

# Floodplain and Shoreland Management

# Notes

## Transitioning to Digital FIRMs and Reports

For over 30 years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided flood hazard maps and flood insurance studies to communities, citizens and businesses in both paper and digital format. Starting on October 1, 2009, FEMA will be shifting to a digital only format. After October 1, 2009, each community will be supplied with a CD of the FIRMs and FIS and only one (1) paper set of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS). All other users will receive FIRMs and FIS in digital format only. This shift to digital only format could create difficulties for some users. Therefore, users should prepare now for the changeover to digital only FIRMs and FIS.

The CD provided to each community will include a copy of individual FIRMs as open source software .png image files and the FIS in Adobe .pdf format. All other users will be able to purchase or download digital copies of the FIRMs and FIS from FEMA's Maps Service Center. The CDs provided to the communities may be copied and no license is required. Also, it is important to note that since the digital FIRMs represent the entire map panel, including the legend and notes sections, a larger printer such as a plotter, will be needed to make paper copies. Printed map panels will be approximately 3' x 4'.

Many users such as insurance agents or real estate agents do not need to print an entire FIRM panel. Fortunately, FEMA has developed a process for printing smaller, more specified flood maps called FIRMettes. A FIRMette is an individualized portion of a DFIRM that shows a specific flood hazard area along with the map title block, scale and panel number. It also includes language stating that the

FIRMette is an official copy of a portion of the larger FIRM. FIRMettes are created using the FIRMette-Web tool and can be printed on a typical office printer in letter, legal or 11" x 17" size. Users also have the convenience to work offline to create a FIRMette by accessing the FIRMette – Desktop tool. Please see the MSC web site <http://www.msc.fema.gov> to access the FIRM data and mapping tools. Users can also download directions on how to create FIRMettes by going to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/communities.htm> and scrolling down to *Handbooks and Other Publications*.

Other software and internet mapping options such as MapViewer-Desktop and MapViewer-Web are available for more advanced users through FEMA's website. People familiar with internet mapping techniques and GIS data will be able to use these tools to create custom maps and reports, and view attribute data. User guides are available on FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/library>.

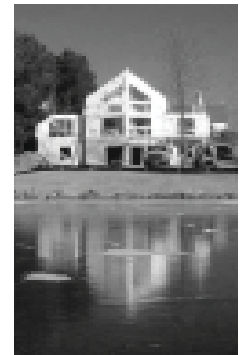
FEMA's updated "Use of Digital Flood Hazard Data" policy implements the same jurisdictional rules over the digital maps as it does with the paper maps. For more information about the policy please visit <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord/do?id=3235>.

To purchase copies of the FIRMs or FIS for a community contact FEMA's Map Service Center at 1-800-358-9616 or at <http://msc.fema.gov>. FEMA will still exempt local governments from fees associated with purchasing digital FIRMs or FIS.

If you have questions or comments about this change, please email Ken Hinterlong, FEMA Region 5, [ken.hinterlong@dhs.gov](mailto:ken.hinterlong@dhs.gov).



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Inside this issue:

Smart Growth Implementation Assistance . . . . .	2
Permitting Infrastructure . . . . .	4
Floodplain Development FAQs . . . . .	6
Spring Flooding - Homeowners . . . . .	8
Spring Flooding - Dam Owners . . . . .	9
Map Modernization . . . . .	10
Staff Changes . . . . .	11
Training/Conferences . . . . .	11

Continued on Page 3 . . .

Winter 2009

## Smart Growth Implementation Assistance 2009 Request for Applications

The Development, Community, and Environment Division in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation is seeking applications for technical assistance from communities that want to incorporate smart growth in their future development to meet environmental and other community goals. Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments, and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Applications are due at 5:00 pm EST, April 23, 2009.

