

# 2.0 Planning Process

## 2.1 – Documentation of the Planning Process

*44 CFR 201.6(c)(1): Documentation of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.*

In September of 2018, Kansas Region G and its participating jurisdictions began the process to update the Kansas Region G 2014 HMP. It was determined that Jeanne Bunting, the State of Kansas Hazard Mitigation Planner would serve as the project manager, directing this plan update, and would act as the primary point-of-contact throughout the project.

The State of Kansas contracted with Blue Umbrella Solutions to assist in updating the 2014 Kansas Region G HMP. Blue Umbrella's roles included:

- Ensure that the hazard mitigation plan meets all regulatory requirements
- Assist with the determination and ranking of hazards
- Assist with the assessment of vulnerabilities to identified hazards
- Assist with capability assessments
- Identify and determine all data needs and solicit the information from relevant sources
- Assist with the revision and development of the mitigation actions
- Development of draft and final planning documents

Kansas Region G and its participating jurisdictions undertook the following steps to update and create a robust HMP:

- Review of the 2014 Kansas Region G HMP
- Review of current related planning documents
- Delivery of organizational and planning meetings
- Solicitation of public input as to plan development
- Assessment of potential risks
- Assessment of vulnerabilities and assets
- Development of the mitigation actions
- Development of a draft multi-hazard mitigation plan
- Implementation, adoption, and maintenance of the plan

The process established for this planning effort is based on DMA 2000 planning and update requirements and the FEMA associated guidance for hazard mitigation plans. The FEMA four step recommended mitigation planning process, as detailed below, was followed:

1. Organize resources
2. Assess risks
3. Develop a mitigation plan
4. Implement plan and monitor progress





To accomplish this, the following planning process methodology was followed:

- Inform, invite, and involve other mitigation plan stakeholders throughout the state, including federal agencies, state agencies, regional groups, businesses, non-profits, and local emergency management organizations.
- Conduct a thorough review of all relevant current and historic planning efforts
- Collect data on all related state and local plans and initiatives. Additionally, all related and relevant local plans were reviewed for integration and incorporation.
- Develop the planning and project management process, including methodology, review procedures, details about plan development changes, interagency coordination, planning integration, and the organization and contribution of stakeholders.
- Develop the profile of the county and participating jurisdictions.
- Complete a risk and vulnerability assessment using a Geographic Information System (GIS) driven approach using data from various local, state and federal agency resources.
- Develop a comprehensive mitigation strategy effectively addressing their hazards and mitigation program objectives. This included identifying capabilities, reviewing pre and post disaster policies and programs, identifying objectives and goals, identifying mitigation actions and projects, and assessing mitigation actions and projects.
- Determination and implementation of a plan maintenance cycle, including a timeline for plan upgrades and improvements.
- Submission of the plan to FEMA Region VII for review and approval and the petition all participating jurisdictional governments for a letter of formal plan adoption.

## 2.2 – 2019 Plan Changes

*44 CFR 201.6(d)(3): A local jurisdiction must review and revise its plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit it for approval within 5 years in order to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding*

The Kansas Region G HMP has undergone significant revision and upgrading since its last edition. Not only has the region made significant efforts to improve the functionality and effectiveness of the plan itself but it has significantly improved its hazard mitigation program. This grants the region's improved and robust hazard mitigation program a better base to further mold and improve its mitigation strategy over the next five years.

As part of this planning effort, each section of the previous mitigation plan was reviewed and completely revised. The sections were reviewed and revised against the following elements:

- Compliance with the current regulatory environment
- Completeness of data
- Correctness of data
- Capability differentials
- Current state environment





In addition to data revisions, the format and sequencing of the previous plan was updated for ease of use and plan clarity.

During this process, and after a thorough review and discussion with all participating jurisdictions and stakeholders, it was determined that the priorities of the overall community in relation to hazard mitigation planning have not changed during the five years of the previous planning cycle.

## 2.3 – Mitigation Planning Committee

Upon project initiation a mitigation planning committee (MPC), generally consisting of participating county emergency managers, was formed. From project inception to completion, the MPC was involved in each major plan development milestone, and fully informed through on-site meetings and electronic communication. Prior to the plan's submission to FEMA, the MPC was invited to review the plan and provide input.

In general, all MPC members were asked to participate in the following ways:

- Provide local engagement with all participating jurisdictions
- Attend and participate in meetings
- Assist with the collection of data and information
- Review planning elements and drafts
- Integrate hazard mitigation planning elements with other planning mechanisms
- Facilitate jurisdictional coordination and cooperation
- Assist with the revision and development of mitigation actions

MPC members who were unable to attend meetings due to budgetary or personnel constraints were contacted via email or phone to discuss hazard mitigation planning, including the process, goals, mitigation actions, local planning concerns and plan review.

