January 29, 2026

Pierce County Map Update: Kickoff Meeting

FEMA

Zoom Meeting Housekeeping

- Please enter the organization you belong to in the group chat so that we have a record of all stakeholders who attended
- If you were not on the original invite and would like to keep updated, please also include your e-mail with your organization
- You are muted and video turned off upon entry
- If you wish to ask a question, Raise your hand or type it in chat

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- RiskMAP Overview
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Desired Input from Communities
- Project Timeline
- Project Scope
- Questions

Welcome & Introduction

Risk MAP Project Team, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

- G. Fritz Statz – Floodplain Mapping Project Lead
- Ben Sanborn – CTP Coordinator
- Chris Olds – State Floodplain Engineer
- Sarah Rafajko – State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator
- Jen Jefferson – Dam Safety/Floodplain Section Supervisor
- Ben Koch– Regional Water Management Engineer

Welcome & Introduction

FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Munib Ahmad – Region 5 Engineer
- John Wethington – Region 5 Branch Chief
- Eric Kuklewski – Region 5 Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief
- Diana Espino– Region 5 Floodplain Management Specialist
- Meghan Burrows – Region 5 Community Planner
- Chad Lanctot – Region 5 Tribal Liaison and Risk MAP Outreach Specialist

What is Risk MAP?

FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program involves collaboration with State, Local, and Tribal entities to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property

- Deliver quality data
- Increase public awareness of flood risk
- Encourage local/regional actions that reduce risk

Risk MAP Project Benefits

Flood risk products and flood hazard maps that are:

- Developed by FEMA in collaboration with communities
- Based on the best available data and latest technologies
- Conducted by watershed which provides a holistic view of a geographical area
- Strengthened by partnerships

Risk MAP tools and data can be used to:

- Create or improve your Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Make informed decisions about development, ordinances, and flood mitigation projects
- Communicate with citizens about flood risk

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

A voluntary program based on a mutual agreement between the Federal government and the local community:

- In exchange for adopting and enforcing floodplain management ordinances, Federally-backed flood insurance is made available to community property owners and disaster assistance

NFIP Goals:

- Reduce the loss of life and property caused by flooding
- Reduce rising disaster relief costs caused by flooding
- Maintain the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplains

NFIP Participating/ Non-Participating Communities

What kind of assistance or support would you benefit from related to the NFIP?

CID	Community	Initital FIRM	Current Effective Map Date
555543	BAY CITY, VILLAGE OF	07/31/1970	11/16/2011
550325	ELLSWORTH, VILLAGE OF	05/04/1989	11/16/2011
550326	ELMWOOD, VILLAGE OF	03/05/1990	11/16/2011
550327	MAIDEN ROCK, VILLAGE OF	09/30/1988	11/16/2011
555571	PIERCE COUNTY	07/18/1972	12/30/2020
550328	PLUM CITY, VILLAGE OF	01/03/1990	11/16/2011
555574	PRESCOTT, CITY OF	07/10/1971	11/16/2011
550330	RIVER FALLS, CITY OF	12/15/1982	11/16/2011
550331	SPRING VALLEY, VILLAGE OF	03/15/1984	12/30/2020

