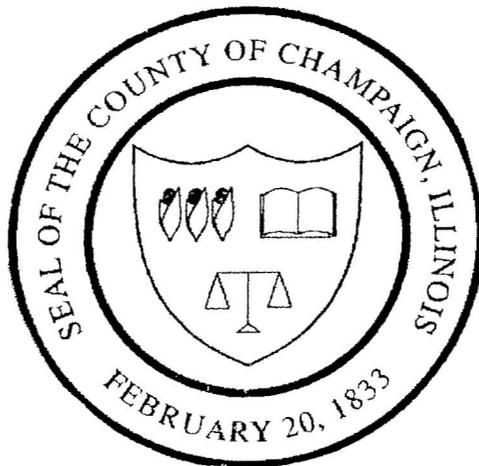


*Environment  
& Land Use Committee  
Agenda*

*August 10, 2009*



*7:00 p.m.*

*Lyle Shields Meeting Room  
(Meeting Room 1)  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 East Washington, Urbana, IL 61802  
(217) 384-3708*

# AGENDA

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## ***Champaign County Environment & Land Use Committee***

**Date:** *August 10, 2009*

**Time:** *7:00 p.m.*

**Place:** *Lyle Shields Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St.  
Urbana, Illinois*

**Members:**

*Carol Ammons, Jan Anderson, Chris Doenitz  
Brad Jones, Alan Kurtz (VC), Ralph Langenheim,  
Steve Moser, Jon Schroeder, Barbara Wysocki (C)*

**Phone:** *(217) 384-3708*

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## **AGENDA** ***Old Business shown in Italics***

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Approval of Minutes (June 8, 2009)** **1 thru 21**
4. **Correspondence**
5. **Chair's Report**
6. **Public Participation**
7. **Updates:**  
*A. House Bill 466 (regarding Chatham decision)*
8. **Request to Adopt the Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan** **22 thru 31**
9. **Preliminary Review of Draft Goals, Objectives and Polices for the Land Resource Management Plan** *(refer to July 24, 2009, memo from Susan Chavarria)*
10. **Hiring Professional Consultants for Review of Certain Technical Studies for Wind Farm County Board Special Use Permits** *(to be distributed at meeting)*
11. **Monthly Reports (December 2008 and January – July 2009)**  
*(to be distributed at meeting)*
12. **Other Business**
13. **Determination of Items to be placed on the County Board Consent Agenda**
14. **Adjournment**



# DRAFT

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

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**Champaign County Environment & Land Use Committee**  
**Champaign County Brookens Administrative Center**  
**Urbana, IL 61802**

**DATE: June 8, 2009**  
**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**  
**PLACE: Lyle Shields Meeting Room**  
**Brookens Administrative Center**  
**1776 E. Washington Street**  
**Urbana, IL 61802**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carol Ammons, Jan Anderson, Brad Jones, Ralph Langenheim, Steve Moser, Alan Kurtz (VP), Jon Schroeder, Barbara Wysocki (C)

**OTHER COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Doenitz

**STAFF PRESENT:** John Hall, Leroy Holliday, Deb Busey, Susan Monte (Regional Planning Commisison), Susan Chavarria (Regional Planning Commission)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hal Barnhart, Sherry Schildt

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**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum declared present.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Ms. Ammons moved, seconded by Mr. Kurtz to approve the agenda as submitted.**

Ms. Wysocki stated that discussion regarding Item #5, Chair's Report will follow Item #12, Monthly Reports.

**The motion carried by voice vote.**

**3. Approval of Minutes (May 11, 2009)**

**Mr. Langenheim moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson to approve the May 11, 2009, minutes as submitted.**

Mr. Weibel noted that Sherry Schildt is listed twice under "Others Present" and Mr. Langenheim's name is

1 misspelled several times throughout the document.

2

3 **The motion carried by voice vote.**

4

5 **4. Correspondence**

6 **A. Letter from Sodemann & Associates, Inc. dated May 26, 2009**

7

8 Ms. Wysocki stated that the letter from Sodemann & Associates, Inc. dated May 26, 2009, is for the  
9 Committee's information only and no action is required.

10

11 **5. Chair's Report**

12 **A. Cancellation of July Committee Meeting**

13

14 Ms. Wysocki stated that traditionally ELUC does not meet in July so that any matters that come before this  
15 committee or any other go directly to the County Board for action. She said that she has asked Mr. Hall to  
16 look at what is coming through the pipeline that might give the Committee cause to meet in July.

17

18 Mr. Hall stated that Zoning Case 611-AM-08 was for Casey's General Stores which, in the neighborhood,  
19 was a controversial case because there was a neighbor who he anticipates will protest who does not have  
20 20% frontage. He said that the ZBA could take final action at their June 25, 2009, meeting and since Casey's  
21 is in a hurry to start construction they would like to be able to present their case to the Committee at the July  
22 13, 2009, ELUC meeting. He said that Casey's is also going through an annexation agreement process with  
23 the City of Urbana and the City of Urbana made them go through the County for rezoning before they would  
24 grant the annexation agreement. He said that there was a good chance that the ZBA will take action in June  
25 and Casey's would like to be before ELUC on July 13.

26

27 Mr. Schroeder stated that if the ZBA takes final action at their June 25, 2009, meeting then we should have a  
28 meeting in July to accommodate Casey's.

29

30 Mr. Moser asked Mr. Hall if the LRMP will be wrapped up in July also. He said that there are a lot of things  
31 within the LRPM which he does not agree with and he did not indicate those disagreements tonight but he  
32 does intend to state them some place. He said that there was a lot of stuff within it that he does not like and  
33 he would like his comments recorded.

34

35 Ms. Wysocki stated that the LRMP will come back before ELUC but it will not be in July. She asked the  
36 Committee how many people will be available for a meeting on July 13, 2009.

37

38 Mr. Weibel stated that it would be easier to place a July ELUC meeting on the calendar and then cancel it if  
39 it is not required.

40

41 Ms. Busey asked the Committee if they would be having the July meeting for only Casey's and all other  
42 business will be forwarded directly to the full County Board as the other committees are doing. She said that

1 if Casey's was not finalized at the ZBA on June 25<sup>th</sup> then the July 13<sup>th</sup> ELUC meeting would be cancelled.

2  
3 Mr. Moser asked Mr. Hall when the zoning case regarding the restricted landing area would be before the  
4 ZBA.

5  
6 Mr. Hall stated that Case 645-S-09, will be heard at the ZBA on June 11, 2009.

7  
8 Mr. Moser asked Mr. Hall if that case would require action from ELUC.

9  
10 Mr. Hall stated no.

11  
12 Ms. Wysocki stated on July 15 thru July 16 there is a Wind Farm Conference in Bloomington and now is the  
13 time to sign up for that conference. She said that the fee for attending is \$60 which includes a trip to a wind  
14 farm.

15  
16 **6. Public Participation**

17  
18 None

19  
20 **7. Recreation and Entertainment License: Champaign County Fair Association, 902 N. Coler**  
21 **Avenue, Urbana. County Fair and Carnival. July 24 thru August 1, 2009.**

22  
23 **Mr. Schroeder moved, seconded by Mr. Moser to approve the Recreation and Entertainment License**  
24 **for the Champaign County Fair Association, 902 N. Coler Avenue, Urbana. County Fair and**  
25 **Carnival. July 24, thru August 1, 2009. The motion carried by voice vote.**

26  
27 **8. Updates:**

28 **A. *Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan***

29  
30 Ms. Monte stated that the final draft is out and staff has received preliminary word that FEMA had no  
31 problem signing off on the draft. She said that a public meeting was held prior to this meeting and the next  
32 steps would be to present the draft to each one of the participating 27 jurisdictions, answer any questions that  
33 they may have and have them adopt it.

34  
35 Ms. Wysocki asked Ms. Monte if the Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan will come before the  
36 County Board this month.

37  
38 Ms. Monte stated no. She said that the preliminary word that she received from FEMA was in the form of  
39 an e-mail and until an official document from FEMA is received the County Board will not be presented  
40 with the Plan. She said that she anticipates County Board action in August.