Each MPC member was thoroughly interviewed regarding their jurisdiction's and sub-jurisdiction's mitigation related activities. These interviews were invaluable in fully integrating the resources necessary to produce this plan, document mitigation activities, and document the mitigation resources available to better increase resiliency.

Additionally, the MPC was used as a conduit to solicit input from all participating jurisdictions under the county. Where appropriate, the MPC solicited the assistance of technical experts from various agencies and groups. When the MPC updated and improved the plan's mitigation strategy, personnel from strategically selected agencies were interviewed to provide input on their mitigation capabilities.

The following participants were selected for the MPC.





**Table 2.1: Kansas Region G Mitigation Planning Committee**

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Keri Korthals	Interim Director	Butler County
John Stradal	Assistant Coordinator	Cowley County
Christina Cintron	Coordinator	Harper County
Gary Denny	Coordinator	Harvey County
Randy Hill	Interim Coordinator	Kingman County
Julie McClure	Coordinator	McPherson County
Randy Frank	Director	Marion County
Todd Strain	Coordinator	Reno County
Greg Klein	Coordinator	Rice County
Cody Charvat	Interim Director	Sedgwick County
James Fair	Coordinator	Sumner County
Jeanne Bunting	Mitigation Planner	State of Kansas
Matt Eyer	Plan Author	Blue Umbrella Solutions

## 2.4 – Local and Regional Stakeholder Participation

*44 CFR Requirement 201.6(b)(2): An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process*

The Kansas Region G MPC provided the opportunity for neighboring communities, counties, and local and regional development agencies to be involved in the planning process. Where applicable, these entities were kept informed of the hazard mitigation process during state, regional and local emergency management meetings, gatherings and conferences, in person by MPC members, or were solicited for planning information.

In addition, relevant federal, regional, state, local governmental, and private and non-profit entities were also invited to provide input and utilized for information and technical expertise. The following list indicates entities that were included in the outreach effort:

- Barber County, Kansas
- Barton County, Kansas
- Chautauqua County, Kansas
- Dickinson County, Kansas
- Elk County, Kansas
- Ellsworth County, Kansas
- Greenwood County, Kansas
- Lyon County, Kansas
- Morris County, Kansas
- Pratt County, Kansas





- Saline County, Kansas
- Stafford County, Kansas
- Alfalfa County, Oklahoma
- Grant County, Oklahoma
- Kay County, Oklahoma
- Osage County, Oklahoma
- Participating County Building Departments
- Participating County Zoning Departments
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture
- United States Geological Survey
- Kansas Adjutant General's Office
- Kansas Department of Agriculture
- Kansas Department of Transportation
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army

## 2.5 – Public Participation

*44 CFR Requirement 201.6(b): An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan. In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the planning process shall include: (1) An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval*

As part of the overall planning process, the public were provided with numerous opportunities to contribute and comment on the creation and adoption of the plan. These opportunities included:

- Advertised meeting invitations on participating jurisdictional websites
- Open meeting opportunities with Kansas Region G MPC members
- Access to an online survey document to provide feedback
- Comment period upon completion of draft plan

Input from the general public provided the MPC with a clearer understanding of local concerns, increased the likelihood of citizen buy-in concerning proposed mitigation actions, and provided elected officials with a guide and tool to set regional ordinances and regulations. This public outreach effort was also an opportunity for adjacent jurisdictions and entities to be involved in the planning process.

