

Village of Sidney, New York

Long Term Plan for Recovery & Resilience



**Unanimously Adopted – Village of Sidney Village Board
October 9, 2013**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This plan was prepared for the New York State Department of State under
Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)

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I. INTRODUCTION

WHY A LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN?

Sidney is a community at risk. There have been two floods that exceeded both the “100 year” (1% chance of occurring at any given time) and “500 year” (0.2% chance of occurring at any given time) risk floods within the last seven years. Climate science indicates that extreme storms are increasing in frequency. In order to avoid repeating the losses, the toil and heartbreak of another flood, some old ways of living and some of the places people lived and worked have to change. How can the Village of Sidney be safe from future flooding, but still preserve its special character and the things residents love about it? If changes have to be made to avoid future floods, can they happen thoughtfully, in ways that make Sidney even better? The Sidney Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, which includes lands in the 100 year floodplain in and around the Village core, establishes a framework upon which a vibrant and resilient Sidney can be built.

WHAT IS A NEW YORK RISING: COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM PLAN?

In the months since the Village of Sidney Long Term Community Recovery Plan (LTCR) has been underway Super Storm Sandy struck New York. The State’s response to that storm, as well as to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, is addressed in the New York Rising: Community Reconstruction Program (CRP) which offers professional planning support and implementation funding to the targeted communities. Sidney is part of a group of communities in the Southern Tier who are committed to expand their scope to cover required elements of the CRP process and work together to develop a regional plan that addresses their shared needs as Susquehanna River communities. The CRP builds upon previous work including this LTCR plan but also offers the community the opportunity to drill down deeper on certain issues including the needs of vulnerable populations. To the greatest degree possible, this LTCR anticipates as many required elements as possible given the still emerging and changing nature of the CR Plan approach. The process highlights the following areas of interest that the plan must address:

- Infrastructure
- Economic Development
- Health and Social Service
- Housing
- Natural and cultural systems
- Socially vulnerable populations
- Other assets of community importance

The detailed components of the CRP that Sidney will address to augment this LTRC plan include development of a:

- **Vulnerable Populations** evaluation including those who are often underserved and displaced in storm recovery. Vulnerable populations include people with disabilities, low and very low income people, the elderly, young children, the homeless and people at risk of becoming homeless. The CRP will enable planners to target outreach to these people and work with their advocates to develop a plan that is responsive to their needs.
- **Review of a Final Risk Assessment Maps** in a format consistent with requirements of New York State Department of State. The LTRC process included detailed examination of floodplain mapping, past mapping by the United States Army Corp of Engineers and inundation maps available in the Delaware County All Hazard Mitigation Plan, but a map consistent with State guidance remains to be developed.
- **Geographic Scope for the Plan.** It is assumed that the geographic boundary will be consistent with the LTRC Plan which includes the entire Village of Sidney, although many site specific projects are located in the 100 year floodplain.
- **Public Engagement Strategy** and approach to community meetings. This task will be closely coordinated with the meetings under the LTRC process. A number of the tasks involved in public engagement have been completed including risk and asset review and vision statement development.

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- **Vision Statement** development that addresses key issues including capitalizing on assets, rebuilding in a resilient manner, and reducing future risk.
- **Community Asset Inventory** which is required for the CRP Plan using a format development by the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS). Though a great deal of information has been assembled it will be necessary to identify the location the floodplain or dam inundation areas. The current assessment will be revised to add details regarding health and social services.
- **Risk Assessment Framework** will be completed building on existing data to determine greatest vulnerabilities based on three factors: hazard, vulnerability and exposure using an assessment format specified by NYSDOS.
- **Needs and Opportunities Assessment** will be completed building on existing data using an asset inventory form developed by NYSDOS focused on the seven component areas listed above (economic development, health and social services, housing, infrastructure, natural and cultural systems, socially vulnerable populations and other assets).
- **Identification of Reconstruction Strategies**, projects, programs and actions will integrate and, if necessary expand the goals and actions outlined in this LTRC and classify them under the components listed above.
- **Regional Planning Strategy** to coordinate the efforts that will emerge from the proposed Southern Tier Regional Resiliency Plan addressing shared needs of the Susquehanna River communities and be integrated into the LTRC Plan and CRP Plan for Sidney by reference.
- **Implementation Schedule and Matrix** summarizing the implementation steps, schedule and relative priorities.

II. HISTORY



Many American villages were founded at the convergence of two waterways, which provided pre-historic natives and early European settlers a highway in the forests, some level land among the hills, and a source of water and food. In the case of Sidney, the early villagers built on the south side of the Susquehanna River, opposite the mouth of the Unadilla River, on the wide flat lands then called the Sidney Plains. It was an area of good deep soil formed by the rivers: their floodplain.

By the time there were enough buildings clustered to make a village, locals had observed years of high water on the river and

located their structures out of the area that tended to flood. A widespread flood occurred in 1936, causing extensive damage and hardship, but the village recovered, and as time went on most residents ceased to worry about the darker consequences of their location by the beautiful river.

Today Sidney is a small Village located on approximately two square miles in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains along the banks of the Susquehanna River. It is situated in the northwest corner of Delaware County, abutting both Chenango and Otsego counties. Sidney is located at the junction of Interstate 88 and State Route 8, making the cities of Oneonta, Binghamton and Utica accessible.

The Village maintains a small airport, a police department, a volunteer fire department and an emergency squad. The Civic Center houses municipal offices and services. Most religious denominations are represented, and the community supports a myriad of service organizations and public interest groups. There is an AM-FM radio station, a weekly newspaper, and the high school operates a television station. The school district encompasses two Villages and parts of three others. The public library is chartered to service the school district's residents. Sidney has a population of 3,900 people.

The Village is managed by a mayor, clerk and board of trustees and is supported by a County with planning and economic development capabilities. Unemployment is above the state average and housing values are in decline. Manufacturing is their chief economic sector and one of their lead industries, Amphenol Aerospace, suffered heavy damage in Tropical Storm Lee.

THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

From its origin at Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, New York, the Susquehanna River flows for over 440 miles, making it the longest river on the American east coast, the 16th longest in the United States and the longest river in the Country that is not commercially navigable. With an average daily volume of 22 billion gallons of water, the Susquehanna is the largest contributor of freshwater to the Chesapeake Bay. The river drains 27,500 square miles (71,000 km), including nearly half of the land area of Pennsylvania. In New York it is the outlet for most of the rivers and streams in the Southern Tier where its watershed is over 4,500 square miles. The tributaries flowing into the Susquehanna in Sidney, including the Weir Creek, are steeply elevated and in flood events carry significant volume at significant velocity creating potential for life threatening flash flooding. As the tributaries hit the River they cause a ponding condition that limits the ability of the streams to handle the flow of water from the draining watershed.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission calls the Susquehanna “one of the most flood prone watersheds in the nation.”



Hurricane Sandy, in October 2012, was predicted to bring heavy rain and flooding to the upstate area, including Sidney, before it veered eastward and dropped only moderate rainfall in the upper Susquehanna basin. Until Tropical Storm Lee, the flooding produced by the rain from Hurricane Agnes in 1972 was the benchmark for flooding in the Susquehanna basin.

Lee is now established as the worst flood of record for the Southern Tier of New York and portions of northeast Pennsylvania. Twelve river forecast point records were broken. Many people and properties in Sidney remain in harm's way today. This Sidney Long-Term Community Recovery Plan charts a course to safety and prosperity for a more resilient future. It reflects difficult choices the Village is making about relocating some residences and businesses out of the floodplain permanently and replacing those with uses that are designed to flood periodically and bounce back without serious damage.

THE FLOOD OF 2006

After seventy years with minimal flooding, Sidney was inundated by a serious flood in 2006. The area was in near drought conditions prior to June 2006. A series of 1" rain events occurred early and mid-June, 2006 over saturated the soils and brought the stream and river levels up to a bankfull condition. In the last week of June a storm front stalled over the region for a week, dropping a record-breaking 8"-14" of rain over the upper Susquehanna basin before moving on. Past high water levels were surpassed and new records set. The nearest USGS Stream gauges in the Susquehanna were at Unadilla (upstream from Sidney) and Bainbridge (downstream). Both showed levels that exceeded previous records. The record crest at Unadilla had dated from 1936 and the 2006 crest surpassed it by over a foot; the record crest at Bainbridge had been set in 1914 and the 2006 flood surpassed it by just under four feet.

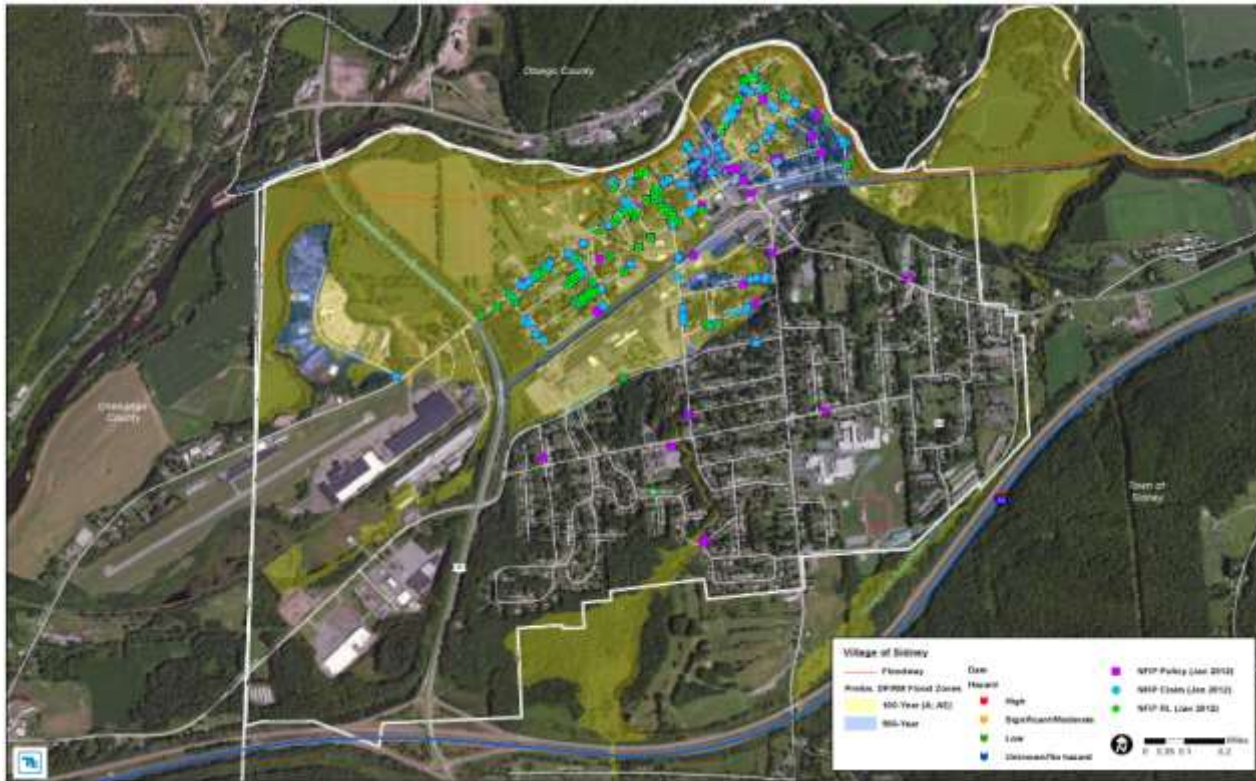


As the Susquehanna River Basin Commission reported in its January 2007 summary of the June 2006 Flood:

“Preliminary results from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) indicate that discharges along the Susquehanna River in New York were greater than the 100-year flood and in some locations exceeded the 500-year flood — breaking long-standing records in several locations by as much as four feet.”

At Sidney, the Susquehanna’s flow was augmented by the flooded Unadilla, and the combined waters spread over the Village. Downtown Sidney between the railroad tracks and the river was evacuated as the waters rose. The flooding was the deepest and the damage the worst on Willow, Maple, Oak, Winegard, Bridge, and River Streets. Many commercial buildings in the Main Street business district were flooded to three feet above the ground floor elevation. Much of the Sidney Industrial Park was under water, as was Sidney’s largest employer, Amphenol Aerospace Corporation. The emergency response was complicated by the flooding of the main fire station, the police station and the EMT headquarters.

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The 2006 flooding was devastating, but many were comforted by seeing it as a once in a lifetime event. After all, it had been some seventy years since the last big flood. That kind of flood was truly a 100-year event – or was it?

THE FLOOD OF 2011

Just five years later, before some businesses and residents had fully recovered from the 2006 flood, and before the proposed mitigation strategies that grew out of that flood were implemented, it happened again. In late August 2011, Hurricane Irene brought 4"- 6" of rain to the area. On August 28, 2011 a County-wide state of emergency was declared, but the serious flooding took place in other parts of Delaware County, not in Sidney. However, just two days after the County had closed down the Emergency Operations Center set up to handle Hurricane Irene, it had to be reopened as Tropical Storm Lee headed for the area. Heavy rain fell over the whole County the night of September 6, 2011, and by the time it stopped the combined storms had dropped totals of 8" -12" over the western part of Delaware County. The Tri-Town News banner headline for its September 15, 2011 issue was "Flood Makes its Return in 2011" and their lead was "It couldn't happen again – but it did."

The initial damage and flooding in Sidney came on September 7 from flash flooding of the smaller streams and tributaries, especially Weir Creek, which runs steeply down through the hillside neighborhoods south of the railroad, flowing under Delaware Avenue just east of the Amphenol Aerospace plant. Weir Creek's natural channel had been altered to make a 90-degree turn west along the edge of the Amphenol site, which fills its former floodplain. Flash flooding overwhelmed the channel and flooded the Amphenol parking lot so quickly that most employees did not get their cars out. Operations were shut down as the plant filled with four feet of water. Shelters were opened at Sidney Middle School and St Luke's Church and the first evacuees spent the night there on September 7. The Weir Creek and other tributaries were overwhelmed and flooded their banks, washed out roads and culverts and flooded many homes and businesses. The Susquehanna River eventually then flooded its banks again when the tributaries began to drain and overwhelmed the main stem due to a narrowing of the river over time. Once again, the quantity of water that fell overwhelmed the valleys and infrastructure (bridges) which then created a series of pinch points not allowing the water to drain through is flood plains.

A County-wide state of emergency and a curfew was declared overnight and on September 8th the Sidney schools did not open. As the Susquehanna was still rising and predicted to pass flood stage by mid-day, the neighborhoods nearer the river were evacuated. Hundreds of people spent the night in the shelters at the Moose Lodge, the Middle School and St. Luke's on September 8th. The

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Red Cross brought in supplies and water. Electricity was cut off to flooded areas, which included much of the Sidney Industrial Park across Route 8 to the west. Areas unaffected by the floodwaters had no power due to flooding of the substations.



As in 2006, fire, police and EMT emergency services were hindered by flooding in their facilities. Operations and equipment were moved to the very small secondary station at East Main Street and Beale Boulevard. Local emergency services began getting much needed support and relief from other parts of the County less affected by the storms by September 9th.

The Susquehanna crested on Sunday the 11th, but because Tropical Storm Lee affected a large area and downstream flooding was heavy, the river was slow to recede. Emergency services turned to de-watering and damage assessment. Village officials estimated that more than 422 buildings were flooded, and floodwaters sat in some areas for as much as a week before receding. The worst hit were some 100 properties west of Union Street and north of the railroad, though many properties east of Union Street were flooded as well. The basements of Main Street businesses were flooded, but the water did not reach into the first floors as it had in 2006. Properties flooded included most of the industrial park, the main Fire Station, the Sidney Credit Union, the Village water treatment plant, the NYSEG substation, and, again, the County's largest employer, Amphenol Aerospace.

Electrical service was restored to most areas by Monday, September 12, when the Village's state of emergency was lifted, but a few areas remained without power for a week, and some businesses that did not flood still took significant losses due to the days without power. The school and hospital were unaffected by flood waters and the Village Hall and library had water in the basement. The NYS Route 8 Bridge washed out, limiting access in and out of the Village. The churches had water in the basement and the firehouse/training center had 2.5 feet of water on the main floor. The wastewater treatment plant flooding caused the holding tanks to overtop and suffer some damage. MeadWestvaco (ACCO) was unaffected by the floodwaters but was left without secondary access to the plant which caused a loss of production.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE FLOODS: AMPHENOL AEROSPACE

Amphenol did not resume full operations in Sidney for two months after the 2006 flood, and the company calculated it took a loss of \$20 million in damages and lost revenues.

Amphenol worked with local and state officials to secure funding for flood prevention measures, and in 2008 they received a \$1.2 million grant from New York State through the Delaware County Economic Development Agency. The grant was focused on construction of a system of berms and walls to be constructed in three phases. Following the USACE studies in 2009 and 2010 this plan was determined to be of limited impact and significant cost and it did not move forward, though some limited berms were

installed. The intense rainfall of September 2011 overwhelmed the mitigation measures and Amphenol again sustained losses of around \$20 million. The day after the 2011 flood, while much of the Village was still under water, Amphenol officials told the Mayor they would be moving the plant to a flood-safe location, possibly out of state. While still dealing with the state of emergency, Village officials began working with county, state and federal representatives to try to keep Amphenol's 1,200 jobs in Sidney.

Local officials and citizens worked to find a "high and dry" site for a new Amphenol plant in Sidney, while state representatives worked to secure incentive funds to encourage Amphenol to make the decision to stay. By the end of November Governor Cuomo committed the state to providing a \$20 million "business assistance and retention" package and Amphenol announced it would stay in Sidney. On November 30, 2011 Governor Cuomo announced that "Funding will be directed to the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency and will help offset costs associated with site acquisition, building construction, extension of a natural gas line to both the existing facility and new facility, and construction of a levee around the existing plating facility, Cuomo's office said. The incentive package is being funded by Empire State Development, Empire State New Market Corporation, and New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Office of Community Renewal."

In 2013, Delaware County IDA received a grant for \$4.3 million in disaster aid from the federal Economic Development Agency earmarked for development of a new flood-safe site for high-tech industry, particularly Amphenol. From the April 13, 2013 article about the grant in the Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin: "This investment would make up 80 percent of the costs to purchase a new shovel-ready site to build Amphenol's new manufacturing facility in a nearby flood-proof area. Work on the new site would include new storm water and filtration systems, sewer and water extensions, and an upgrade to the electrical system." "Without the financial assistance from the Economic Development Administration, the IDA would not be able to make the infrastructure investment necessary to keep Amphenol in Sidney," said Glenn Nealis, director of Delaware County Industrial Development Agency."



Construction was started on the new plant in May 2013, with completion expected in May 2014. Following that announcement Amphenol constructed a temporary berm around the parking lot area at their existing facility.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE FLOODS: OTHER BUSINESSES

Only a handful of businesses have failed to recover and reopen after the floods. That said, losses were sustained and the effects remain as a drag on the local economy. Flooding in the Industrial Park has had a chilling effect on any new investment as well. Huffs Ice Cream distributor had massive losses from flooding and extended power shutdown in both 2006 and 2011, but since then the company has rebuilt with plastic infrastructure that is water proof and mold proof, yet other developable lots remain unfilled. Industrial property owners report that they need to feel confident that a flood mitigation plan is in place and working before they commit funds to maintaining or expanding their investments. Property owners on Main Street say they are reluctant to spend money to maintain and upgrade buildings that have flooded twice, and downtown is in limbo, tipping towards blight rather than revitalization, though it did secure designation as a State Historic District in the spring of 2013.

In a focus group with both Main Street businesses and major employers the following comments were offered:

■ About Main Street:

- Can we actually make Main Street safe?
- What level of flooding might be acceptable? Some said: “If you can keep it in the basement we can live with it”
- Should Main Street remain where it is or should its functions move to the other side of the tracks?
- Main Street needs more retail especially new restaurants: Angus and Andy is good example
- As the population changes Main Street is losing seniors who are loyal downtown shoppers
- Main Street needs collaborative marketing and the Village’s “restaurant identity” is growing and can be marketed
- The Village as a whole and Main Street need entrance/gateway improvements

■ About Larger Business and Manufacturing:

- Major manufacturers have an aging workforce
- Younger people are not being trained in the trades where there is current and near/future need
- Workers are not being trained in the new technology that will replace those trades
- Younger workers are not choosing to locate here because there is “not enough to do” and they are looking for a “rich life”
- There are real advantages in Sidney for industry: interstate, rail, airport
- The old Jamesway Department Store site is important and long-vacant: could it be bought out by local businesses?

