



Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project

Preliminary project proposal submitted to the Town of Holland
Board of Selectmen October 15, 2021.

Produced by the Office of
Emergency Management.

Bryan C. Haughey
Emergency Management Director



Hamilton Reservoir Dam- September 2, 2021- Photo Credit: Holland Police Department Archives

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Abstract and Needs Assessment:

The Town of Holland is seeking financial and technical assistance in the areas of emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation. Included in this is developing and maintaining comprehensive programs and plans to identify vulnerabilities and deficiencies in an effort to minimize the negative impact of natural events that affect our environment and infrastructure, and then implement procedures to physically address the vulnerabilities that were identified.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA), and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, (MEMA), defines hazard mitigation in part as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards such as flooding, storms, high winds, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, etc.

Mitigation efforts undertaken by communities will help to minimize damages to buildings, infrastructure, water supplies, sewers, and natural, cultural, and historic resources. Mitigation planning is a proactive process and emphasizes actions that can be taken before a natural disaster occurs.

Property damage, injury, and loss of life can be reduced or prevented by a mitigation program that addresses the unique geography, demography, economy, and land use of a community. Preparing and maintaining hazard mitigation plans is an important factor in saving the community from costly repairs of public resources and infrastructure and provides private property owners with additional protection.

In order to protect the health and safety of persons and property and to foster the natural, scenic and aesthetic qualities of our environment, we intended to focus on the harmful impacts from changes in climate, protecting forests and other habitats from destruction, flood, erosion and pollution control, enhancing watershed systems, and managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways.

Our overall goal is to improve upon weaknesses by adopting measures that focus on the protection, restoration, and management of our ecological systems to safeguard public health, provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience, and sequester toxic and carbon emissions. Additionally, we seek to assess specific climate change vulnerabilities and prioritize measures in preparation for the harmful impacts that climate change may cause.

Before implementing physical measures we must first identify the natural hazards that may impact the community by conducting risk assessments to identify the critical facilities, roads, homes, businesses, public spaces, and other ecological areas that may be at risk of damage by natural causes and by the impacts of climate change. We must also identify and assess the policies, programs, and regulations we are currently incorporating to ensure that we have the most efficient and effective protection methods in place to mitigate future hazards. This may involve addressing any deficiencies found in current strategies and establishing goals for updating, revising, or adopting new strategies.

Being a small community with limited resources we struggle to endeavor upon projects like this but with financial and technical assistance we can commit to creating a safer environment overall for our community while reducing the negative impacts the changes in our climate may bring.

Community Profile:¹

The Town of Holland is a rural community with an estimated population of 2,481 citizens (2010 census) and is located in Hampden County in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Town is bounded to the north by the Town of Brimfield, to the west by the Town of Wales, to the east by the Town of Sturbridge, and to the south by the Town of Union CT. Holland is part of the Quinebaug River watershed which flows north through the Town and then merges with the French and Middle Rivers to form the Thames River. The Town is situated inland with no coastline and of the approximately 13 square miles or 8,320 acres, two-thirds are forested. Most of the community's large tracts of forest lands occupy the western side of town and water bodies occupy approximately 501 acres of the total land area, (2016).

The Town has abundant natural and cultural resources and was settled in the mid-1600s because of the fishing grounds of Lake Siog and the Upper Quinebaug River, the fertile floodplains of the Quinebaug River, and the heavily forested hills. Holland still has these valuable natural resources, though they have changed significantly in the last 350 years. Lake Siog is now part of the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, (ACOE), East Brimfield Impoundment, and while providing valuable flood control storage for the Quinebaug River, it is also the centerpiece of a beautiful, scenic, and ecologically valuable wetlands complex.

