

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Keefer and members of the City Council  
cc: Brandon Hammond, City Manager  
From: Carla McLane, Planning Official  
Date: June 24, 2025  
RE: Staff Report – Adoption of the 2024 Morrow County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and a City of Boardman Annex

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Morrow County in 2006, in collaboration with the five cities of Morrow County, adopted the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Then in 2017 Morrow County, again collaboratively with the cities of Morrow County, adopted the first update, which included a name change – Morrow County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (MC MJ-NHMP). These were developed and adopted under the 2000 Disaster Mitigation Act, federal legislation that prescribes what a Plan should address and provides that adoption of such a Plan grants the ability to obtain federal pre- and post-disaster financial assistance.

In 2022 Morrow County received a Federal Emergency Management Administration grant that was funneled through Oregon Emergency Management and managed by the Department of Land Conservation and Development to update the 2017 Plan. Early in the update process Rolf Prag and I participated on behalf of the City of Boardman in the meetings and discussions concerning the needed changes to the Plan. Those early meetings focused on the hazard inputs and included discussion about the risk and vulnerability of Morrow County and each of the cities within the county. Those meetings halted without explanation some eight or nine months into the update process just as the discussion was shifting to the Plan itself.

In late 2024 there was an announcement that the Morrow County Board of Commissioners were contemplating adoption of the MC MJ-NHMP. When we inquired about the ability to comment on the draft document it was made clear that the County had to adopt the Plan as presented to meet the grant deadlines. There was not a clear opportunity provided to submit comments or concerns to the document slated for adoption. Morrow County adopted the Plan in December 2024.

To be compliant with federal law, particularly the 2000 Disaster Mitigation Act, and to have access to both pre- and post-disaster funding, the City of Boardman does need to adopt the MC MJ-NHMP. Staff do suggest that as part of your discussion and deliberation, that you encourage Morrow County to initiate the next update timelier, preferably within the next two years, to better address a variety of errors and omissions within the Plan and to provide a more comprehensive Annex to the City of Boardman as well as the other cities within Morrow County. The adopted Plan also indicates that the Steering Committee will be reconvened within six months of adoption with meetings occurring every six months to review and maintain the Plan. As of this date a Steering Committee meeting has not been held.