

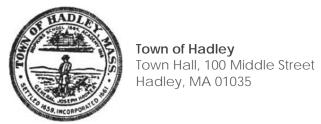


### TOWN OF HADLEY

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (Draft)



# Prepared for:



## **Contents**

1.	Background Information	1
	1.1 MVP Program Overview	1
	1.2 Community Resilience Building Workshop	1
	1.3 Workshop Preparation	2
	1.4 Workshop Process	2
2.	Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas	4
	2.1 Summary of Top Hazards	4
	2.2 Areas of Concern	4
3.	Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards	6
	3.1 Categories of Concerns and Challenges	6
	3.1.1 Infrastructure Concerns	6
	3.1.2 Societal Concerns	7
	3.1.3 Environmental Concerns	8
4.	Current Strengths and Assets1	0
5.	Recommendations to Improve Resilience1	1
	5.1 Top Three Recommendations1	1
	5.2 Other Prioritized Recommendations	2
6.	Report Citation1	6

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Introductory Presentation Materials

Appendix B: Completed Risk Matrices

Appendix C: Base Maps

**Note:** This report has been prepared in accordance with the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Guide and Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) "Summary of Findings Template Guidance" provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MA EEA).

# 1. Background Information

#### 1.1 MVP Program Overview

In 2016, Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker issued Executive Order 569 (2016) to establish a comprehensive statewide approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. As part of this initiative, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) administers the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. The MVP Program provides communities with funding to identify vulnerabilities and develop plans to increase climate change resilience. In 2018, a \$2.4 billion Environmental Bond Bill authorized over \$200 million to fund climate change adaptation, including both planning and implementation aspects of the MVP Program.

To date, 249 of the Commonwealth's 351 municipalities (71%) have participated in the MVP Program. This has resulted in more than \$17 million dollars in Planning Grants and Action Grants to implement high priority actions identified during the planning process. Projects funded through Action Grants are wide ranging, including the following priority project categories:

- More detailed vulnerability and risk assessments;
- Community outreach and education projects;
- Local bylaw updates;
- Redesign and retrofits of infrastructure;
- Nature-based solutions for flood protection, drought mitigation, and water quality improvements;
- Nature-based infrastructure and technology solutions for extreme heat and poor air quality.

#### 1.2 Community Resilience Building Workshop

The Town of Hadley (Town) received funding through an MVP Planning Grant to compile data for and conduct a Community Resiliency Building (CRB) workshop. The goal of the CRB workshop was to have community stakeholders work collaboratively to complete a climate change and natural hazard vulnerability assessment and develop prioritized actions to address vulnerabilities and improve strengths throughout town. Upon completion of the CRB workshop process, Hadley will become an "MVP Community" and will be eligible to apply for MVP Action Grant funding from the Commonwealth.

An interdisciplinary team of Town staff (i.e., "Core Team") worked to implement the CRB process with consulting support from Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI), a certified MVP provider. The Town's MVP Core Team included the following:

Town of Hadley – MVP Core Team		
Chris Okafor, Director of Public Works		
Janice Stone, Conservation Commission		
William Dwyer, Planning Department		
Tim Neyhart, Building Inspector		
David Nixon, Town Administrator		

#### 1.3 Workshop Preparation

The following tasks were performed to prepare for the CRB workshop:

- The Core Team and CEI held a kickoff meeting on August 7, 2019 to plan for the workshop.
- CEI conducted interviews with Core Team members to identify potential areas of concern, strengths, and vulnerabilities.
- CEI prepared presentation materials and Town-wide maps to guide the workshop.
- The Core Team scheduled the workshop, invited stakeholders, and handled logistics.

#### 1.4 Workshop Process

A full-day MVP planning workshop was held on January 7, 2020 in accordance with CRB guidance<sup>1</sup>. The workshop participants are listed below.

Name	Department/Committee	Team
Edwin Matuszko	Conservation Commission	
Michael Spanknebel	Fire Department Chief	
Chris Okafor	Dept. of Public Works Director	Red
Amy Fyden	Finance Committee	
Toni Lyn Morelli	Conservation Commission/UMass	
David Nixon	Town Administrator	
Jennifer Sanders James	Conservation Commission	
Jim Maksimoski	Planning Board	
Anne McKenzie	School Department	
Molly Keegan	Select Board	
Janice Stone	Conservation Commission	Yellow
Michael Romano	Police Department	
Hayley Wood	Council on Aging	
Drew Hutchinson	Hadley Media	
Bob Hartzel	CEI	
Elisha Musgraves	CEI	Facilitators
David Roman	CEI	

The workshop was initiated with introductory presentation materials. Presentation materials included:

- Description of the MVP program and CRB process;
- Summary of Hadley's emergency management procedures;
- Introduction to climate change, including Hadley-specific climate change projections<sup>2</sup>;
- Introduction to nature-based solutions (i.e., green infrastructure);
- Summary of stakeholder interview results.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CRB Guidance: www.communityresiliencebuilding.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Climate projections obtained from: www.resilientma.org

Stakeholders were then split into diversified sub-groups (7 people per group, see assigned teams in table above) to conduct concurrent guided exercises. As listed below, the exercises solicit and organize input from stakeholders through use of the Risk Matrix presented in Appendix B.

#### **Workshop Exercises**

Exercise 1: Identify the Town's top local natural and climate-related hazards of concern.

**Exercise 2:** Identify the Town's strengths and vulnerabilities relative to top hazards.

**Exercise 3:** Identify and prioritize actions to reduce vulnerabilities or improve strengths.

**Exercise 4:** Determine the Town's overall top priority actions.

Note: Exercises 1 and 4 were conducted with all workshop participants. Exercises 2-3 were conducted simultaneously by the sub-groups (red team and yellow team).

To help generate ideas and discussion during the planning exercises, each sub-group was provided a series of base maps (Appendix C) with information such as FEMA flood hazard areas, critical habitat areas, and conservation land within Hadley.

This report provides an overview of workshop findings, including a summary of the Town's top hazards related to climate change, current climate resiliency strengths and vulnerabilities, and potential actions to improve the community's resilience to natural and climate-related hazards. The summary of findings described in this report are compiled from workshop stakeholder feedback.

# 2. Top Hazards and Vulnerable Areas

#### 2.1 Summary of Top Hazards

During Exercise 1, stakeholders discussed and reached consensus on Hadley's top natural hazards and areas of concern.

The following three hazards were identified as presenting the highest direct and indirect risks to Hadley's infrastructure, societal, and environmental resources:



Red team workshop participants



**1. Flooding:** Flooding was the hazard of highest concern to Hadley. Historical flooding has caused property damage and has led to closures of critical roads.



2. Severe Storms: Extreme weather events such as strong winter storms and heavy rainfall with high winds were another concern due to their potential for damage to infrastructure and other physical, social, and environmental consequences.



**3. Drought:** Future occurrences of drought are predicted to increase. Workshop stakeholders identified drought as a top concern for its potential to disrupt agriculture operations.

#### 2.2 Areas of Concern

Prior to the workshop, interviews were conducted with key stakeholders to develop a preliminary list of Hadley's primary climate resiliency vulnerabilities and strengths. Interviewees indicated that, as a riverside community, flooding and stormwater hazards were the primary concerns for Hadley. Environmental impacts to agriculture and farming was also a concern of those interviewed.

The table below lists areas of concern that were identified based on stakeholder interviews and feedback during the CRB workshop. Subsequent sections of this report provide more details on strengths and vulnerabilities (and potential solutions to increase resilience) relative to these areas of concern.

Category	Areas of Concern	
Infrastructure	<ul> <li>Stormwater conveyance network</li> <li>Hadley Dike</li> <li>Major transportation corridors (Route 9, Route 47 South, Rocky Hill Road, Bay Road, River Drive, Maple Street)</li> <li>Public water supply</li> </ul>	
Communities and Agriculture	<ul> <li>Farms throughout town</li> <li>Senior Living Communities</li> <li>Hadley Housing Authority</li> <li>Hadley Safety Complex</li> <li>Public schools</li> </ul>	
Environmental	<ul> <li>Unprotected / undeveloped agricultural parcels</li> <li>Critical habitat areas</li> <li>Lake Warner Watershed</li> <li>Fort River Watershed</li> <li>Chmura Road (wildfires)</li> </ul>	

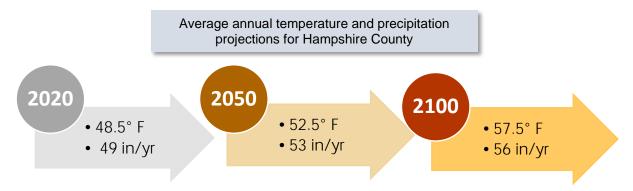
# 3. Current Concerns and Challenges Presented by Hazards

Hadley faces multiple challenges related to potential impacts from natural hazards. In recent years, the Town has experienced disruptive and damaging weather events, including Tropical Storm Irene (August 2011), Tropical Storm Sandy (October 2012), winter Nor'easter Nemo (February 2013), winter Nor'easter Quinn (March 2018), and Hurricane Barry (August 2019). These storms brought heavy rain-induced inland flooding, wind damage to trees, and snow that caused widespread damage to Hadley and many other Massachusetts communities. Additionally, Hadley was impacted by the drought conditions experienced across the state throughout 2016.

The intensity and frequency of extreme weather events has increased awareness of Hadley's natural hazards and risks associated with climate change, while motivating communities throughout Massachusetts to comprehensively assess and improve resilience at the local level.

The following is a summary of climate change projections for Hampshire County, Massachusetts from the Climate Change Clearinghouse (CCC) for the Commonwealth (<a href="www.resilientma.org">www.resilientma.org</a>):

Note: Climate change projections below are based on median modeled results – some models predict higher and lower outcomes.



#### 3.1 Categories of Concerns and Challenges

During the guided exercises, workshop participants identified Hadley's vulnerabilities and strengths to natural hazards. As in any community, Hadley is not uniformly vulnerable to potential hazards and climate change impacts – certain locations, resources, and populations will be affected to a greater degree than others. Workshop participants identified the following as key areas of concern across three categories – infrastructure, societal, and environmental.

#### 3.1.1 Infrastructural Concerns

 Stormwater Infrastructure: Workshop participants expressed concerns about the Town's stormwater management system. Specific areas of concern included the following:



- Aging and undersized culverts causing severe flooding in roadways (e.g., Mill Valley Road, Bay Road, Route 9, River Road, North Chmura Road, Laurel Street, Hockanum Road, Knightly Road, Sunrise Avenue, and Moody Bridge Road).
- Conveyance capacity of open drainage channels throughout Town are impacted by sedimentation from nearby agricultural fields. Many of the conveyance channels are

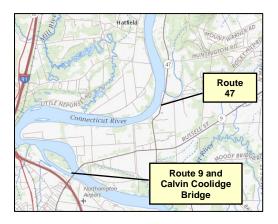
- located on private land. Maintenance of these channels is challenging as the Town does not currently have maintenance easements in place for most locations.
- Leaching catch basins installed in poorly drained soils pose a potential flood hazard from frequent clogging (e.g., Knightly Road).
- The Hadley Dike: Hadley Dike, which extends for roughly 2 miles along Hadley's western boundary, was built in the 1930s by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the vulnerable bordering area along the Connecticut River. The following dike-related issues were identified by stakeholders:
  - Based on previous assessments and inspections, multiple sections of the Hadley Dike are in poor condition and require repair.
  - Multiple portions of the dike are located on private property and therefore cannot be accessed to make repairs.
  - The dike was not built-out for the entirety of Bay Road and therefore does not provide potential flood mitigation benefits to infrastructure northeast of Bay Road.
- Water Supply Redundancy and Fire Protection: The Town's only Water Treatment Plant
  (WTP) is located within the Fort River floodplain. The Town does not currently have an alternative
  WTP and is therefore vulnerable to any outages caused by future storms. In addition, an
  approximately 10,000 linear foot section of 6-inch cast iron water main on South Maple Street is
  undersized and does not have adequate capacity to pass flows required for fire control. Further,
  the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located within the Zone II Wellhead
  Protection Area for public drinking supply.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity and Zone II Proximity: The Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) frequently operates near capacity, is located within the Zone II Wellhead Protection Area for public drinking water supply, and is located within the Fort River floodplain. The Town does not currently have an alternative WTP and is therefore vulnerable to any outages or increases in influent. Stakeholder participants indicated that some of the WWTP's capacity issues are likely caused by illegal sump sumps installed by residents and expressed concerns over the potential contamination risks posed by increased flooding. Many areas in Town routinely flood due to the high groundwater water table and proximity to the Connecticut River Floodplain. Localized flooding has increased in recent years as a result of more frequent, higher intensity precipitation events. Residents throughout town are impacted by localized flooding and the high groundwater table (i.e., flooded basements and property). To combat this issue, stakeholder participants indicated that some homeowners have installed illegal sump pumps that discharge to the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

#### 3.1.2 Societal Concerns

Bylaw Enforcement in Floodplains and Vulnerable Areas: Stakeholders
expressed concerns over the frequency with which development proposals
have been granted waivers to wetland and floodplain restrictions and buffer
setbacks. Some stakeholders expressed concern that Town bylaws are not
being effectively enforced in areas where wetland and floodplain impacts
occur.



Isolation Risks to Major Transportation
Corridors: Some of the Town's primary roads serve both inter-municipal and intra-municipal purposes, with neighboring communities using Route 47, Route 9, and the Calvin Coolidge Bridge to access other towns and I-91. Additionally, Route 9 serves as a major economic hub for Hadley. These areas, as well as other main roads in town, are identified as having existing flooding issues, often due to undersized culverts. This flooding can result in lane closures and potentially limits access to critical transportation corridors.



- Vulnerable Communities: Several vulnerable, densely populated areas were identified during the workshop. Hadley has several senior and low-income living facilities, in addition to an aging town-wide population. Stakeholders expressed concerns that emergency alerts and planning information may not be fully reaching disabled and elderly populations (i.e. groups that may not have cell phones to access CodeRED alerts). Further, vulnerable populations at some housing complexes do not have access to central air conditioning. The Town Safety Complex, which houses multiple departments involved in emergency response and management, presents an additional vulnerability, as it is located in a floodplain. If the Complex experienced significant flooding, it could impair the emergency responders' ability to function effectively.
- Agricultural Drought Irrigation: Stakeholders indicated that farms throughout Hadley were significantly impacted by the 2016 drought. Drought conditions forced farmers to pump directly from surface waters for irrigation, resulting in unintended water quantity, quality, and ecological impacts. The potential long-term viability of farms in Hadley could be compromised without a reliable and equitable source of irrigation water during future droughts.
- Seasonal Use of Connecticut River Bank: Stakeholders indicated that Hadley has an issue with unpermitted campsites in the vicinity of Sandy Beach on the southern bank of the Connecticut River. An estimated 100 or campsites are located in this area on private properties, with many of these only seasonally occupied during summer and early fall. The Town has identified several environmental hazards and Town bylaw violations associated with these camps, including sanitary concerns and tree clearing in flood and erosion prone areas. Having unpermitted populations in active floodplains presents additional risks related to emergency response and notification in the event of a natural hazard.

#### 3.1.3 Environmental Concerns

Forest and Wetland Management: Workshop participants noted that brush
fires in conservation areas and near Chmura Road have posed problems. An
increase in invasive pests (i.e., ticks, Asian long-horned beetle, etc.) were also
discussed as risks relative to increasing temperatures. Invasive pests also
pose risks relative to loss of crops.



Land Conservation / Habitat Protection: Currently, roughly one third of Hadley is identified by
the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as Estimated and Priority
Habitat for rare species, or as Critical Natural Landscape that supports vital ecological processes
for the region. The Town's northern and southern borders are dominated by such habitat areas

for protected, rare species, and several certified vernal pools are also present within these areas. Stakeholders expressed concern over development in critical green corridor areas and water quality issues as threats to vulnerable species in the region.

- Lake Warner Water Quality Impairments: Lake Warner has increasingly suffered from nutrient impairments and associated algal blooms, with watershed nutrient sources from surrounding agricultural areas and other land uses. It is possible that these impairments are accelerating from increases in precipitation which in turn produce more nutrient-laden runoff. According to the Massachusetts 2016 Integrated List of Waters, the lake has multiple impairments including total phosphorus, turbidity, algal growth, and dissolved oxygen.
- Development of Unprotected Parcels: Hadley still contains many unprotected and undeveloped
  parcels that are privately owned, particularly in agricultural areas (e.g., farm fields). Many of these
  parcels are located within the Connecticut River floodplain, and as such, provide natural
  floodplain storage benefits. These parcels also contain natural riparian buffers which limit
  nutrient-laden runoff from entering the Connecticut River. Stakeholders indicated that future
  development of these parcels could compromise the benefits that these parcels currently provide.
- Air Quality / Dust Issues: Workshop participants indicated that farmers commonly don't
  implement cover crops on fallow fields. This practice can lead to significant air quality and dust
  issues, particularly during dry periods or drought.

## 4. Current Strengths and Assets

Due to recent experiences with extreme weather, workshop participants were aware of Hadley's strengths and how they relate to its vulnerabilities. It was a clear priority to continue to reinforce and expand these strengths, to increase preparedness and resiliency in the community, and to adapt these strengths to address potential impacts of climate change. Key Town strengths are as follows:

- Emergency Services and Town Hall: The Town currently has an excellent emergency response
  track record. Town Hall department heads frequently communicate with one another, and the
  Conservation Commission and the Planning Board work collaboratively with local farmers and
  other key interest groups. The Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director works with
  CodeRED and other emergency alerting services.
- Conservation Areas: Hadley has approximately 2,471 acres of municipal- or state-owned conservation land and protected open space and 3,259 acres of protected farmland, with no public access or recreation. Much of this protected land contains wetlands and natural floodplains. The Kestrel Land Trust recently acquired additional parcels to mitigate floodplain loss and green corridor extension. The Norrotuck Rail Trail connects citizens with recreation areas and provides riparian connectivity throughout Hadley.
- Local Partnerships: The Town has partnered with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) in the past, including recent work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update, completed in 2016. The communities within the Pioneer Valley often work in close cooperation with one another, particularly as it pertains to inter-municipality connectivity and regional planning. The presence of UMass Amherst facilities within the Town serves as a major source of public education and outreach for the Town, as partnering with the college may be a necessity in some circumstances. Continuing to participate in regional partnerships will serve as a major strength for Hadley.

# 5. Recommendations to Improve Resilience

As summarized below, the final step of the workshop was to develop recommended actions to address identified vulnerabilities (i.e., concerns and challenges) and to improve strengths.

- Each workshop sub-group identified potential actions and assigned each action a priority (i.e., high, medium, low), then differentiated them as short-term, long-term, or ongoing efforts.
- Each small group selected their top five potential actions, then reported out to the overall stakeholder group.
- The overall stakeholder group then voted to collectively determine the top three actions.

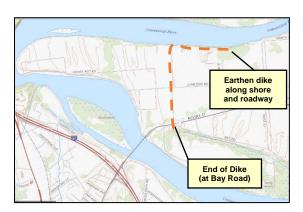
The sections below provide a description of prioritized recommendations developed from the workshop.

#### 5.1 Top Three Recommendations

#### 1. Hadley Dike - Repair, Maintain, and Expand

The Hadley Dike, which extends for roughly 2 miles along Hadley's western boundary, was built in the 1930s by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the vulnerable bordering area along the Connecticut River. The following dike-related issues were identified by stakeholders:

Based on previous assessments and inspections, multiple sections of the Hadley Dike are in poor condition and require repair.



- Multiple portions of the dike are located on private property and therefore cannot be accessed to make repairs.
- The dike was not built-out for the entirety of Bay Road and therefore, the dike does not provide potential flood mitigation benefits to infrastructure behind Bay Road.

