Discovery Report Appendix N

Watershed Recommended Scope of Work Memorandum
Oneida Lake Watershed
HUC 04140202

September 2016

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Water, Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-3504
P: (518) 402-8185 | F: (518) 402-9029
www.dec.ny.gov

September 12, 2016

Mr. Andrew Martin
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

Re: Oneida Lake Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please accept the State's priorities for new or revised floodplain mapping within the Oneida Lake Watershed as developed by the Oneida Lake Discovery project. Pre-Discovery community engagement meetings were held for the Oneida Lake Watershed via webinar the week of April 4, 2016. The purpose of the pre-Discovery webinars was to discuss the Discovery process and collect information on community mapping needs, as well as determine if any data that might exist could be incorporated into a possible Risk MAP project. There were two webinar meetings held for the counties, communities and other interested stakeholders throughout the watershed area. Participation on the webinars was mixed with some stakeholders very interested in the project and others less involved.

Following the pre-Discovery Engagement meetings, the project team held four Discovery meetings for the stakeholders within the Oneida Lake Watershed during the week of May 23rd. During these meetings the project team followed up on the information collected during the pre-Discovery meetings and provided an opportunity for the communities and other stakeholders to give information on mapping needs. The project team used the information collected throughout the Discovery process, as well as information collected from previous stakeholder engagement meetings, to develop this proposed scope. More stream study requests were provided than can be studied as part of this project and all additional study requests will be entered into FEMA's Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) database and considered for future floodplain mapping projects.

The Oneida Lake Watershed consists of five counties and 63 communities. Participation in the Discovery process was limited with only 31 of the 63 communities attending the pre-Discovery webinars and/or the Discovery meetings and providing requests for updated floodplain mapping. An additional seven communities submitted stakeholder surveys but did not attend either of the meetings. Stakeholders from all five counties attended.

Communities in the Oneida Lake Watershed have a mix of updated digital countywide Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and older community based, paper FIRMs developed between 1976 and 2001. While communities in Oneida and Oswego Counties have updated countywide FIRMs and communities in Onondaga County have updated preliminary mapping scheduled to become effective in November 2016, communities in Madison and Lewis Counties would benefit from a modernized countywide FIRM in a digital format. Many community officials find the existing maps very difficult to work with. In particular, stakeholders noted it is challenging to locate structures on these maps accurately. Many of the communities, particularly in Madison County,

noted there is growth along major water bodies. While a wholesale restudy of each county may not be warranted, there are several key stream segments in each county which require a new detailed study. The new detailed studies, combined with updated approximate studies in a new digital format would assist both the communities and the counties in enforcing floodplain regulations and managing development.

Beyond upgrading the existing detailed and approximate mapping to a digital format in Madison and Lewis Counties, the Oneida Lake Watershed stream restudy priorities are as follows.

High Priority Detailed Studies:

1. Fish Creek should have an updated detailed study for its entire distance of 15.2 miles from its confluence with Oneida Lake to its confluence with the East Branch and West Branch of Fish Creek. This is the main source of flooding in the Village of Sylvan Beach and stakeholders indicate both the mapped floodway and the floodplain boundaries are inaccurate. Of additional concern is the Route 13 bridge which causes ice jams. This stream study was requested by the Village of Sylvan Beach and the Towns of Annsville and Vienna in Oneida County.

2. The East Branch of Fish Creek should have an updated detailed study from its confluence with Fish Creek to a point north of Palmer Road for a distance of 5.4 miles in the Town of Annsville. The mapped floodplain boundaries are inaccurate, especially near the hamlet of Taberg. This stream study was requested by the Town of Annsville in Oneida County.

3. The West Branch of Fish Creek should be studied by detailed methods from its confluence with Fish Creek to the upstream Town of Camden corporate limits for a distance of 26.2 miles. The stream has migrated in the Town of Annsville and the existing floodplain map is inaccurate. Stakeholders in the Town of Camden also stated the existing floodplain boundaries are inaccurate, in particular in areas north of the Route 13 bridge where elevations are higher. This study was requested by both the Town of Annsville and the Town of Camden in Oneida County.

4. Oneida Lake should be a detailed Lake study for its entire length of 20.51 miles. Stakeholders from communities along the shoreline indicated there is significant lake shore development occurring. They also noted that seasonal flooding occurs. This study was requested by the Town of Cicero, Onondaga County, and the Towns of Lenox and Sullivan, Madison County.

5. An unnamed tributary to Sconondoa Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 3.7 miles from its confluence with Sconondoa Creek to Perry Road in the Town of Augusta due to repeated flooding in the area. The floodplain, northwest of the intersection of Knoxboro Road and North Road, does not follow the stream channel. The stream, in a culvert which may need upsizing, crosses North Road about 90 feet south of its mapped location on the 2013 Oneida County dFIRM. This stream study was requested by both the Town of Augusta, Oneida County and Oneida County.

6. An unnamed tributary to Canastota Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 0.8 mile from the confluence with Canastota Creek to south of Routes 5 & 13 in the Village of Canastota. This tributary is the main flooding source that affects the village and has not been studied. This stream study was requested by the Village of Canastota in Madison County.

7. Clockville Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 3.9 miles from the confluence with Cowaselon Creek to Oxbow County Park in the Town of Lincoln. Residential development is occurring in this area and the current floodplain boundaries are not accurate. This is a narrow valley at risk from flooding and landslides. This stream study was requested by the Town of Lincoln in Madison County.