EPA has identified some key areas in which communities are likely to benefit from technical assistance:

Climate change (both mitigation of and adaptation to)

- Green job development
- Corridor redevelopment
- Green building development
- Suburban retrofitting
- Disaster resiliency

Proposals are not limited to requests for technical assistance in only these themat-

ic areas; other topics for assistance are welcome and encouraged, provided they demonstrate cutting-edge challenges and the possibility of replicable solutions.

EPA is soliciting applications for assistance with either policy analysis or public participatory processes. The type of work may incorporate policy analysis and review, planning and visioning processes, scorecard/ranking criteria development and assessment, and/or other elements pertinent to the role of the applicant.

Selected communities or states will receive assistance in the form of a multi-day visit from a team of experts organized by EPA and other national partners to work with local leaders. EPA plans to assist three to five communities over a period of twelve months. The Agency anticipates announcing the selected communities in fall of 2009.

For more information and application materials, visit [http://epa.gov/smart-growth/2009\\_sgja\\_rfa.htm](http://epa.gov/smart-growth/2009_sgja_rfa.htm).

### ***Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes***

"Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes" is published by the WDNR, Bureau of Watershed Management. Its purpose is to inform local zoning officials and others concerned about state and federal floodplain management, flood insurance, shoreland and wetland management, and dam safety issues. Comments or contributions are welcome.

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Floodplain Contacts:

- Gary Heinrichs, 608-266-3093  
gary.heinrichs@wisconsin.gov
- Miriam G. Anderson, 608-266-5228  
miriam.anderson@wisconsin.gov
- Bob Watson, 608-266-8037  
robert.watson@wisconsin.gov

Shoreland Contacts:

- Gregg Breese, 608-261-6430  
gregory.breese@wisconsin.gov

Dam Safety Contacts:

- Bill Sturtevant, 608-266-8033  
william.sturtevant@wisconsin.gov
- Meg Galloway, 608-266-7014  
meg.galloway@wisconsin.gov

