water restriction notice during times of drought to conserve water supply	As needed	City Council, City Clerk	Internal	City	<b>Low</b>	Drought
12.	Ensure that City-owned assets and facilities are insured to appropriate replacement values	Annually	City Council, City Clerk	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	All
13.	Encourage residents to sign up for CodeRed alerts through County Emergency Management	Annually	City, County EM	Internal	City, County EM	<b>High</b>	All
14.	Establish a community calling tree/chain to check on each other immediately after a disaster	2024	City Council	Internal	City	<b>Low</b>	Windstorms, tornados, extreme heat/cold, winter storms
15.	Distribute public education materials via utility billings to educate public on best practices during major disease outbreak	As necessary	City Clerk	<\$500	City	<b>Low</b>	Infectious disease outbreaks
16.	Public education campaign to have residents check smoke alarm batteries	October (annually)	City Council	Internal	City	<b>Medium</b>	Structural fire
17.	Provide new smoke alarms for all residents	2024	City Council	\$1,000	City/Grant funds (TBD)	<b>Low</b>	Structural fire



18.	Assess need for satellite fire station in Watson	2025	City Council	Internal	City	<b>Low</b>	Wildfire, structural fire
19.	Continue to secure and monitor water treatment facility	Ongoing	City Public Works	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Hazardous materials, water supply contamination
20.	Update City's wellhead protection plan	2024	City Council, Public Works	<\$2,500	City	<b>High</b>	Water supply contamination
21.	Acquire back-up generator for wastewater lift station	2025	City Council	\$65,000	City, FEMA (HMGP, BRIC)	<b>Medium</b>	Wastewater
22.	Continue to protect City computer with anti-virus software	Annually	City Clerk	\$100	City	<b>High</b>	Terrorism/civil disturbance/cyber attack
23.	Continue to protect utility data by keeping data locally stored	Annually	City Clerk	Internal	City	<b>High</b>	Terrorism/civil disturbance/cyber attack

## **City of Watson: Mitigation Goals and Strategies Discussion Summary**

### **Natural Disasters**

#### **Flooding**

The City's planning committee did not feel that flooding was an issue in the community due to its location on high ground. It was noted that there are a few homes with sump pumps, but they could not recall a time when there had been any flooding in the community. The nearby Chippewa River is located at a much lower elevation than the city, so it is not considered a threat. Any ponding that has occurred has happened on undeveloped land within the city and has not resulted in any property damage.

#### **Wildfires**

The planning committee noted that the greatest risk for wildfire would be from the north and northeast areas of the community as these areas have more grasslands/natural vegetation, but is still a fairly minimal risk. Fire response services are provided by the nearby Montevideo Fire Department. The DNR also has firefighting equipment nearby at the Lac qui Parle State Park. No firefighting equipment is currently stored or housed in Watson. The committee said the City has been happy with Montevideo's response times as they have typically been under 10 minutes. With that in mind, the City may consider discussing the possibility of housing some basic firefighting equipment/vehicle in Watson with the Montevideo Fire Department to increase efficiencies.

#### **Windstorms**

The severe windstorm in May 2022 was fresh on the committee members' minds as there was significant damage in the community. The derecho windstorm resulted in several tipped utility poles (fortunately none broke), downed trees including two that fell on top of homes. The community was without power for one and a half days. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported. To reduce the impacts of windstorms, the City should continue to enforce the State Building Code as part of their building permit approval process to ensure structures are built properly and to withstand various limits of the Minnesota climate. In addition, keeping tree branches and limbs trimmed and away from powerlines will prevent them from falling on them and causing power outages and/or bodily injury. Xcel Energy is the electric provider for the community and handles all tree trimming around their powerlines. Many times, City staff or residents notify Xcel of branches nearing the lines. Xcel is usually responsive and sends out a trimming crew in a timely manner. Both actions can be done at little to no cost.

#### **Tornados**

Watson is fortunate not to have had any tornados in its history. City officials estimate that about one-third of the homes in Watson lack basements, making these residents more vulnerable to tornados. Due to the violent forces of tornados, sometimes little can be done to avoid the destruction caused by them. One way to protect residents from bodily harm is to ensure they are notified of impending severe weather. This can be

done locally by sounding the tornado siren. The local siren is operated by the County sheriff's office. Another warning system that is utilized by the County is CodeRed system, which sends alerts to cell phones for tornado and blizzard warnings only. The notifications are only sent to those who sign up for the service. According to the County Emergency Management Department, approximately 4,900 residents are signed up for CodeRed notifications at the time of this document. The City felt that they could send out information about CodeRed with their utility bills and encourage residents to sign up. Another way to protect residents is to provide an emergency shelter or safe room. With approximately 25-30 homes without basements, a community safe room would provide safety to those in the community during a tornado. The planning committee felt that the greatest need for a shelter would be on the north end of town as that is where the majority of the homes without basements are located. The City owns a couple of empty lots in that area that could serve as potential sites for a shelter. Based on the number of homes estimated without basements, the shelter would need to be approximately 300 to 400 square feet in area. Funding assistance would be necessary as the small community does not have the resources to fund a shelter on its own.

