

Introduction- Meeting Outreach

Invitations were sent out to all affected stakeholders December 20, 2023. The 621 letters were mailed out after the meeting on January 16, 2024 and included a link to the draft data. A list of the attendees is included below.

The work maps and associated shapefiles were made available at the meeting along with non-regulatory products including: water surface elevation grids, depth grids, percent annual chance grid, 30-year chance grid, Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF), Areas of Mitigation Interest (AOMI), and the flood risk database. The 30-day comment period for the draft maps and data started after the meeting on January 16, 2024.

Meeting Time and Location

Thursday January 11th, 2024, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm via Zoom and Vernon County Erlandson Building 1st Floor Conference Room.

Agenda

Flood Risk Review Meeting

Project Overview
Flood Risk Study and Mapping
Upcoming Mapping Schedule

Resilience Meeting

Overview of Non-Regulatory Flood Risk Products and Datasets
Hazard Mitigation (including presentation by Wisconsin Emergency Management)

Wrap-up

Questions
Viewing maps and data

Attendance

Community	Name	Title	Email Address
FEMA Region V	Munib Ahmad	FEMA Region V Engineer	munib.ahmad@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region V	Gabriel Jackson	FEMA Region V Senior NFIP Specialist	Gabriel.jackson@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region V	Meghan Cuneo	FEMA Region V Community Planner	Meghan.Cuneo@fema.dhs.gov
WI-DNR	Chris Olds	State Floodplain Engineer	Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Emily Szajna	State CTP Coordinator	Emily.Szajna@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Ben Sanborn	Project Lead/GIS Specialist	ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Andrea Stern	Regional Dam Safety/Floodplain Engineer	andrea.stern@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Michelle Hase	Regional Dam Safety/Floodplain Engineer	Michelle.Hase@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Jon Wagner	Regional Dam Safety/Floodplain Engineer	jonathanj.wagner@wisconsin.gov

Summary - Kickapoo River Watershed (Crawford, Richland, and Vernon counties) Flood Risk Review/Resilience meeting - January 11, 2024

WI-DNR	Sarah Rafajko	State NFIP Coordinator	sarah.rafajko@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Chad Heimerl	Floodplain Engineer	chad.heimerl@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Allison Kielar	Floodplain Mapping GIS Specialist	allison.kielar@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Jesse Papez	GIS Supervisor	jesse.papez@wisconsin.gov
WEM	Heather Thole	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	heather.thole@widma.gov
WEM	Katie Sommers	Bureau Director	katie.sommers@widma.gov
WEM	Darin Gudgeon	SW Region Director	darin.gudgeon@widma.gov
Village of Soldiers Grove/Gays Mills	Gillian Pomplun	Reporter	indreporter@mwt.net
Vernon County	Matthew Albright	Zoning Administrator	matthew.albright@vernoncounty.org
Town of Forest	Mark K. Davison	Chairman	foresttownof@gmail.com
Village of LaFarge	Wayne Haugrud	Zoning Administrator	waynelaf@mwt.net
Vernon County	Angela Reed	Zoning Tech	angela.reed@vernoncounty.org
Vernon County	David Russell	Assistant Zoning Tech	david.russell@vernoncounty.org
Vernon County	Brandon Larson	Director of Emergency Management	brandon.larson@vernoncounty.org
Vernon County	Amy Kleiber	Health Officer	amy.kleiber@vernoncounty.org
Crawford County	Marc Myhre	Emergency Management	
Village of Ontario	Mike Parr	Village President	villageofontario@centurytel.net
Village of Ontario	Terri Taylor	Village Clerk	villageofontario@centurytel.net
Village of Readstown	Chelsey Hoffman	Clerk/Treasurer	clerk@vi.readstown.wi.gov
Crawford County	Becky Nagel	Zoning Technician	bnagel@co.crawford.wi.gov
Ho-Chunk Nation	Kevin B. Scholze	Emergency Management Coordinator	Kevin.Scholze@ho-chunk.com
UW-Madison	Eric Booth	UW-Madison	egbooth@wisc.edu
Village of Steuben	Kevin Stickley	Village President	villageofsteuben@gmail.com
Vernon County	Kenny Anderson	Land and Water Conservation Department	Kenny.anderson@vernoncounty.org
City of Viroqua	Sarah Grainger	Director of Public Works/City Engineer	sgrainger@viroqua-wisconsin.com
Crawford County	Jim Hackett	Emergency Management Director	jhackett@co.crawford.wi.gov
Richland County	John T. Heinen	Emergency Management Interim Director	john.heinen@co.richland.wi.us
Vernon County	Monique Hassman	Land Information Officer	monique.hassman@vernoncounty.org
IEEE	Susan Elston	Interested Scientist	saelston@ieee.org

