

# 1 Introduction/Planning Process

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## 1.1 Purpose

In accordance with the DMA 2000, the purpose of this plan is to identify and sustain actions designed to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural and other hazards, as well as to ensure that each participating jurisdiction is eligible to obtain federal funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) and the Flood Mitigation Grant (FMA) Program. Through this plan Region L, and its participating jurisdictions, have evaluated the hazards affecting the area, updated the risks these hazards present to the respective jurisdictions, revised their mitigation goals, and identified and/or updated feasible mitigation activities for the participating entities.

## 1.2 Background and Scope

Natural, man-made, and technological disasters affect people every day, taking lives, injuring people, and destroying property. Every year billions of dollars of tax payer money goes toward helping communities recover from disasters and their aftermath. While we cannot control the weather, we can mitigate to reduce or eliminate the risk to people and property due to these damaging weather events.

Hazard mitigation, as defined by FEMA, is “any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from a hazard event.” Hazard mitigation planning is the process through which hazards that threaten communities are identified, impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals and strategies are determined, and actions are prioritized and implemented.

This plan documents Region Ls planning process and identifies relevant hazards, vulnerabilities, and strategies the participating jurisdictions will use to decrease vulnerability and increase resiliency and sustainability in the Region.

Region L in the State of Kansas consists of three counties, Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte, and has a population of 777,911 people (U.S. Census 2010), an increase of 14.8% since the 2000 census. Within the three counties of Region L, 59 entities were identified as being potential officially participating jurisdictions in the plan, including the counties, communities, and school districts. Others were encouraged to support the planning process, including townships, fire districts, and businesses. While these entities were not included in the count listed above, they were considered supporting stakeholders, but not jurisdictions in the plan. See Table 1.1 below for a complete listing of the entities in the planning area. A description of how each entity was involved in the planning process is provided in Table 1.3.

Information in this Regional Mitigation Plan will be used to help guide and coordinate mitigation activities and decisions for local land use policy. Mitigation planning will help reduce the cost of disaster response and recovery to communities and their residents by protecting critical community facilities, reducing liability exposure, and minimizing overall community impacts.

### 1.3 Plan Organization

The Region L Mitigation Plan for the counties of Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte is organized as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Prerequisites
- Chapter 1: Introduction and Planning Process
- Chapter 2: Jurisdictional Profiles and Capabilities
- Chapter 3: Risk Assessment
- Chapter 4: Mitigation Strategy
- Chapter 5: Plan Implementation and Maintenance
- Appendices

### 1.4. Planning Process

**44 CFR Requirement 201.6(c)(1): [The plan shall document] the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.**

In 2012, the State of Kansas, through a lot of thought and consideration, presented the various options available to the different regions on how they would like to proceed with the updating of their plans. These options consisted of: 1) do nothing and let the plans expire, 2) the county's could update their own plans or contract out utilizing their own funds, or 3) the State of Kansas would provide funding for regional plans for those county's that wished to participate. The counties of Region L decided cooperatively that the Kansas Division of Emergency Management would proceed with the regional plan for this area with the full cooperation, input, and participation of the three counties that make up the region. Having made this monumental decision, the planning team was assembled using personnel from each agency that was familiar with the local hazards and capable of generating public interest in the project. AMEC was hired as the contracting firm to facilitate the kickoff meetings and perform follow-up on informational guides.

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#### 1.4.2. Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Participation

**44 CFR Requirement §201.6(a)(3): Multi-jurisdictional plans may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.**

Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties invited all incorporated cities, public entities, school districts, medical entities, special districts, and private non-profits in the Region to participate in the Regional Plan. The planning committee, with a lot of thought and discussion, decided that while actual physical presence at the meetings was preferred, it would not be a requirement. Because some of the entities, such as the Unified School Districts, had a hard time being present at the meetings, the planning committee decided that a physical presence

would not be a requirement but highly encourage and recommended. In addition, a combination of face-to-face meetings, phone interviews, follow-ups, and email correspondence were utilized in order to keep the process going. Table 1.1 provides participation information details for the jurisdictions that participated in this plan.

Each participating jurisdiction in the planning process and plan development was required to meet plan participation requirements defined at the beginning of the process, which included the following:

- Attend meetings (encouraged, but not required as long as all other criteria are met)
- Provide information to support the plan development by completing and returning the Data Collection Guide, pictures, etc.
- Identify Mitigation Actions for the plan
- Review and comment on plan drafts
- Inform the public, local officials, and other interested parties about the planning process and provide an opportunity for them to comment on the plan
- Formally adopt the plan

Private and non-profit organizations are not required to be official participants of the plan. They do not have to formally adopt the plan; however, for future mitigation grant applications to be considered, they must be consistent with the mitigation strategy. As such, private non-profit organizations in the planning area were invited to participate in this planning effort and were encouraged to provide data to support the risk assessment as well as mitigation actions for incorporation in the mitigation strategy.

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a multi-jurisdictional plan that geographically covers everything within the boundaries of the participating jurisdictions, hereafter referred to as the planning area.

The following Table 1.1 indicates the jurisdictions that participated in the planning process: Note that the Fire Districts and County Health Departments are included in the County.

**Table 1.1. Plan Participants (\* denotes participation in prior plan)**

<b>Johnson County</b>	
	*USD229
• *City of DeSoto	*USD230
• *City of Edgerton	*USD231
• *City of Fairway	*USD232
• *City of Gardner	*USD233
• *City of Lake Quivira	*USD 512
• *City of Leawood	
• *City of Lenexa	
• *City of Merriam	
• *City of Mission	
• *City of Mission Hills	
• *City of Mission Woods	
• *City of Olathe	
• *City of Overland Park	
• *City of Prairie Village	
• *City of Roeland Park	

• *City of Shawnee
• *City of Spring Hill
• *City of Westwood
• *City of Westwood Hills
• *County
• *Consolidated Fire District No. 2
• *Fire District No. 1
• *Fire District No. 2
• *Fire District No. 3
• *Johnson County Community College
• *KSSDB (Deaf)
• *University of Kansas Edwards Campus
<b>Leavenworth County</b>
• *City of Basehor *USD207
• *City of Easton *USD449
• *City of Lansing *USD453
• *City of Leavenworth *UDF458
• *City of Linwood *USD464
• *City of Tonganoxie *USD469
• *County *University of Saint Mary
• *RWD 7
<b>Wyandotte County</b>
• Board of Public Utilities
• *City of Bonner Springs
• *City of Edwardsville
• *Fairfax Drainage District
• *Lake Quivira
• *Kansas City Community College
• *KSSDB (Blind)
• *Kansas University Medical Center
• *Kaw Valley Drainage District
• *Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas
• *University of Kansas Hospital
• *USD 204 Bonner-Edwardsville
• Kansas City Power and Light
• Kansas Gas Service
Non- Profit
Heart of America Boy Scouts

In addition to the local governments, one private non-profit entity participated in this planning effort:

- \*Heart of America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Jurisdictions that were reached out to, but did not participate in this plan update were the Wyandotte Nation and USDs 202, 203, and 500, and Rainbow Mental Health, located in Wyandotte County.

A description of the jurisdictions participation is provided in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.2. Jurisdictions Participation Description (including stakeholders)**

Organization	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3	Email Correspondence	Data Collection Guide	Mitigation Action(s)
Participating Jurisdictions						
Johnson County	X	X	X	X	X	X
JoCo Health Dept.	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cities						
DeSoto				X	X	X
Edgerton				X	X	X
Fairway		X	X	X	X	X
Gardner				X	X	X
Lake Quivira				X	X	X
Leawood		X		X	X	X
Lenexa	X			X	X	X
Merriam	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mission				X	X	X
Mission Hills				X	X	X
Mission Woods				X	X	X
Olathe	X	X		X	X	X
Overland Park	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prairie Village	X	X		X	X	X
Roeland Park	X			X	X	X
Shawnee	X		X	X	X	X
Spring Hill				X	X	X
Westwood				X	X	X
Westwood Hills				X	X	X
*Board of Public Utilities	X	X	X	X	X	X
Consolidated FD No. 2				X	X	X
Fire District No. 1		X		X	X	X
Fire District No. 2				X	X	X
Fire District No. 3				X	X	X
Johnson County Community College	X	X		X	X	X
Kansas City Power & Light	X	X		X	X	X
Kansas Gas Service		X		X	X	X
Kansas School for the Deaf				X	X	X
University of Kansas Edwards Campus		X	X	X	X	X
USD 229	X	X	X	X	X	X
USD 230	X	X	X	X	X	X
USD 231				X	X	X
USD 232				X	X	X
USD 233			X	X	X	X
USD 512				X	X	X
Leavenworth County						
Leavenworth County	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cities						
Basehor	X	X	X	X	X	X
Easton				X	X	X
Lansing	X	X	X	X	X	X
Leavenworth	X	X	X	X	X	X
Linwood		X	X	X	X	X
Tonganoxie		X		X	X	X
Leavenworth County Health Department						
Leavenworth County Health Department	X	X	X		X	X
Leavenworth Water	X	X			X	X
RWD #7		X	X	X	X	X
University of Saint Mary				X	X	X
USD 207	X			X	X	X
USD 449				X	X	X
USD 453	X	X		X	X	X

USD 458				X	X	X
USD 464			X	X	X	X
USD 469				X	X	X
Wyandotte Co./Unified Government	X	X		X	X	X
Cities						
Bonner Springs		X		X	X	X
Edwardsville	X	X		X	X	X
Board of Public Utilities (BPU)	X	X	X		X	X
Fairfax Drainage District	X	X		X	X	X
Kansas City Community College				X	X	X
KCK Fire	X	X		X	X	X
Kansas State School for the Deaf and Blind (Blind)	X	X		X	X	X
Kansas University Medical Center	X	X		X	X	X
Kaw Valley Drainage District			X	X	X	X
Unified Government Health Department	X	X		X	X	X
University of Kansas Hospital	X	X		X	X	X
USD 204				X	X	X
Heart of America Boy Scouts	X	X		X	X	X

The initial kickoff meetings were coordinated with the Emergency Manager for the respective counties in Region L. Once an agreed upon time and place was established, the emergency managers sent out notifications to all jurisdictions within their county. This included all participating jurisdictions in their current plan, along with those that did not participate during the last plan process. Special Districts, United School Districts, fire departments, surrounding counties, and private non-profits were invited to attend and participate. A brief summary of each of the three meetings is reflected in Table 1.3. Agenda's and minutes can be found in Appendix B.

**Table 1.3. Meeting Summaries for Region L**

Table 1.3		
Planning Committee Meetings		
Meeting	Agenda	Date(s)
Kickoff Meeting	Planning Process, Regional Approach, Planning Requirements, Data Collection Guides, Action Worksheets, Next Steps	15 February 2013 – LV County 20 February 2013 – Johnson County 23 April 2013 – Wyandotte county
2 <sup>nd</sup> Planning Meeting	Regional Risk Assessment, Mitigation Goals, Mitigation Actions, Public Comment	24 May 2013 – Leavenworth County 30 May 2013 – Johnson County 04 June 2013 – Wyandotte County
Final Meeting	Question and Comments, final discussion on Actions, Risk Assessment, and goals.	15 June 2013 – Johnson County 16 July 2013 – Leavenworth County 17 July 2013 – Wyandotte County
Public Meeting	Planning Process, Regional Approach, NFIP, CRS	24 September 2013 – Open to the public for Leavenworth, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties. Held in Johnson County.

## 1.5 The Update Process

**44 CFR Requirement §201.6(c)(1): [The plan shall document] the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.**

A Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated and adopted by the participating jurisdictions every five years. This plan update took into consideration the current plans for each county within the Region in order to come to a consensus on a completion date that would benefit all the jurisdictions, without letting any plan expire. Because the Johnson County plan was the first to expire, the completion date for this plan was no later than 1 September 2013. Jeanne Bunting, State Mitigation Planner, was the lead planner for the consolidation of the three affected counties into the Regional Mitigation Plan. AMEC was tasked with writing the State Mitigation Plan in a regional format in order to facilitate the data needed for the Regional plan. AMEC was also tasked with conducting the initial kickoff meetings in each of the three counties that reside within Region L, and conducting follow-up for missing information requested at the kick-off. In addition, Ben Grover, State GIS Specialist was in charge of developing the updated maps.

The Planning Committee was instrumental in the writing of this plan through their subject matter expertise as well as their dedication to ensuring that the information was gathered and submitted in a timely fashion. The distinction between being a participant and planning committee member versus being a participant only of this plan, was whether the jurisdiction had a physical presence at the meetings. Only those jurisdictional representatives that were physically present at the meeting(s) were on the committee. Following is the list of members of the primary planning committee.

