

Project Name:	<i>Burlington County Risk MAP Study</i>
Meeting:	<i>Risk MAP Coordination/Discovery Meeting</i>
Date/Time:	<i>May 8, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. (EST)</i>
Place:	<i>Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center, Westampton, NJ</i>

1. Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting

Mr. Bob Schaefer began the meeting by introducing himself as the project monitor for this Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) project. He introduced Mr. Dave Rubenstein as the study manager for the Risk Assessment, Mapping, and Planning Partners (RAMPP). Mr. Rubenstein announced that the meeting will be recorded. The recording is available via <https://www.rampp-team.com/nj.htm>. Mr. Rubenstein introduced the other RAMPP Staff in attendance, followed by self-introductions from the local and State representatives in attendance.

Mr. Rubenstein and the meeting attendees discussed local background relevant to the Risk MAP project:

- The local organization for Floodplain Administrators is one for each community.
- Some communities have capabilities for using Geographical Information System (GIS) and some do not.
- The current mitigation plan was published in 2008. The attendees have been participating in the ongoing effort to revise the mitigation plan due in November 2013.
- Two communities are currently participating in the Community Rating System (CRS): City of Burlington and Borough of Palmyra.

Mr. Rubenstein explained that no one knows Burlington County better than the locals and we want to look at the community maps in the discussion session after the meeting. We would like to get your input on areas of historic flooding, areas of mitigation interest, and risk communication needs.

2. Risk MAP Program Overview

Mr. Rubenstein explained the Risk MAP cycle. Our goal is to maintain stability and how it is a key Risk MAP goal to reduce loss of life and destruction of property. Mr. Rubenstein explained a key change from FEMA's previous Map Modernization program is that we are now using risk analysis products to evaluate risk beyond just whether a home is in or out of the 100-yr floodplain.

3. Anticipated Project Schedule

Mr. Rubenstein discussed the proposed project schedule and the meetings that will be held over the life of the projects. The Discovery report will be posted on <https://www.rampp-team.com/nj.htm> at the end of the month. Mr. Rubenstein explained the other milestones in the project, including Preliminary maps expected in Summer 2014. Meetings will be used to help keep community officials up to date along the way.

4. Discovery Process

Mr. Rubenstein explained that FEMA would like to have community input on any available data or areas of interest for flood risk. Please e-mail input to David.Rubenstein@urs.com by May 24, 2013 or, if preferred, by mail at 12420 Milestone Center Drive, Suite 150, Germantown, MD 20876.

Mr. Rubenstein explained that we would also like to have any GIS information that the communities think may be useful to the process. The flood risk products coming out of this study will include GIS files. Mr. Schaeffer explained that communities without GIS licenses can still view these GIS files through three sources:

Meeting Minutes

- Map Viewer available from the Environmental Services Research Institute (ESRI): <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/explorer>
- Map Viewer downloadable on FEMA's Map Service Center: <https://msc.fema.gov/>
- Open source GIS programs: <http://opensourcegis.org/>

5. Flood Risk Products

Mr. Rubenstein explained that Burlington County communities already have regulatory products, but we will be updating them for new data and to be in the improved format. The improved format includes exact water surface elevations at cross-sections, new colors, and a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report that is more than just text, with stream profiles linked to the GIS database. The flood risk products will also include non-regulatory products that have not previously been available in the community. These include depth grids, Changes Since Last Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and Areas of Mitigation Interest. These will be summarized in the Flood Risk Database, Flood Risk Map, and Flood Risk Report.

The Flood Risk Map provides an overview of high risk areas in the County. The Flood Risk Report is a summary report providing information to help increase flood risk awareness. The Changes Since Last FIRM spatial file shows decreases and increases in floodplain areas. Depth grids use a ramp of colors to show severity of flood depths within the floodplain. It helps in planning where to build and not build. The Areas of Mitigation Interest help show vulnerable areas, such as hospitals in the flood zone, where a community may want to consider mitigation action. The Average Annualized Loss (AAL) dataset shows property loss potential. The current AAL data for the County shows that the biggest losses are at the northwest end of the County.

6. Burlington County Study Area

Mr. Rubenstein explained the scope of the upcoming revisions to the flood maps. The new maps will include digital uplift, redelineation of previous engineering models on new topographic data, coastal modeling, and approximate riverine modeling using FLO-2D.

Early in the project, RAMPP analyzed the Delaware River wave heights and found that all are less than 1.5 ft on the New Jersey side, meaning that VE zones are not necessary on this side of the County. Coastal AE zones will be used instead, which are less stringent than AE. There will still be VE zones on the Atlantic Ocean side.

Mr. Rubenstein presented an overview of the maps and spatial data being examined as part of the Discovery phase. They include past claims and risk areas and are available at the back of the room for one-on-one discussion following the presentation.

7. Mitigation Planning

Mr. Rubenstein discussed the different types of mitigation activities available to the communities. GIS can be very helpful in planning mitigation actions. Mr. Rubenstein discussed grants available to communities. A representative from Township of Bordentown community official explained they have had difficulty getting an explanation on a grant denial following Hurricane Sandy. They had wanted to perform stream remediation. Mr. Schaefer explained that they should get in contact with their State representatives, because the State is in control of the determinations and response issuances for how to spend the grant funds for New Jersey following Hurricane Sandy.

8. The NFIP and CRS

Mr. Rubenstein explained that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is the backing for why we have regulatory maps. FEMA wants participation from State and local governments. The Community Rating System

Meeting Minutes

(CRS) is beneficial to communities participating in the NFIP. CRS participation can lead to decreased insurance rates from mitigation actions. CRS credits can be obtained through a variety of ways, including higher building standards.

A community representative explained that it might give incentive to participate if the savings could be quantified. He asked if there were numbers showing the dollar amount spent on flood insurance in each community. Ms. Pat Griggs, floodplain specialist, explained that she can get the information if the request is put in.

Mr. John Marshall, from the Township of Cinnaminson, requested a copy of preliminary maps for his community. Mr. Rubenstein said he could get a copy out to him.

A community representative asked if they could get data on losses. Ms. Griggs answered that they can be obtained by submitting an application for their release with justification by a legitimate purpose of their use.

A community representative asked how to get GIS license for their township. Mr. Schaefer explained the map viewers available for free online (now listed at the top of this website).

9. Risk Communication

Mr. Rubenstein explained that risk communication helps reduce overall community risk. He listed the websites for mapping resources (see Slides 45 and 46 of the presentation on <https://www.rampp-team.com/nj.htm>).

Ms. Abigail Wright presented a live demonstration of how to view the various non-regulatory products, using example data. She explained how depth grids are developed as a subtraction of a terrain grid from water surface elevation grid in GIS to give a depth at any point in the floodplain. You can use GIS to overlay the depth grids with other datasets. For example, if you bring in aerial imagery, you can see how the flood depth may be 1.5 ft at one house, but 10.5 ft at another.

Ms. Wright showed an example dataset of Changes Since Last FIRM and explained that the dataset just shows the difference in the old and new floodplain mapping. She also showed the Areas of Mitigation Interest on a sample Flood Risk Map, which may include things like critical facilities or major roads inundated by a flood event.

10. Meeting Wrap-up and Next Steps

Mr. Rubenstein showed the contact information for the communities to get in touch with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), FEMA, and RAMPP, for their questions on Burlington County flood mapping.

Mr. Rubenstein requested the participants to stay for the discussion session to review the discovery maps, preliminary maps, and discuss any of their questions or comments.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm