

3.1 Methodology

The Planning Process chapter describes the steps involved in the development of the Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan, including details about who participated, how community involvement was organized and promoted throughout the community, what hazards were included in the Plan and why, as well as how stakeholder involvement played a critical role in the planning process. This chapter also explains how the Core Planning Committee was formed and how member feedback contributed to the updating of the County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3.2 Existing Plans and Regulations

Clinton County and the State of Ohio maintain several plans and tools that were pertinent to reference in the development of the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan including:

- 2016 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 2019 State of Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan (SOHMP)
- Clinton County Comprehensive Plan
- Clinton County Subdivision Regulations
- Clinton County Zoning Resolution
- Clinton County Zoning Maps
- Clinton County Parks and Open Space Plan
- Clinton County Emergency Operations Plan

3.3 Clinton County Authority to Adopt Plan

Table 3.3.1 lists the existing authorities and regulations in place in Clinton County and its municipalities.

Table 3.3.1: Existing Authorities and Regulations in Clinton County’s Municipalities

Community	Planning Commission	Comprehensive Plan	Floodplain Regulation	Building Codes*	Zoning Ordinances	Capital Budget	Public Works Budget
Clinton County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
City of Wilmington	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Blanchester	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Clarksville	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only

3 | PLANNING PROCESS

Community	Planning Commission	Comprehensive Plan	Floodplain Regulation	Building Codes*	Zoning Ordinances	Capital Budget	Public Works Budget
Village of Martinsville	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Midland	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of New Vienna	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Port William	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only
Village of Sabina	County**	County**	County**	County**	County**	(None)	Limited in-kind wages only

* All jurisdictions within the State now follow the State Building Code (Ohio Administrative Code 4101:1).

** Follows the County's plans.

3.4 Notification Process

Core Planning Committee members were invited to participate at the beginning of the planning process through a Kickoff Meeting announcement. Prior to each additional meeting, members of the Core Planning Committee were invited to participate via an email notification. Additionally, press releases were issued via the *Wilmington News Journal*. Public announcements were also posted to the County EMA's Facebook page. Representatives from the following entities were invited to participate in the planning process. Additionally, **Table 3.4.1** lists the participating jurisdictions and representatives and how they participated.

Clinton County

- Clinton County Building & Zoning
- Clinton County Commissioners
- Clinton County Economic Development
- Clinton County EMA
- Clinton County Emergency Medical Services
- Clinton County Engineer
- Clinton County GIS
- Clinton County Health District
- Clinton County Port Authority
- Clinton County Regional Planning Commission
- Clinton County Sheriff's Office
- Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Clinton County Solid Waste Management District
- Clinton County Visitor's Bureau
- Wilmington-Clinton County Chamber of Commerce

3 | PLANNING PROCESS

City and Village Members

- City of Wilmington
- Village of Midland
- Village of Blanchester
- Village of New Vienna
- Village of Clarksville
- Village of Port William
- Village of Martinsville
- Village of Sabina

Township Members

- Adams Township
- Richland Township
- Chester Township
- Union Township
- Clark Township
- Vernon Township
- Green Township
- Washington Township
- Jefferson Township
- Wayne Township
- Liberty Township
- Wilson Township
- Marion Township

Local Schools and Universities

- Blanchester Local School District
- Wilmington City School District
- Clinton-Massie Local School District
- Wilmington Christian Academy
- East Clinton Local School District
- OSU Extension

Other Organizations

- Alkermes, Inc.
- Polaris
- American Red Cross
- Brown County Emergency Management Agency
- Council on Aging (Southwest Ohio)
- Highland County Emergency Management Agency
- Duke Energy
- LGSTX Services
- National Weather Service Wilmington

