

8.2 - Jurisdictional Annex, Town of Berlin

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Berlin. The jurisdiction's governing body passed a formal resolution to participate in this multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan update. A copy of their resolution is maintained at the local government offices and at the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety.

8.2.1 Contact Information

The jurisdiction's resolution to participate identified a Primary Point of Contact and an Alternate for this hazard mitigation plan update. These individuals represented the jurisdiction on the county-wide Core Planning Group and led a local team of Jurisdictional Assessment Team Members who undertook various local activities related to the plan update.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINTS OF CONTACT						
Primary Point of Contact			Alternate Point of Contact			
Name: Robert Jaeger Title: Town Supervisor Address: PO Box 307, Berlin, NY 12022 Phone Number: 518-658-2161 E-mail Address: berlinsupervisor@fairpoint.net			Name: TBD Title: Address: PO Box 307, Berlin, NY 12022 Phone Number: E-mail Address:			
Jurisdictional Assessment Team Members						
Local Jurisdiction Role/Position	Name	Email	Phone	Date of Invitation	Method of Invitation	Agreed to participate?
Land Use/Community Planner	Pamula Gerstel	pggerstel@gmail.com	518-658-2977	1/1/2019	phone	yes
Emergency Manager	NA					
Floodplain Manager/Administrator	Walter A. Yerton	berlincode@fairpoint.net	518-423-5550	1/1/2019	phone	yes
Public Works Director / City Engineer	NA					
Building Code Official	Walter A. Yerton	berlincode@fairpoint.net	518-423-5550	1/1/2019	phone	yes
Fiscal/Budget Officer	Robert C Jaeger	berlinsupervisor@fairpoint.net	518-658-2161	1/1/2019	self	yes
Manager/Administrator	NA					
Elected Officials	Robert C Jaeger	berlinsupervisor@fairpoint.net	518-658-2161	1/1/2019	self	yes
Local Hospital	NA					
Major University	NA					
Significant Business	NA					
Neighboring County 1	NA					
Neighboring County 2	NA					
Neighboring County 3	NA					
Neighboring County 4	NA					
Tribal Group/Nation	NA					

8.2.2 JURISDICTION PROFILE

8.2.2.1 Location and Land Area

The Town of Berlin is located in southeast Rensselaer County, in the eastern part of New York State. It shares a border with Grafton and Petersburg to the north; Stephentown to the south; Massachusetts to the east; and Poestenkill and Sand Lake to the west.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, Rensselaer County has a total area of 665 square miles (1,720 km²), of which 652 square miles (1,690 km²) is land and 13 square miles (34 km²) (1.9%) is water. Of that, the Town of Berlin has a total area of 59.9 square miles (155 km²), of which, 59.7 square miles (155 km²) of it is land and 0.3 square miles (0.78 km²) of it (0.45%) is water.

8.2.2.2 Population

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the population of Town of Berlin is estimated to be 1,880 persons.

8.2.2.3 Demographics

Of a total area of 59.93 square miles (2010 Census data), the land area is 59.65 square miles and population per square mile is 31.9 persons.

Of the total population, there are 96.9 males per 100 females (all ages). Persons under 18 years represent 22.1% of the population, and 18.0% are persons 65 years and over (2010 Census). Young and old subsets of the population may have unique needs as far as care requirements and potential cognitive and/or mobility limitations before, during, and after a disaster.

The number of persons who speak a language other than English is 21, or 1.4%, of which 0.0% speak English less than "very well". Persons not speaking English well may have trouble understanding instructions regarding disaster preparation, response, and recovery.

Regarding education, of persons age 25 years and older, 77.5% are high school graduates or higher, and 16.5% have received their bachelor's degree or higher (2000 Census data). Higher education can help enhance skills associated with cognition and evaluation of risk. Higher education can, therefore, foster an overall improved perception of risk, particularly where individuals may not have prior direct experience preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a particular hazard in their daily lives.

Regarding families and living arrangements, from 2013 to 2017 there were 789 total households and 2.38 persons per household. Persons living alone sometimes have less of a direct social circle for support before, during, and after a disaster.

The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units (house, apartment, mobile home, rented rooms) as living in group quarters. The two types of group quarters are Institutional (correctional facilities, nursing homes, mental hospitals) and Non-Institutional (college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, shelters). The Census Bureau maintains no group quarters information for this municipality. The needs of persons living in group quarters are unique, and residents are likely to have access and functional needs and unique care requirements before, during, and after a disaster.

According to 2017 ACS, the median household income was \$50,357; the per capita income in past 12 months (2017) was \$29,955; and the percentage of persons in poverty was 9.4%. Lower income persons have limited financial resources to draw from in both a pre- and post-disaster scenario and are likely to require support as they prepare for, and recover from, hazard events.

The total of noninstitutionalized civilians with a disability is 19.4%, and percentage of people with a disability over age 65 years is 39.7%. The total percentage of persons (civilian, noninstitutionalized) without health insurance is 5.1%. Persons with disabilities have access and functional needs such as cognitive or mobility limitations that may put them at greater risk before, during, and after a hazard event.

8.2.2.4 Brief History

The area that is now Rensselaer County was inhabited by the Algonquian-speaking Mohican Indian tribe at the time of European encounter. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a Dutch jeweler and merchant, purchased the area in 1630, as part of the Dutch colony New Netherland. The land passed from English rule (1664) to Dutch control (1673), then back to English rule (1674), until American independence in 1776. Rensselaer County was created in 1790s from an area that was originally part of the very large Albany County. In 1807 the county reorganized.

The Town of Berlin was incorporated in 1765. It was named a town in 1806, one of the many New York towns with a German name. Going back in time, Berlin had its economic roots as a center for dairy farming, however many of the farms have been subdivided in the last decades of the 20th century. The town now serves primarily as a bedroom community for the Albany, NY capital district, but retains some notable industries.

8.2.2.5 Governing Body Format

The governing body of the municipality consists of a Town Board, including a Town Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, three Councilmen, and other department heads. This council serves as the county's municipal/local government, performing executive functions of different natures. Members of this governing body are elected by the people.

8.2.2.6 Growth and Development Trends

Performing an assessment of growth and development trends is one step of a hazard mitigation plan update. This look into the future is important because development in hazard areas could put more people and property in harm's way and, in turn, could work to increase potential disaster-related damages and losses at a time when the mitigation plan's purpose is to reduce the potential for damages emanating from natural disasters.

An evaluation of growth and development trends was undertaken by each participating jurisdiction as part of the development of the initial plan in 2011. As part of this plan update,

the Town of Berlin reviewed and updated its prior feedback to reflect current conditions in the community as of early 2019.

