

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

BOB BENNETT
Village of Johnson City

DARIA GOLAZESKI
Town of Union

KENT RAPP
Village of Endicott

LINCOLN ELLIS
Town of Vestal

VERNON MYERS
Town of Vestal

CITY OF BINGHAMTON AND VILLAGE OF PORT DICKINSON MEETING (W/BROOME GENERAL MEETING NOTES) – 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.

Meeting Notes

**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

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

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 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. However, the data will be referenced and considered in future flood studies 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 initiative, 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 give it to the public and allow them to make better informed decisions. The summaries will be released later this year.

FEMA also explained that the levee system was built prior to FEMA's accreditation requirements coming out in the mid-1980s. The majority of Broome County's levees may have met the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requirements at the time, but most do not meet FEMA's requirements under Title 44, Section 65.10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

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

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STARR II

SETH LAWLER
STARR II

CURTIS SMITH
STARR II

TOM SMITH
FEMA Outreach
Consultant

PAIGE MANDY
FEMA Outreach
Consultant

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 had with the communities throughout the process. FEMA anticipates the plan will take a month to put together and from there, the communities will be re-engaged to discuss the plan.

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?
 - **ANSWEWR:** 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 & 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 BFE can't be calculated until the maps are adopted?

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- **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?
 - **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. 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.
- **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

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- **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.
 - **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.

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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	Michael David	Mayor	City of Binghamton	michael.david@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	COP	TMARTINEZ@CITY OF BING...
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.rr.com
8	Frank Evangelisti	Broome County Pl. Director	Broome County	ferangelisti@co.broome.ny.us
9	Bryan Lucas	Senior Planner Broome Co. Planning	Broome County	blucas@co.broome.ny.us
10	Stephanie Brewer	Planner	BC Planning	SDREWER@co.broome.ny.us
11	LEON SKINNER	EMERGENCY MANAGER	USACE	LEON.SKINNER@USACE.ARMY.MIL
12	Seth Lawler	Engineer	STARL II	slawler@derbury.com



FEMA

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



#	Name – PLEASE PRINT	Title	Organization/Town	E-Mail
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14	Bob Bennett	Dir of Public Services	V of J.C.	jcdops@villageofjc.com
15	Daria Golaz-aski	DEP codes and standards	Town of Union	dgolazaski@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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