



# Vernon Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

January 26, 2022

Leesville, LA



# Introductions

- SDMI Staff
- Vernon OHSEP and Parish Officials
- Mitigation Steering Committee members
- GOHSEP



# Who is SDMI?

- Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at Louisiana State University
- Non-Academic, Applied Research Unit on campus under the SNCSRT umbrella.
- Founded by Toni and Emmet Stephenson



**LSU** | Stephenson Disaster  
Management Institute





# 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;
- 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!





Hazard Mitigation Planning is a process that identifies natural hazard risks and develops strategies to reduce these risks.



# Planning Process



# Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Requirements

- The plan must be updated every 5 years
- 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 local planning efforts;
- Report mitigation strategy (projects) progress and discuss adjustments;
- Must be multi-jurisdictional



# Federal Requirements

- 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 migration 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





# Expectations of the Planning Committee

- Parish will serve as the main liaison/POC throughout the planning process
- Each jurisdiction **MUST** show active participation in the planning process by the following:
  - Completing state required worksheets;
  - Identifying and updating jurisdiction specific mitigation actions (projects);
  - Have representation at meetings;
  - Report to community and gather feedback from appropriate agencies;
  - Adopt the final plan.



# 2022 VERNON PARISH MULTI- JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

UNINCORPORATED VERNON  
PARISH, ANACOCO, HORNBECK,  
LEESVILLE, NEW LLANO,  
ROSEPINE, SIMPSON



# Plan Development



# Plan Layout

- **Section 1: Introduction**
  - Update demographic and economic information
  - Update parish/jurisdiction descriptions
- **Section 2: Hazard Identification and Parish-wide Risk Assessment**
- **Section 3: Capability Assessment**
- **Section 4: Mitigation Strategies**
  - New actions
  - Action updates
  - Survey results



# Plan Layout

- **Appendix A:** Planning Process
- **Appendix B:** Plan Maintenance
- **Appendix C:** Parish Essential Facilities
- **Appendix D:** Plan Adoption
- **Appendix E:** State Required Worksheets



# Section 1: Introduction

- Updated demographics
  - Census information
- Economic update
  - New facilities or companies that are leading to economic impact to the parish?
- Parish/Jurisdiction descriptive updates





# Section 2: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

- Based on currently profiled risks
- Hazard Profiles and Impacts
- Any newly identified risks
- Previous occurrences
- Probability of future events
- Current and Future Development
- Future Hazard Impacts
- Zoning and Land Use
- Critical Facilities



# Section 2: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

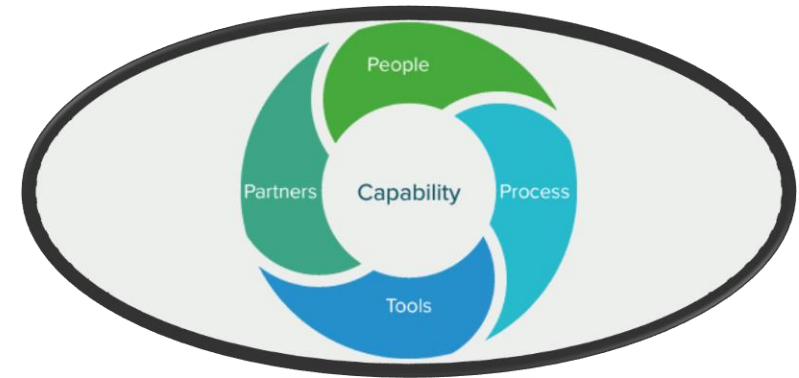
- Dam Failure
- Drought
- Excessive Heat
- Flooding
- Levee Failure\*
- Thunderstorms
- Tornados
- Tropical Cyclones
- Wildfires
- Winter Weather



# Section 3: Capability Assessment

**Primary types of capabilities for reducing long-term vulnerability through mitigation planning are:**

- Planning and Regulatory
- Administrative and Technical
- Financial
- Educational and Outreach