In 1865 the Quinebaug River was dammed, creating Hamilton Reservoir which is the Town's most defining attraction today and its appeal has produced the establishment of many seasonal dwellings in addition to year-round residences along its shores. The fully recreational waterway consisting of approximately 413 acres provides many leisure opportunities, beautiful vistas, and important wildlife habitats. The present dam was constructed in 1956 after a flood caused the previous dam to rupture and flood large areas of the Town. The Town has rights of way on small areas of land for access to the Reservoir with one developed public boat ramp. In addition, there are numerous private ramps and rights of way that provide access to the Reservoir. The Reservoir is the largest water body in the Town and a natural choice for homeowners seeking peaceful, scenic views. For this reason, residential development is focused intensely around the Reservoir and approximately 1,451 acres of land is occupied by residential development in Holland, (2016).

The Reservoir is divided by a causeway which forms a north and south basin and water flows in and through both basins via a Town maintained culvert pipe system. The Town also regulates construction in and near the waterway by requiring permission from the Conservation Commission in accordance with G.L. c. 91, regulates recreational use of the waterway and the placement of docks through general bylaws, controls water flow by the manual operation of a sluice gate, maintains and inspects the dam, and utilizes public funds for police enforcement of the waterway, chemical treatments, and water quality testing.

The presence of the Reservoir is not only notable for its recreational opportunities and scenic vistas, but also because the majority of the Town's prime agricultural soils lie below the reservoir. There are a few small parcels of cropland on the southwestern side of Holland, and approximately 2,125 acres of public and semi-public open space exist within the Town. This figure represents 25% of Holland's total land area, (1999).

Adding to the variety of water resources are numerous ponds, streams, and brooks found throughout the Town. These areas also provide recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. At approximately 65 acres, Lake Siog is the next largest body of water after the Reservoir. It is widely used for fishing, swimming, and boating, with a public boat ramp providing access. There is a small town-owned beach alongside Pond Bridge Rd within the ACOE East Brimfield Impoundment, which is undeveloped, and situated across from the beach is a fully operational recreational area that contains another beach, a swimming area, a picnic area, and hiking trails. This area is operated by the ACOE seasonally and is known as the Lake Siog Recreation Area.

There are several other ponds in Town, including Lost Lake, a beautiful lake located in deep woods, accessible only by foot through pine woodland. Many of the streams and brooks in town, such as May Brook and Stevens Brook, have native trout populations and are popular areas for fishing. Located on the Quinebaug River is a designated canoe water trail, with a total of four miles between Lake Siog north to East Brimfield Reservoir in Brimfield and Sturbridge. This trail offers a pleasant trip through a variety of habitats, with areas to stop and picnic or swim.

In addition to recreational waterways, there are several hiking trails, walking paths, and wildlife management areas located within the Town. Included is the approximately 36 acre Quinebaug Woods operated by The Trustees, the Lake Siog Pass Trail leading to the ACOE Grand Trunk Trail in Brimfield and Sturbridge, Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary properties, and portions of the Leadmine Wildlife Management Area. The combination of a large amount of protected open space in the Town, as well as the large footprint of the Reservoir and the various trails and wildlife areas, will most likely produce new residential development in these areas.

Although the exact historical-geographical center of the Town is in dispute, the area currently encompassing the Hitchcock Field and Recreation Area, the Town Hall, The Holland Elementary School, the Holland Public Library, and the Holland Congregational Church has been the center of community life for almost one hundred years. All of these locations are noteworthy for their civic importance and several, such as the Congregational Church, the parsonage, and the library, have historic significance.

According to the 1999 MacConnell Land use data, the total land area of Holland was approximately 8,373 acres with roughly 13 percent of those acres as developed land. The remaining land was classified as undeveloped with forest as the largest category (76% of all land in town) with 6,348 acres. Open Water was the second-largest category with 481 acres compared to cropland and pasture, which represented individually, the third and fourth-largest amount of undeveloped land in the town with 184 and 46 acres, respectively.

Holland is 1 of only 2 municipalities within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that Interstate Highway 84, (I-84) passes through. I-84 consists of approximately 232 miles and begins in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (PA), at an interchange with Interstate 81, (I-81), in Dunmore, PA, and ends at an interchange with Interstate 90, (I-90), the Massachusetts Turnpike, which is within 6 miles of Holland.