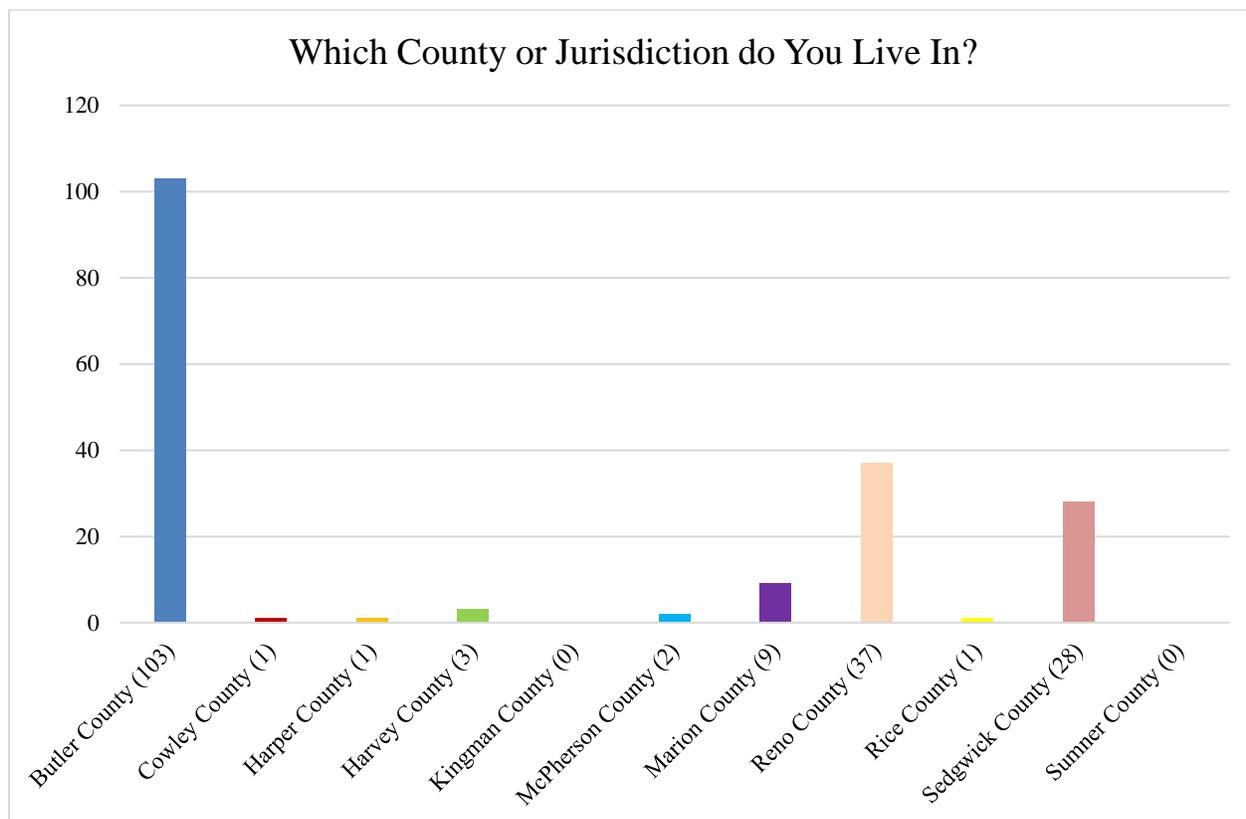
Additionally, as citizens were made more aware of potential hazards and the local process to mitigation against their impacts, it was believed that they would take a stronger role in making their homes, neighborhoods, schools, and businesses safer from the potential effects of natural hazards.

With 185 responses, the following graphics represents the feedback received from the public from the online survey document.



