

Discovery Report Appendix G

Discovery Meeting Presentation

Lake Champlain Watershed

HUC 04150408

September 2016



Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY



FEMA

Discovery Meeting: Lake Champlain Watershed

June 7th – 9th, 2016



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY




Department of
Environmental
Conservation

RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together

Agenda

- Introductions
- Purpose of This Meeting
- Risk MAP Program Overview
- Discovery Process
- Flood Risk Products
- Lake Champlain Watershed Data
- Mitigation Planning
- NFIP and Community Rating System
- Next Steps
- Discussion Session



Lake Champlain Watershed Risk MAP Discovery Project

Join us in capturing a more complete picture of flood risk in your community and watershed.

The FEMA Risk MAP Program
Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that provides communities with quality flood maps and other tools they can use to enhance their mitigation plans and take action to reduce flood risk. As part of the Risk MAP program, FEMA, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), has started a Risk MAP Discovery project for the Lake Champlain watershed.

Lake Champlain Discovery Project
The Discovery process of FEMA's Risk MAP program is about the "discovery" of flood hazards and flood risk in a particular watershed. As part of the Lake Champlain watershed Discovery project, which also includes neighboring areas in the Mettawee River watershed (map on next page), FEMA and NYSDEC will work closely with local communities and organizations to collect information about flooding issues and flood mitigation activities; flood mapping needs; recent development; and other issues related to flood risk. The Discovery process helps communities identify areas at risk for flooding and solutions for reducing that risk.

The project team is currently collecting watershed-wide data and will coordinate with local stakeholders to obtain additional data about flood risk. The information collected during this Discovery process will be used to develop recommendations for a future Risk MAP project that may be initiated if funding is available. Such a follow up project could include the creation of digital flood maps, risk assessment or mitigation planning assistance. The Discovery process does not necessarily mean that a new Risk MAP project will take place - instead, it is the process through which FEMA and NYSDEC learn about local flooding issues and prioritize the need for new studies.

Upcoming Discovery Meetings!
FEMA and NYSDEC are hosting 4 Discovery Meetings in your watershed soon. During the meetings, we will review the flood risk data collected, discuss your community's floodplains, mitigation plans, flood risk concerns, and the vision of the watershed's future. Attendees will be able to meet one-on-one with project team members to discuss local flooding issues, provide feedback on their community's existing floodplain maps and learn more about programs and activities that may help reduce flood risk.

Attend an Upcoming Discovery Meeting -
This is your opportunity to ensure that FEMA and NYSDEC are aware of local flooding issues and flood mapping needs. Make sure your community's voice is heard!

RSVP for any of the Lake Champlain Watershed Discovery Meetings below by contacting Grace Vinson of the project team by email at gracevinson@clarkgroupinc.com or call (802) 917-0582.

Clinton County: Tuesday, June 7, 2016
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Clinton County Office of Emergency Services
16 Emergency Services Drive, Plattsburgh, NY 12903

Essex County: Wednesday, June 8, 2016
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Town of Westport Town Hall
22 Champlain Avenue, Westport, NY 12993

Warren County: Wednesday, June 8, 2016
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Town of Lake George Office
20 Old Post Road, Lake George, NY 12845

Washington County: Thursday, June 9, 2016
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Town of Whitehall Courthouse
57 Skenesborough Drive, Whitehall, NY 12887



Introductions

- ***FEMA Region II:***

- Andrew Martin
- Justin Barnes

- ***NYS DEC Support Team***

- Samara Ebinger, Dewberry
- Phil Hipley, Dewberry
- Lisa Mahoney, The Clark Group

- ***New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)***

- William Nechamen – Chief of Floodplain Management Section
- Kelli Higgins-Roche – NYS DEC Project Lead
- Dave Sherman – Environmental Program Specialist

Who's Here?

- **State or Federal Representatives**
- **County Officials**
- **Local Communities**
 - CEOs/Elected Officials
 - Floodplain Administrators
 - Code Enforcement Officers/Engineers
 - Emergency Planners
- **Non-Governmental Organizations**
- **Private sector**
- **Other**



Purpose of This Meeting

- **Explain the Discovery process**
- **Share your concerns about flood risk**
- **Share any additional flood data you may have:**
 - Areas of recent or proposed development
 - Areas of historical flooding
 - Overstated or understated flood hazard areas
 - Areas of possible mitigation interest
 - Risk communication/training needs
- **Share your thoughts on which FEMA flood risk products / mitigation projects you would like in your community**



What is Risk MAP?