The small portion of the interstate that passes through Holland is located on the outskirts and does not contain an off-ramp but the motoring public can easily access Mashpaug Road via an off-ramp that is situated in Union CT. Mashpaug Road threads south to north through Holland, crosses over the Hamilton Reservoir (via the above-mentioned causeway) and finally arrives at a junction with Brimfield

Road, Stafford Road, and Sturbridge Road, creating a 4 road intersection. Unlike some of the surrounding communities, Holland has no major thoroughfares running through its mainland area. In order to get into Holland from the north, commuters coming from I-90, the Massachusetts Turnpike, must travel southeast on Holland/Sturbridge Road and commuters traveling along U.S. Route 20 must travel south along Brimfield/East Brimfield Road to reach Holland. From the south, Mashpaug Road is the primary means of access to Holland from I-84, and from the west Stafford Road is the primary means of access. The southern approach cannot sidestep the Hamilton Reservoir, which means that any traffic into the center area of the Town will have to wind through the more scenic portions of the Town. In addition, the densest network of roads surrounds the Hamilton Reservoir and the area west of Kimball Hill Road contains the most obvious system of interlocking streets, (2016).

The Town is one of a very small number of towns with no state-owned roads. This places the burden of maintaining roads squarely on the shoulders of its taxpayers. There is limited commercial activity and Mashapaug Road contains most of these parcels. Isolated commercial enterprises are scattered west of the Reservoir. In total, there are roughly 30 acres in commercial use. The areas with the most access to major thoroughfares, i.e. northeast and southeast Holland, are most distant from the center of the Town. Additionally, of the 154 named roads in town, 71% of them are considered private ways. Although the Town has the authority by way of bylaws to make temporary repairs to private ways which have been open to public use for 6 years or more and may conduct snow plowing and sanding operations on private ways on which year-round residents reside, the Town's ability to properly manage and maintain a consistent road network is significantly diminished. Just under half of all named roads are unpaved (46%), most of which are considered private ways and are in poor condition, (2016).

The forested hills are once again an abundant natural resource. They have recovered from being clear-cut in the late 1800s and are again providing valuable timber and wildlife habitat. The long cultural history of Holland is evident in the archeological remnants of the Native American Nipmucks around Lake Siog. This rich heritage continues following European settlement through to the events that occur today in Holland, (2016).

ⁱ Town of Holland LHMP Prepared by: The Holland Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee and The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (2016).

Goals and Objectives:

We seek to establish a multi-phase project consisting of an environmental hazard vulnerability assessment followed by the implementation of mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that will protect the health and safety of persons and property.

To protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our environment we intend to focus on defending forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, flood, erosion, and pollution control, enhancing water runoff control systems, managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways, and preparing for the harmful impacts of climate change.

1. Establish a project management and core team of individuals to administer and assist in the planning and technical aspects of the project
2. Identify and prioritize natural hazards that may impact the community
3. Conduct risk assessments to identify the critical facilities, roads, homes, businesses, public spaces, and other ecological areas that may be at risk of damage by natural causes.
4. Identify and assess current policies, programs, and regulations to ensure that we have the most efficient and effective protection methods in place to mitigate against future hazards.
5. Address any deficiencies found in current strategies and establish goals for updating, revising or adopting new strategies.
6. Assess specific climate change vulnerabilities and prioritize measures in preparation of the harmful impacts that climate change may cause.
7. Assess and implement measures that focus on the protection, restoration, promotion, and management of our ecological and environmental systems to safeguard public health, provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience, and sequester toxic and carbon emission.
8. Assess and implement strategies that will minimize damage to infrastructure, natural, cultural, and historic resources.
9. Assess and implement strategies that protect the unique geography, demography, economy, and land use of a community.
10. Prepare and maintain hazard mitigation planning

Project Management:

After the concept of the project has been attained and agreed upon the planning phase of development should begin. This is where the scope of the project is defined and a project management team is established for the purpose of defining individual roles and responsibilities so all persons involved know to whom they are accountable.