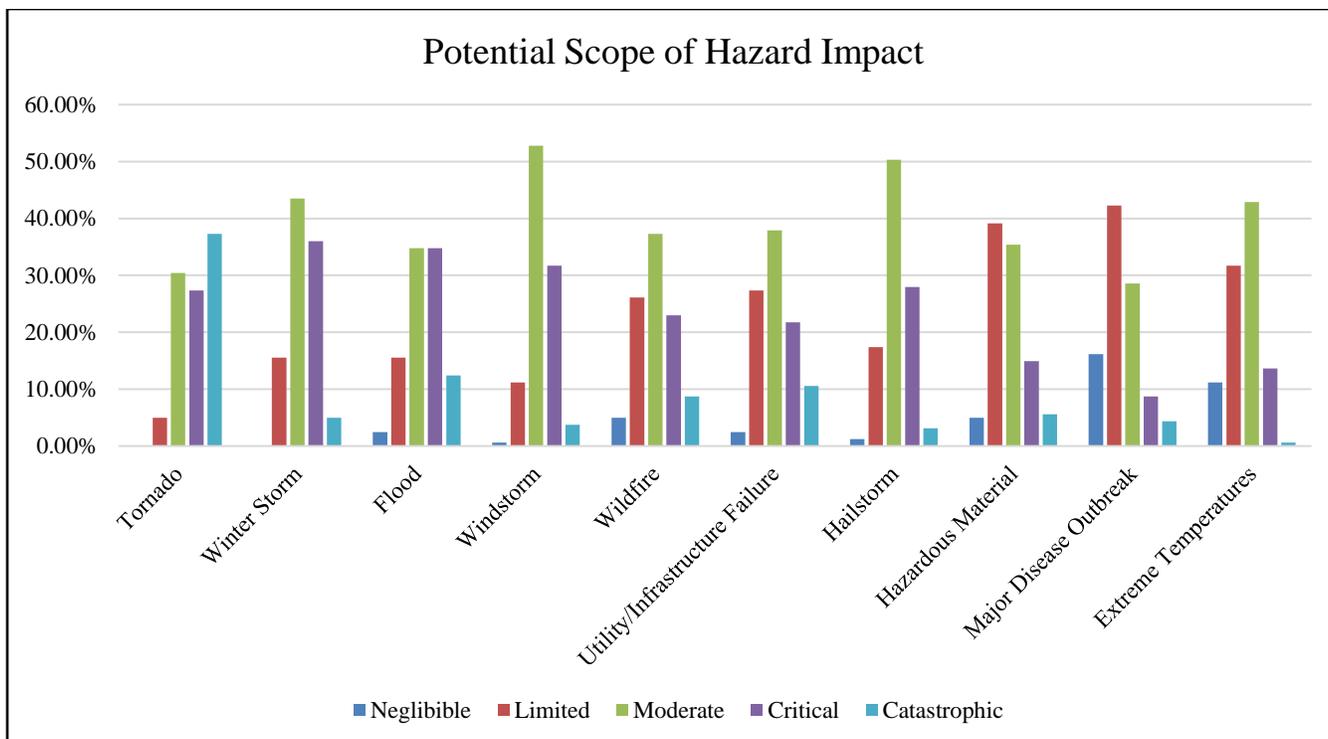


**Question 1:** In which county or jurisdiction do you live?

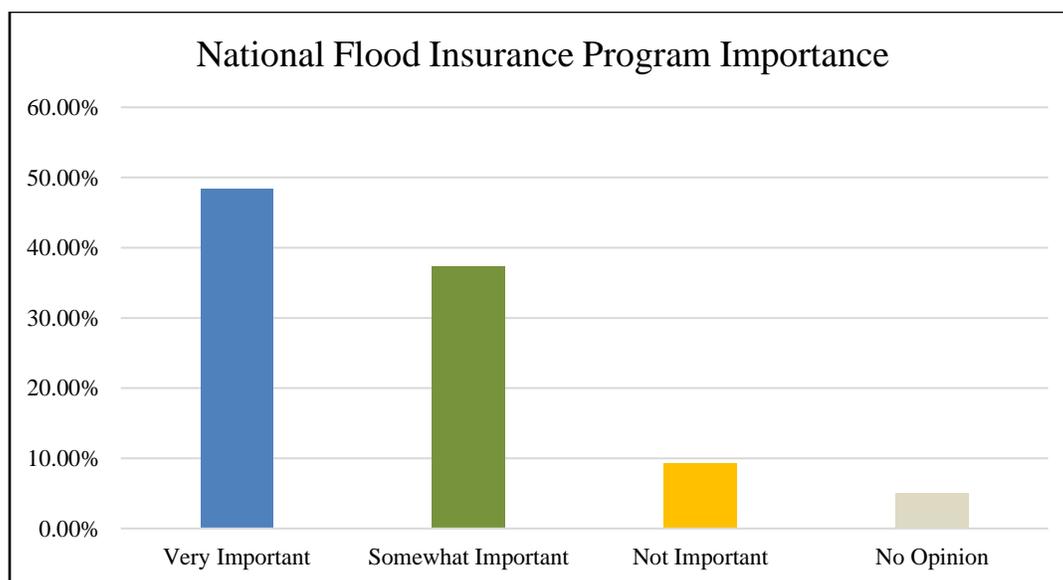


**Question 2:** In 2014, the Region consisting of Rice, McPherson, Marion, Reno, Harvey, Butler, Sedgwick, Kingman, Harper, Sumner, and Cowley Counties, the planning committee determined that the hazards listed below are of significance to the area. Please indicate the level of risk, or extent of potential impacts, in the Region, that you perceive for each hazard.