In order to mitigate potential flooding risks, it is recommended that the Town obtain permanent easements for dike repairs and maintenance in accordance with recommendations from previous studies. A study could be performed to determine the feasibility of extending the dike along Bay Road. Expected components of the feasibility study include: 1) conceptual design, 2) hydraulic modeling relative to current and potential future storm events to enable quantification of potential performance / benefits of the expanded dike; 3) a discussion of potential design constraints, including required permits, 4) preliminary cost estimate and discussion of potential funding sources.

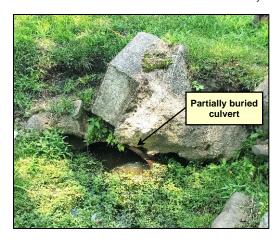
#### 2. Assess, Maintain, and Replace Key Stormwater Infrastructure

Hadley's stormwater infrastructure generally results in flooding due to underperforming structures (i.e. siltation, undersized, poor condition). To compound this issue, maintenance of drainage ditches and select culverts can be problematic when located on private land. Culverts resulting in the most frequent flooding were identified by stakeholders as: Mill Valley Road, Bay Road, Route 9, River Road, North

Chmura Road, Laurel Street, Hockanum Road, Knightly Road, Sunrise Avenue, and Moody Bridge Road.

To begin addressing these issues, the Town previously performed a study to prioritize and rank a subset of culverts and drainage channels in need of repairs and/or replacements. The Town is also currently working to obtain approval to access and maintain key drainage ditches.

It is recommended that the Town implement a phased plan to assess, replace, and maintain key stormwater drainage infrastructure. Given past efforts, it is recommended that phases within this plan be performed concurrently.



- Assess: Expand the previous study to include a comprehensive vulnerability / resiliency assessment of all Town drainage infrastructure (i.e., drainage pipes, remaining culverts, remaining drainage ditches). The assessment could include any or all of the following components: interviews with Town personnel, condition inspections, flood modeling relative to potential future higher intensity storms, identification of areas of concern, and prioritized recommendations for repairs / replacements.
- Replace: Replace previously identified key culverts. Replacement steps would include: engineering feasibility analysis (i.e., modeling, conceptual design), permitting, engineering design, and construction.
- Maintain: Obtain approvals to enable maintenance of key stormwater infrastructure as identified by the vulnerability assessment. Expected approvals include maintenance easements from private landowners and various permitting approvals, such as requirements covered by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Hadley Wetlands Bylaw.

#### 3. Connecticut River Banks - Assessment of Alternatives to Unpermitted Campsites

Hadley currently has an issue with unpermitted campsites in the vicinity of Sandy Beach during the summer and early fall. There are approximately 100 trailers or campsites located in this area along the Connecticut River banks, many of which are only seasonally occupied on private property. The Town has identified several environmental hazards and Town bylaw violations associated with these camps, including sanitary concerns and tree clearing in flood and erosion prone areas.



View of the Connecticut River and farmland in Hadley

The first steps to addressing this concern are to (1) develop an understanding of the population that is using these unpermitted campsites and (2) assess possible alternative locations to accommodate this mostly seasonal population safely (i.e., not at risk of flood impacts), legally, and without environmental impacts. It is recommended that the Town establish an interdepartmental committee to collaborate with area land owners, migrant farm worker representatives and other community stakeholders. This committee, with key stakeholder input, could develop equitable solutions that prevent further environmental damages, without displacing socially vulnerable populations in Hadley.

#### 5.2 Other Prioritized Recommendations

Professional judgement was used to reach consensus on priority for cases in which a recommendation was assigned different priority levels by the workshop sub-groups.

#### **Higher Priority**

- The Town's only Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is located within the Fort River floodplain. The Town does not currently have an alternative WTP or WWTP and is therefore vulnerable to any outages caused by future storms. The following actions are recommended to increase the resiliency of the existing WTP and WWTP while evaluating the potential for a redundant/alternate supply source:
  - Perform engineering design and installation for floodproofing measures to be deployed around the perimeter WTP and WWTP. Potential floodproofing measures could include temporary deployable flood barriers or elevation of key infrastructure (e.g., pumps, controls, utilities).
  - 2. There are two existing wells located on Town Well Road (Mt. Warner Wells). The Mt. Warner Wells have documented water quality impairments for perchlorate and other contaminants, potentially due to surrounding agricultural practices. It is recommended that a feasibility study be performed to determine if the Mt. Warner Wells could be a suitable alternative supply source. Key steps of the study would include: 1) pump testing, 2) water quality testing, 3) conceptual design, and 4) treatment piloting.
  - Perform feasibility study to determine if a viable alternative WWTP option exists. One
    option could be coordination with regional partners to shift load to an alternative WWTP
    source such as Amherst WWTP.
- An approximately 10,000 linear foot section of 6-inch cast iron water main on South Maple Street is undersized and does not have adequate capacity to pass fire flows. It is recommended that the undersized water main be replaced with an 8" to 12" ductile iron pipe capable of accommodating fire flows. Replacement steps would include: 1) engineering design, 2) permitting, 3) construction.
- The Town's WWTP is within its own Zone II wellhead protection area, which presents
  contamination risk. It is recommended that the Town perform a vulnerability assessment to
  determine potential water quality impacts and other risks. Results from the vulnerability
  assessment would include recommendations to address identified risks.
- Communications to vulnerable populations (i.e. elderly, deaf, blind) are currently implemented through a number of methods, including robocalls, but there is no unified communications plan amongst all departments in town. It is recommended that Hadley develop a comprehensive interdepartmental emergency communication plan.

#### **Moderate Priority**

The capacity of the Town's WWTP is potentially being compromised by illicit sump connections
installed by homeowners to alleviate localized flooding impacts (i.e., flooded basements /
properties). It is recommended that a study be performed to locate and correct illicit connections.
Potential corrections could include nature-based solutions or other Best Management Practices
(BMPs) to capture and minimize runoff at areas of localized flooding.

