



SECTION 5 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

The capability assessment evaluates Pike County's capabilities and resources already in place at the municipal, county, state, and federal levels to reduce hazard risks. The assessment also identifies where improvements can be made to increase disaster resistance in the community.

The first step in organizing hazard mitigation capabilities or resources for the Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update is to describe the basic approaches available to reduce hazard risks. According to the 2013 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Standard Operating Guide (SOG), the following four general approaches may reduce hazard risks:

- **Local Plans and Regulations** – These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the ways land is developed and buildings are constructed.
- **Structure and Infrastructure** – These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure or constructing new structures to reduce hazard vulnerability.
- **Natural Systems Protection** – These are actions that minimize damage and losses and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- **Education and Awareness** – These are actions taken to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Education and awareness actions may also include participation in national programs (PEMA SOG 2013).

Capability assessments document the existing resources available to local communities to reduce hazard risks. Resources can be divided into the following five categories (according to the PEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Planning SOG). For each basic capability or approach, one or more of the five resources described below may be available:

- **Human resources** include local police, fire, ambulance, and emergency management and response personnel; local government services; and electric, gas, and other utility providers that are critical during disasters.
- **Physical resources** include the equipment and vehicles (such as emergency response and recovery equipment and vehicles), public lands, facilities, and buildings available to the community.
- **Technical/technological resources** include early warning systems, weather alert radios, stream-level monitoring gauges, and 9-1-1 communications systems. They also include technical requirements established by law, regulation, or ordinance.
- **Informational resources** include materials about disasters, and actions related to hazard mitigation and planning. Informational resources are available from a wide variety of sources such as applicable websites, libraries, and state and federal agencies.
- **Financial resources** identify the sources of funding available for hazard mitigation. Most state and federal grant programs require local communities to provide at least part of the necessary project funding in real dollars or through in-kind services. Local communities need to assess their financial capability and resources to implement hazard mitigation action plans.

During this plan update process, Pike County and all participating municipalities were surveyed to provide an updated assessment of their mitigation planning capabilities. Each municipality was provided with a Capability Assessment Survey, based on the capability assessment survey provided in Appendix 3 of the October 2013 edition of the PEMA All-Hazard Mitigation Planning SOG (PEMA SOG 2013). The survey was provided to



each of the municipal planning points of contact at the municipal kick-off meeting. Completed capability assessment surveys provided by the municipalities may be found in **Appendix D**.

Pike County has a number of resources it can access to implement hazard mitigation initiatives including emergency response measures, local planning and regulatory tools, administrative assistance and technical expertise, fiscal capabilities, and participation in local, regional, state, and federal programs. The presence of these resources enables community resiliency through actions taken before, during, and after a hazard event. The most important resources which provide the basis for addressing hazard potential and mitigation are the emergency services manpower, equipment, fiscal and other resources available within Pike County communities.

This section describes and summarizes the federal, state, county, and local capabilities to address hazard risk in Pike County.

5.1 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

5.1.1 Pike County Emergency Management Capabilities

The Pike County Emergency Management Agency provides the leadership and resources to address hazard incidents and coordinates countywide emergency management efforts. Currently, 9-1-1 calls and emergency communications are handled by the Pike County Communications Center for all the municipalities except Lehman Township. Monroe County Control handles Lehman Township calls and provides dispatch services for Bushkill Fire and EMS. (PSP handles their own.) The Pike County 911 Center dispatches for 15 volunteer fire departments, 10 volunteer ambulance corps, two volunteer quick response services and three municipal police departments in addition to receiving the 911 calls for the geographic areas served by the Pennsylvania State Police. Under a mutual aid program for fire companies, available fire fighters and equipment are coordinated from all fire companies.

As of 2016, there are 19 volunteer fire departments based within Pike County that provide service. In addition, the Greene-Dreher Fire Department from Wayne County provides service to part of Greene Township, Welcome Lake Fire Department from Wayne County provides service to the upper portion of Lackawaxen Township and the Lumberland Fire Department from Sullivan County, NY provides service to the Pond Eddy portion of Shohola and Westfall Townships.

EMS Service is provided by four Ambulance Services units. Of the four ambulance services, two are part of the fire service. Bushkill Emergency Corps which services Lehman Township is based in and dispatched by Monroe County. Hawley Ambulance serves a portion of Lackawaxen Township and is based in and dispatched by Wayne County. Newfoundland Ambulance is based in and dispatched by Wayne County as well. Tusten Ambulance and Lumberland Fire Department Ambulance are based in and dispatched by Sullivan County, NY. Port Jervis Ambulance is based in Orange County, NY.

The average fire department in Pike County has approximately 30 active members. The County and our local communities are similar to the rest of the state in that our communities have seen a regular and marked decline of volunteers over the past 20 years. It is estimated that there are no more than 500 active volunteers in the County between both fire and emergency medical services. Currently there are approx. 30 engines, 20 tankers, 5 ladder trucks and an assortment of rescue and support type vehicles. The most common pump sizes are 1,000 and 1,250 gallons per minute. However, there are some with capacities of 1,500 GPM to over 2,000 gallons per minute. Most engines are now carrying 750 or 1,000 gallons of water and the average tanker size is over 2,000 gallons. In addition, there is over 5 miles of large diameter (4" or 5") hose throughout the county.

In addition to the firefighting abilities of the departments located in the County's municipalities, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Delaware State Forest District #19 and the National Park Service, Delaware



Water Gap National Recreation Area have employees working within the County who have as their responsibility firefighting and other emergency services capabilities.

Formed in May 2003, the Pike County Advanced Life Support (ALS) is comprised of paid paramedics and volunteer Emergency Medical Technician drivers. ALS goes beyond Basic Life Support in that paramedics can start intravenous solutions and administer drugs. Pike County ALS recently relocated from the Dingman Township Volunteer Fire Department firehouse on Log Tavern Road to the Milford Professional Park on Buist Road in Dingman Township. ALS is looking for a permanent central location in the County due to the importance of distance to and from hospitals. Hospitals are located in Port Jervis, NY; East Stroudsburg, PA; Honesdale, PA; Newton, NJ; and Scranton, PA.

Particular concerns of Pike County ALS include bringing together all EMS to discuss improving service in the County; improving funding to pay medics more and pay expenses; and increasing the number of medics and the number of stations in the County in order to expand service area. Additional ALS service in the County is provided from Honesdale, Bushkill, and Hamlin.

The Pike County Visioning Final Report issued in October 1999 and the Pike County Comprehensive Plan adopted in November 2006 both highlighted the challenge that Pike County communities are experiencing in regard to provision of services, including fire and emergency medical service, as a result of the tremendous population growth pressures which the County experienced and may experience over the next 10 years.

The County relies almost entirely on volunteers to provide vital EMS and fire services for residents. A dozen all-volunteer fire companies serve the 13 municipalities in the county. Approximately 23 volunteer fire and ambulance companies provide protection throughout the County. These companies collectively have approximately 500 volunteers who provide emergency services throughout the county. Approximately 85 to 100% of the total funds used to run these companies come from private donations. Most of these companies are confronted with ongoing problems of retaining volunteers, raising sufficient funds to purchase and maintain adequate and updated equipment, and obtaining sufficient training. As the number of residents and residences increase and the number of volunteers decrease, fire services currently stretched to their limits, will be further stressed to provide adequate emergency protection for the County.

The problems for EMS services are very similar. The over-riding problem is lack of manpower to handle the volume of calls. EMS services in the County rely on volunteers, and the number of volunteers has been dropping largely due to liability issues, the risk of AIDS, higher training requirements, the increasingly mundane nature of the work (i.e., increasing number of "transportation calls" from an aging population and fewer emergency calls), and other related problems.

Both services are suffering from problems associated with the rapid and somewhat haphazard growth in the county, particularly in the private residential communities. Lack of standards for roads and signs has made it difficult and occasionally impossible to respond to life and property-threatening emergencies. EMS and fire program managers throughout the county feel that volunteerism needs to improve to adequately respond to the increasing call volumes.

Each municipality also has a designated local emergency management coordinator who possesses a unique knowledge of the impact hazard events have on their community. A significant amount of information used to develop this plan was obtained from the emergency management coordinators, many of whom participated as part of the HMP update.

The Emergency Management Services Code (PA Title 35) requires that all municipalities in the Commonwealth have a Local Emergency Operations Plan which is updated every two years. All thirteen jurisdictions in the County have a local EOP. The Countywide EOP is dated 2015. The intent of the Countywide EOP update is for all of the municipalities to sign onto the county plan. Then they will be responsible for maintaining their individual resource listings and contact information.



The Pike County Emergency Management Agency and its municipalities have been active in growing their capability since the 2013 HMP with a 2015 Emergency Operations Plan, a 2014 Continuity of Operations Plan, and becoming a StormReady county in 2016.

5.1.2 Local Emergency Management Capabilities

According to Pennsylvania Title 35 (Emergency Management Services Code), Chapter 7500, the following stipulations apply:

- Each political subdivision of Pennsylvania is directed and authorized to establish a local emergency management organization in accordance with the plan and program of PEMA. Each local organization shall have responsibility for emergency response and recovery within the territorial limits of the political subdivision within which it is organized, and shall conduct such services outside of its jurisdictional limits as may be required under this part.
- The governing body of a political subdivision may declare a local disaster emergency upon finding a disaster has occurred or is imminent. The effect of a declaration of a local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local emergency management plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance.
- Each local organization of emergency management shall have a coordinator who shall be responsible for the planning, administration, and operation of the local organization.
- Each political subdivision shall adopt an Intergovernmental Cooperation agreement with other political subdivisions to accomplish the following:
 - Prepare, maintain, and keep current a disaster emergency management plan for (1) the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by disaster, (2) prompt and effective response to disaster, and (3) disaster emergency relief and recovery consistent with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Plan.
 - Establish, equip, and staff an EOC (integrated with warning and communication systems) to support government operations in emergencies, and provide other essential facilities and equipment for agencies and activities assigned emergency functions.
 - Provide individual and organizational training programs to ensure prompt, efficient, and effective disaster emergency services.
 - Organize, prepare, and coordinate all locally available manpower, materials, supplies, equipment, facilities, and services necessary for disaster emergency readiness, response, and recovery.
 - Adopt and implement precautionary measures to mitigate the anticipated effects of a disaster. Execute and enforce such rules and orders as the agency shall adopt and promulgate under the authority of this part.
 - Cooperate and coordinate with any public and private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this part.
 - Have available for inspection at its EOC all emergency management plans, rules, and orders of the Governor and the agency.
 - Provide prompt and accurate information regarding local disaster emergencies to appropriate Commonwealth and local officials and agencies and the general public.
 - Participate in all tests, drills, and exercises—including remedial drills and exercises—scheduled by the agency or by the federal government.
 - Participate in the program of integrated flood warning systems under Section 7313 (6) (relating to powers and duties).
- Direction of disaster emergency management services is the responsibility of the lowest level of government affected. When two or more political subdivisions within a county are affected, the county organization shall exercise responsibility for coordination and support to the area of



operations. When two or more counties are involved, coordination shall be provided by PEMA or by area organizations established by PEMA.

- When all appropriate locally available forces and resources are fully committed by the affected political subdivision, assistance from a higher level of government shall be provided.
- Local coordinators of emergency management shall develop mutual aid agreements with adjacent political subdivisions for reciprocal emergency assistance. The agreements shall be consistent with the plans and programs of PEMA.

A summary of existing federal, State, regional, and County programs (regulatory and otherwise) to manage specific hazard risks may be found in the hazard profiles in Section 4 of this plan update. While the risk of certain hazards can be addressed at least partially through mitigation, the risks of other hazards (particularly certain non-natural hazards) are primarily managed through the preparedness and response elements of emergency management, or through other regulatory programs at the federal and State levels.

5.2 PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

According to FEMA's 2002 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) program description, the U.S. Congress established the NFIP with the passage of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (FEMA 2002). The NFIP is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for state and community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages.

Participation in the NFIP is based on an agreement between communities and the federal government. If a community adopts and enforces a floodplain management ordinance to reduce future flood risk to new construction and substantial improvements in floodplains, the federal government will make flood insurance available within the community as a financial protection against flood losses. This insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods (FEMA 2002).

All jurisdictions in Pike County participate in the NFIP (see Table 5.2-1). The program is managed by local municipalities participating in the program through ordinance adoption and floodplain regulation while the Pike County Office of Community Planning provides an oversight and coordination role. Similarly, permitting processes needed for building construction and development in the floodplain are implemented at the municipal level through various ordinances (e.g. zoning, subdivision/land development and floodplain ordinances), but the Office of Community Planning provides technical assistance and guidance upon request.