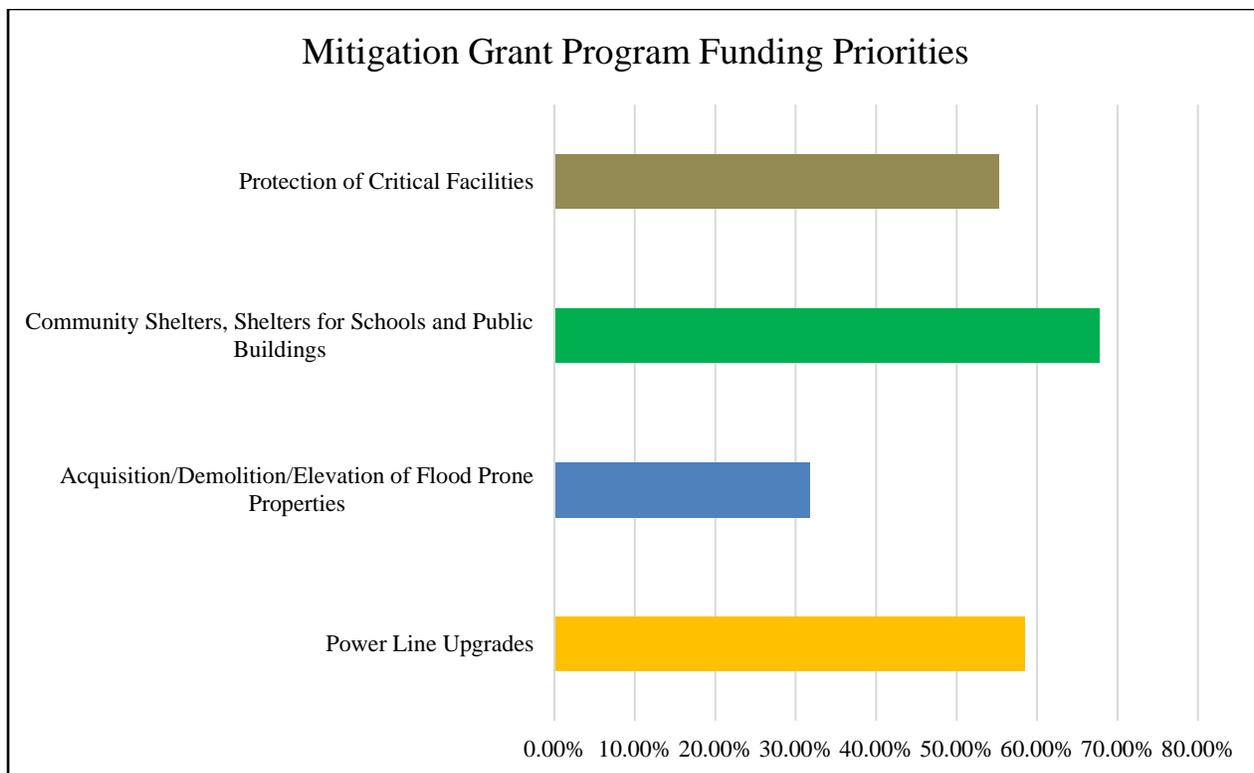


**Question 3:** In the Region, the planning committee has determined that a flood event is the third most critical hazard. How important is it for you to have your community participate in or continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program?

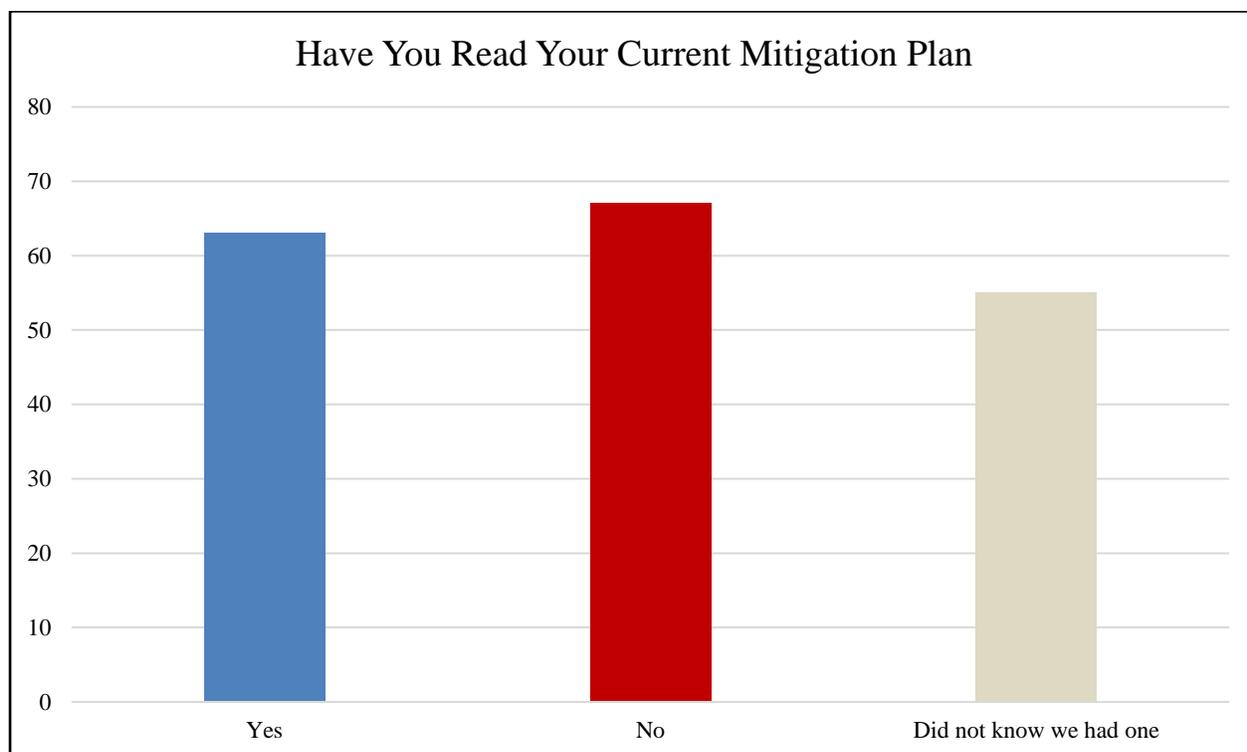


**Question 4:** The Kansas Division of Emergency Management currently reviews the application for funds for the FEMA Risk Mitigation Grant Program. Your current funding priorities are listed below. Please check those that could benefit your community.



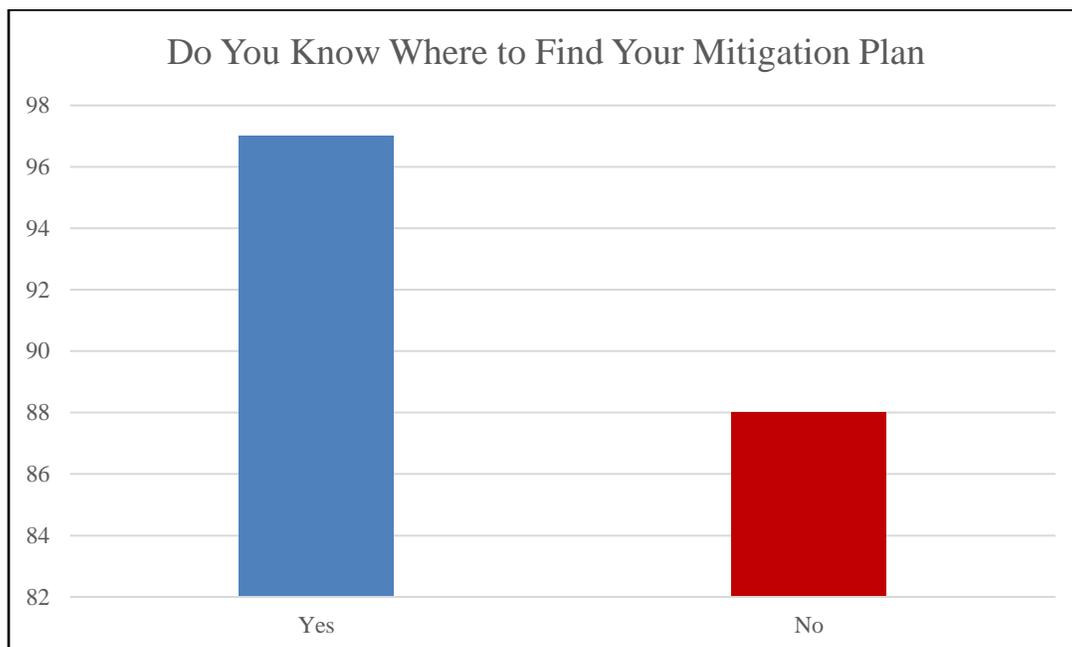


**Question 5:** Have you had the opportunity to read your current Risk Mitigation Plan?





**Question 6:** Do you know where you can find the mitigation plan for your county if you would like to see it?



In addition, respondents were given the opportunity to address any local concerns or issues of concern to them. These responses were provided to the relevant MPC member for review, and if necessary, action.

**Question 7:** Your opinion is valuable to this planning process. Discuss any other problems that the planning committee should consider when developing a strategy to reduce future losses caused by natural hazard events.

**Table 2.2: Kansas Region G Survey Comments, Areas of Concern**

Jurisdiction	Comments
Butler County	Ensure city leaders drill and know where to begin in the event of a disaster.
Butler County	Hazardous material release terror threat
Butler County	First response times
Butler County	Earthquakes
Butler County	Ensuring the response of emergency services that are prepared for surge capacity of daily emergencies + to limit the secondary injury and illness due to a natural disaster.
Butler County	Power lines underground
Butler County	Education and training for response teams, both paid and volunteer.
Butler County	Remove debris from under the bridge on west Towanda street, near Fredrick Drive to facilitate free flow of water through Constant Creek.
Butler County	Update MOU's for county and city
Butler County, East of Rose Hill	In terms of flooding, I would like to see roads addressed. We have only one road into our entire neighborhood, and it floods every heavy, prolonged rain. Even when the water is probably dangerously high, we have no choice but to drive through or be stranded.