- As previously indicated, there are a number of locations in town that can be isolated during a flood (including a majority of the Town if the Route 9 bridge were compromised). Other areas include Hockanum Road, River Drive, Bay Road, etc. Emergency responders have already developed evacuation/emergency access plans and protocols; however, many departments lack strong implementation tools. It is recommended that the Town develop tools to better prepare residents for evacuation/emergency situations. Potential emergency responder tools could include: improved signage to mark evacuation routes, portable electronic signage to display critical messages during emergencies, and public education and outreach materials.
- There are multiple senior/assisted living facilities, low-income housing, and large housing complexes in town that present planning and coordination risks. It is recommended that the Town develop a bylaw that mandates housing complex emergency plans be provided to Town emergency management officials to better support town-wide emergency responses. Additionally, this bylaw could mandate all privately owned housing complexes and living facilities within floodplains perform flood risk assessments for their properties and incorporate the findings into emergency planning.
- Vulnerable populations at public housing complexes either don't have access to central air
  conditioning or rent prices are rising as a result of landlords installing central air. This can be
  problematic with low income and elderly residents. It is recommended that the Town perform an
  assessment of public housing and develop a plan to ensure that vulnerable populations have
  access to affordable air conditioning.
- Stakeholders indicated that farms throughout Hadley were significantly impacted by the 2016 drought. Drought conditions forced farmers to pump directly from surface waters for irrigation, resulting in unintended water quantity, quality, and ecological impacts. The potential long-term viability of farms in Hadley could be compromised without a reliable and equitable source of irrigation water during future droughts. It is recommended that the Town develop a drought/irrigation management plan with stakeholder input. The drought management plan could include some or all of the following components:
  - 1. Identification of vulnerable locations.
  - 2. Evaluation of potential alternative irrigation water supply sources. For example, extension of the Town's water supply system to include metered hydrants at strategic locations.
  - 3. Implementation of a streamflow monitoring and alerting network at key surface waters.
  - 4. Development of public educational materials relative to water conservation.
- Lake Warner has increasingly suffered from nutrient impairments and associated algal blooms, with watershed nutrient sources from surrounding agricultural areas and other land uses. It is possible that these impairments are accelerating from increases in precipitation which in turn produce more nutrient-laden runoff. According to the Massachusetts 2016 Integrated List of Waters, the lake has multiple impairments including total phosphorus, turbidity, algal growth, and dissolved oxygen. It is recommended that the Town develop a watershed-based plan to determine causes and sources of pollution and develop a plan to mitigate these sources (e.g., green infrastructure implementation).
- Farmers typically don't implement cover crops on fallow fields which can lead to significant air
  quality and dust issues, particularly during dry periods or drought. It is recommended that the
  Town develop a public education program on best management practices to mitigate this issue,
  including implementation of appropriate cover crops.

- Hadley still contains many unprotected and undeveloped parcels that are privately owned, particularly in agricultural areas. Many of these parcels are located within the Connecticut River floodplain, and as such, provide natural floodplain storage. These parcels also provide natural riparian buffers which limit nutrient-laden runoff from entering the Connecticut River. Stakeholders indicated that future development of these parcels could compromise the benefits that these parcels currently provide. It is recommended that the Town prevent development along the riverfront either by acquiring land, protecting land under the agricultural preservation restriction program, or other means such as implementing Conservation Restrictions (CRs).
- Hadley has experienced issues with invasive species, crop blight, and other environmentally
  influenced pest risks. Due to the importance of agriculture in the economic success of the Town,
  it is recommended that the Town partner with UMass to develop targeted public education and
  outreach materials and programs, focused on synthetic pesticide and fertilizer alternatives.
  Additionally, the Town may want to partner with UMass forestry programs to conduct ecological
  surveys of invasive and nuisance pests.

#### **Lower Priority**

- Hadley's topography is generally flat, which causes excessive snow drifting. It is recommended
  that the town install snow fences or vegetative barriers near critical roadways and access points
  to prevent drifting.
- Many of the Town's catch basins are designed to leach (i.e., allow infiltration through the bottom); However, they are commonly installed in poorly drained soils (e.g., clay) which pose a potential flood hazard from frequent clogging. One area of particular concern if Knightly Road. It is recommended that the Town perform a study to prioritize replacement of problematic leaching catch basins based on past history, anecdotal information, soils type, or other information. These structures have the potential to be replaced with deep sump catch basins, hydrodynamic separators, or other proprietary mechanisms which provide pollutant removal benefits.
- The Hopkin's School is located within the 100-yr floodplain. Stormwater controls for the area are mostly comprised of agricultural drainage ditches. The school has 7 acres of adjacent open space off of Middle Street. It is recommended that the Town develop a plan to design and implement stormwater BMPs to provide flood mitigation in this area. The plan could assess the potential of installing a rainwater harvesting system to encourage irrigation and water conservation.
- The Town Safety Complex houses emergency response departments and Town offices. However, it is located in a floodplain. It is recommended that the Town make use of pervious surrounding land and design and implement stormwater BMPs to provide flood mitigation benefits in this area.
- There are a series of dams upstream of Hadley along the Connecticut River. Based on input from stakeholders, water levels historically risen quite rapidly with minimal warning time, presumably from upstream releases. It is recommended that the Town identify and partner with the managers of neighboring upstream dams to develop enhanced communications and a plan for controlling and alerting downstream communities of impending releases.
- Due to previous occurrences of brush fires near Chmura Road, it is recommended that the Town
  partner with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to develop a brush-burning
  control plan for high-risk areas.

This list of prioritized recommendations was developed by workshop stakeholders based on identified vulnerabilities.

It is recommended that the Town create a committee or working group to implement recommendations from this plan. Specifically, the committee or working group would develop an anticipated timeline, determine potential funding requirements, then apply for local, state or federal grant funding to implement prioritized recommendations.

It is also recommended that this report be reviewed and updated annually as actions are completed and/or new needs are identified

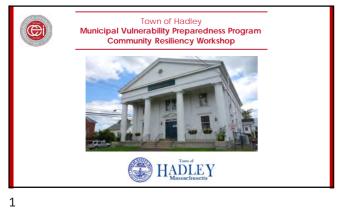
# 6. Report Citation

CEI Consultants (2020). Community Resiliency Building Workshop Summary of Findings. Town of Hadley, Massachusetts.

Town of Hadley Community Resilience Building Workshop Draft Summary of Findings

# **APPENDIX A**

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION MATERIALS



## Welcome!



#### Opening remarks

- Chris Okafor, Department of Public Works
- Bob Hartzel, CEI
- Andrew Smith, EOEEA MVP Regional Coordinator

2

# HELLO Introductions > Name INIGO MONTOYA Organization

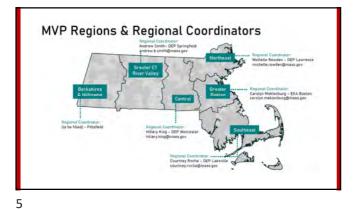
**MVP Regional Coordinator Overview** 

**Andrew Smith** 

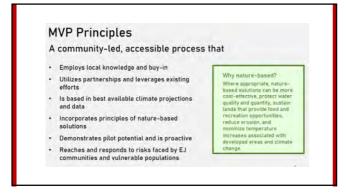
EOEEA MVP Regional Coordinator

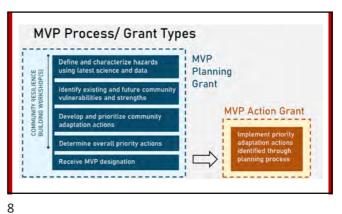


3 4

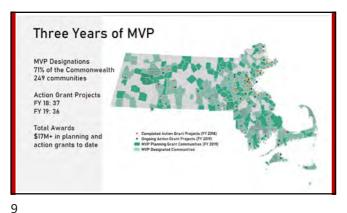


Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) - September 2018 Evaluates the Commonwealth's existing capabilities to implement agency-specific and statewide activities to reduce risk and increase resilience