Act 166 mandates municipal participation in and compliance with the NFIP. It also establishes higher regulatory standards for new or substantially improved structures which are used for the production or storage of dangerous materials (as defined by Act 166) by prohibiting them in the floodway. Additionally, Act 166 establishes the requirement that a Special Permit be obtained prior to any construction or expansion of any manufactured home park, hospital, nursing home, jail and prison if said structure is located within a special flood hazard area.

As new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) are published, the Pennsylvania State NFIP Coordinator housed at the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), works with communities to ensure the timely and successful adoption of an updated floodplain management ordinance by reviewing and providing feedback on existing and draft ordinances. In addition, DCED provides guidance and technical support through Community Assistance Contacts (CAC) and Community Assistance Visits (CAV). There are no communities in Pike County currently participating in the NFIP Community Rating System (FEMA CIS, 2011).



FEMA Region III makes available to communities, an ordinance review checklist which lists required provisions for floodplain management ordinances. This checklist helps communities develop an effective floodplain management ordinance that meets federal requirements for participation in the NFIP.

The DCED provides communities, based on their CFR, Title 44, Section 60.3 level of regulations, with a suggested ordinance document to assist municipalities in meeting the minimum requirements of the NFIP along with the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act (Act 166). These suggested or model ordinances contain provisions that are more restrictive than state and federal requirements. Suggested provisions include, but are not limited to:

- Prohibiting manufactured homes in the floodway.
- Prohibiting manufactured homes within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of bank of any watercourse within a special flood hazard area.
- Special requirements for recreational vehicles within the special flood hazard area.
- Special requirement for accessory structures.
- Prohibiting new construction and development within the area measured 50 feet landward from the top-of bank of any watercourse within a special flood hazard area.
- Providing the County Conservation District an opportunity to review and comment on all applications and plans for any proposed construction or development in any identified floodplain area.

Pike County received new digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMS) on October 6, 2000. The digital maps greatly enhanced mitigation capabilities as they relate to identifying flood hazards and were a significant improvement to the previous paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS). Flood maps and flood data are accessible to residents at municipal offices, the Pike County Office of Community Planning and the Pike County Conservation District, and online at msc.fema.gov.

FEMA, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), recently led a Flood Risk Discovery process in the Lackawaxen Watershed. A portion of the Lackawaxen Watershed is located in Pike County. Discovery is the first phase of a Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) flood risk project, designed to collect data and information from the community to provide a more holistic picture of where flood-related vulnerabilities exist, determine the current flood hazards, and identify opportunities to facilitate mitigation planning to help your community further actions to reduce flood damage across the watershed. Pike County continues to monitor the Lackawaxen Watershed Risk MAP initiative.

With the release of the maps in 2000, the Pike County Conservation District worked with all of the County’s municipalities, FEMA and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development to assist with the update of municipal floodplain ordinances. All Pike County municipalities have adopted floodplain ordinances and/or provisions within their zoning ordinance to address the required standards of the FIRM program. However, few of the ordinances go beyond these minimum requirements, and those that do only do so in prohibiting new construction or development in the 1%-annual-chance-floodplain. Table 5.2-1 shows which municipalities in Pike released for the County in the future, the PA model Floodplain Ordinance will be recommended for use.

Table 6. Results of Analysis of Standards in Municipal Floodplain Ordinances

Jurisdiction	Meets NFIP Standards*	Exceeds NFIP Standards*	Provisions that Exceed NFIP Standards *
Blooming Grove Township	X		
Delaware Township	X		



Jurisdiction	Meets NFIP Standards*	Exceeds NFIP Standards*	Provisions that Exceed NFIP Standards *
Dingman Township		X	Prohibit new construction/development in 1-percent annual chance floodplain
Greene Township	X		
Lackawaxen Township	X		
Lehman Township	X		
Matamoras Borough	X		
Milford Borough	X		
Milford Township		X	Prohibit new construction/development in 1-percent annual chance floodplain
Palmyra Township		X	Prohibit new construction/development in 1-percent annual chance floodplain
Porter Township	X		
Shohola Township	X		
Westfall Township	X		

Source: 2012 Pike County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Additional information on the NFIP program and its implementation within Pike County may be found in the flood hazard profile in Section 4.3.7.

5.3 COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

In the 1990s, the Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) established the Community Rating System (CRS) to encourage local governments to increase their standards for floodplain development. The goal of the program is to encourage communities—through flood insurance rate adjustments—to implement standards above and beyond the minimum required in order to:

- Reduce losses from floods
- Facilitate accurate insurance ratings
- Promote public awareness of the availability of flood insurance

CRS is a voluntary program designed to reward participating jurisdictions for their efforts to create more disaster-resistant communities using the principles of sustainable development and management. By enrolling in CRS, municipalities can leverage greater flood protection while receiving flood insurance discounts. Currently, no municipalities in Pike County participate in the CRS.

5.4 PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITY

While municipalities in Pennsylvania must comply with the minimum regulatory requirements established under the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code, they otherwise have considerable latitude in adopting ordinances, policies, and programs that can support their ability to manage natural and non-natural hazard risk. Specifically, municipalities can manage these risks through comprehensive land use planning, hazard-specific ordinances (for example, flood damage prevention, sinkholes, and steep slopes), zoning, site-plan approval,



and building codes. Specific plans guiding hazard mitigation under the planning and regulatory capability in Pike County are described in the sections below.

5.4.1 County Planning Capabilities

Pike County Planning Division

Created by Resolution of the Pike County Board of Commissioners in August 1965, the Pike County Planning Commission has served as an Advisory Board to the Pike County Board of Commissioners on matters of future growth and development over its forty-five year history. Many of the Planning Commission's efforts are focused on providing assistance to the County's thirteen municipalities.

The following duties summarize the functions and activities of the Planning Commission in Pike County:

- To provide for the active participation of all local governments and public and private agencies in a review of the needs, requirements, and goals of the County
- To establish a continuing program of public education aimed at creating an awareness and understanding among the people of the County of their common interest in the sound development of the county as a whole.
- To undertake research and surveys of existing conditions and future prospects of the physical, economic, social and governmental resources of the County.
- To prepare and keep updated a long range comprehensive plan of development that will provide for the best future growth of the County in terms of its specific needs, requirements and goals; present the Comprehensive Plan for the consideration of the governing body; and promote public interest in, and the understanding of, the comprehensive plan and planning.
- To assist local planning agencies by providing information on matters of county and regional significance.
- To provide technical planning assistance to local municipalities.
- To encourage cooperation among local governments and regional authorities and to encourage and assist with the development of multi-municipal planning efforts.

