

# Discovery Report Appendix M

## Community Requests and Floodplain Mapping Priorities Summary Memorandum

### Lake Champlain Watershed HUC 04150408

*September 2016*



**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
**Department of Homeland Security**  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Andrew Martin, FEMA Region II  
From: NYSDEC Floodplain Management Section  
Date: September 12, 2016  
Re: Lake Champlain Watershed Prioritized Mapping Requests

Two initial pre-Discovery community engagement meetings were held for all stakeholders within the Lake Champlain Watershed via webinar the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The purpose of these initial webinars was to introduce stakeholders to the Discovery project concepts and discuss upcoming timelines for future meetings that should be attended. Participation in the webinars was mixed with some stakeholders very interested in providing feedback and others more interested in learning about the process.

Following the pre-Discovery community engagement meetings, the project team held four Discovery meetings for stakeholders within the Lake Champlain Watershed during the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Clinton County Discovery meeting was held the afternoon of June 7<sup>th</sup>; the Essex County Discovery meeting was held the morning of June 8<sup>th</sup>; the Warren County Discovery meeting was held the afternoon of June 8<sup>th</sup>; and the Washington County Discovery meeting, for both the Lake Champlain and Mettawee River Watersheds, was held the morning of June 9<sup>th</sup>. During these meetings the project team followed up on the information collected during the pre-Discovery webinars, discussed the Discovery process, collected information on community mapping needs, as well as determined if any existing data could be incorporated into a possible Risk MAP project. The project team used the information collected throughout the Discovery process to develop this list of floodplain study priorities. All study requests will be entered into FEMA's Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) database to be considered for future floodplain mapping projects.

### List of Detailed Study Priorities for the Lake Champlain Watershed:

1. Lake Champlain needs an updated detailed lake study for its entire length. Clinton County indicates there is significant development along the shoreline while the Village of Port Henry, Town of Ticonderoga, Town of Westport, and Village of Whitehall all feel the floodplain boundaries are inaccurate and are not supported by the topography. This study was requested by the Towns of Ticonderoga and Westport, and the Village of Port Henry in Essex County, the Village of Whitehall in Washington County, and by Clinton County.
2. Lake George needs an updated detailed lake study for its entire length. The Towns of Ticonderoga and Lake George both indicated there are a number of lake shore properties that frequently flood and the Town of Hague indicated the floodplain boundary is inaccurate due to the amount of Letter of Map Change (LOMC) activity in the area. This study was requested by the Town of Ticonderoga in Essex County and the Towns of Hague and Lake George in Warren County.
3. Great Chazy River should have an updated detailed study for its entire length of 47.3 miles within Clinton County. The river has changed course in several locations, including along Joe

Wood Road in the Town of Altona, and several structures, such as dams, have been removed. The Town of Altona also indicated that the floodplain boundaries are not accurate for a four mile stretch between the downstream Town of Altona corporate limits and Miner Lake, in particular along Woodsfalls Road. This study was requested by both the Town of Altona in Clinton County, and Clinton County.

4. Spruce Mill Brook needs a new detailed study from the confluence with the North Branch Boquet River to its headwaters in the Town of Lewis, Essex County, for a total distance of 16.3 miles. A new study is needed due to repetitive spring flooding which most recently washed out three bridges. This study was requested by the Town of Lewis in Essex County and by Essex County.
5. Halfway Brook should be studied using detailed methods from the eastern Town of Queensbury corporate limits to a point 12.75 miles upstream. The lower 7.92 miles was requested due to repeated flooding and inaccurate floodplain boundaries. Stakeholders indicated that locations with the same elevation are shown as within the floodplain in some areas and outside the floodplain in others. The upper reach, which extends from just upstream of I-87 to Wilke Intake Reservoir 4.85 miles upstream, is currently either an approximate study or entirely unstudied. There is development pressure in the area and it would be helpful to have Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) established. This study was requested by both the Town of Queensbury in Warren County, as well as Warren County.
6. A new detailed study of Hadlock Pond in the Town of Fort Ann is needed. The construction of a new dam as a result of the previous dam failure has changed the lake elevations. This study was requested by the Town of Fort Ann, Washington County.
7. Mettawee River should be an upgraded detailed study for its entire length within the Town and Village of Granville and the Town of Whitehall for a distance of 20.5 miles. The effective approximate studies are out of date and do not reflect existing risk to the development in the area. Both the Town of Whitehall and Village of Granville indicated the floodplain boundaries are inaccurate and updated topography is needed. Washington County stated a detailed study is warranted due to the past flooding events along this river reach. This study was requested by the Towns of Granville and Whitehall and the Village of Granville in Washington County, as well as Washington County.
8. Mill Brook needs a detailed study from its confluence with Lake Champlain to Ensign Pond in the Town of Moriah for a distance of 10.85 miles. The stream frequently floods and causes damages to both structures and bridges. This study was requested by the Town of Moriah and the Village of Port Henry, both in Essex County, as well as Essex County.
9. Trout Brook requires a new detailed study from its confluence with the La Chute River in the Town of Ticonderoga in Essex County to a point 2,400 feet upstream of New Hague Road in the Town of Hague in Warren County for a distance of 14.82 miles. This stream reach is prone to flooding which has damaged structures. This study was requested by the Town of Ticonderoga and both Essex and Warren Counties.
10. Little Chazy River needs a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake Champlain to its upstream corporate limits in the Town of Altona for a distance of 21.6 miles. This study was requested by Clinton County.
11. Furnace Brook needs a new detailed study from the downstream corporate limits through the Peru Water Supply Dam Lake for a total distance of 2.4 miles. This stream reach has