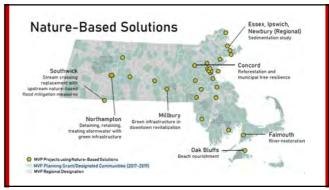
7



MVP Action Grants: Project Types Detailed Vulnerability and Risk Assessment\* Community Outreach and Education Local Bylaws, Ordinances, Plans, and Other Management Measures Redesigns and Retrofits\*\*\* Nature-Based Flood Protection, Drought Mitigation, Water Quality, and Water Infiltration Techniques\*\* Nature-Based, Infrastructure and Technology Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability to Extreme Heat and Poor Air \*\* Second-most common project type

10



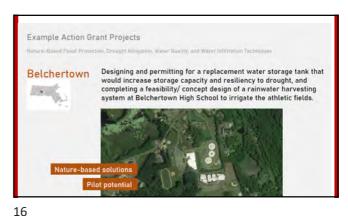




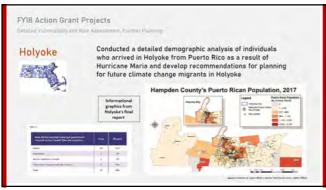


13 14





15 1



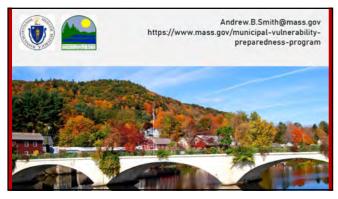


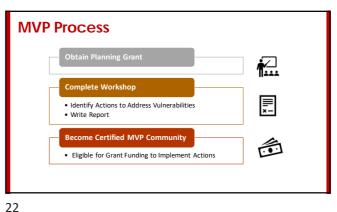
17 18



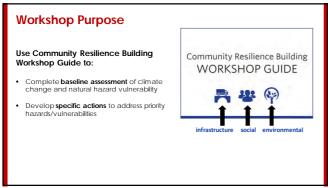


19 20



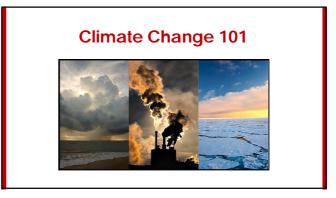


21

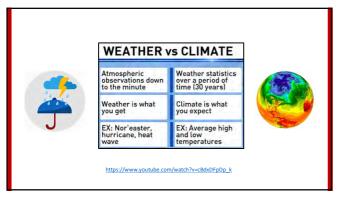


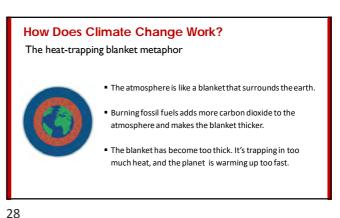




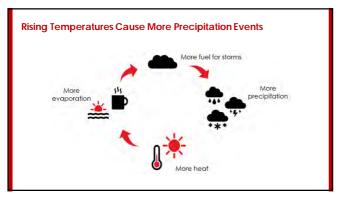


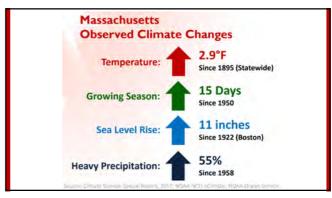
25 26



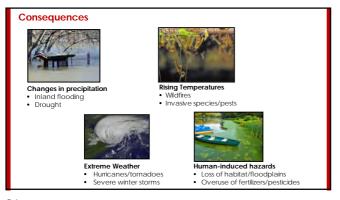


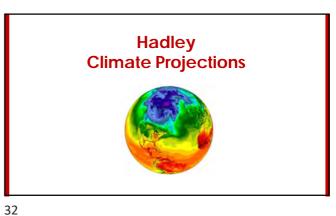
27



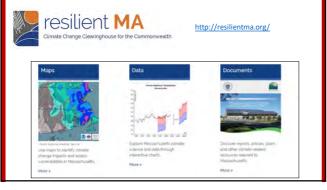


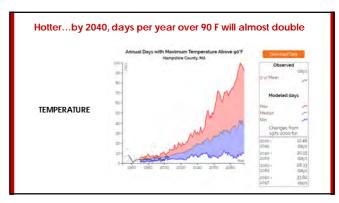
29 30



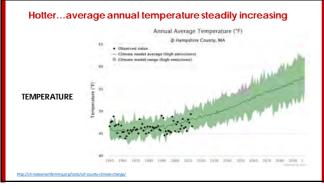


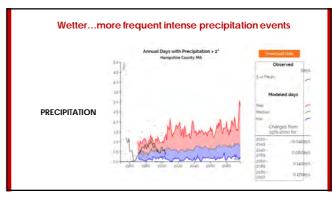
31

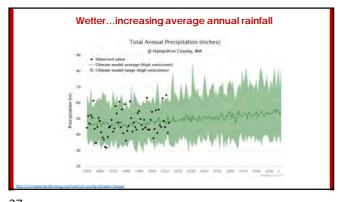


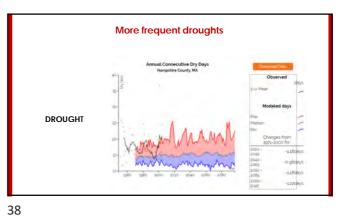


33 34

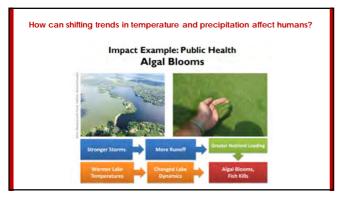








37



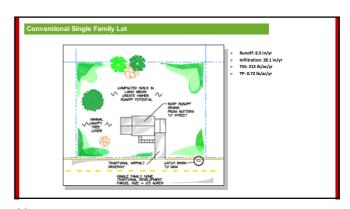


39

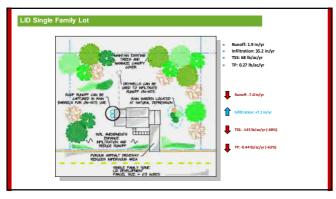


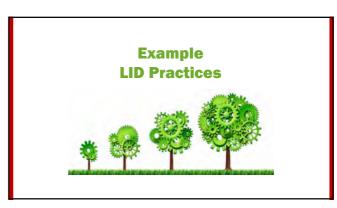






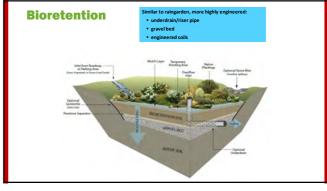
43 44





45 46





1/7/2020 Hadley MVP Workshop







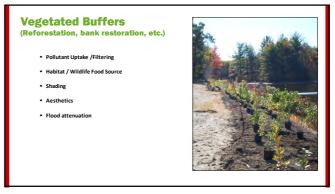


51



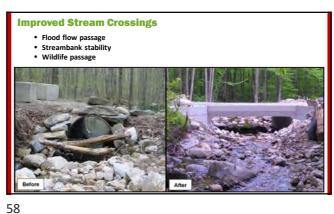






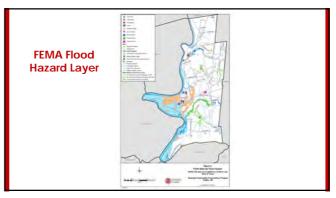
55 56



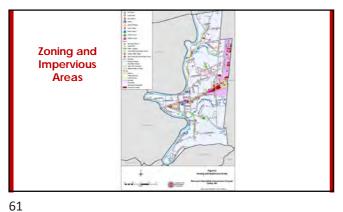


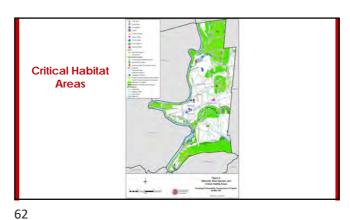
57

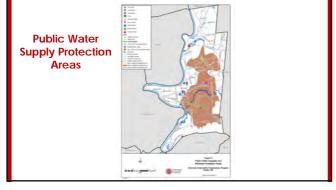




60

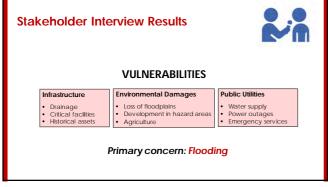


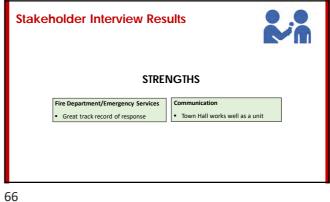


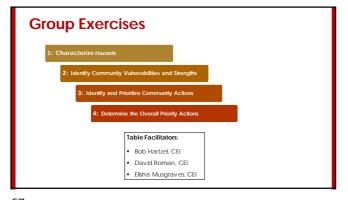




63 64







### **Ground Rules**

- Contribute
- Let everyone participate
- Listen with an open mind
- Stay on point and on time
- Attack the problem, not the person!



67

68



**Group Exercise #1** 

1: Characterize Hazards

**Objective:** Develop top 3 Hazards for facilitated discussions on vulnerabilities and strengths of Hadley (infrastructure, natural resources, people, supply chain, etc.)

- Table introductions, identify team spokesperson, review Risk Matrix and maps
- 2. Identify Top 3 Hazards (10-15 mins)
- 3. Report out to large group (10-15 mins)

69

70