Pike County Office of Community Planning

Pike County Office of Community Planning is the County department that comprehensively addresses county-wide planning issues and initiatives. The Community Planning Office responsibilities include development, management and implementation of County planning initiatives and coordination and implementation of the Pike County Comprehensive Plan. Other core responsibilities of the Office of Community Planning are to provide professional technical planning assistance to municipal governments in such areas as municipal comprehensive planning, zoning, subdivision and land development, and to support and help facilitate local municipal and multi-municipal planning initiatives.

The Pike County Office of Community Planning was designated as the official county planning department by Ordinance of the Pike County Board of Commissioners. Authorization for this official designation falls under Section 201 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).

All 13 municipalities in Pike County have an adopted Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) and 12 of the 13 municipalities have adopted local zoning ordinances. The Pike County Office of Community Planning reviews subdivisions and land developments based upon the municipality's SALDO, zoning regulations, and other land use regulations. Land developments and subdivisions are also reviewed for their consistency with the goals and objectives identified in the County's Comprehensive Plan and also for appropriate 'best management practices'.



Pike County Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of the Pike County Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2006, is to set countywide planning goals and priorities, develop partnerships, and enhance the quality of life for residents in the County. The Comprehensive Plan is a non-regulatory document that provides statistical information and existing conditions to support future goals of a county or municipality. It establishes a vision for future growth and development and provides an implementation strategy to reach that identified vision.

The plan is prepared with a broad range of subjects including housing, land use, economic development, transportation, infrastructure, community facilities, scenic and natural resources, historical resources, open space, greenways and trail planning. This plan provides an invaluable tool for municipal and County officials to guide the overall development of the County.

The Pike County Open Space, Greenways and Recreation Plan was adopted by the Pike County Board of Commissioners in August 2008 as an official component of the Pike County Comprehensive Plan.

The Pike County 'Planning for the Future' full-color map/brochure describes and depicts the benefits of best planning practices. The project entails educational materials and guides that assist in implementation of the Pike County Comprehensive Plan. The informational project supports the improved ability of municipal governmental in local land use planning; strives to protect the County's natural resources; identifies threats to the Upper Delaware Corridor and the County as a whole in regard to gas drilling operations, and assists in enhancing social and economic vitality of the County and the region.

Sawkill Creek and Vandermark Creek Watershed – A Rivers Conservation Plan

Pike County was awarded a grant from the DCNR to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Sawkill-Vandermark Creeks Watershed. The Sawkill-Vandermark Creeks Watershed is recognized locally and regionally for its important natural, recreational and economic resources. The purpose of the grant was to work with local residents to develop a "Rivers Conservation / Watershed Management Plan" by identifying significant natural, recreational and cultural resources; determining the issues, concerns and threats to river/watershed resources and values; and recommending methods to conserve, enhance and restore the watershed's streams and waterways.

Stormwater Management Planning

The Pennsylvania legislature enacted the Stormwater Management Act (Act 167 of 1978), commonly called Act 167. The Act enables the regulation of development and activities that cause accelerated runoff and encourages watershed-based planning and management of stormwater. The Department of Environmental Protection is the public agency charged with overseeing implementation of the Act 167 plans. Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans are intended to improve stormwater management practices, mitigate potential negative impacts from future land uses, and to improve the condition of impaired waterways. Pike County has completed Phase I of its Act 167 plan and is nearing completion of Phase II. Once the Act 167 Plan is approved, each municipality must adopt and implement ordinances and regulations needed to regulate development in a manner consistent with the Act 167 Plan. The new ordinance will replace any previously adopted stormwater management ordinances.

In 2010, a Countywide Stormwater Management Plan was drafted.

Informational Resources

Pike County has informational resources available to the public. Many publications discussed previously are available for review by the public on the Pike County Office of Community Planning website: <https://www.pikepa.org/planning.html>. Further the Pike County Conservation District places great emphasis on education and outreach efforts through the following:

- Classroom and community education programs



- Municipal workshops and outreach
- Environmental Education Project grants
- Pike/Wayne Envirothon
- Workshops, technical assistance and outreach to residents and businesses on environmental permitting
- Regular communication with local, state, and federal legislators regarding conservation issues.

Pike County, along with many of the municipalities, have identified specific mitigation initiatives in this plan update to help build and enhance mitigation-related planning and regulatory capabilities in Pike County.

5.4.2 Municipal Capabilities

As noted earlier, Comprehensive Plans promote sound land use and regional cooperation among local governments to address planning issues. These plans serve as the official policy guide for influencing the location, type and extent of future development by establishing the basis for decision-making and review processes on zoning matters, subdivision and land development, land uses, public facilities and housing needs over time. County governments are required by law to adopt a comprehensive plan, while local municipalities may do so at their option. Future comprehensive plan updates and improvements will consider 2017 HMP findings. Several municipalities have joined to develop multi-municipal comprehensive planning efforts in the County (e.g., Westfall Township and Matamoras Borough; and Lackawaxen and Shohola Townships and Milford Borough and Milford Township). All municipal comprehensive plans pre-date the 2013 HMP.

Building codes regulate construction standards for new construction and substantially renovated buildings. Standards can be adopted that require resistant or resilient building design practices to address hazard impacts common to a given community. In 2003, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania implemented Act 45 of 1999, the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), a comprehensive building code that establishes minimum regulations for most new construction, including additions and renovations to existing structures. All 13 municipalities in Pike County are required to adhere to the Pennsylvania UCC. On December 10, 2009 the Commonwealth adopted regulations of the 2009 International Code Council's codes (residential and commercial). The effective date of the regulations is December 31, 2009. However, several residential provisions from the 2015 IECC as of been adopted as of January 1, 2016.

Through administration of floodplain ordinances, municipalities can ensure that all new construction or substantial improvements to existing structures located in the floodplain are flood-proofed, dry-proofed, or built above anticipated flood elevations. Floodplain ordinances may also prohibit development in certain areas altogether. The NFIP establishes minimum ordinance requirements which must be met in order for that community to participate in the program. However, a community is permitted and in fact, encouraged, to adopt standards which exceed NFIP requirements. Through participation in the NFIP, all municipalities within the County have floodplain regulations in place. As discussed in Section 5.2, when municipalities in Pike County's update floodplain ordinances again, the PA model ordinance will be recommended.

