

**CITY OF GAUTIER  
MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Samantha Abell, City Manager  
**From:** Patty Huffman, Grants & Projects Manager  
**Through:** Eric Meyer, Economic Development and Planning Director  
**Date:** January 28, 2013  
**Subject:** Resolution Adopting the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

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**REQUEST:**

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests that City Council adopt the attached resolution for the 2012 Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

**BACKGROUND:**

In an effort to reduce mounting natural disaster losses, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 which requires that local governments have a hazard mitigation plan in place in order to apply for federal mitigation grant funds. “The mission of the Jackson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to plan for and reduce the impact of identified hazards on the community by means of sustainable and resilient measures and activities.” The Jackson County Board of Supervisors contracted planning consultants Neel-Schaffer, Inc. and Witt Associates, LLC to assist the County and City of Gautier with an update to the 2005 plan. The City of Gautier and Jackson County participated in a planning process which included Hazard Mitigation Council meetings, focus groups, and assessments, as well as surveys and public meetings for citizen review. The completed plan meets all applicable FEMA and state requirements for hazard mitigation plans and has been prepared in coordination with FEMA Region IV and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Final approval by MEMA and FEMA will be given upon receipt of the approved Adoption Resolution. See the attached Resolution and Table of Contents/Introduction for more information. Additional chapters cover community profiles, the planning process, assessments, mitigation strategies, capability assessments, and plan maintenance. (A binder containing the complete plan is located at City Hall.)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City staff recommends that City Council adopt the 2012 Jackson County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

City Council may:

1. Adopt the resolution as presented; or
2. Adopt the resolution with changes; or
3. Disapprove adoption of the resolution.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption Resolution  
Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Table of Contents and Introduction

# 2012 Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

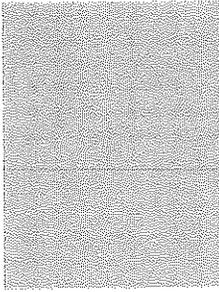
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DEVELOPED BY THE  
JACKSON COUNTY  
HAZARD MITIGATION COUNCIL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

NEEL-SCHAFFER, INC AND  
WITT GROUP HOLDINGS, LLC



# Table of Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
1.1	Hazard Mitigation Planning .....	1
1.2	The Disaster Mitigation Act and Flood Insurance Reform Act .....	2
1.3	Purpose and Mission Statement .....	2
1.4	Authority and Adoption .....	3
	1.4.1 Authority	
	1.4.2 Plan Adoption	
1.5	Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Participation .....	3
1.6	Summary of Contents .....	4
<b>2</b>	<b>Community Profile</b>	
2.1	General Description of the Planning Area .....	5
2.2	Climate .....	6
2.3	Population and Demographics .....	6
2.4	Land Use .....	7
	2.4.1 Undeveloped and Conservation Land	
	2.4.2 Developed Land	
2.5	Housing .....	9
2.6	Infrastructure .....	9
	2.6.1 Transportation	
<b>3</b>	<b>The Planning Process</b>	
3.1	Documentation of the Planning Process .....	13
3.2	Planning Team Review and Analysis of the 2005 Plan .....	16
3.3	Hazard Mitigation Council Meetings .....	16
	3.3.1 Planning Sessions	
3.4	Mitigation Subcommittee Workshop .....	22
3.5	Public Participation Meetings/Surveys .....	23
	3.5.1 Draft Plan Review Prior to Approval	