■ About Workforce Housing:

- Not enough housing choice - either affordable homeownership, townhomes, market rate for both renters and owners
- Not a lot of obvious locations for new housing
- Not the right jobs/housing balance
- Disinvestment following the flood –driving transition to rental – often low income rental
- New affordable housing project is professionally managed
- Good housing (Valley View) has 2+ year waiting lists
- As we create senior housing and they leave homes, can younger families reoccupy them? Is it safe?

NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS

“ClimAID: The Integrated Assessment for Effective Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in New York State” was undertaken to provide decision-makers with cutting-edge information on the state's vulnerability to climate change and to facilitate the development of adaptation strategies informed by both local experience and scientific knowledge. This assessment of impacts acknowledges the need to plan for and adapt to climate change impacts in a range of sectors: Water Resources, Coastal Zones,

Ecosystems, Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, Telecommunications, and Public Health. The general conclusions of the report that are relevant to the Southern Tier include:

- Heat waves will become more frequent and intense, increasing heat-related illness and death and posing new challenges to the energy system, air quality, and agriculture. Temperatures are expected to rise across the state, by 1.5 to 3°F by the 2020s, 3 to 5.5°F by the 2050s, and 4 to 9°F by the 2080s. Summer drought is projected to increase, affecting water supply, agriculture, ecosystems, and energy production.
- Heavy downpours are increasing, leading to flooding and other impacts on water quality, infrastructure, and agriculture. Annual average precipitation is projected to increase by up to 5% by the 2020s, up to 10 percent by the 2050s, and up to 15 percent by the 2080s. Much of this additional precipitation is likely to occur during the winter months as rain, with the possibility of slightly reduced precipitation projected for the late summer and early fall.

SIDNEY IS STILL AT RISK

The January 2013 Update to the Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan states that within the Village, 262 properties with 1,176 residents are located within the current 1% (100 year) flood hazard zone and another 278 properties with 1,512 residents are within the 0.2% (500 year) zone. Even more properties and residents than these are impacted and require evacuation because they are surrounded by flood zones and end up as isolated islands of higher ground completely cut off from emergency services by surrounding floodwaters. The Hazard Mitigation Plan calculates that the percentage of the village population likely to be displaced by a 1% storm is 42%, and in the 0.2% storm, 45%. The estimated losses in building stock and contents total \$130 million (1% event) and \$155 million (0.2% event). As of October 2013, FEMA has identified 240 properties in the Village of Sidney as “Repetitive Loss Properties” – those that have received payouts of more than \$1,000 for flood losses within a ten-year period. These properties are not eligible for future FEMA assistance unless they are elevated above the flood

level. As of October 2013, 31 residential properties in the flood zone have been proposed for FEMA buyouts and 13 for elevation above the flood level.

Also within the flood hazard zones are most of the village's critical facilities: the police station, the main fire station and fire training facility, the EMS Center, and the Village offices. There are twelve utilities located in the flood hazard zones, including the Water Treatment Plant, two municipal drinking water wells, two electric substations, the radio station and a pump station.



III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

In November of 2011, the NYS Department of State announced funding for the Long Term Community Recovery program. The program, which provides financial and technical assistance to those towns and villages hardest hit by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, offers communities with the tools they need to develop a vision and strategies to reestablish themselves as vibrant communities that are less vulnerable to future disaster. The Village of Sidney applied for and received Long Term Community Recovery grant funding. As the first step in the planning process local leaders who had served as the Village's recovery committee became the Project Advisory Committee for the Long Term Community Recovery planning process. This group met five times during the planning process.

The Project Advisory Committee understood that Sidney has enjoyed a stronger manufacturing base than is average for the state, but despite that, in the last 20 years both population and jobs have been in decline. Earlier studies, such as the 1993 Economic Adjustment Strategy for the Southern Tier Region of New York and the 2003 Susquehanna River Valley Economic Development Strategic Plan pointed them to persistent issues that continue to hamper economic development for Sidney along with the other communities: the region's large size and low density; a lack of industrial infrastructure; and the lack of long-range planning resources and staff due to limited municipal resources. They understood that the purpose of the grant is to develop a Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Strategy to rebuild in a way that strengthens the vitality of the community, reduces risk to life and property, and is sustainable over time. As a result of this recognition the Committee decided to focus their LTCR Plan on resilient economic enhancement. These community members include:

- Craig Biondi
- Clyde Birch
- Bill Christensen
- Barry Cole
- Andy Gates
- Kerri Green
- Noel Goodspeed
- Shelly Johnson Bennett
- Mayor Matviak
- Dennis Porter
- John Redente
- Jacqi Rose

Additional assistance was provided by John Wimbush of the New York State Department of State Division of Coastal Resources. Once funding was available to the Village they issues a Request for Proposals and selected a planning team led by River Street Planning & Development (planners, facilitators and economic developers from Troy, NY). The team included Synthesis. LLP (landscape architects from Schenectady, NY), New England Environmental (environmental scientists and landscape architects from Amherst, MA), Dr. Ernest Swiger (a planner and economist from Stroudsburg PA) and BCK/IBI group (landscape architects from Binghamton, NY).

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

The consultant team and Village Economic Developer met with several key stakeholders in the community to gain a better understanding of the impacts of the storms and flooding. Stakeholders included representatives from the Delaware County Planning Department and Delaware County Soils and Water Conservation District. Many additional telephone interviews were held with small businesses and the Village’s largest employers Amphenol Aerospace and ACCO.

The team also met with representatives of the Sidney High School Flood Monitoring Program which began through a Service-Learning grant from State Farm Insurance. Students have installed eight remote rainfall/weather/stream gauge stations in the upper Susquehanna River basin. These stations are located in the townships of Plainfield, Hartwick, Worcester, Edmeston, Sidney Center (one precipitation and one stream gauge station, Sidney and Milford, and are equipped with satellite

transmitters. Data from these stations is sent to the GOES-East weather satellite every hour. The students then upload the data and data from other stations (weather and river gage information) from the GOES system. Their network of stations are now being reported through the National Weather Service's Hydrometeorological Automated Data System. Students interpret this data, and computer model weather forecasting data to issue Local Weather Forecasts and Flood Potential Forecasts.

The Village decided that given meeting fatigue in the community from the significant number of flood recovery meetings already held that the public participation process would consist of a focused and concentrated planning and design workshop. In January of 2013, the Village and its consultants organized and conducted a visioning workshop to confirm or expand existing Village vision. For one and one-half days, the team and the community gathered in Sidney and focused entirely on developing a vision statement, goals, actions and an illustrative master plan. This highly collaborative workshop was an intensive planning, architectural and landscape design effort. During the first day, focus groups were held with local stakeholders. On the evening of the first night, a visioning workshop was conducted. On the second day, the team took the input from day one and integrated it into a series of concept plans.

At the visioning workshop participants were asked three questions:

- What do you love about Sidney
- What would you like to change
- And what words describe your future vision for the Village

In response to the questions, participants responded with:

What I Love	What I'd Change	My Vision for Sidney
Safety	High taxes deter people from reinvesting	Vibrant
Historic buildings	Relocate outside of flood zone?	Exciting
Familiar faces	The river is the problem - address it	Smells like a bakery
Small town attitude	Need to appeal to younger people	Smells like mowed grass
Feelings of pride and belonging	Need different kinds of jobs	Quiet
Neighborliness	many musicians live here	Young families and kids
Library	Change days/hours for Farmers Market	Landscaping
Walkability	People working here don't all live here	No for sale signs
Sense of history	Identity/ brand needs to improve	Shoppers
Natural Beauty	Cost to fix buildings prohibitive	Movies
Good schools	Assessments rise too much/too soon	Music
Good place to raise a family	Trades education and training needed	Pet store
Location and access to major cities	Tap 2nd home owners and alumni for ideas	Hot dog store
Health care, locally and regionally	Hard to sell Sidney to management hires	Cafes
Variety of religious organizations	Housing market values lowest in areas	Craft stores
Manufacturing base	Need safe business sites	Friendly
Welcoming/accepting community	Must move seniors out of harm	Close-knit
Municipal services good	North side of the tracks the big problem	Quaint and homey
Golf course	Places to move and build a home lacking	Birds
Civic groups to join	Need affordable for younger families	Everything you need is here

THE DESIGN CHARRETTE/WORKSHOP CONCEPTS

After the visioning workshop the planners and designers began working as a team to develop concepts for key issues identified by the community. A number of ideas emerged from the discussion and new challenges were identified. The preliminary conclusions reached by the Project Advisory Committee and the design team as a result of the input include:

- No solution will be considered acceptable if it is determined to be detrimental to, or have significant negative effect on neighbors that cannot be reasonably mitigated.
- Relocation of residents in the most vulnerable areas should be a priority, but the lack of available sites for new housing may necessitate annexation. Initially two sites were identified as options: development around the Sidney Golf and Country Club and on the 100+/- farm on Plankenhorn Road. Although the proposed use at the time for that farm was for larger scale commercial development, that project was limited by the lack of a thruway exit.
- The opportunity to design a major green infrastructure site on lands vacated and de-densified through buyouts and design floodwater detention and absorption systems should be evaluated.
- If HMGP funds are used for all buyouts no development of any kind can happen on the properties, but if the Village is able to buy property with other funding, then some forms of flood resistant development can be designed
- The most vulnerable waterfront lands, including a 60 acre property owned by the Community Foundation property could be ideal as a location for a major entertainment and cultural center including potentially an amphitheater, farmers market, community gardens and recreation resources with linkages to a flood safe and revitalized Main Street.

The design team decided to focus on four projects for conceptual and graphic evaluation:

- Design of a mixed use neighborhood on the Plankenhorn Farm property
- Design of a revitalized Main Street including consideration of new Village Center north of the Rail Road tracks
- Consideration of housing surrounding the golf course
- Design of an integrated green infrastructure system along the Susquehanna River



MASTER CONCEPT PLAN

This master plan shows the relationship between catalyst projects to move vulnerable residents in the Camp Street neighborhood to safer residences out of the floodplain. Ongoing efforts by Two Plus Four Construction of Sherwood Landing Apartments - 32 units of affordable multi-family apartments - represents an alternative rental option and perhaps a safe interim location for residents who would prefer eventually to own their own home.

VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NEW YORK - LONG TERM PLAN FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



Downtown Sidney enjoys a visual array of building types, sizes, scales and materials.



The existing Main Street is a mix of old and new buildings with inconsistent facades and signage.

VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NEW YORK - LONG TERM PLAN FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



In terms of green infrastructure, the core's significant amount of impervious coverage in roofs and parking lots makes it more difficult for the Main Street to drain after flood events.

Main Street Enhancements Concepts A & B:

The Main Street Streetscape and Revitalization Plans for Concepts A and B include the comprehensive integration of green infrastructure with the Main Street Streetscape. In addition to traditional streetscape enhancements such as decorative lighting, street trees, wayfinding signage and attractive street furnishings, the streetscape would feature the inclusion of rain gardens along significant portions of the new curb line and within larger “bump-out” areas at key intersections. The bump outs will also provide opportunities for small public gathering areas and focal art elements, while shortening the street crossing for pedestrians. Key gathering areas within the streetscape can also utilize porous concrete which, in combination with the rain gardens, will provide additional storage for storm water runoff by integrating curb inlets and also provide opportunity for increased underground storm water storage.

The goal of the rain gardens and porous pavements is to work in conjunction with other flood mitigation measures in the Village and collectively reduce or contribute to the reduction of flood elevations marginally enough to reduce the risk of flood waters entering the first floor of businesses on Main Street. The rain gardens along Main Street can also provide opportunities for outdoor art displays and interpretive signage to promote the Village’s efforts and commitment to becoming a more flood resilient and sustainable community. In interviews and focus groups, current commercial building and business owners indicated that if flood water “stayed in the basement” their concern about immediate relocation might be addressed.

Other important elements of Concepts A and B are the possible future locations for vulnerable populations including multi-family or senior housing facilities with areas of the downtown core that have not been historically prone to flooding. The integration of multi-family and senior housing in the downtown core could have a tremendous benefit to Main Street businesses due to the increased residential density within walking distance to the goods and services they provide, but only if they can be located and constructed to be resilient.

Locating safe senior housing within the downtown can provide seniors with a much more independent lifestyle that reduces their vehicular dependency, promotes exercise and social interaction which can greatly improve their quality of life while directly contributing to the vibrancy of Main Street. An additional benefit to increasing the density of the Village by providing opportunities for multi-family and senior housing is it helps compensate for the residents of the Camp Street neighborhood that need to be relocated to other residential options within the Village. This is an important consideration as available real estate within the Village border is limited and it is important to the Village to maintain its tax base.



The only difference between Concepts A and B is that Concept B provides for the future development of a new Village Green at the corner of Main Street and Cartwright Avenue. The possible future Village Green would function as both a visual and physical gateway, as well as provide the Village with a needed and desired public gathering space within the heart of downtown.

VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NEW YORK - LONG TERM PLAN FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



Village of Sidney Long Term
Community Recovery Plan Sidney, New York

Main Street Streetscape and
Revitalization Plan, Concept A

RIVER STREET
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SYNTHESIS

NEE

IBI
GROUP

VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NEW YORK - LONG TERM PLAN FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



Village of Sidney Long Term
Community Recovery Plan Sidney, New York

Main Street Streetscape and
Revitalization Plan, Concept B

RIVER STREET
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SYNTHESIS

NEE

IBI
GROUP



The integration of rain gardens and bioswales in extended bumpouts help contain and drain flood water.



A streetscape that complies with the American's with Disabilities Act addresses the needs of vulnerable populations.

LONG TERM DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT - ALTERNATIVE C

The third alternative is a long term option for concentrating new development and relocating some uses further away from the Susquehanna River. This alternate considers the adaptations that may be necessary depending upon how the impacts of climate change become real for the Southern Tier. Participants asked the Village to consider creating a "Sidney Village Square" as a new focal area for a flood-safe downtown core that could be shifted uphill south of the railroad tracks in effort to provide flood resiliency and protection to any future new building investment. This new development would require a reconfigured intersection at the confluence on East and West Main Streets and the entrance to Sidney Plaza.

The streetscape for this area would also include the integration of green infrastructure as is recommended for the existing Main Street area. The possible future expansion of Main Street uphill to the south would also provide a stronger Main Street connection to the surrounding neighborhoods to the south, which would also have an economic benefit to Village businesses and the overall vibrancy and sustainability of Main Street. The new urban core could integrate "Sidney Plaza" into the fabric of the core development by sharing parking areas and reconfiguring access. In addition to being more



flood resilient, the future development pattern around the new "Village Square" core area would also provide stronger connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods to the south. The improved relationship to the southern neighborhoods within the Village will foster a more "walkable" community, resulting in a more vibrant and economically sustainable downtown.

VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NEW YORK - LONG TERM PLAN FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



Village of Sidney Long Term
Community Recovery Plan Sidney, New York

Long-Term Option for Shifting
Main Street to Higher Ground



GREEN INTRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM AND ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

The conceptual plans for development and redevelopment of the lower lands adjacent to the Susquehanna River and the existing neighborhood south of River Street focus on three major areas; adding flood storage capacity, creating flood resilient economic development opportunities and providing opportunity for environmental education.

The conceptual design proposes creating a series of wetlands and ponds that would help slow and clean the runoff coming under the railroad tracks which drain in large portion on the south side of Sidney. This wetland, stream and pond complex would help reduce the rate of runoff coming from the south side of the railroad tracks thus helping to reduce the regional impact of the flood waters heading ultimately to the Susquehanna River and downstream. This wetland complex would act as a living demonstration area that can be used to help study stormwater impacts and educate the community on how the natural ecosystem functions during different stormwater events. This area is designed to fill up and flood during the large storm events having little or no environmental and economic impacts. The housing within the portion of the site that is currently being used for single family homes would be relocated out of the flood plain removing people from the flood high risk area.

A community / educational center is proposed in this area that can be used for community events and environmental education activities. This structure will be connected to a series of paths and boardwalks that will allow the visitors to walk through the wetland complex while narrating the “story” about how the system functions under normal conditions as well as during different storm events. This trail system would connect to a similar wetland complex across River Street to the proposed Entertainment Pavilion. This proposed flood resistant pavilion will provide a regional attraction to the Village of Sidney bringing in a variety of music, theater and performance events and concerts promoting economic benefits. The proximity of the proposed pavilion to the village core would help spur the economic redevelopment.

The final piece of this conceptual design is the creation of a flood bench and multi-use trail along the banks of the Susquehanna River between the pavilion and the village core, as well as the creation of a “whitewater” playground between the existing island and proposed pavilion. The proposed flood bench will provide an additional flood storage area for the Susquehanna River that will reduce the flooding impacts during high water events. Using this flood bench as a multi-use trail could provide outdoor recreational opportunities that can be used by community for walking, jogging and biking.

The feasibility of all of these improvements must be further evaluated. The Village has requested funding under the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program from New York State Department of State Division of Coastal Resources to evaluate the feasibility and impact of these concepts and position the Village to access green infrastructure demonstration funds available from New York State Agencies including the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Environmental Facilities Corporation.





The proposed canoe and kayak park could take advantage of the narrow side channel stretch of the Susquehanna River between existing vegetated islands and the proposed pavilion. This river park will provide recreational opportunities for canoeing, kayaking and fishing.

FLOODSAFE REPLACEMENT HOUSING ON PLANKENHORN ROAD

In effort to compensate for the significant residential structures to be relocated from the Camp Street neighborhood, and in response to the Village's need for professional grade housing options, the concept for the Plankenhorn Road Development explores the opportunity to create a Mixed-use Traditional Neighborhood Development was developed. The beautiful site is situated on high ground just outside the current Village border. The direct proximity to the Village makes extending the Village's infrastructure to the site economically feasible at a conceptual level. The relationship to the site also provides the opportunity for the Village to explore the possibility of annexing the property so that it can become part of the Village and retain the tax base.



The concept features a traditional neighborhood pattern including an appropriately scaled mixed-use neighborhood commercial center, and a mix of housing types that include attached Townhome parcels in close proximity to the commercial cluster, affordable single family homes on small lots, as well as single family homes on larger lots. The neighborhood will have a large common green space for both passive and active recreation as well as community events. The concept provides strong connectivity throughout the neighborhood with sidewalks and street trees as well as sidewalk connections into the Village. The neighborhood could also include a “Community Center” building with recreational amenities such as a community pool, playground and tennis courts.

In addition, the neighborhood is designed to be progressive in its treatment of stormwater run-off by integrating the use of community rain gardens in the form of Bio-retention areas and Bio-swales. These green infrastructure practices would store the run-off from the neighborhoods roads, driveways, and rooftops enabling the stormwater to infiltrate the ground over time, which will reduce the site’s impact to local tributary volumes. The new development could become a local model for neighborhood stormwater management and provide the guidelines for the possible future retrofitting of existing neighborhoods and commercial and industrial sites within the Village and the surrounding region.

The concept plan for the Plankenhorn Road Development provides for 132 single family parcels, 11 Townhome parcels, and approximately 62,000 square feet of mixed-use building footprint in the neighborhood commercial center. The local “market” will drive the actual number and types of housing units as well as the appropriate amount of commercial to be included in the development. The design of the neighborhood is intended to become an extension of the Village and not function as an isolated development. It is very important to consider the impacts of commercial development on the site and how it will affect the existing businesses in the downtown. The intent of the conceptual design is that the commercial area would serve as a neighborhood center and not compete or function as a regional commercial center that could “cannibalize” Main Street businesses.

POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE LEVEL HOUSING SURROUNDING SIDNEY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB



In addition to the concept for development at the Plankenhorn Road location, preliminary evaluation of the development of housing surrounding the Sidney Golf and Country Club on West Main Street was considered.

IV. COMMUNITY PROFILE

RECOVERY IMPACTS

Resilience in the face of natural disasters is largely the result of the physical scale of the disaster and the socioeconomic conditions of the impacted community. Understanding Sidney's demographics, especially issues related to vulnerable populations is central to rebuilding in a resilient way. The issues facing Sidney can be summarized as follows:

- Sidney's significant percentage of low and moderate income residents and residents living below the poverty line limits the Village's ability to absorb losses and enhance resilience to hazards. Wealth makes communities more resilient and speeds recovery more quickly due to insurance, savings, and social safety nets. In some measure, this is a function of the fact that many households are living on retirement and Social Security incomes. These low income figures make it difficult to attract additional retail outlets to the Village, given the limited spending potential and may make it more difficult for existing businesses to snap back after disasters.



VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NEW YORK - LONG TERM PLAN FOR RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

- The Village's considerable percentage of female headed households can challenge recovery, often due to lower wages and family care responsibilities. The households are vulnerable to losing time and money caring for children when daycare facilities are affected. Large families, an increasing population group in Sidney, often have limited finances to outsource care for dependents of various ages including frail elderly and disabled family members.
- While housing is inexpensive relative to other parts of the nation, the housing stock is older mostly Queen Ann and Victorian architecture and may require upgrades to meet current needs, as well as needing maintenance and repairs. The value, quality, density, and age of Sidney's residential construction affects potential losses, recovery, and likelihood that owners will rebuild. The location of some of the most affordable housing and related services in the 100 year floodplain make this population more at risk for personal and financial loss and isolation from community services and health care during immediate relief efforts.
- A high percentage of Village renters who are cost burdened may lack access to information about financial aid during recovery. In some cases renters may lack sufficient shelter options when housing becomes uninhabitable or too costly to afford, forcing them to look for temporary shelter outside of the Village and increasing the likelihood that existing multi-family structures will remain vacant and underutilized.
- Those people living in poverty (17% of Sidney's population) who are dependent on social services are already economically and socially marginalized and require additional support in the post-disaster period. Special needs populations (infirm, mentally or physically disabled, homeless), are disproportionately affected during disasters.
- Growing numbers of vulnerable seniors, some with physical or mental impairments and many lacking private transportation, are especially vulnerable and require a higher level of care during recovery. In light of the number of senior residents, the age of the housing stock, and the high cost of housing, the development of affordable senior housing would benefit the community. The benefit would be three-fold: first providing affordable independent living, second, providing some

measure of assisted living, and third, creating additional residential tax base to uses that are resilient and sustainable community resources over the long term.

- The Village population is well educated, with 91.1 percent of persons holding a high school diploma or better. Many residents have attended college or hold an Associate degree, though the percentage of persons with a Bachelor's degree is low compared to State and national figures. A well educated population often have the skills and resources to recovery more quickly from natural disasters.
- The potential loss of employment, days of operation lost, lack of access to facilities all threaten the ability of companies to maintain production following a disaster exacerbates Sidney's already high unemployment rate, contributing to a slower recovery from the disaster. The population is declining slowly and the percentages of persons in the working age groups are low relative to state and national figures. The percentage of seniors is well above national norms. The upshot is that the labor supply in the Village itself is limited. The unemployment figure for the Oneonta Micropolitan Statistical Area is 7.3 percent, which would indicate some availability of labor. However, that may be somewhat misleading as far as Sidney is concerned, because of the lower percentage of working age persons and the high percentage of seniors (retirees) in the community itself. Any additional pressure on the workforce puts more residents at risk of temporary or permanent job loss.
- The Village is an employment and commercial center for the area. Sidney does have strong manufacturing, retail, and health care sectors, as well as a strong public administration component. These afford a degree of economic stability, but the economic base could be strengthened with diversification in the areas of food services and accommodations. The idea of attracting firms that support the existing economic base (i.e., suppliers, service providers) offers potential for economic expansion and stability if they can be located in floodsafe locations.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

In addition to the vulnerabilities identified above, other sources, including the ClimAID report of climate change projections for New York State raise other concerns for vulnerable populations that must be considered. The ClimAID Report suggests that:

- Elderly, disabled, and health-compromised individuals are more vulnerable to climate hazards, including floods and heat waves.
- Low-income groups have limited ability to meet higher energy costs, making them more vulnerable to the effects of heat waves.
- Those who lack affordable health care are more vulnerable to climate-related illnesses such as asthma due to decline in air quality during heat waves.
- Those who depend on public transportation to get to work, and lack private cars for evacuating during emergencies, are vulnerable.
- Farm workers may be exposed to more chemicals if pesticide use increases in response to climate change.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE DETAILS

Note about data: For the sake of consistency and completeness, this analysis uses the 2010 Census and 2010 American Community survey 5-Year Estimates for the Village. Other sources of data will be noted when used.

Population

The Village of Sidney is located on the south shore of the Susquehanna River in Delaware County, New York. The Village has a land area of 2.4 square miles and borders both Chenango and Otsego Counties. The Village has a municipal airport and is located at the junction of US Interstate 88 and New York State Route 8 providing connections to Utica, Oneonta and Binghamton. Surrounded by

active farms and timberlands and the home of Amphenol Aerospace, and ACCO, Sidney is a regional employment and commercial center.

The 2010 Census noted that there were 3,900 residents in the Village, a decline of 4.1 percent (168 persons) from the 2000 Census figure. The 2010 population was 47.1 percent male and 52.9 percent female, and the median age of this population was 41.5 years. The median age in 2000 was 39.7. The population thus has declined in number, gotten older, and has significantly more females than males.

The composition of the age groups of the population reflect the relative dearth of young adults, as shown in the table which compares the Village groups to those of the State and the nation. While there are significant percentages of youth (0 – 14 year group), the percentages of persons in the young adult and working age groups (20 – 44 years) are below, sometimes well below, State and national figures. The “young elderly” group (50 – 64) are above the percentages of the State and national groupings, while the “extra elderly” groups (70 - >85) are well above comparable figures. The economic development effect is that the Village needs to draw younger workers from the neighboring area and that older workers might need specific training, depending upon the nature of the industry expanding or being recruited. However, the surplus of “young elderly” does indicate the possibility of a supply of persons for part-time work.

Race, Ethnicity and Language

The population of the Village is 96.1 percent White, 1.4 percent Two or More Races, and 1.1 percent Asian. Other racial groups are present, but they represent less than one percent each of the total Village population. The Hispanic population in the 2010 Census was 88 persons, which was 2.3 percent of the population. It is interesting to note that

Population by Age - Sidney - NY			
Age Bracket	Sidney %	NY %	US %
<5 Years	6.6	6.0	6.5
5 - 9	5.6	6.0	6.6
10-14	6.9	6.3	6.7
15-19	6.7	7.1	7.1
20-24	5.5	7.3	7.0
25-29	5.8	7.1	6.8
30-34	5.5	6.6	6.5
35-39	5.8	6.5	6.5
40-44	6.1	7.0	6.8
45-49	7.2	7.5	7.4
50-54	7.7	7.3	7.2
55-59	6.8	6.4	6.4
60-64	6.1	5.5	5.4
65-69	4.0	4.0	4.0
70-74	3.9	3.0	3.0
75-79	4.0	2.5	2.4
80-84	2.3	2.0	1.9
>85	3.5	2.0	1.8

93 of Sidney's residents were born abroad, but all of these persons are naturalized citizens. Three-quarters of these foreign-born citizens entered the United States before 2000, 80 of the 93 reported coming from Asia, only 13 from Europe, and none from Latin America. Though the highest percentage of persons speaking a language other than English are Spanish speakers, those speaking an Asian language represent the second highest percentage, and "Other Indo-European language" speakers are a close third.

Households and Families

Over ninety-nine percent of persons in the Village resided in households in 2010, as only 23 persons lived in group quarters. Of the 1,697 households, 59.2 percent were Family households, 34.2 percent were Householders Living Alone, and 6.6 percent other non-family households. The percentages vary from the national figures in that Family households constitute 66.4 percent of total US households and nationally 26.7 percent are Householders Living Alone.

The higher percentage of Householders Living Alone is due in large measure to the significantly higher percentage of Females living alone – Sidney with 21.7 percent and the national figure of 14.8 percent and Females, 65 and over living alone (12.4% compared to 6.7%). The number of households with persons over 65 years reflects the overall age of the Village population – 31.3 percent in Sidney, but 24.9 percent nationally. The average household size in Sidney was 2.28 persons, while the national figure was 2.58.

EMPLOYMENT

Educational Attainment

The educational attainment figures for the Village population show that there are relatively few persons lacking a high school diploma, and that many persons have attended college or received an Associate degree. The percentage of persons with a Bachelor's degree is well below the national and State percentage, but the percent of persons with advanced degrees is higher than that of the State and well above the national percentage. Thus, the population is well educated, with 91.1 percent of persons holding high school diploma or better, a figure 6.0 percent higher than that of the nation and 7.0 percent higher than the State.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (POPULATION 25 AND OVER)

	Sidney #	Sidney %	NY %	US %
< Ninth Grade	77	3.3	7.0	6.2
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	134	5.7	8.6	8.7
HS Grad	847	35.8	28.2	29.0
Some College, no diploma	425	18.0	15.9	20.6
Associate Degree	245	10.4	8.2	7.5
Bachelor's Degree	292	12.4	18.3	17.6
Graduate Degree	344	14.6	13.8	10.3

Labor Force and Employment

The 2010 Village population 16 years of age and older was 2,833, of whom 1,890 were in the labor force that year. This is a labor force participation rate of 66.7 percent, which is slightly higher than the US figure of 65.0 percent. Most workers were employed close to home – the average travel time to work was 20 minutes, compared to the US figure of 25 minutes, and 7.3 percent of workers walked to work compared to 2.8 percent nationally. Still, more Sidney workers carpooled (13.3%) than the national figure of 10.4 percent, and only 1.0 percent of Sidney workers used public transportation. The following table compares the employment by industry of Sidney’s workers with those at the state and national level.

PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS BY INDUSTRY - SIDNEY, NEW YORK, AND THE UNITED STATES – 2010 ACS

Industry	Sidney %	NY %	US %
Agriculture, Mining, Forestry	0.9	0.6	1.9
Construction	4.0	5.9	7.1
Manufacturing	21.8	7.2	11.0
Wholesale	1.1	2.8	3.1
Retail	16.1	10.6	11.5
Transportation, Warehousing	5.5	5.3	5.1
Information	0.5	3.1	2.4
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	2.7	8.6	7.0
Professional, Scientific and Management	1.5	10.8	10.4
Education and Health Care	29.4	26.6	22.1
Art, Entertainment, Accommodation & Food	4.3	8.5	8.9
Other Services	3.1	5.0	4.9
Public Administration	9.1	4.9	4.8

As noted in the introduction, Sidney is the commercial and employment center for the area. Manufacturing employment is twice the national figure and retail employment is approximately one-third higher in Sidney than either the State or the nation. Employment in both the Education and Healthcare, and Public Administration sectors also reflect the fact that Sidney is an economic center. However, the Village has low employment in the Entertainment, Accommodation and Food Service and Construction sectors, perhaps indicating an opportunity for economic growth. The Professional, Scientific and Management sector is very poorly represented, which emphasizes the community’s strength as a blue collar/manufacturing location.

Sidney is an employment center. The table, based upon figures from ESRI Business Analyst Online, a well-known data provider, shows that the Village has 229 businesses with 4,823 employees, giving the Village an Employee to Resident ratio of 1.24. The strength of the manufacturing sector is evident as 39.3 percent of workers are in this sector though the education and health care sector (1,609 employees) is close with 33.3 percent of the workforce. It should be noted that 1,562 of the Education and Health Care sector employees are working in the Health Care area. Many of the businesses in the other sectors are small.

SIDNEY EMPLOYMENT - NUMBER OF BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYEES Source: ESRI Business Analyst Online

Industry	Sidney # of Businesses	Sidney # of Employees	Average # of Employees/ Business
Agriculture, Mining, Forestry, & Utilities	2	8	4
Construction	9	70	7.8
Manufacturing	8	1,895	236.9
Wholesale	8	28	3.5
Retail	34	351	10.3
Transportation, Warehousing	5	17	3.4
Information	6	53	8.8
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	23	158	6.9
Professional, Scientific & Management	18	122	6.8
Education and Health Care	34	1,609	47.3
Art, Entertainment, Accommodation, Food	21	227	10.8
Other Services	41	147	3.6
Public Administration	16	125	7.8
Unclassified	4	13	3.3
TOTAL	229	4,823	21.1

Unemployment

Unemployment figures specifically for the Village are not available, but complete figures are available for the Oneonta Micropolitan Statistical Area. In both 2010 and 2011, the yearly average unemployment percentage was 7.6 percent, figures below the national average for those years. More recently unemployment in the area has increased, and was at an average of 8.0 percent for the eleven months ending in November of 2012, the latest data available. The area typically starts the year with a relatively high unemployment figure, which is mitigated by low figures over the course of the summer. In 2012, the summer unemployment remained somewhat high and did not offset the higher unemployment percentages from January and February.

January	9.5		July	8.1
February	9.3		August	7.7
March	8.4		Sept.	7.2
April	7.6		Oct.	7.4
May	7.7		Nov.	7.3
June	8.1			
		Average 8.4		

INCOME AND POVERTY

The following table compares key income and poverty figures for the Village, the State, and the United States.

	Sidney	New York	U.S.
Median Household Income (\$)	\$38,472	\$55,603	\$51,914
Per Capita Income (\$)	\$24,717	\$30,948	\$27,334
% of Persons in Poverty	17.8%	14.2%	13.8%

The Median Household Income in Sidney is 74.1 percent of the national figure. The Per Capita Income is appreciably lower than that of the State, but is 90.4 percent of the national figure. The percentage of persons living in poverty in Sidney is above both the State and National figures. The table below shows the number and percentage of households in the Village broken out by income levels. The Village has lower percentages of persons in the lowest income ranges (compared to the US), and a much higher percentage of households in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 range than the US percentages. However, the percent of households in the \$75,000 to \$200,000 range is much lower than that of the US. Interestingly, the percentage of Village households with incomes over \$200,000 is very close to that of the nation.

SIDNEY HOUSEHOLD INCOMES, 2010

Income	Sidney #	Sidney %	US %
<\$10,000	107	6.5	7.2
\$10,000-\$14,999	91	5.6	5.5
\$15,000-\$24,999	145	8.8	10.8
\$25,000-\$34,999	380	23.2	10.5
\$35,000-\$49,999	350	21.4	14.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	343	20.9	18.6
\$75,000-\$99,999	92	5.6	12.3
\$100,000-\$149,999	60	3.7	12.3
\$150,000-\$199,999	0	0.0	4.4
>\$200,000	71	4.3	4.2

The pattern of income and benefits received by Village residents is close to that of the nation in many respects, but does vary in the percentage of persons receiving retirement income, as the table below shows.

Though the percentage of persons receiving Social Security benefits is slightly higher than that of the US, the percentage of households receiving retirement income is well above the national figure and the percentage of households with earned income is five percent below the national average. This reflects the overall age of the

Village population and the relatively high percentage of elderly and retirees.

% Of Population	Sidney	US
HH with Earnings	74.8	79.7
HH with Social Security	29.8	27.5
HH with Social Security Disability Income	3.7	4.0
HH with cash public assistance	1.9	2.5
HH receiving Food Stamps	10.6	9.3
HH with retirement income	26.4	17.5

HOUSING

Housing Stock and Condition

In 2010, Sidney had 1,903 total housing units, of which 1,697 (89.2%) were occupied. The 10.8 percent vacancy rate was lower than that of the nation (12.2%). Of the 10.8 percent that were vacant, 4.1 percent were for rent and 1.7 percent were for sale. Of the occupied units, 967 (57.0%) were owner occupied and 730 (43.0%) were renter occupied. These percentages contrast with the national figures of 65.0 percent owner-occupied and 35.0 percent renter-occupied.

The predominant type of housing structure is one-unit detached, 62.7 percent of housing units. There are a number of structures with between two and nine units, as the table below shows, but there are fewer structures with over ten units. The Village has almost twice the percentage of two through ten unit structures, but only about one-half as many large multi-unit buildings.

Type of Structure	Sidney # of Units	Sidney % of Units	NY % of Units	US % of Units
one unit, detached	1,199	62.7%	42.1%	61.6%
one unit, attached	16	0.8%	4.9%	5.7%
Two units	158	8.3%	10.9%	3.9%
3 or 4 units	182	9.5%	7.4%	4.5%
5 to 9 units	183	9.6%	5.3%	4.8%
10 to 19 units	92	4.8%	4.2%	4.5%
20 or more units	69	3.6%	22.8%	8.2%
Mobile home	14	0.7%	2.5%	6.7%
Boat, RV or van	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Total # of Units	1,913			

The housing stock in the Village is relatively old. Only 7.0 percent of units were constructed after 2000, and according to the ACS data there were no new units constructed in the 1990s. Construction in the period 1960 through 1989 was modest, averaging 179 units per decade. Thus, 64.8 percent of the Village housing (1,241 units of the total 1,913 occupied units) was constructed over fifty years ago and the median age of housing is approximately 1948. This would indicate the need for much maintenance, repairs, and upgrades to keep the housing stock in good condition.

However, the condition of the housing stock appears to be good overall. Only ten units report lacking a kitchen and there are no units that lack complete plumbing.

Housing Cost, Cost Burden, and Affordability

Housing affordability is an issue in Sidney. The median monthly rent in 2010 was \$576, which is only 68.5 percent of the national figure. However, considering the low income levels in the Village, this rent is, in fact, high. The Department of Housing and Urban Development considers that a household should pay only thirty percent of income for shelter. Based upon this \$576 figure, 14.2 percent of renters are “cost burdened,” that is paying between 30 and 35 percent of income for rent, while another 22.1 percent are “severely cost burdened,” paying over 35 percent of income for shelter.

There are 1,050 owner-occupied housing units in the Village, and 574 of these have a mortgage and 476 do not. This percentage of units without a mortgage is fifteen percent higher than that of the nation as a whole.

The home sales market in Sidney is poor. According to Trulia, a reliable source of local real estate data, there were 25 homes in Sidney for sale in January of 2013 with an average listing price of \$103,109, which is a 2.1 percent increase from the previous week. However, the median sales price was \$45,000 for the period September through November of 2012, which is a 47.3 percent decline from the same period the previous year and the number of sales has declined precipitously over the past year, going from 19 sales per month early in 2012 to three sales in December of 2012.

Even with these declining prices, affordability remains an issue. Using the rule of thumb that a house should cost no more than two and one-half times one’s income, a family would need an income of \$112,500 to afford a median priced home. The median household income in Sidney is \$38,472, leaving a gap of \$74,028 for a household to overcome to acquire the median-priced home. An analysis of the income ranges presented above reveals that approximately 92 percent of households in Sidney have incomes below the \$100,000 figure.

V. REVIEW OF STUDIES AND PLANS

As part of the planning process, the team reviewed existing plans and studies including:

- The Delaware County 2012 All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee and the Susquehanna River Basin Flooding of September
- 2010 Upper Susquehanna River Basin, NY: Flood Risk Management and Watershed Assessment 6-10, 2011
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Village of Sidney 2010 Flood Risk Management Study
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Village of Sidney 2009 Weir Creek Study
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Village of Sidney 2008 Hydrologic Study for the Weir Creek
- 1977 United States Department of Agriculture Sidney Tributaries South Central RC&D Project Environmental Assessment of Resources and Related Problems
- Village of Sidney Codes and Zoning Ordinance
- 2001 Tri-Town Area Economic Development Region Planning Project for the Village and Town of Bainbridge, Village and Town of Sidney, and the Village and Town of Unadilla
- 2002 Village of Sidney Comprehensive Action Plan
- 2003 Village of Sidney Downtown Strategic Plan

SUMMARY - 2010 THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COMPLETED THE PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS FOR THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND WEIR CREEK AT SIDNEY

In 2010 the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed the Preliminary Flood Risk Management Analysis for the Susquehanna River and Weir Creek at Sidney. The purpose of this study was to investigate two separate but connected flood issues. One focus area is along Weir Creek located on the south side of the D&H Railroad (Delaware and Hudson Railway). The second area is the entire Village of Sidney, with the focus on protecting the Village from flooding from the Susquehanna River. Flood risk management alternatives were developed to potentially mitigate flooding in each area. In addition to developing alternatives, USACE determined general cost estimates and recommendations on the feasibility of each alternative. A focus of the Weir Creek evaluation was to design a strategy to protect the existing Amphenol Plant – the key economic driver for the Village after the 2006 flood.



The results from this study conclude that only a few alternatives would be feasible in protecting the entire Village of Sidney and the Amphenol Corporation area because of the type of flooding and amount of protection offered. Alternatives such as sub-basin flow diversion, levee/floodwall, pump station, culvert installation, dry floodproofing (ring wall), channelization and bridge modification were all analyzed. The alternatives for Weir Creek only protect the area on the land side of the D&H Railroad embankment, in comparison, the alternatives for the Susquehanna River aim to protect the entire Village of Sidney, which includes Amphenol.

Weir Creek (Amphenol Corporation Area)

The results from the Weir Creek Hydrologic Study completed in June 2008 determined that flooding at the Amphenol Facility and surrounding areas can come from multiple locations (Susquehanna River or Weir Creek, or both); therefore joint probability scenarios were used to evaluate the alternatives. The alternatives developed for this portion of the study include sub-basin diversion, floodwall, floodproofing, and detention. The alternatives for Weir Creek are strictly designated for the protection of the Amphenol Corporation and the businesses and residents south of the D&H railroad and do not provide protection for the rest of the Sidney community. A levee/floodwall is the only alternative that provides protection against the 100-year flood in both areas, although some localized flooding may still occur along Weir Creek. All of the alternatives provide some risk reduction; however, they do not eliminate damages for the target event (100-year).