*Not participating in the NFIP

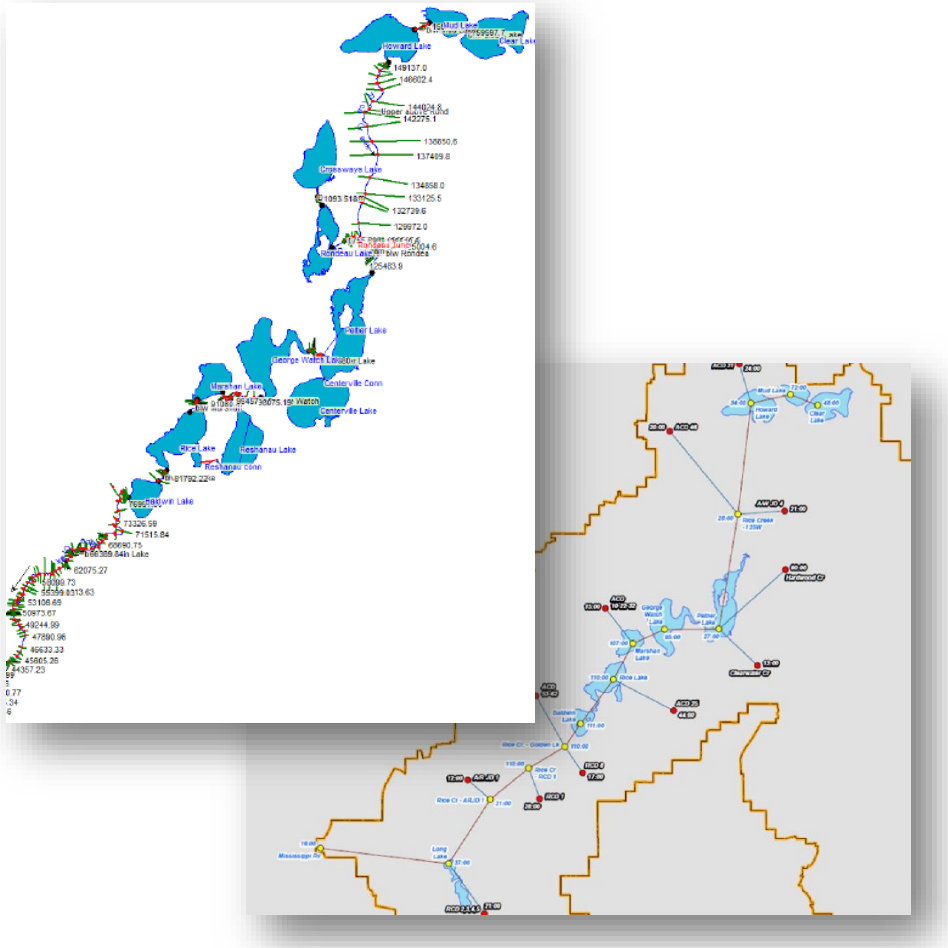
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

CID	Community	Policies in Force	Insurance in Force	Total Claims	Total Paid
555543	BAY CITY, VILLAGE OF	8	$1,269,000	11	$182,906
550325	ELLSWORTH, VILLAGE OF	N/A	$ 0	1	N/A
550326	ELMWOOD, VILLAGE OF	N/A	$0	N/A	N/A
550327	MAIDEN ROCK, VILLAGE OF	2	$214,000	N/A	N/A
555571	PIERCE COUNTY	18	$3,977,000	72	$2,780,473
550328	PLUM CITY, VILLAGE OF	4	$1,289,000	5	$14,242
555574	PRESCOTT, CITY OF	N/A	$ 0	34	$198,620
550330	RIVER FALLS, CITY OF	1	$140,000	2	$1,436
550331	SPRING VALLEY, VILLAGE OF	8	$1,270,000	4	$7,246

What data are we looking for from you?

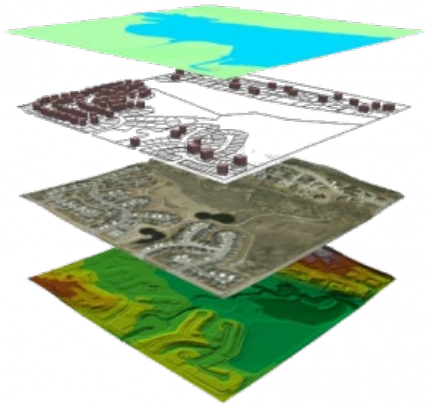
Existing Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies

- USACE, USGS, DOT, watershed districts, developers, communities?
- Study date
- Flooding source and location
- Contact Info: name and email
- Must be submitted by communities to FEMA for use in project



Leveraging Local Data

- Updated mapping or mitigation projects a high priority?
- Contributed to LiDAR data collection or have other data to leverage?
- Some data listed below – please provide contact info for GIS staff
- How data is used and leveraged in Risk MAP



Transportation Layers	Land Use Data
Political Boundaries	Essential Facility Data
Parcel Data	Ortho-photography
Building Footprints	Other
Inundation Areas from Historic Flooding	Wetlands or Environmentally Sensitive Area Data