It is recommended this includes a team of individuals who have the ability to identify and develop a cost analysis, funding sources, and a realistic timetable for project completion. Planning and project development may include community members and consultants who are comprised of outside service providers, such as engineering firms, architectural firms, and law firms. Additionally, consultants may include municipal personnel who provide advice, recommendations, or other input. For example, consultants may include members of municipal finance, parks, recreation, building, zoning, planning, and conservation sections, as well as public health, public safety, public works, and school department personnel. All of these individuals will become a part of the overall core team that will establish and manage the project until completion.

It is recommended that members of the planning and development team maintain the capability to work in a collaborative manner with other members of the project team and maintain the capacity to prioritize and be flexible so they can adapt and refine goals as needed. Team assignments should be limited in scope and time for the purpose of maintaining a manageable operation overall. It is also important that the planning and development phase consider risk factors and quality control issues. Planning and development should involve aspects to engage citizens and other members of the community to participate in the planning of the project and may include activities such as public meetings and informational workshops that expand beyond simply providing notice that a project will be taking place.

It is of vital importance to preserve a consistent and reliable management structure to enhance communication between the diverse disciplines within the project team and to demonstrate a clear and concise reporting procedure. A well-designed management system includes the ability to identify resources and assignments and the ability to provide team members with direction in a controlled manner to ensure that best practices are followed and the quality of output is paramount for purposes of attaining maximum efficiency.

While executing the project, careful consideration should be given to the procurement and purchasing components in order to ensure that supplies and resources are readily available at the appropriate time. It is recommended that cost tracking systems are implemented, schedules are monitored, and plans are modified as needed.

Objectives, quality control, and performance should continue to be monitored throughout the project, and status reports, progress reports, and project development updates should be calculated and reviewed during all phases of the operation. It is also important to consider a close-out phase once the project is complete in order to evaluate project successes and to identify failures for the purpose of understanding so modifications can be made to improve future projects.

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

Management Team:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone/VM/Email</u>
Project Manager [Director]	-	-
Administrative Assistant	-	-
Finance & Purchasing Manager	-	-
Grant & Funding Administrator	-	-
Operations Manager	-	-
Construction Superintendent	-	-
Logistic Coordinator	-	-
Health & Safety Officer	-	-
Site Supervisor	-	-
Project Procurement Officer	-	-
Consultant	-	-
Sub Contractor	-	-
Chief Financial Officer [CFO]	Linda Blodgett- Town Treasurer	413-245-7108 ext:104 treasurer@hollandma.org
Chief Procurement Officer [CPO]	Stacy Stout- Town Administrator	413-245-7108 ext:108 townadmin@hollandma.org

Organizational Chart:



Permitting and Compliance Standards:

Some projects may require approval or permits to be obtained from one or more levels of government, to include federal, state, and local agencies. It is recommended that the Operations Manager or Construction Superintendent obtain all permits necessary for the purpose of construction. Specific plans may be required to be submitted as part of the permitting process.

Additionally, in certain circumstances, such as construction on private land, approval will be required from the property owner. In private property situations, consideration should be given to conferring with legal counsel.

Permitting and Approval:				
<i>Agency</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Approval Only</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Status/Date</i>
<u>FEDERAL</u>	-	-	-	
1. -	-	-	-	-
2. -	-	-	-	-
<u>STATE</u>	-	-	-	-
1. -	-	-	-	-
2. -	-	-	-	-
<u>LOCAL</u>	Required	-	-	-
1. Select Board	Approval	X	-	PENDING
2. -	-	-	-	-
<u>PRIVATE</u>	-	-	-	-
1. -	-	-	-	-
2. -	-	-	-	-

Compliance:

1. The specifications outlined in the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division, (MassDOT), [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices](#) (MUTCD), and the Standard Municipal Traffic Code (SMTC), shall be followed for any traffic signs, signals, or markings that may be a part of the project.
2. The provisions outlined in the MassDOT Highway Division, [Smart Work Zone Design Standards](#), Version 1.1 shall be followed for any roadway construction that may be a part of the project.
3. The provisions outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] shall be followed.

