



2024 NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

PLAN OVERVIEW AND SAMPLE ADOPTION RESOLUTION

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INTRODUCTION

FEMA requires each jurisdiction included in the regional hazard mitigation plan to adopt the plan. Since the early 2000s, Northern Kentucky jurisdictions have submitted their hazard mitigation plan as a multi-jurisdictional region hazard mitigation plan, with the NKADD leading the efforts to gather community input, write the report, and work towards getting the plan adopted. NKADD staff created this plan adoption packet to inform cities and counties about the updated 2024 Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation plan and assist them in the adoption process. The updated plan can be viewed at <https://www.nkadd.org/hazard-mitigation-planning/>.

FEMA approved a new Hazard Mitigation Plan policy in 2022, and it was enacted in 2023. The Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan follows the requirements outlined in the new policy. The new policy differs from the previous policy in two ways. It requires participation from each jurisdiction in the region. The regional plan includes 60 jurisdictions in Northern Kentucky, and each jurisdiction must

approve the plan. The policy also allows two methods for jurisdictional resolution approval: all adoption resolutions submitted with the plan and approvable pending adoption (explained later in the document). The approval adoption process option for the 2024 Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hazard Mitigation planning is the foundation for guiding risk reduction investments. These investments build community resilience to future natural hazard events. The local mitigation planning process brings partners together to inform a risk reduction strategy that can be implemented using a wide range of public and private resources. Local mitigation plans demonstrate the commitment to mitigation across multiple sectors, such as Infrastructure and economic development, to reduce natural hazard risk.

Community resilience is the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Activities such as disaster preparedness (which includes prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) and reducing community stressors (the underlying social, economic, and environmental conditions that can weaken a community) are critical steps to resilience.

BACKGROUND

The local mitigation plan guides risk-informed decision-making at the local level. Local governments, including special districts, can use the mitigation plan to guide climate adaptation, resilience, land use, and economic development planning. Local hazard mitigation plans form the foundation of a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repetitive damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports local mitigation planning to achieve the following:

- Foster partnerships among all levels of government.
- Develop and strengthen non-governmental and private partnerships.
- Promote more disaster-resilient and sustainable communities.
- Reduce the costs associated with disaster response and recovery by promoting mitigation activities.

Local jurisdictions are responsible for ensuring that the plan's mitigation strategy complies with all applicable legal requirements related to civil rights to ensure nondiscrimination. Such compliance can help achieve equitable outcomes through the mitigation planning process for all communities, including underserved communities¹ and socially vulnerable populations.

FEMA defines equity as the consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals. Equity must be central in its development to ensure that the planning process and outcomes of the local mitigation plan benefit the whole community. Inclusive planning processes take time, and thoughtful planning needs to be set up to provide everyone with the resources necessary to participate meaningfully, make progress, and benefit from hazard mitigation. Equity is not just an important

¹ [Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#) defines "underserved communities" as "populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life..."

principle; it is essential to reducing risk to the whole community,² particularly for those who face barriers to accessing assistance and for populations that are disproportionately affected by disasters. The entire community includes individuals and communities, the private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all levels of government (regional/metropolitan, state, local, tribal, territorial, insular area and federal). The mitigation plan is an opportunity to counter some of those barriers and intentionally plan for reducing the risk to all communities.

Climate change increases the frequency, duration, and intensity of natural hazards, such as wildfires, extreme heat, drought, storms, heavy precipitation, and sea level rise. Communities are feeling the impacts of a changing climate now.³ Many of these trends will likely continue for decades.⁴ These variations create new risks to state and local governments and challenge pre-existing mitigation plans. They also pose a unique threat to the nation's most at-risk populations by exacerbating the impacts of disasters on underserved and socially vulnerable populations who already experience the most significant losses from natural hazards.

Many states and communities have been planning for climate change through climate adaptation efforts. According to the National Climate Assessment, climate adaptation refers to “actions taken at the individual, local, regional, and national levels to reduce risks from even today’s changed climate conditions and to prepare for impacts from additional changes projected for the future.”⁵ While climate adaptation efforts may be undertaken separately or in addition to the all-hazards mitigation planning process, hazard mitigation and climate adaptation are complementary efforts with the same goal: long-term risk reduction for people and increased safety for communities. The key difference between hazard mitigation and climate adaptation is that hazard mitigation encompasses all natural hazards, including short-term, episodic events that may or may not be connected to climate change. Climate adaptation efforts and plans are focused on reducing the risk to and mitigating impacts from actual or expected causes of climate change. As natural disasters cross geographic boundaries and increase in frequency and intensity, the need to support intersecting plans is more significant than ever. Adapting to the expected impacts of climate change is a form of hazard mitigation. A hazard mitigation plan that addresses climate change in its risk assessment and includes adaptation actions in its mitigation strategy may reduce risk to current and future events.