**Table 1.4. Primary Planning Committee**

Planning Committee		
Jurisdiction	Name	Position
Johnson County	Cary Gerst	Emergency Management Assistant Director, Planning
	Rita Hoffman	Volunteer/Amateur Radio Operator
	Trent Pittman	Emergency Planner
	Liz Ticer	Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
	Jerry Mallory	Emergency Management Building Official
City of Fairway	Mike Fleming	Fairway Police Department
City of Leawood	David Williams	City of Leawood Fire Chief
City of Lenexa	Eric Ramsey	Lenexa Fire Department Division Chief
City of Merriam	Doug Crockett	Merriam Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief
City of Olathe	Tim Richards	Olathe Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief
City of Overland Park	Ruth Hamel	City of Overland Park Management Assistant
	Tim Lynch	Administrator for EM and HLS
City of Prairie Village	Danielle Dulin	City of Prairie Village City Manager Assistant
	Byron Roberson	Prairie Village Sergeant
City of Roeland Park	Rex Taylor	Roeland Park Chief of Police
City of Shawnee	Terrance Kegin	Shawnee Police Department/Emergency Mgmt Coordinator
Kansas Gas Service	Belinda Ciemiega	Operations Clerk
	Scott Coffee	Director, Kansas Gas Service
Kansas City Power & Light	Les Boatright	KCP&L Emergency Response Manager
Johnson County Community College	Alias Pacer	Emergency Preparedness Manager
	Mary Ryan	Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs
University of Kansas Edwards Campus	Sidney Cumberland	USD 229 Risk Manager
USD 229 Blue Valley	Wayne Burke	USD 230 Assistant Superintendent
USD 230 Spring Hill	Trig Morley	na
Fire District No. 1	James B. Francis	Fire Chief
Fire District No. 2		
Leavenworth County	Kim Buchannan	Emergency Management Deputy
	David Dalecky	Leavenworth County Planning and Zoning Deputy Director
	Chuck Magaha	Emergency Management Director
	Krystal Teichmann	Leavenworth County Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

	Mickey Schwartzkopf	County Public Works Deputy Director
	Lloyd Martley	Interim City Administrator and Basehor Chief of Police
City of Basehor	Gene Myracle, Jr.	Basehor City Superintendent
	John Young	Director of Public Works, Lansing City
City of Lansing	Fred Grenier	Lansing Police Department, Lieutenant Patrol Division
	Mark Nietzke	Leavenworth Fire Department Chief
City of Leavenworth	Mike McDonald	Leavenworth City Public Works Director
	John Kanfiman	Leavenworth Water Department Manager
	Shawn Kell	Leavenworth City Fire Department Assistant Chief
City of Linwood	Karen kane	Linwood City Clerk
City of Tonganoxie	Jennifer Jones-Lacy	Tonganoxie Assistant City Administrator
USD 207 Ft Leavenworth	Bill Heinen	USD 207 Chief Financial Officer
USD 453	Amy Sloan	USD 453 Director of Support Services
	Bob Evans	Emergency Management Director
Unified Government of Wyandotte County	Mike Baughman	Emergency Management Program Coord.
	Joel Thornton	Emergency Management Program Coordinator
	Jeff Froman	MMRS Program Coordinator
	Gay Hall	UG Health Department
	Daniel Soptic	County Sheriff
	Melissa Mitchell	Unified Government Development Support Specialist
	Anthony Hutchinson	Building Inspector
	Rob Richards	Planning
	George Sooter	Public Works
	Cadi Sanchez	Health Center
	John Helin	City Manager, Bonner Springs
City of Bonner Springs	Kevin Schuler	Edwardsville fire Department
City of Edwardsville	Steve Dailey	General Manager, Fairfax Drainage District
Fairfax Drainage District	Jim Jenkins	President – Board member
Kaw Valley Drainage District	Michelle Protte	Administrator Assistant, Sr.
Kansas State School for the Deaf and Blind (Blind)	John Martello	Deputy Superintendent of Facility Operations and Services
	Kelly Morken	Emergency Management Coordinator for University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas University Medical Center	Steve Hoeger	Regional Hospital Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, University of Kansas Hospital
University of Kansas Hospital	Mike Wilson	Senior Assistant Chief, KCKFD
Kansas City, Kansas	Craig Duke	Fire Department
	Patrick Cassidy	Director, Environmental Services
BPU	Phil Musser	na
	Chris Stewart	Director of Civil Engineering Board of Public Utilities
	Ron Wilson	Contract Employee
		na
Heart of America Boy Scouts	Rob Richardson	Council President

## Public Involvement

**44 CFR Requirement 201.6(b): An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan. In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural, man-made, and technological disasters, the planning process shall include: (1) An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval.**

Options were discussed at the initial kickoff meetings for solicitation of public input and comments on the mitigation plan. During the second planning meeting a volunteer sign-up sheet was sent around so that the plan participants could indicate their willingness to put a

Region L Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2013                      Final                      1.8

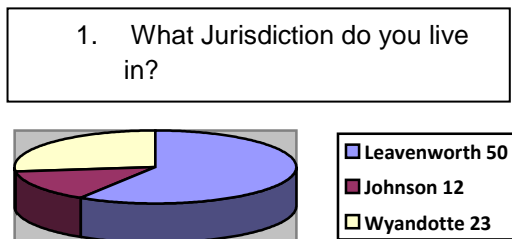
public notice on their organizations website. Hard copies were put in Public Libraries and Courthouses to make the draft plan readily available to all for comments and input. In addition, the State of Kansas sponsored a facebook page dedicated to the Region L planning process with a link to survey monkey for public feedback. Copies of the survey and links can be found in appendix B.