41  
42 Mr. Kurtz asked Ms. Monte if the 27 participating jurisdictions could be presented with the draft at the same

1 time during one meeting.  
2

3 Ms. Monte stated that each planning team member will submit the draft to their perspective jurisdiction and  
4 some of the smaller jurisdictions may request a presentation and some may not.  
5

6 Ms. Wysocki stated that she hopes that the Committee members have had a chance to review the draft  
7 document. She said that it was a very good document which certainly reflects a lot of planning, talking,  
8 organizing and the mere fact that 27 jurisdictions could be joined together to work on this plan, little alone  
9 sign off on it is incredible. She said that a great deal of compliments should go to Susan Monte and the  
10 entire planning team for executing this entire document.  
11

12 **B. House Bill 466 (regarding Chatham decision)**  
13

14 Mr. Hall stated that the County’s bill regarding the Chatham decision, House Bill 466, was approved by both  
15 houses of the legislature. He said that House Bill 1003, Representative Poe’s bill, which corrected the  
16 situation for all counties in the state was also approved. He said that both bills are now on the governor’s  
17 desk awaiting his signature. He said that the City of Champaign has taken the initiative to write a letter to  
18 the governor asking him to sign House Bill 466 but due to their position in the municipal league they have  
19 remained silent about House Bill 1003. Mr. Hall encouraged the County Board to have the County Board  
20 Chair write a similar letter in support of House Bill 466 and House Bill 1003.  
21

22 Mr. Weibel stated that if the Committee would like him to write such a letter then he will do so.  
23

24 Mr. Schroeder stated that he is in support of a letter from the County Board Chair regarding this issue and  
25 would like the letter expedited as soon as possible. He requested that in the future if such a letter is required  
26 then he would appreciate the matter being expedited by phone calls or e-mail notification to the Committee  
27 members rather than waiting for a meeting for discussion and approval.  
28

29 Ms. Wysocki asked if it is the consensus of the Committee to ask Mr. Weibel to draft such a letter.  
30

31 **The consensus of the Committee was yes.**  
32

33 Mr. Weibel stated that he will prepare the letter tomorrow and send it immediately.  
34  
35

36 **C. 2009 Countywide Computer and Electronics Recycling Collection Report**  
37

38 Ms. Monte stated that this is the third year that the County has coordinated this countywide event and this  
39 year it was held at the Champaign County Fair’s Parking lot. She said that the new location worked very  
40 well because it allowed a good flow of traffic with no or very little waiting. She said that figures have been  
41 provided in the report but if the Committee has any questions regarding this event they should contact her.  
42

43 **9. Preliminary Overview of Draft Goals and Policies for the Land Resource Management Plan**

1  
2 Ms. Chavarria distributed a handout titled, *Highlights of Proposed LRMP Goals, Objectives and Policies as*  
3 *of May 7, 2009*, to the Committee for review. She said that the most recent version of the LRMP Goals were  
4 distributed to the Committee at the last meeting and are included in the ELUC packet as pages 37 thru 54.  
5 She said that the next LRMP meeting will be convened on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at 7:30 a.m. and they  
6 are hoping to begin or actually finish finalizing the goals, objectives and policies that will be sent to this  
7 Committee later this summer. She said that the June 11, 2009, meeting is open to ELUC members and as *ex-*  
8 *officio* members of the steering committee can contribute to the discussion and any agenda point.  
9

10 Ms. Chavarria stated that staff would like to discuss the approximately 150 goals, objectives and policies  
11 with ELUC members before it comes to the Committee for consideration this summer. She said that staff  
12 and members can either meet in small groups or one-on-one to discuss any concerns or questions regarding  
13 these topics. She said that in an effort to make the approval process as easy as possible for everyone,  
14 considering the size of this document would be to refer to the distributed handout. She said that the  
15 document contains some information about how some of the controversial proposed policies could differ  
16 from the current practices of the County. She said that there are five controversial items which she would  
17 like to review with the Committee tonight and those are only 5% of the goals, objectives and policies and  
18 there are many other controversial items which could be discussed at the Committee level therefore this is  
19 only a small glimpse of a bigger picture.  
20

21 Ms. Chavarria stated that the background section of the distributed document indicates that there is not much  
22 difference in the number of existing goals and policies from 1977, 2001 and 2005 that the County was  
23 currently working with versus the 146 proposed LRMP Goals, Objectives and Policies. She said that the  
24 proposed LRMP Goals, Objectives and Policies are meant to supersede those previous documents so that  
25 there would be one working document rather than three.  
26

27 Ms. Chavarria said that Section One, *More Restrictive By-Right Development Allowance*, proposes to have  
28 the LRMP Policy to be more restrictive for the By-Right Development Allowance so this policy seeks to be  
29 more protective of the agricultural base and to conserve farmland. She said that existing county practice  
30 allows one to four lots to be developed per parcel plus any lot over thirty five acres but the proposed policy  
31 provides for one new lot allowed per 40 acres with a total of four new lots to be allowed on a tract of land as  
32 it existed on January 1, 1998. She said that the table on page one indicates how many lots would be allowed  
33 on a given parcel size according to the Existing County Practice on the left column and the proposed LRMP  
34 Policy 4.1.5. She said that the Steering Committee vote on approving this more restrictive policy was 12-1  
35 approving this policy with 5 members absent.  
36

37 Ms. Chavarria said that Section Two, *No Rural Residential Overlay Subdivisions on Best Prime Farmland*,  
38 *is* proposed policy 4.1.6 that limits rural residential subdivisions on Best Prime Farmland to by-right  
39 development only. She said that this policy also seeks to minimize fragmentation of the agricultural base and  
40 to conserve farmland. She said that currently Rural Residential Overlay requests for development are  
41 allowed on Best Prime Farmland right now. She said that there were twenty proposed RRO's since 1999 and  
42 eight were approved. She said that the Steering Committee vote to approve this more restrictive policy was

1 12 -3 with three members absent.

2  
3 Ms. Chavarria said that Section Three referred to the polices under the proposed Objective 6.2 that would  
4 required higher compliance with building standards than existing practices do. She said that the policies  
5 referred to fire codes, building codes and energy standards. She said that for the fire codes, the State Fire  
6 Marshall has a code but the enforcement is not as thorough as it could be so the proposed policies would  
7 place some enforcement capability with the County with some building types such as high occupancy  
8 dwellings and premises seeking liquor licenses. She said that for the building code, the County does not have  
9 one at this point but the proposed policy would require the creation and adoption of a building code by 2015.  
10 She said for energy standards the State has a requirement that the County and municipalities enforce  
11 minimum energy efficiency standards and the proposed policy reflects this newer law which was passed in  
12 2004. She said that the Steering Committee voted on approving these more restrictive policies in general by  
13 a significant margin for each one.

14  
15 Mr. Weibel said that there was some legislation in Springfield that would require counties to adopt a  
16 residential building code and if they do not have a building code already how would this impact those  
17 individuals.

18  
19 Ms. Monte said that he was referring to the Illinois Residential Building Code Act and that assigned the  
20 default building code. She said that this legislation requires that every contract for building construction  
21 indicates what building code is being adhered to and there are certain restrictions on which building code to  
22 be selected so it has to be adopted by any zoning jurisdiction within so many miles. She said that this act  
23 requires if there is not a building code indicated in the signed contract by default it assigns certain building  
24 codes that apply.

25  
26 Mr. Weibel asked if that would apply for commercial structures.

27  
28 Ms. Monte said that this was the Illinois Residential Building Code Act so for every residential building  
29 contract there should be a building code adhered to.

30  
31 Ms. Weibel said that he and Mr. Hall had discussed a building code for commercial structures.

32  
33 Ms. Monte said that there was an Energy Efficient Commercial Building Act and asked if that was what you  
34 may be referring to.

35  
36 Mr. Weibel said that's not what he was referring to there was another one.

37  
38 Mr. Moser asked Ms. Monte if there would be any exemptions for farm buildings.

39  
40 Ms. Monte said yes.

41  
42 Mr. Moser asked if this was strictly for residential dwellings.

1  
2 Mr. Weibel said that it talks about dwellings so it is not farm buildings. He said that it would be commercial  
3 buildings, retail buildings and apartment buildings.  
4

5 Mr. Moser said that it was hard to define commercial against agriculture.  
6

7 Mr. Weibel said that he would get the Bill. He said that it was moving slowly but it was moving.  
8

9 Ms. Monte said that she was not sure which legislation they were talking about but we have to make sure  
10 that we are aware of it as it applies to our policies so she will check as well and follow up with Mr. Moser  
11 and Mr. Weibel. She said that the Energy Efficiency Commercial Building Act applies to all non residential  
12 buildings.  
13

14 Ms. Ammons asked Ms. Chavarria how far back would this go when it goes into effect.  
15

16 Ms. Chavarria said that she thinks it would be from the date of passage rather than grandfathering.  
17

18 Ms. Monte said that typically that is correct.  
19

20 Mr. Langenheim said that he had attended a number of those meetings and he was impressed with the  
21 diligence, dedication and high level of participation by committee members.  
22

23 Ms. Chavarria said that Section Four, *Protecting Existing Natural Habitat Areas*, proposes policy 8.6 which  
24 is currently under discussion by the Steering Committee and where the discussion was focusing on whether  
25 the policy should apply for existing by-right development, discretionary development and or new  
26 development or if it should be removed entirely from the goals, objectives and policies. She said that this  
27 Thursday they will be discussing this matter again to see where the Steering Committee wished to go with  
28 that. She said that currently the Zoning Ordinance has no quantitative assessment of natural habitat areas that  
29 is required but the Zoning Board of Appeals could request an assessment be done of a natural habitat area or  
30 they could require a setback from such an area. Ms. Chavarria said that it would be slightly different  
31 depending on how they would go with this objective.  
32

33 Ms. Chavarria said that Section Five, *Contribution to Parks and Preserves*, is Policy 8.7.3 that would require  
34 discretionary development to provide a reasonable contribution in cash or land to support development of  
35 parks and preserves. She said that there was no requirement for such a contribution in the current policies.  
36 She said that the Steering Committee vote on approving this policy was 13 – 0 with 5 members absent so it  
37 seemed to be supported by the Steering Committee. She said that some municipalities are going in this  
38 direction to help out with parks and preserves and the paying for them.  
39

40 Ms. Chavarria said that with the two months remaining before they return to ELUC for approval she hopes  
41 that the Board takes advantage of the staff resources that are available to them to discuss any questions they  
42 may have. She said that this Thursday would be a good a time to come and see how the Steering Committee

1 is working and to participate in the discussion if the Board so choose.