SUMMARY OF PLAN

ELEMENT A – PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process section of the mitigation plan documents how the plan was developed, who was involved and what data and information were used to build or update the plan. A successful planning effort includes active participation and buy-in from community leaders, stakeholders, and the public. The

² National Preparedness Goal, [Second Edition](#), 2015

³ U.S. Global Change Research Program, [Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States](#), 2018.

⁴ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group 1 to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), 2021.

⁵ U.S. Global Change Research Program, [Fourth National Climate Assessment, Chapter 28: Reducing Risks through Adaptation Actions](#), 2018.

[National Mitigation Framework](#) emphasizes the valuable role of collaboration among various sectors to ensure that mitigation capabilities continue to grow and that comprehensive mitigation includes strategies for all community sectors. Examples of sectors with mitigation capabilities are those agencies and stakeholders responsible for:

- Emergency management.
- Economic development.
- Land use and development.
- Housing.
- Health and social services.
- Infrastructure (including transportation and other community lifelines).
- Natural and cultural resources.

In addition, FEMA's [National Response Framework, 4th Edition](#), identifies critical [community lifelines](#), which are the most fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function. Community lifelines include the following:

- Safety and Security.
- Food, Water, Shelter.
- Health and Medical.
- Energy.
- Communications.
- Transportation.
- Hazardous Material.

Efforts to mitigate potential impacts to community lifelines are key to building resilience. These community lifelines connect to the sectors in the National Mitigation Framework and the Recovery Support Functions under the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#); the same agencies and departments that support these sectors also often support community lifelines and the recovery mission.

Involving members from these key sectors in the planning process will result in a shared understanding of risks. It will also help build widespread support for directing financial, technical, and human resources toward natural hazard risk reduction.

ELEMENT B – RISK ASSESSMENT

The Risk Assessment identifies the hazards that can affect jurisdictions participating in the mitigation plan. It analyzes each of these hazards with respect to where each hazard might affect the planning area (location), its potential magnitude (extent), how often events have happened in the past (previous occurrences), how likely they are to occur in the future (future probability); what parts of the community are most likely to be affected (vulnerability); and the potential consequences (impacts).

There is no prescribed method for how to present this information, and the location, extent, previous occurrences, and future probability can be described or illustrated in a way that satisfies all requirements together. For example, one map with explanatory text could provide information on some hazards' location, extent, and future probability.

Risk Assessments provide the factual basis for activities proposed in the strategy to reduce losses from identified hazards. Therefore, it is essential to use current and accurate information, even if the most sophisticated technology is not available to analyze it. This analysis provides the basis for the actions in the Mitigation Strategy, so local risk assessments must provide sufficient information to enable the jurisdiction to identify and prioritize appropriate mitigation actions to reduce losses from identified hazards. Risk Assessments need to clarify the connection between the vulnerabilities identified for participating jurisdictions and the actions they will take to minimize losses to people and property.

ELEMENT C – MITIGATION STRATEGY

The mitigation strategy is the long-term blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment. The Stafford Act directs local mitigation plans to describe hazard mitigation actions and establish a strategy to implement those actions. Therefore, all other requirements for a local mitigation plan lead to and support the mitigation strategy as a means to reduce risk and vulnerabilities over the long term.

The mitigation strategy includes the development of goals and prioritized hazard mitigation actions. Goals are long-term policy statements and global visions that support the mitigation strategy. A critical step in the development of specific hazard mitigation actions and projects is assessing existing authorities, policies, programs, resources, and capabilities to use or modify local tools to reduce losses and vulnerability from profiled hazards.

For the 2024 Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the existing goals and actions are either reaffirmed or updated based on current conditions. These include completing hazard mitigation initiatives, an updated or new risk assessment, or changes in state or local priorities while adding new goals and actions as needed.

ELEMENT D – PLAN MAINTENANCE

The mitigation plan is a living document that guides actions over time. Continually documenting the process makes the next plan update easier. The plan is a blueprint for reducing risk and protecting community investments. Having a process for maintaining the plan reflects the recognition that things change. Not only is there a need to track progress on implementing the mitigation strategy, but new information may become available, and disasters may happen. The plan needs to be revisited at regular intervals to keep it relevant, and the planning team needs to decide how that will be done. At a minimum, this must be done every five years, but it should also be done after major disaster events or if new conditions significantly change risk.

