

# Meeting Notes

## ATTENDEES

**RICHARD DAVID**  
Mayor of City of  
Binghamton

**JARED KRAHAM**  
City of Binghamton

**THOMAS COSTELLO**  
City of Binghamton

**TIM KONETCHY**  
City of Binghamton

**TITO MARTINEZ**  
City of Binghamton

**ROBERT MURPHY**  
City of Binghamton

**FRANCO INCITTI**  
City of Binghamton

**RAY STANDISH**  
City of Binghamton

**RON LAKE**  
Village of Port  
Dickinson

**FRANK  
EVANGELISTI**  
Broome County  
Planning Division

**BETH LUCAS**  
Broome County  
Planning Division

**STEPHANIE BREWER**  
Broome County  
Planning Division

**LEON SKINNER**  
United States Army  
Corps of Engineers

## BROOME GENERAL MEETING – LEVEE ANALYSIS AND MAPPING PROCEDURES MEETING 2

May 14, 2018

Location:  
Broome County Office Building  
60 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Action Item	Owner
1. Share additional information around freeboard and Zone D with all of the communities.	FEMA
2. Draft the levee analysis and mapping plan. FEMA will then coordinate the LLPT 3 meeting to discuss the plan in greater detail with the community.	FEMA

## AGENDA

- Review Broome County's Levee Flood Hazard
  - Local Levee System
  - Analysis and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levees
- Application of Reach Study Procedures
- Review Results of New Data Analysis
- Discuss Next Steps in the Process

## OVERVIEW

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II levee team (FEMA levee team), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) re-engaged Broome County and its respective impacted communities: City of Binghamton, Village of Endicott, Village of Johnson City, Village of Port Dickinson, Town of Union, and Town of Vestal. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the risk associated with Broome County's levee system and present the additional analysis conducted by FEMA.

During the meeting, Shudipto Rahman, FEMA project monitor provided a summary of the coordination efforts and data collected to date. Seth Lawler and Srikanth Koka presented a high-level overview of the draft results of the structural based inundation analysis for the levee system. Once the meeting

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**DAN FULLER**  
New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**NADINE LITTLE**  
New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**BRAD WENSKOSKI**  
New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**ARVIND GOSWAMI**  
New York State  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

**SHUDIPTO RAHMAN**  
FEMA

**SRIKANTH KOKA**  
STARR II

**SETH LAWLER**  
STARR II

**CURTIS SMITH**  
STARR II

**TOM SMITH**  
FEMA Outreach  
Consultant

**PAIGE MANDY**  
FEMA Outreach  
Consultant

concluded, breakout sessions were held over the course of a two-day period to go over community-specific results from the analysis.

FEMA reiterated that the purpose of the levee analysis and mapping approach is to give the community a better understanding of how much the levee reduces the flood risk under current conditions.

## NOTES

These communities were included in the Broome County preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) that was issued in 2009. The study was put on hold while issues were resolved. During the meeting, FEMA indicated that the levee analysis will help to better inform a more comprehensive understanding of flood hazards than what is shown on each community's map. Additionally, this analysis will be used to eventually update each community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to create the most informed depiction of risk. A timeframe could not be given at this time, but it was noted that the Broome County updated FIS was a few years away from being initiated, and the update to the Delaware County FIS would likely take longer due to the recent effective date of the current map.

Leon Skinner of USACE, discussed the USACE levee safety program, which focuses on risk management in regards to the Baltimore District. USACE is currently finalizing their levee system summaries. The next step is for the summaries to be passed off to FEMA to make sure that all FEMA analysis is reflected. USACE will then contact the levee sponsors and respective communities to get further input on the summaries. The goal of this will be to provide it to the public and allow them to make better informed decisions. The summaries will be released later this year.

Much of the discussion focused around the interconnectedness of the levees. When looking at any potential upgrades, FEMA urged the communities take into consideration the information that will be released following the completion of this process and to work together with the effected communities as their levee systems are connected and will impact each other. Broome County expressed interest in helping to guide this process and work with the communities to ensure all efforts are aligned.