# Section 4: Mitigation Strategy

## Goals

- Implement Measures and Actions to Minimize Hazard Impacts Immediately Prior to, During, or in Response to Hazard Events
- Implement Measures to Protect or Reduce Damage to Structures and Assets from Future Hazards
- Encourage Sound Development Practices or Implement Other Actions to Reduce or Eliminate Impacts of Future Hazards
- Reduce Hazard Impacts through Modifications to Built or Natural Environments
- Enhance Public Awareness and Understanding of Disaster Preparedness
- Improve Communications Throughout Parish During Hazard Events



# Section 4: Mitigation Action Update and New Mitigation Actions

- Mitigation Action Update on old actions/projects
- New Mitigation Actions Identification for each jurisdiction in 2022 Update



**\*\* We will discuss Mitigation Actions with the steering committee at a later date.**

Vernon Parish – Previous Action Update					
Jurisdiction-Specific Action	Action Description	Funding Source	Responsible Party, Agency, or Department	Hazard	Status
V1: Crisis Rehearsal Scenarios	Schedule and conduct Crisis Rehearsal scenarios involving various responder agencies.	Parish / municipal budgets; grant funding	VPOHSEP Director / GOHS EP	Hurricanes / Tornadoes / Severe Winter Storms / Thunderstorms / Hail / Earthquakes / Dam and Levee Failure	Carried Over
V2: Portable Power Generators	Acquire portable power generators for various locations including water systems.	Grant Funding	VPSO	Hurricanes / Tornadoes / Severe Winter Storms / Flooding / Thunderstorms / Hail	Carried Over
V3: Sewer Back-Up Power	Acquire back-up power for sewer lift stations.	Grant Funding	VPPJ	Hurricanes / Tornadoes / Severe Winter Storms / Flooding / Thunderstorms	Carried Over
V4: SCBA Equipment	Acquire SCBA equipment.	Grant Funding	LFD, GOHSEP	Wildland Fires	Carried Over
V5: Emergency Roadblock Equipment	Acquire emergency roadblock equipment.	Grant Funding	GOSHSEP, VPSO, PWD, Various	Hurricanes / Tornadoes / Severe Winter Storms / Thunderstorms / Hail / Earthquakes / Floods	Carried Over



# Appendix A: Planning Process

- Overview of planning process
- Meeting documentation and summaries
- Discussion of integration of neighboring community participation
- Discussion of integration of other parish and jurisdiction plans to the HM Update
- Steering committee members identified

# Appendix B: Plan Maintenance

- Review of HM plan **annual** maintenance by the Vernon Parish OHSEP Director.
- Assign responsible parties for review and edits of the plan



# Appendix C: Critical Facilities

- Updated list of essential facilities by jurisdiction
- Will identify which hazards within the risk assessment pose a threat to each facility
- Facilities must be parish or city owned



# Appendix D: Plan Adoption

- Parish council and city council resolutions must be adopted, signed, and placed into the final planning document – **AFTER the plan is issued APA.**
- Templates can be provided if needed
- As a planning team member, be aware of the policies for your jurisdiction



VERNON PARISH POLICE JURY  
RESOLUTION No. 45 of 2016

A RESOLUTION OF THE VERNON PARISH POLICE JURY  
VERNON PARISH HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS the Vernon Parish Police Jury recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Vernon Parish; and

WHEREAS Vernon Parish has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as Vernon Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and


WHEREAS the Vernon Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan of August 2016 identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Vernon Parish from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

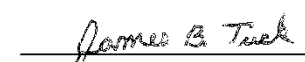
WHEREAS adoption by the Vernon Parish Police Jury demonstrates their commitment to the hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Vernon Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan of August 2016.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vernon Parish Police Jury, Vernon Parish, Louisiana, that:

Section 1. In accordance with the authority of the Vernon Parish Police Jury, we hereby adopt the Vernon Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan of August 2016 by a vote of: YEAS: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 1

On motion by Mr. Curtis Clay, seconded by Mr. David Brister and carried, the foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016 at which meeting a quorum was present.