Agreements:

1. It shall be agreed upon that the provisions promulgated by a provider of grants, donations, or by way of other forms of federal, state, and local appropriations associated with this proposal will be followed.

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

Funding and Procurement:

Financial opportunities should be explored and approved during the planning phase of a project. Funds may originate from several different sources to include grants or donations, or by way of other forms of federal, state, and local appropriations.

It is expected that the project Finance and Purchasing Manager and Procurement Officer work closely with the municipal Chief Procurement Officer [CPO], Chief Financial Officer [CFO], and other funding administrators, such as, but not limited to, grant writers and accountants.

Funding Sources:		
Source	Program	Percent or Amount
1. EEA*	FY 22 MVP Planning Grant	100%
Reference:	Smith, Andrew B (ENV)- andrew.b.smith@state.ma.us	
Source	Program	Percent or Amount
2. -	-	-
Reference:	-	

* Potential funding source

Procurement Requirements:

1. The process for procuring bids, proposals, and contracts for services, supplies, and other professional services shall follow the [Uniform Procurement Act](#) as outlined in G.L. c. 30b.
2. Pursuant to [§ 4](#), for the procurement of a supply or service in the amount of \$10,000 or greater, but not more than \$50,000, the procurement officer shall seek written quotations from no fewer than 3 persons customarily providing the supply or service. The procurement officer shall record:
 - the names and addresses of all persons from whom quotations were sought
 - the purchase description used for the procurement
 - the names of the persons submitting quotations and
 - the date and amount of each quotation

Such information shall be retained in the file required pursuant to this section.

3. A governmental body may require that any procurement in an amount of not more than \$50,000 be subject to [§ 5](#). The procurement officer shall award the contract to the responsible person offering the needed quality of supply or service at the lowest quotation.
4. Procurement in the amount of less than \$10,000 shall be obtained through the exercise of sound business practices.

If labor is to be completed at the local level by qualified municipal employees, procurement does not require construction subcontractors to be solicited for the project.

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

Procurement Sources:				
1. Vendor	<i>Description</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>
-	-	-	-	-
Address:	-			
Website:	-			
2. Vendor	<i>Description</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>
-	-	-	-	-
Address:	-			
Website:	-			
3. Vendor	<i>Description</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>
-	-	-	-	-
Address:	-			
Website:	-			

* Potential procurement source

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

Project Timeline:

Please note that some timeline dates are official project deadlines in accordance with program and funding regulations. If no **hard** deadline is in place the date should be considered an anticipated result.

Phase 1:

<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Task</u>
1. 2021 OCT 15	Submit preliminary project proposal to local government officials
2. 2022 JAN 07 (hard)	Deadline to submit Planning Grant application for consideration
3. -	-
4. -	-
5. -	-
6. -	-
7. -	-
8. -	-
9. -	-
10. -	-

Phase 2:

<u>Deadline Date</u>	<u>Task</u>
1. -	-
2. -	-
3. -	-
4. -	-
5. -	-
6. -	-
7. -	-
8. -	-
9. -	-
10. -	-

Phase 1- Project Description:

Establish an environmental hazard vulnerability assessment and implement mitigation strategies that will protect the health and safety of persons and property.

To protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our environment we intend to focus on defending forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, flood, erosion, and pollution control, enhancing water runoff control systems, and managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways. For the purpose of assessing specific climate change vulnerabilities and to prioritize measures in preparation of harmful climate change impacts, we must complete a climate change assessment, specifically by way of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, (EEA), Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, (MVP), Planning Grant Program.