Digital Flood Hazard Product or Tool	What is it? What does it do?	Available Coverage	What do I need to use it?	Suitable for...	Learn More
<b>Digital Flood Hazard Maps</b>					
<b>FIRM Scans</b>	Image data that provides a picture of an entire FIRM or FHBM.	Everywhere FEMA has mapped flood hazards.	Software, such as <i>FIRMette – Desktop</i> (or <i>F-MIT</i> ), that lets you view and print TIFF or PNG-Formatted image files.	Viewing flood hazard maps, printing your own flood maps for an area of interest.	<a href="http://msc.fema.gov">http://msc.fema.gov</a> Follow the link "Product Information," and then "NFIP Flood Maps."
<b>Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Database</b>	The initial flood hazard GIS data for a community or county.	Only where FEMA has modernized maps.	Software, such as <i>MapViewer – Desktop</i> or GIS or other mapping software.	Creating custom maps, viewing at-tribute data, and incorporating flood hazard data into custom soft-ware applications	<a href="http://msc.fema.gov">http://msc.fema.gov</a> . Follow the link "Product Information," and then "DFIRM databases."
<b>National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) GIS data</b>	Flood hazard GIS data for a State.	Only where FEMA has modernized maps. Includes changes from Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs).	Software, such as <i>Mapviewer – Desktop</i> or GIS or other mapping software.	Creating custom maps, viewing attribute data, and incorporating flood hazard data into custom software applications.	A user guide is available at <a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3291">http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3291</a> .
<b>NFHL Web Map Service</b>	Web service that makes map overlays and lets users view at-tribute data from the NFHL.	Only where FEMA has modernized maps. Includes changes from LOMRs, and lo-cations of Letters of Map Amend-ment (LOMAs) and Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-Fs).	Internet connection and GIS or other mapping software that lets you use a web map service.	Creating custom maps, viewing attribute data, and incorporating map images of flood hazard data into custom soft-ware applications	A user guide is available at <a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3292">http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3292</a> .
<b>FEMA-provided Tools for Digital Flood Hazard Maps</b>					
<b><i>FIRMette – Desktop</i> (or <i>F-MIT</i>)</b>	Desktop software to create a map from a portion of a FIRM Scan.	Works with FIRM Scan data on your computer.	FIRM Scan data copied to your desktop and ability to view and print PDF files.	Viewing flood hazard maps and printing an area of interest.	Download the software under "FIRMette – Desktop (F-MIT)" at <a href="http://msc.fema.gov">http://msc.fema.gov</a> . The software includes a tutorial.
<b><i>FIRMette – Web</i></b>	Internet software to create a map from a portion of a FIRM Scan.	Everywhere FEMA has mapped flood hazards.	Internet connection, web browser software, and ability to view and print PDF or TIFF files.	Viewing flood hazard maps and printing your own flood maps for an area of interest.	FIRMette tutorial at <a href="http://msc.fema.gov">http://msc.fema.gov</a> .
<b><i>MapViewer – Desktop</i></b>	Desktop software to make maps and view attribute data.	Works with DFIRM databases and NFHL GIS data on your computer.	DFIRM data-bases or NFHL GIS data on CD or copied to your desktop.	Viewing custom flood hazard maps and attribute data. Making comments on preliminary data.	Download the software under "MapViewer – Desktop (beta)" at <a href="http://msc.fema.gov">http://msc.fema.gov</a> .
<b><i>MapViewer – Web</i></b>	Internet software to make maps and reports from the NFHL.	Only where FEMA has modernized maps. Includes changes from LOMRs, and locations of LOMAs/ LOMR-Fs.	Internet connection, web browser software, and ability to view and print PDF files.	Creating custom maps and reports, and viewing attribute data.	A user guide is available at <a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3290">http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3290</a> .
<b>NFHL Google Earth™ utility (kmz) files "Stay Dry" and "FEMA NFHL"</b>	Files that allow the viewing of the NFHL Web Map Service in Google Earth™.	Works with the NFHL Web Map Service.	kmz files, Internet connection, and Google Earth viewer software.	Quick looks at NFHL flood hazard data. Dynamic visuali-zations of flood data.	User guides are available at <a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3289">http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3289</a> and <a href="http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3293">http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3293</a> .
<b>Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Reports</b>					
<b>FIS report file</b>	A book that contains information about flooding in a community. It is developed in conjunction with the FIRM.	Available for most areas. Generally, wherever FEMA has published Base Flood Elevation information.	FIS report file and ability to print and view PDF files.	Reading about the flood study for a community or county and related engineering data.	FIS report tutorial at <a href="http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ot_fisr.shtml">http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ot_fisr.shtml</a> .

# Permitting Infrastructure in the Floodplain

When floodplain managers discuss floodplain development, many citizens naturally assume that we are discussing traditional structures – houses, garages, office buildings, shopping malls, etc. However, floodplain development is defined more broadly and includes more than structures with four walls and a roof. Chapter NR 116, Wisconsin Administrative Code, defines development as “any artificial change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, the construction of buildings, structures or accessory structures; the construction of additions or substantial improvements to buildings, structures or accessory structures; the placement of buildings or structures; mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations; and the storage, deposition or extraction of materials.”

This definition closely mirrors the language used in federal regulations as administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). While state floodplain managers and FEMA may not agree on everything, we do speak with one voice on floodplain development. Floodplain development includes not only buildings, but also infrastructure.

This article will focus on infrastructure projects in floodplain areas, including road, trail, bridge and culvert projects undertaken by all public/private sector sponsors, such as highway departments and private developers and municipal well and wastewater treatment plants and other municipal operational facilities. While the above list seems geared toward public infrastructure, both state and federal regulations make no distinction between public and private infrastructure projects. The two main purposes of floodplain zoning are to protect people and property and to prevent changes in floodplain boundaries and flood heights. It is the impact of the floodplain activity that matters, not who is sponsoring the project.

Based on recent discussions with local

government agencies, as well as several interagency meetings with the state Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and FEMA, DNR has agreed to share the following information with all communities which have mapped floodplain areas and the over 500 Wisconsin villages, cities and counties (including towns) participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This article is a reminder that infrastructure development, including fill, dredging and grading projects, is an activity which must be permitted and meet specific standards.

