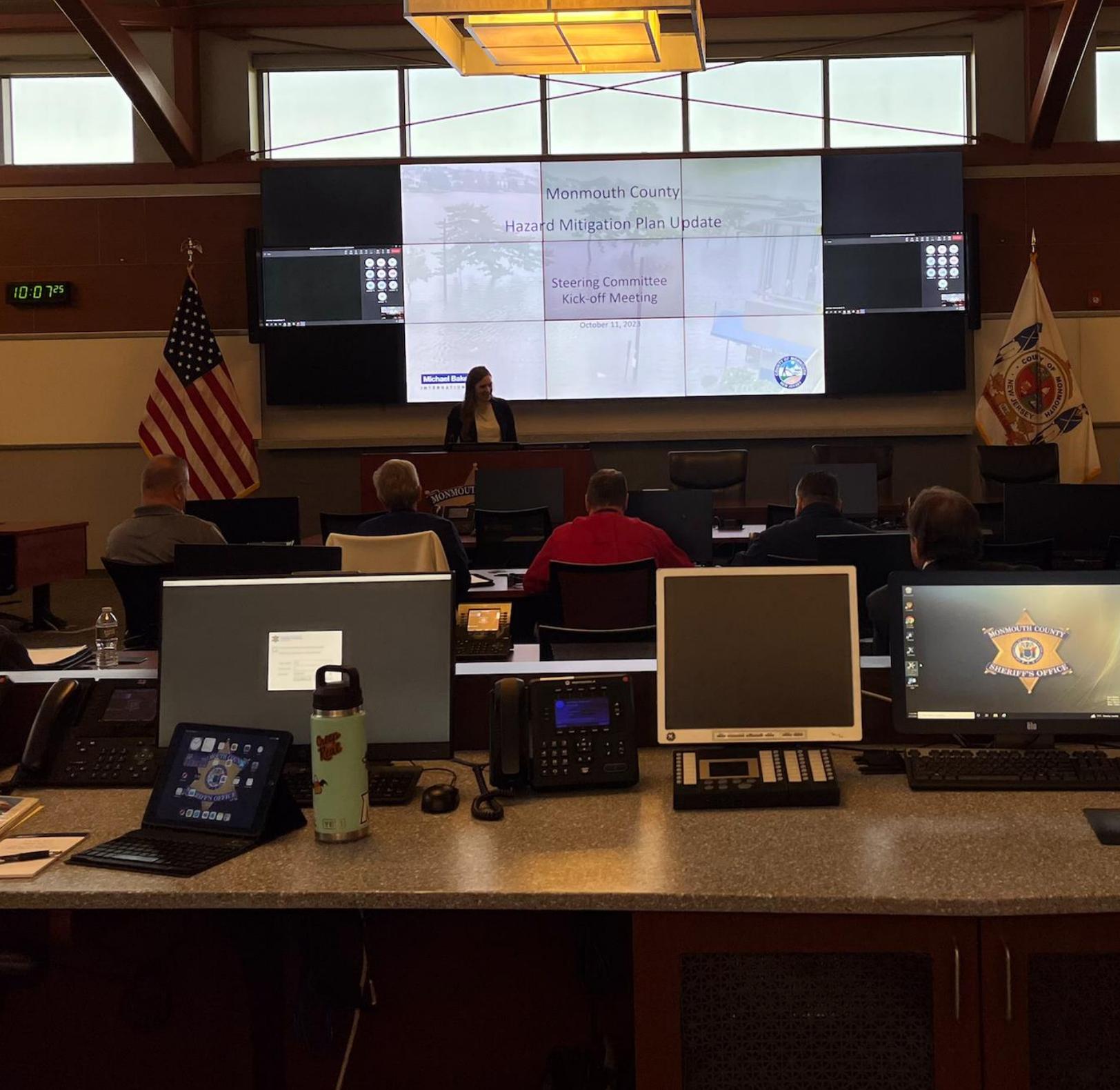


3.0 PLANNING PROCESS



3.0 PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Monmouth County HMP update includes a robust planning process and participation strategy. The project is led by the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) which is part of the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office. The HMP Project Manager is the Monmouth County Emergency Management Analyst, Stephanie Seymour. Monmouth County selected Michael Baker International, Inc. (Michael Baker) to support the development of the Monmouth County HMP (the Project Team).

The Monmouth County HMP update was prepared through numerous meetings, both in-person and virtual, with the Steering Committee, County Agencies and Departments, regional stakeholders, all 53 municipalities, and members of the public. The County OEM webpage was used throughout the plan update to bring awareness to hazard mitigation and give the public an opportunity to provide comments. The Monmouth County HMP followed FEMA’s HMP process by following their four core steps in completing a HMP update.

