



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Reema Abi-Akar
309-673-9330

Protecting Public Health and Property in Tazewell & Woodford Counties

East Peoria, IL (July 10, 2023) — Projects and activities that can protect residents and vital services in Tazewell and Woodford Counties will be the main topic of discussion when the Tazewell and Woodford Counties Mitigation Advisory Committee meets on Tuesday, **July 25, 2023**, at 1:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the East Peoria Civic Complex, 401 W. Washington Street, East Peoria. The meeting is open to the public.

This Committee, comprised of county, municipal, educational, park district, fire protection district, and levee district representatives, as well as technical partners and other stakeholders, began work in January 2023 to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for each county. The plans, which will ultimately be sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval, detail past severe weather events that have previously impacted the counties. The documents also identify mitigation projects and activities that can be taken before a severe weather event occurs to protect residents, critical services, and infrastructure.

“There has been more than \$1 billion in verified property damages caused by severe weather events in the two-county area. Obtaining FEMA’s approval of our updated plans will make all the participants eligible to receive federal grant money for mitigation projects and activities,” explained Reema Abi-Akar, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Senior Planner.

Projects identified by Advisory Committee members at this meeting will become part of each county’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. While portions of the plans have been presented at each meeting, both plans will be presented for public review and comment before they are submitted to the state and federal government for approval.

“We will conduct a public forum this fall for interested persons to review the updated plans and ask questions of Advisory Committee members. We will then have a two-week public comment period following the public forum to accommodate interested persons who are unable to attend. We want to make sure that anybody who is interested has an opportunity to review and comment on the updated plans,” added Abi-Akar.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX