



# 2025 Ascension Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

## Executive Overview

June 12, 2024



# Introductions

- **Ascension Parish OHSEP Director and Staff**
  - Rachael Wilkinson – Ascension Parish OHSEP Director
  - Michele Rayborn – Planning & Intelligence Section Chief
- **Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at LSU**
  - Chris Rippetoe – Hazard Mitigation Program Manager
  - Jason Martin – Emergency Management Analyst
  - Brian Stevens – Special Projects Manager
- **Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness**
  - Jeffrey Giering – State Hazard Mitigation Officer
  - Marion Pearson – Hazard Mitigation Planner





# Who is SDMI?

- Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at Louisiana State University
- Non-Academic, Applied Research Unit on campus
- Specialize in providing programmatic support and decision making tools for state and local emergency managers
  - Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Emergency Operations Plans
  - Geographic Information Systems
  - Application Development
  - Data Visualization
  - Aerial Imagery Collection/Processing





# The Hazard Mitigation Plan: What is in it for us?



# Hazard Mitigation Is...

- Any action taken to reduce long term risk to life and property;
- On-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters;
- Mitigation actions help prevent damage to a community's infrastructure, economic, cultural and environmental assets;
- Minimize operational downtime and accelerate recovery of government and the private sector after an event;
- ***Implementation of mitigation actions leads to building stronger, safer and smarter!***



# Why Have a Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Planning efforts help our communities become more sustainable and disaster-resilient
  - Focuses efforts on the hazards, disaster-prone areas and identifying appropriate mitigation actions for future projects
- Must have a FEMA approved plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance
- **No Plan = No Mitigation Money = No Project Funding**





# Plan Update Requirements

- The plan must be updated every 5 years
- Participation from Parish **AND** incorporated jurisdictions
- Re-assess hazard identification and risk assessment
  - Consider any changes since the last plan update, and address events that have occurred since the last plan;
- Incorporate any additional local planning efforts;
- Report mitigation strategy (projects) progress and discuss adjustments



# Federal Requirements

## CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

44

Revised as of October 1, 2018

Emergency Management  
and  
Assistance

- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000)
  - **Section 322** of the Act specifically addresses mitigation planning and requires state and local governments to prepare multi-hazard mitigation plans as a precondition for receiving FEMA mitigation project grants.
- Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for FEMA approval and eligibility to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance





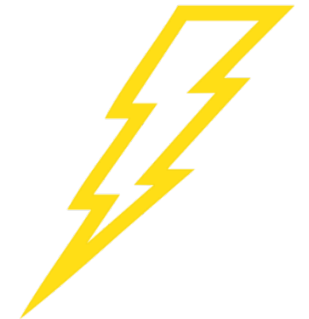
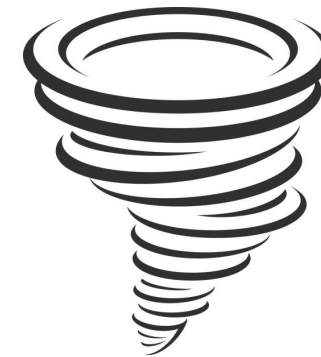
# The Planning Committee

- Planning committee should consist of people from any department/agency who can provide input to planning process
  - Invitation to participate should also be sent to those who represent private business and industry, as well as those who serve disadvantaged communities
- Ascension Parish and jurisdictions are responsible for verifying and/or updating **Capability Assessment, NFIP, Building Inventory, and Vulnerable Population data** for the plan
- Ascension Parish and jurisdictions are also responsible for **updating mitigation actions and proposing new actions** for the update if necessary.

