Bi-State Regional Commission
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SERVICE REPORT

COUNTY/COMMUNITY: Rock Island County, IL

DATE: October 26, 2026

FILED BY: Lisa Ahern, Natalie Murphy

MEETING: Rock Island County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Stakeholder Meeting

PRESENT:

NAME/GROUP REPRESENTED	BI-STATE STAFF
Bob Graff, Rock Island County EMA	Lisa Ahern
Darrin Armstrong, East Moline Fire Chief	Gena McCullough
Mahtaab Bagherzadeh, National Wildlife Federation	Natalie Murphy
Mary Baker, River Action	Zach Sutton
Arpita Banerjee, University of Illinois	
Robert Bauer, Illinois State Geological Survey	
Matt Beam, Rock Island County	
Heather Bishop, USACE	
Rebecca Cantu, Two Rivers YMCA	
Shawn Cisna, Black Hawk College	
Erin Conley, Illinois DNR	
Robbin Dunn, City of Davenport	
Jodi Freet, Scott County, EMA	
Trent Ford, University of Illinois	
Bradley Gantt, Quad Cities International Airport	
Steve Gibson, Village of Milan	
Lindsay Gorishek, City of East Moline	
George Jennings, IEMA-OHS	
Shawn Johnson, Village of Millan	
Michael Kasprak, Illinois State Police	
Steve Keenan, Illinois DNR	
Zachary Krug, IEMA-OHS	
Jerry Leibovitz, City of Silvis	
Chris Mathias, Moline	
Tammy Muerhoff, Rock Island County ROE	
Arsum Pathak, National Wildlife Federation	
Steve Regenwether, Moline Fire Chief	
Tyler Schmidt, Davenport Fire Department	
Steve Seiver, Village of Milan	
Melissa Simatovich, American Red Cross	
Nin Struss, Prairie Rivers Network	
Jeff Swan, Quad Cities International Airport	
Dan Swanson, Black Hawk Area Special Education District	
Jeffrey Thompson, IEMA-OHS	
Jenelle Wolber, REDEEM	
Tim Wymes, City of East Moline	

Opening Meeting

The Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Stakeholder meeting began at 1:00 pm. Lisa Ahern from Bi-State Regional Commission recognized Bob Graff from the Rock Island County EMA's office as well as staff from Illinois EMA-OHS in attendance.

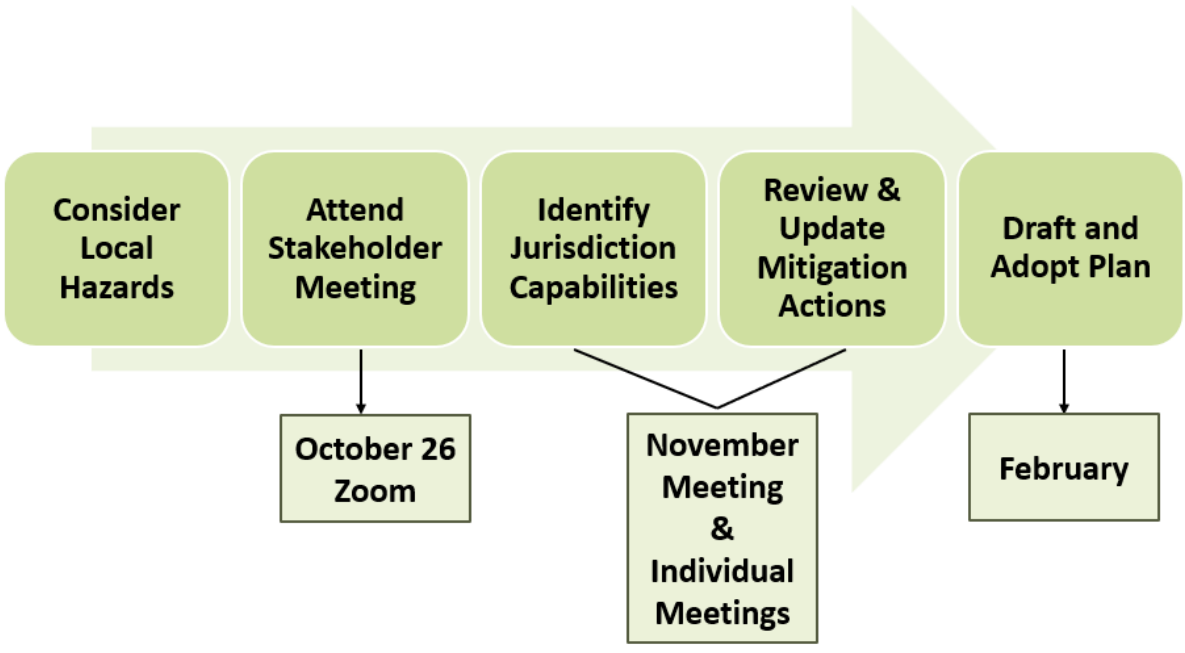
Presentation

A presentation on the plan update and the process was provided. This process would be to update an existing plan that expired last year. Keeping plans current allows communities to apply for mitigation assistance funding through FEMA. Although the plan has expired, if an event were to occur, communities would be able to apply for a waiver since the update process is underway. Rock Island County was awarded a grant from FEMA for this plan update and the County is contracting with Bi-State to facilitate and prepare the plan. The participants in the last plan were shared with the group. Then, benefits of hazard mitigation planning were discussed along with each of the planning groups involved in the process. The steering committee consists of Bi-State, the County, and the County EMA. The planning committee is made up by local jurisdictions and their points of contact (ranging from administrators to public works staff to fire chiefs). The stakeholder group will consist of members of the public, nonprofit organizations, other governmental entities, business groups, and the media.

Next, the list of hazards that will be covered in the plan were presented. In the 2021 plan, pandemic disease, radiological incident, and hazardous materials were covered. Now, there are sufficient plans that cover radiological incident and hazardous materials, so they will not be included in the plan, but pandemic disease will remain. The rest of the hazards will be assessed by jurisdictions and covered in the plan. Hazard profiles were then discussed and the risk level may not have changed for a good majority of the hazards. Although the frequency of hazards may not have changed, FEMA is encouraging communities to hone in on the severity of events and what populations are vulnerable. Examples of drier conditions in the community that have impacts on droughts, heat events, and even wildfires was shared, along with updates on flooding events. There have been notable flooding events and the community is seeing strong flash flood events.

After the presentation of hazards, attendees were asked to share their input on local hazards and specific vulnerabilities. Moline shared that flooding continues to be the City's number one threat. Davenport, shared that flash flooding continues to be a concern and high wind events or storms seems to be more frequent. When the group was asked about data available for flash flooding or where mitigation dollars have been spent, Davenport representative shared that most of their mitigation dollars have been focused on river flood mitigation. Davenport and Moline both have repetitive loss data, but not information on vulnerabilities with flash flooding. Committee members inquired about differences between heavy rain falls causing storm water issues vs. old infrastructure. Bi-State staff responded that they go hand in hand for this plan. It was stated that fire districts should have information on number of wildfires and the acreage. Milan shared the concern of rapid river rising from ice jams to the north.

Bi-State shared the opportunities community members have to share their input at various stages of the process. The image below demonstrates the process for the plan update. A copy of the 2021 plan, information on future meetings, and online resources will be available on the hazard mitigation page of Bi-State's website.



Public Comment and Conclusion

No one shared during public comment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:35 pm.