The Town of Berlin did not note any major residential or commercial development taking place, or any major infrastructure development planned for the next five years in the municipality. Development trends in the Town are characterized by development of both farmlands and woodlands for second homes.

New Development/Potential Development in the Municipality						
Property Name	Type (Residential or Commercial)	No. of Structures	Address	Block and Lot	Known Hazard Zone	Description /Status
Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

The Town of Berlin enforces NY State Regulations, 1988 Land Use Regulations (currently under review) to protect new development from the effects of natural hazards. Land Use Regulations require compliance with all SEQR requirements.

8.2.3 HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

The following hazards represent those that were deemed to be significant hazards of concern for the Town of Berlin:

Profiled Hazard in the Town of Berlin													
Jurisdiction	Atmospheric Hazards						Hydrologic Hazards			Geologic Hazards		Other Hazards	
	Extreme Temperatures (Coldwave/Heat Wave)	Hurricane / Tropical Storm	Lightning	Tornado	Wind	Winter Storm	Drought	Flood			Earthquake	Landslide ⁴	Wildfire ⁵
								Flooding ²	Dam Failure ¹	Ice Jam ³			
Berlin, Town of	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■

Notes: (1) Based on presence of a High hazard dam (NYSDEC classification) either in the municipality or close upstream on a watercourse flowing through that municipality and feedback from the County Planning Department. (2) Based on identification of improved property in mapped FEMA flood hazard zones. (3) Based on historical records, Flood Insurance Studies, and local information as well as feedback from the County Planning Department. (4) Based on identification of improved property in mapped high incidence or high susceptibility landslide risk zones, plus those municipalities in which details of individual landslide events are available. (5) Based on identification of improved property in mapped wildfire hazard zones.

8.2.4 NOTABLE HAZARD EVENT OCCURRENCES SINCE 2011

Rensselaer County has a long history of natural hazard events occurring, as detailed in Section 3 of this plan. A summary of historical events is provided in each of the hazard profiles of Section 3 and includes a chronology of events that have affected the County and its municipalities.

NOAAs NCDC records 1,141 hazard event occurrences from 1950 to 2018 causing one fatality, 116 injuries, \$27,679,000 in property damage, and \$305,800 in crop damage. The table below presents a summary of 415 events that are included in NOAA's NCDC records for Rensselaer County since the prior 2011 HMP was prepared to summarize the recent range and impact of natural hazard events potentially affecting the County and its municipalities. For details of events prior to 2011, refer to Section 3 of this plan.

Natural Hazard Event History (January 2011 through December 2018)					
Event Type	Count	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Crop Damage
Blizzard	2	0	0	\$0	\$0
Cold/Wind Chill	28	0	0	\$0	\$0
Excessive Heat	3	0	0	\$0	\$0
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	8	0	0	\$0	\$0
Flash Flood	20	0	0	\$320,000	\$0
Flood	16	0	0	\$10,000	\$0
Frost/Freeze	6	0	0	\$0	\$0
Hail	29	0	0	\$0	\$0
Heat	17	0	0	\$0	\$0
Heavy Rain	1	0	0	\$0	\$0
Heavy Snow	13	0	0	\$0	\$0
High Wind	17	0	0	\$0	\$0
Lightning	1	0	0	\$50,000	\$0
Storm Surge/Tide	1	0	0	\$0	\$0
Strong Wind	22	0	0	\$48,000	\$4,000
Thunderstorm Wind	141	0	7	\$0	\$0
Tropical Storm	2	0	0	\$0	\$0
Winter Storm	28	0	0	\$0	\$0
Winter Weather	60	0	0	\$0	\$0
Total	415	0	7	\$428,000	\$4,000

Since 1954, Rensselaer County has been designated as eligible for at least one form of FEMA assistance in 16 Federally-declared major disasters and eight Federally-declared emergencies. Since the adoption of the 2011 HMP, Rensselaer County has been designated as eligible for at least one form of FEMA assistance in three of the state's 12 Federally-declared major disasters (2011 through 2018).

Rensselaer County Disaster Declarations, 2011-2018					
Declaration Year	Event Incident Period	Declaration Type	Disaster Type	Disaster Number	Rensselaer County Designation
2017	March 14-15, 2017	Major Disaster Declaration	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	DR-4322	Declared for PA only
2011	September 7-11, 2011	Emergency Declaration	Tropical Storm Lee	EM-3341	Declared for PA Category B
2011	August 26, 2011 through September 5, 2011	Major Disaster Declaration	Hurricane Irene	DR-4020	Declared for PA and IA
2011	December 26-27, 2010	Major Disaster Declaration	Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm	DR-1957	Declared for PA Category B

Source: FEMA, online at <https://www.fema.gov/disasters>, queried on July 11, 2019
PA= FEMA's Public Assistance Program
IA= FEMA's Individual Assistance Program
Category B= FEMA's Public Assistance Program Category B (Emergency Protective Measures)

Some more recent notable events in the Town of Berlin since 2011 include:

August 28, 2011 – Irene

The remnants of Hurricane Irene brought heavy to extreme rainfall throughout Rensselaer County. A bridge was lost in the center of town cutting off access to two houses for about three months. On Plank Road about 150 feet of the road was washed out by the creek. Route 22 had 18 inches of water and was shut down. Culverts also washed out on Watson Road. Due to these road closures, there was only one way into and out of Berlin at that time.

October 29-30, 2012 – Sandy

Rainfall in Rensselaer County was not excessively heavy and did not cause notable flooding, thanks to dry antecedent conditions. Wind gusts of 40 to 60 mph were common from the afternoon of the 29th until the early morning hours of the 30th. Trees and wires were reported down due to high winds in Berlin.

June 30, 2017 to July 1, 2017 - Severe Storms and Flooding

Numerous strong to severe thunderstorms occurred across Rensselaer County. Thunderstorm winds caused damages throughout the county, downing trees and power lines, and heavy rains caused flooding in many areas of the county.

8.2.5 NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Town of Berlin has participated in FEMA’s National Flood Insurance program (NFIP) since August 17, 1979.

- Total number of policies¹: 8
- Insurance in force²: \$2,394,000
- Total number of losses: 1
- Total claims paid: \$0
- Repetitive Loss Properties: 0
- Severe Repetitive Loss Properties: 0

The Town provided the following NFIP Administrator Input in 2019, for inclusion in the 2019 HMP.

¹ Policies in Force from www.fema.gov on 02/21/19, data current as of 09/30/18.

² Insurance in Force from www.fema.gov on 02/21/19, data current as of 09/30/18.