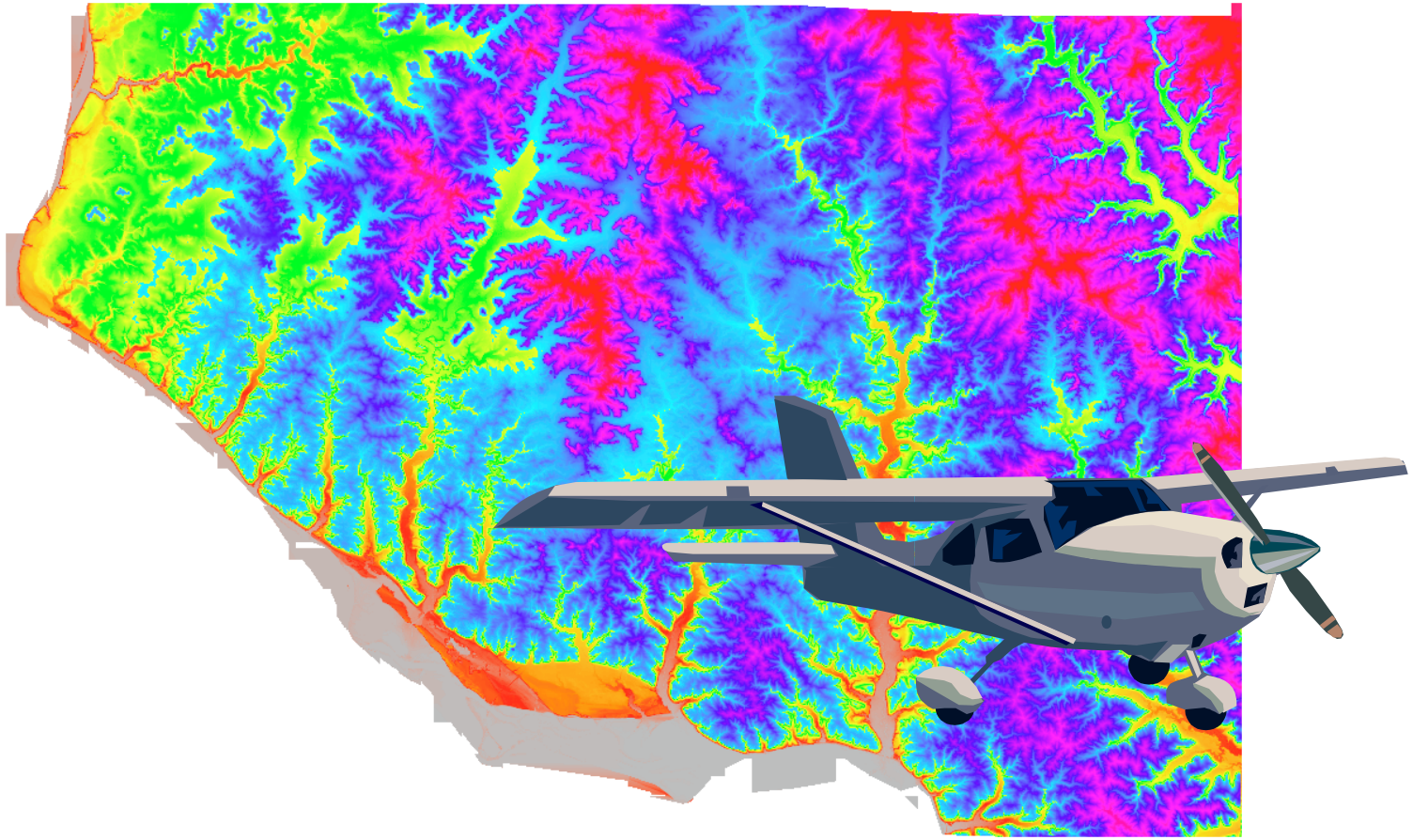
LiDAR – Topographic Data

Known Best Available Data:

- 2021 LiDAR ➔
- Digital Ortho Photo 2020

https://www.sco.wisc.edu/

Any additional efforts planned?



Countywide Map Update Timeline

Thursday, 01/29/2026: Kick-off Meeting

- Survey crews currently out gathering data

Flood Risk Review Meeting

- Hydraulic modeling completed; draft materials made digitally available
- Online floodplain ArcGIS viewer
- Non-regulatory products shared (Depth Grids, Water Surface Elevation Grids, Percent Annual Chance Grids)

Future efforts (*yet to be funded*) **would include preliminary and final countywide FIRMs and FIS report.**

Current Effective Floodplains

[FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL)](#) ➔

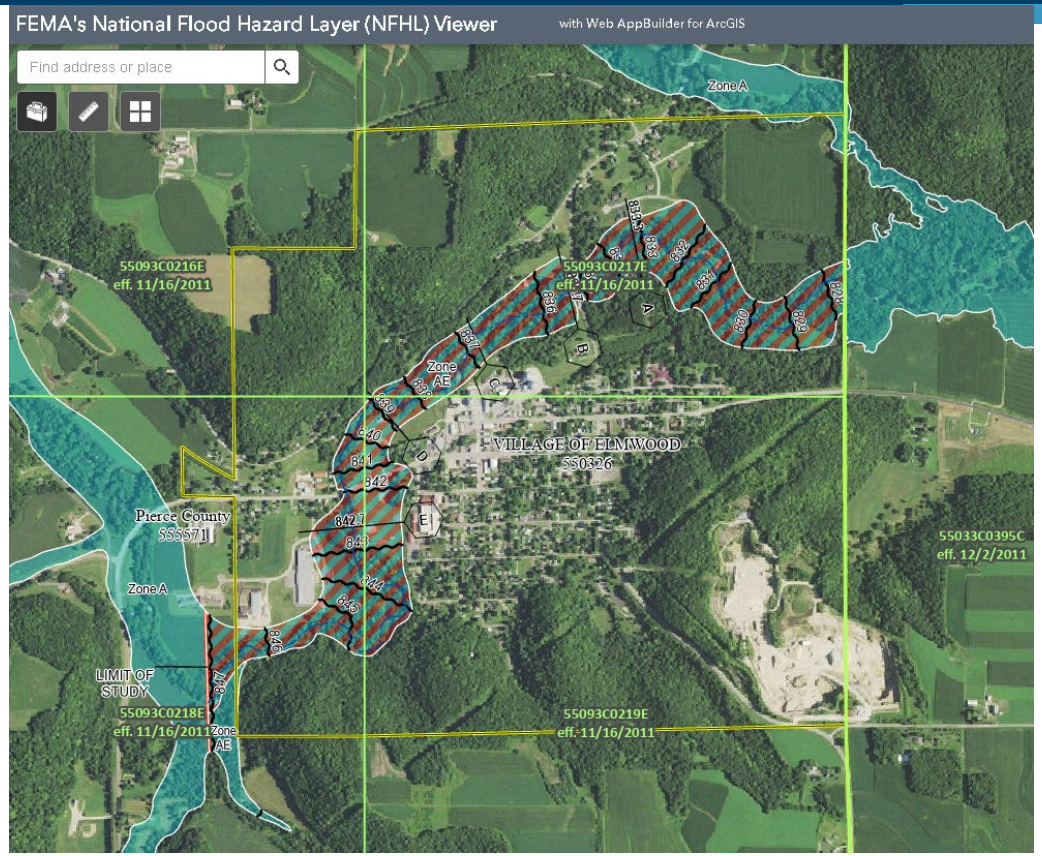
- View effective floodplain maps nationwide
- Can search by address

[FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#)

- View effective and historic mapping products nationwide
- Downloadable

[WI DNR Surface Water Data Viewer](#)

- View additional WDNR data layers and FEMA floodplains on the same viewer



Last countywide study 11/16/2011
Physical Map Revision 12/30/2020

How might the flood maps change?

Types of Restudy – Approximate Study

- Using a technique called Base Level Engineering (BLE)
- No published Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)
- No on-the-ground survey information
- If available, modeling uses structure data
- Improved quality from the older approximate zones