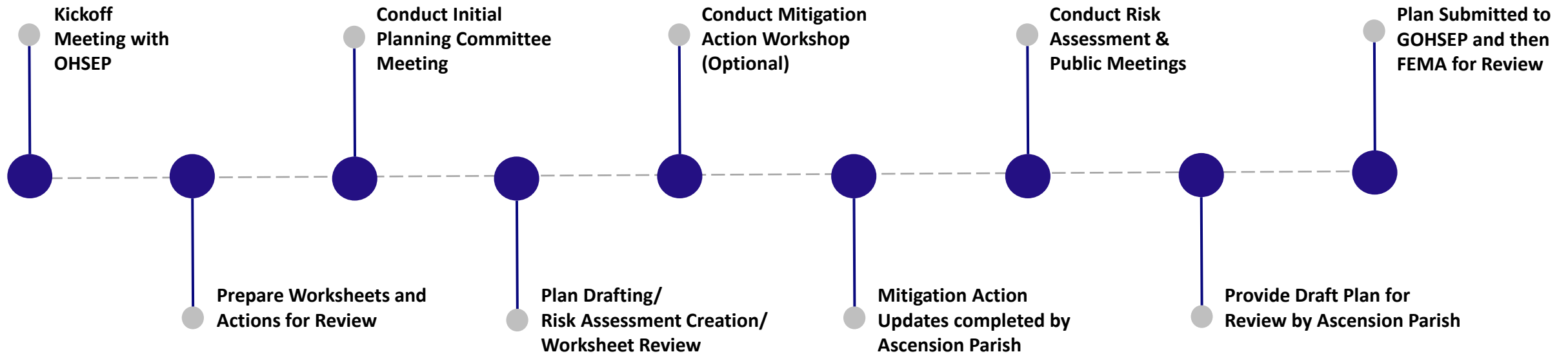


# Hazard Identification And Risk Assessment

- Flooding
- Levee Failure
- Sinkholes
- Subsidence
- Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes
- Tropical Cyclones
- Winter Weather