As noted earlier, SALDOs are intended to regulate the development of housing, commercial, industrial or other uses, including associated public infrastructure, as land is subdivided into buildable lots for sale or future development. Within these ordinances, guidelines on how land will be divided, the placement and size of roads and the location of infrastructure can reduce exposure of development to hazard events. All jurisdictions within Pike County have adopted and enforce a subdivision and land development ordinance.

Zoning ordinances allow for local communities to regulate the use of land in order to protect the interested and safety of the general public. Zoning ordinances can be designed to address unique conditions or concerns within a given community. They may be used to create buffers between structures and high-risk areas, limit the type or density of development and/or require land development to consider specific hazard vulnerabilities. Twelve of the 13 municipalities in Pike County have zoning regulations; Green Township does not have zoning.



Participating municipalities in this planning effort were provided a capabilities survey. Table 5-1 summarizes the responses of the municipalities based on the planning and regulatory capability. Copies of the individual municipal responses are provided in Appendix D.

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Table 5.4-1. Planning and Regulatory Capability

Municipality	Hazard Mitigation Plan	EOP	Disaster Recovery Plan	Evacuation Plan	COOP Plan	NFIP	NFIP - CRS	Floodplain Regulations	Floodplain Mgmt. Plan	Zoning Regulations	Subdivision Regulations	Comprehensive Land Use Plan (or General, Master, or Growth Mgmt. Plan)	Open Space Mgmt. Plan	Stormwater Mgmt. Plan/Ordinance	Natural Resource Protection Plan	Capital Improvements Plan	Economic Dev. Plan	Historic Preservation Plan	Farmland Preservation	Building Code	Fire Code	Firewise	Storm Ready	Other
Blooming Grove Township	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-
Delaware Township	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X						X			-	
Dingman Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Greene Township	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Lackawaxen Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Lehman Township	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Matamoras Borough	X	X	UD	UD	UD	X	-	X	-	X	X	X								X		UD	-	
Milford Borough	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X		-	-	*
Milford Township	X	X				X	-	X		X	X	X								X		-	-	
Palmyra Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
Porter Township	X	X		X	X	X	-	X		X	X	X								X		-	-	
Shohola Township	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	
Westfall Township	X	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	
Pike County	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	

Source: HMP Capability Assessment Surveys, 2016;
 "X" indicates that the jurisdiction currently has this capability in place.
 "UD" indicates this capability is under development.
 "-" indicates no capability is currently in place.
 A blank space indicates no response was received from the jurisdiction.
 "*" Milford Borough has a historic preservation ordinance.

COOP = Continuity of Operations Plan CRS = Community Rating System
 EOP = Emergency Operations Plan NFIP = National Flood Insurance Program





5.5 ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

Administrative capability is described by an adequacy of departmental and personnel resources for the implementation of mitigation-related activities. Technical capability relates to an adequacy of knowledge and technical expertise of local government employees or the ability to contract outside resources for this expertise in order to effectively execute mitigation activities. Common examples of skill sets and technical personnel needed for hazard mitigation include: planners with knowledge of land development/management practices, engineers or professionals trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure (e.g. building inspectors), planners or engineers with an understanding of natural and/or human caused hazards, emergency managers, floodplain managers, land surveyors, scientists familiar with hazards in the community, staff with the education or expertise to assess community vulnerability to hazards, personnel skilled in geographic information systems, resource development staff or grant writers, fiscal staff to handle complex grant application processes.

Municipalities are further supported by county, regional, State, and federal administrative and technical capabilities. For this HMP, the majority of support agencies and resources have been identified and referenced throughout this plan update.

Pike County and its municipalities have identified specific mitigation initiatives described in this plan update, which will help build and enhance mitigation-related administrative and technical capabilities in Pike County.

5.5.1 Federal and State Capabilities

Federal agencies which can provide technical assistance for mitigation activities include, but are not limited to:

- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Agriculture
- Economic Development Administration
- Emergency Management Institute
- Environmental Protection Agency
- FEMA
- Small Business Administration

State agencies which can provide technical assistance for mitigation activities include, but are not limited:

- Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Pennsylvania Silver Jackets

The PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry attended the kick-off to this hazard mitigation planning effort and completed a capability assessment survey. Their survey noted the following staff/personnel resources in the Bureau: planners with land use/land development knowledge; planners or engineers with natural and/or human-caused hazards knowledge; engineers or professionals trained in building and/or infrastructure construction projects; land surveyors; GIS skills; grant writers; and staff with expertise in benefit-cost analysis.

The Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Team is an interagency (federal, regional, profession and Commonwealth agencies) team dedicated to working collaboratively with the Commonwealth and appropriate stakeholders in developing and implementing solutions to flood hazards by combining available agency resources, which include funding, programs, and technical expertise. The goal of the Silver Jackets program is to promote interagency collaboration and to leverage available national, regional and local resources. The team provides



a variety of flood risk management resources available to the public and can found here: <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Home/Silver-Jackets/>

5.5.2 County Capabilities

Pike County Conservation District

Pike County Conservation District was established in 1956 by the Pike County Board of Commissioners and has worked actively since then to carry out programs focused on conservation of soil, water and natural resources. The District is governed by a Board of Directors who meet monthly to help plan programs, guide staff and coordinate efforts which provide conservation assistance and education in Pike County. District staff provide technical assistance for residents on natural resource and watershed conservation, groundwater protections, grant writing, and program administration. In addition, technical staff are trained to review construction plans; conduct inspections for erosion and stormwater on construction sites; and handle permitting related to waterway obstructions.

The Conservation District Watershed Specialist position works with all citizen-based watershed groups; currently there are two watershed groups, one watershed management district and the Pocono Source Water Protection Collaborative. The District provides advice, guidance, and assist with their activities (everything from water monitoring, education/outreach, programs, etc). The Collaborative has been working with water suppliers throughout the county on development of source water protection plans and education/outreach on water resource conservation.

The Conservation District coordinated the formation of the Pocono Source Water Protection Collaborative in 2013. The Collaborative was formed to safeguard drinking water by protecting it at its source, as well as provide education and outreach on groundwater (potable water) protection.

The Conservation District works with municipalities to provide technical assistance and funding for improvements to the PA Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program. In addition, the Conservation District has created an Education Reimbursement Grant program for applicants who are eligible for the PA Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road program to attend trainings conducted by the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (Center).