Plan maintenance means keeping the plan accurate, current, and relevant over the five-year approval period. It includes monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan – and generally keeping the planning process active. Plan maintenance is critical to ensure participants use the plan to continually reduce hazard risk.

ELEMENT E – PLAN UPDATE

To continue to effectively represent the jurisdiction's overall strategy for reducing its risks from natural hazards, the mitigation plan must reflect how current conditions have changed since the last plan. This will require an assessment of the current development patterns and development pressures, as well as an evaluation of any new hazard or risk information. The plan update is an opportunity for the jurisdiction to assess its previous goals and action plan, evaluate progress in implementing hazard mitigation actions, and adjust its actions to address the current realities.

If growth conditions and community priorities have changed very little (such as through new leadership, new funding sources or recent hazard conditions), much of the text in the updated plan may be unchanged. This is acceptable as long as the plan still fits the priorities of the community and reflects the current conditions. Plan readers can recognize a good plan update by its documentation of the community's progress or changes in their hazard mitigation program, along with the community's continued engagement in the mitigation planning process.

Where jurisdictions have experienced changes in development (planned, increase or decline), the plan update must discuss how development changes have altered vulnerability. If no development changes have occurred since the last version of the plan, this must be stated.

Where hazard risk has not changed significantly, a jurisdiction may use the update process to review and verify existing risk information. The updated risk assessment must document which information has been reviewed and remains accurate.

ELEMENT F – PLAN ADOPTION

Adoption by the local governing body or bodies demonstrates the jurisdiction's commitment to the hazard mitigation goals and actions outlined in the plan. Adoption legitimizes the plan and authorizes responsible agencies to perform their responsibilities. Updated plans are adopted anew to demonstrate the community's recognition of the current planning process, acknowledge changes from the previous five years, and validate the priorities for hazard mitigation actions. Without adoption, the jurisdiction has not completed the mitigation planning process and will not be eligible for certain FEMA assistance, such as HMA or HHPD grant program funding for mitigation actions.

ALL ADOPTION RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED WITH PLAN

Under this option, a community with a single-jurisdictional plan, or all participating communities that are part of a multi-jurisdictional plan, include documentation of plan adoption when they initially submit the plan to the state for review. This documentation is usually a resolution by the governing body, but it may include any other method of adoption allowed by local laws.

The state is responsible for performing an initial review of the plan before sending it to FEMA. This includes checking that each jurisdiction seeking approval participated in the planning process and met the requirements. After receiving the draft plan from the state, FEMA conducts its review and will approve the plan if it meets all requirements stated in Section 4 of this guide. The plan approval date begins the five-year approval period and sets the expiration date for the plan. All participating jurisdictions will have the same approval date. The official approval date and the plan’s expiration date are both indicated on the signed FEMA approval correspondence.

Under this option, the jurisdiction(s) adopt(s) the plan before submitting it to FEMA. It is important to recognize that the state and/or FEMA may require revisions to the plan that will change the plan’s final content. Jurisdictions are encouraged to use flexible adoption resolution language that leaves room for any required revisions that occur after adoption, if local laws invalidate the adopted resolution language used in the plan. If it is not allowable per local laws, jurisdictions may need to re-adopt the plan after revisions are made. All jurisdictions must adopt the plan in accordance with local laws and regulations.

APPROVABLE PENDING ADOPTION

Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) status is used when jurisdictions submit the final draft of a local hazard mitigation plan for review prior to formal jurisdictional adoption. The APA status allows FEMA to communicate to the plan participant(s) that the plan is ready for adoption. ***It is important to note that APA is not the same as having an approved plan.*** To reach approval, all participating jurisdictions must adopt the plan in accordance with local regulations.

Under this option, the state and FEMA review the draft local mitigation plan. The state is responsible for checking that each jurisdiction seeking approval participated in the planning process and has met all requirements except adoption. Once this is completed, the state sends the plan to FEMA. FEMA then