Table 3.4.1: Participating Jurisdictions

Community/Organization	Representative(s)	Meetings Attended		
		1	2	Other
<i>County</i>				
Clinton County Emergency Management Agency	Thomas Breckel, Director Misty Dixon, Office Assistant	✓	✓	
Clinton County Commissioners	Brenda K. Woods, Commissioner Kerry Steed, Commissioner Diana Groves, Clerk	✓	✓	
Clinton County Engineer's Office	Jeff Linkous, Engineer Adam Fricke, Deputy Engineer	✓	✓	
Clinton County Health District	Pamela Walker-Bauer, Health Commissioner Brittane Dance, Disaster Health Planner	✓	✓	
Clinton County History Center	Shelby Boatman, Executive Director	✓		

3 | PLANNING PROCESS

Community/Organization	Representative(s)	Meetings Attended		
		1	2	Other
Clinton County Port Authority	Dan Evers, Executive Director Beth Huber, Associate Director	✓	✓	
Clinton County Recorder's Office	Brenda Huff, Recorder	✓		
Clinton County Regional Planning	Taylor Stuckert, Executive Director Emily Long, Associate Director	✓	✓	
Clinton County Sheriff's Office	Brian Prickett, Chief Deputy	✓	✓	
Clinton-Warren Joint Fire & Rescue District	Bob Wysong, Chief			✓
Wilmington-Clinton County Chamber of Commerce	Dessie Rogers, Executive Director	✓		
<i>Cities & Villages</i>				
City of Wilmington	Rick Schaffer, Public Works Director Andy Mason, Fire Chief Brian Shidaker, Service Director Eric Green, Stormwater Administrator Travis Luncan, Source Water Protection Coordinator Rick Birt, Lieutenant	✓	✓	✓
Village of Blanchester	John M. Carman, Mayor Scott Reinbolt, Police Chief		✓	✓
Village of Clarksville	John Neeley, Mayor Bob Wysong, Fire Chief (Clinton-Warren Joint Fire District – provides service for Clarksville)			✓
Village of Martinsville	Ed King, Mayor			✓
Village of Midland	Jim Burris, Mayor			✓
Village of New Vienna	Kathi Stone, Mayor			✓
Village of Port William	Steve Jones, Mayor			✓
Village of Sabina	Jim Mongold, Mayor Kenyon Young, Police Chief John Grehl, Sergeant	✓		✓

*If representatives were unable to attend the in-person Core Planning Committee meetings, they participated via "Other" formats, including online surveys, as documented in **Appendix G**.*

Core Planning Committee members were invited to participate at the beginning of the planning process through a Kickoff Meeting announcement which was sent out in two formats – via email and via a packet that provided hard copies of the materials to each jurisdiction. Prior to each additional meeting, members of the Core Planning Committee were invited to participate via an email notification. Members of the public were encouraged to attend public meetings through press releases and social media announcements.

In addition to these members of the Core Planning Committee, David Bushelman, Director of the Highland County EMA, and Barb Davis, Director of the Brown County EMA also participated.

3.5 Meetings

The following section details the meetings that took place during the planning process. Documentation of each meeting, including newspaper postings, email announcements and attachments, meeting materials, and completed surveys, can be found in **Appendix G**.

3.5.1 Core Planning Committee Kick-off

A Kickoff Announcement was emailed to stakeholders on May 19, 2020 inviting them to participate in the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan update process as part of the Core Planning Committee. Physical “Kickoff Packets” were also mailed to each jurisdiction. All kickoff materials were also made available on the project’s website (www.burtonplanning.com/Clinton-hmp).

The Announcement outlined the following details regarding the planning process:

- Goals of the Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- A summary of who is involved in the planning process;
- Federal requirements of the hazard mitigation planning process;
- An overview of the hazard mitigation planning process;
- The proposed schedule for the Clinton County Plan update;
- The role of the Core Planning Committee in the update process;
- Contact information for both Clinton County EMA and Burton Planning Services; and
- Dates, times, and GoToMeeting links of upcoming Core Planning and Public Meetings.

