

**Town Of Washington, VT
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
Created August 2013 – Adopted April 2014
Prepared by the Town of Washington and CVPRC**

1. Introduction	2
2. Purpose	2
3. Community Profile	2
4. Planning Process and Maintenance	4
4.1 Planning Process	4
4.2 Plan Maintenance	5
5. Community Vulnerability by Hazard	6
5.1 Hazard Identification.....	6
5.2 Worst Threat Hazards	8
Dam Failure	8
Flooding/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion	9
Structure Fire	11
5.3 Moderate Threat Hazards	12
Tornado	12
6. Mitigation.....	13
6.1 Municipal Plan (2013) Goals and Policies that Support Local Hazard Mitigation.....	13
6.2 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Programs, Projects and Activities	15
Attachments.....	16
Areas of Local Concern Map	18
CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION	19

1. Introduction

The impact of expected, but unpredictable natural and human-caused events can be reduced through community planning. The goal of this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide a local mitigation plan that makes the Town of Washington more disaster resistant.

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards and their effects. Based on the results of previous Project Impact efforts, FEMA and State agencies have come to recognize that it is less expensive to prevent disasters than to repeatedly repair damage after a disaster has struck. This Plan recognizes that communities have opportunities to identify mitigation strategies and measures during all of the other phases of emergency management – preparedness, response, and recovery. Hazards cannot be eliminated, but it is possible to determine what the hazards are, where the hazards are most severe and identify local actions that can be taken to reduce the severity of the hazard.

Hazard mitigation strategies and measures alter the hazard by eliminating or reducing the frequency of occurrence, avert the hazard by redirecting the impact by means of a structure or land treatment, adapt to the hazard by modifying structures or standards, or avoid the hazard by preventing or limiting development.

This Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted as a single jurisdiction plan and is the Town of Washington's first hazard mitigation planning effort. Washington has not previously been part of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning process.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is to assist the Town of Washington in recognizing hazards facing the region and their community and identify strategies to begin reducing risks from acknowledged hazards. The long term and overall goal of this plan is to protect life and property from harm/damages caused by natural and man-made disasters.

3. Community Profile

The Town of Washington is 38.8 square miles and is located in the northwest quadrant of Orange County. It is bordered by Orange to the north, Corinth to the east, Chelsea to the south and Williamstown to the west. As stated in the *Washington Town Plan, 2013* ("municipal plan") Washington is "rugged and picturesque" and "hilly but not mountainous." It is about 84% forested, with only about 3% of its land area developed. Approximately 13% of Washington's land area is cropland, pasture, or open land. Wetlands and surface waters comprise less than one percent of the Town's total area. With about 1,400 feet of topographical relief, Washington is located at the headwaters of three watersheds: the Winooski, the Waits and the White River.

As stated in the Town Plan "Washington is one of the least populous and most rural towns in the Central Vermont Region." According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Washington has a total population of 1,039 people living in approximately 570 housing units. From 2000 to 2010 the

population had decreased by 2%. In 2010, about 15 % of residents were employed in town; Washington is primarily a bedroom community. Development in Washington is primarily limited rural residential. Washington adopted zoning in 2007 with two identifiable land use districts: a Village District and a Rural Residential District. Despite limitations of steep slopes and soils in the Rural Residential District, there are areas which are well suited for residential development, particularly along the roadways. It also has the land that is closest to the rapidly expanding Barre area. For this reason it is this district which has seen the most dramatic increase in housing starts over the past several years and where growth pressures will be most pronounced in coming years. At the time of writing this plan, no new commercial or residential developments were planned.

Vermont Route 110 is the principle vehicular transportation corridor through Washington and is the only paved road in town. The historic Village of Washington is located on Route 110 which is the hub of official activity.

The Green Mountain Power Corporation provides electrical service to residential and commercial development in the northern section of Washington, the remainder of the town is serviced by the Washington Electric Cooperative. A municipal water system provides water to 64 users and all other homes and businesses rely on individual or small-scale community wells and springs for their water supply and private waste water treatment systems. The State of Vermont now oversees all waste water permitting.

Washington does not have a local police department or a Town Constable. Washington has contracted with the Orange County Sheriff's Department located in Chelsea since 1996 for limited police protection. Residents can also call 911 in an emergency and the nearest State Police unit, K Troop Headquarters, located in Middlesex will respond.