Susquehanna River (Entire Village of Sidney)

The Susquehanna River portion of the study focused on overall protection of the Village of Sidney. In an effort to revise the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, FEMA developed a new HEC-RAS hydraulic model that includes a new hydrologic analysis. The new model was modified to simulate the alternatives. In addition, an interior drainage analysis using HEC-HMS was done for the levee/floodwall alternative. The 10-, 50-, 100-, 500-year storm events were all evaluated but the alternatives were analyzed using the 100- year storm event. The following alternatives were analyzed:

- Levee/floodwall
- Diversion of Unadilla River
- Channelization
- State Route 8 Bridge Modification
- Main Street Bridge Modification

The results of this study show that a levee/floodwall is the only feasible alternative that can significantly mitigate flooding for the entire Village of Sidney upstream of the Route 8 Bridge (including Amphenol area) during a 100-year event. The other alternatives' investigated show minimal 100-year flood elevation reduction. The maximum average flood elevation reduction with the floodwall Village-wide is 0.8 feet, where the average depth of flooding is two to three feet. The estimates provided by USACE for the floodwall/levee are between \$40.0 and \$50.0 million dollars. While protecting the entire Village with a levee would not likely not pass cost/benefit evaluation, especially since its major employer is relocating it, the Village believes that constructed mitigation measures, along with floodproofing and elevation, may be cost feasible to protect less vulnerable areas, especially those areas in the northwest quadrant, areas east of Union Street and the Industrial Park. A detailed cost engineering analysis would need to be completed in order to accurately define a benefit-to-cost ratio for the smaller mitigation projects.

MAIN STREET PLANS

Two existing Main Street plans were reviewed. The Project Advisory committee has prioritized economic evaluation in this LTCR. The economic benefit and spin off from revitalized main street environments has been established in communities across New York State under programs supported by many state agencies, including New York's own Main Street initiatives.

Within Sidney, in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Lee, broad support exists for efforts to relocate the Village's main employer, Amphenol, to a flood safe location. One of the challenges this relocation has left Sidney facing is that Amphenol workers are now much further from downtown and a new on-campus cafeteria will likely result in fewer employees frequenting downtown during their lunch hour. The Main Street core must make all efforts possible to compensate for this shift by improving its streetscape aesthetics, convenience and accessibility. Sidney's downtown merchants have been flooded seriously two times over a five-year period. Most have rebuilt both times, but many express concerns about future safety and lack of willingness to continue to reinvest if the State and Village are not also investing. The business owners want to preserve Sidney's core. Recently they agreed to move ahead with Historic District designation from NYS OPRHP, but they want to rebuild smarter and more resiliently.

The restoration of Main Street is closely coupled with the evaluation of future green infrastructure and other hazard mitigation planning and construction adjacent to the Susquehanna River and the Weir Creek, the tributary most subject to severe flooding. If the riverfront, including Village owned parkland, open space owned by the Sidney Community Foundation, and lands being assembled as residential property are bought out by State and Federal Hazard Mitigation grant programs and can be made to handle floodwaters more effectively, the Main Street core will be at less risk and more able to snap back after periodic basement flooding. Sidney's job base is growing – at Amphenol and ACCO, at the airport, in the industrial park, and in downtown. Efforts to improve the streetscape only underscore these trends and help the “little guys” - the downtown merchants – to keep up with other restoration and future growth.

SUMMARY: VILLAGE OF SIDNEY DOWNTOWN STRATEGIC PLAN

The Village of Sidney completed a Downtown Strategic Plan in December 2003. Within the Strategy are a series of actions that could bring positive change for downtown Sidney. Each action is also accompanied by basic tasks needed to implement the project. The following is a summary of those actions.

- **Parking** – new signage, expansion and visual improvement of parking areas and creation of new parking area
- **Condition of Downtown Buildings** – provide a fair and balanced building codes enforcement policy, revise Village's sign ordinance, develop a micro-grant program to assist in signage replacement, develop a Downtown Façade Program and establish a housing rehabilitation program
- **Zoning Ordinance** – update Zoning related to the Downtown

- **Sidney Plaza** – Improve pedestrian access and better demarcate Steiner Road, entice a new free-standing pharmacy, improve the intersection of Steiner Road, Plaza parking lot and Main Street, Façade improvements to Sidney Plaza, replace the Sidney Plaza sign
- **Pedestrian Access** – replace deteriorated sidewalks and upgrade alleyway connecting parking area to Main Street
- **Downtown Entrances** – the major routes served by Sidney by-pass the Downtown, therefore installing directional signage to the Downtown and enhancing the “gateways” into Downtown would help direct visitors and through-travelers to the Downtown
- **Vacant and Underutilized Buildings** – several important buildings are either vacant or underutilized and are in varying states of decay. Entice a reuse of the Sidney Mall, entice a proper reuse of the former NBT Bank and restore and fully utilize the former Village Office.
- **Economic Stability** – uniform, extended hours/employee discount program – tying the extended hours to local employees discount program to entice local employees to shop at local businesses, business mentoring program through the Chamber of Commerce, business succession planning to plan for long standing business owners that may soon be retiring to ensure the continuance of these established business by new owners, identify and capitalize on Market Clusters to bring businesses together in joint effort to market downtown Sidney.
- **Organization** – develop a downtown committee structure based on the “Main Street” program and investigate creating a single Downtown organization in the form of a BID to help decide the needs of the Village

SUMMARY: VILLAGE OF SIDNEY COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN

The Village of Sidney completed a Comprehensive Action Plan in 2002 to enhance the economic development and quality of life of the Village in the future. The assessment included a community survey for residents and a merchant survey for business owners and interviews with community leaders and government officials.

A common theme seems to resonate throughout the visions and recommendations for the Village of Sidney and that is the desire to improve the Village for its businesses and residents by making it a desirable place to live and work. To accomplish this, the Village seeks to improve its parks and recreational facilities; revitalize community spirit; improve housing for elderly and first time home buyers; improve efficiency in government; revitalize its economy and Main Street area by encouraging business retention and enticing new businesses to establish themselves in the Village through mentoring programs and other business and government programs, relocating some existing businesses to make better use of current space in addition to creating new opportunities in existing commercial areas for new businesses; protect and improve its older, residential neighborhoods while strengthening its commercial core to promote long term, nonresidential economic growth. Below are the vision topics and associated projects that the Village identified in the Plan.

■ Vision Topic: Community and Economic Development

- Establish the Business Development Authority of Sidney
- Implement a professionally managed and proactive economic development delivery system
- Create the Sidney Community Leadership Forum
- Explore feasibility of establishing a Main Street Tax Abatement Program
- Explore feasibility of establishing a Main Street Revolving Loan Program
- Encourage merchants to create a Main Street Merchants Association

- Explore feasibility of establishing a Main Street BID
- Create "turn-key" development sites
- Conduct a survey of the telecommunications needs of local businesses

■ Vision Topic: Culture and Recreation

- Organize a Leadership Training Program for Sidney residents
- Redesign signs at entrance ways of the Village with a new community slogan
- Improve the condition of Village parks and playgrounds
- Develop recreational and life-long sports programs to meet the needs of youth, teenagers and the elderly
- Develop more community celebrations and events
- Conduct recreation surveys of the youth and elderly within the community
- Create a Sidney Village Square

■ Vision Topic: Government

- Invite Airport users to contribute to an Airport Investment Fund
- Appoint business leaders to the Mayor's Airport Advisory Commission
- Establish a fully staffed, proactive Code Enforcement Office
- Collaborate with the Town of Sidney to conduct a consolidation study

■ Vision Topic: Housing and Neighborhood Quality

- Develop a comprehensive housing rehabilitation program
- Utilize Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Funds to address targeted rehabilitation in the "North End"
- Develop senior citizen and assisted living housing for vulnerable populations
- Implement a homeownership assistance program to help first time homebuyers, particularly in the "North End" neighborhoods

■ Vision Topic: Land Use Strategies

- Strengthen code enforcement to preserve and improve property values
- Relocate the Village DPW Facility from Sherman Avenue to the older industrial area along the Willow Street Extension
- Integrate "Sidney Plaza" into the Central Business District and consider creating a "Sidney Village Square"
- Relocate Bellevue Building Supply to the old K-Mart shopping plaza area and move Whittaker & Sons to the current Bellevue site
- Prepare "request for proposals" to solicit the interest of the economic development in vacant sites along Cartwright Street
- Adopt "design guidelines" to the Village's land use regulations
- Update zoning regulations to reflect community development goals.

VI. ASSET EVALUATION

The Village of Sidney sustained extensive damages from flooding during June 2006 (the record crest for the Village), and again in September 2011 (the second highest crest on record for the Village). Flood damages from these events were primarily associated with the Susquehanna River, although Weir Creek floodwaters did impact a major business and residences during both events.

■ **Flood hazard vulnerabilities from the Susquehanna River in the Village:**

- A substantial part of the Village was built in what is now the Susquehanna's 1% annual chance (100-year) floodplain. Approximately 1,176 residents live within the 1% annual chance (100-year) floodplain and 1,512 residents live within the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) floodplains, representing 28.9% and 37.2% of the Village's population, respectively.
- The design of the NYS Route 8 roadway elevation and bridge over the Susquehanna restrict flood flows, backing water up into the Village.
- At the peak of the 2006 flood, water went over NYS Route 8 in two locations: near the junction of NYS Route 8 with NYS Route 7 (through the vacant lot north of NYS Route 7 and then across NYS Route 8 in the vicinity of the Hess Gas Station); and at the intersection of NYS Route 8 and River Street. This indicates that these spots are critical to moving floodwater downstream during large events. Restrictions to the flow of floodwaters placed in these areas could potentially raise flood heights in the Village. This is complicated by the fact that the lot north of NYS Route 7 is outside of Delaware County and the Village of Sidney.
- The Village boundary is at riverbank (Delaware County and Town of Sidney extend to centerline), creating a jurisdictional issue in regards to stream management.
- Main Street Bridge restricts flood flows and raises flood heights upstream.

- US Army Corps of Engineers Flood Risk Management Analysis indicates that more than 50% of conveyance capacity has been lost due to upstream sediment and debris deposition
- Channel migration and bank erosion exist upstream of the Village
- Overall channel characteristics include deposition islands and negative slope
- Sidney Fire Department main station (River Street) is located in the floodplain
- Police Station is located in the floodplain
- Main Street businesses are located in floodplain
- Industrial park is located in floodplain
- Civic Center is located in floodplain (contains offices for the Town and Village of Sidney)
- Soon to be vacated major Amphenol Aerospace Manufacturing facility and Plating Facility located in floodplain (there is no plan to move the plating facility at this time)
- Utilities located in floodplain:
 - Wastewater treatment plant
 - NYSEG electric substation
 - Village drinking water wells
 - Telephone company/telecommunications infrastructure
 - Damage to telecommunications can take out communication between Village wells and drinking water reservoirs

■ Flood hazard vulnerabilities along Weir Creek:

- The D&H railroad bed creates a barrier for Susquehanna River floodwaters near the Amphenol complex
- During high flood events, flap gates closed under the railroad bed to protect areas on the other side from Susquehanna floodwaters and in 2006 and 2011 this led to interior drainage issues from Weir Creek.

- Damage from Weir Creek is limited primarily to the Amphenol Corporation property and residences along Sherman, Adams and Union Streets. These residential streets are targets for HMPG buyout program and Village supported relocation planning.
- Gravel and debris deposits at the Delaware Avenue Bridge
- Erosion is evident along the Amphenol property.

■ Communications Issues:

- Between Village/first responders and the Public:
 - Lack of public awareness/understanding of what disaster warnings mean and what they should do in the event they are issued
 - Need for enhanced direct communication including audible warning system and reverse 911
- Between Village, Police, and Fire/EMS:
 - Issues with radio interoperability: Village/Police use high-band but Fire/EMS use mostly low-band, although they have high-band capability

■ Power supply issues:

- No back-up power at the following facilities:
 - Police station
 - River Street fire station and MacDonald Hose Company fire station
 - Civic Center
 - Public Works Facility
- Power outage shuts down traffic lights
 - Drain on manpower to have people at intersections directing traffic

■ **Other Hazards:**

- Lack of sheltering capacity for people and pets
- Back-up water supply for Village
- Aging dams and spillways at Peckham & Pine Hill reservoirs
 - Both dams/spillways were damaged in June 2006 flooding
 - Supply lines have to cross Unadilla and Susquehanna River
 - Lines vulnerable to bed scouring and debris impacts
 - No valves to isolate a break in Unadilla crossing without cutting off supply to several users
 - Dam failure combined with major flood event could impact four structures along NYS Rte. 8 and travelers on the highway
- Ice storms resulting in downed trees that block roads and take out utility lines
- Lake effect snow impacts in this part of the county are considerably higher than parts of the county to the south and east
- Underground fuel tanks and other potential groundwater contamination risks
- Antiquated airport landing system

VII. VISION, GOALS & ACTIONS

Building on the successful community engagement strategy, the public input and the Project Advisory committee feedback the Village has prepared a vision statement, goals and implementation actions to guide implementation of this LTCR Plan. The purpose of the actions outlined in this LTCR plan is to improve safety and quality of life throughout the Village. Tax base generation and job creation are central goals. The plan focuses on multiple strategies that are essential to advancing economic development components including business retention, expansion and recruitment, and tourism industry development. Taken as an integrated series of actions including the new business incubator, the relocation of the main Amphenol Plant, potential for waterfront entertainment development, and Main Street revitalization, the potential for job creation and tax base enhancement is high. Between the Susquehanna Riverside Entertainment District development and the Main Street revitalization, Sidney can also begin to attract a visitor base with additional discretionary spending potential.

VISION STATEMENT

“Sidney is a progressive, dynamic and resilient place with the friendly feel of a historic, close-knit community. We embrace our waterways and make sustainable choices that protect our Village, our neighboring communities and our region. Our green waterfront reduces future risks while offering entertainment, culture, arts and recreation. The Village’s vibrant downtown, flood-safe neighborhoods, and social support systems appeal to everyone, young and old. Sidney is a strong community devoted to family, fostering businesses, and working together to face any obstacle.”

GOALS

1. Advance identified flood hazard infrastructure projects using both constructed and green infrastructure whenever possible along Susquehanna River, tributary creeks and streams to reduce flooding and mitigate hazards.
2. Develop safe housing at various price points to meet to the needs of all residents including young families, seniors and vulnerable populations out of the 100 year floodplain.
3. Support existing manufacturing base in safe locations.
4. Revitalize a flood safe downtown that is vibrant, attractive and walkable.
5. Create new uses that offer safe public access to floodprone riverfront lands which can also provide areas for flood storage and mitigation.
6. Develop high quality and affordable municipal services that also educate, alert and protect the public from hazards.

ACTIONS

Two primary components have been identified by the Village as the focus of this LTR Plan:

- Address flood hazards and make the Village residents safer from extreme weather risks
- Stimulate economic opportunity in floodsafe locations to restore and grow the Village tax base

The Implementation table that follows each action identifies the person(s), group or organization with primary responsibility for implementation of the task, recovery value and phasing. The tables are designed to provide the Village of Sidney with steps for implementing projects and identification of partners and sources of funding.

Each action has been assigned a “recovery value” of high, medium or low. Flood Recovery values can be interpreted as a statement of priority. In the FEMA LTR process “they are also indicators of how much a project, when implemented, can

stimulate the community's recovery from a natural disaster or incident of national significance. Projects that positively contribute to recovery typically address a broad range of issues that encourage a functional and healthy economy, optimize infrastructure and other public assets, bolster a full range of community opportunities and enhance community sustainability.”

High Recovery Value Projects

Actions assigned a High Recovery Value are catalysts that provide important building blocks for recovery. Typically, High Recovery Value projects will:

- Fill a post-disaster community need
- Fill a critical economic development need with near term impact
- Leverage resources and create linkages to other projects
- Relate directly to physical damage from the disaster
- Encourage private investment
- Carry wide community support
- Offer realistic outcomes—outcomes that are feasible
- Use resources wisely

Moderate Recovery Value Projects

Moderate Recovery Value projects potentially offer clear and positive impacts on recovery yet they are limited in scope, span or benefit. While their communitywide significance or support is average or modest, Moderate Recovery Value projects do not necessarily relate to the physical damage from the disaster.

Low Recovery Value Projects

Low Recovery Values projects may not have a direct link to the disaster or to disaster-related damage. In many cases, the community's capacity and resources will be insufficient to carry out the project. Also, the project may only have an impact on a small portion of the community, thereby not demonstrating wide community support.

Community Interest Projects

Community Interest projects may be extremely important to a community while not meeting the criteria that define projects with High or Moderate Recovery Value. Further, these projects may not have a direct link to the disaster and are likely to address issues that were pre-existing. Their primary value arises from significant community support.

The "funding source" identified in the tables represent various channels through which the Village can seek funding. These funding sources and programs exist at the time this Plan is being developed. A full description of these funding sources can be found in the Appendix C. A key to the abbreviations used for these funding sources is included in Appendix B. Municipal budgets have not been included as a funding source in the matrix as it is assumed that they are always a potential source of funding. Likewise, a good potential source of funding for any project is through a State or Federal Legislative representative. These "member items" have not been listed as a source of funding as they would be included under most of these projects.

GOAL 1: ADVANCE FLOOD HAZARD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND USE BOTH CONSTRUCTED AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WHENEVER POSSIBLE ALONG SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND TRIBUTARY CREEKS AND STREAMS TO REDUCE FLOODING AND MITIGATE HAZARDS.

1.1 Evaluate the use of constructed mitigation measures including perhaps a floodwall or levee to protect floodprone property and people in the Village, especially in the North End, the area East of Union Street and in the Industrial Park.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers evaluated a number of potential strategies to protect the Village of Sidney as a whole in studies undertaken in 2008, 2009 and 2010. While the construction of a flood wall was found to be a potentially viable measure to protect the Village as a whole, it was not considered cost-effective at full build out. However, components of the floodwall system, taken on their own, hold hope of offering protection to certain Village neighborhoods including those in the North End, the area East of Union Street and the Industrial Park. Since the USACE studies were completed, a considerable number of buyouts have occurred and Amphenol Aerospace decided to relocate its main plant to higher ground. In light of these changes in land use, it will be necessary to reevaluate and model the potential benefit of the floodwall option to the areas identified. The Village will work with the USACE to complete an evaluation of neighborhood specific mitigation measures and advocate actively for those that hold promise to safeguard existing neighborhoods.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	To Be Determined
Funding Sources	FEMA, NYS Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, County Planning and County Soil and Water Conservation District

1.2 The Village of Sidney will develop a formal relationship with Delaware County Planning Department and Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District in support in environmental planning, watershed and stream management and flood hazard mitigation.

This relationship will be used and harnessed to formulate a detailed plan as it relates to flood modeling, mitigation and restoration. Delaware County Soil and Water should be used to assist the Village of Sidney with:

- prioritizing the proposed projects
- formalizing a scope for the proposed projects
- identifying potential funding sources
- assist in grant applications
- release of a RFQ/RFR
- selection of the qualified consultant

As part of this effort, the Village of Sidney, with the surrounding towns within the watershed and all the communities within the Upper Susquehanna River Basin, advocate for an intermunicipal/regional study to identify a comprehensive set of improvements that will benefit the entire Susquehanna River Corridor in New York State and establish a scientific framework from which to plan in the Village of Sidney and neighboring communities. This process will be advanced by planning under the CRP for the Southern Tier region including targeted communities in Delaware, Broome and Tioga Counties.

This project will require wide spread support from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) and need to be coordinated with efforts by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to model and assess the Upper Susquehanna Watershed over the next few years. This large scale watershed planning project will need to complete an assessment of the current conditions within the watershed including, land-use patterns and cover types, ecological patterns and

processes, soils, valley types, topography, geomorphology, and other existing conditions. This information will then be used to complete a comprehensive model of how the watershed reacts during a given storm event. Understanding how the different parts of the watershed react during the specified rain events will allow for the communities to verify that their emergency management plans are adequate. This model will also show the communities how their surrounding up gradient and down gradient communities are affected by changes in stormwater runoff. This project will be completed at a regional level and it is recommended that each community along the Susquehanna in New York State then take this information and use it in a specific and detailed fluvial geomorphic assessment and modeling as outlined in project 1.3 below.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$5,000.00 annually
Funding Sources	Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR) (up to \$3.0 million in CDBG-DR funding has been allocated to the Village of Sidney),
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Delaware County Planning and County Soil and Water Conservation District, County Emergency Services, NY Rising consultants

1.3 Advocate for Susquehanna River watershed, storm water pollution prevention and stream management with Delaware County and surrounding communities.

