



# 2026 Calcasieu Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Kickoff Meeting  
November 18, 2025



# Introductions

- **Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI)**
  - Chris Rippetoe – Hazard Mitigation Program Manager
  - Jason Martin – Emergency Management Analyst
- **Calcasieu Parish**
  - Jared Maze – Calcasieu Parish OHSEP
  - Natasha Willis – Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
  - Jennifer Cobain – Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
- **Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)**
  - Lennie LaFleur– Preparedness Program Specialist
  - Marion Pearson – Hazard Mitigation Planner



# Who is SDMI?

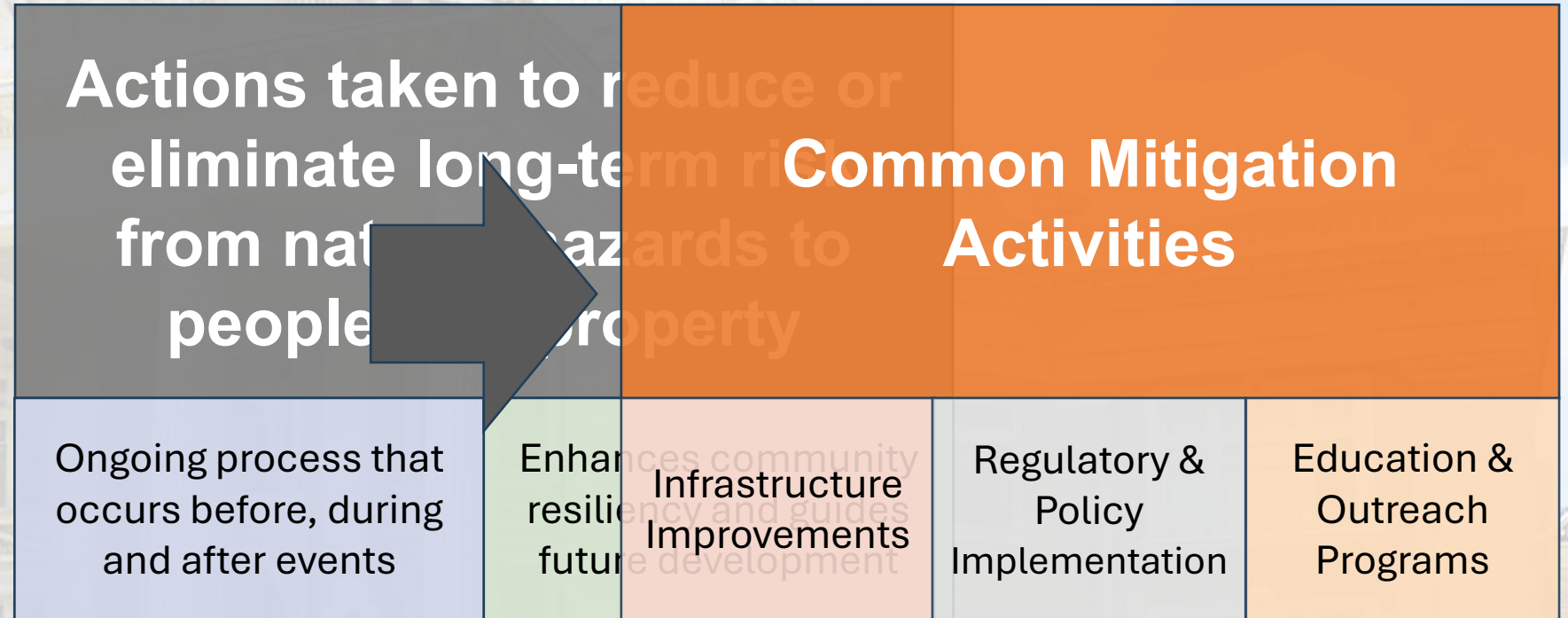
- Stephenson Disaster Management Institute (SDMI) at Louisiana State University
- Non-Academic, Applied Research Unit on campus
- Specialize in providing programmatic support and decision making tools for state and local emergency managers
  - Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Emergency Operations Plans
  - Geographic Information Systems
  - Application Development
  - Data Visualization
  - Aerial Imagery Collection/Processing