## **Hail**

In addition to the strong winds, the severe thunderstorms in May 2022 also produced some large hail causing widespread roof damage in the community. The planning committee estimated about half the town needed to have their shingles replaced due to hail damage. Little can be done to mitigate against large hailstones. To keep people safe, the City plans to educate the public about the dangers of hail and what to do in the event of a hailstorm. These efforts can be included in the City's utility bills at little to no extra cost.

## **Dam/Levee Failure**

This disaster was eliminated from Watson's list of strategies as the planning committee did not feel a dam/levee failure could impact the community.

## **Extreme Heat**

Extreme heat tends to have the most impact on the extremely young and the elderly alike. Perhaps the greatest risk associated with this disaster is having an extended period of time without power. One of the benefits of a smaller community like Watson is that in most instances, residents are good about checking on friends, neighbors and families during extreme heat events and ensuring that people in need of assistance are cared for. While somewhat rare, a power outage during an extremely hot period of summer is possible either due to an overwhelming demand for electricity (as there tends to be more usage from people running air conditioning units) or perhaps immediately after a severe thunderstorm. In these cases, it may be beneficial for the City to establish a community shelter and have it powered by a generator. The Community Building was mentioned as a possible location. A generator to power some fans and have the shelter equipped with water and a few essentials until power is restored would be

recommended. Public education efforts can make residents aware of this option and can also be utilized to educate them on how to stay safe during the summer months. There are also a couple of sources of support that can be accessed if need during a community disaster. The Chippewa County Emergency Management Department has a large portable generator that can be dispatched if necessary. Also, the City belongs to a consortium of local municipalities through MN Rural Water that shares community resources if needed, such as tools, equipment and machinery.

### **Drought**

Local officials state that they have been fortunate to have a reliable source of water for the community and that even during the driest of times, well levels remained fairly stable. The most the well level has dropped in recent years is around 1.5', but tend to rebound relatively quickly. During drought conditions, the City can issue water conservation or restriction notices in an effort to preserve existing water levels. However, the planning committee noted that many residents consider the current water rates to be high and as a result, very few homeowners water their lawns or use water needlessly.

### **Lightning**

Lightning has caused some damage to the City's infrastructure in recent history. In 2022, a lightning strike took out both pumps and the control board at the City's wastewater lift station causing \$60,000 in damage. In addition, the City's pumphouse which is critical in providing water to residents and businesses, was struck by lightning in 2017 causing a brief interruption in service. City employees were able to reset the system and get things running again with no notable damage. While there is little that can be done to offset the damage caused by lightning, the City plans to ensure their assets and facilities are adequately insured as lightning damage can cause.

### **Winter Storms**

As discussed elsewhere in this plan, winter storms can be very dangerous in Minnesota. Heavy snow amounts, blowing snow, ice and cold temperatures can all contribute to severe conditions. Winter storms can shut down transportation systems, cause power outages, and result in bodily harm (frostbite, hypothermia). Being aware of weather impending weather conditions is usually the best way to minimize the impacts of winter storms. Watson is not exempt from experiencing winter storms. Like much of the upper Midwest, the community tends to experience at least one or two major winter storms per year. December 23, 2020 was the most recent significant winter storm in the area as it came about with little warning. Strong winds blew snow creating drifts and limited visibility. Travel was not advised and many motorists were stranded in the area. As mentioned with other disasters, public education and advanced warning is key in keeping residents safe. As part of the City's public education efforts, information can be distributed about how to sign up for CodeRed notifications as it alerts cell phones during tornado and blizzard events and can advise residents to plan ahead or stay home.

during severe winter storm events. Another action the community could take is to organize a calling tree to check on everyone in the community. Given Watson's smaller size, this could be done relatively easily and would help to check on residents, especially those that may be more vulnerable. Utilizing the Community Building as a shelter was also included in the City's strategy, but was not a major priority as almost everyone has family, friends or neighbors nearby that look out for each other and can provide shelter if needed. To aid in this effort, the City could organize a calling chain to activate during severe events to have residents check on each other. Another action the City can take to reduce damage caused by winter storms is to enforce the Minnesota State Building Code. This will ensure that roofs are built to withstand the heavy snow loads that occur almost every winter season. Heavy, wet snow can be a major stress to roofs and frequently cause older, weaker roofs to collapse under the weight. Ensuring that appropriate trusses are being utilized will help minimize this from occurring.

### **Erosion, Landslides and Mudslides**

This disaster was eliminated from Watson's list of strategies as the City does not feel it is a threat to them due to their relatively flat topography.