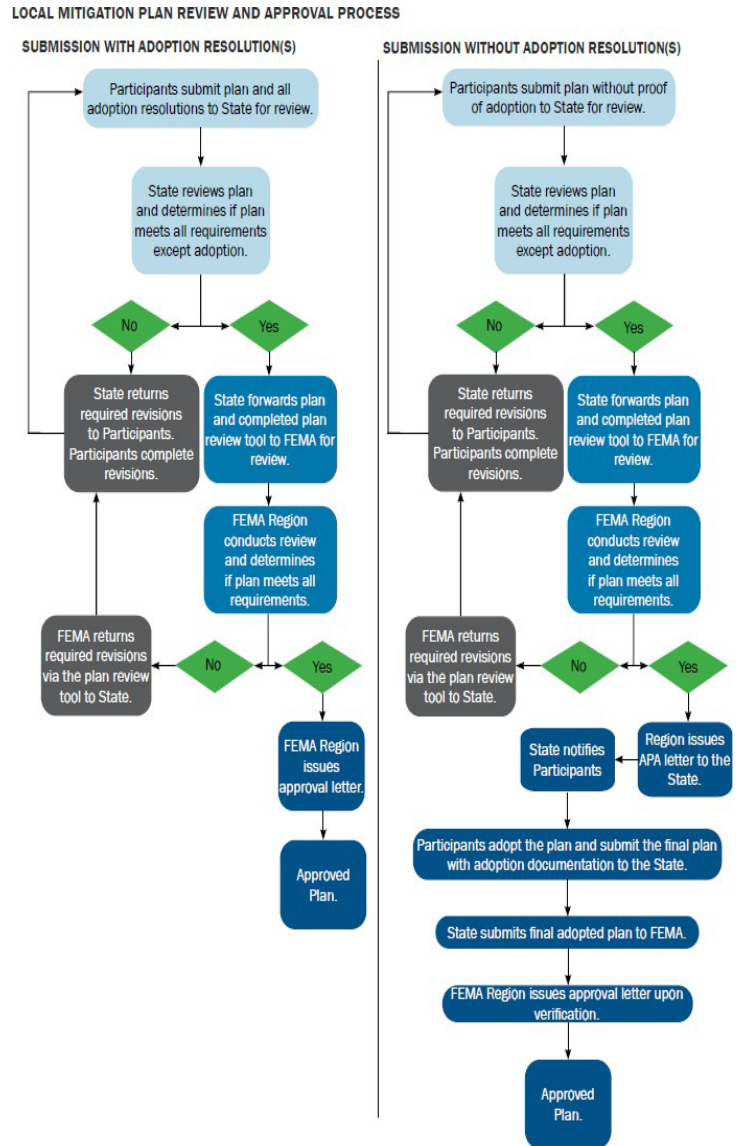


Figure 1 shows the two paths that multi-jurisdictional plans can follow to achieve approved status: Submission With Adoption Resolution(s) and Submission Without Adoption Resolution(s).

completes its review. When FEMA determines that the plan as a whole and each participating jurisdiction has met all the requirements except adoption, FEMA will inform the state (e.g., by sending an electronic communication or letter) that the plan is in APA status. The state informs the local governments that the plan is in APA status and that local adoption must be completed for FEMA to approve the plan.

According to 44 CFR § 201.6(a)(4), “Multi-jurisdictional plans may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.” For multi-jurisdictional plans, FEMA will grant APA status for the plan as a whole when the plan and each participating jurisdiction have met all of the requirements except adoption (Element F). APA status will not be granted to individual jurisdictions on a piecemeal basis. If some jurisdictions are unable to meet all the requirements, the plan submittal may include notification that those jurisdictions are not participating at that time.

Once FEMA receives documentation of at least one adoption resolution, the status is changed from APA to Approved for the entire plan and for that jurisdiction. This status change establishes the start and expiration dates for the plan approval period. Beyond that, it only means that the jurisdiction that provided proof of adoption is approved; **each participating jurisdiction must adopt the plan to be approved.**

Participating jurisdictions that adopt the plan more than one year after APA status has been issued must either:

- Validate that their information in the plan remains current with respect to both the risk assessment (no recent hazard events, no changes in development) and their mitigation strategy (no changes necessary); or
- Make the necessary updates before submitting the adoption resolution to FEMA.

The plan approval date begins the five-year approval period and sets the expiration date for the plan. For single and multi-jurisdictional plans, the official plan approval date and [plan expiration date](#) are indicated on the official FEMA approval letter. All participating jurisdictions in the multi-jurisdictional plan will have the same expiration date regardless of their own jurisdiction’s adoption date. The date indicated on FEMA’s approval letter is the official approval date. A jurisdiction with a plan in APA status does not meet the requirement for an approved mitigation plan to apply for and receive assistance.

Figure 1 shows the two paths that multi-jurisdictional plans can follow to achieve approved status: Submission With Adoption Resolution(s) and Submission Without Adoption Resolution(s).

ELEMENT G – HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL DAMS

Critical infrastructure like dams and levees provide recreation, water supply, floodplain management, energy, and other important functions. Dam owners and operators can be private, nonprofit, or public. They are important participants/stakeholders in local mitigation planning processes.