Minimizing the amount of sediment from entering the streams and river will keep the streams functioning properly. When these streams receive sediment from construction sites, farming, residential neighborhoods, etc., the streams reduce their volumes and capacity to safely pass a given storm within its banks. This was a significant contributing factor in the level of damage in both the 2006 and 2011 floods.

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	None
Key Partners	Village leadership, Town of Unadilla, Town of Bainbridge, Delaware and Chenango Counties, NYS DEC, Sidney Planning and Zoning Boards

1.4 *Work with regional partners to commission an engineering and fluvial geomorphic study to determine the base line flooding for a given storm event (5, 10, 15, 25, 50, and 100 year) within the Village.*

Using the baseline modeling data, complete an alternatives analysis feasibility study (including cost estimates for the proposed alternatives) modeling a series of alternative mitigation measures. The mitigation measure should include the of constructing a flood bench along the Susquehanna River, creating large wetland complexes within the upper watershed and other mitigation measures that will slow the stormwater while reducing its impact. This can build on prior USACE studies described earlier.

The Village of Sidney will also evaluate the feasibility of adopting a green infrastructure initiative and promote components such bioswales, porous asphalt, and rain gardens as appropriate, to slow the rate of run off into the tributaries and add flood storage within the upland and flood plain area. This will also include creating incentives for private property owners to minimize the impervious cover and promote infiltration.

The potential green infrastructure hazard mitigation measures will make it safer and possible for Main Street businesses to be located in the flood safe parts of the former Amphenol facility, and those in the Village Industrial Park to operate, thus saving establishments, jobs, and tax base that enhance the business community for workers and residents. The use of green infrastructure makes it possible to reduce hazards to the

downtown core. Protecting these properties and increasing their value balances the tax base loss from residential properties being bought out through various federal, state, and local initiatives and the relocation to higher ground of some commercial operations with funding committed under the Community Reconstruction Zones program with CDBG-DR funds. The mitigation also makes the Village Industrial Park safer, allowing existing businesses to expand and new businesses already being recruited to locate in a safer area, attracting new jobs and an expanded tax base.

To advance this assessment the Village submitted an application to the New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program in the summer of 2013. This proposal outlined the steps in the initial feasibility analysis. Completing this analysis would position the Village to compete for Greene Infrastructure Demonstration Programs offered by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation in 2014.

The scope of work for the analysis includes the following components required by the Environmental Facilities Corporation - Green Innovation Grant Program which the Village will pursue for funding in 2014. The EFC guidance requires that the feasibility analysis be completed prior to application for construction funds. As part of the NYSDOS application a detailed workplan has been developed. The analysis provides the basis and justification for design based on a design professional's site evaluation. Special consideration should be placed on site analysis, including, but not limited to conducting field reconnaissance to confirm suitability of green infrastructure practice(s) at the site; noting existing conditions such as land use, utilities, storm water flow path, soil conditions; and avoiding sites with significant steep slopes, bedrock and/or severe grade changes; selecting sites which are not subject to high groundwater levels, backwater conditions or tidal influences.

In order to access implementation funding to construct such a system with funding from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Village is required to submit sufficient information to demonstrate their proposed green infrastructure project is feasible to construct. The feasibility analysis must specifically address all proposed green infrastructure practice(s) and:

- general background information (soils, hydrology, storm water data, and site considerations)
- recommended green infrastructure practice(s)
- feasibility analysis
- alternatives analysis and conceptual site plan

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	TBD
Funding Sources	NYSDOS, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) NYSERDA, New York State Emergency Management Office (NYSSEMO), Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), USACE, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Funding request pending with NYSDOS LWRP program for \$125,000.00 for Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study
Key Partners	Surrounding communities, riverfront/tributary adjacent property owners, Sidney Community Foundation, NYS DEC

1.5 Support and expand the work of the Sidney High School Flood Monitoring Program, which has proven to be an excellent tool to teach students about the river flows and alert the community to hazards.

This program should be expanded to teach the students how minimizing the stormwater from a neighborhood will have real implications in reducing the peak flows within a river or stream. One neighborhood that currently has a direct discharge into one of the tributaries will be used a pilot program. The area will be monitored and data will be collected to give them a control of the flows during and existing storm event. The class could then look at the what areas of stormwater can be reduced by creating rain gardens to collect roof run off, curbs will be cut and stormwater will be directed into bioswales, etc. New information will be gathered about stream

flow rates and compared to the baseline data. This information will then be shared with the community through presentations and a webpage linked to the Village’s new website.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney High School
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	Local Foundations
Key Partners	Village and Town of Sidney, Sidney School District

1.6 *The Village will create grassroots public advocacy and educational programs to work with the community on stormwater related issues.*

These programs will educate the population on the impact they can have as individuals on stormwater management and provide guidance about what they can do to help (minimizing the impervious cover, directing down spouts to gardens, minimizing the use of sand in the winter, encroachment limits to stream and wetlands, etc.). This project will work closely with Sidney DPW, County Soil and Water, garden clubs as well as the students working on the flood monitoring program at the High School. This could be led by a newly formed Emergency Preparedness Committee or the Combined LTR PAC/CRP Steering Committee. Some events to be planned and conducted could include a river cleanup day, ecological and biodiversity walks, river fest, etc.

Project Lead	LTCR/CRP Steering Committee/Emergency Preparedness Committee
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$20,000.00
Funding Sources	NYSDOS, NYSEFC, Local Foundations, Allstate Foundation, Max and Anna Levinson Foundation
Key Partners	State agency funders, local garden clubs, community gardens, Sidney High School

1.7 *The Village of Sidney will work with Delaware County Planning Department to implement recommendations from the 2012 All Hazard Mitigation Plan including:*

- Evaluate alternatives for strengthening the Village’s back-up water supply system
- Repair, upgrade and prevent further damage to Peckham Reservoir Dam
- Improvement to Peckham Supply line
- Work with NYSEG to address vulnerability to power outages
- Coordinate stream management alternatives for the Susquehanna River and Weir Creek:
 - Address areas of streambank erosion, especially where it threatens property and/or infrastructure as described in All Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Work with NYSDEC to demonstrate a scientific rationale for stream management activities in order to facilitate permitting of appropriate projects

The dam on the Peckham reservoir in Bainbridge, Chenango County is of high concern. Recent dam inspections have identified significant structural problems. Were the dam to fail, the escaping water would put at least 35 homes at immediate risk. At this time the dam is so vulnerable to failure that it cannot be insured. The water supply regulated by the Dam is a back-up water source for residents along the Route 7 corridor. The Village is

considering a strategy to replace this water supply with a municipal well system. Ongoing collaborative advocacy with Chenango County is important to finalize a strategy that repairs or removes the dam.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	To Be Determined
Funding Sources	Various State and Federal funders
Key Partners	Village Mayor/Board, Bainbridge Supervisor and Chenango County Planner, Village Engineer, Sidney Department of Public Works, NYSEG, Delaware and Chenango counties, SRBC, NYSDEC

1.8 The Village of Sidney will review and land management codes and standards (zoning, subdivision, site plan) to increase flood safety and support community revitalization.

Careful land management is key to creating a safer and more connected community that meets the needs of all residents and implements a system of codes and regulations that leads to their preferred land use pattern. The Village seeks a mixed-use, mixed-income, and mixed-age community that is safe and united but most importantly, resilient and flood safe. They will adopt an approach that is multi-modal, using the pedestrian as the mode of priority and considering the needs of cyclists, with linkages to the water at all points that connect people and nature. The streetscape plan will be closely linked with waterfront development. Both land and water trails will be developed. As it becomes clear which riverside properties are bought out for flood mitigation purposes it will be possible to open view corridors along the waterfront linking to Main Street and the downtown core.

The Village will also revise zoning for land adjacent to the waterways perhaps including a flood hazard zone and stream corridor development overlay and other measures to reduce floodplain encroachments. As part of the project the Village will review and revise the Local Flood Damage Prevention law consistent with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation model Law as appropriate including advocacy of floodsafe building measures in high and extreme hazard areas as defined in FIRM mapping and classified in hazard assessment component of Community Reconstruction Program plan. As part of this planning the Village will consider additional bylaws or overlays to target increased density and investment in those areas of Main Street that are least flood-prone, and impose greater restrictions on certain uses and square-foot expansions in those areas that are the most flood-prone. This project will be completed with community involvement to ensure it is supported as well as enforced.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Planning Board
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$30,000 for consultant to prepare code review and update
Funding Sources	CDBG-DR, NYSDEC, NYSDOS, NYS Office of Community Renewal Technical Assistance Grant (NYSHCR OCR)
Key Partners	Village of Sidney leadership, Delaware County Planning, Village of Sidney Planning Board, Village of Sidney Zoning Board

1.9 *The Village of Sidney will consider participation in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System program to help residents reduce the cost of flood insurance.*

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the

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minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS are to reduce flood losses; facilitate accurate insurance rating; and promote the awareness of the value of flood insurance.

For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5%; i.e., a Class 1 community would receive a 45% premium discount, while a Class 9 community would receive a 5% discount (a Class 10 is not participating in the CRS and receives no discount). The CRS classes for local communities are based on 18 creditable activities, organized under the categories public information, mapping and regulations, and flood damage reduction and preparedness.

Project Lead	Village Board
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	None
Key Partners	NYSDOS, NYSDEC, United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (USFEMA). Coordinated effort with Unadilla and Bainbridge to participate in CRS would be effective.

GOAL 2: DEVELOP SAFE HOUSING AT VARIOUS PRICE POINTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS INCLUDING YOUNG FAMILIES, SENIORS, AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.

One of the frequently mentioned needs for Sidney’s Long-term Community Recovery strategy was the need to create and maintain a spectrum of housing choice and opportunity for local residents. This means the development of a range of safe and affordable housing for lower income households but also the development of higher end housing for executives.

The Sidney Village core is densely settled. Over time, and due to repeated flooding, a number of downtown residential structures have been converted from owner occupied residences into lower income rental properties. The residential neighborhoods nearest the Susquehanna River and Weir Creek are generally occupied by older residents, with a significant percentage being low and moderate income residents. In the LTCR process the availability of well-paying jobs at the Village’s major employers was identified as an opportunity, but a declining percentage of those employees choose to live in the Village. The LTCR plan has identified the relocation of residents who are elderly and/or live in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in residential areas immediately adjacent to the Susquehanna as a priority. The reuse of these properties in a green infrastructure system to mitigate flood hazards will be explored in the feasibility analysis. The acquisition of homes and relocation of homeowners may be facilitated through the use of CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding available to the Village under the Community Reconstruction Zones process.

2.1 Conduct a market study to determine the needs (number of units and configuration) of affordable housing for vulnerable populations including senior/assisted housing, and share information with developers.

The first step in achieving this goal is the completion of a thorough housing market analysis and housing needs study. This study will include an assessment of the current housing conditions in the Town, including ownership patterns (renter versus owner), vacancy and foreclosure activity, housing cost and affordability, construction trends, market conditions (number of houses on market, time on market, listing

price versus selling price), and population and employment trends (demand), building upon the analysis included in this LTCR Plan. This analysis will provide the background to develop a strategy and marketing plan. After the market and demand are established, this information can be provided to area and regional housing developers of both single-family and apartment units.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	\$7500.00
Funding Sources	Community Recovery Program Consultant Team, CDBG-DR, NYSHCR OCR
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, various affordable housing agencies including Delaware Opportunities and 2+4 Construction, housing market consultant, NYSHCR OCR

2.2 Support Delaware County’s application to Hazard Mitigation Grants Program for structure elevations/acquisitions and support to eligible property owners to elevate or sell their structure for demolition/conversion to open space.

The County is seeking funds through the Hazard Mitigation Grants Program for structural elevations as well as acquisition of flooded properties for demolition. Programs such as this serve to keep owners with homes that can be mitigated in place safely, while getting seriously or repetitively damaged property owners into new residences in safer locations. This program can be enhanced to offer subsidy to persons relocating from a flood-prone area.

The Village has and will continue to identify parcels suitable for new residential development at all price points, with focus on development of affordable replacement housing currently located in flood prone areas. Work with local and regional housing developers to shape development on those parcels and consider development of a land-bank to purchase property suitable for housing development. At the same time, the Village, working

with property owners, can assess the availability of sites, outside the floodplain area, that are suitable for housing development. Zoning and other regulatory issues must be considered and changes made if necessary to facilitate the development of the identified properties, should the owners be interested in such development. The planning sessions identified two potential sites for such development and they would appear to be appropriate for development of single-family market rate housing.

To address the issue of affordable housing, the Village should consider developing a land-banking program in order to present lower cost land to a potential developer. Acquisition of land has become one of the key cost barriers to developing affordable housing. Community land trusts (CLTs) purchase and hold the land asset in trust for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households, and this entity provides the means to develop and implement a land banking program in conjunction with schools, open space, or other land acquisition programs. By removing land cost from sales and rental transactions, CLTs reduce rent and home prices. CLTs also ensure that the housing will remain affordable in perpetuity. In addition to lowering costs and ensuring long-term affordability, a Village Community Land Trust can purchase land for housing development; seek opportunities to use vacant land for infill development or to convert old buildings to new uses; and coordinate with institutional providers (e.g. Housing Authorities, School Boards, or private sector employers).

Project Lead	Delaware County Planning Department Chief Planner
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	Delaware County Planning Department Budget
Key Partners	Chief Planner covering the Village of Sidney, Village of Sidney Planning Board and Zoning Boards, Land Trust Alliance, Central New York Land Trust

2.3 Identify a mixed use development strategy for the Plankenhorn Road property including commercial or light manufacturing that is compatible with mixed income residential development as appropriate.

The 100+/- acre Plankenhorn Road property has been prioritized as a high value location for mixed use development, primarily targeting low and moderate income people and senior homeowners and tenants living in a vulnerable residential area adjacent to the Susquehanna River. The planned voluntary relocation of approximately sixty homes is a priority of this process. CDBG-DR funds may be used to acquire property, buy out homes that are not eligible to be purchased through existing programs, subsidize the purchase price of new housing for low and moderate income residents and seniors, and incentivize neighborhood-serving retail and services to locate in a new mixed-income neighborhood.

The site should be marketed to potential developers with this strategy in mind, making sure that the proper zoning is in place, and that incentives (tax credits, infrastructure, reduced fees) are provided to make the development project more attractive. The Village will have to work with the property owner and at the same time seek or arrange the various incentives and support.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	High - CATALYST PROJECT
Estimated Cost	\$1,00,000.00
Funding Sources	Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-CR), USHUD, NYSHCR OCR Technical Assistance Grant Program, NYSEMO HMPG
Key Partners	Village of Sidney Board, Planning Board, Realtors, Property Planers, Town of Sidney

2.4 Continue to develop new affordable rental housing as a transitional step to homeownership with focus on the relocation of community members living in floodprone areas.

The Village will continue to support the development of affordable rental units. The Village can make use of various incentives, such as density bonuses, inclusionary zoning, or linkage fees to incentivize the development of affordable rental housing as a transitional step to homeownership. These affordable rental units will permit renters to accumulate the funds necessary for down payments and related costs for home purchase. This program could be targeted especially to assist residents relocating out of the flood-prone areas. It should also be noted a variety of State and Federal programs and tax credits are available and applicable for this type of effort.

Project Lead	Village Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$20,000
Funding Sources	CDBG-CR, NYSOCR Technical Assistance Program, NY Rising CRP, NYS HCR OCR Rural Area Revitalization Program (NYSHCR OCR RARP), NYS Affordable Housing Corporation (NYSAHC)
Key Partners	Village leadership, Planning and Zoning Boards, Planning consultant to review zoning and codes, County Planner, affordable housing organizations

2.5 Develop a Homeownership Program offering purchase subsidy for residents willing to relocate from floodprone areas, especially vulnerable populations in the Camp Street neighborhood and the North End.

The Village can also work with and encourage local employers and local financial institutions to develop homeownership assistance programs or incentive grants for workers who move into the Village. These

programs could be implemented through the use of low-interest loans, or grants and assistance from a not-for-profit entity. For instance, the Village could capitalize a Housing Investment Trust Fund through a voluntary donations from local corporations, foundations, government, and individuals and voluntary donations from private developers in-lieu of building affordable housing under the Village’s recommended “inclusionary housing” provisions. Funds could also be generated via the establishment of a “Housing Linkage Fee” and through an innovative blend of corporate and community investors as well as investments and loans from financial institutions.

Such programs are typically intended to assist families in the Moderate-Income group. However, many programs have limited success because the income of many applicants exceeds the 80% of Area Median Income limit often used to determine eligibility. However, many households seeking assistance are unable to afford housing, and for that reason, we recommend that the Village consider expanding the income limit to the 120% of Area Median Income (AMI) level to make the program more widely applicable and useful. Extending the range of eligible incomes increases the attractiveness and applicability of this program. Residents of the flood prone North End neighborhood can be the initial focus of this program.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$1,000,000.00
Funding Sources	CDBG-DR, NYS OCR CDBG Annual Application, USDA, local financial organizations, Delaware Opportunities, 2+4 Construction, other nonprofit housing organizations
Key Partners	Financial Organizations (meet’s Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) responsibility for banks, local residents, affordable housing developers, realtors, CITI Foundation.

2.6 Work with local companies including Amphenol Aerospace, ACCO, Industrial Park tenants, and local financial institutions to offer a home purchase incentive grant for workers who move into the Village.

The Village should work with the Village’s major employers and local financial institutions to create a home purchase incentive for workers who move into the Village. This incentive could be a grant from the employer to assist with down payment or closing costs, or could take the form of a lower interest rate for a period of time.

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	None initially
Funding Sources	Major employers, financial Institutions
Key Partners	Village Leadership, major employers, financial institutions

2.7 Support development of some executive level housing that would be attractive to the management and professional employees Amphenol Aerospace plans to attract.

Market conditions will drive the development of housing in the Village, but developers should be made aware of the need for executive level housing needed for new management and professional employees. Regional housing developers and realtors should be apprised on a regular basis of the anticipated needs of the Village’s major employers.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	\$7500.00 (part of general market study)
Funding Sources	Community Recovery Program Consultant Team
Key Partners	Housing Market Consultant, regional housing developers and realtors

2.8 Look for opportunities downtown to increase residential density for vulnerable populations including senior and multifamily housing in areas that are less prone to serious flooding.

Another housing program option is to make use of downtown second-story space to achieve increased residential density in areas that are not prone to flooding. Though this will likely yield relatively few units, such a program will benefit seniors who wish to live close to amenities and services. The Village should ensure that appropriate zoning is in place and that all such properties meet code for residential use. The Village should obtain funds or create a loan fund to support any necessary rehabilitation or lead paint hazard mitigation. The Village may also solicit developers for vacant sites along Cartwright Street including perhaps senior housing, a community center, and other quality of life amenities.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Planning Board
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$30,000 (Part of general zoning review)
Funding Sources	CDBG-CR, NYSOCR Technical Assistance Program, NY Rising CRP
Key Partners	Village leadership, Planning Consultant to review zoning and codes, County Planner, Village Planning Board and Zoning Board.

2.9 Consider the use of density bonuses to accomplish desired outcomes in the LTCR plan including affordable housing, senior housing, green design and green infrastructure.

The Village will also consider implementing density bonuses to achieve its housing aims. A density bonus program would provide guidelines and restrictions to qualify for an increase in density/height. A municipality may approve residential development at a density up to a certain percent above the maximums provided it is certified that no less than a certain percent (generally a minimum of 20 percent) of the units in the development.

The development will be priced to be affordable to low and very-low income households. Developers may also meet this requirement by providing the units onsite, providing a monetary contribution, or delivery of offsite units. A combination of the three options is usually permissible. For each required workforce housing unit, developers may make a payment of a sum equal to the funds payable to a Housing Trust Fund in lieu of providing the workforce housing unit within the development.

Other incentives might include an inclusionary zoning (IZ) ordinance, a policy tool that ties the production of affordable homes to the production of new market-rate housing by requiring, or providing incentives to encourage developers to reserve a share of units in new residential developments for low- or moderate-income households. Inclusionary zoning, sometimes called "inclusionary housing," can take many forms.

Some IZ programs are mandatory, while others are voluntary or incentive-driven. Some jurisdictions require developers to construct affordable units within the development, while others allow affordable units to be constructed in another location. Some require developers to build the units, while other communities allow developers to contribute "in lieu of" to an affordable housing trust fund. The ordinance can be used for both owner and renter units and the Village can emphasize to developers the need for rental units.

