

243 **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

244
245 In an attempt to curtail the losses from natural disasters, to reduce both public and private
246 expenditures, and to speed up response and recovery from natural disasters, the U.S. Congress
247 passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). The act establishes a number of new
248 requirements for local governments and tribal organizations to prepare a hazard mitigation plan
249 to be eligible for funding from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In April 2002,
250 Burnett County Emergency Management Office submitted an application to receive funds to
251 offset the costs associated with developing a natural hazard mitigation plan.

252
253 In September 2002, Burnett County was awarded a grant where they became party to an
254 agreement with the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management to develop a hazard
255 mitigation plan. This planning effort is focused on activities that are natural disasters directly
256 related to Burnett County. The Burnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan (BCHMP) will include
257 five parts. These include: (1) Introduction and Background (2) Planning Area (3) Hazard
258 Identification and Risk Assessment (4) Mitigation Strategy and (5) Plan Maintenance and
259 Adoption.

260
261 Burnett County applied for a grant to update the Burnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The
262 grant was awarded on May 7, 2009 (Disaster #FEMA-1768-DR-WI) to Burnett County
263 Emergency Management.

264
265 ***PURPOSE AND SCOPE***

266
267 This plan is intended to set forth the most appropriate, feasible, and effective hazard mitigation
268 strategies for Burnett County. The plan development process is intended to encourage public
269 participation, innovative programming and leadership, and to build constructive partnerships
270 with local units of government, businesses, and other stakeholders with a shared interest in
271 protecting the safety of Burnett County and its residents.

272
273 The Burnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan (BCHMP) was developed by the Burnett County
274 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) through a collaborative effort of a number of
275 different agencies, organizations, and business representatives under the guidance of Burnett
276 County Emergency Management department (BCEM). The BCEM is the body that oversees the
277 plan development and implementation process. The LEPC is comprised of elected and appointed
278 officials and other citizens knowledgeable about and either directly or indirectly involved in
279 hazard mitigation issues. For effective hazard management, it is vital that Burnett County has a
280 solid understanding of the entire mitigation process and can recognize the activities related to
281 each phase and coordinate them on a continuum. In other words, Burnett County is able to
282 mitigate hazards, prepare the communities to handle them, respond to emergencies, and recover
283 from disasters on an as needed basis.

284
285 Mitigation actions are the foundation of an effective hazard mitigation plan by breaking the cycle
286 of destruction & repair. The purpose of the BCHMP is to minimize the impact of potential

287 disasters and to speed up the recovery process after natural disasters. This is done by matching
288 hazard information for the most likely disasters in an area to the vulnerability of the people and
289 property of that same area. In short, the plan will:

- 290 ✓ establish Burnett County's commitment to the mitigation of natural hazards;
- 291 ✓ serve as a vehicle to educate the public regarding natural hazards and mitigation
292 practices, thereby increasing public awareness of the risks facing them as residents of the
293 county as well as tools and resources available for reducing those risks;
- 294 ✓ serve as a guide for the implementation of mitigation policies and programs;
- 295 ✓ develop strategies to help reduce Burnett County's vulnerability to natural hazards;
- 296 ✓ facilitate opportunities to apply initiatives for long-term disaster resistance; and

301
302
303 The BCHMP is a natural hazard mitigation plan, intended to address natural hazards such as
304 tornados, flooding, wildfires, thunderstorms, and winter weather events. The plan does not
305 specifically address "manmade" hazards such as terrorism, civil disturbances, hazardous waste
306 incidents, or nuclear power plant incidents. The BCHMP conforms to the local requirements of
307 the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), enacted on October 10, 2000. The DMA
308 establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national
309 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Section 322 of the act specifically addresses mitigation
310 planning at the state and local levels and establishes criteria for local planning. The preparation
311 and adoption of a local hazard mitigation plan is also a requirement for receiving many types of
312 mitigation and post-disaster recovery funds.