As a participant in the NFIP, each community has specific responsibilities to ensure that all development in mapped floodplain areas is properly permitted, causes no adverse impacts on flood flows, flood heights or natural drainage patterns, and causes no adverse impacts on other property owners. The regulations governing the NFIP (44 CFR Part 60), Ch. NR 116, Wis. Admin. Code and local floodplain zoning ordinances define what is considered development, when permits are required, what additional technical studies or data may be needed and when map/text amendments to the ordinance are required. These standards are not optional. These are the *minimum* requirements that must be enforced to be considered an NFIP community in good standing and to be in compliance with NR 116.

For all development in a mapped floodplain, including roads, bridges and culverts, the project sponsor must work with the participating community to ensure that all required permits are issued before the project commences and to determine whether or not the impact of the project will require additional technical studies or data. If engineering studies or other data are required, the project sponsor must either furnish the information at its own expense or work with other government agencies to develop the information. In

either case, the project sponsor is responsible for providing the information to the local permitting authority. If the project will change the adopted floodplain boundaries or flood elevations, a local map/text amendment and a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) from the FEMA will be required.

A Letter of Map Change (LOMC) is a general term used to refer to the several types of revisions and amendments to FEMA maps that can be accomplished by letter. They include Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letters of Map Revision (LOMR), and Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F).

LOMA's are map corrections which are issued when an applicant provides more detailed topographic data to FEMA, demonstrating that a parcel of land or a structure is above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) as depicted on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). LOMA's remove the federal requirement for the purchase of flood insurance and, if the technical data meets the engineering standards in NR 116, can be used by zoning officials for floodplain ordinance permitting purposes.

LOMR's are revisions to the effective information on a FIRM. A LOMR is submitted by an applicant who wishes to revise the floodplain boundary or BFE based on better technical data, generally to facilitate a development proposal. LOMR's are commonly requested and issued for new bridges, culverts or other infrastructure development which has a material effect on adopted flood flows, flood heights or other natural floodplain functions.

LOMR-F's are revisions to the effective information based on fill which is placed after the effective date of the community's first map. LOMR-F's are often issued for infrastructure projects when fill is placed as part of a bridge or culvert project in a mapped floodplain.

For LOMR's and LOMR-F's, both DNR and FEMA review and approval of these projects is required before local permits can be issued.

It is important to point out that neither state nor federal regulations exempt any activity or structure from the definition of development. While FEMA has issued program guidance exempting certain minor activities such as gardening, mailboxes or temporary storage of small items, both programs assume that all proposed development in the floodplain will be closely evaluated based on the potential for obstructions to flood flows, increases in flood heights, alterations to natural drainage patterns, or adverse impacts on other property owners.

After performing a thorough evaluation based on the above criteria, the community has three choices: deny the permit application because minimum floodplain management standards cannot be met; return the application to the project sponsor with a request for more information; or issue the permit with conditions specific to the development proposal. These requirements apply in all communities that have adopted a floodplain zoning ordinance, whether or not the community participates in the NFIP. They also apply to all infrastructure projects in mapped floodplain areas proposed by private or public agencies. This includes town, county and municipal highway departments and public works agencies as well as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and all other state and federal agencies.

The FHA is working with the DNR and FEMA to ensure that project decisions are in compliance with NFIP standards and appropriate federal guidelines. All federal agencies must comply with Executive Order 11988, which requires all agency projects and funding programs to abide by the minimum floodplain management criteria in the federal regulations. This means that any local or state highway project that receives federal funding must meet the same standards.

If you have questions about this matter, please contact Gary Heinrichs at [gary.heinrichs@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gary.heinrichs@wisconsin.gov).

# Floodplain Development FAQs

## **What is floodplain development?**

“Any artificial change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, the construction of buildings, structures or accessory structures; the construction of additions or substantial improvements to buildings, structures or accessory structures; the placement of buildings or structures; mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations; and the storage, deposition or extraction of materials.”

## **Who issues permits for floodplain development?**

In most communities, the zoning administrator or building inspector is the permit authority. Sometimes the clerk, public works director or community engineer handles these duties. If you are located in a township, you will need to contact the appropriate county official.

## **I now understand that local road projects must be permitted to ensure compliance with floodplain standards. Would simple repaving projects require a permit?**

If the project scope is limited to resurfacing an existing road grade, a permit may not be required, but we must stress that the decision should be made by the local zoning authority which has the most familiarity with the floodplain zoning regulations and local flooding conditions.

## **What about bridges and culverts?**

If it is a “like for like” replacement, a permit may be adequate. If the local zoning authority’s review determines that the project may cause changes to the floodplain, an engineering study will be required and a local map amendment and LOMR will be needed. The DNR Regional Engineer and FEMA would need to review and approve the study/amendment before local permits could be issued.

## **What about recreational trails?**

Again, for simple resurfacing, permits may not be needed. If fill is being placed or major grading is proposed a permit is generally required. Always check with the local zoning authority which has the most familiarity with the floodplain zoning regulations and local flooding conditions.

## **I checked the floodplain map and noticed that there is no detailed information shown, such as flood elevations or floodway boundaries. Where do I find this information?**

Some FEMA maps only depict approximate flood zones. This means that there wasn’t adequate funding available to develop the detailed data including Base Flood Elevations that is displayed on some maps. If the scope of the project falls within an approximate flood zone, it is the project sponsor’s responsibility to provide the necessary data to the permit authority. In most cases either a private engineering firm or the community engineer would be hired to do the necessary study work. The community may also wish to contact the WI DOT or the Regional Planning Commission.

## **I understand that the DNR has an accessible database which contains many of the floodplain studies done in Wisconsin, organized by named streams. How do I access this information?**

You can go to the following website and open up an account which will give you access to this data: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/Section/fpwams.htm>.

**When are Letters of Map Revision required?**

Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) are explained in the previous article. If a proposed project will change the approved information on the adopted flood map, a LOMR must be requested and issued by FEMA before any permits can be issued. LOMR's are needed when flood elevations change, when flood boundaries change or when natural drainage patterns are altered. We strongly encourage the community to work with the project sponsor to determine if changes can be made to the project design to avoid the LOMR requirement. If changes are unavoidable, the LOMR can only be issued when FEMA is satisfied that no feasible alternative is possible.

**Does FEMA charge for LOMR's?**

Yes. In addition to the engineering costs for submittal of the LOMR application, FEMA charges a minimum of \$4800 to cover its review costs. The only time this fee can be waived is if the LOMR submittal is providing detailed study data in an approximate flood zone.

**Where can I find more information about the LOMR process?**

Either call 1-800-336-2627 or go to: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/nfipkeywords/lomc.shtm>.

**The DNR used to provide floodplain information when requested. Why has that changed?**

Prior to 2004, DNR staff would not issue a permit for a Chapter 30 (waterway) project unless the project was in compliance with applicable floodplain regulations. Usually the department's regional engineer would review a study submitted by the project sponsor's engineer. Changes to state statutes severed the joint review procedures used by the department for the chapter 30 and floodplain management programs. The DNR no longer reviews for floodplain impacts before issuing a Ch. 30 permit because of the mandatory time frames for Ch. 30 permit approvals which the law requires. The local requirement for a floodplain study submittal and DNR review requirements have not changed, but it is now an entirely separate process from the chapter 30 permit application.

The requirements for issuing the permit and requiring additional study data and map amendments if needed have been an integral part of NR 116 and local/state ordinance standards since the 1970's.

**Can the DNR provide any assistance for public infrastructure projects?**

Depending on staff time commitments and regional work priorities, it may be possible for regional staff to provide some assistance for infrastructure if requested by the community. We would encourage you to discuss this with your regional floodplain specialist.



