


SUBJECT: Recommend the Assembly Adopt the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 update.

AGENDA OF: January 19, 2021



ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Adopted without objection 2-2-21


MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Introduce and set for public hearing on February 2, 2021.

APPROVED BY MIKE BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER:



Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator- T Boothby	Taunnie L Boothby	Digitally signed by Taunnie L Boothby Date: 2020.12.18 11:49:04 -09'00'
	Planning and Land Use Director	For: Kim Sollien	Digitally signed by Kim Sollien Date: 2020.12.18 12:37:14 -09'00'
	Finance Director	Cheyenne Heindel	Digitally signed by Cheyenne Heindel Date: 2020.12.21 08:07:08 -09'00'
	Borough Attorney		
	Borough Clerk	 KBJ	

ATTACHMENT(S) : Fiscal Note: YES ____ NO X
 Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update Summary PPT Presentation: 22 pages
 Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update: 312 pages
 FEMA/State APA Letter: 1 page
 Planning Commission Resolution 20-042: 3 pages
 Ordinance 21-007: 2 pages

BACKGROUND :

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Assembly in 2004. There were subsequent updates done in 2008 and 2013. Additionally, the plan was amended by the adoption of the City of Wasilla and the City of Houston Mitigation Plans. The regular cycle for updating the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan is every five years in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations. Adopting this plan will keep the Matanuska-Susitna Borough eligible to apply for mitigation grants from FEMA and the State of Alaska.

In the past, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has received nearly \$4.5 million dollars of funding to mitigate flood risk. Once this plan is adopted, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is on target to receive over \$8.7 million dollars in earthquake mitigation funding. Additionally, another over \$7.1 million dollars have been identified through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) for eligible recovery projects from the November 2018 Earthquake.

In 2015, FEMA updated their planning guidance for the mitigation plans. In 2018, the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM) updated the State's mitigation plan. The State also hired a consulting firm, LeMay Engineering and Consulting, Inc., to assist the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with updating the hazard mitigation plan.

Plan Update Specifications

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 update process began on December 20, 2017. The planning team involved with this update includes stakeholders inside and outside of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough government. A complete list of stakeholders is on page 17 of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update.

In section 4.0 Planning Process of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update, is a full description of the planning activities related to this update.

An excerpt from the plan on page 17 states:

The following five-step process occurred from December 2017 through May 2020.

1. Organize resources: Members of the Project Team identified resources, including staff, agencies, and local community members, who could provide technical expertise and historical information needed in updating the 2013 FEMA-approved HMP.
2. Assess risks: The Project Team confirmed hazards specific to the Borough remained applicable and updated the 2013 risk assessment for the identified hazards, including the vulnerability analysis, prior to and during the development of the updated mitigation strategy.
3. Assess capabilities: The Project Team reviewed current administrative and technical, legal and regulatory, and fiscal capabilities to determine whether existing provisions and

requirements adequately address relevant hazards.

4. Develop a mitigation strategy: After reviewing the risks posed by each hazard, the Project Team reviewed status updates from mitigation actions that were implemented as a result of the 2013 HMP and updated a comprehensive range of potential mitigation goals and actions based on hazard events that had occurred since 2013 and mitigation actions' statuses. New mitigation actions were then integrated into the remaining mitigation actions to be completed and were then prioritized based on community concerns with fire, earthquake, flood/erosion, and severe weather identified as the top priorities.

5. Monitor, evaluate, and update the HMP: The Project Team developed a process to monitor the HMP to ensure it will be used as intended while fulfilling community needs. The Project Team then developed a process to evaluate the HMP on a yearly basis to compare how their decisions affect hazard impacts. They then outlined a method to share their successes with the Borough community members to encourage support for mitigation activities and to provide data for incorporating mitigation actions into existing planning mechanisms and providing data for the HMP's five-year update. Opportunities are described in the Continued Public Involvement Section of this HMP (Section 8).

The planning department posted the plan on the website, developed and conducted an online public survey in June and July 2019. 721 people viewed the survey and 584 people responded. The survey revealed some interesting data. The top three communities that responded were Meadow Lakes, Knik-Fairview, and City of Wasilla residents. The majority of respondents ranked e-mail, internet, and social media as their preferred method of obtaining information followed by television/radio and mail. In addition, 60% of respondents thought they were somewhat knowledgeable about natural hazards.

During the planning process, our community experienced a magnitude 7.1 earthquake on November 30, 2018. Information regarding this major event, along with the survey responses and data have been compiled and included in the draft plan.

The MSB Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) reviewed the draft plan and provided comments in January and February of 2020. The planning team held an online open house as a part of the outreach strategy based on the responses to the survey. The planning department posted the draft plan with a story map on the Borough's website from March 16 to May 15, 2020. Several in-person open houses were scheduled to occur at the end of March and early April to solicit public comment. However, due to the shutdown related to the Covid-19 pandemic, all in-person open houses were canceled. In response, the Planning Department increased their online outreach effort. There were over 5,000 interactions on

Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department Facebook pages. These pages directed people to the online open house. This resulted in over 2,250 visits to the webpage. The online open house was advertised in the Frontiersman on March 13, March 27, and April 1, 2020. Notices requesting review and comments were sent to all the community councils, boards, and commissions in the borough.

The Matanuska-Susitna Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update was sent to the State of Alaska, DHS&EM and FEMA for their review. On August 20, 2020, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough received a joint agency letter from FEMA through the State of Alaska, DHS&EM which gave their preliminary approval of the plan.

We expect to present this draft plan to the Borough Assembly in January 2021. If the plan is adopted by the assembly, staff expects final approval from FEMA in March of 2021.

Website Location www.matsugov.us/plans/msb-hazard-mitigation-plan-2013

This website location includes the following documents:

- Approved 2013 Matanuska-Susitna All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Natural Hazards.
- Matanuska-Susitna Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update.
- Letter from State of Alaska and FEMA stating preliminary approval following the review of the elements in 44 Code of Federal Regulations 44, Part 201.6.

RECOMMENDATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Planning Commission approved Resolution 20-42 recommending Assembly approval of Ordinance XX-XXX; An ordinance AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB 15.24.030 (H) THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Approval of Ordinance 21-007