3.5.2 Core Planning Committee Meeting 1

The first Core Planning Committee meeting took place on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 2:30 PM. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting (**Figure 3.5.1**). Members of the Core Planning Committee were invited to either attend using the GoToMeeting app on their phone or desktop or call into the meeting using a phone number. A total of 41 people attended the meeting, including four representatives from Burton Planning Services (BPS) and the Director of the Clinton County Emergency Management Agency.

The meeting began with a brief introduction from Anna van der Zwaag, Associate Planner at Burton Planning Services. This introduction included a description of the virtual engagement process, including multiple options for participants to sign in to the meeting virtually. Participants were reminded multiple times throughout the course of the meeting to sign in using the SurveyMonkey survey, via the GoToMeeting Chat, or by sending an email to the County EMA. The introduction also informed attendees that they could ask questions using the chat feature in GoToMeeting, or by unmuting themselves and asking their questions at any time throughout the meeting.

Ms. van der Zwaag then guided the attendees through a presentation which detailed the hazard mitigation planning process, including requirements of the planning process, potential hazards that could be addressed, benefits of hazard mitigation planning, and potential types of projects that could be federally funded as a result of the hazard mitigation plan.

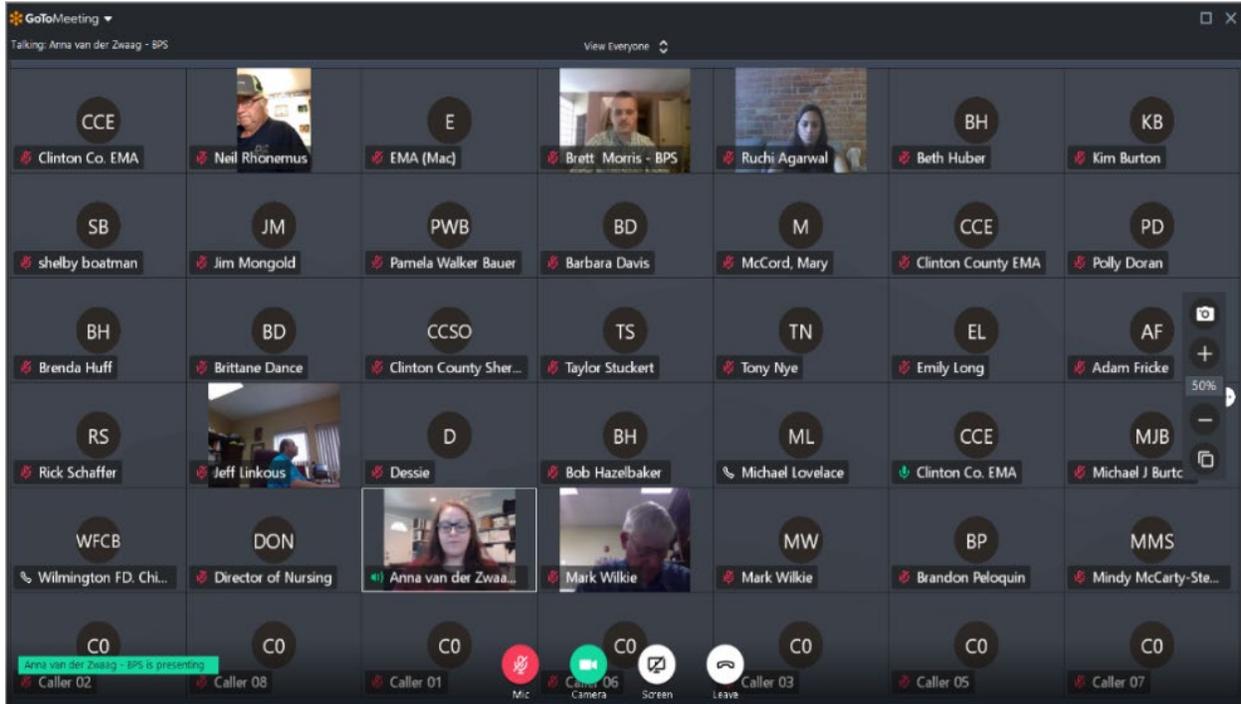
Ms. van der Zwaag also described the role that the Core Planning Committee would serve in the development of the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Following the completion of the presentation, Ms. van der Zwaag guided the attendees through three surveys, detailed below. Each participant was provided multiple methods of completing the survey, including a physical hard copy of the survey, a fillable PDF that could be completed on their