## Preparing for Spring Flooding - Homeowners

While floods can occur at any time, spring is a time of greater risk. Everyone, whether a homeowner, farmer, business owner, dam owner or local government should take steps to prepare for high water and the potential problems.

Flooding can result in:

- damage or destruction of buildings;
- contamination of private wells and drinking water;
- potential public safety hazards down stream if dams fail or are damaged;
- washed out driveways and culverts;
- manure contaminated run-off resulting in water quality problems and potential fish kills.

While the best thing to do to protect a home or business from flooding is to either avoid building in the floodplain or elevate and reinforce the structure, there are several things that can be done before a flood occurs.

The most important thing to do is to determine what is a structure's flood risk? To find out if a structure is located in an area at risk for flooding, contact the local Zoning Administrator. Every community that participates in the NFIP has on file a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) which depicts areas determined by FEMA to be at risk to flooding. Communities may also have information about areas which are not shown on the FIRM, but have flooded in the past. Some communities have placed their FIRMs on the community website. FIRMs for all communities can be found at FEMA and the DNR. To view FIRMs on-line go to either [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/section/mapindex.htm>.

Other quick and relatively inexpensive things you can do to protect your home or business are:

- Elevate the furnace, water heater,

electric panel, air conditioner and other utilities if susceptible to flooding.

- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct interior barriers to stop low level floodwater from entering portions of a basement or building.
- Seal walls in basements with water proofing compounds to avoid seepage.
- Remove inventory or important papers and possessions from the basement or other areas vulnerable to flood waters.
- Back up important computer files and store in a secure off site location.

DNR has produced a brochure entitled *Living in the Floodplain: What You Need to Know – Who You Need to Know*. If you would like a free copy of this brochure, please call (608) 267-7694 and ask for publication DNR Pub-WT-851-2006.



- Elevated water heater



# Preparing for Spring Flooding - Dam Owners

Spring can present special problems for dam owners. The warming temperatures can bring not only higher water levels from melting snow, but also ice floes as the ice on rivers and lakes breaks up.

DNR dam safety staff work year-round with dam owners to inspect dams and assure they have the proper emergency action plans in place. Dam owners are reminded that with warmer temperatures on the way, it's time to get their dam ready for spring runoff and the potential for flooding.

Dam owners can prepare for the possibility of flooding by:

- locating and reviewing the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the dam;
- creating an Emergency Action Plan if a formal one is not currently in place;
- having emergency contact phone numbers handy such as for law enforcement, local emergency government, the Statewide Warning Center (800-943-0003), dam operators and their backup and the DNR dam safety engineer for the county in which the dam is located;
- coordinating dam operation with up stream and downstream dam owners.

- confirming there are contingency plan procedures (back-up operations and emergency operations) in place. This should include contacting local resources like contractors, utilities, etc.;
- beginning to monitor ice flow and water levels early;
- beginning operation of the dam in a timely manner to reduce the risk of gate failure and/or damage;
- referring to dam safety and floodplain zoning maps for an estimate of lands that might be flood if a dam failure analysis map has not been created.

If flooding does occur, DNR dam engineers in the field and at the State Emergency Operations Center will coordinate efforts to evaluate and stabilize dams stressed by the high water and debris. Additional crews will be available to do quick assessments of dams in areas affected by flooding.

If a dam emergency develops at a dam, the Statewide Warning Center should be contacted immediately at (800) 943-0003. In an emergency situation, daily dam updates will be available from Wisconsin Emergency Management (<http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov>).



- Overtopping at Saylesville Dam, Waukesha County, June 2008

## DNR Website for Mapping Status

The Department of Natural Resources has developed a website to provide communities and others with information regarding the Flood Map Modernization Program in Wisconsin. The website contains information on project status, the public open house schedule, the comment and appeal process, post preliminary map process and other mapping related issues.

Links to FEMA's website are included. The FEMA sites are for information on Letters of Map Change and the Map Service Center.