# Phases of Emergency Management



# What Is Hazard Mitigation?



# Benefits of Hazard Mitigation



## Saves Lives

Protects  
residents and  
first  
responders



## Reduces Property Damage

Increases  
building,  
infrastructure  
and  
community  
resiliency



## Minimizes Economic Disruptions

Reduces  
disaster  
recovery costs

# Why Have A Hazard Mitigation Plan

Planning efforts help communities become more resilient and sustainable

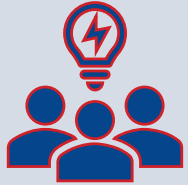
- Provides platform for input from diverse group of stakeholders
- Identifies most prevalent hazards in the community
- Outlines a strategy to protect community from hazards

Maintains community eligibility for federal post-disaster mitigation funding

- Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 Section 322
- Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6
- **No Plan = No Mitigation Money = No Projects!**

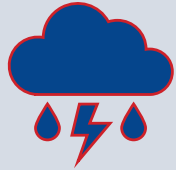


# Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirements



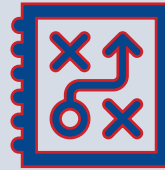
**Must include a robust planning committee/ stakeholder group**

- Incorporated jurisdictions
- Local/parish agencies
- Local business/ industry
- Underserved populations\*



**Must identify and evaluate the risk from natural hazards**

- Types/sources of hazards
- Location/extent
- Impacts on community
- Previous occurrences
- Potential for future events



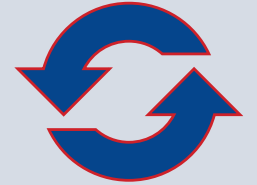
**Must outline strategy for reducing impacts for identified risks**

- Set clear goals/ objectives
- Identify actions or projects
- Establish timelines, responsible parties & funding sources



**Must be formally adopted by all participating jurisdictions**

- All HM plans in LA are multi-jurisdictional
- Administered at parish level
- Incorporated communities within parish must also adopt



**Must be updated and receive FEMA approval every five years**

- Reassess risks, vulnerabilities & mitigation strategy
- Must reflect changes in conditions & development



# Misconceptions about Mitigation Plans

## Not an Emergency Operations Plan

- It focuses on long-term risk reduction, not immediate disaster response actions

## Not a One-time Document

- Should be reviewed and updated periodically

## Not Limited to Large-Scale Projects

- Includes both structural (e.g., levees) and non-structural (e.g., building codes) strategies

## Not a Guaranteed Funding Source

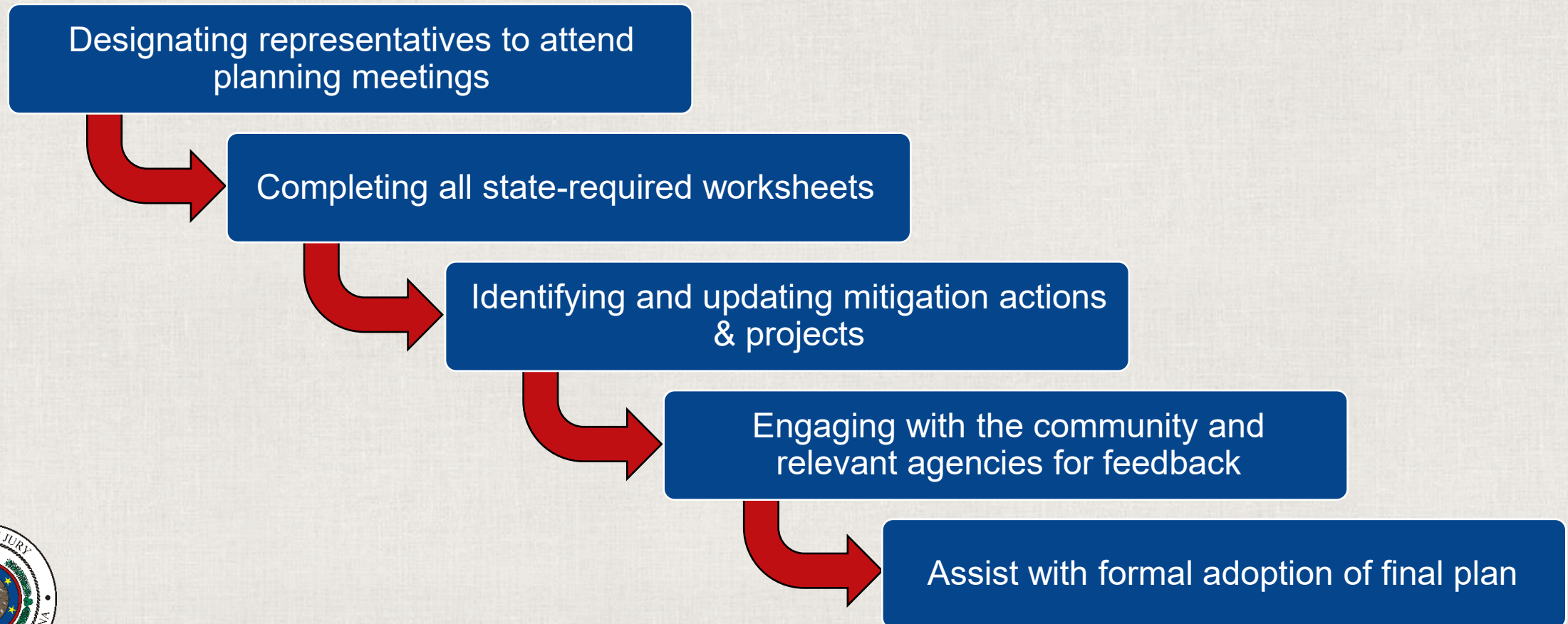
- Helps secure federal/state funds but does not automatically result in project approval