Worksite:

N/A

Physical Address:

N/A

GIS Mapping Parcel Number:

N/A

Coordinates:

N/A

Worksite orientation:

N/A

Construction impacts:

- Federally owned or regulated property: NONE
- State owned or regulated property: NONE
- Municipally owned or regulated property: NONE
- Public ways NONE
- Privately owned property: NONE
- Environmental impacts: NONE
- Traffic and travel impacts: NONE

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

Permitting and Compliance Standards:

<u>Approval and Permitting: PHASE 1</u>				
<i>Agency</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Approval</i>	<i>Permit</i>	<i>Status</i>
<u>FEDERAL</u>	Not Required	-	-	
1. -	-	-	-	-
2. -	-	-	-	-
<u>STATE</u>	Not Required	-	-	-
1. -	-	-	-	-
2. -	-	-	-	-
<u>LOCAL</u>	Required	-	-	-
1. Select Board	Required	X	-	PENDING
2. -	-	-	-	-
<u>PRIVATE</u>	Not Required	-	-	-
1. -	-	-	-	-
2. -	-	-	-	-

Compliance Standard Requirements:

N/A

Agreements:

1. It shall be agreed upon that the provisions promulgated by a provider of grants, donations, or by way of other forms of federal, state, and local appropriations associated with this proposal will be followed.
2. It shall be agreed upon that the Town will form a team of community leaders and members to gather background information about climate change to understand how climate change will intensify and lead to future environmental concerns in our community.
3. It shall be agreed upon that the team will work to identify infrastructural, societal, and ecological vulnerabilities and evaluate actions that will help make the community more resilient to climate change and natural hazards.
4. It shall be agreed upon that the core team will explore nature-based solutions to address current vulnerabilities and build resiliency plans to militate against those risks.
5. It shall be agreed upon that the team will utilize a framework to plan for the future by using Community Resilience Building, (CRB), and identify top hazards, current strengths, challenges, and priority actions to improve community resilience for all hazards today, and in the future.

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

Funding and Procurement:

Funding Sources: PHASE 1		
Source	Program	Percent or Amount
1. EEA*	FY 22 MVP Planning Grant	100%
Reference:	Smith, Andrew B (ENV)- andrew.b.smith@state.ma.us	
Source	Program	Percent or Amount
2. -	-	-
Reference:	-	

* Potential funding source

Procurement Sources: PHASE 1				
1. Vendor	Description	Name	Date	Amount
-	-	-	-	-
Address:	-			
Website:	-			
2. Vendor	Description	Name	Date	Amount
-	-	-	-	-
Address:	-			
Website:	-			
3. Vendor	Description	Name	Date	Amount
-	-	-	-	-
Address:	-			
Website:	-			

Goals & Objectives:

We seek to establish a multi-phase project consisting of an environmental hazard vulnerability assessment followed by the implementation of mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that will protect the health and safety of persons and property.

To protect and foster the natural, scenic and aesthetic qualities of our environment we intend to focus on defending forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, flood, erosion and pollution control, enhancing water runoff control systems, managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways, and preparing for the harmful impacts of climate change.

1. Establish a project management and core team of individuals to administer and assist in the planning and technical aspects of the project
2. Identify and prioritize natural hazards that may impact the community
3. Conduct risk assessments to identify the critical facilities, roads, homes, businesses, public spaces, and other ecological areas that may be at risk of damage by natural causes.
4. Identify and assess current policies, programs, and regulations to ensure that we have the most efficient and effective protection methods in place to mitigate against future hazards.

Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project [Town of Holland Massachusetts]

5. Address any deficiencies found in current strategies and establish goals for updating, revising or adopting new strategies.
6. Assess specific climate change vulnerabilities and prioritize measures in preparation of the harmful impacts that climate change may cause.
7. Assess and implement measures that focus on the protection, restoration, promotion, and management of our ecological and environmental systems to safeguard public health, provide clean air and water, increase natural hazard resilience, and sequester toxic and carbon emission.
8. Assess and implement strategies that will minimize damage to infrastructure, natural, cultural, and historic resources.
9. Assess and implement strategies that protect the unique geography, demography, economy, and land use of a community.
10. Prepare and maintain hazard mitigation planning

Project Considerations:

N/A

Boundary Statement:

N/A

Project Assumptions and Inclusions:

N/A

Exclusions:

N/A

Project Criteria:

N/A

Project Details:

N/A

Project Timeline:

<u>Timeline: PHASE 1</u>	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Project</i>
1. 2021 OCT 15	Submit preliminary project proposal to local government officials
2. 2022 JAN 07	Deadline to submit Planning Grant application for consideration
3. -	-



TOWN OF HOLLAND
Police Department
27 Sturbridge Road Holland, MA 01521
Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

To: Select Board
From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police/EMD
Date: October 15, 2021
Subj: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program – Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal

Greetings,

1. As you may be aware, on Friday, October 7, 2021, Town Administrator Stout and I met with Andrew Smith, Greater CT River Valley Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, (MVP).
2. This program was initiated by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, (EEA) in 2017 as part of Governor Baker's Executive Order 569, Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth.
3. In my role as Emergency Management Director, I began corresponding with Andrew in July of 2021 concerning potential financial and technical assistance in the areas of emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation. Included in that is developing and maintaining comprehensive programs to identify vulnerabilities and deficiencies in an effort to minimize the negative impact of natural events that affect our environment and infrastructure.
4. In order to protect the health and safety of persons and property I recommend we consider establishing a multi-phase environmental hazard mitigation project consisting of a vulnerability assessment followed by the implementation of mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that aim to protect, restore, promote, and manage our ecological and environmental systems. To protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our environment we should intend to focus on defending forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, flood, erosion, and pollution control, enhancing water runoff control systems, managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways, and preparing for the harmful impacts of climate change.
5. The purpose of the MVP program is to provide support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change by way of the MVP Program Planning Grant. As part of this process the state awards communities with funding to complete those vulnerability assessments and to develop action-oriented resiliency plans. This funding would allow us to complete the vulnerability assessment and to develop mitigation strategies which are two major steps in the overall project.

27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

Station: (413) 245-0117


Dispatch: (413) 245-7222

Fax: (413) 245-4482

Email: police@hollandma.org

6. The MVP program planning process follows the Community Resilience Building framework to plan for the future. Community Resilience Building is a unique, “anywhere at any scale”, community-driven process, rich with information, experience, and dialogue, where participants identify top hazards, current strengths, challenges, and priority actions to improve community resilience for all hazards today, and in the future.
7. After completing the planning phase the municipality becomes certified as an MVP Community, and in turn, this allows them to be eligible for MVP Action Grant funding opportunities. The Action Grant program provides assistance to the eligible municipality to invest in priorities that actually build resilience. Projects can range from a vulnerability assessment of a specific sector to an outreach and engagement campaign to constructing green infrastructure that takes into account climate change projections.
8. To summarize, the community must first complete the Planning Grant process to become designated as an MVP Community, and then they will become eligible for Action Grant funding which will allow the community to physically implement the priority actions that were identified during the planning process.
9. The Planning Grant requires no cash match by the municipality, however, will require the municipality to establish a core team to guide the planning process and to engage with a state-certified MVP provider. This team will be required to assist in gathering available background information on climate change impacts, hazards, vulnerabilities, and strengths, and complete several other tasks, including but not limited to, planning and participating in workshops, identifying infrastructural, societal, and environmental vulnerabilities, evaluate strengths that help make the community more resilient to climate change and natural hazards, explore nature-based solutions to address identified vulnerabilities, develop and prioritize actions, and delineate subsequent steps for the municipality.
10. There is a limited amount of funding for this competitive program and the final FY22 application is due by January 7, 2022, at 4 pm. Applying early is encouraged and funding selections are estimated to be announced by February 2022. In an effort to expedite the process I have procured and reviewed the application and have also produced and attached a detailed Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project proposal for your consideration. You will see that this proposal has been configured in the same manner used in past proposals that I have submitted to your office. I would like to make it clear that the proposal is only a preliminary document at this time and has been formatted with the expectation of revisions.
11. I would like to thank you for your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing back from you promptly as the application deadline is fast approaching on January 7.