The National Dam Safety Program Act (Pub. L. 92–367), as amended, 33 U.S.C. § 467f-2, authorizes FEMA to provide High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Rehabilitation Grant Program assistance for the rehabilitation of dams that fail to meet minimum dam safety standards and pose unacceptable risk to life

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and property. At a minimum, local mitigation plans must address the subset of state-regulated dams considered HHPDs.⁶ The Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety; Hazard Potential Classification System⁷ for Dams states that dams assigned the high hazard potential classification are those where failure or mis-operation will probably cause loss of human life.

Hazard mitigation goals are broad, long-term policy and vision statements. Goals do not need to mention specific actions, specific dams, or use the term “high hazard potential dam.” Projects submitted for consideration for HHPD funding must be consistent with the goals and actions identified in the current, approved hazard mitigation plan.

NKADD staff is available to present the updated regional hazard mitigation and resolution adoption at a future regular meeting or provide you with additional information so you can place the resolution adoption on your meeting agenda. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Katie Jo Kirkpatrick, Strategic Initiative Manager, at katiejo.kirkpatrick@nkadd.org or 859.692.2482.

⁶ Dams eligible for the HHPD classification have additional requirements and, therefore may not include all HHPDs within the local jurisdiction. This subset of dams is defined at 33 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 467(4)(A) and 33 U.S.C. § 467f-2(4).

⁷ FEMA/ICODS, 2004

NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN FAQ

Why do we need a hazard mitigation plan?

Developing a hazard mitigation plan helps to:

- Increase education and awareness of natural hazards and community vulnerabilities
- Build partnerships with government, organizations, businesses, and the public to reduce risk
- Identify long-term strategies for risk reduction with input from stakeholders and the public
- Identify cost-effective mitigation actions that focus resources on the greatest risk areas
- Integrate planning efforts and risk reduction with other community planning efforts
- Align risk reduction with other state, tribal or community objectives
- Communicate priorities to potential funders

What are the benefits of submitting a multi-jurisdiction regional hazard mitigation plan (MJHMP)?

Multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning can be an effective process to build partnerships between communities that face common hazard risks, leading to shared solutions. It can also help build a foundation to shift priorities as risks and vulnerabilities change. Hazard mitigation plans are prepared and adopted by communities with the primary purpose of identifying, assessing, and reducing the long-term risk to life and property from hazard events. Effective mitigation planning can break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repetitive losses. Hazard mitigation plans can address a range of natural and human-caused hazards. Plans can be developed for a single community or as a multi-jurisdictional plan that includes multiple jurisdictions and counties across a region.

We are adopting a resolution to approve the plan before it receives approval from FEMA. What happens if FEMA recommend changes after you approve the plan?

By submitting the plan for review and approval at the same time as we are asking jurisdictions to approve and adopt the plan, the final FEMA approval can be expedited, and communities will be able to receive mitigation funds from FEMA. The recommendations made by the state and FEMA during the review process are similar to the annual updates and thus don't require reapproval and re-adoption of the current plan.

How often do we need to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a five-year plan. The next complete plan update will be due in 2028. Collaborating with the local and regional hazard mitigation committees, NKADD staff will provide each jurisdiction with a yearly status update as outlined in Element D – Plan Maintenance. Starting in 2026, staff will work with the local and regional hazard mitigation committees to update the plan for 2028.

Where can I find the FEMA-approved Northern Kentucky Hazard Mitigation Plan and the yearly updates?

The approved hazard mitigation plan can be found on the NKADD website at <https://www.nkadd.org/hazard-mitigation-planning/>.

SAMPLE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RESOLUTION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING SPECIAL DISTRICTS), KY RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF (LOCAL GOVERNMENT) ADOPTING THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, 2024

WHEREAS the (local governing body) recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within (local government); and

WHEREAS the (local government) has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024, in accordance with federal laws, including the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#), as amended; the [National Flood Insurance Act of 1968](#), as amended; and the [National Dam Safety Program Act](#), as amended; and

WHEREAS the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024 identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in (local government) from the impacts of future hazards and disasters and

WHEREAS adoption by the (local governing body) demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT), KY, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with (local rule for adopting resolutions), the (local governing body) adopts the Northern Kentucky Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024. While content related to (local government) may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require (local government) to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

Adopted by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against, and _____ abstaining, this day of _____ day of _____, _____.

By:

Signature

Printed Name

ATTEST: By:

Signature

Printed Name

APPROVED AS TO FORM: By:

Signature

Printed Name