# Table of Contents

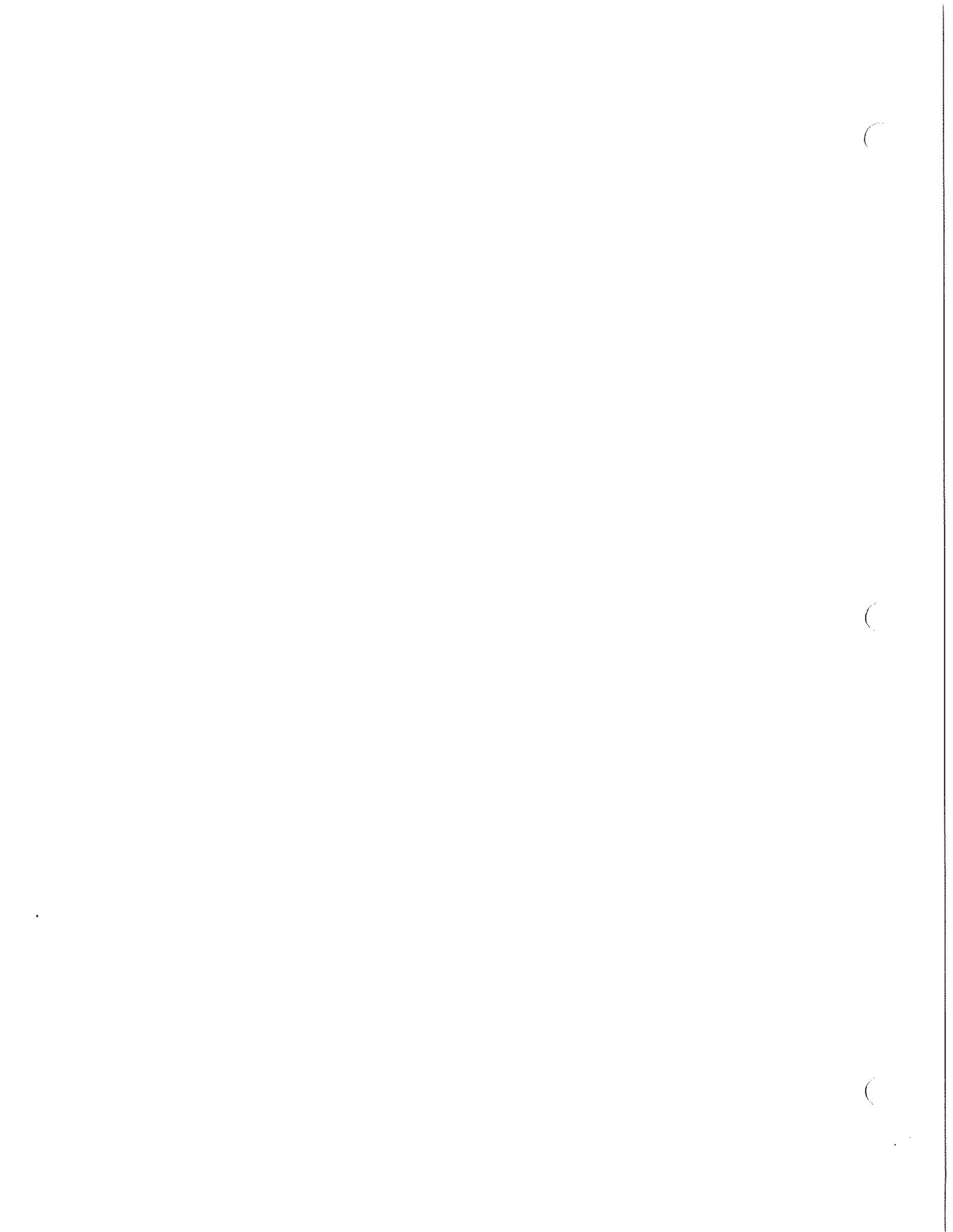
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<b>4</b>	<b>Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment</b>	
4.1	Overview of the Risk Assessment Process . . . . .	25
4.2	Risk Assessment . . . . .	25
4.3	Identifying and Profiling Hazards . . . . .	27
4.3.1	Coastal Erosion	
4.3.2	Drought	
4.3.3	Flood	
4.3.4	Hurricane/Coastal Storm	
4.3.5	Sea Level Rise	
4.3.6	Storm Surge	
4.3.7	Thunderstorm/High Wind/Lightning	
4.3.8	Tornado	
4.3.9	Wildfire	
4.4	Vulnerability Assessment . . . . .	82
4.4.1	Overview of Vulnerability Assessment	
4.4.2	Identifying Structures	
4.5	Estimating Potential Losses . . . . .	87
4.5.1	Hurricane/Coastal Storm	
4.5.2	Storm Surge	
4.5.3	Flood	
4.5.4	Tornado	
4.6	Analyzing Development Trends . . . . .	102
4.6.1	Population Growth	
4.6.2	Housing	
4.6.3	Land Available for Development	
<b>5</b>	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>	
5.1	Mitigation Goals and Objectives . . . . .	107
5.2	Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Actions . . . . .	109
5.3	Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Actions – NFIP Compliance . . . . .	110
5.4	Implementation of Mitigation Actions . . . . .	113
5.5	Mitigation Actions . . . . .	114
5.6	Grant Sources . . . . .	134