2  
3 Mr. Schroeder said that in Section 3A of the handout ,what we are looking at is whether construction  
4 complies with the standards the County will require and basically refers to the State Fire Marshall Life  
5 Safety Regulation. He said that he thinks that the County does not have to be in the business of enforcing  
6 state regulations or statutes. He said that he thought that it was in compliance and he does not know how the  
7 County is going to make anyone comply with the State Fire Marshall Life Safety Regulations.

8  
9 Mr. Hall said that the easiest way to do that was to require submission of some statement signed by a  
10 licensed architect or engineer that certifies that the new construction complies with the State Fire Marshal’s  
11 Life Safety Code. He said that their department was not qualified to review it but he wanted to make sure  
12 that some one qualified did review it but this should be a questions for the County Board if they want the  
13 Planning and Zoning Department to make sure that someone had vouched that this meets the State Fire  
14 Marshal’s Life Safety Code or we could do like we are doing now and never ask the question. He said that as  
15 staff we proposed this to the Steering Committee and they did discuss this to some extent and they decided  
16 to recommend it but it is up to the County Board to accept the recommendation. He said that he was not  
17 suggesting bringing an architect on staff to review things and in this instance all that would be necessary  
18 would be making sure that we have a statement from a licensed architect.

19  
20 Mr. Schroeder asked Mr. Hall if we built something today like a multi-family residence would we have to  
21 comply.

22  
23 Mr. Hall said that at the present time you have to be in compliance but the State Fire Marshal does not begin  
24 to have the staff to review and they will try to monitor inquiries or complaints when they get them and  
25 review plans when they are submitted but they don’t enforce it unless it is brought to their attention.

26  
27 Mr. Schroeder said that he would not be opposed to any type of safety codes for multi family housing but he  
28 did not think that the County needs to be involved in handling the states building code business and they  
29 should figure out how to enforce them.

30  
31 Mr. Hall said that whenever there is a public assembly type use where life safety issues arise the ZBA at least  
32 for the past fifteen years has been making sure that they get some type of submittal on that which amount to  
33 the same thing but they do that because the Zoning Ordinance require the County to protect public health and  
34 safety and the only way to do that is to actually make that a requirement and this would formalize that.

35  
36 Mr. Schroeder said in Section 3C of the handout he thought that it was economically beneficial to anyone  
37 that has new construction to try to have it as energy efficient as possible. He said that he could not  
38 understand why we have an overbearing idea that we can control everything in the State with these minimum  
39 energy efficient standard and he thinks that it is non-sense in places of business. He said that it just makes  
40 sense to move in that direction even for personal construction because if you are even putting up a house you  
41 would put in something that would be energy efficient, insulated well and probably geothermal heating and  
42 cooling system but to enforce that and make the State to have a minimum standard is way out of line.

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Mr. Moser said that Urbana is enforcing some kind of building code in their mile and a half. He said that he has a neighbor that put up a tool shed that is really a shop and it had to be wired in conduit and all kinds of things which added to the cost tremendously. He said that some of these municipalities are doing it so why can't Rantoul do it as well in their mile and a half.

Mr. Hall asked Mr. Moser if that property under an annexation agreement.

Mr. Moser said that it was a just inside the mile and a half west of 130 and they would not let them do anything until he got a permit from Urbana.

Mr. Hall said that sounds unusual because Urbana does not require annexation agreements that far out.

Mr. Moser said that it is not an annexation agreement they got these building codes and you're in a mile and a half you are going to do it that way.

Mr. Hall said that they can't do that.

Mr. Moser said that they did it.

Mr. Hall said that he would be happy to follow up on that if he gets the name and the property after the meeting.

Mr. Moser said he know of another one that they a florida room on a house that was barely in the mile and a half and if we are going to turn all this over to the Zoning Department of these municipalities in the mile and a half we won't have anything to worry about.

Mr. Hall said that the County had not done that yet so he would like to follow up on those to see how that is occurring.

**10. Recommendations of the East-Central Illinois Regional Water Planning Committee**

Ms. Wysocki said that these are pages 55 to 64 in the agenda.

Brad Uken said that back in 2006 the governor by Executive Order organized this and this did not go through the legislature. He said that the former governor identified two areas within the state to study water resources, one in northeastern Illinois, Cook County and collar county areas and East Central Illinois which is the Mahomet Aquifer area. He said that the Mahomet Aquifer area covers fifteen counties and starts near the Gilman, Watseka area and the flow of water comes down through the Paxton, Rantoul area to Champaign-Urbana then takes a turn to the west and south to Monticello then slightly north to the Illinois River. Mr. Uken said that he wanted to clear up some myths that were out there, one that the Mahomet

1 Aquifer is not a flowing river like the Illinois River or the Mississippi River and it does not flow miles per  
2 year it may flow 8 to 10 inches or maybe a foot per year. He said that the water we drink today does not come  
3 from West Virginia or Pennsylvania our water comes from East Central Illinois from the fifteen county area.  
4 He said that as we get into Indiana that water flows from the Pennsylvania and West Virginia area and does  
5 not come here the water that we're enjoying today comes from East Central Illinois.  
6

7 Mr. Uken said that as a Committee they had been going on for two and a half years and they have four  
8 charges look at the Mahomet Aquifer supply, the demand on the aquifer, develop a management plan to the  
9 year to 2050 and education. He said that we were not talking about only our generation but multiple  
10 generations of planning. He said that the last one was the education part. He said about 95% of the people  
11 don't think about where their water comes from as long as they can get up and start their showers or coffee  
12 pot and the water comes out of the faucet that is all they care about. He said that we must be more aware of  
13 where our water comes from in East Central Illinois. He said that without the Mahomet aquifer we would not  
14 have water here, we are not like Bloomington that looks at Lake Bloomington and Lake Decatur or Lake  
15 Springfield. He said that we do not rely on surface water reservoirs because ours is ground water and without  
16 the aquifer we do not have water in Champaign County so we need to take a look at management of the  
17 aquifer.  
18

19 Mr. Uken said that there had been some turnover in the Committee and at this time there are twelve of us on  
20 the Committee. He said that they split the fifteen counties into three sections and four members each and he  
21 is on the east side and represents the general public so he was not there on behalf of the Farm Bureau but he  
22 was there on behalf of the public and he serves as Chairman of that Committee and had served for the past  
23 fourteen to fifteen months. He said himself along with Bill Smith, who was on the Savoy Village Council  
24 and Steve Wegman from Illinois American Water and Dwayne Bergren from Urbana represent this section  
25 on the east side.  
26

27 Mr. Uken said that to begin with, East Central Illinois is not facing an immediate water crisis but we don't  
28 want to get there either. He said we heard about last summer and continue to hear about California having  
29 some water issues and also Georgia and other areas of that state having land and water shortages and we  
30 don't want to get there but we are not at that point and we do not need to panic. He said that they had  
31 identified six guidelines for regional planning guidelines. He said first and foremost is self governance. He  
32 said that their Committee had been very clear from the beginning they did not want a management plan  
33 dictated to them by the State of Illinois or someone from southern Illinois, northern Illinois or pick your  
34 region of the state. He said that if we are going to develop a management plan it must be brought in through  
35 self governance here in the fifteen county area and that is critical in our think.  
36  
37

38 Mr. Uken said that sustainable water supply needs to be a guideline, along with adaptive management, sound  
39 science, shared responsibility and an informed public. He said that the demand for water and water withdrawal  
40 will increase just like electricity, and the community believes there will be an increased demand for water  
41 and that is across the board and not just talking about population. He said that total surface water and ground  
42 water withdrawals in the region by 2050, excluding electric power generation, will be 220 to 420 million

1 gallons a day more than modeled normal weather withdrawals of about 340 in 2005. He said that normal  
2 weather condition ground water withdrawals in the Mahomet Aquifer are reported to increase from 220  
3 million gallons per day in 2005 to 260 million in what's called the less resource intensive scenario. He said  
4 that even if we adapt a less resource intensive approach and use less water, the numbers say that we will  
5 increase our water consumption even doing conservation efforts.  
6