**Table 2.2: Kansas Region G Survey Comments, Areas of Concern**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Butler County, Leon	The city water source and the condition of the pipelines and water tower are a concern. Not having confidence in the purity of the well water that is sometimes used to supply our city water is a concern. Flooding, loss of power, age of components, and proper management are concerns.
Butler County, Augusta	Better communication when there is a potential for hazardous events.
Butler County, Douglass	Douglass could potentially be cut off if we experience another Halloween level flood.
Butler County, El Dorado	Emergency traffic planning-how would we evacuate in the event of a looming disaster?
Harvey County	They are doing a wonderful job. It takes a lot of work to put all this information together from so many different entities.
Adjacent County	In my opinion, the Region G plan as written is almost useless. A plan that's 532 pages long is not user-friendly, contains too much information and is absolutely unable to be exercised. I realize the need to address lots of information for multiple counties but there has to be a limit on that information or the plan becomes unwieldy and no longer serves its function, i.e. no one is going to use it nor even read it to become conversational in its data.
Marion County	County mud roads to family homes and community members served by our school district.
Reno County	We need to consider wildfire mitigation which could be removal of cedar trees/prescribed burns in the areas that are not maintained. I realize it's private property but in 2017 "private property" took out almost 6000 acres of land, homes, outbuildings, vehicles and put thousands of lives at risk (residents and first responders).
Reno County	Get the community involved. And reach out to groups.
Reno County	Develop a Firewise community
Reno County	There have been a couple of very serious wildfires that spread quickly and changed direction with the wind. There does not appear to be any management of trees and other flammable materials that will feed fires.
Reno County	Wildfires are a big concern. There should be state funding to mitigate these problems
Reno County	transportation for residents and evacuation procedures that the public is aware of
Reno County	The reduction of the western red cedar trees that increase the wildfire hazard.
Reno County, Sylvia township	Unifying with townships in western reno county on emergency services. Give emergency services more help. In 3 towns we have one ambulance service with no working ambulance. Reno county promised to provide a working vehicle and still hasn't. Ems staff out here are great and yet you do not help provide a vehicle. How can we mitigate any disaster if we can't even have a working ambulance for a volunteer service that works their butts off?
Reno County, Hutchinson	Being with a Long Term Care facility, we along with other health care facilities like Home Health, Hospice, etc., are encouraged to be a part of emergency planning. We were not on that radar much when this plan was first developed in 2014. Including other types of health care like us in the process would be my recommendation.
Reno County, Pretty Prairie	Continue to make dollars available ESPECIALLY to the smaller communities and services.





**Table 2.2: Kansas Region G Survey Comments, Areas of Concern**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Reno County, South Hutchinson	Nursing home or low income housing evacuations/shelter
Sedgwick County	Failure of Big Ditch at any point during extended rain.
Sedgwick County	Would like your HVA posted where we can all see it
Sedgwick County	Eliminate redundancy in the Plan (remove repetitive information and reduce the number of pages) - people will not read 1000+ pages
Sedgwick County, Haysville	Don't take to long on helping a person or community.
Sedgwick County, Haysville	We really need Dewatering Wells for Salem Township
Sedgwick County, USD 261 - Haysville	Natural disaster as well as anything that could be traveling along I-35 that could impact our town.
Sedgwick County, Salem Township	Groundwater rising into basements in Southern Sedgwick county.
Sedgwick County, Wichita	Need to continue tree trimming such that Ice Events don't cause major power outages.

**Question 8:** Do you have any mitigation project that you would like to see implemented and what are they?

**Table 2.3: Kansas Region G Survey Comments, Requested Projects**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Butler County	Ensure whitewater infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.) are up to date and working without work-arounds to keep things going.
Butler County	County road improvement. Creation of ditches along the gravel roads for drainage.
Butler County	County-wide emergency services drill to test the communication system, patient surge + daily emergency response simultaneously.
Butler County, Andover	Developing regional flood and wild fire education & mitigation,
Butler County, Douglass	Many in Douglass still do not know where storm shelters are, nor has there been any town meetings on a disaster plan
Butler County, Leon	Upgrades to water purity measures and water line infrastructure. Upgrades to sewer pipelines, elevations and or pumping mechanisms to the lagoons.
Marion County	Improve county roads to prevent wash out and increase accessibility.
Marion County, Hillsboro	Safe rooms at each of our buildings.
Reno County, Hutchinson	I know you are working on wildfire mitigation and that would be at the top of our list as we experienced some vulnerability to that.
Reno County	The health dept needs a new generator or at least a transfer switch installed to hook up to one of the county generators.
Reno County	Firewise
Reno County	Cut down trees, make mow strips and prevent wildfires. Also, safe rooms in schools





**Table 2.3: Kansas Region G Survey Comments, Requested Projects**

Jurisdiction	Comments
Reno County, Sylvia Township	Infrastructure in western Reno county needs improved. Our electrical and phone lines are outdated. Cell towers are not reliable. If a disaster happens or even a personal emergency i am unable to get a call out to 911 because the cell towers have not been updated. We are forgotten out here.
Sedgwick County	Road and Drainage improved in Haysville
Sedgwick County	I would like to see the Cowskin Creek cleared of obstacles the entire length, to prevent flooding. Also, I would like to see areas that pond and provide habitat for mosquitoes to be cleaned up.
Sedgwick County, Haysville	We really need Dewatering Wells for Salem Township
Sedgwick County, Salem Township	Dewatering Wells in Salem Township to mitigate groundwater in basements.