Fire protection is provided by the Washington Volunteer Fire Department with 22 active members. The Department is a member of the Capital Fire Mutual Aid System. According to the *Town of Washington, Vermont Annual Report* Volunteer Fire Department responded to 42 calls during 2012. Washington also has a FAST Squad which responds to emergency medical situations in conjunction with the Barre Town Ambulance Service. The FAST Squad responded to a total of 63 calls during 2012 (calls from both the Towns of Orange and Washington).

Washington prepared a Rapid Response Plan early in 1999 that is updated annually, most recently on April 14th of 2013. Harry Roush is Washington's E.M. Coordinator. The Washington Village School, the Universalist Church (seasonal), the Baptist Church and the Town Offices are designated as emergency shelters. Other potential seasonal shelters include the town airport hangers.

The municipal plan, adopted in 2013, includes discussion, goals, and objectives in regards to *Physical Geography, Utilities, Facilities, and Services, and Transportation*. Washington does have zoning bylaws with two identifiable land use districts: a Village District and a Rural Residential District. No future large or small scale developments are currently planned.

4. Planning Process and Maintenance

4.1 Planning Process

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) and Town Clerk, Carol Davis, coordinated the Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan process. A meeting was held in Washington on August 13, 2013 in order to gain an inventory of the town's vulnerability to hazards and its current and future mitigations programs, projects and activities. Input was received from:

- Scott Blanchard, Select Board
- Harry Roush, Emergency Manager
- Carol Davis, Town Clerk
- Maxine Durbrow, Emergency Services
- Robert Blanchard, Select Board
- Donald Milne, Select Board
- Kim McKee, CVRPC

The meeting indicated that the Town is most vulnerable to dam failure, flood/flash flood/fluvial erosion, structure fire and tornadoes. Washington is most focused on flooding hazards as these events are the most common and most destructive.

The draft plan was made available at the Washington Town Clerks office and notice posted at both the Town Clerks Office and Post Office for a two-week public comment period. Washington does not have a public web page. The notice of the draft update was also announced on the CVRPC blog and facebook page and made available for download. An announcement of the draft update was also emailed to emergency management directors in the surrounding towns of Williamstown, Orange, Corinth and Chelsea. No comments were received. Once the plan is conditionally approved by FEMA, the plan will go before the Select Board for adoption. During future updates, additional stakeholders who provide service to the jurisdiction and major business owners will be invited to the meetings. This Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted as a single jurisdiction plan.

Existing Mitigation Programs, Projects and Activities

The ongoing or recently completed programs, projects and activities are listed by mitigation strategy and were reviewed for the development of the plan. The 2013 municipal plan, 2012 Town Report, CVRPC's past Regional Mitigation Plan, and Basic Emergency Operations Plan, and past newspaper articles were reviewed for pertinent information. The 2010 culvert and short structure inventory, Stream Geomorphic Assessments of the Stevens Branch Williamstown and Barre City Upstream of the Confluence with the Jail Branch, and Washington DFIRM maps were reviewed as well.

Community Preparedness Activities

- Rapid Response Plan/ Basic Emergency Operations Plan - 2013
- Capital Equipment Fund
- School Emergency Evacuation Plan

Insurance Programs

- Participation in NFIP

Land use Planning/Management

- Steep Slopes: Land development on slopes greater than 15% subject to Conditional Use Permit
- Protection of Rivers, Streams, and Bodies of Water: No land development shall occur within vegetated buffer strip of at least 50 ft from each bank of streams and rivers and from the shores of naturally occurring lakes and ponds except as approved by the Board of Adjustments.

Hazard Control & Protective Works of Infrastructure and Critical Facilities

- Maintenance Programs – bridge and culvert surveys
- Dry Hydrants - 8
- Clean Up Recovery Plan
- Capital Mutual Aid System

Public Awareness, Training & Education

- CPR Trainings
- School Fire Safety Program
- Fire safety educational programs
- First responder CPR & hazmat trainings

4.2 Plan Maintenance

The Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated and evaluated annually at a September Select Board meeting. Updates and evaluation by the Select Board will also occur within three months after every federal disaster declaration and as updates to town plan/zoning and river corridor plans come into effect. The plan will be reviewed by the Select Board, Town Clerk, Emergency Manager and public at the abovementioned September select board meeting. CVRPC will help with updates or if no funding is available, the Town Clerk and Emergency Manager will update the plan.