7 Mr. Uken said that if we keep on the same path that we are on today we would go to 280 million gallons per  
8 day by the year 2050. He said that if we say we need to use all the water we can and it does not matter what  
9 we are doing with our water it would probably increase to 320 million gallons per day compared to 220  
10 million as we know it today so in any of the scenarios we need more water. He said that if you throw in an  
11 extreme climate scenario for water supply which means a decrease annual precipitation, a reoccurrence of  
12 severe multiyear droughts and an increase in temperature, that changes everything. He said that if we have a  
13 little drought with adequate planning we could have an adequate water supply but we have to be prepared for  
14 drought conditions. He said that the state has a process for drought preparedness and they are updating that  
15 and if you look at Bloomington, Decatur and Springfield those areas are relying on surface water and their  
16 reservoirs are filling up due to sedimentation which happens naturally and they are using more water from  
17 the aquifer. He said that if those communities decide to tap into the aquifer we are talking about a totally  
18 different situation about where the numbers go for the future.  
19

20 Mr. Uken said that one of the recommendations was to make sure that we don't actually get into the  
21 Mahomet Aquifer and that basically the aquifer is a pressurized area so when you go down into it we want to  
22 make sure that we stay above it in the pressurized area and we think that would be achievable by monitoring  
23 and planning. He said that if you look at the entire aquifer it changes as you go from east to west and on the  
24 west side you could take your spade and dig down and hit the aquifer and at times the aquifer is at ground  
25 level in wet times. He said that it is completely different on the east side and that's why a lot of people  
26 consider there is a lot of irrigation on that side for fruits and vegetables but that is a completely different  
27 scenario because the recharge is so different because the aquifer is so shallow. He said that the soil types and  
28 uses are different so it is sustainable but on the east side the recharge is longer. He said that if he poured a  
29 cup of water on the grass outside it would take hundreds of years before it would get to the aquifer and  
30 recharge. He said again, we are pulling water backwards or importing water from Piatt County and tomorrow  
31 he would be speaking to the Piatt County Board about this.  
32

33 Mr. Uken said that out of the entire fifteen counties there are certain areas of concern but for the immediate  
34 short term it is us and that's where we need to take a look at this and that's why stake holders like  
35 yourselves, municipalities, the general, public, industry, small business, and electric generating need to take  
36 a look at this report because we need to start to manage this.  
37

38 Mr. Uken said from a county stand point he thinks the question would be what role does the County have in  
39 this process. He said that the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium was started back in the 80's with a goal of doing  
40 an exact study like this. He said that the study was not cheap but the former governor gave us three years of  
41 funding then cut the funding the last year. He said that due to the conservativeness of the Committee they  
42 were still able to produce a quality report that is currently in draft form and are seeking comments from the

1 public until June 15<sup>th</sup>. He said that the entire draft is on their website and their goal is to approve the final  
2 report on June 29<sup>th</sup> and start the education process on this. He said that Mr. Langenheim from this committee  
3 attends the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Meetings and that is a great step to stay engaged in the process to  
4 see where they are going. Mr. Uken said that the financial option, although this was not the committee that  
5 takes those issues under consideration, but to implement some of these management plans we have to have  
6 funding sources and he was not looking only at Champaign County but all sources be it our community,  
7 individuals, other counties, state and federal government as well. He said that they must have buy-in for a  
8 management option from all stakeholders, from all businesses, and from all individuals as they move  
9 forward.

10  
11 Mr. Jones asked Mr. Uken if anyone examined the effects of the rate increases from Illinois American Water  
12 on the aquifer usage.

13  
14 Mr. Uken said yes but he could give only a generic answer, there were studies done nationally not only  
15 around here that says one of the ways to practice conservation of water was to raise the rates but he was not  
16 saying that's what Illinois American Water was thinking but studies had been done that show as your rates  
17 go up water consumption goes down so that's proven. He said that he did not know when Illinois American  
18 Water got their last increase but the one before that they indicated that water consumption went down but  
19 after several years it went back up to its previous levels so the data is there that says as water prices go up the  
20 consumption goes down just like gas prices did last summer.

21  
22 Mr. Schroeder said that in 1983 when he was in Illinois State they were always complaining in Bloomington  
23 about how to figure out how to get more water and by the time Mr. Uken got there in that dry spell they were  
24 sucking mud out of Lake Bloomington to get water out. He said that Normal had wells out there and after  
25 that they tried going out to Danvers to try to get wells out there and it would be something else if they tried  
26 to tie in to the aquifer and really start pulling water out of there. He said that when John Potts was Director  
27 of the Champaign County Forest Preserve and the Forest Preserve was able to acquire what is now the Forest  
28 Preserve at River Bend, the City of Decatur contacted him and they wanted water pumped out of Sunset  
29 Lake into the Sangamon and float it down to Lake Decatur and he said to go fly a kite so he did not know if  
30 they were still interested in that or not but that was one way for them to get aquifer water and both of those  
31 lakes are ground and natural fed.

32  
33 Mr. Uken said that there are a lot of larger communities that currently use surface water and they could  
34 decide to come in and tap into the aquifer and basically the law says "reasonable use" so what could happen  
35 is that a community could come to an area within the aquifer and buy five acres of land and put a well down  
36 then they can pump that water and pipe it all the way to Springfield. He said that Chicago could come down  
37 and buy a parcel and put a well down and do the same thing and that's all in existing law right now.

38  
39 Mr. Moser said that in California they are reusing water and we are sending enough down the Kaskaskia and  
40 the Sangamon River and the Salt Fork to drown this County if we could pull some of it back.

41  
42 Mr. Uken said that at some point we have to look at reuse in some shape or form and there are fire fighters

1 that are reusing water instead of potable water to put fires out. He said that it sounds like an easy concept and  
2 the logical thing the that means that the entire city has to run a separate set of water lines to pump reuse  
3 water and now you are talking all over the city having to put in every inch of new pipe to use reuse water but  
4 what about golf courses, golfing is a great sport and they like green golf courses could they be using reuse  
5 water on those, but again you are talking about pipelines, you are talking about Illinois American Water in  
6 our local case putting in pipe to get it there and it is not an easy pill to swallow but in the long run it may be  
7 something to look at.

8  
9 Mr. Langeheim asked Ms. Wysocki if it would be appropriate to have a motion to place this on file and if  
10 there were any provision for this report to be copied and sent to the full Board.

11  
12 Ms. Wysocki said that it would be easy enough to have the Executive Summary to be distributed to the other  
13 Board members. She said that if the other Board members have an agenda they have this summary in it. She  
14 said that it would not be inappropriate to place this on file.

15  
16 **Mr. Langenheim moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson to place the executive summary of the East**  
17 **Central Illinois Regional Water Supply planning Committee. The motion carried by voice vote.**

18  
19 Mr. Weibel said that he believes the City of Decatur has a number of wells in the aquifer around the Macon  
20 County, Piatt County, and Dewitt County where they do pump water out of the aquifer and pump it back into  
21 their lake but they don't do that on a regular basis.

22  
23 Mr. Uken said that may be true but their primary source is Lake Decatur and only randomly do they use the  
24 aquifer. He said that another example would be the Equistar Plant in Tuscola which has a well within the  
25 Mahomet Aquifer just west of Champaign-Urbana and they are pumping at times out of those wells into an  
26 open ditch down to Tuscola where they collect it and use it.

27  
28 Mr. Langenheim said that the City of Decatur is pumping water and is dumping it into a creek for their lakes  
29 water supply.

30  
31 Mr. Moser said that they are set up to do that already and they are doing it.

32  
33 Mr. Kurtz asked Mr. Uken if there was any way that we could prevent that by a Bill through Senator Frerichs  
34 or Representative Naomi Jakobsson.

35  
36 Mr. Uken said that in the Executive Order it was clearly indicated we had to operate within current and  
37 existing laws so this would not be in their scope.

38  
39 Mr. Moser said that the there was a place around the Middle Fork Forest Preserve where that thing is almost  
40 at the top of the ground.