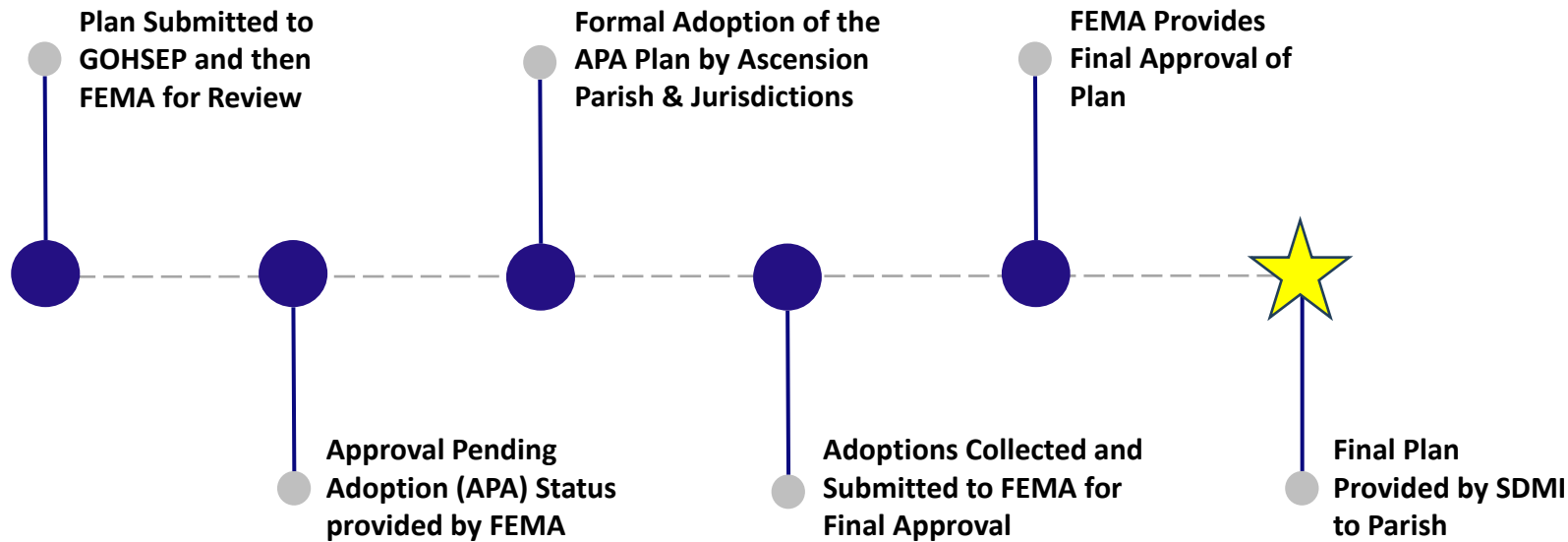


# Plan Update Process Timeline



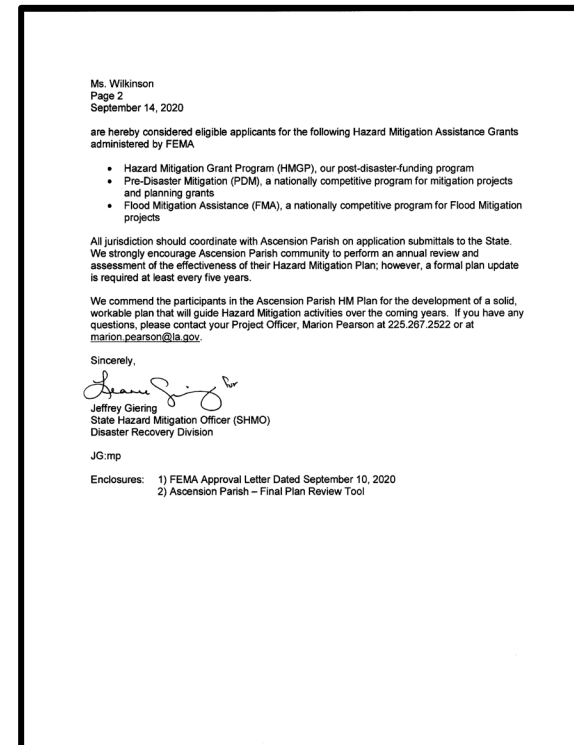
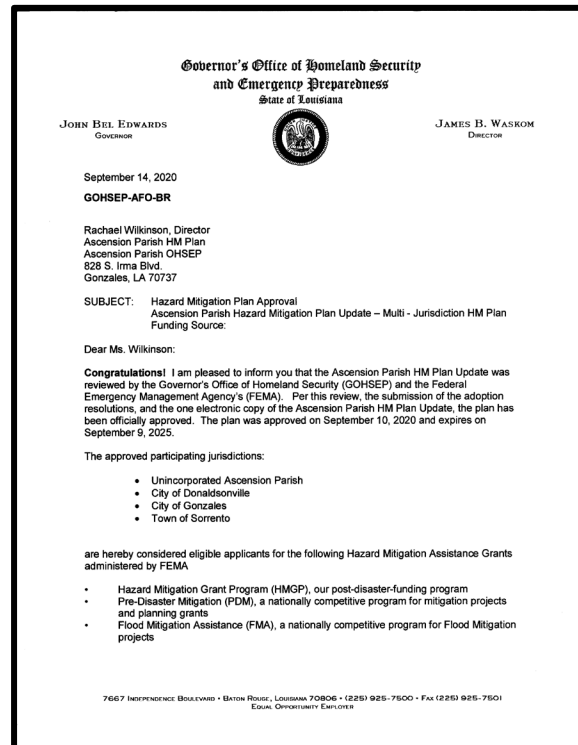


# Plan Approval Timeline



# Plan Adoption

- Ascension Parish and jurisdictions **MUST** adopt the final plan once it is approved by FEMA
- Parish council and jurisdiction resolutions must be formally adopted, signed, and placed into the final planning document.



# The Final Product

- FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Meets requirements of Title 44 Code of Regulations (CFR) §201.6 for approval and eligibility to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs.
  - Assessment of natural disaster-related risks and vulnerabilities
  - A hazard mitigation project strategy for Ascension Parish and its jurisdictions
  - A comprehensive list of parish and jurisdiction owned properties





# Community Rating System (CRS)

- The CRS program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that encourages communities to participate in floodplain management practices.
- Communities that participate in the CRS program can receive flood insurance premium discounts for all NFIP policies, including those outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
- Ascension Parish, Gonzales and Sorrento have been participants in the CRS program since 1992 and currently hold Class 7, 8 and 9 ratings respectively