Table 3.1-1 Monmouth County HMP Planning Process

| FEMA’s Four Core Planning Steps | Monmouth County HMP Action |
|---|---|
| 1. Organize the Planning Process and Resources | Created an online project website for public meeting notices, general information on hazard mitigation, and a platform to submit questions or concerns, in addition to comments on the draft HMP. |
| 2. Assess Risks and Capabilities | Provided risk estimates based on Hazus-MH, which was based on an updated critical facility data layer and reviewed local capabilities at the municipal meetings. |
| 3. Develop a Mitigation Strategy | Developed Mitigation Action Worksheets, which document each jurisdiction’s analysis of actions considered to reduce the impacts of hazards identified in the risk assessment. |
| 4. Adopt and Implement the Plan | After receiving formal approval from both NJOEM and FEMA, the County will adopt this plan and each of the 53 municipalities will formally adopt a resolution approving the finalized Monmouth County HMP update. |

This plan update was completed through a combination of research and municipal, stakeholder, and public participation. The Project Team researched existing local plans, reports, projects, and ordinances in addition to acquiring data from the County, New Jersey Geographic Information Network (NJGIN), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NJDEP, and FEMA to write the Monmouth County HMP.

Plan participation began with a kick-off meeting between Michael Baker and Monmouth County OEM in September 2023 and concluded when the final plan was submitted to FEMA. After receiving formal approval from both NJOEM and FEMA, each jurisdiction formally adopts a resolution approving the finalized Monmouth County HMP update, documenting their commitment to strive to implement the actions and projects identified in the mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from natural hazards and disasters in their community.

3.2 STEERING COMMITTEE

Monmouth County formed a Steering Committee at the start of the planning process to guide the HMP development. The Steering Committee members includes County agencies and regional stakeholders, including representatives of FEMA’s Community Lifelines (e.g., Health and Medical, Energy, Transportation) and non-profits that work with climate change. The Steering Committee met three times during the plan development process. Topics and implementation of the steering committee meetings are detailed in the next section.

3.3 ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

This HMP update included a broad range of stakeholders, **including 10 County agencies and departments, 26 regional stakeholders, and each of the 53 municipalities.** Even more stakeholders were invited to participate in this HMP update, including stakeholder organizations and nonprofits that support underserved populations, climate change experts, neighboring counties, agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and other private and nonprofit interests involved in hazard mitigation activities. Section 3.4 Summary of Meetings Held During This Plan Update, each organization invited to the meeting is listed, along with the organization that attended each meeting. Table 3.5-1 Summary of Planning Attendance lists which organization participated in each meeting.

The Project Team held the following meetings during this plan update:

- Steering Committee Meeting #1
- Steering Committee #2
- Risk Assessment Municipal Workshops
- Mitigation Municipal Workshops
- Individual Meetings
- Socially Vulnerable Roundtable
- Regional Stakeholder Meeting
- Regional Utility Authority Meeting

Municipal Engagement Strategy

The municipal meetings included a mix between in-person regional workshops and individual virtual meetings. The in-person regional workshops were held at three locations (Keyport Borough, Neptune Township, and Freehold Township) on four different days in October and four different days in December of 2024. The October workshops covered the risk assessment, and the December workshops discussed the mitigation strategy. For the purpose of this plan update, the County is broken up into four regions: Bayshore, Central Monmouth, South Monmouth, and Western Monmouth. The four regions are detailed below.

Bayshore: Holmdel Township, Matawan Borough, Keyport Borough, Middletown Township, Hazlet Township, Keansburg Borough, Union Beach Borough, Aberdeen Township, Highlands Borough, and Atlantic Highlands Borough.

Central Monmouth: Allenhurst Borough, Interlaken Borough, Deal Borough, Ocean Township, West Long Branch Borough, Eatontown Borough, Long Branch City, Shrewsbury Township, Tinton Falls Borough, Shrewsbury Borough, Oceanport Borough, Monmouth Beach Borough, Little Silver Borough, Fair Haven Borough, Red Bank Borough, Rumson Borough, Sea Bright Borough, and Village of Loch Arbour.

South Monmouth: Brielle Borough, Sea Girt Borough, Spring Lake Heights Borough, Spring Lake Borough, Lake Como Borough, Belmar Borough, Avon-by-the-Sea Borough, Neptune City Borough, Asbury Park City, Bradley Beach Borough, Wall Township, Manasquan Borough, and Neptune Township.

Western Monmouth: Allentown Borough, Farmingdale Borough, Upper Freehold Township, Howell Township, Roosevelt Borough, Freehold Borough, Millstone Township, Freehold Township, Englishtown Borough, Manalapan Township, Colts Neck Township, and Marlboro Township.

If a municipality could not make either the risk assessment or mitigation strategy workshop, the Project Team held a virtual meeting in November and December 2024 to review their risk assessment and mitigation strategy, depending on which workshop the municipality could not attend. Participation by meeting type is detailed in the next section.

