Trempealeau Watershed Discovery Kickoff Meeting

August 15th, 2024

Zoom Meeting broadcast from Madison, WI DNR GEF2 office

Introduction

FEMA has funded the Discovery process for the Trempealeau Watershed, 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 Kickoff 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.

Meeting Time and Location

Zoom meeting which was broadcast from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources GEF2 office building in Madison, WI on August 15, 2024 from 1:00 – 2:00pm CST.

Agenda

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

Attendance

Community	Name	Title	Email Address
FEMA Region V	Munib Ahmad	FEMA Region V Engineer	munib.ahmad@fema.dhs.gov
FEMA Region V	Gabriel Jackson	FEMA Region V Senior	Gabriel.jackson@fema.dhs.gov
		NFIP Specialist	
WI-DNR	Chris Olds	State Floodplain Engineer	Christopher.Olds@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Ben Sanborn	Project Lead/GIS	ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov
		Specialist	
WI-DNR	Sarah Rafajko	State NFIP Coodinator	sarah.rafajko@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Allison Kieler	Floodplain Mapping GIS	allison.kielar@wisconsin.gov
		Lead	
WI-DNR	Chad Heimerl	Floodplain Engineer	Chad.Heimerl@wisconsin.gov
WI-DNR	Ben Sanborn	Floodplain Mapping	ben.sanborn@wisconsin.gov
		Project Lead	
WI-DNR	Ryan Jarvis	Water Management	ryanm.jarvis@wisconsin.gov
		Engineer	
WEM	Chad Atkinson	Supervisor Mitigation	Chad.atkinson@wisconsin.gov
		Section	

Mississippi River Regional	Multiple participants	Multiple participants	jon@mrrpc.com
Planning Commission			jack@mrrpc.com
City of Arcadia	Angela Berg	Clerk-Treasurer	
Buffalo County	Cale Severson	Land Management	cale.severson@buffalocountywi.gov
		Director	
Jackson County	Jonathan Hemp	Zoning Administrator	Jonathan.Hemp@Jacksoncountywi.gov
Village of Taylor	Joe Kniseley	Village President	joeteresakniseley@gmail.com
City of Independence	Tiffany Bautch	City Clerk	cityclerk@independence.wi.gov

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 Spring of 2025. The Kickoff 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 Trempealeau Watershed 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.

There were no follow-up questions asked after the presentation concluded. Wisconsin DNR informed all stakeholders they are free to reach out with questions at any time and they will be kept informed of project updates.