



Town of Port Dickinson Community Meeting

7.28.16

- One levee is located along Phelps Creek, on the lower section along the Chenango River. There is also a new pump station that was finished in the spring
- **Preliminary Analysis**
 - There is concern about water flow coming off of Route 7 and under the Brandywine Highway into the pump off of the hill
 - All of the levees in Port Dickinson are small earth levees – no overtopping has occurred
 - The water levels during Tropical Storm Lee in Port Dickinson were not as high as communities downriver
 - Structural-based inundation procedure will most likely not apply to these levee reaches
- **Modeling**
 - Would this be modeled in HICRAS?
 - Yes, FEMA usually models in HICRAS
 - For overtopping, if a levee is one foot below the 1-percent annual-chance storm versus one that is two feet below the 1-percent-annual-chance storm, will the flood area on the landside change in relation to this?
 - That change, if any, will depend on the topography
 - There is a need to do an unsteady model on this – a steady state model cannot be used for overtopping or structure breaching. Steady state is used with a natural valley
 - Phase I: Identifying the reaches and accompanying procedures to be applied to the reaches
 - Phase II: Applying the methods. A work map will be shared with the community that will go into more detail (i.e., where pumps are, pipes are, etc.)
 - End goal: Update the FIRMs for this community
 - The timeline is unclear, as is the budget
 - This project helps us identify the needs of local communities
- It's important for FEMA to walk the community through the flood map process
- The levee's accreditation must be funded through local municipalities
- **Question**
 - How do insurance agencies rate the respective risks and mitigation measures?
 - A flood insurance rate map is the regulatory tool for insurance rates. The base flood elevation is extremely informative in that regard
 - What mitigation activities are more cost effective?
 - A cost-benefit analysis would be helpful in this situation. HAZUS could also be used to model “what if” situations. The United States Army Corps of Engineers has developed the depth hazard figures used in HAZUS
 - Community Rating System (CRS) is another way to measure mitigation against cost. By incorporating higher standards and training for community members about flood risk, the CRS can reduce flood insurance premiums for everyone across the board
- **Question**



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- The benefit to implementing the 2010 maps will be that when the new maps go effective, the community will be in an advantageous position in regards to flood insurance, as well as the salability of property
 - These maps can be adopted in whole or for floodplain management purposes
- In case the original maps are higher, have to go back to the more restrictive scenario/lower levels
- If it was adopted, would have to issue floodplain permits based on the new levels
 - The houses/businesses would have to build to that level but they would not have to pay for the insurance