Zone A

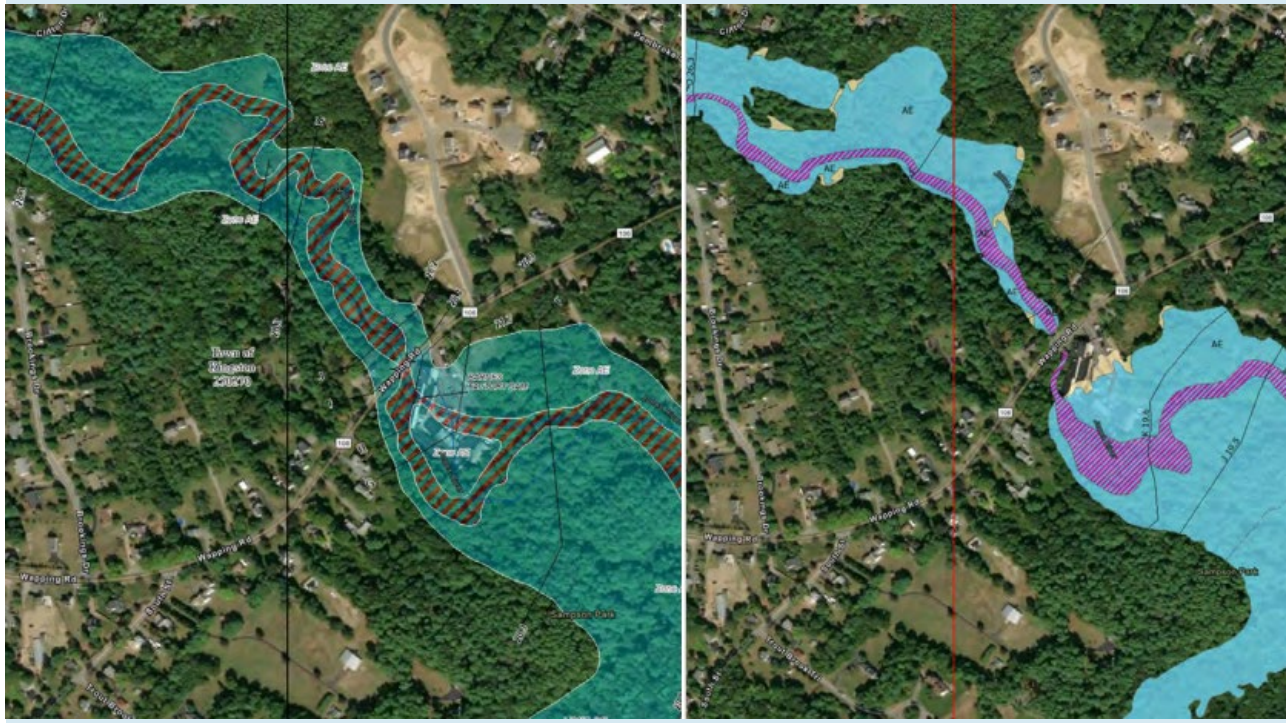
Types of Restudy – Redelineation

- Used when underlying flood data is still valid
- No new hydrology, hydraulics, or field survey data used
- No changes to Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) published on the maps
- Existing zones are remapped using most up to date elevation data (LiDAR)

Zone AE

Types of Restudy – New Detailed Study

- Most comprehensive study update
- All new hydrology, hydraulics, survey data, elevation data
- New Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) published on the maps



Zone AE

Countywide Map Update

Areas on the existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) will be updated.

Goals are to:

- Update 14 detailed studies (33.2 miles)
- Incorporate updated topographic (redelineate 6 detailed studies)
- Keep same level of detail in areas studied using approximate methods (Zone A) will remain A zones
    - Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), or the elevation to which floodwaters are anticipated to rise during a 1% annual chance flood, will not be published if not currently shown
- Share updated work map products digitally with communities at the draft phase

