

RICHLAND COUNTY, WI FLOOD MAP OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 18, 2025 - SUMMARY REPORT

OVERVIEW

Attendance	
Number of Attendees	1
Number of Communities	1

Overall Sentiment		
Displeased/Contentious	Neutral	Pleased

Viola is a multi-county community located in Richland and Vernon counties with population of around 400 residents within Richland County. Although there was great participation at the CCO meeting earlier in the day, the public open house was lightly attended. There were increases to both the overall SFHA and floodway in Viola, as flood elevations had increased with the revised study.

An individual who is a real estate agent and lifelong resident of Viola attended the open house. This individual stated they had interest in how some specific properties were affected by the preliminary map changes. WDNR staff answered this attendee’s questions and explained the changes since last FIRM.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Questions were asked about how the flood study was performed, and how it relates to past major flooding events. WDNR staff explained some of the basic hydrologic and hydraulic modeling techniques and how they are used to determine flows and new flood elevations. Information was also provided on the updated topographic data used to delineate the revised floodplain boundaries. It was explained that the maps will not be an exact replica of past flooding events in the area but will represent the 1% annual chance floodplain.
- There were questions about the next steps leading up to these maps reaching effective status. Staff explained the upcoming due process phase and the opportunity for comments and appeals, as well as an approximation of when the FIRMs and FIS could reach LFD and effective status.
- WDNR brought multiple handouts relating to the LOMA process, flood insurance, the risks associated with flooding, etc. that attendees could refer to following the open house.

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The details of the open house were shared with all Viola and Richland County local officials in an Outlook meeting invite sent out in February, as well as the invite letters that were mailed to CEOs and zoning administrators. The open house flyer and news release were shared with invitees to help promote attendance.

The local Epitaph Newspaper in Viola also received notification of the open house and had a representative at the CCO meeting earlier in the day.

PHOTOS



- Two full sets of printed panels were brought to the open house
- Staff used GIS software to aid in providing information as to what changes exist between the preliminary and current effective mapping