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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Scott County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* was developed to meet the requirements of the *Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000*, also known as DMA 2000. DMA 2000 places increased emphasis on local mitigation planning. It requires local governments to develop and submit mitigation plans as a condition of receiving Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These grant programs enable communities to be proactive in their hazard mitigation by minimizing or eliminating potential risk to hazards. In addition to supporting ongoing mitigation actions, the plan assesses the vulnerability of the planning area to natural hazards referenced in the 2013 *Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan*. The plan identifies priority mitigation actions and establishes a process for implementation and maintenance of the plan.

Scott County received a grant of HMGP planning funds to initiate the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update process. Fifteen of the incorporated municipalities, four community school districts, and one community college district in Scott County agreed to participate in order to make it a county-wide multi-jurisdictional plan. The active participation of all these jurisdictions is recorded within the plan document. As each jurisdiction adopts the plan, it receives the same eligibility to apply for and receive its own FEMA project funds as described above.

Requirements for FEMA approval of the plan document include adoption of the plan by the local governing body. Chapter 2 of the plan documents the planning process used and public participation. The process included a planning committee made up of representatives of the participating jurisdictions who assisted in reviewing and refining plan draft sections. Each participating jurisdiction designated one primary contact or more to receive information and to respond to requests for data pertinent to that jurisdiction. Although other representatives may have been called on to attend meetings or respond to data requests, the primary contact structure established some continuity in the flow of information for each jurisdiction. In addition, an extended advisory committee was invited to represent a broader range of community interests and expertise. A list of those who received mailings or attended meetings during the planning process is included as an appendix to the document. For public participation, Scott County made use of its website to keep the public informed as the plan was developed and drafted. An e-mail subscription through the website was available to allow citizens the opportunity to receive additional information and news as the planning process progressed. In addition, a separate public notice was published on two separate occasions for the process as a whole, and afforded with hazards goals and priority review at respective board or council meetings, and as part of their respective adoption process.

Chapter 3 of the plan addresses hazard analysis and risk assessment. Sixteen natural and 24 human-caused hazards were identified for the planning area and profiled in the original plan adopted in 2012. This update focuses on natural hazards. A scoring methodology was agreed upon by the Planning Committee for the original plan and was used as an objective means of establishing an initial priority ranking of the hazards. That same methodology was used for the plan update but only considered natural hazards.

As a requirement of a multi-jurisdictional plan, each individual jurisdiction has its own risk assessment section in the plan. These highlight where local conditions differ from the county-wide planning area as a whole and reflect local hazard priorities.

Chapter 4 of the plan develops the mitigation strategy. First, local hazard mitigation goals and objectives were established for the county-wide planning area in the 2012 plan. These were reviewed and/or revised as part of the update process. In the 2012 plan, the Planning Committee identified mitigation actions to address a comprehensive range of categories including prevention, property protection, public education and awareness, natural resource protection, and structural projects. The goals and objectives established from that original effort were reaffirmed by each jurisdiction in the plan update. Plan participants were also asked to review their mitigation actions, provide a status update for each, and provide any new mitigation actions they wish to pursue. Using FEMA guidance, all mitigation actions considered were analyzed under STAPLEE criteria (STAPLEE is an acronym for Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental criteria). Mitigation actions were selected to address first priority hazards with an emphasis on flood mitigation. Each jurisdiction was required to develop at least one mitigation action specific to that jurisdiction's local priorities. The priority mitigation actions provide justification for future funding requests and grant applications.

Chapter 5 describes existing planning mechanisms that will assist participating jurisdictions in implementation of priority actions. This part also outlines procedures for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the local hazard mitigation plan. Based on federal requirements, once FEMA has reviewed and approved the plan document, it must be reviewed and updated every five years or in the event of a federal Presidential Disaster Declaration, whichever comes first. Chapter 5 provides for the schedule of continued plan maintenance and continued public input.