Section 8.2 - Jurisdictional Annex, Town of Berlin

Name: Walter A Yerton Title: Floodplain Manager/Floodplain Administrator/NFIP Coordinator

Community: Town of Berlin Email and Phone: berlincode@fairpoint.net 518-423-5550

Worksheet 2 - NFIP

Note: This form should be filled out by your floodplain administrator. Submittals should be returned via email to Jay Wilson at jwilson@rensko.com. Feel free to contact Anna Foley of AECOM if you have questions, at anna.foley@aecom.com. All communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provided FEMA with a floodplain management ordinance and a designated floodplain administrator as a prerequisite to enter the program. All participating communities must provide the information below. Please return a copy of your floodplain management ordinance to us with this submittal.

Adoption Date of your Current Floodplain Management Ordinance	Date of Entry into NFIP ¹	Position or Title of Your Jurisdiction's Designated Floodplain Manager/Administrator (may also be called NFIP Coordinator)		Is this person is a Certified Floodplain Manager?	Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Is your community in good standing with the NFIP?	
1979	1979	Code Enforcement Officer		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (i.e., permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability, etc.):							
Permits & inspections							
Describe barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community (if applicable):							
Time & money							
When was most recent FEMA Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?*	Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?	Does the current floodplain management ordinance exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, describe how.	Is training of staff regarding NFIP issues planned?	Does your community intend to continue to enforce the floodplain management requirements including regulating new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)?	Does your community participate in the CRS? If so, state your Class.	Does your community intend to continue its participation in the CRS program?	If your community is not currently participating in the CRS program, are you intending to initiate the process during the next planning cycle?
unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No* * Class _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
*Describe any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations):							
None							

¹ Your date of entry into the NFIP can be found at: <http://www.fema.gov/cis/NY.html> (column "Reg-Emer Date").

Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – NFIP Worksheet NFIP-1

Name: Walter A Yerton Title: Floodplain Manager/Floodplain Administrator/NFIP Coordinator

Representing: Town of Berlin Email and Phone: berlincode@fairpoint.net 518-423-5550

Worksheet 2 - NFIP

Provide an explanation of your local floodplain permitting process:

Must comply with NY State Regs and SEQR

Does your community intend to continue floodplain identification and mapping services including any local requests for map updates?	Does your community intend to initiate/continue the buyouts of repetitive loss properties?	Does your community intend to commit staff or resources to improve local mapping or code administration in the future?	Does your community intend to provide local outreach to promote the sale of flood insurance?	Does your community intend to participate in RiskMAP meetings and planning initiatives?	Does your community intend to continue to implement structural improvements to mitigate against flooding - culverts, drainage basins, etc.?	Does your community intend to continue to implement home improvement programs designed to minimize basement flooding?	Does your community intend to continue to implement roadway improvements to reduce damage from future flooding events?	Does your community intend to implement plans and programs in coordination with a local or regional drainage/sewer authority?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your community intend to adopt the new FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevations?	As Floodplain Manager, did you (or your predecessor at the time) actively participate in the development of the initial Hazard Mitigation Plan?		As Floodplain Manager, are you actively participating in the development of this Hazard Mitigation Plan Update?		Have there been any changes to your community's local floodplain management program since the last version of the plan in 2011?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
* If you answered "yes", that there have been changes to your local program since 2011, please describe:								
Provide a description of your community assistance and monitoring activities:								
None at this time								
NFIP participating communities are required to update/revise their floodplain management ordinance to ensure that it complies with the latest FEMA regulations. Will your community continue to commit to this program requirement?				NFIP participating communities are also required to update/revise their floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with the latest FIRMs. Will your community continue to commit to this program requirement?				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

Note: NFIP policy statistics by community are maintained at: <http://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/reports/1011.htm#NJ1>
 NFIP claims data by community is maintained at: <http://bsa.nfipstat.fema.gov/reports/1040.htm#34>
 Information about structures at risk of flooding can be found in the current Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 All NFIP participating communities should encourage local residents to purchase and maintain flood insurance.

Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – NFIP Worksheet NFIP-2

8.2.6 ASSET IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION

This subsection highlights key information from the main text; please refer to Section 3b for further information.

An inventory of geo-referenced assets in Rensselaer County has been created in order to identify and characterize property and persons potentially exposed to the identified hazards. Section 3b of the plan presents the asset identification and characterization process in great detail. The following table presents an overview of assets in Rensselaer County³ and the subset of those assets that fall within the Town of Berlin.

³ The County totals are included here for readers to understand the proportion of countywide assets that lie within this municipality.

Asset Inventory																			
Jurisdiction	Improved Property (RCV ⁴)	Emergency Facilities					Critical Infrastructure and Utilities										Other Key Facilities		Historic and Cultural Resources
		Fire Stations	Police Stations	EMS / Ambulance Stations	Hospitals	Shelters ⁵	Wastewater Facilities	Water Treatment Facilities	Airports	Railroads (Passenger/Freight Station)	Electric Power Facilities	Communications Facilities	Oil Facilities	Hazardous Materials Sites	Natural Gas Facilities	Ports	Schools	Residential Senior Care Facilities ⁶	
Rensselaer County	\$33,333,947,000	44	9	19	2	33	8	1	0	13	1	6	5	60	1	12	64	3	84
Town of Berlin	\$446,676,000	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Rensselaer County	Population, Census 2010:		159,429																
Town of Berlin	Population, Census 2010:		1,880																
Rensselaer County	Vulnerable Population, Census 2010 (under 5 years, and over 64 years)		30,429																
Town of Berlin	Vulnerable Population, Census 2010 (under 5 years, and over 64 years)		437																

⁴ Replacement Cost Value

⁵ Specific shelter data is protected information and is not released to the public unless and until necessary during a disaster.

⁶ * As per the County Department of Economic Development and Planning, these figures only encompass the senior centers which are not residential facilities.

Exposure – Assets in the Floodplain

Land. Approximately two percent of the Town of Berlin's land area is located in the 100-year floodplain.

Land in the 100-year Floodplain			
Municipality	Land Area of Municipality (Acres)	Land in the 100-year Floodplain (Acres)	Percent of Land in the 100-Year Floodplain (%)
Berlin, Town of	38,227	745	2%

Improved Property. Approximately five percent of the Town of Berlin's improved property is located in the 100-year floodplain.

Improved Property in the 100-year Floodplain			
Municipality	Replacement Cost Value (RCV) Structure and Contents (\$)	RCV in the 100-year Floodplain (\$)	Percent of RCV in the 100-Year Floodplain (%)
Berlin, Town of	\$446,676,000	\$20,363,981	5%

Population. Approximately seven percent of the Town of Berlin's population resides in the 100-year floodplain.