3.4 SUMMARY OF MEETINGS HELD DURING THIS PLAN UPDATE

September 19, 2023: Steering Committee Meeting #1

The County held a hybrid kick-off meeting (in person at the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office and virtually) to review the role of the steering committee; an overview on hazard mitigation and the planning process; changes since the last plan and new FEMA guidance; high-level overview of the planning process, risk and vulnerability assessment, capability assessment, mitigation strategy; and the project schedule. Participants that were physically at the meeting completed two worksheets during this meeting to evaluate the goals and objectives and profiled hazards from the previous plan. Hazards profiled by the New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2024) were considered for this plan update. Virtual participants were emailed both worksheets as a follow-up to the meeting. The Project Team received several completed worksheets by both the Steering Committee and municipalities, which assisted the County in revising the mitigation goals and objectives and profiled hazards.

Table 3.4-1 Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting Invitations and Attendance

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting |
|--|--|
| NJ Sea Grant Consortium | |
| Oceanport OEM-Mid | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Regional Health Commission | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Division of Planning | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Health Department | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Building Code Officials | |
| Howell OEM-West | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Undersheriff | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Department of Public Works & Engineering | ✓ |
| Naval Weapons Station Earle | |
| Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office | ✓ |
| United Way of Monmouth & Ocean | ✓ |
| Monmouth University-Urban Coast Institute | |
| Township of Middletown Municipal Sewerage Authority | |
| Monmouth County Community Development | ✓ |
| South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Commissioner | |
| First Energy Corp/JCP&L | |
| New Jersey Natural Gas | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Administrator | |
| New Jersey American Water | |
| Hackensack Meridian Health | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Administration/Solid Waste | ✓ |
| Middletown OEM-Bayshore | |
| Monmouth County Park System | ✓ |
| Rutgers University | ✓ |
| Manasquan OEM-South | ✓ |
| Robert Wood Johnson | |
| New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection | ✓ |
| Centra State Healthcare System | ✓ |
| Monmouth Ocean Development Council | |
| Freehold Soil Conservation District Manager | |

October 2024: Risk Assessment Municipal Workshops

The Project Team held four workshops in October of 2024 at three regional locations within the County. During each workshop, the Project Team discussed significant storms events since the previous plan in 2021, recent major development and infrastructure from 2021 to present, known or anticipated major development and infrastructure in the next five (5) years, and organizations that work with socially vulnerable populations to bring to the table for the socially vulnerable roundtable meeting. The Project Team reviewed municipal risk maps produced by Michael Baker, including a map of Repetitive Loss (RL) properties overlaid on top of their current flood risk and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Classification. These maps also included future risk maps including permanent inundation under sea level rise (SLR) conditions up to five feet of SRL and New Jersey Inland Design Flood Elevation. Lastly, the Project Team worked with municipalities to review the list of critical facilities and community lifelines and rank hazard of concern (high, medium, or low). The benefit of the regional meetings is that municipalities could understand which risk their neighbors are experiencing, what new development is occurring within the County, and a chance to brainstorm potential regional mitigation actions they could add to this plan update. Information from these workshops is included in each municipality’s appendix.

Table 3.4-2 Risk Assessment Municipal Workshop Participation (October 2024)

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended October Workshop |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aberdeen, Township of | |
| Allenhurst, Borough of | |
| Allentown, Borough of | |
| Asbury Park, City of | |
| Atlantic Highlands, Borough of | ✓ |
| Avon-by-the-Sea, Borough of | |
| Belmar, Borough of | ✓ |
| Bradley Beach, Borough of | ✓ |
| Brielle, Borough of | |
| Colts Neck, Township of | |
| Deal, Borough of | |
| Eatontown, Borough of | |
| Englishtown, Borough of | |
| Fair Haven, Borough of | |
| Farmingdale, Borough of | ✓ |
| Freehold, Borough of | |
| Freehold, Township of | ✓ |
| Hazlet, Township of | ✓ |
| Highlands, Borough of | ✓ |
| Holmdel, Township of | |
| Howell, Township of | ✓ |
| Interlaken, Borough of | |
| Keansburg, Borough of | ✓ |
| Keyport, Borough of | ✓ |
| Lake Como, Borough of | ✓ |
| Little Silver, Borough of | ✓ |
| Loch Arbour, Village of | |
| Long Branch, City of | |
| Manalapan, Township of | |
| Manasquan, Borough of | ✓ |
| Marlboro, Township of | ✓ |
| Matawan, Borough of | ✓ |
| Middletown, Township of | ✓ |
| Millstone, Township of | ✓ |

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended October Workshop |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monmouth Beach, Borough of | |
| Neptune City, Borough of | ✓ |
| Neptune, Township of | ✓ |
| Ocean, Township of | ✓ |
| Oceanport, Borough of | ✓ |
| Red Bank, Borough of | ✓ |
| Roosevelt, Borough of | |
| Rumson, Borough of | ✓ |
| Sea Bright, Borough of | |
| Sea Girt, Borough of | |
| Shrewsbury, Borough of | ✓ |
| Shrewsbury, Township of | |
| Spring Lake, Borough of | ✓ |
| Spring Lake Heights, Borough of | ✓ |
| Tinton Falls, Borough of | ✓ |
| Union Beach, Borough of | |
| Upper Freehold, Township of | |
| Wall, Township of | ✓ |
| West Long Branch, Borough of | |

November 2024 through January 2025: Individual Meetings

There were two types of individual meetings during the plan update: municipal individual meetings and County individual meetings.