## Not a Standalone Effort

- Should align with local comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, and climate adaptation strategies

# Planning Committee Expectations

- Parish will serve as the POC throughout the planning process
- Parish and jurisdictions **MUST** demonstrate active participation in the planning process by:



# Hazard Identification

## Previously Profiled Hazards

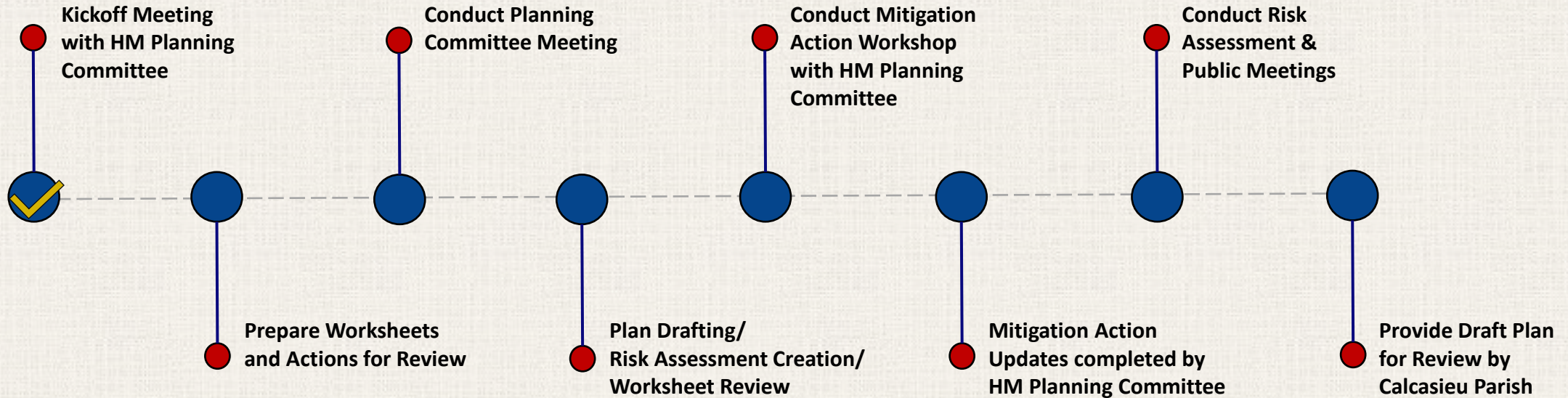
- Coastal Land Loss/Subsidence
- Drought
- Extreme Heat
- Flooding
- Sinkholes
- Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes
- Tropical Cyclones
- Wildfires
- Winter Storms