A second public comment period was held during July 2013. A press release was issued on facebook and through the Counties public information channels that notified the public that the plan summary and questionnaire were available on the County's website and the State Sponsored facebook page.

The questionnaire that was made available to the public asked them to rank the hazards according to what they believed the biggest threats were, any issues they felt impacted their community that was not addressed, and if they even knew what mitigation was. They were also asked to review mitigation actions considered by the planning committee and place a check next to the ones they felt should be given the highest priority.

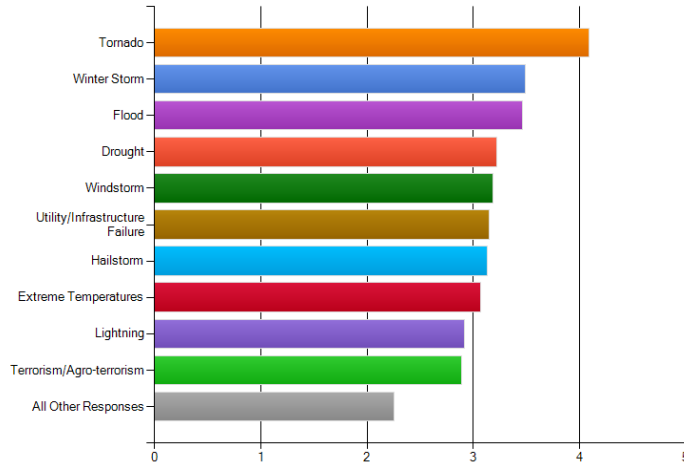
Following are some of the public comments received and charts that reflect answers to various questions. For the first public comment period there were 85 responses.

**Figure 1.1. Jurisdiction**



## Figure 1.2. Public Ranked Hazards

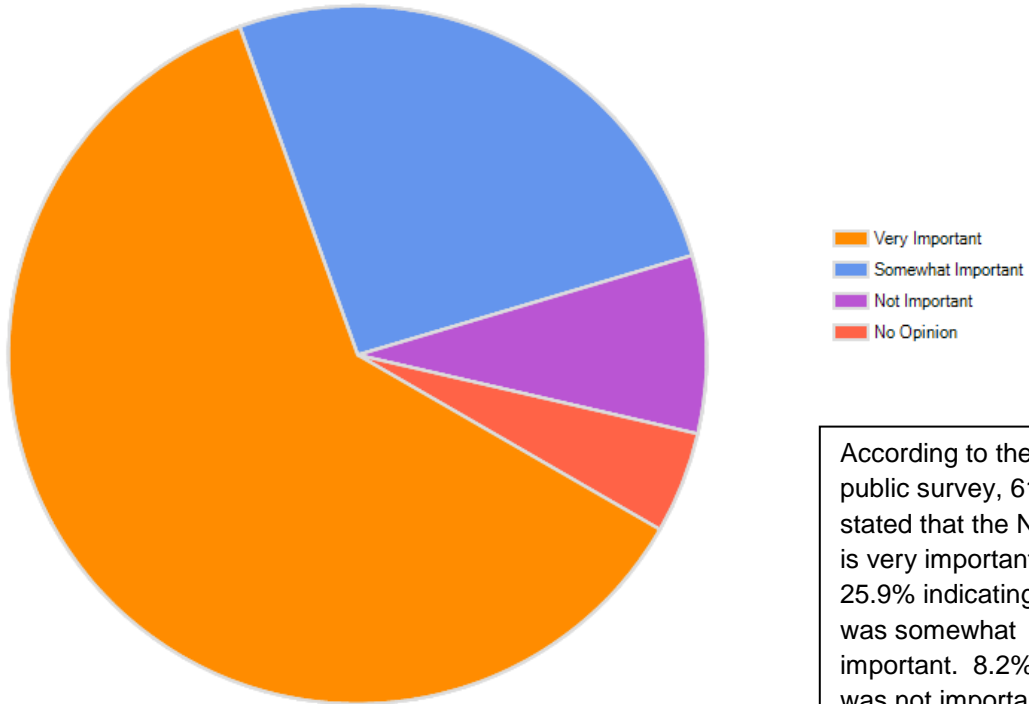
In the Region consisting of Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte Counties, the planning committee has determined that the hazards listed below are of significance to the area. Please indicate the level of risk, or extent of potential impacts, in the Region, that you perceive for each hazard.