FEMA and the communities discussed next steps in the levee mapping and analysis process. Levee analysis and mapping plan will be delivered following this meeting. The document will summarize what we know about the levee systems, the initial analysis and the communications and engagement with the communities throughout the process. FEMA anticipates the plan will take a month to put together and from

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there, the communities will be re-engaged to discuss the plan during the LLPT3 meeting.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

- **QUESTION:** Some of the procedures require information that would have to be developed. What don't we have that keeps us from doing the other procedures?
  - **ANSWER:** FEMA has conducted natural valley and structural-based inundation, which are the only two procedures that we currently have all the information for in regards to this levee system.
  - Overtopping and freeboard deficient are not applicable in this scenario because of the nature of how the levee crests were developed.
  - Sound reach applies when we have all the information that's required for a certified levee system.
- **QUESTION:** I thought a lot of the levees in Broome would qualify for freeboard deficient?
  - **ANSWER:** Each levee is case-by-case, because while the levee can be sound, it may be vulnerable to other levees from a different flooding source in a different community.
- **COMMENT:** Most levees in the City of Binghamton do not have enough freeboard, and they haven't been overtopped either.
- **QUESTION:** You indicated that the levee analysis can occur before the new FIRMs are adopted?
  - **ANSWER:** Yes. If the mapping is being updated, the levee analysis would be incorporated.
- **QUESTION:** Does that mean the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) can't be calculated until the maps are adopted?
  - **ANSWER:** FEMA and other State and Federal partners can predict a rough estimate of the BFE based on previous analysis. If accreditation is pursued, FEMA is willing to work with each community to make sure the analysis is most accurate to future mapping.
- **QUESTION:** When the levee analysis and mapping process started, there was a thought about taking the 2010 maps and making them final. Now this is not the case, correct?

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- **ANSWER:** Yes, the 2010 maps have become outdated. The planning for the county-wide map update is going to be developed in the next couple of years. It is tough to say when exactly those maps will be updated, but more than five years is likely.
- **QUESTION:** For the time being, the County will be using the maps from the 1980s, which show the area behind the levee as the X zones?
  - **ANSWER:** For insurance purposes, yes. The County could use the preliminary for building and development, which is what FEMA suggests because it is the best available data.
- **QUESTION:** From the County standpoint, is there a plan to have these municipalities work together to do projects like the Village of Nichols did? Or, should the municipalities do their own inspections and certifications of the floodwalls?
  - **ANSWER:** The difference is Nichols had the freeboard, so once they went through the process they could be an accredited levee, which is not the case for most of the communities here in Broome. For the projects, Broome County should coordinate and figure out priorities.
- **QUESTION:** If the City of Binghamton is considering doing this inspection, do you suggest we go ahead?
  - **ANSWER:** The City does not have enough freeboard.
  - Any of this data from FEMA could be considered in this effort. It is good to be aware of the timeline for updated mapping for that decision-making process. FEMA will work with you to demonstrate what the flow will look like when they update the maps so the levee analysis would be accurate to the future maps.
- **QUESTION:** If your levees don't have the three-foot freeboard and are not armored, you can't get accredited?
  - **ANSWER:** Correct
- **QUESTION:** What is the value of an accredited levee?
  - **ANSWER:** You could get a Zone D, which makes flood insurance much lower and sometimes not necessary.
- **QUESTION:** Does FEMA talk to the lending companies (insurance, real estate, banks)? We often find there is a disconnect between the federal requirements and these organizations.



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- **ANSWER:** FEMA determines the federal regulations in an area, but FEMA can't speak to how each bank would have their rates determined in these areas. FEMA is willing to create materials and be involved in conversations to mitigate this issue.

## BREAK OUT: BINGHAMTON/ PORT DICKINSON

- **QUESTION:** Is there any specific reason to breach at certain areas or is it random?
  - **ANSWER:** The guidance says you breach at a downstream location and upstream location. If you get localized flooding that only traps in one area, then you breach at random areas to get a full picture of the flood plain.
- **QUESTION:** Your comment before that there could be a breach in another municipality that impacts another municipality – is there a point that you can identify that will tell you how far you can go without being impacted by another municipality?
  - **ANSWER:** You just have to prepare the model, and allow it to provide answers as to the impacts on changes to levees. All communities involved will be made aware of ongoing analyses, and the resultant impacts to all communities.
- **QUESTION:** Is there a portion of Binghamton's levee systems that could not be accredited due to hazards from another levee in another municipality?
  - **ANSWER:** That question will be answered in your draft levee plan.
- **QUESTION:** It sounds like there isn't anything we can do today that would certify our levee system before your work is complete?
  - **ANSWER:** Each community can take better available information and submit it to FEMA for the Letter Of Map Revision (LOMR) process. This is the fastest way to have your maps updated.
- **QUESTION:** Did the Village of Nichols bypass Tioga County or were they in a better position because Tioga County had effective firms?
  - **ANSWER:** Tioga County maps did not impact this process. The Village of Nichols submitted the data through the LOMR process, but the fundamental difference between the Village of Nichols and Broome County levees is that they had freeboard, which most of Broome's levees do not have.