- **FEMA works with communities to develop flood risk products and flood hazard maps that are:**
 - Based on the best available data from the community and latest technologies.
- **You can use Risk MAP tools and data to:**
 - improve / implement your Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - influence decisions about development, ordinances, and flood mitigation projects.
 - communicate with citizens about flood risk.



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What is Risk MAP?

- **Our common goal: to maintain the sustainability of your community by increasing its resilience from floods and other natural hazards**



Discovery Process

- **FEMA and local communities/organizations “discover” and assess flood risk data**
- **Discovery Data Collection Period**
 - Stakeholder coordination and data analysis
- **Discovery Meeting**
 - Initial Discovery Maps and Report
- **Post-Meeting Review**
 - Final Discovery Map and Discovery Report
- **Scope Refinement**



Discovery Products and Results

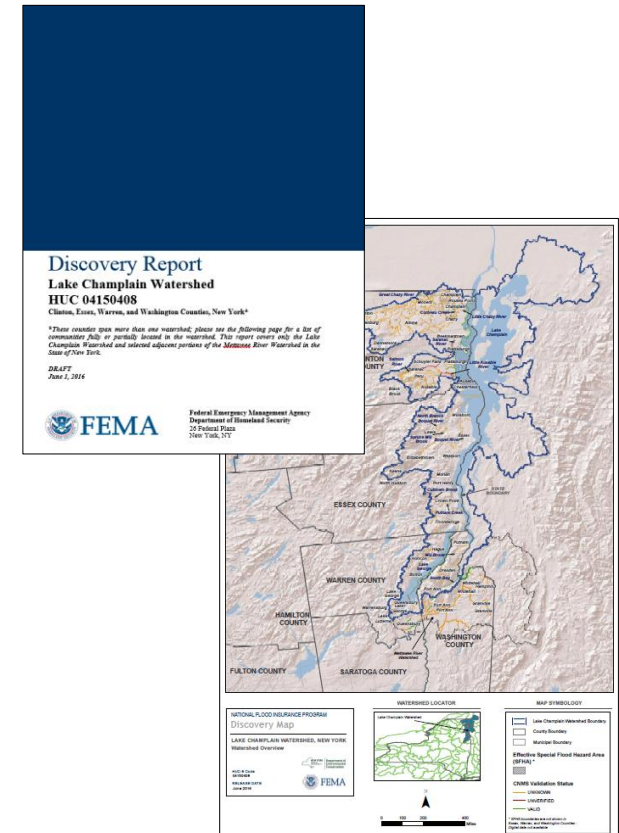
- **Discovery Report**

Including summary of data/needs, analysis, meetings, and action items or decisions

- **Discovery Maps**

Visual representation of data collected, including feedback from stakeholders

- **Recommended scope for future Risk MAP project (e.g., updated digital FIRMs)**

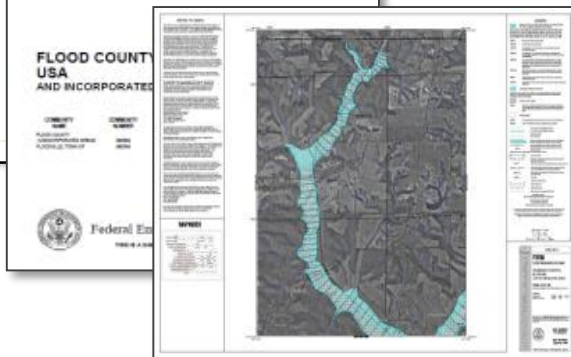


Flood Risk Products

Traditional Regulatory Products

DFIRM Database

- Flood_Hazard_Data
- Political_Boundaries
- Public_Land_Survey_System
- TopoData
- Community_Panel
- L_Comm_Info
- L_MT1_LOMC
- L_Pan_Revis
- L_Pol_FHBM
- L_Riv_Model
- L_Stn_Start
- L_Wtr_Nm
- S_Bfe
- S_DOQ_Index
- S_Firm_Pan
- S_Gen_Struct
- S_Label_Id
- S_Label_Pt
- S_LOMR
- S_Perm_Bmk
- S_Quad
- S_Riv_Mrk
- S_Trnsport_Ar

