Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor
Rock Island, IL 61201
Phone: (309) 793-6300 • Fax: (309) 793-6305
Website: http://www.bistateonline.org

SERVICE REPORT

COUNTY/COMMUNITY: Rock Island County, IL

DATE: October 7, 2026

FILED BY: Lisa Ahern, Natalie Murphy

MEETING: Rock Island County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Planning Committee Meeting #1

PRESENT:

NAME/GROUP REPRESENTED	BI-STATE STAFF
Jerry Shirk, Rock Island County EMA	Lisa Ahern
Kris Johnson, Moline Fire Department	Natalie Murphy
Jerry Sotos, Moline Fire Department	Ricky Newcomb
Brian Payne, Scott County EMA	
Darin Keith, Scott County EMA	
Mitch Cunningham, Moline Fire Department	
Stacy Houzenga, QComm 911	
Brandon Miller, QComm 911	
Matt Lawson, Bettendorf Fire Department	
Brandon Tomlin, Moline Fire Department	
Andrew Pratt, Rock Island Fire Department	
Jesse Doty, Rock Island County EMA	
Kevin Gladkin, Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department	
Jeff Swan, Chief, Quad Cities Airport Fire Department	
Douglas Davis, Chief, Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department	
Darrin Armstrong, Chief, East Moline Fire Department	
Brandon Baker, Chief, Rock Island Fire Department	
Troy Said, Chief, Bettendorf Fire Department	
Brian Mohr, Chief, Davenport Fire Department	
Steve Regenwether, Chief, Moline Fire Department	

Opening Meeting

At the conclusion of the MABA #43 monthly meeting, at 9:15 am, the Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Planning Committee meeting began. Lisa Ahern from Bi-State shared that this would be the first of two planning committee meetings. Next week's meeting would include other local representatives such as public works staff, city administrators, clerks, and others, but would have the same content. Bi-State staff in attendance were introduced, Ricky Newcomb and Natalie Murphy.

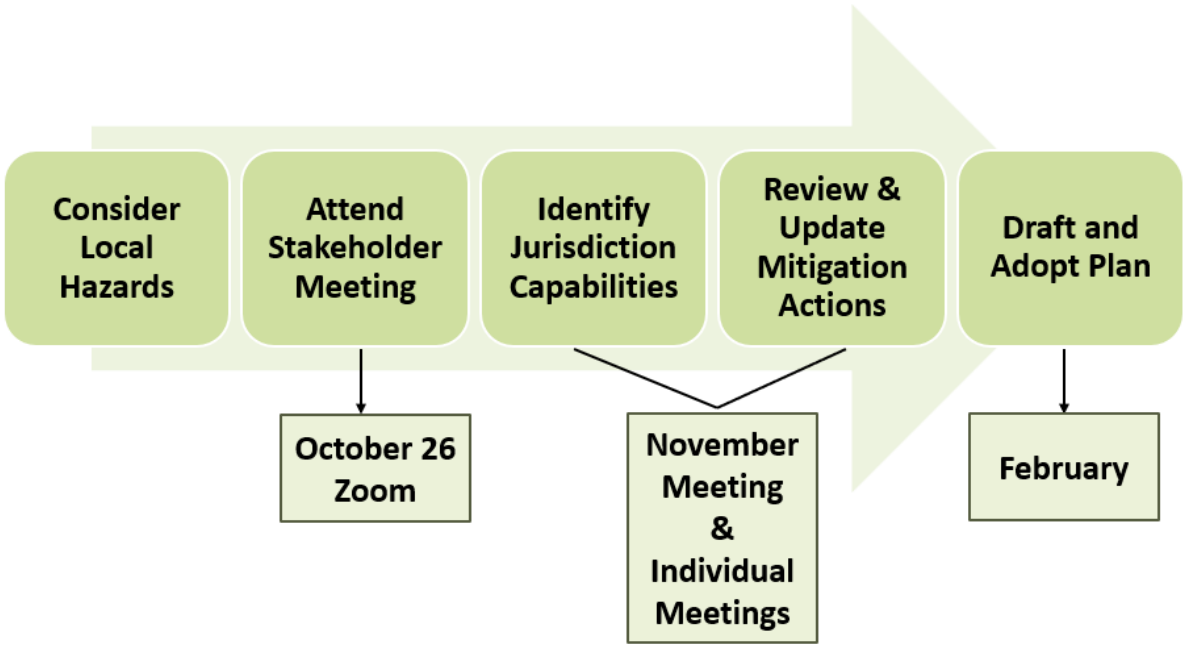
Presentation

A presentation on the plan update and the process were provided. This process would be to update an existing plan that expired last year. Keeping plans current allows communities to apply for mitigation assistance funding through FEMA. Although the plan has expired, if an event were to occur, communities would be able to apply for a waiver since the update process is underway. She shared that Rock Island County was awarded a grant from FEMA for this plan update and the County is contracting with Bi-State to facilitate and prepare the plan.

Then, Lisa presented the benefits of hazard mitigation planning and the proposed goals for the upcoming plans. The 2026 goals are the same as the 2021 goals.

Next, a list of hazards that will be covered in the plan were presented. In the 2021 plan, pandemic disease, radiological incident, and hazardous materials were covered. Now, there are sufficient plans that cover radiological incident and hazardous materials, so they will not be included in the plan. Bi-State staff is checking with the County's health department if pandemic disease is properly covered in a different plan. The rest of the hazards will be assessed by jurisdictions and covered in the plan. Risk may not have changed much for a good majority of the hazards, and the committee was encouraged to think about where changes have occurred in impact, frequency, and vulnerability.

The image below demonstrates the process for the plan update. In both planning committee meetings, Bi-State staff will ask generally about general changes in hazard impact, frequency, and vulnerability. After that meeting, there will be a stakeholder meeting which will include neighboring or non-participating jurisdictions, other government representatives, local businesses, non-profits and neighborhood groups, media, and the public. At that meeting they will hear about the process and how they can engage participants. In November, the planning committee will reconvene about the information Bi-State staff will need to inventory capabilities, assess hazards risks, and develop mitigation strategies. Through the end of the calendar year, Bi-State staff will work with communities on plan updates and developing mitigation strategies. Bi-State staff aims to have a draft prepared after the new year with a target plan adoption date of February 2027.



A copy of the 2021 plan and information on future meetings will be available on the hazard mitigation page of Bi-State's website.

Public Comment and Conclusion

No one shared during public comment. Natalie Murphy asked the group if they know of any sources for information on grass, field, or woodland fires. Several of the chiefs shared to work directly with departments. Another chief recommended Bi-State staff look into further access to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.