  
Rhonda M. Plummer  
Parish Administrator/Treasurer  
Vernon Parish Police Jury

  
James B. "Jim" Tuck  
President  
Vernon Parish Police Jury

# Appendix E: State Required Worksheets

Each jurisdiction **MUST** fill these out:

- Capability Assessment
- NFIP Worksheet
- Critical Facilities/Building Inventory
- Vulnerable Population



# Capability Assessment

Capability Assessment Worksheet		
Unincorporated Vernon Parish		
Local mitigation capabilities are existing authorities, policies and resources that reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. Please complete the tables and questions in the worksheet as completely as possible.		
Planning and Regulatory		
Please indicate which of the following plans and regulatory capabilities your jurisdiction has in place.		
Plans	Yes / No	Comments
Comprehensive / Master Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	
Continuity of Operations Plan	Yes	
Transportation Plan	Yes	
Stormwater Management Plan	No	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	No	
Other plans (redevelopment, recovery, coastal zone management)		
Building Code, Permitting and Inspections	Yes / No	Comments
Building Code	Yes	
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Score	No	
Fire Department ISO/PIAL rating	Yes	
Site plan review requirements	Yes	
Land Use Planning and Ordinances	Yes / No	Comments
Zoning Ordinance	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Natural Hazard Specific Ordinance (stormwater, steep slope, wildfire)	No	
Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Yes	
Acquisition of land for open space and public recreation uses	Yes	
Other	No	
Administration and Technical		
Identify whether your community has the following administrative and technical capabilities. For smaller jurisdictions without local staff resources, if there are public resources at the next higher level government that can provide technical assistance, indicate so in your comments.		
Administration	Yes / No	Comments
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	
Maintenance programs to reduce risk (tree trimming, clearing drainage systems)	Yes	

*Place answers in Yes/No column, add comments if necessary (i.e. what year the plan was updated last)*



# National Flood Insurance Program

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)		
Unincorporated Vernon Parish		
<b>Insurance Summary</b>		<b>Comments</b>
How many NFIP policies are in the community? What is the total premium and coverage?		
How many claims have been paid in the community? What is the total amount of paid claims? How many of the claims were for substantial damage?		
How many structures are exposed to flood risk with in the community?		
Describe any areas of flood risk with limited NFIP policy coverage.		
<b>Staff Resources</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Is the Community FPA or NFIP Coordinator certified?		
Is flood plain management an auxiliary function?		
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (e.g., permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability)		
What are the barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community, if any?		
<b>Compliance History</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Is the community in good standing with the NFIP?		
Are there any outstanding compliance issues(i.e., current violations)?		
When was the most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact(CAC)?		
Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed? If so when?		
<b>Regulation</b>		<b>Comments</b>
When did the community enter the NFIP?		
Are the FIRMs digital or paper?		
Do floodplain development regulations meet or exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, in what ways?		
<b>Community Rating System (CRS)</b>		<b>Comments</b>
Does the community participate in CRS?		
What is the community's CRS Class Ranking?		
Does the plan include CRS planning requirements?		