### **Coastal Erosion and Flooding**

This disaster was eliminated from Watson's list of strategies as the City is not located near any coast or large bodies of water.

### **Land Subsidence (Sinkholes)**

This disaster was eliminated from Watson's list of strategies as the City is not located near landforms that are conducive to sinkholes. These areas are primarily located in the southeast part of Minnesota.

### **Extreme Cold**

Much like the Winter Storms section above, extreme cold shares many of the same strategies. While the disasters are different as this only involves temperature, the strategies are the same due to the similar threats they pose. During extreme cold temperatures, people are usually advised to stay home, limit travel and plan ahead. Cold weather events are typically forecasted days in advance which gives residents plenty of time to prepare. The Watson planning committee felt that most of the strategies from the winter storm section could also apply here with exception of CodeRed sign-ups as the County does not issue alerts for cold temperatures, just blizzards and tornados.

### **Earthquakes**

This disaster was eliminated from Watson's list of strategies due to the extreme unlikelihood of an earthquake occurring.

## **Human Caused Disasters**

### **Infectious Diseases**

The recent global pandemic brought this disaster to the forefront of almost every community's list of human-caused disasters. While there had been regional outbreaks of various diseases such as influenza, there had been nothing as widespread as the coronavirus pandemic. During the pandemic, our nation learned how to slow the spread of the virus by masking, distancing and sanitizing. Should a similar event occur in the coming years, the general public is now in a better position to slow the spread of aerosol spread diseases than they were prior to the coronavirus pandemic. Due to the small size of Watson, it would likely rely on outside resources such as Countryside Public Health or other public health agencies for assistance. The City could distribute educational materials via their utility billings if necessary, but other than that they lack the resources to adequately respond to a major disease outbreak.

### **Structural Fire**

As a small community, Watson does not have an extensive history of structural fires. The planning committee could only recall one structural fire in the last 20 years. The City no longer has its own fire department and is currently served by the Montevideo Fire Department. The City has been pleased with this arrangement and noted that the average response time has been approximately 10 minutes if not sooner. The City has considered looking into putting up a satellite fire station to house some firefighting equipment and maybe a vehicle, but due to the satisfactory fire response provided by the Montevideo Fire Department and lack of funding, it is not a high priority at this time. Since the City no longer has its own fire department, one activity they could do is look into providing residents with free smoke alarms for their homes. It was suggested that they could look for a small grant to help offset the cost of this activity. They also plan to remind residents to check their current smoke alarms each fall via the City utility bills.

### **Hazardous Materials**

The City has been fortunate not to have had any major hazardous materials incidents in recent history. The community may be slightly more at risk than an average community due to their location on U.S. Highway 59 and with the Twin Cities and Western Railroad running through the center of town. However, the planning committee noted that they did not feel that the amount of hazardous materials transported through the community was more than average and that it was mostly fuel tankers. Within the community, there are two known facilities that store hazardous materials. One is the water treatment facility which houses concentrated amounts of chemicals such as fluoride and chlorine, but the City has taken measures to secure and protect these chemicals and those working around them. The community also has a small gas station along Highway 59, which also poses a minor risk of a hazardous materials incident if a fuel spill were to occur. Should a spill or some kind of hazardous material release occur, County Emergency Management would be contacted to handle the situation. There is a response team out of Marshall that can be dispatched if necessary.

### **Water Supply Contamination**

The City of Watson provides water to the community. Fortunately, there have not been any past events related to water supply contamination. Its wells and tanks are secured and monitored to ensure the City's water supply is not compromised and is safe for consumption. In addition, the City has a wellhead protection plan in place to limit and prevent potential sources of contaminants to the City's water supply and respond in the event the supply is threatened. The City is slated to update their wellhead protection plan soon as communities are required to update their plans every ten years.

### **Wastewater Collection System Failure**

The City of Watson pipes its wastewater to Montevideo for treatment. To date, the City's system has performed adequately and has not caused any issues. The City's lift station can be operated by a portable generator in the event of a prolonged power outage. However, if the generator is needed at the pump house for the water system, the lift station is left somewhat vulnerable. The City would like to acquire an additional back-up generator for their wastewater lift station. This would ensure that all essential services could operate during a prolonged power outage. The cost of a new generator is estimated to be approximately \$65,000, so funding assistance would likely be required.

### **Civil Disturbance/Terrorism/Cyber Attack**

The City has not experienced any type of civil disturbance, terrorism or cyber-attack to date. Due to its small size and rural nature, the committee did not think any such event would be very likely. However, with the increased reliance on the internet, a large scale cyber attack would almost certainly have an impact on large geographic areas. Locally, the City has taken measures to protect its data as all of the utility information is stored locally and not remotely in the cloud or other external network. City computers are also protected with anti-virus/malware software to provide protection against most potential external threats. While these programs are not always 100% effective, they do provide good protection against most online threats.

## **Appendix VIII**

### *Adopting Resolutions*