3 | PLANNING PROCESS

computer, or an online SurveyMonkey version. Links to survey locations were provided throughout the meeting.

Figure 3.5.1: Core Planning Meeting 1 via GoToMeeting



Goals Survey:

The purpose of this survey was to reflect on the goals included in the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan to determine if they were still relevant to the 2021 Plan. Each attendee reviewed the previous goals and determined if they were still applicable, provided comments or edits to the goals that needed changed, and generated new goals to potentially be included in the Plan.

Hazard Priority Survey:

The purpose of this survey was to review all hazards that could be included in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan and prioritize them. As such, attendees were asked to rate each hazard on a scale of zero to five, with five meaning the hazard poses the greatest possible threat to the County or their community and zero meaning the hazard should not be included in the 2021 Plan. Attendees rated hazards that were included in the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan, as well as all potential hazards that could be included in the 2021 Plan.

Following the completion of this survey, Ms. van der Zwaag guided a discussion on which hazards were deemed most important and which hazards attendees did not think needed to be included. Several attendees indicated it would be important to discuss train derailment, and other representatives mentioned their desire for including Epidemic as a hazard.

Previous Mitigation Actions Status Survey

The purpose of the Previous Mitigation Actions Status Survey was to have attendees review the mitigation actions that were included in the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan, reflect on the status of each action, and determine if that action should be included in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

3.5.3 Public Meeting 1

The first public meeting took place on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 5:30 PM. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting. Members of the Core Planning Committee were invited to either attend using the GoToMeeting app on their phone or desktop, or call into the meeting using a phone number. A total of 21 people attended the meeting, including three representatives from Burton Planning Services (BPS) and the Director of the Clinton County Emergency Management Agency.

The meeting began with a brief introduction from Anna van der Zwaag, Associate Planner at BPS. This introduction included a description of the virtual engagement process, including multiple options for participants to sign in to the meeting virtually. Participants were reminded multiple times throughout the course of the meeting to sign in using the SurveyMonkey survey, via the GoToMeeting Chat, or by sending an email to the County EMA. The introduction also informed attendees that they could ask questions using the chat feature in GoToMeeting, or by unmuting themselves and asking their questions at any time throughout the meeting.

Ms. van der Zwaag then guided the attendees through a presentation which detailed the hazard mitigation planning process, including requirements of the planning process, potential hazards that could be addressed, benefits of hazard mitigation planning, and potential types of projects that could be federally funded as a result of the hazard mitigation plan. Ms. van der Zwaag also described the role of the public in updating the 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Following the completion of the presentation, Ms. van der Zwaag guided the attendees through the three surveys described above. Each participant was provided multiple methods of completing the survey, including a physical hard copy of the survey, a fillable PDF that could be completed on their computer, or an online SurveyMonkey version. Links to survey locations were provided throughout the meeting and were posted on the website.

Following the meeting, additional public input was requested using social media. Links to the videos of each meeting were provided on the project's website (www.burtonplanning.com/Clinton-hmp) so residents could watch and complete surveys at their own pace.

3.5.4 Core Planning Committee Meeting 2

The second Core Planning Committee meeting took place on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 2:30 PM. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting. Members of the Core Planning Committee were invited to either attend using the GoToMeeting app on their phone or desktop or call into the meeting using a phone number. A total of 18 people attended the meeting, including three representatives from Burton Planning Services (BPS) and the Director of the Clinton County Emergency Management Agency.