In 2016, the Conservation District added an education/outreach coordinator to their staff who provides monthly newsletters, media releases, website updates, and information on social media on water/soil resource protection, stormwater mitigation, flooding, invasive species, etc. The District plans to hold at least three outreach efforts specifically for municipalities in 2017; one of which was held in February. In addition, the Conservation District has developed a user-friendly small projects guide to ensure anyone planning a construction project or any earth disturbance in the County is meeting all regulations.

Pike County Office of Community Planning

Pike County Office of Community Planning is the County Department that comprehensively addresses county-wide planning issues and initiatives. The Community Planning Office responsibilities include development, management and implementation of County planning initiatives and coordination and implementation of the Pike County Comprehensive Plan. Other core responsibilities of the Office of Community Planning are to provide professional technical planning assistance to municipal governments in such areas as municipal comprehensive planning, zoning, subdivision and land development, and to support and help facilitate local municipal and multi-municipal planning initiatives.

The Pike County Office of Community Planning was designated as the official county planning department by Ordinance of the Pike County Board of Commissioners. Authorization for this official designation falls under Section 201 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (MPC).



The Pike County Office of Community Planning has three full-time planners with GIS capabilities and grant-writing capabilities.

Placeholder GIS and grant-writing services

Placeholder education and outreach

Placeholder training made available to municipal and county officials, and any public workshops held.

Pike County Office of Community Planning initiatives include:

- Tick Borne Disease Task Force - Pike County Tick Borne Diseases Task Force and the Pike County Commissioners have joined forces to help prevent the spread of tick borne diseases. The Task Force will work to educate the public about the prevalence and dangers of tick borne diseases, how to protect yourself from becoming infected, and how to enjoy your time outside. The Pike County Tick Borne Disease Task Force is focused on decreasing the number of tick borne illnesses by building community awareness through education, support, and advocacy.
- Agricultural Land Preservation Program - The purpose of the Pike County Agricultural Land Preservation Program is to protect and promote the continued agricultural use of valuable agricultural lands by acquiring agricultural conservation easements on actively farmed lands within Ag Security Areas (ASA's). The purchase of these easements from willing and interested landowners will provide these landowners with a more viable option for retaining the small farm operations and our local communities' rural character.
- Planning Commission - Created by Resolution of the Pike County Board of Commissioners in August 1965, the Pike County Planning Commission has served as an Advisory Board to the Pike County Board of Commissioners on matters of future growth and development over its forty-five year history. Many of the Planning Commission's efforts are focused on providing assistance to the County's thirteen municipalities.
- Scenic Rural Character Preservation – The program's mission is to protect the County's natural resources, preserve sensitive natural areas and critical open space, and provide parks and recreation areas and improving planning efforts at both the County and municipal levels.
- Marcellus Shale Task Force – The task force is a Commissioner-appointed standing committee established in October 2010 to build capacity for addressing current and future issues and opportunities related to Marcellus Shale activity in Pike County.

5.5.3 Municipal Capabilities

Participating municipalities in this planning effort were provided with a capabilities survey. Table 5-2 summarizes the responses of the municipalities and County based on administrative and technical capability. Copies of the individual municipal responses are found in Appendix D.

Based on assessment results, municipalities in Pike County have low-to-moderate administrative and technical staff needed to conduct hazard mitigation-activities. There seems to be sufficient emergency management staff across the County and a majority of municipalities have engineering capabilities. However, there seems to be a common lack of personnel for land surveying and scientific work related to community hazards. This result is not necessarily surprising since these tasks are typically contracted to outside providers. Many communities were unaware they have an NFIP Floodplain Administrator. A majority of communities do not have their own personnel skilled in geographic information systems but the County is able to support the municipalities with some GIS services. All municipalities in the County have an identified emergency management coordinator, though one individual may share duties between two municipalities.



Other local organizations that could act as partners include the Pike County Conservation District, Pike County Office of Community Planning, the County Council of Governments, municipal Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs), County economic development staff, and school districts.

In addition watershed associations and other environmental advocacy groups can provide support such as the National Park Service, Lackawaxen River Conservancy, the Twin and Walker Creek Watershed Conservancy, the Twin Lakes Conservancy, the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, and the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District. Most organizations of these types provide grass roots citizen support which can assist with education and outreach on important issues. Watershed volunteers can also provide important input on the science of water resources through monitoring programs. Watersheds can be planning and management areas for stream conservation and protection, stormwater management, water supply budgeting, watershed based zoning, and integrated resource planning. Getting citizen based groups such as watershed organizations involved with municipal planning in Hazard Mitigation efforts can provide a comprehensive approach to addressing hazard mitigation opportunities and can provide important education and outreach to the local residents.

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Table 5-2. Administrative and Technical Capability

Municipality	Planners (with land use/land development knowledge)	Planners or engineers (with natural and/or human caused hazards knowledge)	Engineers or professionals trained in building and/or infrastructure construction practices	Emergency Manager	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Land surveyors	Scientists or staff familiar with the hazards of the community	Personnel skilled in GIS and/or FEMA's HAZUS program	Grant writers or fiscal staff to handle large/complex grants	Staff with expertise or training in benefit-cost analysis	Other
Blooming Grove Township	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Delaware Township	X	X	X	X	X						
Dingman Township	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X		
Greene Township	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
Lackawaxen Township	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lehman Township	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	
Matamoras Borough			X	X	X						
Milford Borough	X	X	X	X	X						
Milford Township	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palmyra Township	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Porter Township	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	
Shohola Township	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	
Westfall Township	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pike County	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	

Notes:
 "X" indicates that the jurisdiction currently has this capability in place (even if contracted as needed).
 "-" indicates no capability is currently in place.
 DK indicates "don't know."
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the municipality.
 FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency GIS = Geographic Information System
 HAZUS = Hazards U.S. NFIP = National Flood Insurance Program





5.6 FISCAL CAPABILITY

Mitigation projects and initiatives are largely or entirely dependent on available funding. As such, it is critical to identify all available sources of funding at the local, county, regional, state, and federal level to support implementation of the mitigation strategies identified in this plan update.

Jurisdictions fund mitigation projects through existing local budgets, local appropriations (including referendums and bonding), and through myriad federal and state loan and grant programs.

Federal mitigation grant funding (Stafford Act 404 and 406) is available to all communities with a current HMP (this plan); however, most of these grants require a “local share” in the range of 10 to 25 percent of the total grant amount. This section describes the funding sources and programs available to Pike County in support of their mitigation efforts.

5.6.1 Federal Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

HMGP (Stafford Act 404 and 406) is a post-disaster mitigation program made available to states by FEMA after each federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75 percent funding for hazard mitigation measures and can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard-prone areas, flood proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements, and development of state or local standards.