The process of evaluating and updating the plan will include continued public participation through public notices posted at the municipal offices, in the town newsletter and CVRPC newsletter and blog inviting the public to the scheduled Select Board (or specially scheduled) meeting. These efforts will be coordinated by the Town Clerk and Emergency Manager.

Updates may include changes in community mitigation strategies; new town bylaws, zoning and planning strategies; progress of implementation of initiatives and projects; effectiveness of

implemented projects or initiatives; and evaluation of challenges and opportunities. If new actions are identified in the 5 year interim period, the plan can be amended without formal re-adoption during regularly scheduled Select Board meetings.

Washington shall also consider incorporation of mitigation planning into their long term land use and development planning documents. It is recommended the Town reviews and incorporates elements of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan when updating the Municipal Plan and during development of flood hazard bylaws. The incorporation of the Local Mitigation Plan into the municipal plan, possible future zoning regulations and additional flood hazard bylaws will also be considered after declared or local disasters. The Town shall also consider reviewing future Stevens Branch Corridor planning documents for ideas on future mitigation projects and hazard areas.

5. Community Vulnerability by Hazard

5.1 Hazard Identification

The following natural disasters were discussed and the worst threat hazards were identified based upon the likelihood of the event and the community's vulnerability to the event. Hazards not identified as a "worst threat" may still occur. Greater explanations and mitigation strategies of moderate threat hazards can be found in the State of Vermont's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard	Likelihood ¹	Community Vulnerability ²	Worst Threat
Landslide	Low	No	
Dam Failures	Med	Yes	✓
Drought	Low	No	
Earthquake	Low	No	
Extreme Cold/Winter Storm/Ice Storm	Med	No	
Flood/Flash Flood/Fluvial Erosion	Med	Yes	✓
High Wind	Low	No	
Ice Jam	Low	No	
Hurricane/Severe Storms	Low	No	
Structure Fire	High	Yes	✓
Tornado	Low	Yes	
Water Supply	Low	No	

¹ High likelihood of happening: Near 100% probability in the next year.

Medium likelihood of happening: 10% to 100% probability in the next year or at least once in the next 10 years.

Low likelihood of happening: 1% to 10% probability in the next year or at least once in the next 100 years.

² Does the hazard present the threat of disaster (Yes)? Or is it just a routine emergency (No)?

Contamination			
Wildfire/Forest Fire	Med	No	

The Town of Washington identified the following disasters as presenting the worst threat to the community:

- Dam Failure
- Flash Flood/Flooding
- Structure Fire

Moderate threat hazards include:

- Tornado

A discussion of each significant hazard is included in the proceeding subsections and a map identifying the location of each hazard is attached (See map titled *Areas of Local Concern*.) Future updates will include profiles on hazards that are “highly likely.” Each subsection includes a list of past occurrences based upon County-wide FEMA Disaster Declarations (DR-#) plus information from local records, a narrative description of the hazard and a hazard matrix containing the following overview information:

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Likelihood
Type of hazard	General areas within municipality which are vulnerable to the identified hazard.	Types of structures impacted	<u>Minimal:</u> Limited and scattered property damage; no damage to public infrastructure contained geographic area (i.e., 1 or 2 communities); essential services (utilities, hospitals, schools, etc.) not interrupted; no injuries or fatalities. <u>Moderate:</u> Scattered major property damage (more than 50% destroyed); some minor infrastructure damage; wider geographic area (several communities) essential services are briefly interrupted; some injuries and/or fatalities. <u>Severe:</u> Consistent major property damage; major damage to public	Dollar value or percentage of damages.	<u>High:</u> 10% to 100% probability within the next year or at least once in the next 10 years. <u>Medium:</u> less than 10% to 100% probability within the within the next year or less than once in the next 10 years.

			infrastructure (up to several days for repairs); essential services are interrupted from several hours to several days; many injuries and fatalities.		
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5.2 Worst Threat Hazards

Dam Failure

The Hands Mill Dam is located just south of the village area of Washington on the Jail House Branch of the Winooski River. Construction on the dam was completed in 1860. The dam is of earthen construction and is approximately 20 feet high and 325 wide. The pool behind the name is approximately 2 acres and stores about 12 acre feet of water including sediments. At maximum capacity the dam stores approximately 16 acre feet of water. To date, there have been no breaches of the dam or any major failure event. However, the probability of the dam failing increases daily.