41  
42 Mr. Uken said that part of the additional studies that need to be done is to confirm where we have recharge

1 points. He said that they believe there are a number of recharge points but like anything else it takes money  
2 and time to look at. He said that in their Committee discussion they talked about a number of places where  
3 there could be a recharge, one is up towards the Dogtown area north of Penfield. He said that if you go up on  
4 Route 47 around the Hunt Club and when you cross the river there is believed to be one and then down near  
5 Allerton Park he believes that the Sangamon River has a recharge point with the shallow aquifer above it and  
6 then down to the Mahomet Aquifer. He said that those were speculation but if they could identify those as  
7 they move forward in the coming years we must at all cost protect those recharge points.  
8

9 Mr. Moser said that that one in Dogtown is supposedly back where Ogle dug that gravel out in Ford County  
10 and they may really be on top of that.  
11

12 Mr. Uken said that there was belief that there was one there although it was unconfirmed but they must take  
13 a look at the recharge points. He said that there were a number of things that the report did not do and one of  
14 them that they did not look at was water quality but this was a water quantity report not a quality report. He  
15 said that water quality is a whole separate issue and the Committee didn't take a look at that. He said that  
16 there was not enough time by their Committee to look at water quality.  
17

18 Mr. Langenheim said that there had been a research program in the State's Water Survey and Geological  
19 Survey investigating flow patterns in the Mahomet Aquifer and the recharge in the Sangamon River and  
20 some of the others, and the Sangamon cuts down into the higher aquifer and there is an exchange there when  
21 the river is high it feeds into the aquifer and when the river is low the aquifer feeds into the river and then  
22 there are connections between the Glasford and the Sangamon and there are on-going investigations as to the  
23 extent and the effect on it.  
24

25 Mr. Uken said that Mr. Langenheim was correct that there continues to be research and that is occurring  
26 down towards the Allerton Park area where the Glasford recharges which is a shallow aquifer above the  
27 Mahomet Aquifer and then there is a connection between the Glasford and the Mahomet Aquifer and they  
28 are actually recharging each other.  
29

30 Mr. Moser asked Mr. Uken if that was the same thing that's happening in Ford County.  
31

32 Mr. Uken said that may be a possibility there.  
33

34 Mr. Hall said that there were four policies in the LRMP specifically focusing on the Mahomet Aquifer. He  
35 said that he was referring to policies 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.5 and 8.1.6 on page 10 of these goals and policies. He  
36 said that at least the LRMP was trying to incorporate as much as it could.  
37

38 Mr. Uken said that he did not want to come here tonight to try to make people believe that the sky is falling  
39 on our water resources but again what we have to do is to educate more people about the aquifer, what it is,  
40 what it isn't and we must start managing the resource as we move forward. He said that he thinks that they  
41 could have a sustainable water supply without question into the future but we must start now and this report  
42 is a step in the right direction to get us started on that management plan.

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Ms. Wysocki asked Mr. Uken if he could give the Committee the website for the full report.

Mr. Uken said [www.rwsbc.org](http://www.rwsbc.org). He said that if nothing else at the very minimum the Committee should take a look at the Executive Summary. He said that the Committee could submit comments to the website or get in touch with him if there were any other questions.

**11. Hiring Professional Consultants for Review of Certain Technical Studies for Wind Farm County Board Special Use Permits**

Mr. Hall stated that staff is expecting the first wind farm application in August by which there are a number of studies required as part of the application and three of the required submittals will require professional assistance. He said that a noise study proving compliance with the Illinois Pollution Control Board noise standards (par.6.1.4L.) is required and will probably be one of the more critical studies that neighbors are going to be interested in because they will want to know that the County can actually verify compliance. He said that the developer will be submitting a study which will assert that they are meeting the standard and the County’s planning staff cannot evaluate that assertion because they are not trained to and do not have the proper tools. He said that the Board should expect wind farms to be controversial to some degree and the County Board will be put between the developer who asserts that they have done everything that they need to do and the neighbors who would really like to have some verification. He said that the site risk assessment study regarding bird and bat mortality including if necessary a site specific one year bird and bat use survey (par.6.1.4L.) is required and although he does not expect a problem he cannot guarantee such because he is not qualified to evaluate it. He said that this issue may not be controversial and the County Board may get a lot of free advice from local bird and bat researchers but it is one of the things that people can easily pick on just to oppose the wind farm and staff cannot give any guidance. He said that evaluating the independent engineer’s estimate of decommissioning costs (par. 6.1.1A.5) to make sure that there is enough in the letter of the credit, and eventually in the escrow account, to pay for the decommissioning will be required. He said that he has been an estimator before but he has never worked on a wind farm and he does not know that much about it. He said that the costs have probably changed greatly since wind farms have become so common and the County Board needs to know that they are getting realistic costs. He said that he would like to have the Committee’s permission to hire a consultant regarding these three reviews. He said that he was only aware of one consultant in east central Illinois that can do all of these things and they have evaluated a noise study that Livingston County had submitted for a wind study and they have completed some other work for Livingston County. He said that Livingston County was the only county that he is aware of that has gone so far as to hire consultants therefore clearly the Committee would not be so unusual if they chose not to authorize this request but staff cannot evaluate any one of these three really critical studies therefore the County Board will be on their own if we don’t have access to a consultant.

Mr. Kurtz stated that, in Mr. Hall’s own words, it was very unusual for any county to do what staff is asking in regards to noise, bird and bat assessments. He said that he has evaluated a number of national studies (National Academy of Sciences) concerning noise and the key here is that the Illinois Pollution Control Board Noise Standards have been complied with all across the state and the same energy companies that are

1 in other counties will be in Champaign County. He said that he does not see why the energy companies  
 2 would not comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board Noise Standards in Champaign County when  
 3 they already comply in other counties therefore he does not see the need to expend money for a noise study  
 4 when the energy companies already have to comply with the Illinois Pollution Control Board in providing  
 5 them with information regarding noise levels. He said that some of the national studies completed all over  
 6 the country on birds and bats indicate small bird kills therefore he does not feel that we do not necessarily  
 7 need a study done in Champaign County.

8  
 9 Mr. Kurtz stated that he does believe that an independent engineer’s estimate of decommissioning costs is  
 10 warranted because the decommissioning cost is a key component to putting up a wind farm. He said that he  
 11 spoke to Horizon’s Chief Project Manager and he indicated that they have decided to expand the Twin  
 12 Groves Wind Farm from McLean County into Champaign County and to increase the number of turbines in  
 13 Champaign County to 200 or 300 which increases the estimates for the amount of taxes that Champaign  
 14 County will receive. He said that due to the size of the projects we have to have a decommissioning study.

15  
 16 Mr. Moser stated that the County Board is going to ask each department in the County to cut 6% in their  
 17 budget therefore he was not sure where the fees will come from for an independent engineer’s estimate.

18  
 19 Mr. Hall stated that there were fees included specifically for this. He said that the minimum application fee  
 20 is \$20,000 and the justification for that fee was to pay for such studies.

21  
 22 Mr. Moser stated that we need the \$20,000 more for the zoning office to start enforcing the junk ordinance  
 23 and some other things that are not getting done because there is not enough staff to do it. He said that this  
 24 issue will have to go to the Budget Committee and he and Mr. Jones have sat through the last three meetings  
 25 being told by Deb Busey what has to be done to keep the County’s nose from going under during the next  
 26 fiscal year. He said that the budget will be a project which every department will be required to help with  
 27 and hiring a consultant will be a tough sell to the County Board.

28  
 29 Mr. Langenheim stated that it was the County Board’s responsibility to represent the public’s interest in this  
 30 situation and what we will be facing is a wholesale industrialization of the entire rural landscape of this  
 31 County. He said that constructing structures which are as large as the Statue of Liberty or larger and will be  
 32 built on the basis on what the promoters are telling us and what non-professionals are telling us. He said that  
 33 it behooves us to make sure that we, personally and individually as a county, seek independent, professional  
 34 opinions on all matters pertaining to this development.

35  
 36 Mr. Moser stated that he can counter Mr. Langenheim’s comments by stating that this was an individual  
 37 decision that every landowner that is either in or outside of the individual wind districts can tell the wind  
 38 company that they either want or do not want a wind turbine on their land. He said that it was up to the  
 39 landowner if they do take one of the wind turbines and it was their own individual responsibility as to what  
 40 they did with their own land and Champaign County does not have one bit of business dictating to each  
 41 individual owner that is involved in this project as to whether they should or shouldn’t. He said that the  
 42 landowners and the wind companies should take care of themselves because it appears that they have done a

1 good job of it in McLean County.

2  
3 Mr. Schroeder asked Mr. Hall if he had any estimates, per tower, of how much money the County will  
4 receive and then what kind of cost estimate would be for consultants.

5  
6 Mr. Hall stated that there is a minimum \$20,000 application fee for the special use permit and once it is  
7 authorized and construction starts it is \$5,000 per tower. He said that Livingston County spent \$3,500,  
8 although they did not review the noise to every non-participating dwelling but identified the dwellings that  
9 were critical so that if they knew that the noise study was adequate at those locations they felt that it was  
10 accurate.

11  
12 Mr. Schroeder asked Mr. Hall for clarification if he was talking about \$3,500 per tower for a noise study  
13 regarding bird and bat mortality.

14  
15 Mr. Hall stated no. He said that Livingston County paid a total of \$3,500 to make sure that the noise study  
16 they got was accurate and the total that they paid the consultant for all their reviews was \$10,000. He said  
17 that it was not clear if it will be \$3,500 for Champaign County but the total for Livingston County was  
18 \$10,000 and our minimum application fee is \$20,000. He said that perhaps he was wrong but the time that  
19 the ZBA is going to spend with people complaining about noise versus being able to walk in and say that the  
20 consultant has reviewed the noise study and it is accurate will be appreciated and valuable.

21  
22 Mr. Schroeder stated that he was not trying to make judgments but only gathering information. He asked if  
23 the wind farm in Livingston County was the same scope in size to what is proposed in Champaign County  
24 and how long ago was it that they were charged the \$3,500 by the consultant.