## FEMA'S National Risk Index

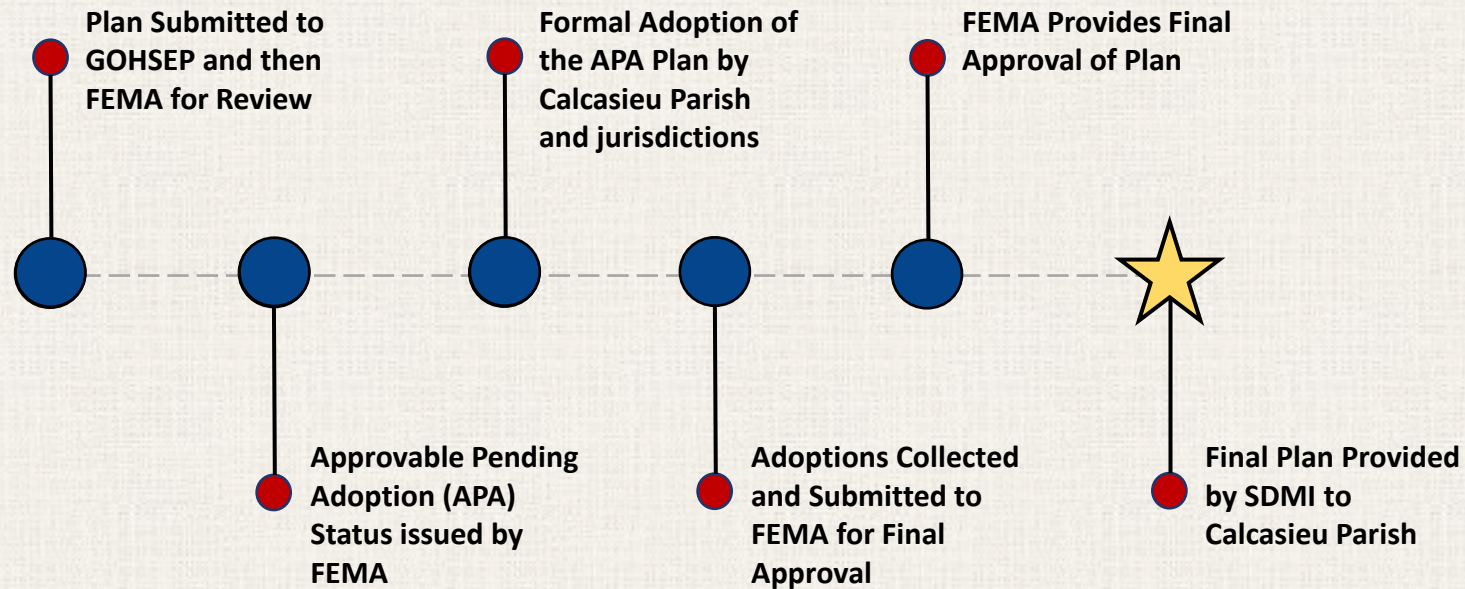
- Hail
- Heat Waves
- Hurricanes
- Ice Storms
- Lightning
- Riverine Flooding
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires



# Plan Update Process Timeline



# Plan Approval Timeline



# The Final Product



Maintains community eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs

Provides an assessment of natural disaster-related risks & vulnerabilities

Outlines a hazard mitigation project strategy to increase community resilience



# SDMI Hazard Mitigation Website

- Repository for materials used during the plan update process
- <https://hmplans.sdmi.lsu.edu/>

The screenshot shows the main navigation and introductory content of the website. The header includes the LSU Stephenson Disaster Management Institute logo and a 'SDMI HOME' button. The main heading is 'HAZARD MITIGATION' with sub-navigation for 'Intro', 'Events', 'FEMA Resources', and 'Parish Plans'. A 'Sponsored by' section features the Calcasieu Parish logo and a text box titled 'Why We Have Hazard Mitigation Plans' explaining the federal requirements and funding. Below this are three tabs: 'CHOOSE A VIEW', 'MAP OF PARISHES', and 'LIST OF PARISHES'. The 'MAP OF PARISHES' tab is active, showing a map of Louisiana with a legend for the 'Development Process' and a summary table.

Step 1: Plan Development	Step 2: Plan Review	Step 3: Plan Adoption	Step 4: Completed
4 Parishes currently in this stage	10 Parishes currently in this stage	1 Parishes currently in this stage	45 Parishes currently in this stage

This screenshot displays the detailed page for Calcasieu Parish. It features a 'DEVELOPMENT STATUS' progress bar with stages: PLAN DEVELOPMENT, PLAN REVIEW, PLAN ADOPTION, and COMPLETED. Below the progress bar is a 'PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS' list including Calcasieu Parish, City of Dequincy, City of Sulphur, Town of Iowa, Town of Vinton, City of Lake Charles, and City of Westlake. A 'KICKOFF/EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW MEETING' is scheduled for November 18th. The 'PREVIOUS PLANS' section lists the 2021 and 2015 Calcasieu Parish Hazard Mitigation Plans, along with 2015 kickoff and public meeting presentations, each with a 'DOWNLOAD' button. An 'Access Survey' button is also present.



# Next Steps

- Identify Neighboring Community
  - Cameron was used in previous plan update
- Dates for Next Meetings
  - Current plan expires September 16, 2026
  - Initial Planning Committee Meeting
  - Risk Assessment/Public Meeting
  - Mitigation Strategy Meeting (optional)



# Contact Us

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