Studied Streams

Update Approximate (Zone A) Streams:361.7 miles

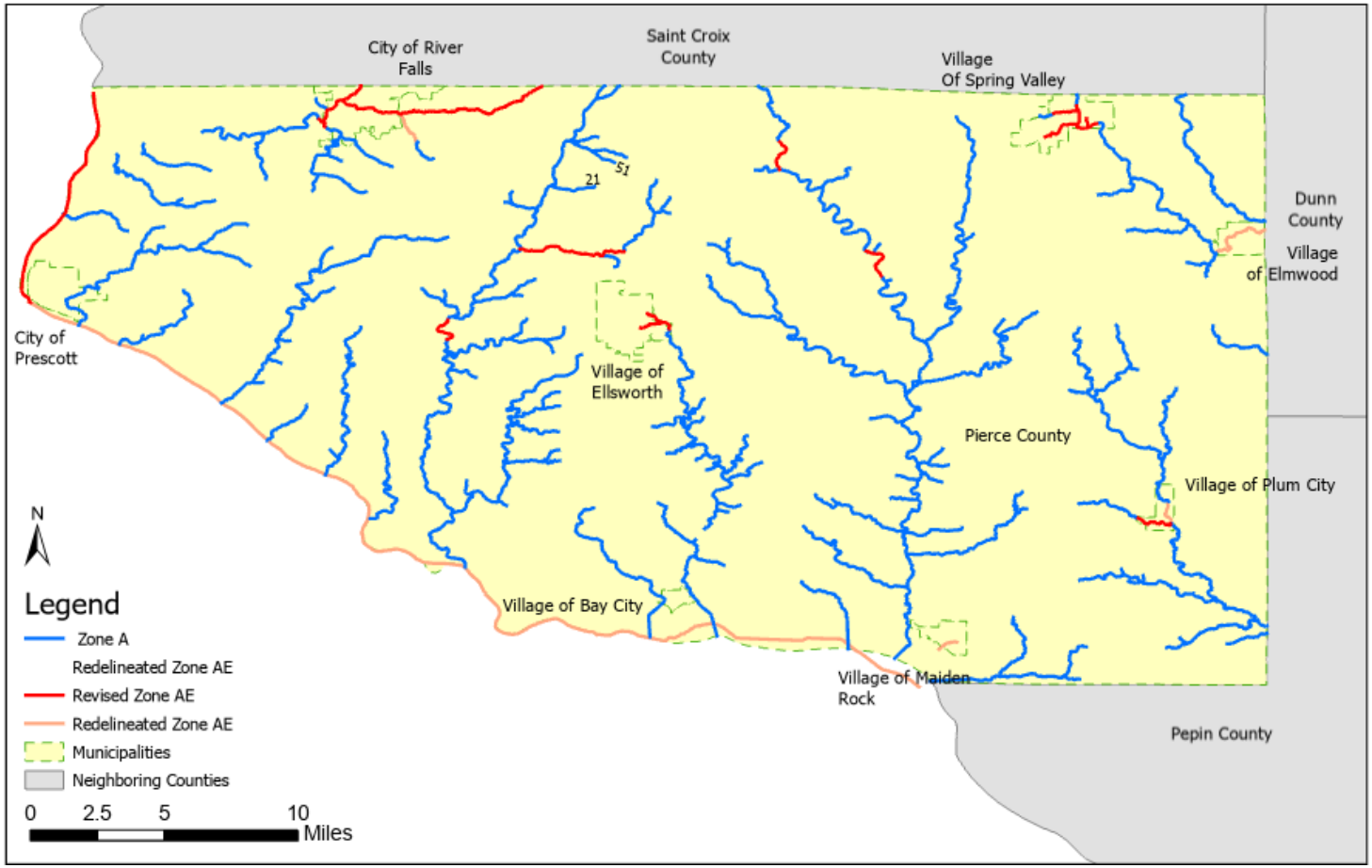
Updated Detailed (Zone AE) streams: 33.2 miles

- 14 Different Rivers and Streams

Re-delineated detailed (Zone AE) streams: 38.9 miles

- Bay City Creek, Eau Galle River, Mississippi River, Plum Creek, South Fork Kinnickinnic River Tributary 2, Unnamed Coulee