An inspection in June 2007 by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation revealed that the dam is in poor condition and continues to deteriorate. An inspection in 2001 also revealed the poor condition of the dam. The inspection reveals that the dam is considered a significant hazard, and sudden failure of the dam would cause probably loss of life and property damage. Recommendations from the report included – reconstruction of the dam; removal of the dam and restoration of the upstream channel; improved maintenance including clearing and brushing of the dam along the crest, upstream slope, downstream slop and ten feet below the dam; development of an emergency action plan to evacuate possible inundation areas and notify people downstream of the dam.

The Town of Washington would be most interested in removal of the dam, as it no longer serves a purpose. Alteration or reconstruction of the dam would require prior approval from the VT DEC as the dam impounds more than 500,000 cubic feet of water and sediment. Areas which could be inundated are Route 110, Creamery Road, the Town Clerks office, and Washington Village School. The Hazard Analysis Map highlights areas which could be affected by inundation if the dam were to break.

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
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Dam Failure	Hands Mill Dam Downstream Areas – highlighted on map	East Village center, Washington School Church, Roads downstream	Severe	\$ 2,000,000 +	Medium – Increasing daily
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Flooding/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion

Recent History of Occurrences (presidential declarations and NCDC query search information. The closest flood gauge is located in Montpelier on the Winooski River, approximately 15 miles downstream):

Date	Event	Location	Extent
8/28/2011	Flood/Tropical Storm	Statewide, Washington	Montpelier Flood gauge at 19.05 feet (flood stage is at 15 feet) DR 4022
5/27/2011	Flash Flood	Washington	Montpelier flood gauge at 17.59 feet, 3-5" of rain DR 4001
4/23/2011- 5/9/2011	Flood	Washington	DR 1995
7/2009	Flood	Washington	\$45,000 in local infrastructure damages
8/02/2008	Flash Flood	Washington	No extent data
7/11/2007	Flash Flood	Washington	3-6" of rain in 2 hrs, DR 1715
7/21/2003	Flood	County Wide	DR 1488
12/17/2000	Flood	County Wide	3" of rain, \$1 M in damages
7/14/2000	Flood	County Wide	DR 1336
9/16/1999	Tropical Storm Floyd	County Wide	Montpelier flood gauge at 9.30 feet, 5-7" rain county wide DR 1307

6/27/1998	Flash Flood	County Wide	\$5M in damages, 3-6" rain across county DR 1228
1/19/1996	Flood; ice jam	County Wide	Montpelier flood gauge at 14.64 feet
8/4/1995	Flood	County wide	Montpelier flood gauge at 6.94 feet; \$1.5M damages county wide
8/5/1976	Flood	County Wide	Montpelier flood gauge at 12.31 feet DR 518
6/30/1973	Flash Flood	Washington	Montpelier flood gauge at 17.55 feet DR 397
9/22/1938	Flood, Hurricane	County Wide	Montpelier flood gauge at 14.11 feet
11/03/1927	Flood	County Wide	Montpelier flood gauge at 27.10 feet

Washington, like other towns in Vermont, is prone to flooding and flash flooding during rainy seasons and extreme weather events. The head waters of the Jail Branch are located in Washington. The River flows north to Barre City and Barre Town where it conjoins with the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River. Two studies have been conducted on the Jail and Stevens Branch to gauge the health of the river and identify flood prone areas, where construction should be avoided, and areas constricted by bridges/culverts.

Six of the nine largest floods have occurred in the past 35 years. These floods are a result of intense cloudbursts, hurricanes and snowmelt. A USGS study found that since 1970, an increase in precipitation has occurred due to climate change.

The greatest threat to flooding is caused by changes in land use and increased development near river banks and in type A floodplain areas. Increased development and encroachment on rivers and streams leads to greater volumes stormwater runoff and greater erosion of stream banks. Improperly built private driveways also disrupt stormwater flow and can overload culverts with additional stormwater. The Hazard Analysis Map highlights 11 road/stream intersections which are consistently flooded or need repair work from flooding. Two flooding events in July 2009 caused approximately \$45,000 in damages at these stream/road intersections. The Scales Hill Road suffered the greatest amount of damage and a culvert was replaced in pre-cast concrete in 2012. Three other problem areas identified in 2011 have had bridge and culvert upgrades including Johnson Lane and the intersection of Stellar Road and Williamstown Road. However, flooding is not limited to the intersections highlighted on the map.