Municipal Individual Meetings: Depending on which municipal workshop each municipality attended, the individual meetings varied in format. As previously mentioned, some municipalities attended one of the regional municipal workshops, while some could not attend either workshop. The Project Team covered the same topics in these individual meetings that were discussed in the risk assessment municipal workshops and mitigation municipal workshops, including significant storms events since 2021, recent major development and infrastructure from 2021 to present, known or anticipated major development and infrastructure in the next five (5) years, organizations that work with socially vulnerable populations to bring to the table, risk maps, list of critical facilities and community lifelines, ranking of hazards, and their mitigation strategy.

County Individual Meetings: In addition to hosting individual meetings with each municipality, the Project Team met individually with Monmouth County departments and agencies that had actions in the previous plan or had new actions to include in this plan update.

Table Summary of Planning Participation Table 3.1-3 Summary of Planning Participation lists which municipalities and County departments the Project Team met individually with during this plan update.

December 2024: Mitigation Municipal Workshops

Since the Planning Team reviewed each municipality’s highest hazards of concern and recent hazard history in the October 2024 Municipal Workshops, the December 2024 Mitigation Workshops reviewed new regional and local mitigation actions to add to the 2026 plan and reviewed the 2021 mitigation strategies.

Table 3.4-3 Mitigation Municipal Workshop Participation (December 2024)

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended December Workshop |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aberdeen, Township of | ✓ |
| Allenhurst, Borough of | ✓ |

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| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended December Workshop |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Allentown, Borough of | ✓ |
| Asbury Park, City of | ✓ |
| Atlantic Highlands, Borough of | ✓ |
| Avon-by-the-Sea, Borough of | |
| Belmar, Borough of | ✓ |
| Bradley Beach, Borough of | ✓ |
| Brielle, Borough of | ✓ |
| Colts Neck, Township of | ✓ |
| Deal, Borough of | ✓ |
| Eatontown, Borough of | |
| Englishtown, Borough of | ✓ |
| Fair Haven, Borough of | |
| Farmingdale, Borough of | ✓ |
| Freehold, Borough of | ✓ |
| Freehold, Township of | |
| Hazlet, Township of | ✓ |
| Highlands, Borough of | ✓ |
| Holmdel, Township of | ✓ |
| Howell, Township of | ✓ |
| Interlaken, Borough of | ✓ |
| Keansburg, Borough of | |
| Keyport, Borough of | ✓ |
| Lake Como, Borough of | ✓ |
| Little Silver, Borough of | ✓ |
| Loch Arbour, Village of | ✓ |
| Long Branch, City of | ✓ |
| Manalapan, Township of | |
| Manasquan, Borough of | ✓ |
| Marlboro, Township of | ✓ |
| Matawan, Borough of | ✓ |
| Middletown, Township of | ✓ |
| Millstone, Township of | |
| Monmouth Beach, Borough of | ✓ |
| Neptune City, Borough of | ✓ |
| Neptune, Township of | ✓ |
| Ocean, Township of | ✓ |
| Oceanport, Borough of | ✓ |
| Red Bank, Borough of | ✓ |
| Roosevelt, Borough of | |
| Rumson, Borough of | ✓ |
| Sea Bright, Borough of | |
| Sea Girt, Borough of | ✓ |
| Shrewsbury, Borough of | ✓ |
| Shrewsbury, Township of | ✓ |
| Spring Lake, Borough of | ✓ |
| Spring Lake Heights, Borough of | ✓ |
| Tinton Falls, Borough of | ✓ |
| Union Beach, Borough of | ✓ |
| Upper Freehold, Township of | ✓ |
| Wall, Township of | ✓ |
| West Long Branch, Borough of | |

December 9, 2024: Steering Committee #2 Meeting

At this second steering committee meeting, the Project Team updated the steering committee on HMP progress, including the two public meetings, a series of regional workshops, and individual municipal meetings had taken and were taking place. Upcoming activities included meeting with County and regional stakeholders to review mitigation actions. These were to include County departments such as OEM, the Division of Planning, the Park System, and Public Works & Engineering; potential others were Public Health and Social Services. Regional stakeholders to include were organizations that support socially vulnerable populations, adjacent counties, and regional utility authorities. The Project Team notified the steering committee that it will be able to review and comment on the draft HMP in February 2025.