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Project Lead	Village of Sidney Planning Board
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	\$30,000 (Part of general zoning review)
Funding Sources	CDBG-CR, NYSOCR Technical Assistance Program, NY Rising CRP
Key Partners	Village leadership, Planning Consultant to review zoning and codes, County Planner, Village Planning and Zoning Boards

GOAL 3: SUPPORT THE EXISTING MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL BASE IN SAFE LOCATIONS.

The Village of Sidney completed a Comprehensive Action Plan in 2002 to enhance the economic development and quality of life of the Village in the future. The assessment included a community survey for residents and a merchant’s survey for business owners and interviews with community leaders and government officials. A common theme that resonates throughout the visions and recommendations for the Village of Sidney is to improve the Village for businesses and residents by making it a desirable place to live and work. To accomplish this, the Village seeks to improve its parks and recreational facilities; revitalize community spirit; improve housing for elderly and first time home buyers; improve efficiency in government; protect and improve its older, residential neighborhoods while strengthening its commercial core to promote long term, nonresidential economic growth; and revitalize its economy and Main Street area by encouraging business retention and enticing new businesses to establish themselves in the Village through mentoring programs and other business and government programs, relocating some existing businesses to make better use of current space, and creating new opportunities in existing commercial areas for new businesses.

The Village of Sidney completed a Downtown Strategic Plan in December 2003. Within the Strategy are a series of actions that, if taken, should bring positive change for downtown Sidney. Each action is also accompanied by basic tasks needed to implement the project related to parking, condition of downtown buildings, land management, use of Sidney Plaza, improved pedestrian access, appearance of downtown entrances, vacant and underutilized buildings, economic stability, and organizational capacity. The actions recommended below advance and are consistent with those established community plans.

3.1 Conduct a market study to build on opportunities identified in the LTRC for uses in the former Amphenol Aerospace Plant and expanded use of the Village Industrial Park.

The Village should prepare a market study to identify potential new uses for the Amphenol Aerospace being vacated in spring 2014 and the Industrial Park. Though the Village has had some success in attracting tenants to the Industrial Park, available space remains there and the relocation of some operations within the Amphenol site will create additional available industrial space if it can be made floodsafe. The Village should seek funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (USDOCEDA) or the State for funds to prepare a market study to identify potential users and the means to attract them. Hiring a consultant to evaluate the sites and identify potential users will enhance and focus current marketing efforts.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$7,500.00
Funding Sources	NYS Empire State Development Corporation (NYSESDC) Market NY Program, 2013 Legislative Appropriation for Business Incubator, USDOCEDA
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Amphenol Company, Sidney Chamber of Commerce, Delaware County Economic Development, Industrial Park tenants, other local businesses

3.2 Plan for the aging and retiring workforce at Amphenol Aerospace and ACCO in the next five years. Work with the companies to identify the job skills needed in prospective employees, and develop training programs to give local residents the edge for future employment. The job skills needed at the Amphenol facility are likely to be middle and upper management, while the Jobs at ACCO are likely to be manufacturing labor.

Various sources agree that the Village’s larger employers will see a significant number of retirements in the coming five years. The Village and its economic development organization should move to get ahead of this situation and be in a position to offer trained local workers to replace these retirees. The first step is to work with the employers to identify the types of positions and skills they foresee needing in this period. Then the Village and the economic development organizations can approach the local colleges and vocational schools with a set of specific needs. The schools and the employers can develop the appropriate courses and identify the required new training facilities and equipment, if necessary. Given this lead time, the community and the schools can apply to the State or other entities for any new funding that might be needed with a focus on training vulnerable low income residents.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	Amphenol Aerospace, NYS Workforce Investment Board (NYSWIB)
Key Partners	Amphenol, Village of Sidney, local NYSWIB, Sidney High School, local Community Colleges, Rockefeller Foundation

3.3 Support efforts by local corporate partners, to the degree possible, to support local sourcing for labor, contracting and purchasing to local residents, established small businesses and those people who plan to live or operate companies in the Village.

The opportunity for residents to both live and work in the Village is important to economic development and creating the kind of close knit community Sidney has traditionally been. The lack of an array of housing stock has meant that some executives at local businesses choose to live elsewhere. Efforts to balance housing choice will help to retain some of these families. The Village’s major employers have identified anticipated turnover in workforce over the next five to ten years. Opportunities exist for the Village to work with local educational providers to tailor workforce training programs to ensure a qualified local workforce exists to access future job opportunities created by retirement or expansion. To the greatest degree practical, the Village will work with and encourage local sourcing of employees and vendors to support major companies. Local import substitution for goods and services can have a significant impact on the local small business environment.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	Amphenol Aerospace
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, local financial institutions, local realtors

3.4 Examine the structure and capacity of its economic development organization and capacity to manage necessary activities in a professional manner and decide upon the extent to which it needs to involve other entities, such as community decision-makers, regional organizations or local and area businesses.

The Village needs an adequate economic development program to maintain and grow the local economy. Economic development has evolved into an industry of specialized practitioners many of whom are responsible for the administration of programs and projects specific to a community or area. This task requires not only a significant amount of training and expertise in areas such as real estate and finance and practitioners often

work full-time at the position, seeking new economic opportunities and retaining existing businesses, as well as addressing the concerns and needs of the business community.

Through a recent grant Sidney has been awarded \$200,000 to develop a business incubator. The location of this facility that would support secondary suppliers to the Village's manufacturers and small businesses is yet to be determined. The goal of that program is to rehabilitate commercial space, perhaps in the former Amphenol facility or elsewhere, to begin to incubate new businesses with emphasis on businesses that can underscore the new entertainment district or green infrastructure manufacturing base. It will require professional management and support if it is to be successful.

Village businesses should consider whether they wish to form a Business Improvement District (BID) to coordinate business activity and improve the business area. This tactic is used in many communities to make improvements or to perform functions that local government cannot, or might not have the resources to afford. The downside to this is that it requires a high degree of active participation by members and does ask the members to contribute, both in terms of funds and time, to make it work well.

The Village also may want to consider developing a Main Street Program. This very successful program has assisted downtowns across the nation in revitalization of community centers. Companioned with the planned two phase streetscape program the Main Street program could focus on building and façade improvements including floodproofing techniques where possible. In addition the Village can help to support small business by:

- Exploring feasibility of establishing a Main Street tax abatement program
- Deepening the level or incentivize land terms through the existing loan program for businesses who floodproof buildings or who wish to relocate to safer sites in downtown
- Support development of a Main Street Merchants Association or Business Improvement District

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	None for planning, \$2.0 million for streetscape, \$1.0 Million for facades
Funding Sources	NYSESDC Market New York, NYS HCR OCR NYS Main Street Program, NYS DOS LWRP Streetscape Initiative (request pending 2013 CFA), NY Rising CRP consultant planning program
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Sidney Chamber of Commerce, Delaware County Economic Development

3.5 Provide secondary access for all manufacturers and industrial park tenants in the event of flash flooding.

Although major employers like ACCO were not flooded the lack of secondary egress to their site meant significant business interruption. The tributary flooding has revealed the potential for serious damage to the tenants in the industrial park and measures have been or are being put into place to improve the safety and security of these facilities. However, the danger of flash flooding remains, and an engineering study, funded by the Village and County or State resources, should be conducted to assess the danger and identify specific emergency and secondary access routes for workers.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Highway Department
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	To be determined
Funding Sources	NYS Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Program (NYS DOT TEP), Delaware County Planning, Delaware County Highway Department, Village of Sidney Department of Public Works and Highway Department, local businesses
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, NYSDOT, local companies, Delaware County Public Works

3.6 Support efforts to improve the Sidney Airport.

Efforts to improve the Sidney Airport are important to maintaining and expanding the operations of the existing firms and to attracting new firms to the Village. Airport improvements benefit the community not only in creating jobs, many of them good paying jobs, but also in bringing in additional revenues from visitors to the airport, whether buying fuel or a meal at a local restaurant. However, in the case of the Sidney Airport, the greatest benefit is a transportation system benefit in which the executives of the firms in the Village have better access to other locations and their corporate counterparts have better access to the facility. Though difficult to measure in terms of dollars and cents, this access is important to multi-plant operations in particular. Improvements to the airport make the Village more accessible and thus provide an additional reason for a firm to maintain, or expand, its current operations. Current users of the airport might be asked to make a contribution to an Airport Investment Fund, perhaps administered by a not-for-profit entity (to make contributions tax deductible), and local awareness of the importance of the airport can be increased by creating an Airport Advisory Board or similar group.

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	To be determined
Funding Sources	To be determined
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Sidney Airport

GOAL 4: REVITALIZE A FLOOD SAFE DOWNTOWN THAT IS VIBRANT, ATTRACTIVE AND WALKABLE.

Though much of the Main Street corridor lies in the 100 year floodplain, many business owners have decided to try to remain and improve conditions. The Village recently secured designation of part of the downtown as a New York State Historic district. Short term plans include using the system of green infrastructure being proposed to limit the height of flood waters with a long term goal of shifting the downtown core to a safer location.

4.1 Direct any future commercial downtown development uphill to the south of the rail road tracks along West Main Street to protect the core from increased precipitation and serious flood events due to climate change.

Much of Main Street has flooded in recent extreme weather events. In 2006 downtown Sidney between the railroad tracks and the river was evacuated as the waters rose. The flooding was the deepest and the damage the worst on Willow, Maple, Oak, Winegard, Bridge, and River Streets. Many commercial buildings in the Main Street business district were flooded to three feet above the ground floor elevation. In 2011 the basements of Main Street businesses were flooded, but the water did not reach into the first floors as it had in 2006. On the one hand, many building owners and business owners along Main Street say that they will likely continue

operations if the extent of the flooding can be contained to the basements of their buildings in future flood events. This establishes a local standard by which the quality, feasibility and impact of various flood mitigation projects or policies can be measured. The planned evaluation of green infrastructure on a major scale will be measured against this standard.

It was widely accepted that the location of future new development in the Village core should be directed outside of extreme and high hazard areas to the greatest degree possible. A possible future location for the new Village Square could be at the “triangle” created by the confluence of West Main Street and East Main Street. Future infill development could extend the Main Street streetwall uphill surrounding the new “Village Square” creating a dynamic mixed-use pedestrian friendly community center, which would also function as a both a visual and physical “gateway” into downtown Sidney. The new urban core could integrate “Sidney Plaza” into the fabric of the development by sharing parking areas and reconfiguring access. Other existing commercial uses in this area that are not conducive to “downtown development” could be relocated to more appropriate sites within the Village, providing opportunities for redevelopment such as multi-family or senior housing that would benefit the mixed-use nature of the downtown core. In addition to being more flood resilient, the future development pattern around the new “Village Square” core area would also provide stronger connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods to the south. The improved relationship to the southern neighborhoods within the Village will foster a more ‘walkable’ community resulting in a more vibrant and economically sustainable downtown.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	Lone term, to be determined
Funding Sources	Village of Sidney, NYSDOT, NYS ESDC, NYS DOS, USDA, Rockefeller Foundation
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, local businesses

4.2 Develop a streetscape program for the Village core, focusing first on the areas that are more floodsafe by integrating green infrastructure.

The Village is very concerned about Main Street property abandonment following significant storm damage twice in a five-year period. The devastation that occurred from fall 2011 flooding has left Main Street in a vulnerable location. From the start of the recovery process, a redesign of Sidney's downtown streetscape that reflects the Village's historic values in a more flood safe manner has received broad community support. Business owners and residents alike have called for an improved visual appearance of the downtown business district during their visioning sessions. They recognize the project as a potential generator of jobs and tourism dollars as well as a source of community pride. Improving the hamlet will make significant contributions to Sidney's quality of life. Other communities have found such projects to be important in restoring a tax base and economy damaged by disaster losses.

The Village has submitted an application to NYSDOS LWRP Program for funding to design and construct Phase One of a two Phase Streetscape Enhancement Project. Phase one of the Hamlet Main Street Revitalization Strategy will focus on the approximately 950 linear foot area between River Street and Division Street, roughly half of the village core. A second phase of streetscape investment will address the streetscape between Division Street and the Rail Road Tracks. As part of the application process a detailed workplan was developed and cost estimates were prepared. While the Village would prefer to address both areas simultaneously they lack adequate match at the current time to address both areas.

The streetscape design component will include design of all infrastructure and streetscape amenities including, but not limited to: stormwater management; improvements to increase general safety and overall multi-modality and walkability in the hamlet; the street furnishings package; and the landscaping approach. Design

elements will include pre-design (survey, stormwater analysis, possibly geotechnical study); schematic design (concept plans, public meetings, steering committee meetings); and design development (selection of materials, colors, construction methods, detailed construction estimate). This will likely include construction of storm water improvements, granite curbs, enhanced pavement, sidewalks and crosswalks; and installation of decorative street lighting with banners and hanging baskets, a street clock, way finding sign, information kiosk, and benches. In addition the following are considered key components:

- Bumpouts at Key Intersections - Incorporating bumpouts at key intersections will provide areas for integrating urban rain gardens into the streetscape. Rain gardens are planted depressions that allow stormwater runoff to be filtered through vegetated soils and absorbed into the ground, thereby reducing the impact to nearby water bodies and improving water quality. Where feasible, rain gardens will be connected to large underground slow-release storage chambers, thereby increasing their capacity to mitigate the impacts of impervious surfaces. Integration of educational signage will help to promote the importance of this type of Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS). Additional benefits of incorporating bumpouts into the streetscape design include the creation of opportunities for focal elements such as public art displays or street furnishings, opportunities for public seating and gathering, expanded opportunities for outdoor dining, traffic calming (which promotes pedestrian safety and economic vitality), safer pedestrian crossings (due to shorter crossing distances), better opportunities for directional and wayfinding signage, and clearly defined on-street parking zones.
- Utilize linear rain garden planting zones with curb inlets - Linear rain gardens increase the opportunities for capturing, treating, storing, and absorbing storm waters, further reducing impacts on local water systems and improving water quality. Linear rain gardens are often located within utility strips and along building edges. Curb inlets provide opportunities for directing storm water into the rain gardens, particularly when curbing is necessary to protect them from vehicular and/or pedestrian paths of travel.

- Plant Native Street Trees - Street trees play an important role in the community forest, including mitigating stormwater created by built-out environments, reducing air pollution, creating more pedestrian-friendly environments, and aesthetically enhancing the streetscape. The use of native trees can help create a regional identity and strengthen local ecological systems.

- Install contemporary site furnishings - Contemporary site furnishings such as lighting, benches, bollards, and signage should be applied in a way that accentuates the remaining historic architecture. In addition to the streetscape areas defined above, the Village will implement improvements to its key gateways including welcome and directional signage, decorative elements and landscape features that convey the opportunities in the Village core and promote a Sidney brand.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$2.0 million
Funding Sources	NYSDOS LWRP grant for streetscape enhancement (request pending 2013 CFA), NYSERDA Green Infrastructure Demonstration Program, New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) Cleaner/Greener Grant Program; NYSDOS Streetscape Initiative (application pending), NYS NHC OCR Main Street Program, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), AARP Age-Friendly Communities grant program, New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, technical assistance from funding agencies, local businesses, historic preservation advocates, property owners

4.3 *Improve downtown off street parking areas behind stores including directional signage, pedestrian access and lighting.*

Merchants feel that additional parking in the Village core would help to increase the base of shoppers and make it easier for visitors to be oriented to the community, but there are limited opportunities to add to the on street parking inventory and construction of an on-street green infrastructure system will likely result in some loss of parking spaces. Parking in the rear of buildings can create a more cohesive feel to the Village's streetscape and expand the supply of parking, also providing a place for business owners and workers to park. If excellent signage, lighting and pedestrian connections can be maintained this approach would also be accessible to visitors.

As Sidney focuses on becoming a more pedestrian friendly environment it will try to establish a "park once" mentality where people walk between multiple destinations on Main Street and the rest of the core. When people walk along the street they are more likely to notice other shopping opportunities often lost when traveling at a higher rate of speed in a car. The new streetscape and parking lot expansions also provide an opportunity for small flood containment areas and green infrastructure to be constructed helping to mitigate impacts of extreme on a site specific basis. The strategy of parking behind Main Street buildings can be advanced if the Village is able to assemble and acquire rear lots so that the new parking area can be rational, connected and consistently designed and landscaped. In some communities a Business Improvement District might also facilitate development of this amenity.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Department of Public Works
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	To be determined
Funding Sources	Village of Sidney, local businesses, NYSDOT TEP, County Highway Department, AARP Age Friendly Communities grant program
Key Partners	Village, Sidney Chamber of Commerce, Sidney Department of Public Works

4.4 Create downtown design guidelines with focus on historic buildings, as part of the new historic district.

For generations, commercial areas in upstate New York have reflected the traditional pattern of small businesses, schools, professional offices, personal services and public buildings located within walking distance of the main street. Industrial buildings were sited within or near the village center, usually close to residential neighborhoods as Amphenol is today. Most buildings were sized to fit the needs of the community and its limited market area. The physical pattern of streets, buildings and neighborhoods in Sidney was in place prior to the automobile. Buildings were constructed close to one another along the street edge, shared design features and were of similar scale and form. They had prominent entrances and many windows to display wares and make the building inviting to passersby. Over time some of these elements have been lost to modern building “updates.”

The economic and social vitality of the Village depends on maintaining its attractiveness, economic viability of businesses, and hospitable atmosphere for residents and visitors. The Village will adopt guidelines that do that by:

- creating a flexible and sensible set of expectations, some requirements and some suggestions, that do not inhibit growth or become a hardship for local property owners;

- supporting a design approach that creates a high quality, pedestrian-oriented environment, without prescribing an architectural style or attempting to mimic historic buildings;
- encouraging compatibility through the use of variations in building elements to achieve individual building identity rather than uniformity;
- connecting the Main Street area to the Susquehanna River as appropriate with a sense of creativity and a connection to the past; and
- anticipating the expectations of tourists with signage, lighting and clear pedestrian connections between uses.

In a floodprone areas like Sidney’s Main Street, design standards have to address typical issues like building scale, mass, height, relationship to the street and its neighbors, signage, lighting, materials and other aesthetic elements and flood mitigation techniques. In many settings design standards for even moderate risk areas must deal with the complexities of creating a harmonious streetscape where some buildings remain in their traditional state and others are elevated. The Village’s standards should anticipate this reality and offer techniques to integrate buildings of different heights and setbacks with landscape areas, green infrastructure amenities, and deck and stair guidelines, for example.

To the degree possible the recommendations for design must also integrate concerns for building performance during extreme weather events. There are many guides and standards established by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FEMA which architects and building owners can refer to, but in any rehabilitation or new construction the Village should offer guidance either in the form of recommended guidelines or formally adopted standards either as part of zoning or in a separate ordinance that can help property owners make better choices and be properly prepared. This is a particular challenge for historic properties where their essential historic character is at risk in extreme weather events. The

integration of floodproofing standards for historic structures should be integrated into the guidelines especially since the Main Street corridor has recently been designated as a State certified Historic District.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	Planning \$20,000 as part of zoning review and update
Funding Sources	CDBG DR Consultant Planner contract, Village of Sidney, NYSHCR OC, NY Rising CRP consultant planners, NYSOPRHP
Key Partners	Village of Sidney residents, property owners and downtown businesses

4.5 Encourage second story residential uses and improve existing housing units if they can be made floodsafe.

Main Street and the surrounding streets is a mixed use area with many existing residences, often large older and historic homes. While some of these properties have been converted into multiple apartments a number remain single family homes. The interplay of a commercial and residential area represents a desirable neighborhood and puts “feet on the street” to support small businesses.

Based upon further evaluation as part of the Community Reconstruction Plan, careful evaluation of the impact of green infrastructure or other mitigation measures on the base flood evaluations downtown may be possible to encourage second story service or residential uses above Main Street buildings, at least in the short term. If ClimAID or other projections are accurate, Main Street Sidney may be an extreme hazard area in thirty to forty years. While that is a long planning horizon, the Village will begin to explore alternate future commercial areas including the integration of some neighborhood-serving retail as part of potential development on the Plankenhorn Road property.

If determined to be safe, the integration of second story residential apartments can help add to the affordable housing inventory, though they should not be the locations for vulnerable populations if possible.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	Planning \$30,000 as part of zoning review and update
Funding Sources	NY Rising CRP planning consultants, Village of Sidney, NYSHCR OCR Revitalization CDBG Technical Assistance Planning program, NYSOPRHP
Key Partners	Village of Sidney residents, property owners and downtown businesses, Chamber of Commerce

GOAL 5: CREATE NEW USES FOR FLOODPRONE AREAS ALONG THE RIVER FOR RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS WHICH CAN ALSO PROVIDE AREAS FOR FLOOD STORAGE.

5.1 Prepare a study to determine the feasibility and market for a new waterfront entertainment center including a performance amphitheater to expand community celebrations, arts and cultural events. Ensure that new assets are directly linked to the downtown with pedestrian connections.

Flooding in Sidney is inevitable; costly damage and destruction from flooding is not. Rivers and streams need space to spread out into areas where people, infrastructure, and community investments will not be in danger. Preserving and even expanding floodwater storage areas will protect the community from recurring flood disasters and is a worthwhile investment. However, preserving the function of floodplain lands does not mean that property cannot be used at all. The questions to be asked about a proposed development in a floodplain should be “Does this development or activity allow for the natural functioning of the floodplain? Does it restrict

or impede the capacity of the river or stream to flow, or to spread out? Does it concentrate the flow and thereby increase the velocity of its flow and its potential to cause flooding downstream?

Open space, parks and trails are appropriate uses for floodplain lands, as are natural turf athletic fields. Open pavilions and paved play areas that allow the floodwaters to pass freely are good uses as well. A large amphitheater to host musical and theatrical performances has been proposed for Sidney. A raised stage with an open-sided pavilion roof, elevated or flood-proofed utilities and restrooms, portable bleachers and/or sloping lawn seating can be built so as to allow floodwaters to rise and subside around it without damage, requiring only some cleanup of mud and debris and time for the lawns and parking areas to dry out before it can be back in use. Support offices, storage and a center for performing arts training could be built on stilts elevating them above flood level, or on higher ground nearby. The area can also serve as gathering areas for groups like the Boy and Girl scouts and other organizations serving children and youth.

The proposed entertainment center itself provides a destination for out-of-town visitors, but if they can stroll or bike along a pleasant river greenway from the theater to an attractive small village downtown it adds interest and increases the chances that visitors will extend their stay in Sidney rather than getting right back on the highway after attending an event. It works the other way too; a trail between village neighborhoods and the entertainment complex makes it better connected to the community. Residents can walk to events, relieving congestion and reducing the need for parking; parents can allow kids to ride their bikes to children's programs there; motivation and a destination is provided to encourage active recreation. Study after study has shown walking and biking trails to be assets to communities in multiple ways, improving public health, increasing home prices, attracting "new economy" workers, even reducing crime and public infrastructure costs. A walkable community is more attractive to tourists, too.

The waterfront enhancements also benefit Main Street since it is the primary corridor linking many important cultural and historic resources. The Main Street Revitalization Program seeks to complement, enhance, and

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preserve or restore these archeological, historic, and/or cultural resources. It also enhances the Village’s recently designated Historic District. Through use of public art and a creative placemaking approach, the project will be instrumental in integrating art and culture into the redevelopment process and into the Village itself. The development of an attractive, safe, and functional streetscape that enhances private investment in Main Street buildings was identified as a high priority by the community in the public visioning, charrette, and ongoing planning process. Residents clearly see the connection between quality of life and their ability to capture new economic investment and implement their local plans including the LTCR Plan, Village Comprehensive Plan, and Downtown Strategy.

Project Lead	Mayor/Town Board, Sidney Community Foundation
Recovery Value	High – CATALYST PROJECT
Estimated Cost	\$150,000.00 for feasibility analysis, environmental review, concept design and preliminary engineering
Funding Sources	NYS ESC Market NY program, NYS Rising CRP consultants, NYS HCR OCR CDBG, US DOCEDA, NYSCA, ArtPlace America, Kresge Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Sidney Community Foundation, Sidney Planning and Zoning Boards, regional Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA), Delaware County Economic Development Agency

5.2 *Develop a land trust or work with local organizations including the Sidney Community Foundation to assemble waterfront property for new waterfront entertainment uses and infrastructure development.*

The Sidney community needs a way to assemble and hold the lands and acquire funds needed to contain future floodwaters and provide a setting for a riverfront recreation and entertainment complex. A land trust is a private, non-profit entity set up to purchase and accept donations of property or conservation easements on lands important to the community – in Sidney’s case, for the purposes of flood mitigation and development of a waterfront entertainment complex on flood-prone lands – and then protect and manage it in perpetuity, or until it is handed over to another entity. The already existing Rotary Club or Sidney Community Foundation might be willing to add this to their mission and serve as the land trust for flood mitigation in Sidney, or a new organization might be created.

A list of the parcels needed for the flood mitigation and waterfront redevelopment project should be developed with reference to the engineering and fluvial geomorphic study described in action 1.3, and to the feasibility study for the riverfront entertainment complex. Parcels needed for substantial infrastructure development would be earmarked for acquisition, while parcels to be used only for floodwater detention, infiltration and a waterfront trail might be targeted for purchase or donation of a conservation easement only. In any case, priority should be given to acquisition of lands or easements that will have the largest flood mitigation benefits.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Economic Developer
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	To be determined
Funding Sources	NYS ESDC Market New York program, CDBG- DR, NYSDEC, NYSEDA, NYSEFC
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, technical Assistance from Land Trust Alliance, Central New York Land Trust, Sidney Community Foundation, Rotary Club

5.3 Coordinate with the School system to develop recreational and life-long sports program to meet the needs of children, teenagers, and the elderly and improve the condition of existing recreation resources. Conduct recreation surveys of the youth and elderly within the community.

Lifelong physical activity has been definitively shown to improve health and reduce healthcare costs. The promotion of lifelong physical activity should be a part of the Village of Sidney's policies. A statement might be added to the Comprehensive Plan supporting daily physical education and activity that meets the needs and abilities of all residents.

A recreation survey and plan will be undertaken which not only asks residents what facilities and programs they would like to have available in Sidney, but also seeks input from physical education teachers, coaches, athletic trainers, health-care providers, medical and public health professionals and recreation professionals.

The Village should pursue agreements with the school district to open school spaces and facilities for physical activity to the community before and after the school day, on weekends, and during vacations. It is far more cost-effective to pay for the additional supervisory and maintenance personnel needed to support more hours of use of existing school facilities than it would be to build duplicate facilities. The Village and the school district might cooperatively pursue ways and funding to provide training, support and recognition to volunteer coaches and recreation leaders.

Establish a referral center for volunteers willing to teach and mentor others in active outdoor pursuits such as kayaking and canoeing, hunting, fishing, hiking, orienteering, geocaching, and birdwatching. Sidney is a small village in an extensive natural setting, and the teenager who learns to love one of these outdoor activities has another reason to stay in the community as an adult, and may become the ecotourism entrepreneur of the future.

The cost of special sports equipment and clothing, transportation to a venue, and participation fees are barriers to some. The Village and school district might pursue funding assistance for youth in need, whether from local sponsors or a state or national grant program.

The proposed riverfront trail and recreation area will provide recreation opportunities for all ages. The main trail will be handicapped accessible, allowing use by the very elderly, the disabled, and families with small children. A separate trail with a higher speed limit and more challenging terrain should be considered to allow athletes, teenagers and commuters in a hurry to get more of a workout. The school physical education curriculum could be expanded to include sports such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing to encourage winter use as well as walking, biking and rollerblading.

Project Lead	Sidney School District Superintendent
Recovery Value	Low
Estimated Cost	To be determined
Funding Sources	NYSOPRHP, Sidney School District
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Sidney School District, Sidney Community foundation, other property owners, Tri -Town Regional Hospital

GOAL 6: DEVELOP HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE MUNICIPAL SERVICES.

6.1 Consider alternatives for annexing property adjacent to the Village and extending municipal services for flood safe replacement housing and commercial development.

There is little open land suitable for new houses within the Village, and a need for floodsafe replacement housing for those displaced by the flood of 2011, and for others in search of new houses or apartments in Sidney. Annexation is one way to add area; however, annexation can be politically complicated and expensive, as Village services and infrastructure will need to be extended to the new area. There are some alternatives to annexing property that might fulfill the need for more housing within the Village boundary.

A few large lot or cluster homes might be developed by extending Spruce Street or Wessel Drive into the woods north of the golf course. This area is too far from the shops and services to be suitable for senior housing or low-income apartments, but might be desirable for some of the upper-end executive housing that Amphenol, ACCO and others report is needed in Sidney.

In order to add more housing without annexation, village codes may need to be amended to allow densification and infill of the area outside of the floodplain and already served by Village services. Smaller minimum lot sizes, reduced setback requirements and subdivision of existing lots, among other changes, can encourage development of a tighter-grained neighborhood. Some housing types that become possible are full-sized but lower-maintenance courtyard homes with less yard to maintain, smaller starter homes and grandma cottages, bungalow courts, and apartments. When done well, with requirements for landscaping, mid-block public walkways or alleyways, miniparks, and other civic amenities, densification can reinforce a quaint village character and result in a very attractive and walkable community.

Opportunities for improving the housing stock may also be found where zoning can be changed to allow older homes that have become too much for their owners to maintain to be split into multiple units. If attractive and affordable senior housing becomes available, some owners of large old homes will be willing to make them available to incoming executives or large families ready to take on a one-of-a-kind older home in need of work. Mixed-use development with residential units above first floor commercial space is becoming popular with young people and retirees. In Sidney, it might be allowed by zoning and encouraged with revolving loan program to assist commercial property owners with renovation and conversion of their upstairs space, if they are floodsafe.

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	High – CATALYST PROJECT
Estimated Cost	\$750,000 acquisition, \$200,000 preliminary feasibility, environmental review, preliminary engineering and concept design
Funding Sources	CDBG – DR, NYS SEMO HMPG
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Town of Sidney, affected property owners, Planning and zoning Boards for Village and Town of Sidney,

6.2 *Develop a plan to plan to meet the needs of socially vulnerable populations in natural disaster planning, relief and response.*

The Red Cross defines vulnerability in natural disasters as the “diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard. Vulnerability is most often associated with poverty, but it can also arise when people are isolated, insecure and defenseless in the face of risk, shock or stress.” As the demographic profile in this LTCR plan indicates, the Village of Sidney has a significant number of vulnerable residents as reflected in high rates of poverty, an aging population,

increase in female headed households and the increased number of large families. In response to these demographic trends, the Village of Sidney will conduct comprehensive outreach to vulnerable residents and their advocates, assess the needs of the populations, and develop a detailed plan of action as part of emergency preparedness plan. It is also important that some of Sidney's highest hazard areas adjacent to the waterways, including the Camp Street neighborhood targeted for relocation, are predominantly low and moderate income neighborhoods with significant numbers of seniors.

FEMA LTRC ESF 14 process argues that "vulnerability assessment can serve as the basis for developing strategies for reducing the risks from disasters." The assessment helps a community to:

- Estimate the number of people at risk, including people with special needs;
- Identify the number and location of buildings at risk, including critical facilities such as hospitals and schools, and
- Examine the communication links and networks that are vulnerable to disruption during and after a disaster, including informal networks of communication such as church groups.

Though this LTRC assessment does not outline a complete community response, the upcoming NY Rising Community Recovery Planning program will offer the opportunity to craft a targeted outreach strategy to involve vulnerable residents and their advocates in the development of this component of the Village Emergency Preparedness Plan. The assessment will dovetail with the plans of key community organizations including senior services, the Tri-Town Hospital emergency response strategy and the Sidney School District. In addition to the assessment components identified above, the Village will evaluate the best practices in the following areas among others:

- Community outreach to socially vulnerable residents
- Assessment of special needs for each population group

- Registry and mapping of the location of vulnerable residents to focus on emergency notifications
- Coordinated planning with community based organizations and service providers
- Emergency evacuation plans for each population group
- Development of emergency medical response services and services for mobility impaired residents in the established shelter system
- Temporary residential support, including assisted living, as appropriate for residents of flood damaged properties and homes

Project Lead	LTCR and /NY Rising CRP Steering Committees
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	None
Funding Sources	NY Rising CRP consultant planning program
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Village Fire Department, Police Department and Emergency service providers, community based organizations service special needs and vulnerable populations, Delaware County Economic Development, Delaware County Planning, Delaware County Emergency Preparedness advocates

6.3 Create a Village website to improve flood hazard and emergency preparedness and automate various general municipal functions, perhaps in partnership with the Town of Sidney.

The internet is now the first place most people go for information. It is convenient and quick, and a well-designed and maintained website can increase government efficiency by reducing time spent answering routine questions and providing basic information and forms.

A municipal website can be a place to assemble, organize and disseminate emergency preparedness information, emergency response and operations plans, keeping them available outside office hours and from remote locations. Residents with power and internet access can turn to an emergency services website during a disaster for updated information and directions instead of telephoning emergency personnel.

After a disaster, a website can inform citizens where to turn for help and how to navigate the maze of red tape and requirements for obtaining relief. Besides information about emergency preparedness and disaster relief, municipal website might also offer:

Flood Prevention and Awareness:

- Awareness campaign and brochure that educates citizens about flood risks by neighborhood, flood mapping and risk assessment summary
- Emergency preparedness plan, evacuation procedures and routes and shelter locations
- Recommendations for sheltering-in places if necessary
- Vulnerable Population Directory – a site where vulnerable populations can volunteer to be listed with emergency contact information, address, identification of possible emergency needs during recovery including medical conditions
- House to House Campaign by neighborhood – Contact information for trained Neighborhood Emergency Service Volunteer Captains who will go door to door to vulnerable populations registered in their neighborhood
- Flood monitoring resources, contact information and weblinks
- Information about Community Rating System and NFIP
- Explanation of audible emergency alert codes

Flood Relief and Recovery:

- Real time update on status of Village businesses (open, restricted access, closed)
- Status of drinking water advisories or other municipal service limitations
- Location of charging stations for essential electronics and cell phones
- Service directory identifying existing flood relief programs and services
- Specialized support services and relief locations for vulnerable populations
- Inventory of grant and loan sources to speed recovery
- Guide to dealing with power outages
- Instructions for debris and waste removal

Basic information:

- Names and contact information for municipal officials, personnel and board members
- Zoning, building code, planning documents
- Police, fire and EMT information and contact information
- FAQs

Online transactions and forms:

- Payments – tickets, taxes, fees
- Downloadable forms – permit and job applications, dog licenses, etc.
- Public record requests

Citizen education and outreach:

- Explanation of municipal structure, functions and procedures
- Budget
- Opportunities for public service, committee openings

Economic development:

- Information for existing businesses on grants and loan funds, special use zones, etc.
- Information for homeowners on grants and loan funds, etc.
- Guide for prospective residents
- Guide for prospective developers, including flow chart for necessary approvals and permits
- Links to Chamber of Commerce, other local organizations

Project Lead	Mayor/ Village Clerk
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$15,000
Funding Sources	Village of Sidney Budget, CDBG-DR
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Village Clerk, all Village departments, IT consultant, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Delaware County Economic Development, Delaware County Planning, Delaware County Emergency Preparedness advocates

6.4 Use social media such as Facebook and Twitter as an outreach tool during disaster response and recovery.

Social media such as Facebook and Twitter have great potential for information exchange in disasters. Municipalities can use their Facebook page and Twitter notifications to disseminate information and warnings. An emergency hashtag can be created and a program encouraging citizens to sign up for emergency notifications promoted. Members of emergency response teams can be trained to use Twitter for emergency communications, transmitting information about the situation as it develops, including photos, from those in the field to a coordination center. Emergency service command centers can receive information and calls for help via Twitter and Facebook postings when 911 systems are overwhelmed. During Hurricane Sandy in the fall of 2012, utility companies used Twitter to send out information about locations of tent stations with portable generators and progress of the service restoration effort. The public can use social media to locate family and friends, notify authorities of problems, and keep abreast of developments and emergency notices. FEMA and other entities are studying ways to better use social media in disasters.

However, the ability to use social media has limitations. Power is one. There is no internet if there is no power. Most cellphones will retain a charge for at least a few hours after an outage, and can be charged in a car. After the immediate disaster is over and recovery is underway, charging stations can be set up with portable generators, but there may be a period of time where most people in the affected area will not have access to a working cellphone.

Internet and cellphone services are another. Not everyone has internet service, especially in a small rural community. Internet service is not available in a power outage. Cellphone service can continue in a power outage if the provider is in a remote location and unaffected. Text messages and Tweets use little bandwidth and can get through when cellphone reception is too poor for a voice call. However, after Hurricane Sandy

large areas remained without cellphone service for days and weeks, even after power was restored. The federal government has been pushing cell service providers to put in place backup systems for use in disasters, but so far they report little progress.

Finally, people must be able and willing to use social media. Emergency personnel can be trained, but many among the general public, especially seniors, may be unfamiliar with its use.

Project Lead	Mayor, Village Clerk
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	Included in website development costs
Funding Sources	Village of Sidney
Key Partners	Village of Sidney

6.5 Consider relocation of Police and Fire Service to combined facility in floodsafe location and for Water Treatment Plant.

Both the Police and Fire Stations are in the 100-year floodplain. During the 2006 and 2011 flood events, the buildings themselves did not flood, but they were surrounded by floodwaters and vehicles and the emergency operations center had to be moved to the very small fire substation on East Main Street at Beale Boulevard. A site for a combined emergency services facility needs to be found outside of the 100 and 500 year floodplains and located where access to both sides of the railroad tracks will not be cut off during high water.

The New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University, in a report about recent river flooding in New York State posted on their website (<http://wri.eas.cornell.edu/flooding.html>), states: “Waste water treatment plants within flood plains are one facility that should receive special consideration for being moved,

even with a limited degree of change in flood risk. A brief interruption of operations during infrequent floods may be acceptable (high flood water would dilute and rapidly transport discharge), but floods that routinely interrupt operations for an extended time period pose a risk to public health as well as the waterbody health. Especially since many aging waste water treatment plants are in need of replacement, the possibility of moving the waste water treatment plants out of the flood plain should be considered when new facilities are designed.” Placing a wastewater treatment plant out of flood danger in hilly terrain is difficult due to some of its functional requirements. A wastewater treatment plant is best sited:

- Downslope from the majority of the contributing area to minimize expenditures for pumping;
- Near a waterway with good flow even in dry periods, for discharge;
- On a rectangular parcel of land big large enough to allow room for future expansion and ideally with a 100 foot wide buffer around it to protect neighbors
- Far enough away from neighborhoods and businesses to avoid complaints about occasional smells
- On an area sloped enough to allow gravity flow through the processes, but not so steep as to require extensive grading.

It is easy to see why existing wastewater treatment plants are placed in a floodplain. Another site should be sought if the plant is to be replaced, but it is likely more cost-effective to protect the existing plant from a 500 year flood event with a dike, pursue plans for emergency power and access by boat until floodwaters recede.

Project Lead	Village of Sidney Department of Public Works
Recovery Value	High
Estimated Cost	To be determined (significant)
Funding Sources	FEMA Public Works program, NYS Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, NYSDEC

Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Village Fire Department, Emergency services and police department, Sidney Public Works, Village Engineer, NYS DEC
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6.6 *Create a long term organization devoted to implementation of the Long Term Community Recovery Plan and Community Reconstruction Plan and advocate its vision, goals and actions, including perhaps a Local Development Corporation and involve members from the Flood Recovery Committee.*

This LTCR Plan is a living document. As Sidney recovers and rebuilds, many of the projects will continue to evolve. Some will require further planning, analysis, and design. New projects may be identified and developed. The timetable for implementation will be adjusted frequently and will rely on opportunities as they present themselves and, in some cases, on available funding and technical assistance.

Sidney needs a standing committee to partner with the Village to oversee implementation of the LTCR and CR Plan. That group can continue to empower the community to take ownership of its recovery in a sustainable, collaborative, and locally-driven manner. The current Project Advisory Committee could serve in this role or a new committee or organization could be developed.

If a new organization is developed it might also be able to address the capacity building needs identified by the Village to deliver professional economic development services. In some communities this organization takes the form of a Local Development Corporation, whose mission encompasses recovery needs across a variety of sectors and strategic partnerships with community based organizations like the Chamber of Commerce or nonprofit housing development organizations.

Establishing staff capacity or identifying committed volunteer leadership will provide the ability to maintain sustainable partnerships with other organizations and to plan, implement, and manage the capital needed for individual investments. The group can fulfill a number of goals:

- Monitor progress on plan implementation and report to the community at least annually.
- Ensure that the plan is updated frequently. New policies, programs and priorities will emerge at the State and National level that will influence implementation of the Plan. Evolving climate change data and new science will need to be implemented.
- Help implement the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan and other projects and programs by administering grants or programs.
- Raise funds for recovery and other projects and programs. If a non-profit organization is formed it can accept tax-deductible donations and apply for grant funding available to organizations with a 501(c) (3) designation from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Continue planning additional projects and programs that serve the Village’s needs and interests as well as raise funds and manage those projects.
- Provide professional management to ensure that programs operate with the greatest amount of openness and accountability possible.
- Coordinate with Village Board

Project Lead	Co-chairs of LTCR Committee/CRP Committee
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	None – Volunteer hours
Funding Sources	None
Key Partners	Members of LTCR PAC, Community Recovery Committee, NYS Rising CRP committee members selected to be part of LTCR Implementation Committee, Delaware County Planning, Emergency Preparedness Committee

6.7 Collaborate with the Town of Sidney to conduct a shared services study for various functions as possible.

In pursuit of greater efficiency in the use of tax dollars, the Town and Village of Sidney should undertake a study to look for ways to share services, either by merging services, trading services or selling services each other. Some services that have been successfully shared between neighboring municipalities in New York State include purchasing, sewer and water, highway maintenance, animal control, recreation services, and many more. The Town and Village are not currently eligible to participate in this NYSDOS program, but its eligibility requirements should be monitored.