The most recent damaging floods were in May and August (TS Irene) of 2011. Washington suffered the most damage in the August 2011 TS Irene flood event. The following roads were damaged (repair costs included):

East Orange/Morrie Road - \$2,170.44

Notch Road - \$2,619.84

Poor Farm Road Bridge - \$2,619.84

West Corinth Road - \$18,371.11

The total documented damages from the TS Irene flood event cost about \$58,241.59 with the Town share totaling \$7,280.39. This total for the repair of the above sites went over \$1,000 each and, therefore, qualified for reimbursement from FEMA and the State of Vermont. There were other roads that were damaged and required work that impacted the 2011 road budget over and above \$7,280.39.

The stream assessments make several recommendations to prevent help decrease the likelihood of flooding and flash flooding. These recommendations are to: have a 25ft no development buffer on all waterways, replace bridges which constrict the river, develop a culvert maintenance plan, and properly manage stormwater in developed areas (consideration of soils/deposits, septic systems, channel/fluvial migration zones.) Washington does participate in the NFIP. There is no floodplain data for the town of Washington and therefore no properties have been identified as being in the floodplain. DFIRM maps do identify some limited Zone A areas. Washington also does not have record of any repetitive loss properties. There are currently no large or small developments planned in Washington that would be considered in the floodplain.

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
Flooding/ Flash Flooding/ Fluvial Erosion	Along Jail Branch and major tributaries which flow to Stevens Branch; highlighted intersections on Hazards Analysis Map	Bridges, culverts, roadways, Clerk's Office, Washington School, structures within 25 ft of waterway, See Hazard Analysis Map	Moderate	\$100,000 for roadwork depending on severity – Higher if actual buildings are damaged (based off current grand list)	Medium

Structure Fire

Seven of the calls received in 2012 by Washington's FAST squad were fire related incidents – structure, electrical and chimney fires. Although many structures in Washington are less than 100 years old, many residents heat their homes with wood or pellet burning stoves. The remoteness and distance from fire and emergency services of many homes also increases the likelihood of a home being completely, opposed to partially, destroyed by a fire. The south eastern section of the town is more remote and more forested than the northern portion of the

town. Three additional dry hydrants were installed recently at Cyr Pond on Route 110 south of the village, at the intersection of Stellar/Williamstown Roads, and at Duranleau Pond on Cheney Road. The Town Clerk's office does not have a sprinkler system, which is a great concern to Town residents. To date, there have been no large structure fires.

Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
Structure Fire	Town wide with emphasis on the south east section of town	Wood structures, especially older than 100 yrs, homes that use wood burning stoves for heat	Moderate	\$150, 000 per home based on median grand list value	Medium