Meeting Information

The attendees were welcomed to the Flood Risk Review Meeting which explained draft mapping data and reviewed the engineering methods used in the Kickapoo River Watershed study area. Introductions of state and federal staff were made, and an overview of meeting agenda given. The Resilience Meeting detailed non-regulatory products created, actions that communities can take to safeguard their communities, and a hazard mitigation presentation by Wisconsin Emergency Management. There were representatives from all three counties, several communities, WEM, FEMA, and WDNR present.

Meeting Goals and Overview of Project

Ben Sanborn started out with introductions and a summary of the FEMA Flood Risk Review Meeting goals. Information was provided about Risk MAP and the current status of the project. Chris Olds discussed the engineering methods used for the proposed floodplains. Ben went into further detail about the FIRMs and explained the upcoming project timeline, including the opportunities for communities to provide comments as we move forward in the project. At the end of the Flood Risk Review presentation, Ben gave a demo of the draft data in ArcPro and visited the FEMA draft viewer as well as the DNR floodplains website.

In the Resilience Meeting, Ben described the non-regulatory products being provided which included the Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF) and Areas of Mitigation Interest (AOMI) layers, the flood risk database, and all the available rasters (WSE grids, depth grids, PAC grid, and 30 year grid). Possible applications of these products, and how they aid in mitigation actions that make the community more resilient were also discussed.

Wisconsin Emergency Management representatives Heather Thole and Katie Sommers presented on the different hazard mitigation projects, funding sources available, and eligibility requirements. Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZs) were defined and explained how they are determined, which is especially relevant as there are two located within the Kickapoo Watershed.

Attendees were asked again to review and make comments concerning the draft work maps and data before the comment period ends on February 15th. Draft work maps for all three counties were brought by WDNR and displayed after both meetings were completed. Community representatives examined revised map panels and discussed specific areas with the group. No comments were received about the draft work maps and data during the meeting. Attendees were thanked for coming and told WDNR is available if additional questions arise in the future.

Comments/Questions

Questions asked:

- Was percolation taken into account for the hydrology studies?
 - Yes, it's accounted for in the soil type and land cover.
- In what way do the Atlas 14 precipitation frequency estimates factor into the study? And is it the case that the Atlas data will soon be updated?
 - Atlas 14 rainfall data was used in the hydrologic modeling as it was the best available data at the time. They are continuously updating this data and there will eventually be

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a new Atlas release. Remember that the floodplains are a snapshot in time.

- When should communities be reaching out to WEM if they are considering applying for a mitigation grant?
 - As early as possible. Timelines can vary depending on the type of grant.
- There is the potential for decommissioning dams on the West Fork Kickapoo, do these new maps take that into account?
 - No, because the data is a snapshot in time, only what is present at the time of modeling and mapping is accounted for. If dams are removed later, a study would need to be done to see how this affects the floodplain.
- When can we expect preliminary maps and meetings?
 - A year from now is an estimated timeframe, however that is always subject to change. Once we get to preliminary, each county will receive its data and hold its meetings separately.