Table 3.4-4 Steering Committee #2 Meeting Invitations and Attendance

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended |
|--|----------|
| NJ Sea Grant Consortium | |
| Oceanport OEM-Mid | |
| Monmouth County Regional Health Commission | |
| Monmouth County Division of Planning | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Health Department | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Building Code Officials | |
| Howell OEM-West | |
| Monmouth County Undersheriff | |
| Monmouth County Department of Public Works & Engineering | ✓ |
| Naval Weapons Station Earle | |
| Monmouth County Sheriff's Office | ✓ |
| United Way of Monmouth & Ocean | |
| Monmouth University-Urban Coast Institute | ✓ |
| Township of Middletown Municipal Sewerage Authority | |
| Monmouth County Community Development | |
| South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority | |
| Monmouth County Commissioner | |
| First Energy Corp/JCP&L | |
| New Jersey Natural Gas | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Administrator | |
| New Jersey American Water | |
| Hackensack Meridian Health | |
| Monmouth County Administration/Solid Waste | |
| Middletown OEM-Bayshore | |
| Monmouth County Park System | ✓ |
| Rutgers University | ✓ |
| Manasquan OEM-South | ✓ |
| Robert Wood Johnson | |
| New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection | |
| CentraState Healthcare System | ✓ |
| Monmouth Ocean Development Council | |
| Freehold Soil Conservation District Manager | |

January 23, 2025: Socially Vulnerable Roundtable

The Project Team held a roundtable with organizations that support socially vulnerable populations in January 2025. When the Project Team met with municipalities during the municipal workshops or individual meetings, we asked if the municipality works with these organizations and if so, if we could have their contact information. Those contacts were invited to this roundtable discussion.

During this roundtable, the Project Team discussed recent hazards, such as extreme temperatures, the April 2024 earthquake, smoke from the Canadian wildfires and local wildfires, drought, cyberattacks, COVID-19, and flooding, as well as potential mitigation actions for these hazards. A few concerns that were discussed during this roundtable included not having a structured way to transport those experiencing homelessness during a hazard event, not having enough warming centers in Monmouth County as many are at capacity, not having a centrally located warming centers in Freehold, as most of the warming centers are located along the coast, and respiratory issues from the Canadian wildfires for those without an air conditioning system that filters the air. For the email inviting stakeholders to the roundtable meeting, please see Appendix F in Appendices Volume II – Other Plan Materials.

Table 3.4-5 Organizations that Represent Socially Vulnerable Organizations Invitations and Attendance

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended |
|--|----------|
| Atlantic Health System | ✓ |
| CentraState Medical Center | ✓ |
| Hackensack Meridian Health | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Department of Health | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Department of Human Services | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Division of Social Services | ✓ |
| RWJBarnabas Health | ✓ |
| Women's Heartwarming Center for Homeless Women | ✓ |
| Affordable Housing Alliance | |
| Monmouth County Assisting Community Through Services | |
| Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation | |
| New Jersey Code Blue | |
| Mental Health Association of Monmouth County | |
| Eastern United States Salvation Army | |
| Market Street Mission | |
| The Feast NJ | |
| Monarch Housing Associates | |
| YMCA of Greater Monmouth County | |
| Hope Sheds Lights | |
| Red Roof Inn TF #1 | |
| Red Roof Inn TF #2 | |
| Trinity Church | |
| First Baptist Church of Red Bank | |
| The Feast NJ | |
| MEALS ON WHEELS-Allentown and UFT | |
| United Way of Monmouth & Ocean | |

January 28, 2025: Regional Stakeholder Meeting

This meeting targeted participation from climate change experts, neighboring counties, agencies that have the authority to regulate development, and other private and nonprofit interests involved in hazard mitigation activities. During the meeting, the Project Team summarized risk assessment findings and discussed the hazards of concern. Participants were asked if the assessment aligns with what they have experience within the last five (5) years.

Participants noted that a hazard of concern in Monmouth County is flooding often associated with rain bursts that dump a large amount of water in a short amount of time, consequently overwhelming local stormwater infrastructure. This was a hazard of concern for Fort Monmouth. An additional hazard of concern also included drought which affected the local water provider, American Water. Drought affected the two reservoirs they have within Monmouth County: Manasquan Reservoir and Swimming River Reservoir. In order to mitigate the effects of significant drought conditions, American Water

worked with the local water supply authority to have them release more water and rerouting water through the internal system. Another hazard within the County was erosion near Naval Weapon Station (NWS) Earle.

The Project Team asked the regional stakeholders what existing capabilities and mitigation projects they are undergoing to reduce hazards of concern. Monmouth University is working closely with NWS Earle to reduce flooding through natural means on the base. In addition to flood mitigation efforts, Monmouth University is working on an experimental oyster reef at the base to help them mitigate shoreline erosion. In terms of broader resiliency, the university is a part of a larger coalition of about 100 partners that seek to approach resiliency planning through best practices. This is funded by the New Jersey Sea Grant. Lastly, the Project Team asked if there are any known populations within the County that should be considered in developing mitigation actions. For the email inviting stakeholders to this stakeholder meeting, please see Appendix F in Appendices Volume II – Other Plan Materials.