Population in the 100-Year Floodplain			
Municipality	Total Population (Census 2010)	Estimated Population in the 100 year Floodplain	Percent of Population in the 100 year Floodplain
Berlin, Town of	1,880	132	7%

Critical Facilities. No critical facilities (emergency facilities, critical infrastructure and utilities, and other key facilities, as presented in Section 3b) are located in the floodplain in the Town of Berlin.

Historic and Cultural Resources. No historic and cultural resources in the Town of Berlin are located in the floodplain in the Town of Berlin.

8.2.7 POTENTIAL FUTURE DAMAGES

Estimated annual losses provided in this section are based on best available data, and the methodologies applied result in an approximation of risk. Loss estimates should be used to understand relative risk from hazards.

Uncertainties are inherent in any loss estimation methodology, arising in part from incomplete scientific knowledge concerning natural hazards and their effects on the built environment. Uncertainties also result from approximations and simplifications that are necessary for a comprehensive analysis (i.e., incomplete inventories, demographics or economic parameters

The following table provides estimated average annual losses from HAZUS-MH 4.0 runs, where available. For hazards for which HAZUS modules are not available, historic damages have been distributed across municipalities based on their proportion of improved property. It is important to note that this table reflects estimates of average annual damages. For any hazard, individual event damages could be substantially (orders of magnitude) higher.

For the Town of Berlin, the hazard with the highest estimated average annual losses is flooding.

Summary of Annual Loss Estimates – Town of Berlin⁷

Municipality	Replacement Cost Value of Improvements (\$)	Extreme Temperatures	Hurricane/ Tropical Storm - Wind	Hurricane/ Tropical Storm – Wind + Flood	Lightning	Tornado	Wind	Winter Storm (Ice Storm/ Snow Storm)	Drought	Flood	Earthquake	Landslide	Wildfire
		NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	HAZUS	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018	HAZUS	HAZUS	NOAA NCEI, 1996-2018
Berlin, Town of	\$446,676,000	\$19	\$212	\$1,157	\$144	\$6,350	\$1,608	\$451	\$0	\$45,230	\$1,274	\$0	\$1

⁷ * **It is important to note that this table reflects estimates of average annualized damages. For any hazard, individual event damages could be substantially higher.**

8.2.8 HAZARD RANKINGS AND KEY RISK FINDINGS

Hazard rankings for the Town of Berlin are provided in the table below. Hazard priorities are based on each hazard's likelihood of occurrence, potential consequences, relative risk and average annualized losses. Rows are shaded red for High Hazard Priority; yellow for Moderate Hazard Priority; and green for Low Hazard Priority.

Flooding is the Town of Berlin's highest priority hazard.

Hazard Rankings – Town of Berlin					
Hazard	Future Probability	Potential Consequence	Relative Risk	Hazard Priority	Average Annualized Losses ⁸
Extreme Temperatures (Coldwave/ Heat Wave)	Low	Low	Low	Low	\$19
Hurricane/ Tropical Storm	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate	\$212 Wind; \$1,157 Wind + Flood
Lightning	High	Low	Low	Low	\$144
Tornado	Low	High	High	High	\$6,350
Wind	High	Low	High	High	\$1,608
Winter Storm (Ice Storm/ Snow Storm)	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	\$451
Drought	Low	High	Low	Low	\$0
Flood	High	High	High	High	\$45,230
Earthquake	Low	High	Moderate	Moderate	\$1,274
Landslide	High	Low	Moderate	Moderate	\$0
Wildfire	Low	Low	Low	Low	\$1

Significant flooding occurred in the Town of Berlin during Irene. Mitigation measures and upgrades were completed at that time to address problem areas (bridge replacement in the center of town, repair and mitigation of roadway washout on Plank Road, repair and mitigation of the cause of flooding on Route 22, and mitigation and upgrades for culverts that washed out on Watson Road). No flooding has occurred at these locations since the projects were completed.

Key risk findings identified by the Town of Berlin JAT as representing its highest local priorities for mitigation are:

- The Town's existing comprehensive plan does not integrate the hazard mitigation plan. A long term vision for the community that doesn't take into account hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Taking into account natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.

⁸ Source: NOAA NCEI, except as noted. \$0 in average annualized losses had no damages recorded for events between 1996 and 2018. Actual annual damages are unquantifiable but higher.

- The Town's existing land use ordinance does not integrate the hazard mitigation plan. Leaving the ordinance as-is would mean that the ordinance is outdated and does not provide for resiliency or a vision that incorporates natural hazards or hazard mitigation.
- Debris jams in the channel impede flood flows
- Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and hazard mitigation measures they can take on their own properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety before, during and after a hazard event.

Mitigation projects to address these key risks are included as part of the Town's overall hazard mitigation strategy.

8.2.9 OUTREACH TO THE PUBLIC AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

As part of this 2019 Plan Update, the Town of Berlin undertook various activities to: (a) alert the public and other stakeholders to the fact that the HMP Planning Committee was working to develop the update; and (b) provide the public and other stakeholders with a forum to ask questions and submit comments and suggestions on the process. Outreach activities undertaken by the Town of Berlin included:

Outreach Activities			
Date of Activity	Type of Activity	Activity Details	Lead Department and/or Staff Title Who Undertook Activity
[1/10/19]	[Meeting]	[Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan was discussed, and a resolution was passed to participate in the update.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[February 2019]	[Meeting]	[Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[March 2019]	[Meeting]	[Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[April 2019]	[Meeting]	[Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[May 2019]	[Meeting]	[Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[June 2019]	[Meeting]	[Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[June 2019 and presently ongoing]	[Planning]	[Reviewing comprehensive plan and getting the mitigation plan integrated into it]	[Supervisor Jaeger, with Deputy Supervisor and Planning Board]
[June 2019 and presently ongoing]	[Planning]	[Land use ordinance is being updated, and the mitigation plan is being integrated into it]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[July 2019]	[Meeting]	[Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.]	[Supervisor Jaeger]
[August 2019]	[Web site update]	[Town web site was updated to include information about the plan update, including the fact sheet, and a link to the county mitigation plan update page]	[Supervisor Jaeger]

Outreach Activities			
Date of Activity	Type of Activity	Activity Details	Lead Department and/or Staff Title Who Undertook Activity
August 2019 and ongoing	Meeting	Regularly scheduled Town Board meeting, open to the public. Plan update was discussed, and fact sheet was made available for interested parties.	Supervisor Jaeger
August 2019	Posted hard copies of the project fact sheet	Hard copies of the project fact sheet were posted on our bulletin board at the Town Hall	Supervisor Jaeger

The Town of Berlin has received no comments to date as a result of its outreach activities.