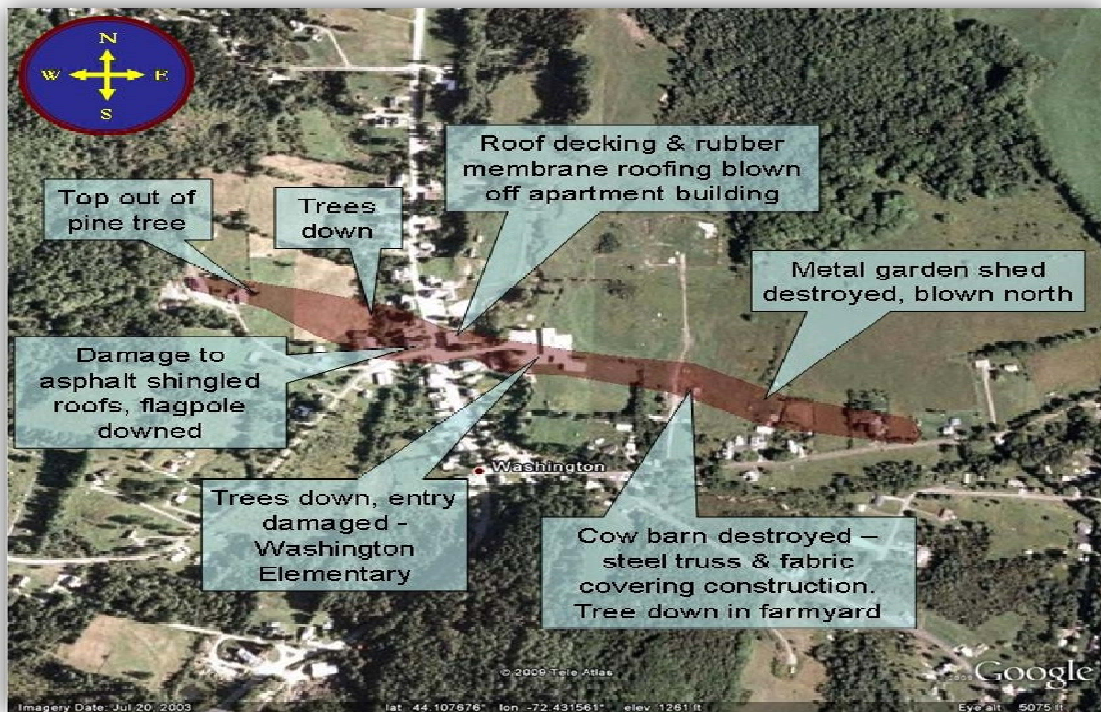
5.3 Moderate Threat Hazards

Tornado

Tornados in Vermont are especially rare due to the mountainous topography of the State. The National Weather Service reports that only about one tornado occurs in Vermont every two years. Only 32 tornadoes have occurred in Vermont between 1950 and 1995. On May 9, 2009 a tornado touched down in the northwest section of Washington. This area is highlighted on the Hazard Analysis Map. The tornado that occurred on this date was the second earliest confirmed tornado in Vermont since 1950.

The tornado was rated an EF1 on the enhanced Fujita scale and had winds around 100 mph. The path of the tornado was roughly a half mile long and traveled through the village of Washington before dissipating. No one was hurt in the tornado; however there was severe damage which occurred to trees and structures in the swath. A six unit apartment complex had its roof torn off. Damage also occurred to the roof of the Washington School in the village area. New radios were installed in 2012 to improve town-wide and inter-town communications in the case of an extreme weather event or hazard incident such as a tornado.

The picture below is courtesy of the National Weather Service, and highlights the damage that occurred along the tornado path.



Hazard	Location	Vulnerability	Extent	Impact	Probability
Tornado	Valley areas, but hard to pinpoint exactly	Any structure in Path – mobile homes, multi-story buildings, older/historic structures	Minimal	\$750,000	Low

6. Mitigation

6.1 Municipal Plan (2013) Goals and Policies that Support Local Hazard Mitigation

- To plan for the public investment in the construction or expansion of infrastructure such as fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools and solid waste disposal, and others, to meet future needs should reinforce the general character and planned growth patterns of the town.
- To provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respects the integrity of the natural environment.
- To protect and preserve important natural and historic, recreational, scenic and cultural features of the landscape including air, water, wildlife, and land resources.

- Trees and other vegetation along streams, rivers, and lake shores serve to: protect property from flood flow and ice jams, prevent bank erosion, enhance aesthetic appeal, and maintain the oxygen level of the water for fish habitat and effluent assimilation capacity. For these reasons, undisturbed areas of vegetation should be retained and encouraged along the banks of surface waters.

The next time the Town of Washington updates its Municipal Plan, it may consider adding additional mitigation goals.

The goals of this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan are:

- To take actions to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from:
 - Dam failure
 - Flooding/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion
 - Structure Fire
 - Tornado

Specific hazard mitigation strategies related to goals of the Plan include:

- Ensure existing and future drainage systems are adequate and functioning properly
- Preserve and prevent development in areas where natural hazard potential is high
- Provide residents with adequate warning of potential hazards
- Ensure that all residents and business owners are aware of the hazards that exist within Washington and ways they can protect themselves and insure their property
- Ensure that emergency response services and critical facilities functions are not interrupted by natural hazards
- Provide adequate communication systems for emergency personnel and response units

Hazard mitigation is a relatively new planning topic to Washington. Over the course of the next five years, Washington will look into incorporating more mitigation planning into their daily planning activities and projects. The mitigation goals and strategies outlined in this Local Mitigation Plan are the first steps in making Washington more disaster resistant. The hazards identified in this plan cause the greatest impacts and damage and are the priority hazards for the Town of Washington. In order to have continuous achievement of mitigation goals and implementation mitigation strategies, the Town will spend time each year assessing progress of and future funding sources for the outlined mitigation strategies. This session can be performed during Town Meeting Day or an annual session of another set date can be held during a public Select Board Meeting.