- FEMA can provide this information, or local /parish floodplain managers



# Building Inventory

Vernon Parish Owned Building Information									
Vernon Parish									
Critical Facility (If Yes, Mark X)	Name of Building	Purpose of Building	Address	City	Latitude	Longitude	Assessed Value	Date Built	Constuction Type
	Evans High School	Education	18829 Louisiana 111	Evans	30.98895959	-93.5014647			
	Adult Education Center	Education	7460 Colorado Ave. Bldg. 660	Fort Polk	31.00958481	-93.27922956			
	Pitkin High School	Education	7239 LA 463	Pitkin	30.93686792	-92.93353398			
X	Community Fire Department	Fire Search and Rescue	172 Louisiana 112	Elizabeth	30.94202012	-92.84803707			
X	Evans Volunteer Fire Department	Fire Search and Rescue	125 Fal Road	Evans	30.98482194	-93.50156172			
X	Pitkin Voulnteer Fire Department	Fire Search and Rescue	12778 Louisiana 10	Pitkin	30.93528683	-92.93788375			
X	Marlow Fire Department	Fire Search and Rescue	118 Marlow Road	Pitkin	30.96262237	-93.11370353			
X	Cravens Fire Department	Fire Search and Rescue	11816 Pitkin Highway	Pitkin	30.96619136	-93.03657091			
X	Vernon Parish Sheriff's Office Substation	Law Enforcement	12863 LA 113	Pitkin	30.9346742	-92.93546542			
	Vernon Parish Office of Family Support	Civil Government	1591 Bell Richard Avenue # 920	Fort Polk	31.11247055	-93.27502889			
	The Humane Society of West Louisiana	Civil Government	19301 Hwy 171	Pitkin	30.8984818	-93.2887719			
	Vernon Parish School Board	Education	201 Belview Rd	Leesville	31.152362	-93.261544			
	Vernon Parish Chamber of Commerce	Civil Government	1309 North 5th Street	Leesville	31.158463	-93.265412			
	Vernon Council on Aging	Civil Government	200 North 3rd Street	Leesville	31.144225	-93.261504			
X	Vernon Parish Courthouse	Civil Government	101 West Lee Street	Leesville	31.142289	-93.260787			
X	Vernon Parish Police Jury	Civil Government	300 South 3rd Street	Leesville	31.141755	-93.26149			



# Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable Populations Worksheet					
Unincorporated Vernon Parish					
All Hospitals (Private or Public)	Street	City	Zip Code	Latitude	Longitude
none					
Nursing Homes (Private or Public)	Street	City	Zip Code	Latitude	Longitude
none					
Mobile Home Parks	Street	City	Zip Code	Latitude	Longitude
Wildlife Management Area Campground	Nearby: Louisiana 464	Evans	71446	31.050821	-93.401388
Ray's Mobile Home Park	427 Pitkin Road	Pickering	71446	31.03336	-93.274524
JD's RV Park	Nearby: Lake Charles Highway	Pickering	71446	31.030369	-93.271182
Pecan Acres RV Park	8119 Hawks Road	Pickering	71446	30.942832	-93.283505
Unknown	Nearby: 17884 Lake Charles Highway	Pickering	71446	30.939165	-93.282817
Unknown	Nearby: 742-2332 Louisiana 458	Pitkin	70656	30.961039	-92.962831



# Parish Mitigation Survey

- Collects information from citizens regarding their perceptions of local hazards and mitigation efforts
- Results will be included in the plan if there are enough responses
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VernonHM2022>



# SDMI Hazard Mitigation Website

- Repository for materials used during update process
- <https://hmplans.sdmi.lsu.edu/Home/Parish/vernon>



The screenshot displays the SDMI Hazard Mitigation Website for Vernon Parish. The header includes the LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute logo, a "SDMI HOME" button, and social media icons. The main navigation bar features "Home", "Calendar", "Mitigation Resources", "Parish Plans" (highlighted), and "Settings".

The "Vernon Parish" section shows the "PLAN DUE DATE: OCTOBER 16 2021". Below this is a "DEVELOPMENT STATUS" timeline with four stages: "PLAN DEVELOPMENT" (yellow), "PLAN REVIEW" (purple), "PLAN ADOPTION" (purple), and "COMPLETED" (purple). The timeline indicates "COORDINATION JAN 2022" for the first stage and "TBD" for the others.

The "PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS" section lists the following entities:

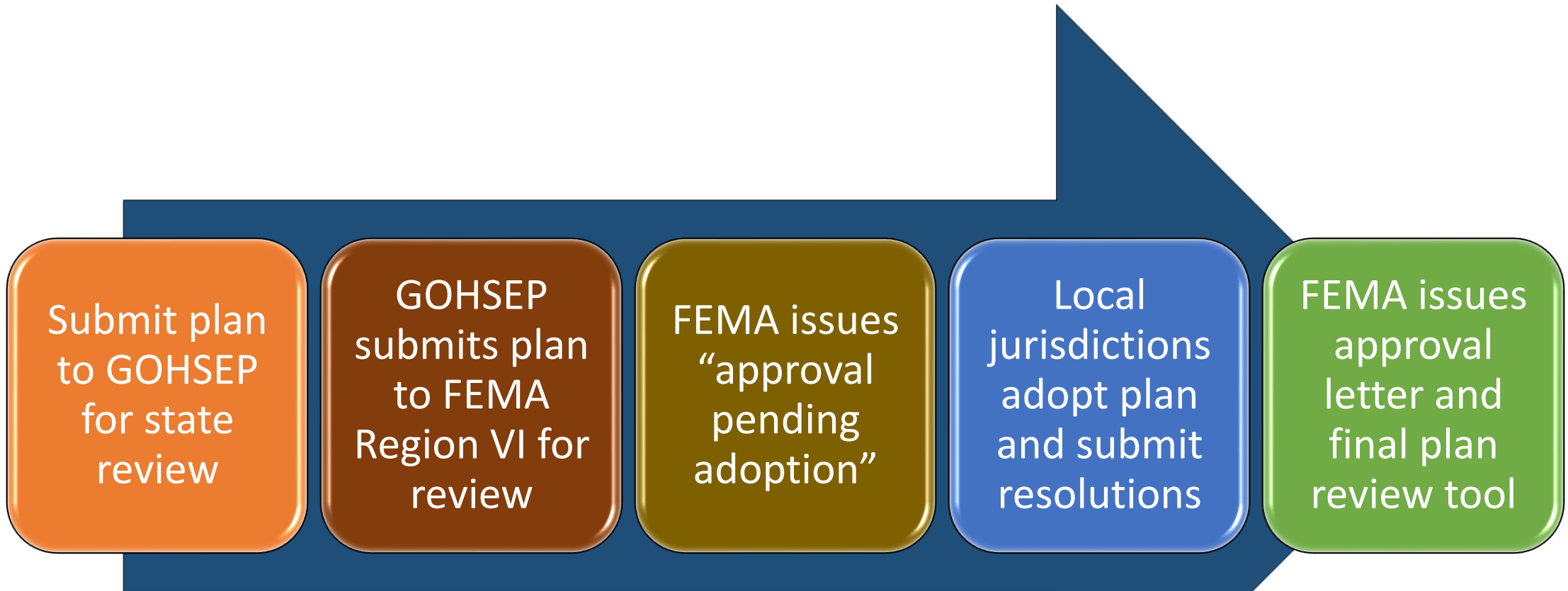
- Village of Anacoco
- Town of Rosepine
- Town of Hornbeck
- Village of Simpson
- City of Leesville
- Unincorporated Vernon Parish
- Town of New Llano

The "PREVIOUS PLANNING RESOURCES" section for 2016 includes three download links:

- VERNON HM PLAN (DOWNLOAD)
- VERNON PARISH KICK OFF MEETING (DOWNLOAD)
- VERNON PARISH PUBLIC MEETING (DOWNLOAD)



# Plan Approval Process



The plan will be subject to revisions as it moves through the review process.



# 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 each jurisdiction
  - A comprehensive list of parish and jurisdiction owned properties



# Next Steps

- Worksheet and Mitigation Actions Due Dates
- Identify Neighboring Community
- Dates for Next Meetings?
  - Mitigation Action Workshop (Optional)
  - Risk Assessment Review with Committee
  - Public Meeting
- Draft Plan to FEMA
  - 2-3 weeks after the public meeting
- Adoptions
  - AFTER the FEMA Review



# Contact Us

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