



**Meeting Minutes from Finger Lakes Pre-Discovery Webinar**

Held on Tuesday March 4, 2014 at 1pm EST

**Attendees:**

- Kelli Higgins-Roche, NYS DEC
- Cidney Jones, Bergmann Associates
- Cleighton Smith, Bergmann Associates
- Jacob Tysz, Atkins
- Kristin VanHorn, Schuyler County
- Randy Rappeleye, Town of Hector, Schuyler County
- Ben Dickens, , Town of Hector, Schuyler County
- Jerry Verrigni, Schuyler County SWCD
  - Elaine joined Mr. Verrigni on the call.
- Harriet Haynes, Seneca County
  - Representatives from Town of Fayette, Town of Waterloo, County Emergency Management, and County Soil and Water joined Ms. Haynes in a conference room.
- Dave Fitzgerald, Town of Fayette, Seneca County
- Janet Thigpen, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning Council
- Laura Ortiz, USACE Buffalo
- Allison Hunt, Congressman Reed's Office

**Meeting Notes:**

As participants logged on, Cidney Jones checked that lines of communication were open between participants.

The presentation began at 1:05pm EST

Kelli Higgins-Roche and Cleighton Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics:

- Welcome to the Pre-Discovery Webinar
- Description of who is involved with the project
- Purpose of this meeting
- Overview of FEMA's RiskMAP program and the Discovery Process
  - Discovery is an interactive process to gain your input into the needs and issues in your community and will not result in new FIRM maps for every community. Discovery informs future decisions regarding updating FIRM maps.
- Description of Discovery Report and Discovery Map to be produced by the Discovery Process
- Overview of the Finger Lakes Watershed
  - 14 counties and over 175 communities with many FIRM maps out of date

Cidney Jones launched GIS to record specific areas of concern for Discovery Mapping. Issues raised during this webinar that reflect inaccurate FIRM maps for the communities present include:

- In Seneca County
  - Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake need further study, the water levels are higher now than when the FIRM maps were made.
  - Flooding near Seneca Lake affects multiple houses on Seneca Lake in the town of Seneca Falls.



- The Town of Romulus in Seneca County only has the old HVM emergency maps and needs new flood mapping. No flood elevations for the community.
- The Town of Junius and the villages of Ovid and Interlaken have no flood mapping.
- In the Town of Hector, Schuyler County
  - The flood mapping is from 1984 and is outdated.
  - Hector Falls Creek frequently floods just east of the village of Burdett.
  - The town boundary line shown during the presentation was incorrect. The town line extends to the western shore of Seneca Lake.
- In Schuyler County
  - Catherine Creek, which may be outside of the Finger Lakes Watershed, is noted as having flooding issues. GIS files are available from Jerry Verrigni at Schuyler County SWCD.
  - There are three dams on Glen Creek in the Town of Dix, near Watkins Glen, built after 1935 floods that are full of sediment.
  - The Town of Reading in Seneca County has no flood hazard maps.
  - The rural areas of the county have old, paper flood maps that are difficult to use and many of the streams have migrated making the maps outdated. This includes the towns of Dix, Catherine, Montour and Hector.
  - There are flood control levees in the village of Montour Falls.

Kelli Higgins-Roche and Cleighton Smith finished the presentation with the project schedule:

- In-person meetings will take place in April – June
- Final Discovery Report and Maps will be finished in September 2014

**Questions raised by the participants:**

- **Q:** There are multiple communities in Seneca County without flood maps that are not participating in NFIP, can communities without flood maps participate in NFIP?
  - **A:** Communities can join NFIP even if they do not currently have flood maps.
- **Q:** What is the decision process for mapping needs? Specifically how does FEMA use CNMS and Discovery to evaluate needs?
  - **A:** The CNMS database and Discovery Report compiles all relevant information for flood mapping, validity of current maps, and the DEC will create a list of areas for FEMA that are higher priority for map updates. FEMA makes the ultimate decision on who gets new flood mapping.
- **Q:** Congressman Reed's office asked that they be kept in the loop for the Discovery Process.

**Action Items:**

- For NYS DEC and Bergmann Associates:
  - Distribute meeting minutes
  - Update contact list to include all stakeholders
- For the community leaders:
  - Please fill out the Finger Lakes Discovery Questionnaire if you have not already.
  - Help DEC determine meeting dates and locations for the upcoming Discovery Meetings
  - Watch your e-mail for further project updates and invitations to the in-person meetings.