8.2.10 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section describes the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Legal and regulatory capability;
- Administrative and technical capability;
- Fiscal capability;
- Community resiliency;
- Community political capability; and
- Community classification.

8.2.10.1 Legal and Regulatory Capability

The table below summarizes the regulatory tools that are available to the Town of Berlin. The Town reviewed its responses from the 2011 HMP and has updated its prior feedback to reflect present-day conditions.

Legal and Regulatory Capability			
Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	Do you have this? (Y or N)	Enforcement Authority	Code Citation (Section, Paragraph, Page Number, Date of Adoption)
a. Building code	Y	Code Enforcement	NYS Code
b. Zoning ordinance	Y	Code Enforcement	NYS Code
c. Subdivision ordinance or regulations	Y	Code Enforcement	NYS Code
d. Special purpose ordinances (floodplain management, stormwater management, hillside or steep slope ordinances, wildfire ordinances, hazard setback requirements)	N		
e. Growth management ordinances (also called "smart growth" or anti-sprawl programs)	N		
f. Site plan review requirements	Y	Planning Board	1988 Land use Regs
g. General, comprehensive or master plan	N (in process)		

Legal and Regulatory Capability			
Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	Do you have this? (Y or N)	Enforcement Authority	Code Citation (Section, Paragraph, Page Number, Date of Adoption)
h. A capital improvements plan	N		
i. An economic development plan	N		
j. An emergency response plan	Y	Town Board	
k. A post-disaster recovery plan	N		
l. A post-disaster recovery ordinance	N		
m. Real estate disclosure requirements	N		
n. Other			

8.2.10.2 Administrative and Technical Capability

The table below summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to the Town of Berlin. The Town reviewed its responses from the 2011 HMP and has updated its prior feedback to reflect present-day conditions.

Administrative and Technical Capability		
Staff / Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	Department / Agency / Position
a. Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	N	
b. Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	N	
c. Planners or Engineer(s) with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards	N	
d. Floodplain manager	Y*	Code Enforcement
e. Surveyors	N	
f. Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards	N	
g. Personnel skilled in GIS and/or HAZUS	N	
h. Scientists familiar with the hazards of the community	N	
i. Emergency manager	N	
j. Grant writers	N	
k. Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	N	
*All communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program; as such, they are required by the regulations to have an appointed floodplain manager.		

8.2.10.3 Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to the Town of Berlin. The Town reviewed its responses from the 2011 HMP and has updated its prior feedback to reflect present-day conditions.

Fiscal Capability	
Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to use (Yes/No/Don't know)
a. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	No
b. Capital improvements project funding	Yes
c. Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Don't Know
d. Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes
e. Impact fees for homebuyers or developers for new developments/homes	No
f. Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes
g. Incur debt through special tax and revenue bonds	Don't Know
h. Incur debt through private activity bonds	Don't Know
i. Withhold spending in hazard-prone areas	No
j. State mitigation grant programs	No
k. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Yes
j. Other	

8.2.10.4 Overall Capabilities

The Town of Berlin's 2019 assessment of its overall capabilities to implement hazard mitigation strategies in each of the above categories, in addition to their local assessment of how these capabilities could be expanded and/or improved to reduce risk, is presented in the table below.

Overall Capabilities				
Overall legal and regulatory capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Overall technical capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Overall fiscal capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Overall administrative capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Community's willingness to enact policies and programs that reduce hazard vulnerabilities
Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	High
How these capabilities can be expanded and/or improved to reduce risk:				
Need funding to provide these services				

8.2.10.5 Community Classifications

The table below summarizes classifications for community program available to the Town of Berlin.

Community Classifications		
Program	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS) *	NP	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	NP	-
Public Protection	NP	-
Storm Ready	NP	-
FireWise	NP	-

Notes:

- = Unavailable

N/A = Not applicable

NP = Not participating.

* CRS Ranking as of April 2019

The classifications listed above relate to the Town of Berlin's ability to provide effective services to lessen its vulnerability to the natural hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community's capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS Class applies to flood insurance, while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10 with Class 1 being the best possible classification, and Class 10 representing no classification benefit. FireWise classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1,000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within five road miles of a recognized fire station.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO's Public Protection website at <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html>
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready website at <http://www.weather.gov/stormready/howto.htm>
- The National FireWise Communities website at <http://firewise.org/>

8.2.11 PLAN FOR DISPLACED RESIDENTS

New York State requires that intermediate and long-term housing options must be available for relocating displaced residents to maintain post-disaster social and economic stability. Intermediate and long-term housing options for displaced residents were evaluated as part of the 2019 HMP Update. Additional information can be found in Appendix C.

8.2.12 PLAN FOR EVACUATION NEEDS AND SHELTERING

The Town of Berlin has an emergency response plan⁹. It does not have a post-disaster recovery plan or a post-disaster recovery ordinance¹⁰. Rensselaer County has an existing Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) documenting the County's plan for evacuation and sheltering measures during hazard events. The Plan is posted online at: <http://www.rensco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Rensselaer-County-CEMP.pdf>. As part of this hazard mitigation plan update, the Rensselaer County reviewed their existing CEMP and determined that updates were necessary at this time. Updates to the CEMP are being completed at this time. Once finalized and approved, the County will post the updated CEMP at the same address and will follow procedures in its updated CEMP in all future disasters. The County BPS indicated that there are no designated evacuation routes.

Appendix B contains updated shelter data provided by the Red Cross in 2018. Shelter locations are not made public until facilities are actually opened for an event and therefore, pages of Appendix B that include shelter information are nonpublic. Since every possible shelter is not opened during every event, the data is not made public in order to ensure that individuals in need of shelter do not seek it at facilities which may remain closed during a particular event. The Town of Berlin has access to shelter data and will coordinate with the Red Cross as part of their standard operating procedures if and when a need is identified for local shelters to be opened in the community.

8.2.13 FUTURE NEEDS - RISK/VULNERABILITY

The Town of Berlin has identified no future needs to better understand risk/vulnerability in the community.

8.2.14 PLAN INTEGRATION

For a community to succeed in reducing risk in the long term, the information and recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan must be integrated into day-to-day local government operations. Throughout the planning process, partnerships are formed between departments and agencies, and sustained actions between these partners will increase the community's resilience to disasters. "Plan integration" can be thought of as the process whereby a local government incorporates the mitigation plan findings and projects into other planning mechanisms (governance structures that are used to manage local land use development and community decision making).