6.2 Proposed Hazard Mitigation Programs, Projects and Activities

Hazard mitigation programs, projects and activities that were identified for implementation at the Town Local Hazard Mitigation meeting are:

Hazard Mitigated	Mitigation Action	Local Leadership	Prioritization	Possible Resources	Time Frame
Dam Failure	Removal of Hands Mill Dam	Select board, ANR,	High	HMGP	ASAP – no more than 2 years
Dam Failure	Development of Cleanup Recovery Plan	Select board, road dept, fire dept	Med	VEM, Red Cross,	2-3 years
Flooding/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion	Replacement and expansion of highlighted problem culverts as prioritized by the Select Board	Select Board, Road Crew	Med	HMGP, general fund	3-4 years
Flooding/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion	Development of flood bylaws	Select Board	Med	CVRPC	2-3 years
Structure Fire	Improved fire education materials for homeowners	Select board, fire department, Washington school children	Med	FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program	2 years
Structure Fire	Installation of E911 number signs	Road crew	Med	General fund	1-2 years
Structure Fire	Sprinkler systems for municipal buildings	Select board, fire department	Low	Dept of Homeland Security	4 years
Structure Fire	Communications Sign	Select board, volunteers, fire department	Med	Dept of Homeland Security, general fund	2 years
Tornado	Installation of mobile home tie downs	Select board, fire department, home owners	Low	HMGP	4-5 years

Flooding/Flash Flooding/Fluvial Erosion	Participate in Community Rating System	Select board, planning commission	Med	General fund	3 years
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VEM also emphasizes a collaborative approach to achieving mitigation on the local level, by partnering with ANR, VTrans, ACCD, Regional Planning Commissions, FEMA Region 1 and other agencies, all working together to provide assistance and resources to towns interested in pursuing mitigation projects and planning initiatives.

The Hazard Mitigation Activities Matrix (Attached) lists mitigation activities in regards to local leadership, possible resources, implementation tools, and prioritization. Prioritization was based upon the economic impact of the action, the Community's need to address the issue, the action's cost, and the availability of potential funding. The action's cost was evaluated in relation to its benefit as outlined in the STAPLEE³ guidelines.

Washington understands that in order to apply for FEMA funding for mitigation projects, a project must meet FEMA benefit cost criteria. In addition, the Town must also have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

A High prioritization denotes that the action is either critical or potential funding is readily available and should have a timeframe of implementation of less than two years. A Medium prioritization is warranted where the action is less critical or the potential funding is not readily available and has a timeframe for implementation of more than two years but less than four. A Low prioritization indicates that the timeframe for implementation of the action, given the action's cost, availability of funding, and the community's need to address the issue, is more than four years.

Attachments

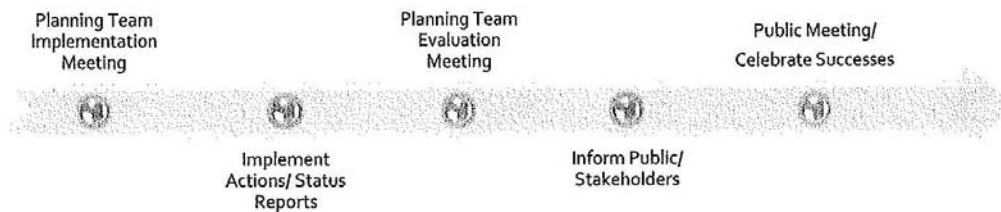
- Areas of Local Concern Map
- 5 year plan maintenance and review process
- Town Resolution Adopting the Plan

³ A method of evaluating mitigation actions based on Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Economic, Environmental criteria