Table 3.4-6 Regional Stakeholder Meeting Invitations and Attendance

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended |
|---|----------|
| Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority | ✓ |
| Handex Consulting and Remediation (major employer) | ✓ |
| Mercer County Office of Emergency Management | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Planning Division | ✓ |
| Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute (climate change expert) | ✓ |
| New Jersey American Water (utilities) | ✓ |
| New Jersey Natural Gas(utilities) | ✓ |
| Rutgers University (climate change expert) | ✓ |
| Seabrook Village (major employer) | ✓ |
| Wag on Inn Rescue (animal rescue) | ✓ |
| Commvault (major employer) | |
| NJ Resources (major employer) | |
| Erickson Living - Seabrook Village (major employer) | |
| Freehold Soil Conservation District Manager | |
| Monmouth Ocean Development Council | |
| Monmouth Arts | |
| Monmouth County SPCA | |
| Walnridge Equine Clinic | |
| Rescue Ridge | |
| Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management | |
| Burlington County Office of Emergency Management | |

January 28, 2025: Regional Utility Authority Meeting

The Project Team met virtually with representatives from municipal utility authorities in Monmouth County in January 2025. These representatives discussed recent hazards, such as heavy rainfall, flooding, earthquakes, droughts, COVID-19, and hurricanes. Key takeaways from the meeting include the following:

- The biggest threat to South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority is 2100 sea level rise projections. At this time, there are no mitigation projects the Authority wants to add to the plan but there is interest including projects that incorporate future conditions in the next plan update.
- The area around Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority pump stations flood during heavy rain events and the treatment plant is at risk to coastal storms. The Authority installed flood barriers at the pump stations and treatment plant buildings to prevent damage and are evaluating other flood prone areas of the collection system.

Sea level rise is also a concern given the location of the treatment plant on the Shrewsbury River. Power grid reliability at the treatment plant is also a concern.

- Drought conditions in 2024 lowered flows through the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority (WMUA) plant and raised infiltration and inflow (I&I) concerns. The pandemic had the biggest impact to the Authority; keeping staff healthy and the plant operational during the pandemic was a big challenge. Today, WMUA is more prepared to handle another pandemic event. Coastal storms are not a threat to the Authority.

For the Regional Utility Authority’s mitigation actions, please see Appendices Vol. I – Jurisdictional Information #54 Special Districts.

Table 3.4-7 Regional Utility Authority Meeting Invitations and Attendance

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended |
|---|----------|
| Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority | ✓ |
| Long Branch Sewerage Authority | ✓ |
| Township of Middletown Sewerage Authority | ✓ |
| Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority | ✓ |
| Western Monmouth Utilities Authority | ✓ |
| Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority | ✓ |
| Township of Neptune Sewerage Authority | |
| Township of Ocean Sewerage Authority | |
| Monmouth County Bayshore Outfall Authority | |
| South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority | ✓ |

February 19, 2025: Monmouth County Emergency Management Council Meeting

The Project Team attended the meeting, presented an update on the HMP, and answered the Emergency Management Council Meeting’s questions on the plan update.

Table 3.4-8 Monmouth County Emergency Management Council Meeting Attendance

| Organization Invited to Meeting | Attended |
|--|----------|
| Atlantic Health System | ✓ |
| Department of Health for the State of New Jersey | ✓ |
| Mental Health Association of Monmouth County | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Sheriff's Office | ✓ |
| Monmouth County Vocational School District | ✓ |
| Township of Neptune | ✓ |

Michael Baker does not have the comprehensive list of organizations invited to this meeting.

3.5 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION

Table 3.5-1 includes a summary of all stakeholder attendance, by meeting, organized by stakeholder group (County agency/department, regional stakeholder/State agency, or municipal representative).

Table 3.5-1 Summary of Planning Attendance

| Participation | Meeting Type | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | Steering Committee Meeting #1 | Steering Committee #2 | Risk Assessment Municipal Workshops | Mitigation Municipal Workshops | Individual Meeting | Socially Vulnerable Roundtable | Regional Stakeholder | Regional Utility Authority |
| County Agency/Department | | | | | | | | |
| Monmouth County Health Department | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |

| Participation | Meeting Type | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | Steering Committee Meeting #1 | Steering Committee #2 | Risk Assessment Municipal Workshops | Mitigation Municipal Workshops | Individual Meeting | Socially Vulnerable Roundtable | Regional Stakeholder | Regional Utility Authority |
| Monmouth County Undersheriff | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Monmouth County Sheriff Office | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Monmouth County Buildings and Grounds | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Monmouth County Administration/Solid Waste | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Monmouth County Parks System | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Monmouth County Department of Public Works and Engineering | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | |
| Monmouth County Division of Planning | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Monmouth County Division of Social Services | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Brookdale Community College | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Regional Stakeholder/State Agencies | | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey Office of Emergency Management | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| United Way of Monmouth & Ocean | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| New Jersey Natural Gas | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Hackensack Hospital | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Rutgers University | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Atlantic Health | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | |
| New Jersey American Water | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| Monmouth County Regional Health Commission | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Bayshore Regional Sewer Authority | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| CentraState Medical Center | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| RWJBarnabas Health | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Women's Heartwarming Center for Homeless Women | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Handex Consulting and Remediation | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Mercer County Office of Emergency Management | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Seabrook Village | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Wag on Inn Rescue | | | | | | | ✓ | |

MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
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| Participation | Meeting Type | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | Steering Committee Meeting #1 | Steering Committee #2 | Risk Assessment Municipal Workshops | Mitigation Municipal Workshops | Individual Meeting | Socially Vulnerable Roundtable | Regional Stakeholder | Regional Utility Authority |
| Long Branch Sewerage Authority | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Township of Middletown Sewerage Authority | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Western Monmouth Utilities Authority | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Monmouth Arts | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Navel Weapons Station (NWS) Earle | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Manasquan River Regional Sewerage Authority | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Municipality | | | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen, Township of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Allenhurst, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Allentown, Borough of | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Asbury Park, City of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Atlantic Highlands, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Avon-by-the-Sea, Borough of | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Belmar, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Bradley Beach, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Brielle, Borough of | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Colts Neck, Township of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Deal, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Eatontown, Borough of | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Englishtown, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Fair Haven, Borough of | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Farmingdale, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Freehold, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Freehold, Township of | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Hazlet, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Highlands, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Holmdel, Township of | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Howell, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Interlaken, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Keansburg, Borough of | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Keyport, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Lake Como, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Little Silver, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Loch Arbour, Village of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Long Branch, City of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Manalapan, Township of | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Manasquan, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Marlboro, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Matawan, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Middletown, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |

| Participation | Meeting Type | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| | Steering Committee Meeting #1 | Steering Committee #2 | Risk Assessment Municipal Workshops | Mitigation Municipal Workshops | Individual Meeting | Socially Vulnerable Roundtable | Regional Stakeholder | Regional Utility Authority |
| Millstone, Township of | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Monmouth Beach, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Neptune City, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Neptune, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Ocean, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Oceanport, Borough of | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Red Bank, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Roosevelt, Borough of | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Rumson, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Sea Bright, Borough of | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Sea Girt, Borough of | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Shrewsbury, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Shrewsbury, Township of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Spring Lake, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Spring Lake Heights, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Tinton Falls, Borough of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Union Beach, Borough of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Upper Freehold, Township of | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Wall, Township of | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| West Long Branch, Borough of | | | | | ✓ | | | |

3.6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Starting at the beginning of the planning process, members of the public were given the opportunity to be involved in the planning process. The Project Team hosted the first public workshop on February 7, 2024. The County OEM website was the main point of communication throughout the planning process. This section details the public website and meetings for this plan update.

Website

The [County OEM website](#) was used to announce information on the plan update. At the beginning of the planning process, the Project Team updated content on the OEM website to announce the 2026 HMP update and the first public workshop. The County added the following statement to the OEM website which allowed the public to contact the Project Team throughout the entire planning process:

The Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office is currently updating the 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Information on public workshops will be posted on this webpage. For only questions or to receive additional information on the plan update, please contact us at Brittany.dremluk@mbakerintl.com or oem@mcsonj.org.

Additionally, the public was able to submit any comments or questions to the Project Team through the duration of the plan update (see Figure 3.6-1).

Figure 3.6-1 Public Comment Platform

The form is titled "We Want To Hear From You" and contains the following text: "Throughout the 2025 plan update, you may contact the project team with questions and/or comments. Once the draft plan is released for public comment, you may use this form to submit your questions and/or comments." Below this is a note: "* Indicates required fields" and another note: "Submission may take a moment, please do not re-submit." The form includes four input fields: "Name *" (required), "Email *" (required), "Phone (opt)" (optional), and "Paragraph" (a larger text area). Each field is represented by a white rectangular box with a thin border.

Public Workshops

There were three public workshops held during this HMP update: one to introduce the HMP update, the second to discuss the risk assessment findings, and the third on the draft plan. Each public meeting had a meeting flyer created to disseminate on the County’s hazard mitigation webpage (Figure 3.6-2) and a press release (Figure 3.6-3).

Public Workshop #1: Introduction to HMP Update

The Project Team hosted the first public workshop on February 7, 2024, and published a public workshop handout (Figure 3.5-1) on social media pages (Facebook and LinkedIn) and issued a press release on January 10, 2024 (Figure 3.5-2).

The public workshop handout was sent via email to the following stakeholders:

- Municipal Mayors, Clerks, Borough Administrators List (includes all 53 towns); some municipalities posted on their local websites (such as Marlboro Township – Figure 3.5-3).
- Organizations that represent socially vulnerable populations.

The meeting discussed the elements of the HMP (planning process, risk and vulnerability assessment, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy) and the project schedule and steps. The public also had an opportunity for questions and comments. During this portion of the meeting, the Project Team and the public discussed specific potential mitigation projects, municipal coordination with County offices and other stakeholders, the timeline overlap with the New Jersey State Plan, and how to stay informed on this HMP update process.