Respectfully,



Bryan C. Haughey
Chief of Police

27 Sturbridge Rd - Holland Massachusetts 01521

Station: (413) 245-0117

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Email: police@hollandma.org

EMAIL:

To: Select Board
From: Bryan C. Haughey- Chief of Police/EMD
Date: October 15, 2021
Subj: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program – Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project Proposal

Greetings,

On Friday, October 7, 2021, Town Administrator Stout and I met with Andrew Smith, Greater CT River Valley Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, (MVP). I would first like to thank and recognize Town Administrator Stout for her hard work and dedication. I realize that certain individuals like Town Administrator Stout have to pick up the slack in the absence of a Grant Coordinator for the Town and appreciate her commitment.

In my role as Emergency Management Director, I began corresponding with Andrew in July of 2021 concerning potential financial and technical assistance in the areas of emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation. Part of my duties as Emergency Management Director is to develop procedures and criteria for financial assistance programs, develop and maintain partnerships with relevant outside agencies, and develop and maintain a comprehensive program pertaining to emergency management.

Additionally, part of my duties is to develop and maintain planning in the areas of hazard mitigation, response, recovery, and critical infrastructure. Included in this is the research of pertinent grant opportunities and developing and maintaining comprehensive programs to identify vulnerabilities in an effort to minimize the negative impact of natural events that affect our environment and infrastructure.

I have attached (2) documents to this correspondence. First is a letter outlining the MVP program, titled (Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project MVP Proposal Letter) which specifically summarizes an opportunity for our community to apply for a planning grant that will provide us financial and technical assistance to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change. As a result of this planning grant we will become eligible for future funding to implement corrective measures to address any concerns we learned about as a result of the vulnerability assessment.

The second document, titled (Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project Preliminary Proposal Final) is an official proposal in which I am recommending the Board will consider establishing a multi-phase environmental hazard mitigation project. This project will consist of a vulnerability assessment followed by the implementation of mitigation strategies and physical protective measures that aim to protect, restore, promote, and manage our ecological and environmental systems.

To protect and foster the natural, scenic, and aesthetic qualities of our environment the intent of the project is to focus on defending forests and other ecological habitats from destruction, flood, erosion, and pollution control, enhancing water runoff control systems, managing the growth of invasive vegetation in our waterways, and preparing for the harmful impacts of climate change. As you will see the planning grant funding will allow us to complete the vulnerability assessment and to develop mitigation strategies which are two major steps in the overall project.

If the Town does decide to move forward with this proposal, the grant application requires a signed letter of support from the Chair of the Board showing commitment to the project and a willingness to lead on this issue. Also required is a summary statement of municipal support, including at least 3 letters of support indicating interest in participating in the planning process from relevant local boards, departments, commissions, businesses, organizations, and other partners, including local, regional and statewide agencies or groups focused on climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness, planning, natural resources, land conservation, etc.

These partners are critical to the planning process and will ensure the city or town is able to develop a robust final report and build support for future work. Additional points will be given for applications that include letters of support from non-municipal organizations that reflect the diversity of the community such as youth organizations, community development corporations, cultural centers, and other community-based organizations.

For these reasons I have copied several additional municipal stakeholders in this correspondence in the hope that they review the attached and consider supporting and assisting us in this project, and ultimately consider sharing this with those non-municipal organizations to gather additional support.

With the focal point of our community being the Hamilton Reservoir, and with the vast amount of ponds, rivers, streams, trails, and other unique ecological systems we have, we must take a proactive approach and prioritize the preservation of our environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me and I look forward to the opportunity of working with all of you in addressing these issues.