



Johnson City Community Meeting

9.7.16

- It is important for community teams to talk among each other on a regular basis
 - Can comment on the system reaches, etc.
 - Looking at mapping determinations that can be made within the allowable guidance
- Local Systems
 - Finch Hollow Creek at Wegmans
 - Finch Hollow Creek at Giant Plaza
 - Small segment at Little Choconut Creek going down to the railroad
- Flooding came from ballfield at Northside Park and ran parallel to Harry L Drive towards the Susquehanna
- The 2011 floods exceeded even the preliminary maps where the elevation exceeded the approximate 500-year flood level
 - Freeboard Deficient– meets all 44 CFR§65.10 criteria except regulatory freeboard
 - Sound Reach – unlikely to be performed on these particular structures
- Each levee will be a different reach
 - Finch Hollow Creek Levee that starts at the northwest corner of the Wegmans property and runs to the Rt. 17/I-86 crossover (Rt. 201) will be considered one reach. The segment starting at the Giant Plaza-Gander Mountain boundary will be considered a second reach.
 - The Little Choconut Creek north of the railroad is still in the Village of Johnson City and needs to be considered
 - Both the levee reach along Wegmans and along the Little Choconut appear have a good amount of data available while the other section on the left descending Fitch Hollow Creek does not
 - The segment along Wegmans was originally constructed as one segment with the Westover levee system by the USACE
 - There is information available through the NYSDEC on the construction for Rt. 201 to maintain levee continuity.
 - For the section without data, Natural Valley will be proposed unless the community wishes to undertake the expensive process of performing the necessary studies
 - Also need to determine whether these structures are legal and can be found in the USACE's database
- Broome County hosted a countywide kickoff meeting and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Flood Protection and Dam Safety Bureau Director from Albany (Al Fuchs) discussed how the state had not been funded or authorized to take lead on levee certification
 - USACE is in a similar position in regards to being able to assist with accreditation and certification unless USACE is actively building a project in the area



- Johnson City possesses considerable information
 - Elevation information is available, though a new survey would be required
 - USACE can assist
 - USACE has data in the National Levee Database from 2007 – though fresher data may be needed to have more accurate results due to 2011 revisions – for the area
 - USACE also has Operations and Maintenance Plans
 - The latest Inspection Report from the USACE will be released soon
 - The lingering issue is the Structural Design Requirements
 - USACE has some documentation on existing projects from the 1950-60s, but that has to be certified to meet/exceed CFR 65.10 standards
 - USACE is not sure they can meet this requirement yet
 - USACE will help Johnson City through this process of gathering and meeting requirements
- NYSDEC is contractually operating and maintaining a majority of the levee structures throughout this system and will provide any information that they have available to the community to help
 - There is a question about who maintains the left descending portion on Finch Hollow Creek
 - If NYSDEC does not have ownership/responsibility (it was indicated they do not), the community could consider the PL 84-99 program
 - Natural Valley looks like the likely course of action for this specific reach
 - Graphics will be provided to give the community an idea of what it will look like
- USACE is involved in the area around the water treatment plant and a Structural Based Analysis would not be an issue to perform in this reach
 - Earthen amendment – it has a good top cover that is well maintained and the community has done an erosion analysis
 - USACE built this earthen levee and performed an analysis on the grass cover that currently provides significant protection against erosion during an event
 - An overtopping analysis could be possible if that is what the community wants to undergo
 - Johnson City owns the water treatment plant, but the Town of Union owns the property that the water treatment plant is located on
 - Village of Johnson City is an impacted stakeholder, but USACE and NYSDEC would be the two primaries that play the role of owner/maintainer/inspector
 - Need to reach out to Town of Union to discuss this situation
- The levee reach by Wegmans will take additional information and discussion by the community and residents over potential concerns that need to be addressed
- Interior drainage is typically freeboard deficient
 - Due to local topography, it is believed that an interior drainage analysis may be less than useful since the levee is situated upgrade from the parking lot and other protected areas in the levee impact area
- Finch Hollow Creek at Oakdale Mall is uphill and upstream of the levee along the upper perimeter of the levee at Wegmans
 - During Lee, the flow went into the channel pretty well until it passed beyond the Burlington Coat Factory and kicked off to houses on the side



- There are some modifications that were made after 2011
 - Need to determine if USACE did any analysis to study the change in the hydrology by construction of the Mall.
 - There is a flood control dam on that small stream that is maintained by NRCS
 - The community may want to contact them as it is part of the overall hydrologic system review
- Little Choconut Creek along Pratt Avenue – there is a possible embankment along the right side of the street
 - This uncontrolled opening lets water into the auxiliary channel that has caused flooding in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2011 and channel does not appear to be maintained by anyone.
 - The embankment is roughly located at: 144 Lester Avenue Johnson City, New York
 - If the criteria and/or origin behind the design is unknown, it is difficult to consider it as a levee
 - If it is seen as a source of flooding, can provide the information to Bill Nechamen and/or FEMA so it can be put into the Community Management System and identified on future flood map
- There is a potential small segment of levee along Little Choconut Creek between the railroad and the cloverleaf that appears to lie in Johnson City jurisdiction
 - The levee was buried during improvements but is part of the same system
- NYSDEC can help the community to enforce stricter building codes to encourage new construction in the future that will help protect residents in the future
 - If the community wants to look into this, could have a representative from NYSDEC hold a meeting to discuss this issue with the community
- It will be important to keep the USACE Baltimore District in the loop during the Watershed Study to look at the effect of upstream dams on this system
- Accreditation and all levee-related improvements, unless they are federally maintained, are up to the community to implement to protect the community from its known flood risk
 - If a Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated, it will give the community a leg up when it comes to apply for grants to help fund these mitigation projects
- Next Steps
 - A report will be generated for community review in February
 - The next meeting will be scheduled based on how the data collection comes along