For further information regarding the Flood Map Modernization Program contact:

Amanda Schwoegler - Process Issues  
amanda.schwoegler@wisconsin.gov

Bob Watson - Technical Issues  
robert.watson@wisconsin.gov

Eric Kuklewski - FEMA  
eric.kuklewski@dhs.gov

The website is located at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping.htm>.

## Scheduled Flood Risk Open Houses

Flood Risk Open Houses were held on February 17, 2009 for Outagamie County and February 19, 2009 for Marathon County. The purpose of Flood Risk Open Houses was to present the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to local officials and the public for review and comment. The open houses also provided an opportunity for FEMA and the DNR to provide local officials with information on ordinance adoption and floodplain management.

Copies of the preliminary FIRMs have been made available to all incorporated cities and villages in Outagamie and Marathon Counties. FEMA will open a 90 day Comment and Appeal period soon. Any comments or appeals to the preliminary FIRMs should be compiled by the local community and then forwarded to FEMA for review.

For more information on how to file a comment or appeal go to DNR's Floodplain Mapping website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping.htm>.

## Current Letters of Final Determination

Letters of Final Determination (LFD) have been issued for several counties. Once an LFD has been issued, all communities in the county participating in the NFIP have six (6) months to amend the local floodplain ordinance to include the new FIRMs and Flood Insurance Study. Communities which do not adopt by the effective date of the maps will be immediately suspended from the NFIP. Communities which do not currently participate in the NFIP have one (1) year to join the NFIP and adopt the new maps.

LFDs have been issued for the following communities:

County	Effective Date
Eau Claire County	February 18, 2009
Door County	March 2, 2009
St. Croix County	March 16, 2009
Sheboygan County	April 2, 2009
Green County	May 18, 2009
Jefferson County	June 2, 2009
Portage County	July 20, 2009

For further information and updates go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/flood/mapping.htm>.

## DNR Staff Changes

### Joe Behlen—Watershed Management

Joe was recently hired as a Water Regulation and Zoning Engineer for the West Central Region. He previously worked for the DNR as a Waste Water Engineer. In his new position Joe will provide dam safety, floodplain management, and engineering assistance to the Water Regula-

tion Program. His specific area of coverage will be Adams, Juneau, Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties.

Contact information: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 473 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, (715) 421-9940, joseph.behlen@wisconsin.gov.

11

## Flood Insurance Agent Training Seminars

FEMA provides training for insurance agents on the insurance side of the National Flood Insurance Program. Three seminars will be held in Wisconsin this spring: May 18 in Madison, May 19 in Wisconsin Dells and May 20 in Onalaska. The seminars are sponsored by the Independent Insurance Agents of Wisconsin. For further information contact: Martha Lester-Mittenzwey, IIA-WI at 800-362-7441 martha@iiaw.com.

## 2009 Wisconsin Lakes Convention

The 2009 Wisconsin Lakes Convention will be held March 18 - 20, 2009 at the KI Convention Center, Green Bay. The theme of the conference is *Back to Balance*, and will feature an international symposium on aquatic invasive species (AIS). Experts from around North America will gather to discuss the research, management options, educational ideas and needed policy changes to deal more effectively with this prevailing issue. The goal of the symposium is to share this knowledge with agency staff, lake citizens, businesses, elected officials, and others to help get our lakes "back to balance."

For information on registration, accommodations and an agenda, visit <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/conventions/default.asp>.

## Certified Floodplain Managers Exams

### June 8 and 12, 2009 - ASFPM Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Application to take the CFM exam must be made at least two weeks in advance through the Association of State Floodplain Managers at: [www.floods.org/Certification/certcal.asp](http://www.floods.org/Certification/certcal.asp) or [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org).



## 2009 ASFPM Conference

The 33rd Annual National Floodplain Managers Conference will be held June 7 - 12, 2009 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The theme of the conference will be "Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses." A list of presenters and papers can be found on the ASFPM

website: [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org). Information on registration, transportation and accommodations can also be found on-line. Early bird registration deadline for the conference is April 17, 2009.

# Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes

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