Projects must fit into an overall mitigation strategy for the area identified as part of a local planning effort. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved HMP. Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP include state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to PEMA and placed in rank order for available funding and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available.

FEMA Stafford Act Sections 404 and 406 are two distinct criteria associated with mitigation funding. Participation in FEMA 404 HMGP may cover mitigation activities including raising, removing, relocating, or replacing structures within flood hazard areas. FEMA 406 HMGP is applied to parts of a facility that were actually damaged by a disaster, and the mitigation measures that provide protection from subsequent events.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration is required. Only NFIP-insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited and, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations.

The federal government cost share for an FMA project is 75 percent. At least 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source, and of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. At a minimum, a FEMA-approved local HMP is required before a project can be approved. FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the State. PEMA serves as the grantee and program administrator for FMA.



As of fiscal year 2013, the Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Flood Claims Programs were dismantled and incorporated into the FMA Program. As a result, residential and non-residential properties currently insured with NFIP are eligible to receive FMA funds as long as they meet either the Repetitive Loss (RL) properties or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property definitions as described in Section 4.3.7 of this plan.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program

The PDM program is an annually funded, nationwide, competitive grant program. No disaster declaration is required. Federal funds will cover 75 percent of a project's cost up to \$3 million. As with the HMGP and FMA, a FEMA-approved local HMP is required to be approved for funding under the PDM program.

In addition to these FEMA grants, the federal government, through the Emergency Management Institute, offers training in all aspects of emergency management, including hazard mitigation. The courses available at the Institute are free to local government staff.

Federal Disaster Assistance Programs

Following a disaster, various types of assistance may be made available by local, state, and federal governments. The types and levels of disaster assistance depend on the severity of the damage and the declarations that result from the disaster event. Should the President of the United States declare the event a major disaster, the following general types of assistance are offered:

- Individual Assistance – provides help for homeowners, renters, businesses, and some nonprofit entities after disasters occur. This program is largely funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration largely funds this program. For homeowners and renters, those who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses may be eligible for a Home Disaster Loan to repair or replace damaged real estate or personal property. Renters are eligible for loans to cover personal property losses. Individuals may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate, \$40,000 to cover losses to personal property and an additional 20 percent for mitigation. For businesses, loans may be made to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc. are also eligible. An Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a physical disaster. These loans are restricted (by law) to small businesses only.
- Public Assistance – provides cost reimbursement aid to local governments (state, county, local, municipal authorities, and school districts) and certain nonprofit agencies that were involved in disaster response and recovery programs or that suffered loss or damage to facilities, or property used to deliver government-like services. This program is largely funded by FEMA with both local and state matching contributions required.

U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

CDBGs are federal funds intended to provide low- and moderate-income households with decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration. Public improvements may include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances and during times of “urgent need” (for example, post-disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding may be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event. Pike County and several of its municipalities have utilized CDBG funding for infrastructure and other necessary improvements to increase County resiliency.



Additional Federal Resources

Weatherization Assistance Program: Minimizes the adverse effects of high-energy costs on low-income, elderly, and handicapped citizens through client education activities and weatherization services like heating system modifications and insulation (US DOE, 2011).

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Programs: Provides loan guarantees as security for federal loans for acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation, clearance, site preparation, special economic development activities, and construction of certain public facilities and housing (HUD, 2011).

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Provides disaster assistance through the following:

- The Emergency Conservation Program provides emergency funding for farmers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.
- The Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides financial assistance for non-insurable crop losses and planting prevented by disasters.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program: Undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed (NRCS, 2011). It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance. The program objective is to assist sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to remove debris from streams, protect destabilized stream banks, establish cover on critically eroding lands, repairing conservation practices, and the purchase of floodplain easements. The program is designed for installation of recovery measures.

5.6.2 State Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

State programs which may provide financial support for mitigation activities include, but are not limited to:

- Community Conservation Partnerships Program
- Community Revitalization Program
- Floodplain Land Use Assistance Program
- Growing Greener Program
- Keystone Grant Program
- Local Government Capital Projects Loan Program
- Land Use Planning and Technical Assistance Program
- Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program
- Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program
- Shared Municipal Services
- Technical Assistance Program

Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund - Act 13 of 2012

Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) - Act 13 of 2012 establishes the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for watershed restoration and protection projects. The overall goal of this program is to restore and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from the PA DEP's Impaired Waters list.



Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) - In addition, Act 13 of 2012 allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the “Authority”) for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. Projects can involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails, and river conservation.

Flood Mitigation Projects – Finally, Act 13 of 2012 allocates funds to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (the “Authority”) for funding Statewide initiatives to assist with flood mitigation projects.

While most of the identified fiscal capabilities are available to all of the municipalities in Pike County, the extent to which communities have leveraged these funding sources varies widely. It is expected that communities familiar with accessing grant programs will continue to pursue those grant sources, as appropriate.

5.6.3 Municipal Capabilities

The implementation of mitigation actions requires time and fiscal resources. While some mitigation actions are less costly than others, it is important that money is available locally to implement policies and projects. Financial resources are particularly important if communities are trying to take advantage of state or federal mitigation grant funding opportunities that require local-match contributions. Based on survey results and municipal feedback, most municipalities within the County perceive fiscal capability to be limited.

Capital Improvement Planning

Capital improvement plans are often recommended by counties to their municipalities, as these plans help identify specific capital projects to be funded and completed according to a defined schedule. Some of these projects involve improvements to facilities and infrastructure that provide hazard mitigation benefits. As such, during this update process, the County and its municipalities have been encouraged to consider the mitigation benefits associated with their known or anticipated capital projects as a way to help prioritize their execution and to develop awareness that mitigation grants may be available to help fund such projects.

Municipalities participating in this planning effort were provided with a capabilities survey. Table 5-3 summarizes the responses of the municipalities based on fiscal capabilities. Copies of the individual municipal responses are found in Appendix D.