# Table of Contents

---

<b>6</b>	<b>Capacity Assessment</b>	
6.1	Planning and Regulatory Capability .....	139
6.1.1	Summary of Existing Plans, Ordinances and Programs	
6.1.2	Emergency Management	
6.1.3	General Plans	
6.1.4	Local Codes and Regulations	
6.1.5	Other Plans and Programs	
6.2	Administrative and Technical Capabilities .....	146
<b>7</b>	<b>Plan Maintenance</b>	
7.1	Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan .....	147
7.1.1	Documenting Future Losses	
7.1.2	Hazard Mitigation Council Chairman and Co-Chairman	
7.2	Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms .....	149
7.3	Continued Public Involvement .....	150
<b>8</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
8.1-A	Plan Adoption	
8.3-A to H	Planning Process	
8.4-A	Asset Inventories	
8.5-A to D	2005 Goals and Actions, Generator Inventory, RFC/Acquisitions, and Mitigation Action Rankings and Profiles	
8.6-A-B	Jackson County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and Gautier Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	
8.7-A to E	Evaluation, Damage Assessment Forms, Amendments, 2012 Mitigation Actions Annual Status Tables, and Public Involvement Activities Table	



## 1 Introduction and Background to Hazard Mitigation Planning

### 1.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation can be defined as the use of short- and long-term strategies that will permanently reduce or alleviate the loss of injuries, life, and property resulting from hazards. A comprehensive mitigation approach addresses hazard vulnerabilities that exist today and in the foreseeable future. Implementation strategies include structural changes such as strengthening or protecting buildings and infrastructure from the destructive forces of potential hazards as well as non-structural strategy such as land-use policies and the creation of public awareness programs. It is widely accepted that the most effective mitigation measures are implemented at the local level, where decisions on the regulation and control of development are ultimately made. Therefore, it is essential that projected patterns of future development are evaluated and considered in terms of how that growth will increase or decrease a community's overall hazard vulnerability.

A key component in the formulation of a comprehensive approach to hazard mitigation is to develop, adopt, and update as needed a local hazard mitigation plan. A hazard mitigation plan establishes the broad community vision and guiding principles for reducing hazard risks and further proposes specific mitigation actions to eliminate or reduce identified vulnerabilities.

**FEMA Definition of Hazard Mitigation: "Any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards."**

Mitigation planning and activities provides jurisdictions with a number of benefits such as:

- Reduced loss of life, property, essential services, critical facilities and economic hardship
- Reduced short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction costs
- Increased cooperation and communication within the community through the planning process
- Increased potential for state and federal funding for recovery and reconstruction projects

Figure 1.1 Understanding Risk

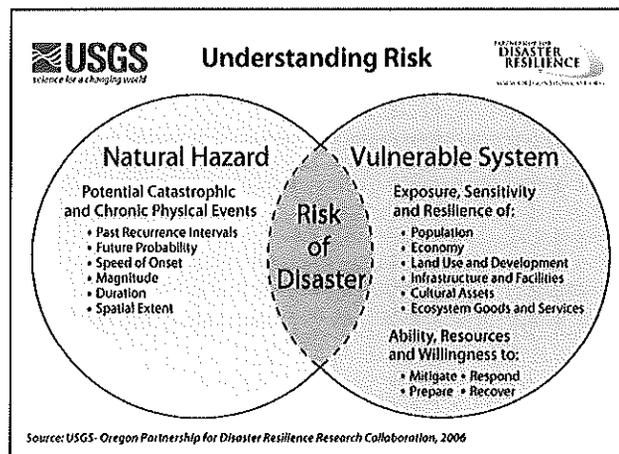


Figure 1.1 illustrates the concepts of risk reduction.

# Chapter One--Introduction

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## 1.2 The Disaster Mitigation Act and the Flood Insurance Reform Act

In an effort to reduce mounting natural disaster losses, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Section 322 of DMA 2000 emphasizes the need for state and local government entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning activities and makes the development of a hazard mitigation plan a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant funds. These funds include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, both of which are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security.