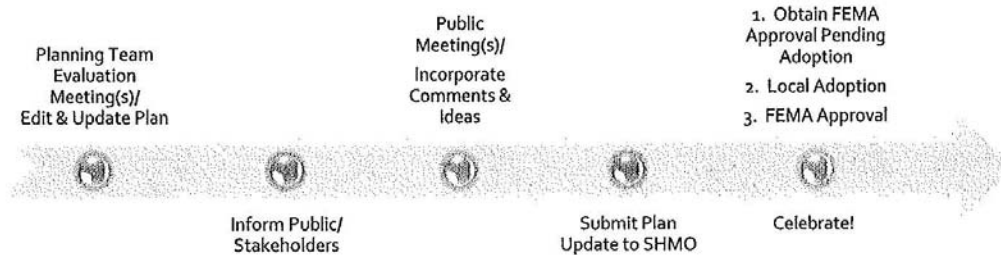
5-Year Plan Review/Maintenance



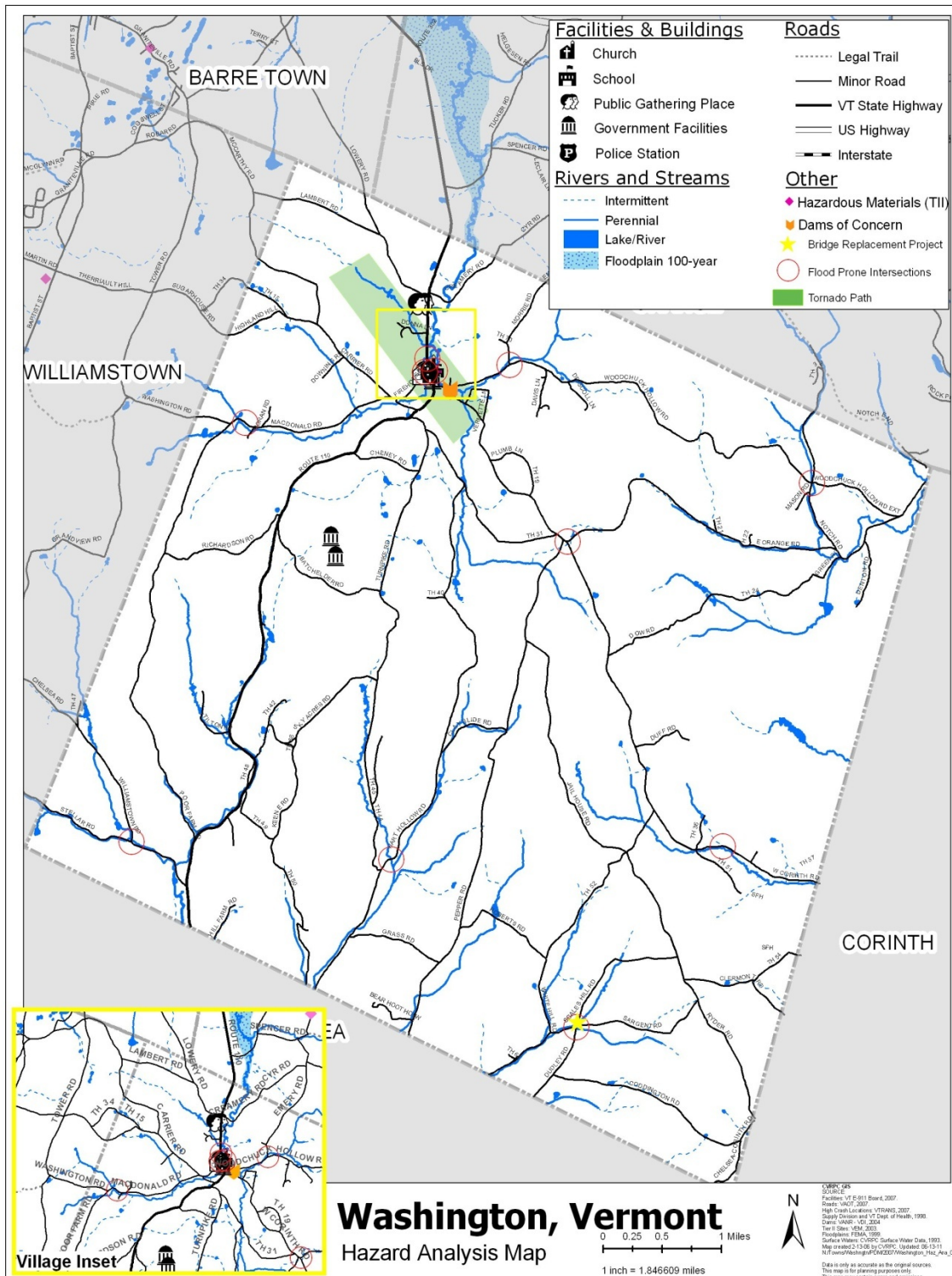
After Plan Adoption-Annually Implement and Evaluate



Fifth Year, and After Major Disaster Evaluate and Revise



Areas of Local Concern Map



CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The Town of Washington
Select Board
A Resolution Adopting the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
_____, 2014

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington has worked with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to identify hazards, analyze past and potential future losses due to natural and manmade-caused disasters, and identify strategies for mitigating future losses; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan contains several potential projects to mitigate damage from disasters that could occur in the Town of Washington; and

WHEREAS, a duly-noticed public meeting was held by the Town of Washington Select Board on _____, 2014 to formally adopt the Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Select Board adopts the Washington Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chair of Select Board

Member of Select Board

ATTEST

Washington Clerk