313 314 ***PARTICIPANTS AND PLANNING PROCESS***

315
316 This planning effort will benefit the incorporated villages and populated rural areas by
317 identifying plans and processes for effective mitigation efforts throughout the county. As
318 mentioned earlier, the Burnett County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) developed
319 the original BCHMP with assistance from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission
320 (NWRPC). The original plan development period was from March 2003 through July 2004. The
321 first plan update was assisted by Jim Tolbert (RiverRidge Consulting, LLC) in late 2009 and
322 early 2010.

323
324 The Burnett County Hazard Mitigation Plan (BCHMP) was developed through a collaborative
325 effort of a number of agencies, organizations, and business representatives under the guidance of
326 the Burnett County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and managed by the Burnett
327 County Emergency Management Department. The LEPC is comprised of elected and appointed
328 officials, community groups, and business representatives from throughout the county
329 knowledgeable about and directly involved in hazard mitigation.

330

331 Throughout the plan update planning process, the neighboring communities and the public was
 332 encouraged to attend all meetings. Meeting notices were posted and forwarded to local media
 333 representatives for inclusion in local newspapers and radio broadcasting stations.
 334 In addition to the plan update process, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin Multi-
 335 Hazard Mitigation Plan (FEMA Approval Date 02/28/08) was consulted. No other community
 336 hazard mitigation plans have been developed in Burnett County. Throughout the planning
 337 process, other studies, plans, and data from other organizations and firms were reviewed that
 338 might prove beneficial. Plans, studies, and reports that were used in the planning process include:
 339

- 340 • Hazard Analysis for the State of Wisconsin
- 341 • National Climatic Data Center
- 342 • 2004 Burnett County Almanac
- 343 • National Weather Service Historical Climate Data
- 344 • Wisconsin Emergency Management
- 345 • FEMA Floodplain Maps & Data
- 346 • U.S. Census Bureau Data
- 347 • Statistical Reports of Property Values
- 348 • Northwest Sands Landscape Level Management Plan
- 349 • DWD Workforce Profile
- 350 • Burnett County Land Use Plan
- 351 • Town of West Marshland Land Use Plan
- 352 • Town of Lincoln Land Use Plan
- 353 • Town of Grantsburg Land Use Plan
- 354 • Town of Wood River Land Use Plan
- 355 • Town of Oakland Land Use Plan
- 356 • Town of LaFollette Land Use Plan
- 357 • Town of Scott Comprehensive Plan
- 358 • Village of Siren Land Use Plan
- 359 • Village of Webster Land Use Plan

360
 361 Included in the BCHMP are all local units of government within the county, which includes 21
 362 towns and three (3) villages. All local units of government within the county, with the exception
 363 of St. Croix Chippewa Tribal nation, have accepted the plan. In a change from the original plan,
 364 the St. Croix Chippewa Tribal nation has developed their own plan.
 365

366 The jurisdictions participating in the original plan and in the 2010 Plan Update are tabulated
 367 below:
 368

369 **Table 1.1: Participating Jurisdiction Groups**

Jurisdiction	2004 Plan	2010 Plan Update
Burnett County	✓	✓
Incorporated Villages	✓	✓
Town Governments	✓	✓
St. Croix Chippewa Tribe	✓	Created their own plan.

370

371
372 All the local units of government within the county have adopted the plan as evidenced by the
373 resolutions included in Appendix B.

374
375 Towns

- 376 • Anderson
- 377 • Blaine
- 378 • Daniels
- 379 • Dewey
- 380 • Grantsburg
- 381 • Jackson
- 382 • LaFollette
- 383 • Lincoln
- 384 • Meenon
- 385 • Oakland
- 386 • Roosevelt
- 387 • Rusk
- 388 • Sand Lake
- 389 • Scott
- 390 • Siren
- 391 • Swiss
- 392 • Trade Lake
- 393 • Union
- 394 • Webb Lake
- 395 • West Marshland
- 396 • Wood River