It is the intention of the Town of Berlin to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily municipal operations. The balance of this subsection describes local accomplishments over the last planning cycle (2011-2019), and targeted activities for the next planning cycle (2019-2024).

⁹ Source: Local Capability Assessment

¹⁰ Source: Local Capability Assessment

Demonstration of Progress over the Last Planning Cycle (2011-2019) – The Town of Berlin undertook the following plan integration mechanisms over the last planning cycle:

- Issued a letter to each community department head to solicit their support and explore opportunities for integrating hazard mitigation planning objectives into their daily activities.
- Worked with the planning department to educate them on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and encourage that on the next update of your master plan, general or comprehensive plan, hazard mitigation for natural hazards is addressed.
- Coordinated with the building department (via meeting with the code enforcement officer) to ensure that they have adopted and are enforcing the minimum standards established in the current State-adopted IBC.
- Worked with the local zoning board to educate them on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and encourage consideration of low occupancy, low-density zoning in hazard areas, when practicable.]
- Modified the local comprehensive plan to add a hazard element. (Plan currently under review, hazard element will be added)

Targeted Plan Integration Activities for the Next Planning Cycle (2019-2024) – The Town of Berlin plans to implement the following plan integration mechanisms into local government operations from this point forward through the next planning cycle:

- Incorporate hazard mitigation for natural hazards in the next update of the master, general or comprehensive plan.
- Add a specific hazard mitigation element to the next update of the master, general or comprehensive plan.
- Adopt and enforce the minimum building standards established in the current State-adopted IBC (NY edition).
- Maintain community participation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.
- Enforce codes and standards beyond FEMA minimum requirements.
- Join the NFIP's Community Rating System.
- Steer growth and development away from high risk locations by using the risk assessment from the hazard mitigation plan as a tool to monitor future updates of community land use plans, zoning and subdivision codes and the development review process.
- Modify work plans, policies or procedures to include hazard mitigation concepts/activities.
- Revise capital or operating budgets to include a line item for mitigation project funding.
- Require the Department of Public Works to inspect and clean debris from streams and ditches more frequently.
- Reach out to state agencies for assistance with natural hazard mitigation activities.
- Reduce the vulnerability of future development in high hazard areas by reviewing development regulations, and modifying where needed.
- Implement hazard mitigation activities through existing plans and policies.

- Sponsor training on best practices for hazard mitigation for local government staff. (Note: this may be accomplished with other local governments.)

8.2.15 MITIGATION STRATEGY

This subsection sets forth the mitigation strategy for the Town of Berlin. It describes:

- Progress on 2011 HMP Initiatives
- Past Mitigation Accomplishments
- Proposed 2019 HMP Mitigation Initiatives
- Action Worksheets

8.2.15.1 Progress on 2011 HMP Initiatives

The following table was completed by the Town of Berlin HMP Committee Members. It summarizes the progress that was made on the local hazard mitigation initiatives that were set forth in the community's mitigation strategy from the initial HMP in 2011.

The Town has identified no major changes in local priorities regarding natural hazards since the last version of the HMP.

PROGRESS ON 2011 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN INITIATIVES												
2011 HMP Initiative Number	Mitigation Initiative Description	2011 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BE-1	Prevent flooding in the valley by working to ensure that debris jams in the channel are removed on an ongoing basis.	1	Flooding	Town Board			x		Limited staff resources and permitting issues	x		carried forward with no changes
BE-CL-1	Public awareness program on Hazards, Prevention, and Mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web presence (local municipal web sites to link up to this site, if they haven't already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters, advertisements, or radio/tv announcements, etc. at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources). (public education)	High	All hazards	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor			x		Ongoing discussions at boards meetings	x		County is carrying forward this County-led activity with no changes; our municipality will carry it forward as well.
BE-CL-2	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify/amend the codes/ordinances as applicable. (prevention)	Medium	All hazards	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor			x		Planning Board and ZBA working on the rewrite of our 1988 regulations	x		County is carrying forward this County-led activity with no changes; our municipality will carry it forward as well.
BE-CL-3	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training. (prevention)	Medium	All hazards	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor			x		Locally administered on an ongoing basis; our community did not have a need to go to the county for support/training.	x		County is carrying forward this County-led activity with no changes; our municipality will carry it forward as well.
BE-CL-4	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention)	High	All hazards	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor			x		Our comprehensive plan revision to start this year	x		County is carrying forward this County-led activity with no changes; our municipality will carry it forward as well.

PROGRESS ON 2011 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN INITIATIVES												
2011 HMP Initiative Number	Mitigation Initiative Description	2011 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BE-CL-5	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues that arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation. (prevention)	Low	All hazards	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor			x		County- led activity. Municipality attends meetings/workshops as offered by the County whenever municipal staff members have schedule availability.	x		County is carrying forward this County-led activity with no changes; our municipality will carry it forward as well.
BE-NFIP-1	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations	Medium	Flooding	Planning Board			x		Ordinance is dated 1979. Not updated because ongoing revision of regulations	x		Ongoing type of activity; will be carried forward with no changes.
BE-NFIP-4	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs	Medium	Flooding	Planning Board			x		N/A - FEMA has not updated the Town of Berlin FIRMs since the initial hazard mitigation plan was adopted in 2011.	x		Ongoing type of activity; will be carried forward with no changes.

8.2.15.2 Past Mitigation Accomplishments

NYS DHSES requires the documentation of local mitigation efforts and accomplishments since the previous hazard mitigation plan was prepared, regardless of funding source and regardless of whether the project was included in the prior plan. They note that the goal of this requirement is to provide a context for each jurisdiction's projects, act as a source of ideas for mitigation projects, and evaluate the accuracy of assumptions and engineering solutions to inform future projects, and to support future mitigation planning and its coordination with other planning, zoning, and environmental procedures within the jurisdiction.

The following table summarizes past mitigation accomplishments for the Town of Berlin, from the time the 2011 HMP was approved through its first update in 2019.

Past Mitigation Accomplishments					
Project Number	Project Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Brief Summary of the Original Problem and the Solution (Project)	Evaluation of Success	
1	Post-Irene Activities	Flooding	* Bridge lost in center of town; cut off access to two houses for about three months. *Plank Road - 150 feet of the road washed out by the creek. * Route 22 had 18 inches of water and was shut down and so there was only one way into and out of Berlin at that time. *Watson Road - culverts washed out. Mitigation and upgrades as needed to provide 100 year flood protection at all damaged locations.	Cost	Estimated to be approximately \$150,000
				Level of Protection	100 year
				Damages Avoided; Evidence of Success	No flooding since; however, there has been no catastrophic event since the project was completed.