8. Cowaselon Creek should be studied by detailed methods for its entire distance of 11.1 miles within Madison County. Stakeholders indicated this is an area with repeated flooding and development pressure. The Town of Lincoln noted that the effective maps are not accurate for this stream. This study was requested by Towns of Lenox and Lincoln, and the City of Oneida, all in Madison County.

In addition to these high priority detailed stream segments, stakeholders requested Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) be developed for lakes with a significant number of residences surrounding them. These detailed lake studies are as follows:

9. Carterville Pond should be studied by detailed methods for 1.26 miles in the Town of Amboy. Development is occurring in this area. This lake study was requested by the Town of Amboy, Oswego County.

10. Panther Lake should be studied by detailed methods for 1.2 miles in the Town of Amboy. Development is occurring in this area. This lake study was requested by the Town of Amboy, Oswego County.

Medium Priority Detailed Studies:

11. An unnamed tributary to Higinbotham Brook should be studied by detailed methods for 1.0 mile from its confluence with Higinbotham Brook to Patio Circle Drive in the City of Oneida. The area is being developed and would benefit from the development of BFEs as it currently has an approximate study. This stream study was requested by the City of Oneida in Madison County.

12. Higinbotham Brook should have an updated detailed study for 2.5 miles from the confluence with the Oneida River to the corporate limits of the City of Oneida. There have been recent drainage improvements, including retention facilities installed along this stream reach. This stream study was requested by the City of Oneida in Madison County.

13. The Oneida River should be studied by detailed methods for 11.8 miles from the confluence with Oneida Lake to Maider Road in the Town of Schroeppel. There is new development along this stream reach. Stakeholders also indicate flooding occurs in the area around the Route 10 Schroeppel Bridge. This stream study was requested by Oswego County.

14. Oneida Creek should have an updated detailed study for its entire length of 16 miles within the City of Oneida. Mitigation options are being considered for this flooding source. In particular stakeholders noted that a railroad bridge is too small and a berm along this stream reach may be removed. This stream study was requested by the City of Oneida in Madison County.

15. Limestone Creek should have an updated detailed study for 4.7 miles from Manlius Road to Schepps Corners Road in the Town of Manlius. There is repeated flooding on Schepps Corner Road and increased development in the area. This stream study was requested by the Town of Manlius, Onondaga County.

16. Sconondoa Creek should be studied by detailed methods for its entire distance of 8.9 miles within the Town of Augusta. There are significant flooding issues and the stream has shifted course. The effective approximate study is no longer accurate and a detailed study is needed. This stream study was requested by the Town of Augusta in Oneida County.

17. Chittenango Creek should have an updated detailed restudy from its confluence with Oneida Lake to the upstream Village of Chittenango corporate limits for a distance of 26.7 miles. Stakeholders in the Town of Sullivan stated that there is development pressure in the floodway near the lake. Representatives from the Village of Chittenango indicated that there were multiple bridge and culvert replacements since the date of the last study. There is also a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) cluster in the Valley Acres subdivision. Stakeholders believe the current floodplain maps are inaccurate. This stream study was requested by the Town of Sullivan and the Village of Chittenango, Madison County.

Lower Priority Detailed Studies:

18. Mud Creek should have an updated detailed study for 2.1 miles from Route 49 to Thompson Road in the Town of Cicero. This is an area with development pressure. This stream study was requested by the Town of Cicero in Onondaga County.

19. Bay Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 0.9 mile in the corporate limits of the Village of Central Square. The stream is piped near the schools. This stream study was requested by Oswego County.

20. The unnamed tributary of Chittenango Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 1.1 miles from the confluence with Chittenango Creek to the corporate limits of the Village of Chittenango. The flood zone boundaries are not accurate. This stream study was requested by the Village of Chittenango in Madison County.

21. An unnamed tributary to the old Erie Canal should be studied by detailed methods for 0.9 mile from the Canalway Trail Historic Park to the intersection with Routes 5 & 13 in the Town of Lenox. There is recent residential development and the floodplain is overstated. This stream study was requested by the Town of Lenox in Madison County.

22. Green Brook should be studied by detailed methods for 0.5 mile from the confluence with Furnace Creek to Route 69 in the Town of Annsville. There is a bowl area where it floods and the floodplain is understated on the FIRM. This stream study was requested by the Town of Annsville in Oneida County.

23. Cascades Creek should have an updated detailed study for 0.6 mile from Clark Hollow Road to the confluence with Butternut Creek in the Town of La Fayette. The floodplain is overstated on the FIRM. This stream study was requested by the Town of La Fayette in Onondaga County.

24. Stony Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 3.8 miles from the New York State Thruway to Hartman Road in the Town of Verona. There is an increased flood hazard due to beaver dams. This stream study was requested by the Town of Verona in Madison County.

25. Brandy Brook should be studied by detailed methods for 2.5 miles from the Oneida County corporate limits to Foster Street. There is an increased flood hazard due to beaver dams. This stream study was requested by the Town of Verona in Madison County.

It is NYSDEC's understanding that in counties receiving new digital maps where they do not currently exist, all existing approximate studies will be updated where topography is available. These existing approximate studies will not be listed separately at this time. NYSDEC requests that any existing Lake BFEs that were determined as published as part of the Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) process be included on the new maps if possible. This would enable communities to adopt the flood elevations and allow residents currently residing along these lakes and ponds to have accurately rated flood insurance policies.

Thank you for providing NYSDEC with the opportunity to recommend a scope of work for areas within the Oneida Lake Watershed. We look forward to working with you to refine and finalize this scope as we move forward. Please feel free to contact NYSDEC if you have any questions or would like additional information provided.

Sincerely,

Kelli Higgins-Roche
Environmental Engineer
Floodplain Management Section