

Introduction- Meeting Outreach

FEMA has funded the Discovery process for Menominee County, which will be managed by WDNR, a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP). The goal of Discovery is to work with local communities to better understand local flood risk, mitigation efforts, and initiate watershed-wide discussions about increasing resilience to flooding. This process is critical in determining the need for a new FEMA Risk MAP project within the watershed. The PreDiscovery Meeting purpose is to introduce everyone to FEMA’s Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (RiskMAP) program, discuss the project scope and timeline, and answer any questions there may be. The first outlook email invitation to the PreDiscovery meeting was sent out to affected stakeholders on December 1, 2025, and follow-up correspondence on January 15, 2026 provided a reminder of the meeting for stakeholders. A list of the attendees at the PreDiscovery meeting is included below.

Meeting Time and Location

Tuesday January 20, 2026, 1:00pm – 2:00pm via Zoom

PreDiscovery Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Risk MAP
- Explain the Role of Discovery
- Menominee County Project and Timeline
- Next Steps: Data Collection, Draft Discovery Report, Discovery Meeting
- Questions and Answers

Attendance

Community	Name	Title	Email Address
FEMA Region 5	Munib Ahmad	FEMA Region 5 Engineer	munib.ahmad@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region 5	Chad Lanctot	Region 5 Tribal Liaison and Risk MAP Outreach Specialist	chad.lanctot@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region 5	Troy Christensen	Region 5 Public Affairs Specialist & Regional Tribal Liaison	troy.christensen@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region 5	Cathy Bachhuber	Region 5 External Affairs Specialist Regional Tribal Liaison	cathy.bachhuber@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region 5	John Wethington	Region 5 Risk Analysis Branch Chief	john.wethington@fema.dhs.gov
WI-DNR	Chris Olds	State Floodplain Engineer	christopher.olds@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Ben Sanborn	CTP Coordinator	ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Zach Schaefer	Floodplain Mapping GIS Specialist/ Project Lead	Zachary.Schaefer@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Allison Kielar	Floodplain Mapping GIS Specialist	allison.kielar@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Bill Roznik	Floodplain Engineer	william.roznik@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Ryan Pichler	Regional Water Management Engineer	ryan.pichler@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Peter Strand	GIS Supervisor	

WEM	Chad Atkinson	Hazard Mitigation Supervisor	chad.atkinson@widma.gov
Menominee Nation	Ben Warrington	Emergency Management Coordinator & Menominee County Board Chair	bwarrington@mitw.org
Menominee Nation	Doug Cox	Land Management Director	dgcox@mitw.org
Menominee Nation	Paul Cegelski	Land Management GIS Coordinator	pcegelski@mitw.org
Menominee Nation	Chris Ascher	Environmental Program Coordinator	cascher@mitw.org
Menominee County	Jeremy Johnson	Zoning Administrator	JeremyJ@co.menominee.wi.us
East Central Regional Planning Commission	Melissa Kraemer Badtke	Executive Director	mbadtke@ecwrpc.org
East Central Regional Planning	Carmen Ebert	Senior Planner	cebert@ecwrpc.org
East Central Regional Planning	Mike Zuege	GIS Manager	mzuege@ecwrpc.org

Meeting Information

The purpose of this meeting was to inform communities of the Discovery process prior to the Discovery meeting that is being targeted for 2026. The PreDiscovery Meeting also provided attendees with an overview of Risk MAP and the potential project timeline.

After introductions of Wisconsin DNR and FEMA staff, Ben Sanborn provided a brief history of Risk MAP, how its tools and data can be used by the communities, and how it supports existing risk reduction efforts. Next, a brief summary of the NFIP was given with program goals and history explained. A timeline of a typical Risk MAP project process from the Discovery phase through Effective FIS and FIRM delivery was described, while most time was focused on details involving Discovery.

A map of the Menominee County planning area was displayed for all to examine and view the potential project. The remainder of the meeting was spent going over specifics of the Discovery process including but not limited to: Data Collection, Draft Discovery Report, and the upcoming Discovery Meeting. An emphasis was put on community involvement and potential data they could provide before or at the Discovery meeting. Examples of typical data types collected as well as mapping needs and areas of flooding concern were discussed.

A few follow up questions were asked by attendees following the conclusion of the meeting.

- Doug Cox, the Land Management Director for the Menominee Indian Tribe of WI, asked how Menominee County was selected for this Discovery study and pointed out that a previous flood study conducted by USACE had been done in the past but those FIRM maps were never accepted by FEMA.
 - Menominee County was selected as part of the FY24 federal funding cycle, and in part because there are currently no FIRM maps for Menominee County, to determine what flooding concerns exist in Menominee County, research those risks, and explore the needs of a future flood risk study.
 - WI DNR was not aware of a previous USACE flood study in Menominee County but expressed interest in learning more about the USACE study that was done to evaluate if it can be leveraged for a flood map.

- Ben Warrington, Emergency Management Director for the Menominee Indian Tribe of WI and Board Chair of Menominee County, requested a copy of the presentation slides and reiterated the need to discuss with tribal leadership to gain approval before going through the motions.
 - WI DNR confirmed presentation slides and a meeting summary will be posted to online, the location of which will be shared with meeting attendees. Informed attendees we are open to receiving questions and are there to help out the best we can.