Bi-State Regional Commission
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SERVICE REPORT

COUNTY/COMMUNITY: Rock Island County, IL

DATE: October 13, 2026

FILED BY: Lisa Ahern, Natalie Murphy

MEETING: Rock Island County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Planning Committee Meeting #2

PRESENT:

NAME/GROUP REPRESENTED	BI-STATE STAFF
Jerry Shirk, Rock Island County EMA	Lisa Ahern
Bob Graff, Rock Island County EMA	Natalie Murphy
Adela Rasso, City of Moline	Ricky Newcomb
Arsum Pathak, National Wildlife Federation	
Bradley Gantt, Quad Cities International Airport	
Dick Robertson, Village of Rapids City	
Greg Thorpe, Rock Island County	
Joni Reiss, Village of Hillsdale	
Jane Lundquist, Village of Hillsdale	
Jerry Leibovitz, City of Silvis	
Kelly Humphrey, Rock Island County	
Steve Seiver, Village of Milan	
Steve Gibson, Village of Milan	

Opening Meeting

The Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Planning Committee meeting began at 1:00 pm. Bi-State shared that this is the second of two planning committee meetings. The first meeting took place at the conclusion of the MABAS #43 meeting with local fire chiefs and fire staff, but was overall the same content. Lisa Ahern introduced Bi-State staff in attendance, Ricky Newcomb and Natalie Murphy.

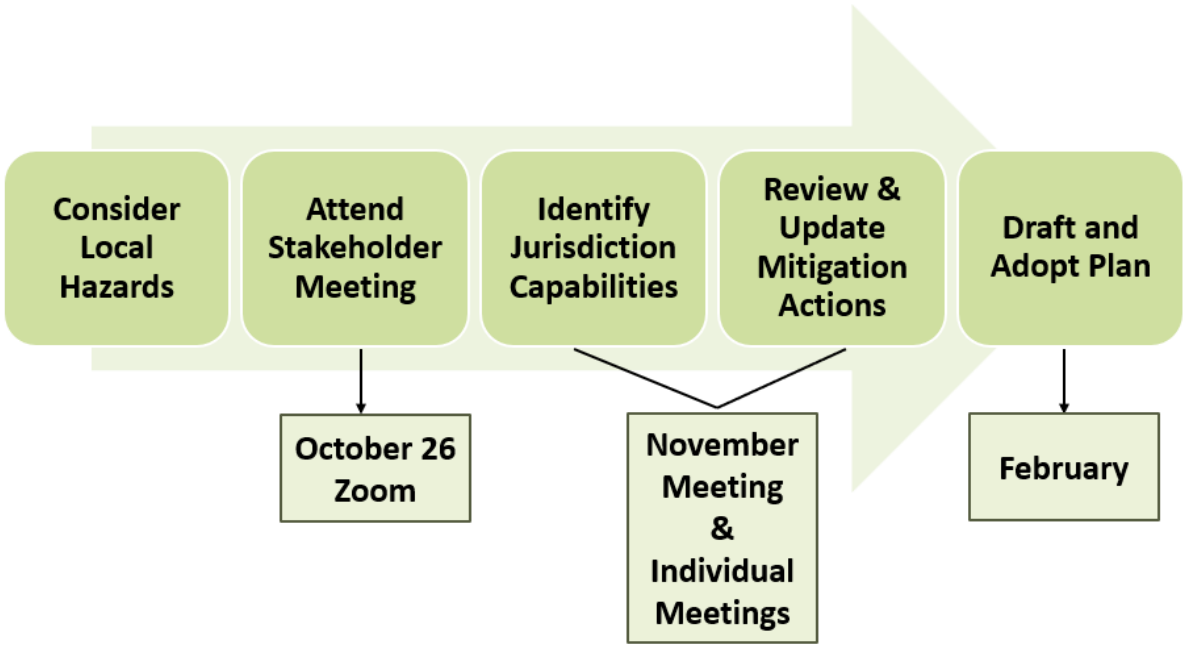
Presentation

A presentation on the plan update and the process was 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, benefits of hazard mitigation planning were discussed and the proposed goals for the upcoming plans. The 2026 goals are the same as the 2021 goals. Each of the planning groups involved in the process was explained. The steering committee consists of Bi-State, the County, and the County EMA. The planning committee is made up by local jurisdictions and their points of contact (ranging from administrators to public works staff to fire chiefs). The stakeholder group will consist of members of the public, nonprofit organizations, other governmental entities, business groups, and the media.

Next, the 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. Hazard profiles were then discussed and the risk level may not have changed for a good majority of the hazards. The committee was asked to consider where changes have occurred in impact, frequency, and vulnerability. A brief preview of the process for how communities will rank their hazards was presented.

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. Arsum Pathak from the National Wildlife Federation shared in the meeting chat that they can be a resource for communities who are interested in nature-based mitigation actions. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:25 pm.