The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-264) created two grant programs, Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Flood Claim (RFC), and modified the existing Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. This act requires completion of a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order for communities to be eligible for these FEMA mitigation programs. Communities with an adopted and federally-approved hazard mitigation plan thereby become pre-positioned and more apt to receive available mitigation funds before and after the next disaster strikes.

The Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan meets all applicable FEMA and state requirements for hazard mitigation plans and has been prepared in coordination with FEMA Region IV and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

## 1.3 Purpose and Mission Statement

The purpose of the plan is to document specific natural hazards that are most probable to occur within the study area, evaluate the anticipated risks and potential damage, and identify feasible and cost-effective pre-disaster actions that will reduce risks. In accordance with the purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, the following mission statement was adopted to guide the planning process:

***"The mission of the Jackson County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to plan for and reduce the impact of identified hazards on the community by means of sustainable and resilient measures and activities."***

# Chapter One--Introduction

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## 1.4 Authority and Adoption

*Requirement §201.6(c)(5): [The local hazard mitigation plan shall include] documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan must document that it has been formally adopted.*

### 1.4.1 Authority

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the City of Gautier City Council initiated development of this Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan ("the Plan"). The County applied for and received a grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to prepare an update to the November 2005 Hazard Mitigation Plan. The HMGP is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). A copy of the grant approval letter is provided in Appendix 8.1-A.

### 1.4.2 Plan Adoption

A public meeting was held on August 15, 2012 for citizens to formally review and accept this Plan prior to sending to MEMA and FEMA for state and federal approval. As a multi-jurisdictional effort, the Jackson County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan meets the requirements of Section 201.6(c)(5) and was approved by FEMA on January 14, 2013. Each jurisdiction then proceeded to adopt this Plan as demonstrated by the executed Resolutions provided in Appendix 8.1-B along with the approval letter and copy of completed crosswalk.

## 1.5 Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Participation

*Requirement §201.6(a)(3): Multi-jurisdictional plans may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process.*

The 2005 plan included the jurisdictions of Gautier, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula and Jackson County. However, the cities of Moss Point, Ocean Springs and Pascagoula elected to each participate in separate hazard mitigation plans for 2012 that were under development during the update of this plan.

Gautier and Jackson County participated as planning partners for the 2012 update. Both jurisdictions designated representatives to serve on the Hazard Mitigation Council (HMC) in an effort to provide specific planning guidance relevant to their needs. Chapter Three identifies the individuals who served on the planning committees and also stakeholders who were invited to participate in public meetings held during the planning process.

# Chapter One--Introduction

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## 1.6 Summary of Contents

The contents of this plan are designed to coordinate with the layout of the State of Mississippi's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Below is a summary of the contents presented in chapters 2 through 7.

Chapter 2: **Community Profiles** of the participating jurisdictions include demographic, geographic, and economic characteristics. This information sets the stage for defining the special characteristics that are useful in understanding their unique vulnerabilities.

Chapter 3: **Planning Process** describes a complete account of the Council, subcommittee, and public meetings held during the planning process and who these individuals are.

Chapter 4: **Hazard Mitigation and Risk Assessment** contains five areas of study for each participating jurisdiction: **Risk Assessment, Hazard Identification, Vulnerability Assessment, Estimating Potential Losses, and Analyzing Development Trends**. Historical data is used to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation actions that will reduce/eliminate losses from potential hazards. HAZUS-MH software was also utilized to assist with estimating potential losses from future impacts.

Chapter 5: **Mitigation Strategy** includes the goals and objectives that were developed to provide a strong foundation for implementing hazard mitigation strategies in each of the participating jurisdictions. Individual **Actions** were identified by goal and objective and include a mitigation group and priority. An **implementation** process is also defined which includes how **priorities** were established. **Funding Sources** and Hazard Mitigation Assistance eligibility criteria are also included.

Chapter 6: **Capability Assessment** on the ability of the jurisdictions to implement strategies and **incorporate mitigation principles into other planning initiatives**.

Chapter 7: **Plan Maintenance** presents the process in which the Council and other identified departments will ensure that the Plan is integrated with all other planning documents, regulations, and ordinances and that the public is engaged in any and all updates. Procedures are also defined in evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation actions and the status of pending/in process projects.