

### Introduction- Meeting Outreach

Invitations were mailed out to all affected community CEOs and Zoning Administrators on February 13, 2025. The first outlook email invitation to the CCO meeting was sent out to affected stakeholders on February 7, 2025, and follow-up correspondence included the Open House flyer and news release to promote public attendance. A list of the attendees at the CCO meeting is included below.

The preliminary FIRMs and FIS were made available at the meeting along with sharing additional online sources for the preliminary data on the FEMA Map Service Center (MSC) and FEMA Flood Map Changes Viewer.

### Meeting Time and Location

Tuesday March 18, 2025, 1:00pm – 2:30pm via Zoom and Viola Municipal Office, 106 W. Wisconsin Street, Viola, WI 54664.

### CCO Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- RiskMAP Overview and Project History
- Floodplain Engineering
- NFIP and Floodplain Management Overview
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Preliminary Products Review (LOMCs/SOMAs)
- Next Steps/Map Adoption
- Questions

### Attendance

Community	Name	Title	Email Address
FEMA Region V	Munib Ahmad	FEMA Region V Engineer	<a href="mailto:munib.ahmad@fema.dhs.gov">munib.ahmad@fema.dhs.gov</a>
FEMA Region V	Gabriel Jackson	FEMA Region V Senior NFIP Specialist	<a href="mailto:Gabriel.jackson@fema.dhs.gov">Gabriel.jackson@fema.dhs.gov</a>
FEMA Region V	Chad Lanctot	Tribal Liaison and RiskMAP Outreach Specialist	<a href="mailto:chad.lanctot@fema.dhs.gov">chad.lanctot@fema.dhs.gov</a>
WI-DNR	Chris Olds	State Floodplain Engineer	<a href="mailto:Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov">Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov</a>
WI-DNR	Ben Sanborn	CTP Coordinator/ Project Lead	<a href="mailto:ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov">ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov</a>
WI-DNR	Sarah Rafajko	State NFIP Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sarah.rafajko@wisconsin.gov">sarah.rafajko@wisconsin.gov</a>
WI-DNR	Allison Kielar	Floodplain Mapping GIS Specialist	<a href="mailto:allison.kielar@wisconsin.gov">allison.kielar@wisconsin.gov</a>
WI-DNR	G. Fritz Statz	Floodplain Mapping GIS Specialist	<a href="mailto:Gordon.Statz@wisconsin.gov">Gordon.Statz@wisconsin.gov</a>
WEM	Heather Thole	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	<a href="mailto:heather.thole@widma.gov">heather.thole@widma.gov</a>
WEM	Darin Gudgeon	SW Region Director	<a href="mailto:Darin.Gudgeon@widma.gov">Darin.Gudgeon@widma.gov</a>
Richland County	John T. Heinen	Emergency Management Coordinator	<a href="mailto:john.heinen@co.richland.wi.us">john.heinen@co.richland.wi.us</a>

Richland County	Cathy Cooper	Richland County Land Conservation and Zoning	<a href="mailto:cathy.cooper@co.richland.wi.us">cathy.cooper@co.richland.wi.us</a>
Richland County	Derrick Warner	Richland County Land and Water Technician	<a href="mailto:derrick.warner@co.richland.wi.us">derrick.warner@co.richland.wi.us</a>
Richland County	Jenny Fry	Zoning Technician	<a href="mailto:Jenn.fry@co.richland.wi.us">Jenn.fry@co.richland.wi.us</a>
Village of Viola	Bonnie Sherman	Epitaph-News	<a href="mailto:epitaphnewspaper@gmail.com">epitaphnewspaper@gmail.com</a>
Village of Viola	James Twomey	Floodplain Zoning Administrator	<a href="mailto:jetwomey@aol.com">jetwomey@aol.com</a>
Village of Viola	Chris Peterson	Trustee	N/A
Village of Viola	Jeff Liska	Department of Public Works Utility Manager	<a href="mailto:violaelectricutility@gmail.com">violaelectricutility@gmail.com</a>
Village of Viola	Craig Kreger	Village Employee	<a href="mailto:ckreger@mwt.net">ckreger@mwt.net</a>
Village of Viola	Daren Matthes	Village President	N/A
Village of Viola	Dana George	Clerk	<a href="mailto:violaclerk@vi.viola.wi.gov">violaclerk@vi.viola.wi.gov</a>
Town of Forest	John Matthes	Town of Forest Chair	<a href="mailto:jjmatthes@mwt.net">jjmatthes@mwt.net</a>

### Meeting Information

The CCO Meeting presented preliminary mapping data to local officials and reviewed the engineering methods used for the Richland County portion of the Kickapoo River Watershed Risk MAP study. There were also presentations on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Hazard Mitigation. Representatives from Richland County, Village of Viola, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), FEMA, and WDNR attended the meeting.

### Meeting Goals and Overview of Project

Ben Sanborn started out with introductions and a summary of meeting topics. A brief overview of Risk MAP, past project meetings, and the revised study area were provided. State Floodplain Engineer, Chris Olds, discussed the engineering methods used for the proposed floodplains and data included in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

Sarah Rafajko provided information on the NFIP, such as program goals, basic regulations, differences between flood insurance and disaster assistance, limits of coverage, and risk rating 2.0. Sarah also provided answers to specific insurance questions attendees asked.

Next, Heather Thole gave a presentation on the importance of hazard mitigation. Some of the topics covered were the value of mitigation, examples of mitigation, and mitigation assistance grant funding.

Ben followed up with information about the Richland County preliminary products that were made available on January 31, 2025. He explained how to read a FIRM panel and what the floodplain symbology represented, as well as which community received a Summary of Map Actions (SOMA) documenting previous Letters of Map Change (LOMC) that would be either superseded, incorporated, or revalidated. The next steps leading up to the final map adoption were discussed, including the due process phase, letter of final determination (LFD), 6-month ordinance adoption window, and effective map status. Ben went into further detail on the due process phase, what is considered a comment or appeal, the publications in the federal register and local newspaper, and appeal start letters. Further information was discussed regarding the letter of final determination, how it establishes what the

effective date of the new FIS and FIRMs will be, how it serves as a formal notification to communities of the need to update their floodplain management regulations by the effective date, and additional reminder letters that may be sent.

To conclude the presentation, several additional resources were shared and are also listed below.

- [FEMA Flood Map Changes Viewer](#): An ArcGIS app to view the preliminary data and how it has changed since the effective study.
- [FEMA Preliminary Products Download](#): Download preliminary FIRMs, FIS, and/or GIS data.
- [DNR Floodplains](#): Click the Active RiskMAP projects link to view the Richland County project information, or search “Model Ordinance” for assistance with local floodplain ordinance updates.

## Comments/Questions

Questions asked:

- How is the floodplain determined?
  - There are several different data inputs that are used to create the floodplains shown on the FIRMs. Some of the inputs used in the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses may include stream gage flows, rainfall data, surface roughness, survey data (detailed studies) and bare earth terrain. The areas that are designated as floodway will carry moving water during the 1% annual chance flood. It’s also important to remember that flooding can happen outside of the 1% and 0.2% floodplain boundaries.
- Is water damage from flash flood events or groundwater incursion insurable?
  - Groundwater intrusion is not something you can file a flood insurance claim for, unless it is tied to a verifiable surface water flood event that affects two or more properties or two or more acres.
- What is the Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) flood insurance coverage, offered by the NFIP?
  - This coverage can provide an additional maximum of \$30,000 to bring a flood damaged property into compliance with local floodplain management ordinances.
- Have any of the hazard mitigation grants been frozen or may be subject to future freezes?
  - These grants haven’t currently been frozen.