8.2.15.3 Proposed 2019 HMP Mitigation Initiatives

The process for selection and prioritization of mitigation actions is described in greater detail in Section 5 of the main text. The outcomes of that overall process are summarized here.

This plan proposes the actions determined to be the most appropriate for the resources and capabilities of the community based on the experience of local officials, with input from the public and other stakeholders. The relatively large number of flood mitigation actions reflects the fact that flooding is the hazard of greatest concern. Actions determined to be appropriate for the plan were reviewed during public and committee meetings and there was consensus that those intended to mitigate the effects of flooding should be the highest priorities for most communities. As with the 2011 Plan, this 2019 Plan Update includes a series of County-led initiatives with municipal participation to address a wider range of hazards. In addition, each local mitigation strategy proposes actions reflecting the commitment of the County and local jurisdictions to compliance with requirements of the NFIP. Potential actions were reviewed relative to potential financial as well as administrative and legal costs and the degree to which they would be endorsed by the public. Potential actions were reviewed during the meetings relative to their potential benefit of effectiveness in saving lives, protecting the natural environment, and reducing disruption and damage. Actions selected by each jurisdiction include activities to protect existing and future structures and infrastructure and enhance community resilience.

Part of enhancing community resilience involves adapting to a changing climate. In accordance with NYS Mitigation Planning Standard 9, plans developed with NYS DHSES-administered funds must include information on climate change as part of the hazard vulnerability analysis and contain strategies/projects to address increased vulnerability that may result from climate change. This requirement was established to encourage jurisdictions to plan for and accommodate climate change and sea level rise. By developing mitigating strategies and/or projects for hazards that are exacerbated by climate change, jurisdictions will better protect residents, avoid, or reduce damage to property and public infrastructure, and reduce personal hardship. In accordance with this State Standard, previous sections of this plan have presented information on how climate change may affect jurisdictional vulnerability or increased frequency of occurrence and/or severity in exposure to flooding, wildfire, drought, and extreme temperatures. Climate change is addressed by mitigating the various hazards that it exacerbates. Rensselaer County and its communities have proposed a range of hazard mitigation initiatives to address their highest hazards including those hazards that are exacerbated by a changing climate.

Proposed 2019 HMP Mitigation Initiatives for the Town of Berlin are shown in the following table. These include both new initiatives and initiatives that were carried forward from the 2011 HMP.

PROPOSED 2019 HMP MITIGATION INITIATIVES														
Initiative Number	Initiative Name	HMP Goal(s)/ Objective(s) Being Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	CF ¹¹ ?	EHP ¹² Issues?	Estimated Timeline	Project Lead (include relevant Department and Position Title)	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources ¹³	Priority ¹⁴	Action Worksheet Provided? ¹⁵
* NOTE: Projects related to Critical Facilities (CF) must protect the facility to the 500-year event or worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.														
1	Comprehensive Plan Update *NEW*	3,4	All	Existing plan doesn't tie in hazard mitigation plan	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update	No	No	2020	Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	High- planning for the future taking into account natural hazards	Local budget staff time	High	Yes
2	Land Use Ordinance Update *NEW*	3,4	All	Existing ordinance doesn't tie in hazard mitigation plan	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update	No	No	2020	Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	High- planning for the future taking into account natural hazards	Local budget staff time	High	Yes
3	Debris Removal (2011 BE-1)	3	Flooding	Debris jams in the channel impede flood flows	Prevent flooding in the valley by working to ensure that debris jams in the channel are removed on an ongoing basis.	No	Possible	As needed and as permits can be obtained	Town Board	\$0 (staff time only)	High- reduced flood damages	Local budget staff time	High	No
4	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach (2011 BE-CL-1)	1	All hazards	Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and hazard mitigation measures they can take on their own properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety before, during and after a hazard event.	Public awareness program on Hazards, Prevention, and Mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web presence (local municipal web sites to link up to this site, if they haven't already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters, advertisements, or radio/tv announcements, etc. at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources). (public education)	No	No	5 years	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	Increase public awareness	Local budget staff time	High	No

¹¹ CF – Critical Facility. Please respond “Y” (yes) if the project’s purpose is to protect a critical facility, or “N” (no) if not.

¹² EHP – Environmental or Historic Preservation. Please respond “Y” (yes) if the project is expected to have environmental and/or historic preservation issues, or “N” (no) if not.

¹³ Potential Funding Sources – A list of Federal and State sources of funding for hazard mitigation projects can be found in the latest NYS Hazard Mitigation Plan online at <https://mitigateny.availabs.org/capabilities/administerfunding>. Jurisdictions should identify additional funding opportunities you may be aware of that are not on the state list.

¹⁴ Priority – See “Prioritization Methodology” on the next page.

¹⁵ Action Worksheet Provided. Please respond “Y” (yes) if you have filled out a detailed Action Worksheet, or “N” (no) if not. NYS DHSES State Standard 7 recommends that further consideration be given to all proposed actions by completing a NYS DHSES Action Worksheet, the State requires completion of a minimum of two NYS DHSES Action Worksheets for the jurisdiction’s highest priority projects. For jurisdictions containing a Special Flood Hazard Area, at least one of these Action Worksheets must be for a project that addresses flooding. Action Worksheets have been prepared for a minimum of two proposed mitigation initiatives. Action Worksheets are included at the end of this section, following the prioritization methodology.

PROPOSED 2019 HMP MITIGATION INITIATIVES														
Initiative Number	Initiative Name	HMP Goal(s)/ Objective(s) Being Met	Hazard(s) to be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	CF ¹¹ ?	EHP ¹² Issues?	Estimated Timeline	Project Lead (include relevant Department and Position Title)	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources ¹³	Priority ¹⁴	Action Worksheet Provided? ¹⁵
* NOTE: Projects related to Critical Facilities (CF) must protect the facility to the 500-year event or worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.														
5	Request code/ordinance review by County as needed (2011 BE-CL-2)	4	All hazards	Communities are safer and more resilient when new construction and substantial improvements take into account the latest information on hazard vulnerabilities and measures to reduce risk.	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify/amend the codes/ordinances as applicable. (prevention)	No	No	5 years	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	Safer community	Local budget staff time	Medium	No
6	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 BE-CL-3)	2	All hazards	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to better regulate activities in hazard areas to protect lives and property.	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training. (prevention)	No	No	5 years	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	Continued education will benefit the town residents	Local budget staff time	Medium	No
7	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 BE-CL-4)	2,3,4	All hazards	A long term vision for the community that doesn't take into account hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Taking into account natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention)	No	No	5 years	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	Keep town looking to the future	Local budget staff time	High	No
8	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 BE-CL-5)	2,4	All hazards	When municipal staff aren't armed with information on zoning and planning issues that sometimes arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation, they may make decisions that don't foster community resiliency.	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues that arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation. (prevention)	No	No	ongoing	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	\$0 (staff time only)	Keep zoning and planning boards abreast of changes	Local budget staff time	Low	No
9	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 BE-NFIP-1)	3,4	Flooding	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations	No	No	ongoing	Planning Board	\$0 (staff time only)	Compliance may lead to additional funding to resolve issues	Local budget staff time	Medium	No
10	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance when New FIRMs are Issued (2011 BE-NFIP-4)	3,4	Flooding	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs	No	No	ongoing	Planning Board	\$0 (staff time only)	Protection for the town and residents	Local budget staff time	Medium	No