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	Community Interest
Estimated Cost	\$50,000.00
Funding Sources	NYS DOS Shared Services Grant Program (if criteria allows)
Key Partners	Village of Sidney Village Board, Town of Sidney Town Board

6.8 *Strengthen code enforcement to preserve and improve property values. Continue efforts to ensure access to advanced internet and telecommunications for residents, businesses and visitors.*

Municipal codes are there to protect public safety and property values, and maintain quality of life in a community. The more attractive and prosperous a community appears, the more businesses, homebuyers and visitors are willing to invest time and money in it. Code enforcement is an important economic development function of local government and it is critical to increasing resiliency and safety in natural disasters and extreme weather. In Sidney’s case the Code Enforcement Officer is also the flood Compliance Officer and, as such, is responsible for certifying all building damage assessments following extreme weather.

In general, the code enforcement workload is highest in two opposing situations: when the economy is booming and there is a lot of construction and renovation activity, or when the local economy is slowing or

stagnant and property owners have little money for maintenance. Unfortunately, the Village of Sidney is in this second situation and there is more work for the code enforcement department but fewer tax dollars to support it. Like every other part of municipal government, code enforcement needs ways to do more with less.

Code enforcement is generally reactive – it operates as a response to already existing problems. Finding ways to stop decline early can help reduce the workload. Prevention starts with public education – making sure property owners and managers know what the code requires. Information packets might be provided to commercial and rental property owners and managers explaining code requirements and including information about any property improvement grant programs or loan funds available to them. Local realtors could be required to provide information to prospective homeowners on any existing code violations cases or unpermitted construction. Existing homeowners might be reached with information sheets hung on doorknobs. Include information for tenants, letting them know their landlord’s responsibilities, inform them how to register a complaint, and make sure they include the landlord’s contact information.

Targeting the few vacant or declining properties in a mostly stable neighborhood can help prevent the spread of the blight. In areas with a higher percentage of properties in poor condition, it can be most effective to target a block at a time. Property owners feel the process is fairer – they can see that they are not the only ones being forced to bring their property up to code – and the improvements are more noticeable and longer-lasting when the standard of the whole block is raised.

Some communities are investing in technology to increase efficiency. Complaints can be entered and citizens can track them online. Relatively inexpensive tablet computers can be used on-location to record information and photographs and enter them in an enforcement database to start a case record with dates and deadlines, and automatically trigger a violation notice and follow-up reminders. While there are proprietary software programs available for code enforcement purposes, they can be over-complicated and take too much time to adapt to local needs and to learn to use (and as soon as staff are comfortable with it another update comes

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out.) Simple spreadsheets and filing systems that existing staff use already are likely to be most effective. If existing staff does not have time to do it, high school or college students could be hired as summer interns to set up basic forms and systems modeled on some developed by other communities and available online.

As the Floodplain Compliance Officer, the Code Inspector must be exceptionally well trained and well prepared to handle the process of post-flood building assessment, identification of health and safety problems in Village buildings and properties and, if necessary, demolition determinations and permitting. The Flood Compliance Officer is also responsible for the critical essential assessment of “percent damaged” that drives access to individual assistance and various other FEMA programs, effects repetitive loss classification, elevation requirements, eligibility for various buyout programs and future NFIP premiums. After immediate relief is complete, these responsibilities often make the Code Inspector the front line municipal official that community

Project Lead	Mayor/Village Board
Recovery Value	Moderate
Estimated Cost	\$3,000.00 - cost of NYS DOS code enforcer training (free), FEMA training programs
Funding Sources	NYS SEMO Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Key Partners	Village of Sidney, Village Code Enforcement Officer

members interact with and as such the Inspectors skill and confidence is critical.

VIII. FUNDING STRATEGY

The Village of Sidney has limited local resources to allocate to implementation of community initiatives outlined in this LTRC Plan. The Village is a part of the New York Rising: Community Reconstruction Program and as such expects access to \$3.0 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. The Village has an emerging direction and catalyst project for the use of these funds to meet the needs of the most significantly impacted residential and commercial community members through acquisition of the Plankenhorn Road property, acquisition of residential structures in high and extreme hazard areas and homeownership incentives to keep residents in Sidney.

Remaining CDBG-DR funds will most likely be used for direct assistance to downtown businesses to recover from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee damage, improve the resiliency of their buildings, and otherwise improve commercial spaces and facades. Sidney currently has an application pending with NYSDOS for funding to design and begin streetscape improvements along Main Street from River Street to Division Street (\$1,560,000). This includes design of pedestrian facilities and storm water improvements. This project will advance and enhance the recently designated historic district and create momentum for LTRC Plan Implementation.

The final catalyst project focuses on initiatives to assemble Susquehanna River and Weir Creek adjacent waterfront land to use in an integrated green space, recreation, entertainment, and flood hazard mitigation system. The Sidney Community Foundation is willing to be the Village's planning partner and has committed to donating its waterfront land to the green infrastructure component and/or as a location for future flood safe entertainment development. Sidney believes that their own initiative to model comprehensive green infrastructure development along the waterways may help to attract related industries to the community that can participate in the mitigation planning and use Sidney's success as a model to promote their own projects and services.

APPENDIX A: HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF SIDNEY

HISTORY OF SIDNEY

(Reprinted from Village of Sidney Chamber of Commerce web site)

Sidney, New York is located on approximately two square miles in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains along the banks of the Susquehanna River. It is situated in the northwest corner of Delaware County, abutting both Chenango and Otsego counties. Sidney is located at the junction of Interstate 88 and State Route 8, making the cities of Oneonta, Binghamton, and Utica readily accessible.

The locality now known as Sidney, New York, began its history at the junction of the Susquehanna and Unadilla Rivers. Over the centuries, the Oneida and Iroquois tribes used the area because of the convergence of the trails along the rivers, which they used for transportation. At least two, and probably more Native American tribes made their home in the Sidney area.

Recorded history of Sidney began in the early 1770's when Reverend William Johnston built his home in the location of the current Sidney Airport. The area was referred to as the Johnston Settlement or Sidney Plains and was geographically part of the Otsego County and the township of Unadilla.

During the American Revolution Reverend Johnston and most of the non-loyalist population of the area fled to Cherry Valley for protection from the pro-British Native Americans and the Tory claim-jumpers. In July 1778, in order to scatter Native Americans, New York's Governor Clinton ordered Colonel William Butler to burn their villages along the Susquehanna River. Soon after Reverend Johnston and the other white settlers returned to the area.

In 1796 the state legislature subdivided Otsego County. Delaware County was created from this subdivision. Later the Town of Sidney was subdivided to create the Town of Masonville.

During its formative years, Sidney's economic base consisted of farming, timber, potash harvest, and services catering to farming needs. In October 1866, the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad began service to Sidney. The Albany and Susquehanna was later purchased by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. In 1873, the Ontario and Western Railroad, the O & W, connected a North running rail line to the D & H rail line, and Sidney became a railroad hub.

Within a decade, Sidney built three hotels, doubled its population, and attracted more industry. By 1910 the Village had a French cheese factory, silk mill, cigar factory, carriage works, glass works, novelty works, and the Hatfield car manufacturing plant. However, by 1920 as a result of bad luck and bad business, which included a series of fires and strikes, most of these businesses closed or left the area.

In 1925 Scintilla Magneto Company, a Swiss firm with headquarters in New York City, bought the old Hatfield building and began manufacturing magnetos in Sidney. In 1929 the Bendix Aviation Corporation purchased Scintilla. Over the years, Bendix gained a world-class reputation for aerospace products. Currently the company is known as Amphenol Aerospace Corporation. The company currently employs about 1,700 factory workers and is one of the largest employer in Delaware County.

Keith Clark, the world's largest manufacturer of calendars, moved to Sidney from New York City in 1949. Having steadily expanded their calendar business, today they employ more than a thousand people. In addition to calendars, Keith Clark manufactures all varieties of time management products, which they ship throughout the world. Currently the company is known as MeadWestvaco and employs over 1,200 employees.

Una-Lam, a division of Unadilla Silo Company, moved to Sidney from Unadilla in 1963. Una-Lam manufactures fire-resistant, laminated-wood arches, beams, storage sheds, swimming pools, hot tubs, and other wood products. There are numerous smaller businesses and industries in the area.

The Village of Sidney maintains a small airport, a police department, a volunteer fire department and an emergency squad. The Civic Center houses municipal offices and services. Most religious denominations are represented, and the community supports a myriad

of service organizations and public interest groups. There is an AM-FM radio station, a weekly newspaper, and the high school operates a television station. The school district encompasses two towns and parts of three others. The public library is chartered to service the school district's residents.

APPENDIX B: FUNDING SOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

FEDERAL

- U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STATE

- NYS AG and Markets – New York State Department of Agricultural and Markets - Farmland Protection Grants
- NYS DEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS HCR – New York State Department of Housing and Community Renewal
- NYS DOS EPF – New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program funded by the Environmental Protection Fund
- NYS DOS LGEP – New York State Department of State Local Government Efficiency Program
- NYS DOT TEP – New York State Department of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Program
- NYSERDA – New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
- NYS EFC – New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation
- NYS ESDC – New York State Empire State Development Corporation – Market NY Initiative
- NYS HCR OCR – New York State Housing and Community Renewal Office of Community Renewal

- NYS OPRHP – New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Environmental Protection Fund and other sources
- NYS SEMO – State Emergency Management Office
- NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Consultant team

COUNTY

- DCSWCD – Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District
- DCPD – Delaware County Planning Department
- DCED – Delaware County Economic Development Administration
- Delaware County Emergency Management Office
- Delaware County Highway Department
- Delaware County Department of Public Works
- Delaware County Tourism Promotion Agency

REGIONAL

- Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- NY Rising Community Reconstruction Zone Southern Tier Regional Planning Group
- Tri-Town Regional Hospital
- Community Colleges

VILLAGE

- Village of Sidney Town Board
- Village of Sidney Mayor

- Village of Sidney Economic Developer
- Village of Sidney Planning Board
- Village of Sidney Zoning Board of Appeals
- Village of Sidney Long Term Community Recovery Project Advisory Committee
- Village of Sidney Community Reconstruction Program Steering Committee
- Village of Sidney Fire Department
- Village of Sidney Police Department
- Village of Sidney Emergency Services
- Sidney Central School District
- Various emergency shelter locations
- Village of Sidney – Consulting Village Engineer
- Village of Sidney Highway Department
- Village of Sidney Department of Public Works
- Village of Sidney Clerk

OTHER MUNICIPAL

- Town of Sidney
- Town of Bainbridge
- Town of Unadilla
- Chenango County

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS

- Sidney Community Foundation
- Allstate Foundation
- ARTPlace America
- Max and Anna Levinson Foundation
- Home Depot Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- Land Trust Alliance
- Central New York Land Trust
- AARP Age Friendly Communities Initiative
- Red Cross/Salvation Army
- Emergency Shelter Providers
- 2+4 Constriction and Delaware Opportunities
- Sidney Chamber of Commerce
- Sidney Airport
- Sidney Golf and Country Club
- Sidney American Legion
- Sidney Rotary Club
- Local Businesses
- Local Financial Institutions
- Local Realtors

APPENDIX C: COMPARISON OF LTCR AND COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the Village of Sidney Long Term Community Recovery Plan actions using the seven core categories identified in the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program. Although the goals in the LTCR Plan do not directly align, it is clear that the Village has considered all of the CR components and built a strategy that advances the planning goals of that program. Although the actions are sorted by goal area in the LTCR and by component in the CRP, Sidney's recovery strategy revolves around a multistep program which includes the following elements:

- Over time, acquire, through HMPG program or municipal buyout program, all residential properties in the high risk hazard area adjacent to the Susquehanna River
- Acquire property for replacement housing/neighborhood development, perhaps including the Plankenhorn Road farm and create incentives and subsidies to relocate residents from high hazard areas to floodsafe locations elsewhere in the Village
- Construct a state of the art green infrastructure system in the lands adjacent to the Susquehanna River and Weir Creek vacated by relocations to detain and manage floodwaters in extreme weather
- Design the green infrastructure system so that it will reduce base flood elevation for the Main Street corridor to the degree that flooding is restricted to the basements of properties.

Underlying this system of interrelated projects is a strong commitment to develop a sophisticated system to educate, alert, and protect residents and workers from extreme weather and provide the infrastructure, emergency, health, social services that enable Sidney to recover and be resilient.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

- **ADVANCE FLOOD HAZARD INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND USE CONSTRUCTED AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WHENEVER POSSIBLE ALONG SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND TRIBUTARY CREEKS AND STREAMS TO REDUCE FLOODING AND MITIGATE HAZARDS**
 - A. Evaluate the use of constructed mitigation measures including perhaps a floodwall or levee to protect floodprone property and people in the Village, especially in the North End, the area East of Union Street and in the Industrial Park.(LTCR Action 1.1)
 - B. The Village of Sidney will develop a formal relationship with Delaware County Planning Department and Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District in support in environmental planning, watershed and stream management and flood hazard mitigation. (LTCR Action 1.2)
 - C. Advocate for Susquehanna River watershed, storm water pollution prevention and stream management with Delaware County and surrounding communities. (LTCR Action 1.3)
 - D. Work with regional partners to commission an engineering and fluvial geomorphic study to determine the base line flooding for a given storm event (5, 10, 15, 25, 50, and 100 year) within the Village. (LTCR Action 1.4)
 - E. Create grassroots public advocacy and educational programs to work with the community on stormwater related issues. (LTCR Action 1.6)
 - F. Work with Delaware County Planning Department to implement recommendations from the 2012 All Hazard Mitigation Plan (LTCR Action 1.7)

- G. Review land management codes and standards (zoning, subdivision, site plan) to increase flood safety and support community revitalization. (LTCR Action 1.7)
- H. Consider relocation of Police and Fire Service to combined facility in floodsafe location and for Water Treatment Plant. (LTCR Action 6.5)
- I. Consider alternatives for annexing property adjacent to the Village and extending municipal services for flood safe replacement housing and commercial development. (LTCR Action 6.1)

2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- SUPPORT THE EXISTING MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL BASE IN SAFE LOCATIONS
- REVITALIZE A FLOOD SAFE DOWNTOWN THAT IS VIBRANT, ATTRACTIVE AND WALKABLE.
 - A. Conduct a market study to build on opportunities identified in the LTCR for uses in the former Amphenol Aerospace Plant and expanded use of the Village Industrial Park. (LTCR Action 3.1)
 - B. Examine the structure and capacity of its economic development organization and capacity to manage necessary activities in a professional manner and decide upon the extent to which it needs to involve other entities, such as community decision-makers, regional organizations or local and area businesses. (LTCR Action 3.4)
 - C. Provide secondary access for all manufacturers and industrial park tenants in the event of flash flooding. (LTCR Action 3.5)
 - D. Support efforts to improve the Sidney Airport. (LTCR Action 3.6)
 - E. Direct any future commercial downtown development uphill to the south of the rail road tracks along West Main Street to protect the core from increased precipitation and serious flood events due to climate change. (LTCR Action 4.1)

- F. Develop a streetscape program for the Village core, focusing first on the areas that are more floodsafe by integrating green infrastructure. (LTCR Action 4.2)
- G. Improve downtown off street parking areas behind stores including directional signage, pedestrian access and lighting. (LTCR Action 4.3)
- H. Create downtown design guidelines with focus on historic buildings, as part of the new historic district. (LTCR Action 4.4)

3. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE

- A. Coordinate with the School system to develop recreational and life-long sports program to meet the needs of children, teenagers, and the elderly and improve the condition of existing recreation resources. Conduct recreation surveys of the youth and elderly within the community. (LTCR Action 5.3)
- B. Plan for the aging and retiring workforce at Amphenol Aerospace and ACCO in the next five years. Work with the companies to identify the job skills needed in prospective employees, and develop training programs to give local residents the edge for future employment. The job skills needed at the Amphenol facility are likely to be middle and upper management, while the Jobs at ACCO are likely to be manufacturing labor. (LTCR Action 3.2)
- C. Support efforts by local corporate partners, to the degree possible, to support local sourcing for labor, contracting and purchasing to local residents, established small businesses and those people who plan to live or operate companies in the Village. (LTCR Action 3.3)
- D. Create a Village website to improve flood hazard and emergency preparedness and automate various general municipal functions, perhaps in partnership with the Town of Sidney. (LTCR Action 6.3)
- E. Use social media such as Facebook and Twitter as an outreach tool during disaster response and recovery. (LTCR Action 6.4)

- F. Support and expand the work of the Sidney High School Flood Monitoring Program, which has proven to be an excellent tool to teach students about the river flows and alert the community to hazards. (LTCR Action 1.5)

4. HOUSING

- DEVELOP SAFE HOUSING AT VARIOUS PRICE POINTS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS INCLUDING YOUNG FAMILIES, SENIORS, AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.
 - A. Support Delaware County's application to Hazard Mitigation Grants Program for structure elevations/ acquisitions and support to eligible property owners to elevate or sell their structure for demolition/ conversion to open space. (LTCR Action 2.2)
 - B. Identify a mixed use development strategy for the Plankenhorn Road property including commercial or light manufacturing that is compatible with mixed income residential development as appropriate. (LTCR Action 2.3)
 - C. Continue to develop new affordable rental housing as a transitional step to homeownership with focus on the relocation of community members living in floodprone areas. (LTCR Action 2.4)
 - D. Develop a Homeownership Program offering purchase subsidy for residents willing to relocate from floodprone areas, especially vulnerable populations in the Camp Street neighborhood and the North End. (LTCR Action 2.5)
 - E. Work with local companies including Amphenol Aerospace, ACCO, Industrial Park tenants, and local financial institutions to offer a home purchase incentive grant for workers who move into the Village. (LTCR Action 2.6)
 - F. Support development of some executive level housing that would be attractive to the management and professional employees Amphenol Aerospace plans to attract. (LTCR Action 2.7)
 - G. Look for opportunities downtown to increase residential density for vulnerable populations including senior and multifamily housing in areas that are less prone to serious flooding. (LTCR Action 2.8)

- H. Consider the use of density bonuses to accomplish desired outcomes in the LTCR plan including affordable housing, senior housing, green design and green infrastructure. (LTCR Action 2.9)
- I. Encourage second story residential uses and improve existing housing units if they can be made floodsafe. (LTCR Action 4.5)

5. NATURAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEMS

- CREATE NEW USES FOR FLOODPRONE AREAS ALONG THE RIVER FOR RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS WHICH CAN ALSO PROVIDE AREAS FOR FLOOD STORAGE.
 - A. Prepare a study to determine the feasibility and market for a new waterfront entertainment center including a performance amphitheater to expand community celebrations, arts and cultural events. Ensure that new assets are directly linked to the downtown with pedestrian connections. (LTCR Action 5.1)
 - B. Develop a land trust or work with local organizations including the Sidney Community Foundation to assemble waterfront property for new waterfront entertainment uses and infrastructure development. (LTCR Action 5.2)

6. SOCIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- A. Conduct a market study to determine the needs (number of units and configuration) of affordable housing for vulnerable populations including senior/assisted housing, and share information with developers. (LTCR Action 2.1)
- B. Develop a plan to plan to meet the needs of socially vulnerable populations in natural disaster planning, relief and response. (LTCR Action 6.2)

7. OTHER ACTIONS OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE

- A. The Village of Sidney will consider participation in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System program to help residents reduce the cost of flood insurance. (LTCR Action 1.8)
- B. Create a long term organization devoted to implementation of the Long Term Community Recovery Plan and Community Reconstruction Plan and advocate its vision, goals and actions, including perhaps a Local Development Corporation and involve members from the Flood Recovery Committee. (LTCR Action 6.6)
- C. Collaborate with the Town of Sidney to conduct a shared services study for various functions as possible. (LTCR Action 6.7)
- D. Strengthen code enforcement to preserve and improve property values. Continue efforts to ensure access to advanced internet and telecommunications for residents, businesses and visitors. (LTCR Action 6.8)