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- **QUESTION:** Would you encourage the municipalities in Broome to be taking additional steps at this point in time, or should we be waiting for something that is going to happen in the future?
  - **ANSWER:** We would encourage you to take in FEMA's analyses and continue to engage with FEMA to discuss your options. FEMA could advise on what would make sense to do now to maximize this planning effort.
- **QUESTION:** The Structural-Based Inundation has a greater extent than the Natural Valley?
  - **ANSWER:** Correct. The Natural Valley procedure shows a slightly lower flood plain elevation than other modeling.
- **QUESTION:** If this Structural-Based Inundation analysis was adopted, what zone does this become?
  - **ANSWER:** AE Zone.
- **QUESTION:** Are there any levee structures in Binghamton that meet freeboard?
  - **ANSWER:** Levee 5, 6 (majority meets 3 feet), 7
  - Additionally, if enough of the levee system is structurally sound, there are cases where you can accept 2 feet of freeboard.
- **QUESTION:** When you go through the certification process, does it also analyze the level of protection that the levee is providing?
  - **ANSWER:** Yes. The components are: slope stability (structural integrity of the soil), embankment protection, roadway closings, flap gates or pipes going through that won't allow flow to go through, settlement meeting freeboard, interior drainage, and then there's operating and maintenance requirements.
- **COMMENT:** Almost all of the Binghamton levees have internal drainage systems.
- **QUESTION:** When this is over, do the local communities have to maintain those levees?
  - **ANSWER:** NYSDEC would maintain the levees they own.
- **QUESTION:** What is the definition of maintain? Who is going to pay for work to be done on the levee walls?

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- **ANSWER:** DEC will pay to maintain current levees (i.e. mow, concrete repairs, etc.)
- **QUESTION:** If the flood walls need to be raised, who is responsible?
  - **ANSWER:** This would be a cost share agreement (65% federal, 17.5% state, 17.5% local). The project has to be deemed as having a sound cost-benefit ratio by USACE.
- **QUESTION:** There are no plans to change the ownership structure down the road?
  - **ANSWER:** No plans. If the levees are raised, the State may want to negotiate whether they end up doing all of the maintenance in the future because that gets confusing.
  - If you build a brand-new levee, it's on the community because the law has since changed.



# Meeting Notes

Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region II – Mitigation Division



## BINGHAMTON LLPT 2 MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting Date/Time: Monday, May 14, 2018  
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

#	Name – PLEASE PRINT	Title	Organization/Town	E-Mail
1	Richard David	Mayor	City of Binghamton	mayor@cityofbinghamton.com
2	Jared Kraham	Mayor's Office	City of Binghamton	jmkraham@cityofbinghamton.com
3	THOMAS F. COSTELLO	Supervisor of Bldg. Const.	City of Binghamton	tfcostello@cityofbinghamton.com
4	Tim Konetchy	Planner	City of Binghamton	tjkonetchy@cityofbinghamton.com
5	TITO MARTINEZ	ASST. DIR. OF PLANNING	COB	TMARTINEZ@CITYOFBLG...
6	Robert C. Murphy	Director of Econ. Dev.	City of Binghamton	rcmurphy@cityofbinghamton.com
7	RON LAKE	Village Eng	V/O Port Dickinson	ronbert18@stny.ny.com
8	Frank Evangelisti	Broome County Pl. Director	Broome County	fevangelisti@co.broome.ny.us
9	Beth Lucas	Senior Planner Broome Co. Planning	Broome County	blucas@co.broome.ny.us
10	Stephanie Brewer	Planner	BC Planning	SDREWCR@co.broome.ny.us
11	LEON SKINNER	Emergency Manager	USACE	LEON.SKINNER@USACE.ARMY.MIL
12	Seth Lawler	Engineer	STARL II	slawler@denbury.com



FEMA

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# Meeting Notes

Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region II – Mitigation Division



#	Name – PLEASE PRINT	Title	Organization/Town	E-Mail
13	Franco A. Incitti	Assesl. City Engine	City of Binghamton	faincitti@cityofbinghamton.com
14	Bob Bennett	Dir of Public Services	V of J.C.	jcdops@villageofjc.com
15	Daria Golazeski	DEP WCDAS Regional	Town of Union	dgolazeski@townofunion.com
16	Kent Rapp	Engineering Aide	Village of Endicott	engineer@endicottny.com
17	Ray L. Standish	City Engineer	City of Binghamton	rstandish@cityofbinghamton.com
18	Lincoln Ellis	Town of Vestal	Town of Vestal	lellis@vestalny.com
19	VERNON MYERS	TOWN OF VESTAL ENGINEER	TOWN OF VESTAL	vmyers@vestalny.com
20	DAN FULLER	NYS DEC Flood Protection	NYS DEC	daniel.fuller@dec.ny.gov
21	Tom Smith	ENGINEER	RAP-CERC	tsmith@mbakerintl.com
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