Prioritization Methodology for Proposed 2019 HMP Mitigation Initiatives

To prioritize its mitigation initiatives, the community established a methodology to take into account several key factors. Priorities were determined by a qualitative prioritization process established by the community. A higher priority was assigned to projects where: the life/safety risk of taking no action was deemed to be unacceptably high; the project addresses one of the community's highest hazards and/or key risks; benefits were projected to equal or exceed project costs; critical facilities or key local assets were being protected; funding and staff resources were deemed to be sufficient and/or accessible for project implementation; negative impacts were not anticipated on environmental and/or historic resources or any segment of the population; and/or where there was overall support for the project from the local community (government officials, public, and stakeholders).

PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY FOR PROPOSED 2019 HMP MITIGATION INITIATIVES														Priority
Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Hazard(s) Addressed	Is the life/safety risk of taking no action deemed to be unacceptably high?	Does the project address one of the community's highest hazards and/or key risks?	Benefits	Costs	Are the project's benefits estimated to equal or exceed its costs?	Are critical facilities or key local assets being protected by the project?	Are funding resources sufficient and/or accessible for project implementation?	Are staff resources sufficient or available for project implementation?	Are negative impacts anticipated on environmental resources?	Are negative impacts anticipated on historic resources?	Are negative impacts anticipated on any segment of the population?	
1	Comprehensive Plan Update *NEW*	All	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	High
2	Land Use Ordinance Update *NEW*	All	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	High
3	Debris Removal (2011 BE-1)	Flooding	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Possible	No	No	High
4	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach (2011 BE-CL-1)	All hazards	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	High
5	Request code/ordinance review by County as needed (2011 BE-CL-2)	All hazards	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Medium
6	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 BE-CL-3)	All hazards	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Medium
7	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 BE-CL-4)	All hazards	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	High
8	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 BE-CL-5)	All hazards	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Low
9	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 BE-NFIP-1)	Flooding	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Medium
10	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance when New FIRMs are Issued (2011 BE-NFIP-4)	Flooding	No	Yes	High	Low	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Medium

Action Worksheets

NYS DHSES State Standard 7 recommends that further consideration be given to all proposed actions by completing a NYS DHSES Action Worksheet, the State requires completion of a minimum of two NYS DHSES Action Worksheets for the jurisdiction's highest priority projects. Furthermore, for jurisdictions containing a Special Flood Hazard Area, at least one of these Action Worksheets must be for a project that addresses flooding.

Action Worksheets prepared by the Town of Berlin are included on the following pages.

NYS DHSES Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Comprehensive Plan Update		
Project Number:	1		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard of Concern:	All		
Description of the Problem:	Existing plan doesn't tie in hazard mitigation plan		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
* Projects related to critical facilities must intend to protect to the 500-year flood event or the actual worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.			
Level of Protection:	n/a	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	High- planning for the future taking into account natural hazards
Useful Life:	n/a		
Estimated Cost:	Staff time only		
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	2019
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	1 year	Potential Funding Sources:	Local budget
Responsible Party: (Department/ Organization)	Supervisor	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation, if any:	Comprehensive plan
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action – leave comprehensive plan as is	\$0 staff time only	Not viable- Leaving the plan as is means that plan is outdated and does not provide for resiliency or a vision that incorporates natural hazards or hazard mitigation
	Update the comprehensive plan, but don't integrate the hazard mitigation plan	\$0 staff time only	Not viable- updating the plan without incorporating the mitigation plan makes the mitigation planning effort in vain and doesn't provide for resiliency
	Update the comprehensive plan, and integrate the hazard mitigation plan	\$0 staff time only	Best solution- the two go hand in hand. This will ensure that the town reduces future risks from natural hazards by sound decisions made at the planning stage
Progress Report (this section to be completed at next plan update-do not fill in now)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			

NYS DHSES Action Worksheet			
Project Name:	Land Use Ordinance Update		
Project Number:	2		
Risk / Vulnerability			
Hazard of Concern:	All		
Description of the Problem:	Existing ordinance doesn't tie in hazard mitigation plan		
Action or Project Intended for Implementation			
Description of the Solution:	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the land use ordinance update		
Is this project related to a Critical Facility?	Yes * <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
* Projects related to critical facilities must intend to protect to the 500-year flood event or the actual worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.			
Level of Protection:	n/a	Estimated Benefits (losses avoided):	High- planning for the future taking into account natural hazards
Useful Life:	n/a		
Estimated Cost:	Staff time only		
Plan for Implementation			
Prioritization:	High	Desired Timeframe for Implementation:	2019
Estimated Time Required for Project Implementation:	1 year	Potential Funding Sources:	Local budget
Responsible Party: (Department/ Organization)	Supervisor	Local Planning Mechanisms to be Used in Implementation, if any:	Land use ordinance
Three Alternatives Considered (including No Action)			
Alternatives:	Action	Estimated Cost	Evaluation
	No Action- leave ordinance as is	\$0 staff time only	Not viable- Leaving the ordinance as is means ordinance is outdated and does not provide for resiliency or a vision that incorporates natural hazards or hazard mitigation
	Update the ordinance, but don't integrate the hazard mitigation plan	\$0 staff time only	Not viable- updating the plan without incorporating the mitigation plan makes the mitigation planning effort in vain and doesn't provide for resiliency
	Update the ordinance, but don't integrate the hazard mitigation plan	\$0 staff time only	Best solution- the two go hand in hand. This will ensure that the town reduces future risks from natural hazards by sound decisions made at the planning stage
Progress Report (this section to be completed at next plan update-do not fill in now)			
Date of Status Report:			
Report of Progress:			
Update Evaluation of the Problem and/or Solution:			