#### **Example Hazards:**

- Intense freezes ice storms
- Wind events high gusts, tornadoes
- Drought wildfire, high temperatures
- Extreme precipitation events
- Flooding
- Nor'easters



Group Exercise #2

2: Identify Community Vulnerabilities and Strengths

Objective: Develop a profile of Hadley's infrastructural, societal, and environmental components that are impacted by the Top 3 Hazards.

- Begin in first column of the matrix and identify vulnerabilities (V) and strengths (S).
- 2. Determine location of  $\mbox{V/S}$  and list it on the Risk Matrix and mark it on the Base Map
- 3. Identify ownership of issue/asset/location
- 4. Time: Appx. 60-90 Minutes

71

#### **Example Vulnerabilities:**



- · Main road floods, blocking emergency response
- Power outage during heat waves lead to health concerns
- · Wildfire and high winds cause supply chain interruptions
- Sewer pump stations become inoperable
- Compromised rail system due to heat-related track warping

#### **Example Strengths:**



- Main road elevated and passable by emergency vehicles
- Hurricane roof installed at school improved sheltering capacity
- · Hardened utility lines reduce ice storm outages
- Undersized culver replaced reduces flooding at key intersection
- Improvement to communications system during extreme weather

73 74



#### **Group Exercise #3**

3: Identify and Prioritize Community Actions

**Objective:** Identify and prioritize **actions** to help reduce vulnerability or reinforce strengths for each of the Top 3 Hazards

- 1. Begin on right side of the Matrix "Actions"
- 2. Under the "Hazards" column, identify the actions needed to reduce V or reinforce S represented by each feature/asset
- After completing "Hazards" column, consider Priority (High, Medium, Low) and Urgency (Ongoing, Short-term, Long-term) of each action
- 4. Identify 3-4 Priority Actions per team

75

#### **Example Actions:**



- Improved access to high-risk locations
- Reduce housing stock in vulnerable areas
- Prioritize development in low-risk areas
- Integrate future risks in capital improvement plans
- Flood-proof manhole covers
- Secure new generators for critical facilities

#### Group Exercise #4

4: Determine Overall Priority Actions

**Objective:** Present the findings of each group and collectively discuss identified opportunities to reduce current and future hazard risks and improve resilience

- 1. Spokesperson from each team presents findings to Large Group
- 2. Spokesperson presents 3-4 priority action cards to Lead Facilitator
- 3. Large Group Discussion to further define Highest Priority action list:
  - i. Top 3-5 actions to implement for Town of Hadley