25  
26 Mr. Hall stated that it has only been a couple of years ago because Livingston County has not had a wind  
27 farm that long.

28  
29 Mr. Schroeder asked Mr. Hall if this was the company, as described in his opening comments that does all  
30 three studies.

31  
32 Mr. Hall stated yes.

33  
34 Ms. Ammons asked Mr. Hall how it would affect the study if the project increases in the number of towers.

35  
36 Mr. Hall stated that the wind towers are limited by the numbers that are approved.

37  
38 Ms. Ammons asked Mr. Hall if the consultant would be able to do all of the required studies.

39  
40 Mr. Hall stated that we cannot look at studies done elsewhere.

41  
42 Ms. Ammons stated that if the fee for the consultant does not exceed the application fee then the studies

1 should certainly be done to protect the public’s interest.

2  
3 Mr. Langenheim stated that the notion that the individual landowner owns a wedge of the universe from the  
4 edge of his property to the center of the earth through his property line does not hold water. He said that the  
5 County regulates the private use of private land in many ways and this is a major alteration of our mode of  
6 existence in this County and we should exert ourselves to find out the facts about this matter and represent  
7 the public’s interest. He said that the County may or may not make too much money from this project, we  
8 may or may not have too much noise, we may or may not severely alter the climate and we should make  
9 ourselves available to any information or studies that can be completed and not just listen to the arguments  
10 of those who are enthusiastic about this project for personal or financial reasons. He noted that he was not  
11 opposed to wind farms or wind energy but we want to be very careful about what kind of noose we stick our  
12 neck in to when we put these things up.

13  
14 Ms. Anderson stated that birds and bats vary from place to place and she is not so sure that our area is  
15 penetrated with bats and if that is true then the consultant would not have to spend as much time with the  
16 study.

17  
18 Mr. Weibel stated that this is the first time that this type of project has been introduced to the County  
19 therefore we should do it right. He said that we do not know if there is a difference between the bird and bat  
20 population in Champaign County than in other counties therefore there is no reason why we should not do a  
21 study in our County. He said that there are no major rivers near the Twin Groves Wind Farm therefore their  
22 study will be different than a study near the Middle Fork. He said that we should check into the costs of  
23 these studies.

24  
25 Mr. Hall stated that he can get more information and did not want to focus too much on what the one  
26 company indicated although he has not found any others.

27  
28 Mr. Weibel stated that we should do the study now rather than in the middle of the project because it could  
29 cost us more.

30  
31 Mr. Kurtz stated that we represent the vast majority of those who are positive for wind farms. He said that  
32 80% to 90% of the farmers are in favor of the wind farms and if a vote was taken we would find that we are  
33 representing our residents and constituents by the positive action of the wind farms. He said that we may be  
34 discussing residents of the County but we cannot appeal to every single one of our residents and whatever  
35 action we take there will always be some that do not agree but when the vast majority do then we are  
36 representing our residents in a fair and proper manner.

37  
38 Mr. Moser asked Mr. Hall if he could send out an RFP on this matter. He said there was more than one  
39 company that does this and if we get two or three bids on it then we will know what kind of money we are  
40 talking about. He said that the important part is what it is going to cost and that is what we have done with  
41 all the other building projects in the County.

42 Mr. Hall stated that as far as he knows there was only one company that has an office in the State of Illinois

1 that does this and obviously there are multiple companies across the country but travel raises the costs.

2  
3 Mr. Moser stated that if an RFP is sent out and two or three responses are received then we would at least  
4 know what we are talking about.

5  
6 Mr. Hall stated that if it takes an RFP to get the support of the Committee then he will do so.

7  
8 Mr. Weibel stated that an RFP is not needed.

9  
10 Ms. Busey stated that professional services are not normally done by bid although it could be done. She said  
11 that it is possible to do this by a less formal process just by finding out what companies provide the service  
12 like the request for information instead of a formal request for proposal. She said that it will be under the  
13 threshold for requiring a competitive process under the County's Purchasing Policy. She said that it is a  
14 professional service so we typically do not do a bidding process through an RFP.

15  
16 Mr. Schroeder stated that approximately two years ago he met with Mr. Hall, Ms. Busey and Ms. Wysocki to  
17 discuss potentially increasing staff at Planning and Zoning as we were looking forward to handling wind  
18 farms in the county. He said that at the meeting Mr. Hall stated that he may hire someone at the University  
19 of Illinois who was obtaining an advanced degree in planning and using that individual for medial planning  
20 issues and utilizing Mr. Hall and Mr. Knight for the larger items such as the wind farms. He asked Mr. Hall  
21 if that is still the plan.

22  
23 Mr. Hall stated that with the new reality facing how limited our permitting is we may be able to just shift  
24 duties around in the office with our current staff. He said that we currently only have two planners and we  
25 cannot make two planners do the work of three but we might be able to shift some task and have our other  
26 staff help with that. He said that it would save us more time if we could get some help on these critical  
27 studies because that will cause the public hearing to take less time. He said that this is more important than  
28 finding just the bodies to do all of the work. He said that staffing is still an issue but our permitting is much  
29 reduced than what it was when we had that discussion and that concern is secondary right now in his mind.

30  
31 Mr. Jones stated that the wind farm companies will be conducting studies especially in relation to the bird  
32 and bat study therefore he does not see the need in redoing it. He said that he does believe that the noise  
33 study is important but reminded the Committee that the fees will come out of the County because the  
34 \$20,000 fee for the wind farm will be paid for one way or another. He said that other counties have not been  
35 doing this and are accepting the studies which have been conducted by the wind companies. He said that we  
36 are at a time when we are wary about spending additional monies. He said that he does not know that we  
37 should assume that someone local could do the job as well as a consultant hired by the wind farm who has  
38 been doing these studies all over country with their projects.

39  
40 Ms. Anderson stated that she does not believe that anyone on the Committee that has concerns are opposed  
41 to the wind farm project and it is a small amount of money that is being requested to reassure those in the  
42 County that are not sure about the wind farms and that the wind companies are complying with the

1 regulations. She said that these studies would also protect the County as well.

2  
3 Mr. Kurtz stated that we should get the actual numbers as to what these studies will cost the County. He  
4 asked if the studies would be a package deal or would they be charged individually.

5  
6 Mr. Hall stated that we will not have actual numbers until we have an actual wind farm and at that point we  
7 need the studies completed.

8  
9 Ms. Busey stated that all we would get in terms of professional services is probably the firm telling us what  
10 their hourly rate will be and what their reimbursables would be and give an estimate for the time it would  
11 take. She said that when it comes down to an actual wind farm application, the firm would get that specific  
12 wind farm information and they would use the guidelines that staff negotiated with them.

13  
14 Ms. Wysocki said that a motion is needed to give Mr. Hall some direction on what to do.

15  
16 **Mr. Moser moved, seconded by Mr. Langenheim to contact the local firm or put out an RFP for an**  
17 **estimate on each technical review individually and collectively as a group and report those costs to**  
18 **the Committee for review.**

19  
20 Mr. Moser stated that Mr. Hall should work with Ms. Busey because she has had a lot of experience in that  
21 area.

22  
23 **The motion carried by voice vote.**

24  
25 **12. Monthly Reports (October-December 2008 and January-May 2009)**

26  
27 Mr. Hall distributed the October, November and December 2008 Monthly Reports and unfortunately one of  
28 the pages in the December report did not get reproduced therefore it will be redistributed next month. He  
29 said that he did not get a year end report for the Committee’s review to compare how the year went. He said  
30 that in terms of zoning case load it is not that far down for 2008 but it has gone down a great amount since  
31 the end of that fiscal year because our zoning case log is very much reduced. He said that permitting  
32 continues to be much reduced and we have been more successful in the past year in doing more of the  
33 compliance inspections that we have not been doing for a long time and we have to do more of those in the  
34 coming year because we still have a backlog. He said although it does not appear number wise we are doing  
35 more on enforcement but it takes a lot of work to make it be visible. He said that in the past few months we  
36 have sent two or three cases to the State’s Attorney and there is nothing more rigorous than getting a case  
37 ready for the State’s Attorney.

38  
39 **Ms. Ammons moved, seconded by Mr. Schroeder to accept and place the October and November 2008**  
40 **Monthly Reports on file. The motion carried by voice vote.**

41  
42 Mr. Moser asked Mr. Hall if there is anything in the law that is going to allow staff to deal with the same

1 people (junkers) who time after time clean up one mess and the next day make another.

2  
3 Mr. Hall stated the only thing we could do is add a penalty but Mr. Moser knows how much those people  
4 have to spend for penalties. He said we could add a penalty but they probably won't be able to pay it.

5  
6 Mr. Langenheim stated that we could perhaps stiffen up the Ordinance so that those folks will not be repeat  
7 offenders.