# Activity 510:

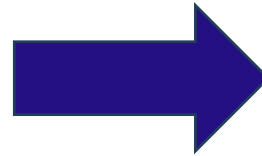
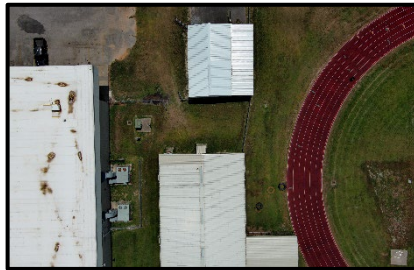
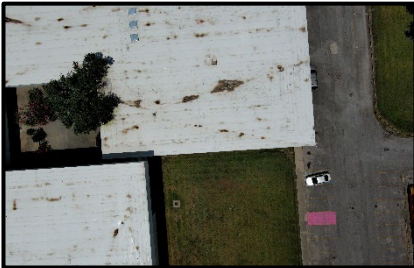
## Floodplain Management Plan (FMP)

- The FMP is divided into 10 steps. Each step has a different set of tasks/activities to complete in order to receive credit.
- Some of the steps that are included in the FMP will be accomplished with the completion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- The maximum points an FMP can receive is 382.
- Participating communities are responsible for facilitating all meetings and data collection that is involved with the completion of the FMP.



# Aerial Imagery Collection

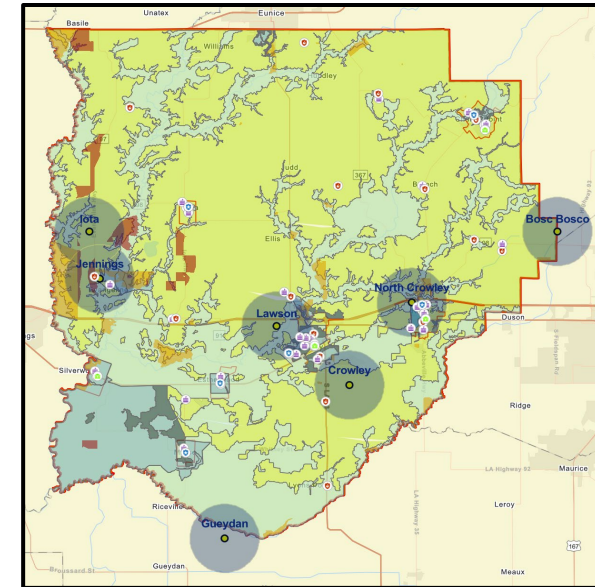
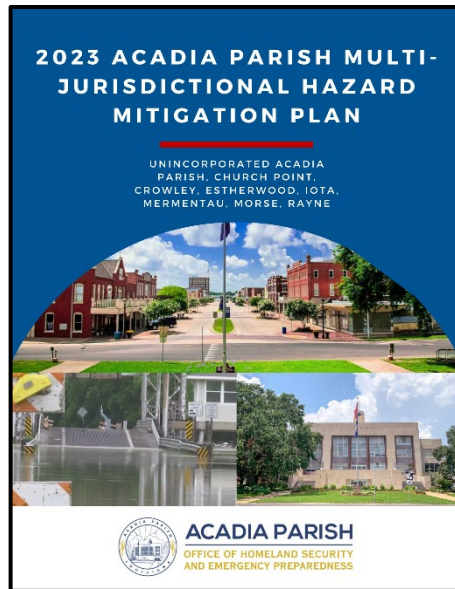
- Collected imagery for 73 CI points in Acadia Parish
  - Civil Government, Law Enforcement, Fire/SAR, Public Health, & K-12 Public Schools
- 19,250+ photos taken





# Deliverables

- 2023 FEMA Approved Hazard Mitigation Plan
  - Digital & Hard Copies
  - Risk Assessment Map Files
  - Map Images
- Critical Infrastructure Imagery
  - 114 Orthoimages
    - 57 each of 1.5 cm./pix & 3 in./pix
  - Approximately 19,250 site photos
  - [Acadia CI and Hazards Web Map](#)



# Next Steps

- Identify Planning Committee Members
  - Different requirements for HMP committee and CRS committee
- Identify Neighboring Community
  - East Baton Rouge was used previously
- Parish Seal/Logo
- Dates for Next Meetings
  - Initial Planning Committee Meeting
  - Mitigation Action Workshop (Optional)
  - Risk Assessment Review with Committee
  - Public Meeting
  - CRS Meetings\*