The meeting began with a brief introduction from Anna van der Zwaag, Associate Planner at Burton Planning Services. Ms. van der Zwaag then guided the attendees through a presentation which provided an update on the hazard mitigation planning process, including requirements of the planning process and results from the Hazard Priority Survey distributed at the previous meeting.

Following the completion of the presentation, Ms. van der Zwaag guided the attendees through the Mitigation Actions Scoring Matrix, which determines the mitigation actions attendees would like to see in their community to mitigate the impacts of hazards. Attendees were provided a list of proposed mitigation actions and were asked if the action was relevant to their community. If attendees indicated that the mitigation action was relevant, attendees were asked to score the mitigation action in five categories: cost effective, technically feasible, environmentally sound,

immediate need, and total risk reduction. These scores will be used to determine the priority of all mitigation actions included in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan. There was both a printable and digital version of this survey to accommodate different needs.

3.5.5 Public Meeting 2

The second public meeting took place on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 5:30 PM. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was held virtually using GoToMeeting. Members of the public were invited to either attend using the GoToMeeting app on their phone or desktop or call into the meeting using a phone number. A total of 10 people attended the meeting, including three representatives from BPS and the Director and Office Assistant of the Clinton County Emergency Management Agency.

The meeting began with a brief introduction from Anna van der Zwaag, Associate Planner at Burton Planning Services. Ms. van der Zwaag then guided the attendees through a presentation which provided an update on the hazard mitigation planning process, including requirements of the planning process, and results from the Hazard Priority Survey distributed at the previous meeting.

Following the completion of the presentation, Ms. van der Zwaag guided the attendees through the Mitigation Actions Scoring Matrix, which determines the mitigation actions attendees would like to see in their community to mitigate the impacts of hazards. Attendees were provided a list of proposed mitigation actions and were asked if the action was relevant to their community. If attendees indicated that the mitigation action was relevant, attendees were asked to score the mitigation action in five categories: cost effective, technically feasible, environmentally sound, immediate need, and total risk reduction. These scores will be used to determine the priority of all mitigation actions included in the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan. There was both a printable and digital version of this survey to accommodate different needs.

Please note, the public was invited to participate via public notices in the *Wilmington News Journal* for both the June 24 meeting, as well as the August 5 meeting. Following these meetings, the public was also invited to participate via Facebook posts that directed members of the public to the project's website, where they could watch videos of the GoToMeetings and complete the surveys. Participants could complete either printable or digital versions of the surveys (see **Appendix G**).

3.6 Public Comment Period

The 2021 Clinton County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be made available to the public and Core Planning Committee for review for a 15-day public comment period beginning November 2020. Hard copies of the Hazard Mitigation Plan were made available for review in-person at the Clinton County EMA office, and a digital Draft Plan was made available online. Both physical and digital surveys were provided to the public and the Core Planning Committee for their comments on the Plan.

3.7 Planning Process

Stakeholder and public input were essential for determining the hazard prioritization, as well as which hazards were included or excluded from the Plan. Based on feedback from the Core Planning Committee, it was determined that hurricanes or tropical storms were not hazards of concern to Clinton County and its communities. As such, these hazards were not included in the plan outright. If remnants of a hurricane or tropical storm were witnessed in the County, those narratives are included in Severe Summer Storms. Other hazards, such as coastal erosion and coastal flooding, are not applicable to Clinton County and have not been included in previous hazard mitigation plans, nor

3 | PLANNING PROCESS

were they included in this plan. More details about how survey feedback assisted in the determination of which hazards to exclude can be found in **Chapter 5, Hazard Mitigation**.

Chapter 4, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment follows this chapter. Please note that **Chapter 4** is organized alphabetically and not in order of risk. The ranking of hazard priorities can be found in **Chapter 5, Hazard Mitigation**.