The public rated the hazards they feel are the greatest threat to the planning area slightly different than the planning committee. In the top five the public had drought, whereas the planning committee indicated Utility/Infrastructure failure with drought as number six.

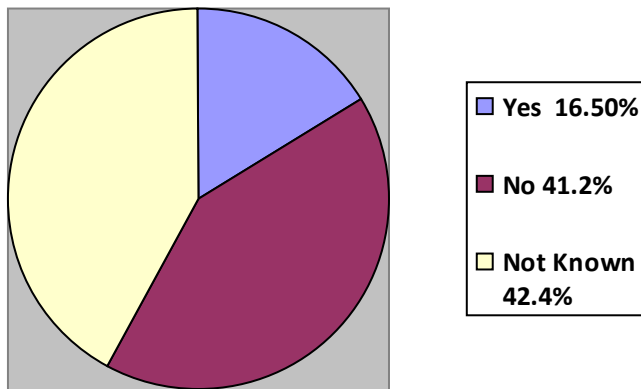
**Figure 1.3. NFIP Importance**

**In the Region, the planning committee has determined that a Flood event is the second most critical hazard. How important is it to you that your community participate or continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program?**



According to the public survey, 61.2% stated that the NFIP is very important, with 25.9% indicating it was somewhat important. 8.2% felt it was not important and 4.7% had no opinion.

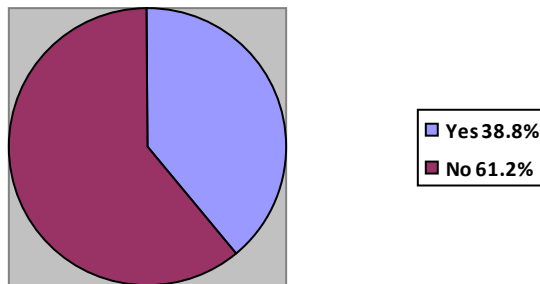
**Figure 1.4. Opportunity to Read HMP**



When the public was asked if they had read their local mitigation plan 42.4% indicated they did not know their county had one, 41.2% said no, and 16.5% had read the plan.

Of the public that knew a mitigation plan existed, 61.2% indicated they did not know where the plan could be located in order to read it, and 38.8% stated they knew the location of the plan.

**Figure 1.5. Knowledge of Location of Mitigation Plan**



In addition to the data gathered on surveymonkey.com above, there were also 44 responses from the public via hard copy survey's left in public venues such as courthouses and post offices. Following are some of the pertinent feedback:

NFIP is: Very important **18** Somewhat important **23** Not important **2** No opinion **1**

Read HMP: yes: **4** no: **36** no response: **4**

Because of the large amount of the respondents who had not read the Hazard Mitigation Plan, we were curious as to who knew where to find it to read. Following is the response:

Know location of HMP: Yes: **13** No: **27** No response: **4**

The public was asked to comment on issues the planning committee should address and projects they would like to see implemented. There were 39 responses with the following representing a few of them:

*Coordination of 1st responders and regular training excersizes. More funding for water rescue, emergency response, confined space rescue, ect. 6/20/2013 12:00 AMView Responses*

*Since utilizing county resources to respond to emergency situations costs taxpayer money, I feel it is important to ensure that these resources are focused on preserving county and state facilities that are built and operated with the same funds. While it is important to ensure that there is as much work done to preserve life and avert suffering, in the end a person's personal property is their responsibility to protect. While it is vital that the county provide as many resources and tools and information for people to enterprise on as possible, but when it comes to the actual adjudication of manpower and funds vital infrastructure elements need to be of the utmost priority. Preserving the power grid, establishing routes of transportation, and maintaining the various utilities that make current established life safe, hygienic, and efficient is a far more valuable use of limited county resources than trying to save every individual affected by a disaster. 6/19/2013 2:16 PMView Responses*

*Every school should have shelters for all staff and students to protect them against EF5 level tornadoes. This should be mandatory for every school, regardless of age. 6/19/2013 2:16 PMView Responses*

