

Summary – Polk County FRR meeting – June 24, 2026, In-person and on Zoom.

Introduction- Meeting Outreach

Calendar invitations were sent out May 26, 2026, via email to CEOs and ZAs. Additional reminder emails were sent. CEOs and Zoning Administrators were sent a digital copy of their invite when the hard copy was mailed on June 17, 2026. A list of the attendees is included below.

Both the calendar invitation and mailed invitation included a link to the Zoom meeting.

Meeting Time and Location

Polk County – Flood Risk Review meeting
100 Polk County Plaza
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810
East Conference Room (2nd floor)

And virtually through Zoom.

Project Staff Attending Meeting

FEMA Region V
Munib Ahmad
John Wethington
WI-DNR
Allison Kielar
Ben Sanborn
Chad Heimerl
Sarah Galster
Ben Koch
Chris Olds
Fritz Statz
Bill Roznik

Communities and Organizations Represented

Polk County
City of Amery
Village of Balsam Lake
Village of Milltown
City of St. Croix Falls
FEMA
WI-DNR

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Attendance

Community	First Name	Last Name	Title	Email Address	Phone #
Polk County	Brad	Runeberg	County GIS Coordinator	Brad.runberg@polkcountywi.gov	(715) 485 9256
Polk County	Logan	Hacker	County Zoning Administrator	Logan.hacker@polkcountywi.gov	(715) 485 9248
Polk County	Emil	Norby	County Administrator	Emil.norby@polkcountywi.gov	(715) 485 9286
Polk County	Ed	Flanum	County Surveyor	Edwin.flonum@copolk.wi.us	(715) 222 1237
Polk County	Eric	Wojchik	County Conservationist	ericwojchik@polkcountywi.gov	(715) 485 8644
City of St. Croix Falls	Shannon	Donaghue	Mayor		(715) 808 1017
Village of Milltown	Jeff	Erickson	Board Member		
City of Amery	Alex	Mansfield	City Administrator		
Village of Balsam Lake	Amy	Wilson	Clerk/Treasurer		
FEMA	John	Wethington	Region V Community Planner	John.wethington@fema.dhs.gov	(312) 408 5485
FEMA	Munib	Ahmad	Region V Engineer	munib.ahmad@fema.dhs.gov	(202) 702-9043
WI-DNR	Allison	Kielar	Floodplain Mapping Project Lead	Allison.kielar@wisconsin.gov	(608) 235-8115
WI-DNR	Ben	Sanborn	Floodplain Mapping Program Manager/CTP Coordinator	Ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov	(608) 445-7417
WI-DNR	Ben	Koch	Regional Water Management Engineer	ben.koch@wisconsin.gov	(715) 894-9150
WI-DNR	Chad	Heimerl	Floodplain Engineer	Chad.heimerl@wisconsin.gov	(608) 576-2811
WI-DNR	Chris	Olds	State Floodplain Engineer	Christopher.olds@wisconsin.gov	(608) 422-0410
WI-DNR	Gordon "Fritz"	Statz	Floodplain Mapping Project Lead	Gordon.Statz@wisconsin.gov	(608) 220-4290
WI-DNR	Bill	Roznik	Floodplain Engineer	William.roznik@wisconsin.gov	
WI-DNR	Zach	Schaefer	GIS Project Lead	Zachery.schaefer@wisconsin.gov	608 228 8439

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions: Fritz Statz

Flood Risk Review

Project Overview: Fritz Statz

Engineering Methods: Chad Heimerl

Upcoming Mapping Schedule: Fritz Statz

NFIP Overview: Sarah Galster

Questions and Viewing Draft Data: Fritz Statz/Ben Sanborn/Chad Heimerl

Meeting Information

The attendees were welcomed to the Polk County FRR meeting which consisted of discussing the Draft data, NFIP, a project overview, and covering next steps in the project. Introductions were made, the meeting materials were presented, and there were questions accepted throughout the presentation. There were representatives from FEMA, WI-DNR, Polk County, City of Amery, Village of Balsam Lake, City of St. Croix Falls, and the Village of Milltown.

Fritz Statz started out with a few housekeeping items for the virtual meeting and then introduced state and FEMA staff. Then covered an overview of RiskMAP and the project history to date. Fritz also discussed the new draft data. Chad Heimerl discussed the engineering methods used. Sarah Galster then covered the part of the presentation related to the NFIP and flood insurance. There was time at the end for questions.

Q: Is there an estimate for when these maps will reach effective status?

A: Barring any future project delays, these maps should become effective sometime in early 2028 (approximately 1.5 years from now). An updated estimate will be provided once the preliminary mapping phase is completed.

Q: Did this project use the LiDAR that was flown in 2022.

A: No, this project used the 2015 Polk County LiDAR, which is the same quality level 2 product as the 2022 LiDAR. The hydraulic modeling and floodplain mapping for this project was wrapping up around the time the 2022 LiDAR became available. WI DNR performed an assessment of the differences between both datasets and found them to be very similar. A floodplain boundary standards check was also performed using both terrain sources, which yielded comparable passing results.

Q: What are the “limit lines” displayed in the Polk Draft Floodplain Mapping viewer?

A: These limit of study lines represent the end of the FEMA flood study. Floodplain mapping terminates at this location, even if the flooding source extends further.

Q: What is the source of the transportation data being used? Is it using Polk County GIS street centerlines?

A: Draft transportation linework and labeling was downloaded from the Open Street Map database. This

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transportation layer will be updated with the Polk County GIS street centerlines during the preliminary mapping process.

Q: How are LOMCs being handled?

A: All LOMCs will be reviewed during the upcoming preliminary stage. A new Summary of Map Actions document with LOMC classifications for each community will be created as part of preliminary products. The LOMCs will also be reviewed again during the final mapping phase. All LOMCs that are revalidated will be part of a letter mailed just prior to the effective date.