



Meeting Minutes from Finger Lakes Pre-Discovery Webinar

Held on Wednesday March 5, 2014 at 3pm EST

Attendees:

- Jennifer Horton, NYS DEC
- Kelli Higgins-Roche, NYS DEC
- Cidney Jones, Bergmann Associates
- Cleighton Smith, Bergmann Associates
- Jacob Tysz, Atkins
- Scott Doyle, Tompkins County
- Jon Negley, Tompkins County Soil and Water
- Dave Sprout, Town of Dryden, Tompkins County
- Roxanna Johnston, City of Ithaca, Tompkins County
- Creig Hebden, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County
- Marty Mooseley, Village of Lansing, Tompkins County
- Kevin Pagini, Cortland County
- Jared Popoli, Cortland County
- 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 3:05pm EST

Jennifer Horton 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 - 14 counties and over 175 communities with many FIRM maps out of date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:

- The Tompkins county stormwater coalition should be included on the stakeholder list.
- Cayuga Lake Watershed network should also be added to the stakeholder list.
- Areas of concern in Tompkins County include
 - The hamlet of Ludlowville in the Town of Lansing significant project an area with decent amount of tributary flooding.
 - The Owasco inlet in the Village of Groton has seen significant flooding.
 - Six Mile Creek, particularly in the Town of Caroline, is a very flashy system with flooding problems and is the water supply for Ithaca.



- Virgil Creek and Fall Creek are very active creeks that cause flooding in multiple municipalities.
- In the Town of Ithaca
 - There have been multiple LOMC for new homes built on Cayuga Lake.
- In the City of Ithaca
 - There is flooding on the Cayuga inlet due to deferred dredging. Six Mile Creek is going to be dredged this summer.
 - Ice jams are a concern in Cascadilla Creek and Fall Creek.
- In the Town of Dryden
 - The FIRM maps are from 1988.
 - The villages of Freeville and Dryden are areas of significant flood concern.
 - Recently updated the hazard mitigation plan.
- In Cortland County the flooding issues may not be in the Finger lakes Watershed but areas of concern include
 - Bridge scour in the City of Cortland
 - The Gridley Creek in the Town of Virgil is an area of concern from bridge scour during high flood events.

Jennifer Horton 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:** How are ice jams taken into account on the FEMA maps?
 - **A:** Generally, analysis are performed assuming bridge and culvert openings are clear but special maps or notes have been made related to areas of concern due to ice jams.
- **Q:** How do the maps address lake level flooding?
 - **A:** The floodplains for the Finger Lakes are just as important as the floodplains for rivers and creek so we are collecting information on any inaccuracies of the reported flood water levels for the Finger Lakes.

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.