Table 5-3. Fiscal Capability

Municipality	Capital Improvements Program	Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Special Purpose Taxes	Gas/Electric Utility Fees	Water/Sewer Fees	Stormwater Utility Fees	Development Impact Fees	General Obligation, Revenue, and/or Special Tax Bonds	Partnering Arrangements or Intergovernmental Agreements	Other
Blooming Grove Township	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Delaware Township	X	X	X					X	X	
Dingman Township		X	X	-	-	-	-	X		
Greene Township	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	
Lackawaxen Township	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lehman Township	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	
Matamoras Borough	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	
Milford Borough		X	X							
Milford Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	
Palmyra Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Porter Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Shohola Township	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	
Westfall Township	NA	X	NA	NA	-	-	-	-	X	
Pike County	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	

Notes:
 "X" indicates that the jurisdiction currently has this capability in place.
 "-" indicates no capability is currently in place.
 DK indicates "don't know."
 NA indicates the jurisdiction noted not applicable.
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the jurisdiction.

5.7 POLITICAL CAPABILITY

For a hazard mitigation project, political capability speaks to a jurisdiction’s ability, will, and commitment to supporting risk management activities and programs within all aspects of their community’s governance. This commitment may be evidenced through the adoption and appropriate enforcement of mitigation-related ordinances and plans (zoning, comprehensive planning, site-plan review, building code, higher regulatory standards), appropriate and critical mitigation-related outreach to vulnerable property owners and the public in general, an appropriate dedication of resources (administrative, technical, fiscal) to implement identified priority mitigation projects/actions, and the integration and coordination of the findings and recommendations of this plan update within other complementary and supportive plans and programs.

Strong political capabilities are built over time; they are not necessarily transferred from one elected official to the next. Communities that have had to repeatedly face hazard events and their impacts tend to be those that build and maintain greater mitigation capabilities, and this is certainly the case with political (including public) will. Through this mitigation planning, update, and implementation process, FEMA and the State are



promoting efforts to build political and popular support to improve the management of hazard risk at the local level.

One of the most difficult capabilities to evaluate involves the political will of a jurisdiction to enact meaningful policies and projects designed to mitigate hazard events. The adoption of hazard mitigation measures may be seen as an impediment to growth and economic development. In many cases, mitigation may not generate interest among local officials when compared with competing priorities. Therefore, the local political climate must be considered when designing mitigation strategies, as it could be the most difficult hurdle to overcome in accomplishing the adoption or implementation of specific actions.

The capability assessment surveys provided to each jurisdiction included an assessment of local political capability, where the respondent was asked to rate their community’s political capability to effect and support hazard mitigation on a scale ranging from “5 – Very Willing” to “0 – Unwilling to Adopt Policies/Programs.” Completed capability assessment worksheets returned from communities are provided in Appendix D. By its very nature, an assessment of political capabilities tends to be highly subjective, and any such local assessment provided by a community should not necessarily be considered statistically valid or reflective of the opinions of others in the community.

Table 5-4. Political Capability

Municipality	Very Willing	Moderate to Very Willing	Moderately Willing	Unwilling to Moderately Willing	Unwilling
Blooming Grove Township	X				
Delaware Township			X		
Dingman Township	X				
Greene Township			X		
Lackawaxen Township			X		
Lehman Township	X				
Matamoras Borough		X			
Milford Borough			X		
Milford Township	X				
Palmyra Township		X			
Porter Township			X		
Shohola Township			X		
Westfall Township	X				
Pike County			X		

Notes:
 "X" indicates the identified jurisdiction political effort currently in place.
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the jurisdiction.



5.8 SELF-ASSESSMENT

Through the capability assessment surveys, all participating jurisdictions were further asked to provide a self-assessment of their jurisdiction’s capability in the areas of planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, fiscal, community/political, and community resilience. Respondents evaluated their degree of capability in these areas as “Limited”, “Moderate,” or “High.” Table 5-5 summarizes the results from municipalities within Pike County that completed capability self-assessment worksheets.

Table 5-5. Capability Self-Assessment Matrix

Municipality	Capability Category				
	Planning and Regulatory Capability	Administrative and Technical Capability	Fiscal Capability	Community Political Capability	Community Resiliency Capability
Blooming Grove Township	Limited	Limited	Limited	Moderate	Limited
Delaware Township	Moderate	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Limited
Dingman Township	High	Moderate	High	Moderate	High
Greene Township	Moderate	Limited	Moderate	Moderate	Limited
Lackawaxen Township	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	High
Lehman Township	High	High	High	Limited	Limited
Matamoras Borough	Moderate	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
Milford Borough	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Milford Township	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Palmyra Township	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
Porter Township	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Shohola Township	Limited	Limited	Limited	Moderate	Moderate
Westfall Township	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
Pike County	Moderate	High	Limited	Moderate	Limited

Notes:
 “-” indicates no capability is currently in place.
 Blank space indicates no response was received from the jurisdiction.

Detailed information regarding the municipalities’ capabilities self-assessments can be found in the municipal survey responses provided in Appendix D.

5.9 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT CONCLUSIONS

A jurisdiction’s ability to effectively manage natural hazard risk is directly related to their level of hazard mitigation capabilities. As such, mitigation strategies developed in coordination with Pike County’s municipalities have a direct effect on establishing new capability functions in the community or strengthening existing capabilities.



As mentioned, there are no communities in Pike County participating in the NFIP Community Rating System. However, all municipalities in the County have been designated as floodprone. Community participation in this program can provide premium reductions for properties located outside of Special Flood Hazard Areas of up to 10 percent and reductions for properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas of up to 45 percent. These discounts can be obtained by undertaking public information, mapping and regulations, flood damage reduction and flood preparedness activities (FEMA, 2009).

Many municipalities were not aware that they have an NFIP Floodplain Administrator, and who maintains this role. The County has added a new mitigation action to provide NFIP Floodplain Administrator education/training over the next plan update cycle.

Based on the capability assessment results and information from the Pike County Office of Community Planning, all of Pike County's jurisdictions have local land use controls. However, some of these have not been updated recently. To address previous growth pressures, the municipalities took a more pro-active role in updating their comprehensive plans and land use ordinances. When updating their ordinances, local governments can go farther to use land use regulations to direct development away from hazard-prone areas.

Numerous roads and intersections exist in the County where flooding issues repeatedly occur. Some of these roads and intersections are state routes. The County and local municipalities face challenges in mitigating flood events on state routes since these roads are owned and maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Local municipalities do not have the authority to independently carry out a mitigation project. In these situations, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation must decide to undertake the project. Since the Department of Transportation is often most concerned with larger, critical transportation routes, smaller state roads and intersections which significantly affect a local community may not get the attention they need for the Commonwealth to take on a mitigation project.

Finally, limited funding is a critical barrier to the implementation of hazard mitigation activities. The County will need to rely on regional, state and federal partnerships for financial assistance.