Figure 3.6-2 Public Workshop #1 Handout

MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY 2026 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

OVERVIEW

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is updating its 2021 Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Hazard mitigation planning identifies risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develops long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. A HMP is required by state and federal agencies to be updated every five (5) years in order for communities in Monmouth County to be eligible for certain types of state and federal disaster relief funds after a disaster occurs.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Monmouth County, alongside consultant Michael Baker International, Inc., will host a series of public workshops during this plan update. The purpose of the workshops is to provide an update on the project and to gather input from residents. Public input will help the project team better understand risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts of natural hazards to the community and identify potential mitigation actions to reduce that risk.

To review the 2021 Monmouth County HMP or learn more about hazard mitigation planning, please visit the [Monmouth County Hazard Mitigation Planning webpage](#).

Flooding in Asbury Park and Loch Arbour, 2023

ATTEND THE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Join the virtual workshop by clicking on [this link](#), scanning the QR code below, or by calling in.

Scan the QR Code

Call in Number

(412) 634 - 6334

Conference ID:

340 078 927#

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Contact:

Brittany Dremluk, AICP, PP, LEED Green Associate
Consultant Project Manager
Michael Baker International, Inc.
(e) brittany.dremluk@mbakerintl.com
(p) 609-807-9556

Stephanie Seymour
Emergency Management Analyst
Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
(e) SSeymour@mcsonj.org
(p) 732-431-6400 x 1805

Figure 3.6-3 Public Workshop #1 Press Release dated January 10, 2024

Inmate Search | Foreclosure Sales | Monmouth County's Most Wanted

MONMOUTH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Shaun Golden

[Home Page](#) | [About Us](#) | [Divisions](#) | [OEM](#) | [Transparency In Policing](#) | [Community Outreach](#)

Press Releases

Monmouth County, New Jersey 2026 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan: Virtual Public Workshop

January 10, 2024 / In Press Releases / by Monmouth County Sheriffs Office

FREEHOLD, N.J. – The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office is updating its 2021 Monmouth County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Hazard mitigation planning identifies risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develops long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. A HMP is required by state and federal agencies to be updated every five (5) years in order for communities in Monmouth County to be eligible for certain types of state and federal disaster relief funds after a disaster occurs.

Monmouth County, alongside consultant Michael Baker International, Inc., will host a series of public workshops during this plan update. The purpose of the workshops is to provide an update on the project and to gather input from residents. Public input will help the project team better understand risks, vulnerabilities, and impacts of natural hazards to the community and identify potential mitigation actions to reduce that risk.

Virtual Public Workshop:

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Virtual Options: Join the virtual workshop by clicking on [this link](#) or by calling in to the number below:

Call In Number: (412) 634 – 6334

Conference ID: 340 078 927#

To review the 2021 Monmouth County HMP or learn more about hazard mitigation planning, please visit the [Monmouth County Hazard Mitigation Planning webpage](#).

For questions or comments, contact:

[Brittany Dremluk, AICP, PP, LEED Green Associate](#)
Consultant Project Manager
Michael Baker International, Inc.
(e) brittany.dremluk@mbakerintl.com
(p) 609-807-9556

[Stephanie Seymour](#)
Emergency Management Analyst
Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
(e) SSeymour@mcsonj.org

Public Workshop #2: Risk Assessment Findings

The Project Team hosted the second public workshop on June 20, 2024, at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Complex at 2500 Kozloski Road in Freehold, NJ. At this meeting, the Project Team provided an overview of the HMP update process, including the steps to update a municipal mitigation strategy, compile a risk assessment, and submit the plan. It also reviewed hazards experienced and areas of development in the County. Attendees raised concerns about recent hazard events including the following:

- Four tornadoes occurred recently, becoming more of a threat.
- Storm events which are precipitation driven are impacting the sanitary systems, especially in Rumson Borough
- Asbury Park, Ocean Grove (Neptune Township), and Bradley Beach flooded during the September 2023 event; concern regarding retention basins near Ocean Grove/Bradley Beach boarder and the coastal lakes of Sylvan Lake, Fletcher Lake, Wesley Lake, and Deal Lake.

Public Workshop #3: Draft Plan

The Project Team hosted its third public meeting in May 2025 online via Microsoft Teams to discuss updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). During the meeting, the team provided an overview of the HMP update process, including its purpose, timeline, and key highlights from the draft plan. These highlights included a community profile, hazard identification, capability assessment, mitigation strategy, and plan maintenance. The team shared county-scale maps detailing FEMA Flood Zones, NJ Inland Flood Elevation, Sea Level Rise, and the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Updates on mitigation strategies were also presented, revealing 129 new actions, 460 ongoing actions, 115 completed actions, and 42 withdrawn actions across the county. Additionally, a new appendix focusing on special districts was introduced as part of the plan update. The discussion concluded with a review of next steps for plan maintenance, including the process for towns to submit annual progress reports for additional actions before the next plan update.

This meeting was advertised by a press release (see Figure 3.6-4) and posted in a local newspaper, the [Patch](#).

Figure 3.6-4 Public Meeting #3 Press Release