77

78





79 80



Town of Hadley Community Resilience Building Workshop Draft Summary of Findings

# **APPENDIX B**

COMPLETED RISK MATRICES

# Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix



#### www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)

<u>H-M-L</u> priority for action over the <u>S</u>hort or <u>L</u>ong term (and <u>U</u>ngoing) Priority Time  $\underline{\mathbf{V}}$  = Vulnerability  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}$  = Strength Flooding Drought Strong Storms Short Long H - M - L **O**ngoing Ownership V or S **Features** Location Infrastructural Public Access: V/S Hadley Dike Aqua Vitae Repair existing issues (i.e. widen base); extend dike structure up unprotected shore S/L Private Redesign and retrofit Aging culverts Multiple Both 0 failing culverts Rt-9, 47s, Rocky Public Town-wide vulnerability analysis on stomwater drainage and potential solutions along Rt 9 and Rt 47 0 Major transportation corridor Hill Road Bay Road, West, Feasibilty assessment for Assessment on Ω Water treatment plants and pumping stations Town Middle, Rt-9 floodproofing feasbility alternative water source Assesment to: Redesign pumping stations to be above flood Wastewater treatment plant in wellhead protection zone Middle Town V/S levels, move treatment facility, etc. UMass Facilities and Amherst WWTP within Hadley Stockbridge St Private V/S Continue to coordinate with Umass and Amherst Town M 0 0 North Hadley Fire Station River Dr Town Redundant 911 coverage; keep as emergency shelter Private V/S M 0 Commerce/Industry Russell St Partner with industry on Rt 9 as potential alternative emergency shelters/ community assistance Societal Senior housing / nursing home State Work with owners to develop/assimilate site evacuation plans 0 Golden Court Greenleaves Retirement Community Greenleaves Drive Private Temporary floodproofing measures Temporary floodproofing Windfield Apartments Greenleaves Drive Private V/S M 0 7 acres available for stormwater retrofit feasibility study behind Middle Street (i.e. Schools (Emergency Shelters) -Hartsbrook, Hopkins, Multiple Both V/S water harvesting for sport fields) Elementary, PVCICS Safety complex - flood risks 15 East Street V/S Publicly owned open space in proximity, evaluate stormwater controls and potential retrofit Town V/S Mountain View Apartments (75 Units, HUD) 21 Campus Plaza Re Private Revisit potential town-wide mandate for private housing complexes to develop emergency plans 0 Environmental Enforce bylaws along bank Both V/S S Connecticut River banks - illegal seasonal camping Form interdepartmental coalition to understand/manage situation i.e. tree clearing) Russell St State DCR V/S Address issues with intersection w/West St; retrofit roadway with speed humps S Norrotuck rail tail 0 Upstream river control communication Contact neighboring communities with upstream/downstream dams about a regional dam control program Kestral land acquisition State Stay on task to continue identifying and acquiring key parcels, especially near waterfront 0 Moutains (Mt Develop brush burning Brush fires --> wildfires (Chmura Road) 0 Private Holvoke) management plan with DCR Work with Umass to develop content for education/outreach/connection - citizens, high school, undergrad 0 Invasives (oriental bittersweet)

# Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix 👫 😂

## www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org

Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.) H-M-L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing) Priority | Time  $\underline{\mathbf{V}}$  = Vulnerability  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}$  = Strength Flooding Drought Strong Storms Short Long <u>H - M - L</u> **O**ngoing **Location** Ownership V or S Features Infrastructural Route 9/CT Rive Town Route 9 Bridge flooding and land closures Perform feasibility study to design and construct secondary bridge nearby Install snow fences or vegetative barriers Flat topography - snow drifting Town-wide Both near critical roadways and access points Obtain permanent easements for dike repairs / maintenance; then obtain funding to Public Access-Pr Hadley Dike - repairs Н n Aqua Vitae perform repairs (i.e., permitting, engineering design, construction) Perform study to prioritize replacement of problematic Clogged catch basins Town-wide Town leaching CBs Moody St Assess and replace culverts (design, permit, replace) L Moody Street Bridge Closed - culvert failure Town Complete ongoing priorization study (and expand to other stormwater infstructure such as pipes), obtain Stormwater infrastructure - town-wide Н Town-wide Town permanent easements, then replace (permitting, engineering, construction) Perform study to locate illegal connections, then correct issues. i.e. nature based WWTP Capacity compromised by illegal sump pumps Both M 0 Town-wide solutions or other BMPs to capture and minimize runoff at localized areas. Install floodproofing measures around WTP (e.g., temporary flood barrier) or elevate Н Water Treatment Plant in flooding risk area Fort River Town key features; Develop alternative water supply source Replace with larger water main (i.e., 8" or 12" ductile iron pipe) Undersized water main on South Maple Street (6" cast iron) S. Maple St Town Н L Societal Purchase tools to prep for Hockanum Rd, Flood isolation risks Both M S evacuation / access (i.e., Police Dept signage) No unified plan for communicating EM to vulnerable pops. Γown-wide Both Develop a communication plan Н Assess the current status of Town-wide Both M Housing Complexes - access to A/C cooling subsidized housing Develop a drought/irrigation management plan; Farm irrigation demands Town-wide Private Μ implement streamflow monitoring / alerting M 0 Trailers/Campsites along CT River Bank - Seasonal Housing Establish a committee to enforce existing bylaws that cover these areas **Environmental** Develop a watershed based plan to determine causes and sources of Both V/S Lake Warner nutrient impairments Town pollution and develop a plan to mitigate these sources (e.g., green Μ infrastructure implementation) Perform a feasibility study to Backup Water Supply V/S Н S Town develop Mt. Warner wells Public education program on best management practices to mitigate this Lack of cover-crop practice-poor air quality Town-wide Private M issue, including implementation of appropriate cover crops Unprotected/Undeveloped parcels along CT River Acquire land or implement land-use restrictions M Private Public education program on alternatives for integrated Agricultural pests/blight Town-wide Both 0

pest management to pesticides

Town of Hadley Community Resilience Building Workshop Draft Summary of Findings

# **APPENDIX C**

BASE MAPS AND WORKSHOP MAP RESOURCES

# TOWN OF HADLEY MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Climate Change and Natural Hazard Vulnerability Assessment

# **WORKSHOP MAP PACKAGE – JANUARY 2020**





# **List of Maps:**

- > Town Base Map 24x36
- ➤ Town Base Map 11x17
- > FEMA National Flood Hazard
- > Impervious Surfaces and Zoning
- ➤ Wetlands and Critical Habitats
- ➤ Public Water Supplies and Wellhead Protection Areas

Map Layer:	Source:
Hadley Zoning	MassGIS, Town of Hadley
Hadley Senior Center	CEI
Hadley Airfield	MassGIS
Town Hall	MassGIS
Fire Stations	MassGIS
Police Stations	MassGIS
Library	MassGIS
Schools	MassGIS
Dams	MassGIS
Public Water Supplies	MassGIS
Certified Vernal Pools	MassGIS
FEMA National Flood Hazard	MassGIS
DEP Wetlands	MassGIS
NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife	MassGIS
NHESP Priority Habitata of Rare Species	MassGIS
BioMap2 Core Habitat	MassGIS
BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape	MassGIS
Zone I Wellhead Protection Areas	MassGIS
Zone II Wellhead Protection Areas	MassGIS
Interim Wellhead Protection Areas	MassGIS
Impervious Surfaces	MassGIS
Hydrography	MassGIS
Roads	MassGIS