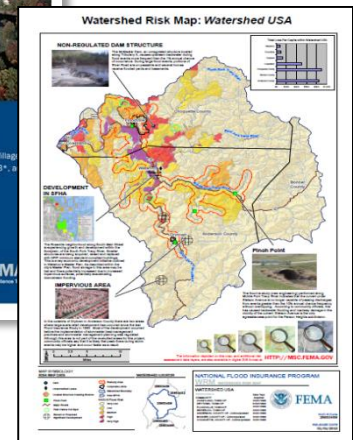
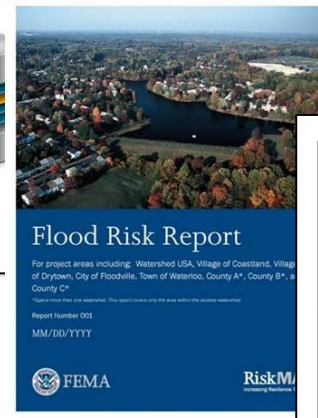


Traditional products are regulatory and subject to statutory due-process requirements

Non-Regulatory Products (new for Risk MAP)

Flood Risk Database

- Community_Panel_Info
- L_Comm_Info
- L_MT1_LOMC
- L_Pan_Revis
- L_Pol_FHBM
- L_Riv_Model
- L_Stn_Start
- L_Wtr_Nm
- S_Bfe
- S_DOQ_Index
- S_Firm_Pan
- S_Gen_Struct
- S_Label_Id
- S_Label_Pt
- S_LOMR
- S_Perm_Bmk
- S_Quad
- S_Riv_Mrk
- S_Trnsport_Ar



Risk MAP products are non-regulatory and are not subject to statutory due-process requirements

Non-Regulatory Flood Risk Products - Examples

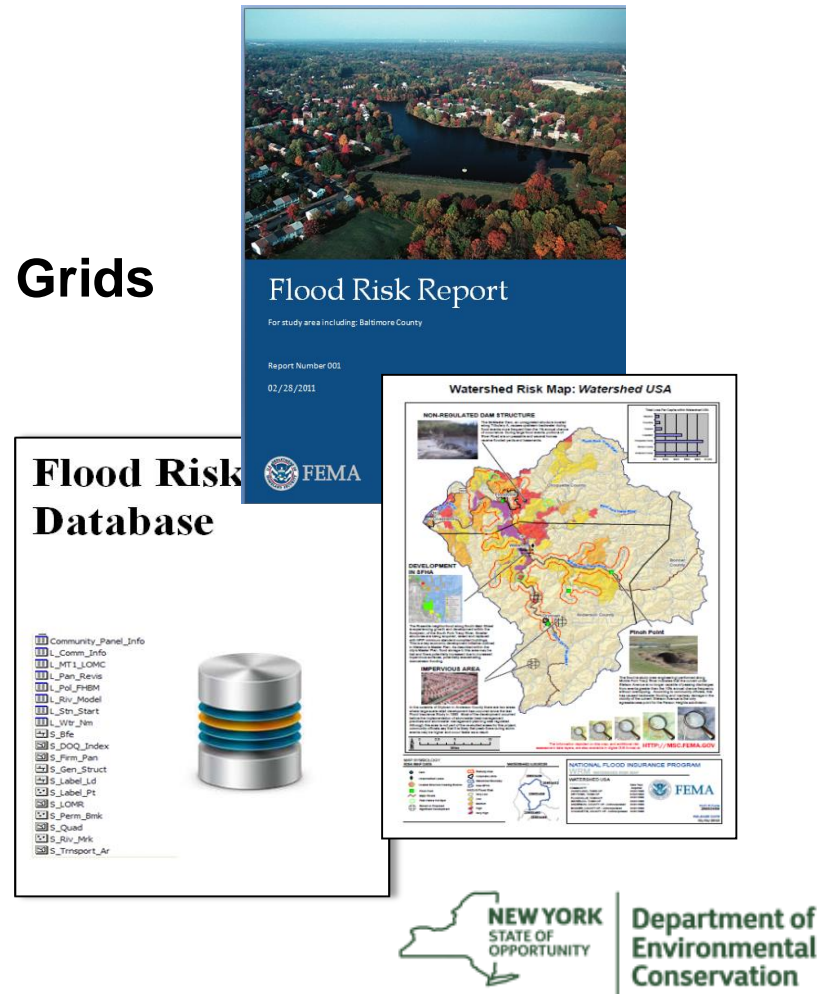
■ Flood Risk Datasets

- Changes Since Last FIRM
- Flood Depth Grids
- Water Surface Elevation Change Grids
- Areas of Mitigation Interest