8  
9 Mr. Hall stated that this is a behavior aspect with these people and you can't change someone's behavior and  
10 all you can do is be there to clean up when the behavior gets bad enough. He said that another thing that we  
11 have in this county is certain people who spend an enormous amount of time on the telephone complaining  
12 about things to staff that are not even under our jurisdiction yet staff has to spend hours every week listening  
13 to them.

14  
15 **13. Other Business**

16  
17 Mr. Kurtz stated that AmerenIP and American Water have approached the County and the City of Urbana  
18 and City of Champaign indicating that they intend to raise their rates tremendously on the residents of the  
19 Champaign County and he is very opposed to this horrendous increase on water and electric services. He  
20 said that he believes that this matter should be placed on the agenda to discuss and have a consensus of the  
21 County Board in stating opposition to these proposed increases.

22  
23 Mr. Weibel stated that a resolution opposing the increase in water rates by American Water has been passed  
24 although nothing has been done for AmerenIP.

25  
26 **14. Determination of items to be placed on the County Board Consent Agenda**

27  
28 None

29  
30 **15. Adjournment**

31  
32 **Mr. Kurtz moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice**  
33 **vote.**

34  
35 The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Secretary to the Environment and Land Use Committee

eluc\minutes\minutes.fm



Date August 5, 2009

To: Environment and Land Use Committee

From: Susan Monte, Project Manager

Regarding: **Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard  
Mitigation Plan**

Action

Requested: **Champaign County Board Adoption of the Champaign County  
Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The development and preparation of the Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed this July. An Executive Summary of the Plan is provided as Attachment B, and the entire Plan is available online at <http://www.ccrpc.org/HMP/documents.html>.

This June, the final draft of the Plan was sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V (FEMA) for its preliminary review based on the local plan criteria contained in 44 CFR Part 201, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as well as the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. On June 25, 2009, FEMA indicated that the Plan met the required criteria for a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

Formal approval of this Plan is contingent upon the adoption by the participating jurisdictions of this Plan. Once FEMA Region V receives documentation of adoption from Champaign County (and other jurisdictions), a letter of official approval of the Plan will be provided.

Attachments:

- A Draft Adoption Resolution for Champaign County
- B Executive Summary of the Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION  
PLAN**

WHEREAS, Champaign County, with the assistance from the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, has gathered information and prepared the Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with FEMA requirements at 44 C.F.R. 201.6; and

WHEREAS, Champaign County is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and the action in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Champaign County Board has reviewed the Plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less than every five years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Champaign County Board that Champaign County adopts the Champaign County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as this jurisdiction's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED, AND RECORDED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009 at the meeting of the Champaign County Champaign County Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED:

C. Pius Weibel, Chair  
Champaign County Board  
Champaign, Illinois

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST:

Mark Shelden, County Clerk and *Ex Officio* Clerk  
of the Champaign County Board



## Executive Summary

### **Purpose**

The Champaign County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is intended to meet the planning requirements established in Section 104 of the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000* (42 USC 5165) and 44 CFR Part 201. The *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000* (DMA 2000) encourages planning for disasters before they occur. DMA 2000 is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). An approved local mitigation plan that addresses the specific natural hazard threats to local jurisdictions makes jurisdictions eligible to apply for mitigation funding through these FEMA programs:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance

### **Scope**

The Champaign County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies local hazard mitigation goals and objectives, and specific hazard mitigation actions to implement over the long term that will result in reduction in risk and potential for future losses associated with the occurrence of natural hazards.

The plan was developed to be useful to each participating jurisdiction. The Plan can be used to facilitate an increased awareness of potential natural hazards and a better understanding of potential losses from natural hazard events.

The development and ultimate adoption of the Plan by each jurisdiction identifies and prioritizes mitigation actions that can occur in each jurisdiction, in advance, to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from potential natural hazard events.

### **Planning Process**

The HMP development process included four major stages, with opportunities for public participation throughout: 1) organizing resources; 2) assessing risks; 3) developing the mitigation plan; and 4) implementing the plan and monitoring progress.

Each of the 24 municipal jurisdictions located wholly or partially within the County agreed to participate in development of a multi-jurisdictional HMP. The major higher education institutions in the County (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Parkland College) also agreed to participate in developing the HMP. In total 27 jurisdictions, including the County, participated in developing the HMP.

A 'combination' approach was used to represent all participating jurisdictions on the HMP Planning Team. This approach allowed for the direct representation of the seven largest populated jurisdictions and two higher education institutions on the Planning Team, and for the authorized representation of the 19 smaller municipalities on the Planning Team. The combination approach allowed for the direct representation on the Planning Team of approximately 90 percent of the population of all participating jurisdictions.

A broad-based HMP Advisory Group was recruited to support the Planning Team in their review of the draft HMP document and to provide their additional input at key stages during the project. Advisory Group members recruited during the Organization Stage included representatives of



each school district in Champaign County, key area-wide public and private service providers, and selected government agency representatives.

### **Public Participation**

Ongoing opportunities for public input were an essential component of the HMP development process. Efforts to inform the public and to allow for their effective participation in HMP decision-making included: initial publicizing of the HMP to representatives of all municipalities in the County; establishment of an interactive HMP website; public notice of Planning Team meetings; information displays and press releases about HMP development; conducting a public preference survey; and holding a public meeting.

### **Hazards Profiles**

Based on the *Illinois Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* natural hazard ratings for Champaign County, the Planning Team selected the following natural hazards to profile for the HMP planning area:

- Severe Storms (including: tornados, damaging lightening, and hail)
- Severe Winter Storms
- Floods
- Extreme Heat
- Drought
- Earthquakes

All jurisdictions in the HMP planning area are at risk for all of the natural hazards profiled in the HMP, except for one type of flooding, commonly referred to as 'riverine flooding' or 'overbank flooding', which is flooding that occurs when the waters rise above the normal water line and overflow the banks of a river, stream, or channel. The jurisdictions of Allerton, Broadlands, Gifford, Homer, Longview, Ludlow, Ogden, Pesotum, Philo, Savoy, Thomasboro and Tolono do not contain land that is within the 100-year flood plain. There is very little chance that normally dry areas within those jurisdictions will become inundated with water from riverine flooding that results in significant damage. However, these jurisdictions may experience less damaging flooding phenomena such as ponding or flash floods.

### **Assessing Vulnerability to Natural Hazards**

The data collection and analysis methods used to assess the vulnerability of HMP planning area jurisdictions to the profiled natural hazards included:

- Inventorying categories of property that could potentially be damaged;
- Determining average cost per square foot and the replacement cost for potentially damaged structures;
- Considering potential damage caused by each type of hazard including a general description of the economic impacts; and
- Ranking the vulnerability to each threat by jurisdiction.

HAZUS software was used to assess HMP planning area vulnerability to earthquake and flood hazards (specifically, riverine flood hazard). Specific hazard event scenarios were analyzed with HAZUS to provide a more detailed vulnerability assessment. Additional information regarding the procedures followed in assessing vulnerability with HAZUS software for the riverine flood and earthquake hazards are available in Appendix 3.



The ranking of six natural hazards based on the vulnerability assessments for each hazard is indicated in the following table:

**Ranking of Hazards Based on Vulnerability Assessment**

Natural Hazard	Hazard Rank	Annual Probability	Property & Crop Damage	Safety Hazard	Critical Facility Vulnerability	Potential Economic Disruption	Jurisdictions Affected
<b>Severe Storm</b>	<b>1</b>	81% 47% Tornado 62% Hail 7% Damaging Lightning	Moderate	High	High	Medium	All
<b>Flood</b>	<b>2</b>	67%	Major	Medium	Medium	Medium	<p><b>By Riverine Floods:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unincorporated Champaign County</li> <li>▪ Bondville</li> <li>▪ Champaign</li> <li>▪ Fisher</li> <li>▪ Foosland</li> <li>▪ Ivesdale</li> <li>▪ Mahomet</li> <li>▪ Rantoul</li> <li>▪ Royal,</li> <li>▪ Sadorus</li> <li>▪ Sidney</li> <li>▪ St. Joseph</li> <li>▪ Urbana</li> <li>▪ Parkland College</li> <li>▪ UIUC</li> </ul> <p><b>By Ponding and Flash Floods:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
<b>Severe Winter Storm</b>	<b>3</b>	87%	Minor	High	Medium	Medium	All
<b>Extreme Heat</b>	<b>4</b>	-	Minor	High	Low	Low	All
<b>Drought</b>	<b>5</b>	-	Moderate	Low	Low	Medium	All
<b>Earthquake</b>	<b>6</b>	-	Minor	Low	Low	Low	All



- **Severe storms**, which include tornados, hail, and lightning, are the highest ranking natural hazard threat of the HMP. The large probability of severe storms, along with the potential threat to not only property, but the health and safety of the jurisdictions' citizens, make severe storms dangerous. The damage that occurs in a large severe storm tends to be more localized than a large flooding event, though tornados can damage property and cause injury across a large area.
- **Flooding** is the second highest ranking threat of the HMP. Although not all jurisdictions are threatened by riverine flooding, the frequency, high potential damage to property, and wide damage area of a flooding event make it a hazard which is likely to cause widespread, significant damage.
- **Severe winter storms** are the third ranking threat of the HMP. Severe winter storms can pose safety risks, particular associated with vehicular travel, because of the reduced visibility, and the slippery road conditions that they cause. Severe winterstorms not only have the capability of making travel dangerous, but can disrupt transportation altogether if roads become impassable. Ice storms can cause property damage and interruption of power service.
- **Extreme heat** is the fourth ranking threat of the HMP. Extreme heat is not usually associated with property damage, but poses serious health risks, especially to vulnerable populations. An extreme heat event is likely to affect the whole County, putting many people at a health risk.
- **Drought** is the fifth ranked hazard of the HMP. Droughts do threaten crops in the county. However, drought is ranked on the lower end of the hazards because it does not pose a significant threat to structures or critical facilities, nor does it pose a health and safety hazard.
- **Earthquake** is ranked last in the HMP. The lack of historical damage caused by earthquakes in Champaign County, and the modest damage that is predicted by the HAZUS model suggest that earthquakes are the hazard that are least likely to impact the HMP planning area.

The following key contains a description of categories used to rate overall vulnerability to natural hazards for each jurisdiction:

<b>Key</b>	na	Not a hazard to the jurisdiction
	L	Low Risk - little damage potential (e.g., minor damage to less than 5% of the jurisdiction)
	M	Medium Risk - moderate damage potential (e.g., causing partial damage to 5-10% of the jurisdiction; infrequent occurrence.
	H	<b>Significant Risk - major damage potential (e.g., destructive, damage to more than 10% of the jurisdiction; regular occurrence.)</b>

Using the above Key, a summary of vulnerability to natural hazards by jurisdiction is provided in the table below:



## Summary of Vulnerability to Natural Hazards by Jurisdiction

Profiled Natural Hazards: ►  Jurisdictions: ▼	Severe Storms includes Tornados, Hail, Damaging Lightning	Severe Winter Storms	Riverine Floods	Flash Floods or Ponding	Extreme Heat	Drought	Earthquake
Village of Allerton	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Bondville	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Broadlands	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Unincorporated Champaign County	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
City of Champaign	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Fisher	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Foosland	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Gifford	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Homer	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Ivesdale	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Longview	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Ludlow	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Mahomet	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Ogden	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Pesotum	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Philo	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Rantoul	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Royal	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Sadorus	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Savoy	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Sidney	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of St. Joseph	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Village of Thomasboro	H	H	na	L	M	L	L
Village of Tolono	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
City of Urbana	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	H	H	M	L	M	L	L
Parkland College	H	H	na	L	M	L	L



### ***Developing Mitigation Strategy***

Planning Team Members identified four goals that broadly describe the long-term ideals and intentions of the HMP and objectives for each goal, consistent with those of the current *State of Illinois Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan* and the adopted *City of Urbana Hazard Mitigation Plan*.

The HMP goals and accompanying objectives follow:

***Goal 1. Minimize avoidable deaths and injuries due to natural hazards.***

- Objectives***
- 1-a Educate population regarding methods of protecting self and property from natural hazard impacts
  - 1-b Establish adequate warning systems.
  - 1-c Protect critical facilities and services from impacts of natural hazards.
  - 1-d Arrange for provision of storm shelters and cooling centers for population.

***Goal 2. Protect existing and new infrastructure from impacts of natural hazards.***

- Objectives***
- 2-a Monitor condition of infrastructure for needed maintenance.
  - 2-b Ensure that water is available in the event of a drought.

***Goal 3. Include natural hazard mitigation in local government plans and regulations.***

- Objectives***
- 3-a Improve the information base regarding vulnerability to impacts of natural hazards.
  - 3-b Review local programs and ordinances to determine how they can better address the impacts of natural hazards.

***Goal 4. Coordinate natural hazard mitigation efforts of participating jurisdictions.***

- Objective***
- 4-a Update the multi-jurisdictional HMP every five years.

***Specific Mitigation Actions For Each Hazard*** Planning Team members and HMP project staff reviewed a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions for each hazard for each jurisdiction by reviewing groups of mitigation actions as identified by FEMA:

- preventive
- property protection
- natural resource protection
- structural projects
- public education and awareness

***Mitigation Action Preference Survey*** The *Champaign County HMP Mitigation Measures Survey* was designed to gather public input about potential hazard mitigation actions. The survey was placed online at the HMP website ([www.ccrpc.org/HMP](http://www.ccrpc.org/HMP)) and paper copies of the survey were provided to the primary contact of each participating jurisdiction. The Survey was available online over an eight-week period, November 24, 2008 through January 16, 2009.

The survey contained 40 questions. Participants were asked to indicate whether they “strongly agree,” “agree,” “disagree,” or “strongly disagree” with a series of natural hazard mitigation actions. Fifty-seven responses to the survey were received. Respondents most preferred implementing public awareness and public education mitigation actions; actions to protect critical facilities; and adopting building codes to require safe rooms and other standards to strengthen structures to be wind resistant.



**Mitigation Action Prioritization Method** Planning Team members agreed to a prioritizing method that involved a 3-step analysis of each mitigation action. Each mitigation action was scored using the 3-step method, with each step yielding up to 14 points each. The maximum total score for any one mitigation action could be 42.

**STEP 1.** The first analysis is one that assesses an 'action scope' for the mitigation action. Up to 14 points were allocated based on which category fits the subject mitigation action. Members determined which level each mitigation action fit into to: Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3. Next, if the mitigation action was determined to be a Level 1 or a Level 2 action, points were assigned based on Planning Team members' expertise and judgment as to the effectiveness of the mitigation action. Because Level 3 actions permanently eliminate or reduce property damages, injuries, or deaths in a specific area, Level 3 actions were assigned the highest amount of 14 points automatically.

A description of the 'action scope' levels and the points to be assigned to each 'action scope' level follows:

**Level 1 Actions Potential Score: 1 to 14 points**

- Eliminate or reduce property damages, injuries and deaths from less significant natural hazards; or
- Educate the public on disaster preparedness and mitigation related to the less significant natural hazards (e.g., drought, or earthquake)

**Level 2 Actions Potential Score: 8 to 14 points**

- Reduce property damages in a specific area; or
- Have the potential to reduce property damages, injuries and deaths across a wide area; or
- Educate the public on disaster preparedness and mitigation

**Level 3 Actions Score: 14 points**

- Permanently eliminate property damages and/or eliminate or reduce injuries and deaths in a specific area; or
- Have a high probability to systematically reduce property damages, injuries and deaths across a wide area.

**STEP 2 Cost Effectiveness Rating Potential Score: 1 to 14 points**

Members ranked each mitigation action qualitatively and subjectively, based on perceived cost-effectiveness of the mitigation action. In rating 'cost-effectiveness', a score of 14 points was possible, with lower scores denoting less cost-effectiveness and higher scores denoting greater cost-effectiveness.

**STEP 3 Feasibility Rating: Potential Score: 1 to 14 points**

Each action was assessed along 14 dimensions using a portion of FEMA's STAPLEE framework. If the action was generally positive in a certain dimension, it was given a point. The total points available for feasibility range from 1 to 14.

**Total Score** A total score was assigned to each mitigation action based on the 3-step prioritization process described above.

Total Score: 0-27 = Priority 3  
 28-35 = Priority 2  
 36-42 = Priority 1



Mitigation actions receiving the highest scores were rated as a Priority 1; those receiving mid-range scores were rated as a Priority 2; and mitigation actions receiving the lowest range of scores were rated as Priority 3.

***Hazard Mitigation Actions Prioritized by Jurisdiction*** Chapter 6 includes a table that lists hazard mitigation actions, as prioritized, for each participating jurisdiction. Included for each mitigation action is information about the party responsible for implementing the mitigation action, funding source, and a suggested timeframe for implementation.

***Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan***

To remain eligible for mitigation project funding opportunities, a FEMA requirement is that the Champaign County HMP be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect changes in development, progress in mitigation efforts, and changes in its priorities, and resubmitted for FEMA approval every five years.

Chapter 7 describes the HMP maintenance procedure. The Planning Team recommends that the HMP be reviewed on an annual basis beginning one year after FEMA acceptance. The annual review will facilitate a means of tracking and recording progress of participating jurisdictions toward implementation of mitigation efforts, and allow an opportunity for Planning Team members to evaluate opportunities to better coordinate mitigation actions across participating jurisdictions. The annual review schedule will enable an easier, more efficient five-year update.

Ongoing opportunities for public participation will remain an essential component of the HMP maintenance process. Efforts to inform the public and allow for public input as the HMP is reviewed and updated will include: continuation of the HMP website; public notice of future Planning Team meetings; release of public service announcements and press releases; and holding a public meeting prior to the end of the five-year HMP update cycle to review updated information, modifications, and proposed mitigation actions at that time.