*I appreciate that power line upgrades and protection of ciritcal facilities are high on the list of priorities. Publication of the mitigation plan (perhaps on local government channels or the internet) should be more visible. 6/19/2013 12:01 AMView Responses*

*One of the biggest threats for damage in a wind/ice storm are broken tree branches impacting power lines and service to building lines. Those branches are also the biggest cause of major outages and outages that are the most difficult to repair, since damage is so wide spread. BPU does tree trimming to clear transmission lines, but there is no program to educate home owners about that problem nor is there any program to assist home/business owners to abate tree limbs that threaten in bad weather. 6/11/2013 2:17 PMView Responses*

*better monitoring of questionable potentially hazardous waste emissions from industrial plants 6/11/2013 11:02 AMView Responses*

*Create resources to enable the counties to have readily available emergency supplies in a self contained trailer that can be immediately dispatched to critical areas. The supplies should include food, water, first aid, lighting, backup generator, and hot and cold weather supplies. This would greatly reduce the time needed to get supplies to the public and first responders. Should hold 48 hours worth of supplies. 5/30/2013 11:56 AMView Responses*

*Stop builders and developers from building in flood planes. 5/29/2013 9:04 AMView Responses*

*I would like to see a serious look in to road improvements. Leavenworth County is so far behind in road improvements that could save life and property damage. I am tired of seeing so much money being spent on parks and trails instead of where it is needed. 6/19/2013 8:28 PMView Responses*

*Assistance to those affected by man made flooding, such as levees being broken north of us that impacted our area by no fault of our own. Some insurance companies would not cover loss because it was man made not natural. 6/19/2013 4:18 PMView Responses*

*I wish there was a stronger way to volunteer during natural disasters or heavy snowfall. I have yet to find an option to participate in relief efforts for civilian volunteers. This last snow fall I called in to both the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management to ask if any help was needed and I was told that county workers had it covered. While I don't doubt the skill of the county relief workers I highly doubt that there was nothing that someone with time and inclination could help out with, especially in unskilled avenues such as hand shoveling. It'd be nice to have some sort of volunteer coordinator or system for those who wish to volunteer not through an organization like Red Cross but the county itself. 6/19/2013 2:16 PMView Responses*

*Less red tape for organizations wanting to help. Our church is no longer qualified as a Red Cross shelter because we don't have the space to store cots and supplies. (or so I've heard). Seems if an organization wants to donate space for temporary shelter, they would be welcome and other arrangements could be made for storage of the materials. 6/19/2013 12:01 AMView Responses*

*I would like to see a County wide emergency management rehearsal, with limited access to electricity, telephone and computer, cell phone connections. 6/4/2013 8:33 PMView Responses*

*I don't understand what a mitigation project is. 6/1/2013 5:15 PMView Responses*

The second public comment period opened on June 15<sup>th</sup> and lasted until August 1, 2013. There were 102 responses on surveymonkey.com, which mirrored the first public comment period. The majority of the public that responded agreed with the ranking of the hazards and felt NFIP was very important to their community. It is also interesting to note that the majority of the public that responded did not know where their mitigation plan was located or what exactly it is.

On September 24, 2013 a public meeting was held at the Emergency Operations Center in Johnson County for all the counties in Region L. This was advertised via newspaper advertisements, Facebook, and on the Emergency Management websites. While no members of the public participated, it was a chance for the Emergency Managers of the three counties, and the floodplain managers to get together and have an in-depth question and answer session of NFIP, CRS, and the plan as a whole. The meeting was productive. Following are the individuals and jurisdictions that participated:

Jurisdiction	Name
Unified Government of Wyandotte County	Melissa Mitchell
Kansas Department of Agriculture/Division of Water Resources	Steve Samuelson
Leavenworth County	Jeff Joseph, Floodplain Manager
City of Merriam	Hye Jin Lee, City Engineer/Floodplain Manager
City of Shawnee	Jonathon Wiles, Emergency Management
City of Shawnee	Terry Keglin, Floodplain Management
Wyandotte County	Mike Baughman, Emergency Manager
Johnson County	Cary Gerst, Emergency Management
Leavenworth County	Kim Buchanan, Emergency Management
Leavenworth County	Chuck Magaha, Leavenworth County Emergency Manager
City of Overland Park	Tom Meyers, City

## Coordination with Other Departments and Agencies

**44 CFR Requirement 201.6(b): An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan. In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural, man-made, and technological disasters, the planning process shall include: (2) An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process. (3) Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.**

Local, State, and Federal agencies and departments were invited to the planning meetings in order to learn about, and contribute to the planning process. All organizations that were invited are included in Appendix B. Unique to the Regional Planning process is the invitation for surrounding counties to attend the meetings. Because it is a Regional Plan, it is a multiple county plan. However, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management posted all the meetings in their quarterly newsletter, and sent calendar invites to various state, federal and local governments. Following are some of these entities which attended:

- Federal Emergency Management Personnel
- Kansas Division of Water Resources
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Division of Emergency Management

The planning committee reached out to other organizations and agencies as part of the collaboration initiative in order to collect and review technical data, reports, and plans. These include the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans for Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties, Metro area Commodity Flow Study, available DFIRMS, Emergency Action Plans, Kansas Department of Health and Environment studies and statistical analysis, United States Corps of Engineers high and significant dam studies, as well as levee information. The United States Department of Agriculture and United States Census Bureau were invaluable for their demographic and agricultural information, and the National Weather Service was instrumental in statistical data on weather events. All of the above entities, and those not named, were paramount to the analysis of and identification of hazards, vulnerabilities, capabilities, and the formation of goals and actions. These sources are documented throughout the plan. A list of contacts that were repeatedly contacted can be found in Appendix D.

### Identify and Profile the Hazards

The planning committee was unanimous in its decision to incorporate all 22 identified hazards in their plan that the State of Kansas has listed in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. It was agreed that all of these hazards could affect the planning area, albeit at different degrees. Past events

and impacts were discussed at the kick off meetings, which led to the affirmation and/or changing of the calculated priority risk index for each hazard. Historical events, topography, and undocumented events were used to determine the probability, magnitude, duration, and warning time of each of the 22 hazards. The methodology and resources used to identify and profile the hazards can be found in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.

### **Assets**

The planning committee collected information on the likely impacts of future events on the jurisdictions that participated in the plan. The assets are integral to the vulnerability and capability assessment.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The Vulnerability of a community begins with its assets which include the total number and value of structures; critical facilities and infrastructure; natural, man made, and technological, historic and cultural assets, economic assets, and vulnerable populations. Development trends were also analyzed. The assets at risk were discussed for the planning area as a whole for those hazards that do not vary geographically.

### **Capability Assessment**

The capability assessment is accomplished by identifying the existing mitigation capabilities of the participating jurisdictions. This includes existing government programs, policies, regulations, ordinances, plans and policies. Technological and fiscal resources were assessed as well as on-going mitigation initiatives that include public outreach. This data is available in more detail in Section 2 Jurisdictional Profiles.

### **Estimate Losses**

Hazards that received a high or moderate planning significance were also subjected to an estimated loss using best available data. HAZUS was utilized to estimate losses in the planning area for flood and earthquake events. This methodology is further detailed for each hazard that included a loss estimate in section 3. Another path to estimated losses was the utilization of scenario events. These are hypothetical but give a good indication of losses should a hazard event strike.

### **Goals**

During the second planning meeting the discussion was centered on the goals for the Region. It was decided that the Region would not list objectives for this plan update. The risk assessment, issues identified, and concerns were all scrutinized for the profiled hazards. After a lot of thought and deliberation, the planning committee refined the wording of the goals, achieving a consensus which is described in Chapter 4.

## **Activities**

During the kick off meetings, each jurisdiction was given a worksheet in order to put down any mitigation actions they wanted to see incorporated into the plan. They were also given a table that reflected the current mitigation actions that resided in the current plan so that they could review them for accuracy, and delete them if they were no longer applicable. During the second planning meeting it was decided that the STAPLEE process of prioritization would be reviewed based on the prior actions, but was not an accurate depiction of the community's true process on how they rate their actions. It was decided that the planning committee would rate the new actions with a High, Medium, or Low ranking, and not utilize the STAPLEE criteria as laid out. This process is described in more detail in Chapter 4 Mitigation Strategy.

## **Draft the Plan**

The first complete draft of the plan was made available prior to the second meeting of the committee. Comments, suggestions, and concerns were incorporated into the final draft of the plan which was available for the third meeting in July. The plan was made available to the general public and other agencies during the same timeframes for review and comment. These comments, when applicable, were incorporated into the final draft for submission to FEMA VII.

## **Adopt the Plan**

Appendix A of this plan houses the signed resolutions adopting the plan.

## **Implement, Evaluate, and Revise the Plan**

The planning committee reviewed and agreed upon an overall strategy to implement the plan, monitor and maintain the plan during meeting 3. Chapter 5 Plan Maintenance Process further defines this process.