■ Flood Risk Database

■ Flood Risk Report

■ Flood Risk Map



Lake Champlain Watershed Discovery Project Area

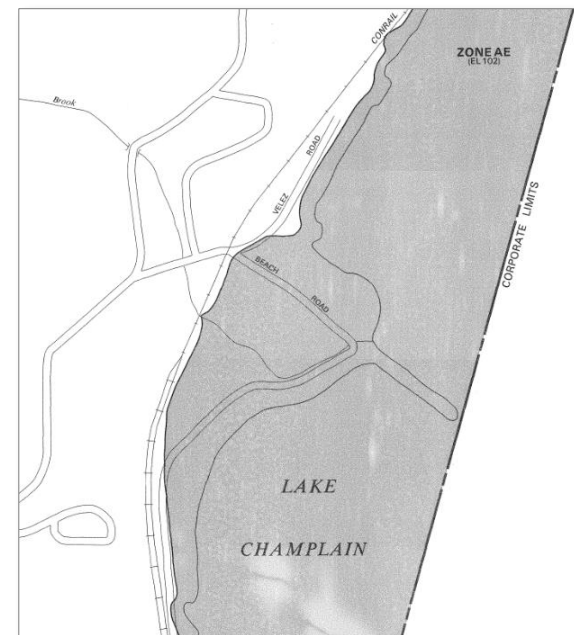


- **4 counties**
 - Clinton
 - Essex
 - Warren
 - Washington
- **43 communities, including towns, cities, and villages**
- **Includes several communities in Mettawee River Watershed**



Why the Lake Champlain Watershed?

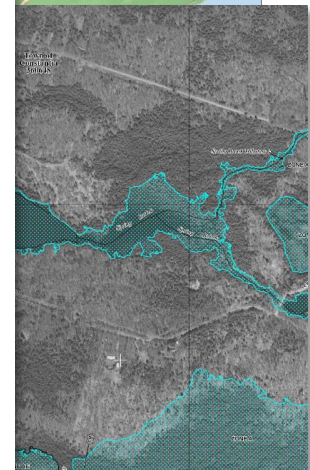
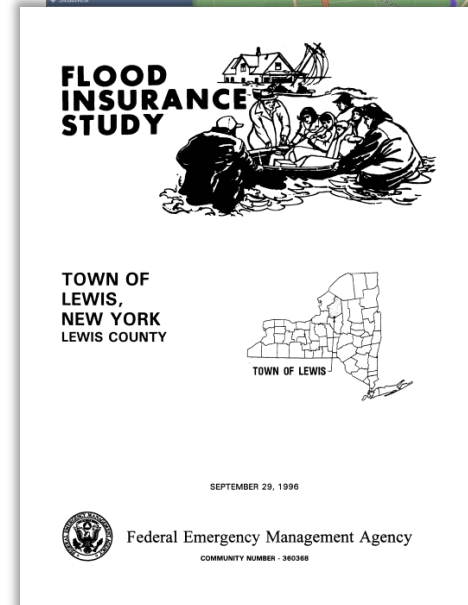
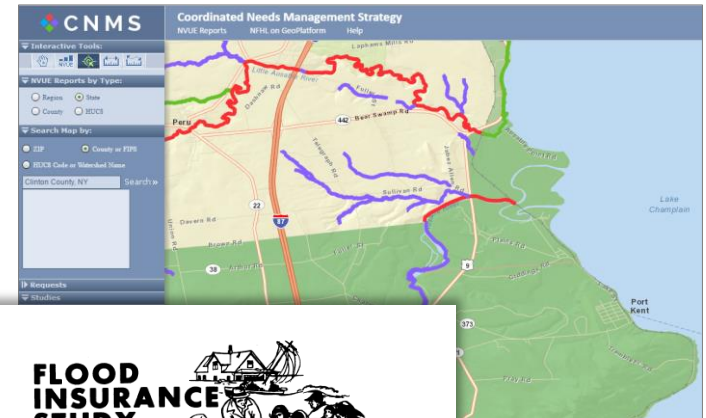
- Severe flooding in the area in 2013
- FIRMs for many communities are not yet digital
- Many flooding sources on digital FIRMs have not been recently restudied.



Data Collection: Background Data

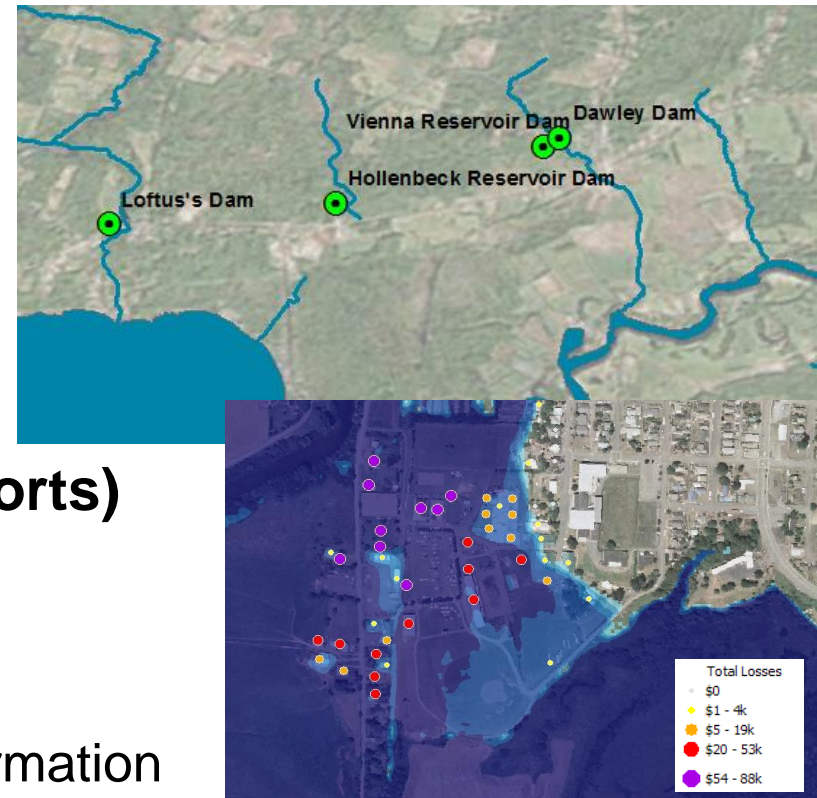
■ Flood Data

- FIRMs/DFIRMs and Flood Insurance Study reports
- Community Rating System class
- Stream/lake locations
- Repetitive loss data
- Flood insurance policies and claim information
- Letters of Map Amendment and Letters of Map Revision
- Clusters of Letters of Map Change
- Coordinated Needs Management Strategy information





Data Collection: Background Data

- **Census information**
- **Transportation features**
- **State & Federal lands**
- **Stream Gages**
- **Topography & Bathymetry**
- **Dams (GIS and Dam Specific Reports)**
- **Federal and State Disasters**
- **Additional Studies:**
 - Average Annualized Loss (AAL) information
 - FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - Community Ordinances



What information do we need from you?

- Historical flooding problems
- FIRM inaccuracies
- Recent/ongoing mitigation projects/activities
- Recent or planned development activities
- Availability of GIS and other data
- Training needs



Lake Champlain Watershed: Risk MAP Discovery Project Stakeholder Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Discovery Data survey. The Discovery process is designed to provide important information to help the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) better understand flood risk issues and mapping needs in the Lake Champlain watershed, and to help you increase your community's resilience to flooding through implementation of the Risk MAP (Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning) program. Please answer any and all questions to the best of your ability and/or knowledge. Any response can help us assess the risks for your community.

A map of the watershed can be found at the end of this survey. The map shows the Lake Champlain Watershed area and the jurisdictional areas included in the watershed. Several communities in the adjacent Mettawee River watershed have also been included in this project.

Background
Discovery is the initial phase of a Risk MAP project, in which FEMA and NYSDEC work with local stakeholders to collect data and learn about unique issues in a watershed. This includes gathering information about current flood risk, historical flooding, flood mapping and analysis needs, and local mitigation activities. All information collected will be considered when developing recommendations for future Risk MAP projects. These projects may include the creation of revised flood analysis, maps, or other products that can be used to reduce local flood risk. The Discovery process does not necessarily mean that a new Risk MAP project will take place - rather it is a process by which FEMA and NYSDEC learn about the issues in a watershed and prioritize the need for new studies.

Discovery Meeting
After compilation and evaluation of survey responses, a series of in-person Discovery meetings will be held within the watershed in May/June 2016 to present and discuss the preliminary results, as well as provide an additional opportunity for input.

Completing and Sharing This Survey
We respectfully request that you complete the survey by **May 6, 2016** in order for the Discovery team to develop preliminary materials to be reviewed during the in-person Discovery meetings with affected stakeholders. If you have any questions about FEMA's Discovery process or about completing this survey, please contact the NYSDEC Floodplain Management team at floodplain@dec.ny.gov. If you believe there are other stakeholders that should receive this survey, please provide their contact information to us and we will send them a copy.

Sending us the Completed Survey
You may either complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DiscoveryLC> or instead mail or email your completed survey form to:

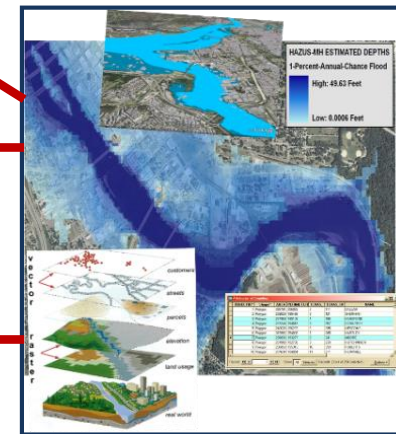
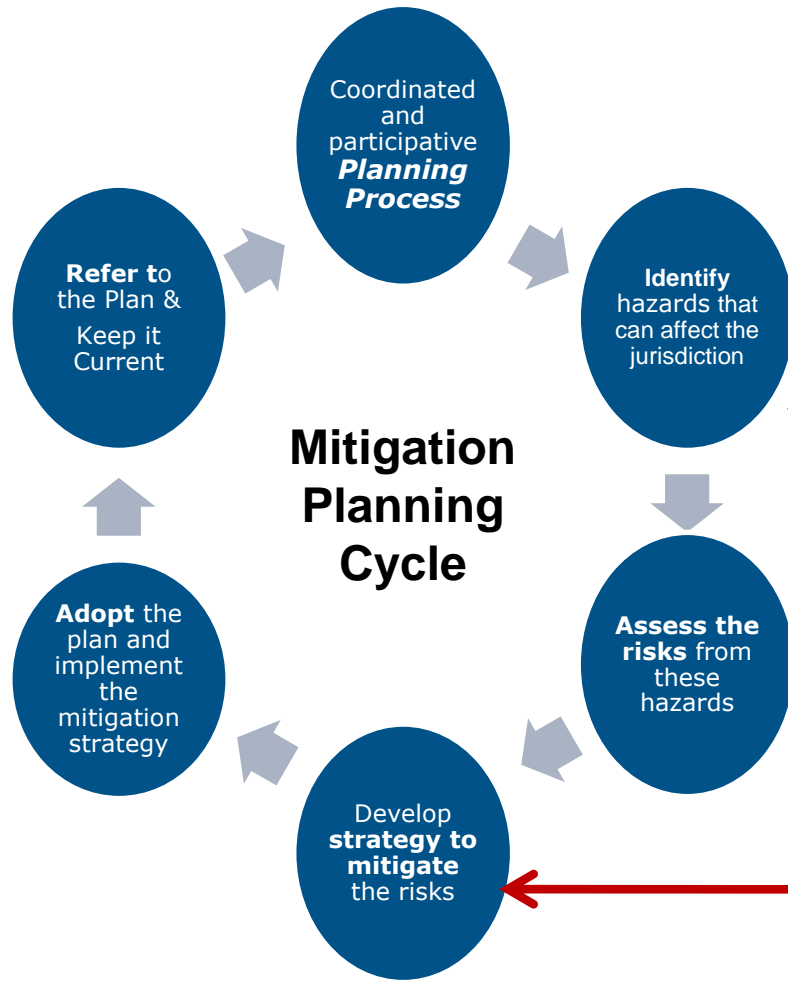
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Hazard Mitigation Planning

