



City of Binghamton Community Meeting

7.27.16

- **Local Levee Systems:**
 - There is a Federally maintained segment around 3rd Street, and a pressure conduit below Binghamton General
 - There is a stop log structure along Court Street and another on Lower Court Street before the Susquehanna River makes a turn
 - McDonald Avenue
 - There have been no breaches so structural-based inundation will not be an option here
 - Pierce Creek at Conklin Avenue
 - Binghamton West at Pierce Creek
 - Susquehanna at Exchange Street
 - Four levees along the Chenango River
- **LAMP Analysis and Methodology**
- Susquehanna from Thompson Street down to Brandywine Street
 - If a levee has earthen and concrete components, it does not mean that they are automatically different reaches. The reach depends on the capacity on either side of the levee
 - Freeboard requirements do not vary between a concrete floodwall and an earthen floodwall
 - Unsure if USACE developed the 100-year storm level
 - On the opposite side of the river is the water treatment facility. In 2011, water almost breached the plant. The Public Works Commissioner noted that the top of the levee across the street was slightly lower than the water level during the flood event
 - Enacting an analysis and a study surrounding the resiliency of the water treatment facility is included in the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Binghamton West at Pierce Creek
 - Upstream development is a significant challenge, and many feel that there isn't enough coordination with the City of Binghamton involving how the city is managing building and water runoff
 - The area to the north of the Susquehanna River is highly populated and contains many homes. If flooding does occur, it would be the worst in that section of the city, with an exception for part of the First Ward, in the northwest area of Binghamton
- Susquehanna at Pennsylvania Avenue
 - There's a relatively small commercial area in this zone that's had repetitive loss; it has been identified in a comprehensive plan update to discourage future development due to vulnerability
 - It should be noted that the primary route to the City of Binghamton, Route 434, was under water during the last flooding event
 - **Possibly new building codes in this area:**
 - Writing an ordinance does not come with insurance implications, but it helps to prevent future development issues



- It would update the floodplain boundaries and elevations
 - Frank might have a county-wide meeting to explain the process on how to update language in the local law with Bill
 - Coordination between DEC and the New York Department of State on these codes
 - New building code will have additional requirements (2 ft. of freeboard will apply to all development)
 - Will be reflected in this model
- Four levees along the Chenango River
 - Modeling
 - During Phase II, modeling can inform how the pump will behave in an event similar to 2011; it would be assumed that any closure structures would be put into the modeling
 - Semi-permanent structures, like sand walls, are usually built in a hurry and prone to human error. That information might not be helpful in a model
 - Port Dickinson on Chenango Street has a foot high sandbag wall; an aluminum stop log structure is located elsewhere
- **Question: In 2011, the elevation of the river was higher to begin with, is that considered?**
 - That would be considered when modeling for a new flood map, but would not necessarily taken into account for this modeling. The modeling will be looking at the regulatory 1% flow level to specify a regulatory level of protection
- **Question: Hecras 5 (1 and 2 D modeling)**
 - “Hydrology” generally refers to the amount of water
 - “Hydraulics” generally refers to how the water is flowing through a system
- **Question: How does the collective organization interact with the municipality around public awareness throughout this process (i.e., media exposure, newspaper, public hearing)?**
 - These are decisions that should be locally made
 - FEMA would like to know if you’re getting inquiries from local media, certainly
 - This process has no effect on the existing maps (FIRMs) but expands the potential risk information of the community
 - In a year or two, there can be a more public discussion surrounding new FIRMs
 - Much of this information will be available online as well surrounding the new FIRMs
 - Bill mentioned that an environmental reporter at the Binghamton Press might be interested in another interview. This is something that has been done in the past
 - There is a plan to do outreach surrounding the Phase II results, like public meetings and press releases
- **Question: Is it possible for business owners/home owners to identify where they perceive the biggest risk versus where they actually are?**
 - FEMA could assist the community/state to do something (i.e., an educational event), but can’t host it themselves