See the Engineering Summary Map and Table for more information

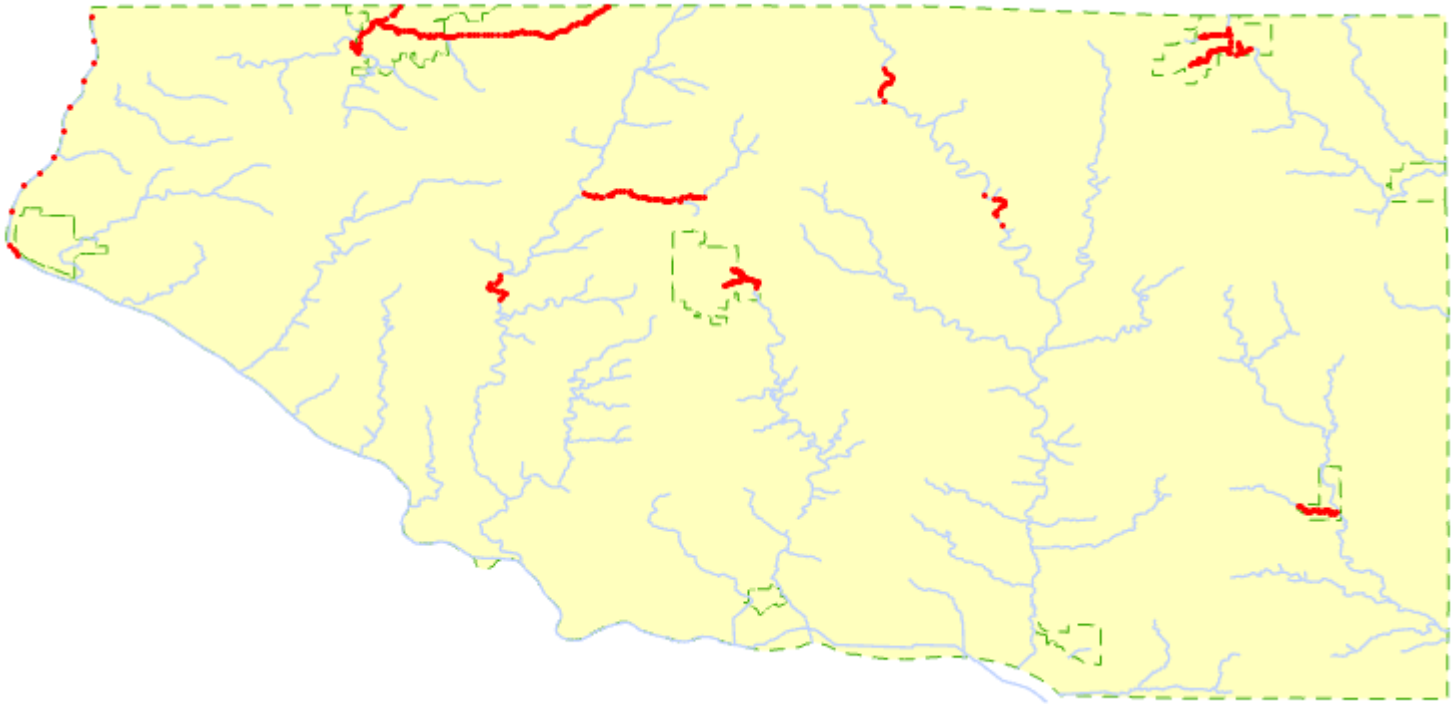


Survey

Survey crews are currently out gathering data at:

- 363 channel survey locations
- 72 structure survey locations

Survey is done for new detailed studies only.



Engineering Methods 30-day Comment Period

30-Day Engineering Models Notification Letter

Will be mailed sometime after today's meeting.

Letters include an Engineering Methods Summary Table and Scoped Stream Reaches Map.

Comment period ends 30 days after letter sent

Contact G. Fritz Statz for any questions or comments.

gordon.statz@wisconsin.gov

Hazard Mitigation Planning Status

How much were you involved with developing your current plan?

- Pierce County: Hazard Mitigation Plan 2024-2029

Do you desire support with planning in the future?

- FEMA, DNR, and WEM can help

What kind of technical assistance or support would you benefit from?

WI DNR Risk MAP Webpage

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/FloodPlains/RiskMap.html

Questions?

FEMA

Munib Ahmad, *Region 5 Civil Engineer*, Munib.Ahmad@fema.dhs.gov

Chad Lanctot, *Tribal Liaison and Risk MAP Outreach Specialist*, Chad.Lanctot@fema.dhs.gov

Meghan Burrows, *Region V Community Planner*, Meghan.Burrows@fema.dhs.gov

Diana Espino, *Floodplain Management Specialist*, Diana.L.Espino@fema.dhs.gov

Wisconsin DNR

G. Fritz Statz, Floodplain Mapping Project Lead, gordon.statz@wisconsin.gov

Ben Sanborn, *Floodplain Mapping Project Manager*, Ben.Sanborn@wisconsin.gov

Chris Olds*, State Floodplain Engineer,* Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov

Sarah Rafajko*, State NFIP Coordinator,* Sarah.Rafajko@wisconsin.gov

Ben Koch, *Water Management Engineer,* Ben.Koch@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Emergency Management

Chad Atkinson, *Hazard Mitigation Section Supervisor*, Chad.Atkinson@widma.gov

Heather Thole, *State Hazard Mitigation Officer*, Heather.Thole@widma.gov