

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2020 Hamlin County (County) received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that its 2019-2024 Pre-disaster Mitigation Plan (Plan) had been approved. This plan identifies potential natural disasters, their impact and possible projects to mitigate the impact of said disasters. The County is required by FEMA to update this plan every five years. The County applied for federal funding to assist with the cost of an update and was informed in September 2023 of the grant award. The County has entered into a contract with the First District Association of Local Governments to facilitate the development of the Plan.

The goal of the plan will be to reduce the personal and economic costs of hazard events in the rural and urban areas of Hamlin County. The County believes this effort is an investment that will enhance and strengthen the economic structure and long-term stability of the rural and municipal areas of the County.

Through this planning process, projects are identified that will make the next disaster event as uneventful as possible. The goal is to enlist the support of community stake holders to sponsor or support a project. The planning process does not happen overnight. We expect this process to last approximately nine months. While it might take perhaps years for certain projects to be completed, the Plan is the document that will bring all pre-disaster mitigation efforts to a central location.

Your community/school/utility/entity etc. has been identified as a potential partner in this process. I would be pleased if your organization would select an individual to serve on the Pre-disaster Mitigation Planning Team. The Mitigation Planning Team will meet three times over the next six to nine months. I should note that your representative may not have to attend all the scheduled meetings throughout the process.

An organization/familiarization meeting of the Mitigation Planning Team is set for Wednesday January 24, 2024. The meeting will be held in the Hamlin County 4-H building in Hayti, SD at 5:30 P.M.

Thank you for your serious consideration of the County's request.

Sincerely,

Brett Schutt
Director
Hamlin County Emergency Management
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