■ Risk MAP and Mitigation Planning

- Local hazard mitigation plans must be updated every five (5) years.
- Use new Risk MAP information to update local HMP.
 - Flood Hazard Profile
 - Risk Assessment
 - Mitigation Strategy



Categories of Flood Mitigation Activities



Property Protection Measures

- Buy outs
- Flood proofing
- Relocation
- Structure elevation



Education and Outreach Measures

- Brochures
- Booths at fairs and festival
- Annual meetings



Prevention Measures

- Flood ordinance,
- Stormwater programs
- Building codes



Natural Resource Protection Measures

- Wetland and stream restoration
- Riparian buffer ordinances



Structural Project Measures

- Levees,
- Dikes,
- Floodwall
- Culvert replacement
- Bridge Replacement
- Stream maintenance



Emergency Services Measures

- Reverse 911
- Swift water rescue equipment



Possible Mitigation Activities

Mitigation should be part of overall hazard mitigation plan

- 2 foot of freeboard for new structures.
- Cumulative substantial improvement clause.
- List of publicly owned buildings that have flood risk.
- Acquisition of flood prone structures.
- County GIS system.
- Update weather tracking equipment.
- Stream bank stabilization projects.
- Identify sanitary sewer mains vulnerable to erosion from flood.

- Adopt a wellhead protection ordinance.
- Vulnerability assessment of water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Elevate, move and acquire flood damaged structures.
- Identify vulnerable critical facilities.
- Implement mitigation measures for repetitive loss properties.
- Require elevation of new structures and substantially improved structures.
- Natural stream restoration.

Mitigation Grant Programs (FEMA)

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**

Available after a major disaster declaration - the amount of funding is 15% of the total federal assistance provided by FEMA for disaster recovery under the major disaster declaration.

- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)**

Nationally competitive grant program that funds cost effective, comprehensive mitigation activities that reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage to property.

- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)**

Provides funding to assist States and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the NFIP.

Mitigation Grant and Loan Programs

- NYS OEM Manages FEMA Mitigation Grant Programs
- NYS DEC: Stream Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Grants
- NYS Office of Community Renewal
- NYS Department of State
- NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
- NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
- NYS Department of State Office of Communities and Waterfronts
- Corps of Engineers
- HUD
- NRCS

National Flood Insurance Program

- Allows property owners to purchase flood insurance at below market rates
- State and local governments agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances
- Over 20,300 communities participate in the NFIP
 - 1,490 in New York



Community Rating System (CRS)

- **Flood insurance premiums discounted to reward community actions that reduce flood losses and promote the awareness of flood insurance**
- **Class rating system from 1 to 10**
- **Each Class improvement (500 point increments) results in additional 5% discount**
- **Credits awarded for activities implemented at the state level**
- **19 creditable activities, organized under four categories:**
 - Public Information
 - Mapping and Regulations
 - Flood Damage Reduction
 - Warning and Response



Recommended Higher Standards

- Go beyond 2 feet of freeboard
- Restrictions on hazardous material storage
- Regulated high risk land uses (e.g. manufactured homes/critical infrastructure)
- Setbacks/Buffers
- Conservation/open space area
- Cumulative Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement
- Lower threshold for Substantial Damage
- Subdivision design triggering flood study
- Prohibitions
 - SFHA development
 - Manufactured homes
 - Fill

Next Steps

- Local communities / organizations provide their input
- NYS DEC will:
 - finalize Discovery Maps and Discovery Report and distribute to local communities and other stakeholders
 - update FEMA systems (CNMS, National Digital Elevation/Orthophotography Programs, etc.)
 - prepare recommended scope of work for a future Risk MAP project based on prioritized needs

Contacts

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FEMA



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Questions?

Break Out Discussion Sessions

We want to hear from you about:

- Historical flooding problems
- FIRM inaccuracies/needed updates
- Recent/ongoing mitigation projects/activities
- Recent or planned development activities
- Availability of GIS and other data
- Training needs
- Other flood-related concerns or issues