397
398 Incorporated Villages

- 399 • Grantsburg
- 400 • Siren
- 401 • Webster

402

403 **UPDATE PROCESS**

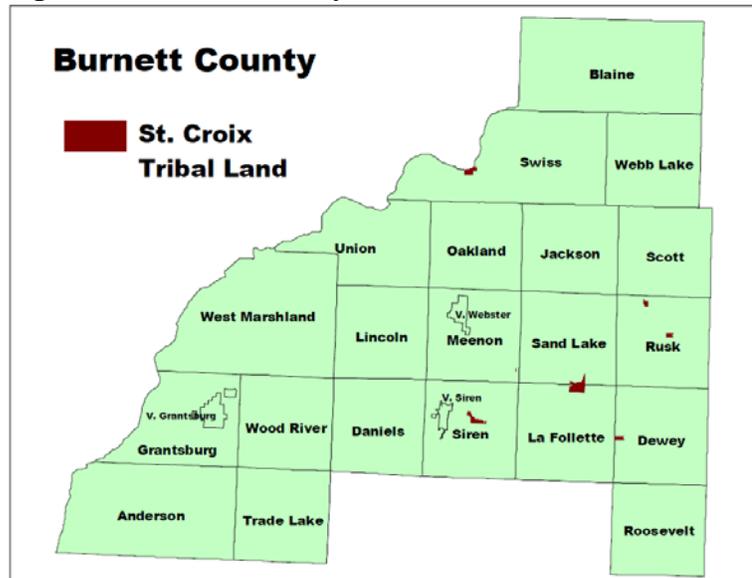
404

405 **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

406

407 The Burnett County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met to review the hazards
408 identified in the 2004 plan, their potential location of impact, their potential severity on the
409 community, and then proceeded to review and rework a plan to define projects that will mitigate
410 the effects of the disasters. All LEPC meetings are posted, advertised, and open to the public.
411 Public participation is encouraged. Included on the LEPC are representatives of community and

Figure 1.1: Burnett County



412 business groups and the plan was discussed at the regional meeting of the County Hazard
413 Mitigation Managers.

414

415

416 Minor editing was required in Chapter I Introduction & Background and Chapter II Planning
417 Area. Historical data was updated in Chapter III Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment along
418 with minor editing. Every effort was made to find and use the best available historical data in
419 the hazard review and mitigation strategy consideration.

420

421 Chapter IV Mitigation Strategy was extensively reworked.

422 To provide continuity between the original plan and the plan update, progress on the Goals and
423 Projects identified in the 2004 Plan was recorded, along with notations as to the future of the
424 particular effort, in Table 4.1.

425

426 The strategy of the LEPC in this update was to separate the ongoing efforts from the discrete
427 projects and eliminate the redundant or impractical projects noted in the original plan.
428 Commonalities were noted and projects combined to make execution and progress tracking more
429 understandable. Individual departments or agencies were identified to lead particular efforts and,
430 where appropriate, other departments /agencies were identified as having a supporting role. The
431 result is a set of goals and projects that the LEPC is confident can be tracked and managed.

432

433 After the review, reworking, sorting, and condensation, the surviving goals and projects were
434 divided into discrete projects (Table 4.2) and ongoing efforts (Table 4.3). Where possible,
435 timelines were established. Where project definition is still required, the development of a
436 timeline will be made a high priority of the lead agency or department.

437

438 **Input from Villages and Towns**

439

440 Input from the three incorporated Villages and Towns was solicited. Meetings were held on
441 10/7/2010 (Siren), 10/13/2010 (Webster), and 10/26/2010 (Grantsburg) where the update process
442 for the plan was reviewed, the projects defined by the LEPC were reviewed, and discussions
443 were held to define projects to be led by the individual Villages. The results of those discussions
444 were incorporated into Table 4.2 as projects FF-G1P3 & FLD-G4P1 for Village of Siren, FLD-
445 G4P2 for the Village of Webster, and ANH-G1P2 for the Village of Grantsburg.

446

447 Input from the Towns was solicited at the 10/28/2010 meeting of the Burnett County Towns
448 Association.

449

450 **Input from the Public**

451

452 Input from the Public was sought and encouraged during the plan review process. All meetings
453 were posted and open to the public. These meetings included the LEPC Meetings on 10/13/09 ,

454 10/14/09, 10/21/09, &10/28/09; meetings with the Villages 10/7/2010, 10/13/2010, &
455 10/26/2010; and a meeting with Towns 10/28/2010. See Appendix C.
456
457