## 2.6 – Planning Meetings

Within Kansas Region G there are many jurisdictions and organizations who have a vested interest in participating in the creation and adoption of the hazard mitigation plan. An integral part of the planning process included the identification, development, and coordination of all of these entities. As such, a series of three organizational and planning meetings were scheduled and all past and potential future participants were notified by the State of Kansas as to the dates and locations of the meetings. In addition, communities neighboring the region were invited to participate in the planning process.

It is worth noting that all neighboring Kansas counties are undergoing a similar mitigation planning effort, and as part of this statewide process all county and state planners are working together toward common mitigation goals. During the creation and adoption of this plan communication channels were opened to facilitate the cross pollination of ideas, to incorporate neighboring regions concerns, and to ensure the overall preparedness of the State of Kansas.

A series of kick-off meetings were held with MPC members, available representatives from jurisdictions within the planning region, local and regional stakeholders, and the public invited. At the kickoff meeting, the planning process, project coordination, scope, participation requirements, strategies for public involvement, and schedule were discussed in detail. During the meeting, participants were led through a guided discussion concerning hazard data sourced from their previous hazard mitigation plans. Additionally, research was conducted prior to the meeting on recent regional hazard events to further inform the discussion. Participants were encouraged to discuss past hazard events, past impacts, and the future probability for all identified hazards. At the conclusion of the meeting, all participants were provided with a data collection forms to solicit information needed to properly complete the HMP. The forms asked for information concerning data on historic hazard events, at risk populations and properties, and available capabilities. Additionally, participating jurisdictions were provided with their mitigation actions from the previous plans for review and comment and asked to identify any additional mitigation actions.

A mid-term planning meeting was held with MPC members. Based upon the initial research, discussions held during the kickoff meetings, information obtained from the data collection forms, additional research,





and subsequent discussion with MPC members, the results of the hazard identification, classification, and delineation were discussed in detail. In addition, sections of the HMP were made available for review and comment. Based on the supplied hazard information, participants were asked to assist in the development and review of mitigation goals and actions.

A final planning meeting was held with MPC members, available representatives from jurisdictions within the planning region, local and regional stakeholders, and the public invited. The completed draft HMP was made available for review and comment.

The following table presents the date and location of each planning meeting.

**Table 2.4: Kansas Region G Planning Meetings**

Meeting Number	Date	Location
1 (Kickoff)	10/24/2018	Butler County
	10/53/2018	Kingman County
	10/25/2018	Harvey County
2 (Mid-Term)	12/06/2108	Sumner County
3 (Final)	03/06/2019	Cowley County
	03/07/2019	Sedgwick County
	03/07/2019	McPherson County

Both the minutes and sign-in sheets from all meetings may be found in Appendix C.

## 2.7 – Existing Plan Incorporation

*44 CFR 201.6(b)(3): Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.*

The hazard mitigation plan is an overarching document that is both comprised of, and contributes to, various other jurisdictional plans. In creating this plan, all the planning documents identified below were consulted and reviewed, often extensively. In turn, when each of these other plans is updated, they will be measured against the contents of the hazard mitigation plan.

Below is a list of the various planning efforts, sole or jointly administered programs, and documents reviewed and included in this hazard mitigation plan. While each plan can stand alone, their review and functional understanding was pivotal in the development of this plan and further strengthens and improves Kansas Region G’s resilience to disasters.

- All participating jurisdictions Codes and Ordinances
- All participating jurisdictions Comprehensive Plans
- All participating jurisdictions Critical Facilities Plans
- All participating jurisdictions Economic Development Strategic Plans
- All participating jurisdictions Emergency Operations Plans





- All participating jurisdictions Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan
- All participating jurisdiction Land-Use Plans
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- Any other newly created or relevant jurisdictional plan

Information from each of these plans and programs is utilized within the applicable hazard sections to provide data and fully inform decision making and prioritization.

### **State and Federal Level Plan Integration**

The following list illustrates local, state and federal programs integrated, where applicable, and referenced in Kansas Region G's mitigation efforts.

- State of Kansas Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
- National Flood Insurance Program
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program
- Repetitive Loss & Severe Repetitive Loss Program
- FireWise Communities Program
- Relevant Dam Emergency Action Plans (if document not secured)
- Community Rating System

### ***Integration Challenges***

The 2014 plan update successfully integrated approved Kansas Region G local hazard mitigation plans into one regional HMP. This represents a success of our streamlined program of allowing jurisdictions to participate in multi-jurisdictional regional-level plans. This program not only reduces the cost and the burden to local jurisdictions, it also allows for closer collaboration and integration of local communities in all areas of planning and response. However, and as always, challenges exist due to the day to day demands of the working environment, including scheduling conflicts, budget restrictions, and staffing changes and shortages related to both the utilization and incorporation of the HMP and completion of identified hazard mitigation projects.