previously flooded and there is a significant rebuilding effort since Hurricane Irene. This study was requested by the Town of Peru in Clinton County.

12. Prospect Mountain Brook should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Lake George to the state land near the I-87 crossing for approximately 0.5 mile. There is development along this currently unstudied stream reach in the Village of Lake George. This study was requested by both the Village of Lake George in Warren County, and Warren County.
13. English Brook should be studied using detailed methods for its entire length within both the Town and Village of Lake George for a total distance of 5.25 miles. This stream reach is prone to flooding and residences are impacted. During Hurricane Irene, roads were also flooded. This study was requested by the Town and Village of Lake George in Warren County, as well as Warren County.
14. Boquet River needs a detailed study of its entire length within Essex County for a distance of 32.2 miles. There are significant flooding concerns along this river reach. Both the Town of Elizabethtown and the Town of Westport state the river frequently floods and believes the effective mapping is inaccurate. The Town of Westport noted there is a buyout program in place due to the flooding. Essex County also noted there are changes to the Lower Boquet River hydrology due to a dam removal. This study was requested by the Towns of Elizabethtown, Lewis and Westport in Essex County, and Essex County.
15. North Branch Boquet River requires a new detailed study from the I-87 crossing to the upstream Town of Lewis corporate limits for a distance of 2.9 miles, due to repetitive spring flooding. An additional approximate study is needed of the North Branch Boquet River both upstream and downstream of the detailed study segment requested in the Town of Lewis. The approximate study should extend from the North Branch Boquet River's confluence with the Boquet River to the start of the detailed study at the I-87 crossing in the Town of Lewis and again from the northern Town of Lewis corporate limits to its headwaters in the Town of Chesterfield for a total distance of 16.5 miles of approximate study. There are residential structures in the floodplain. These studies were requested by the Town of Lewis in Essex County, and Essex County.
16. The Branch at the Boquet River needs a detailed restudy at the confluence with the Boquet River for a distance of 8.2 miles. This is a heavily populated area and would benefit from updated BFEs. This study was requested by the Town of Elizabethtown in Essex County.
17. West Brook should have a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake George to the boundary of the state land approximately 1.2 miles upstream due to development pressure in the area. This study was requested by both the Town of Lake George in Warren County and Warren County.
18. East Brook should be studied by detailed methods from its confluence with Lake George to a point 0.6 mile upstream due to past flooding experience along Route 6 as well as continued development pressure. This study was requested by the Town of Lake George, Warren County.
19. Champlain River Canal should be studied using detailed methods for its entire length of 7.0 miles within the Town of Fort Ann and for its entire length of 3.1 miles within the Village of Whitehall. The existing floodplain boundaries are inaccurate and development is occurring in the area. An approximate study may be adequate for the intervening approximately 5.8 mile

stream reach within the Town of Whitehall. This detailed study was requested by the Town of Fort Ann and the Village of Whitehall, both in Washington County.

20. Indian River should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with the Mettawee River in the Town of Granville to the Vermont border for a total distance of 7.5 miles. This flooding source currently has an outdated approximate study from 1985 and there is considerable development pressure along this flood prone reach. This study was requested by the Town of Granville in Washington County, and Washington County.
21. Tributary to Prospect Mountain Brook should have a detailed study from its confluence with Prospect Mountain Brook to a point just upstream of the I-87 crossing for a distance of 0.55 mile. This stream segment is currently unmapped and frequently floods after a storm which impacts several properties in the area. This study was requested by the Village of Lake George in Warren County.
22. Unnamed Tributary to Lake George should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Lake George to a point just upstream of the I-87 crossing for a distance of 0.7 mile. This stream segment is currently unmapped and frequently floods surrounding properties following a storm. This study was requested by the Village of Lake George in Warren County.
23. Halfway Creek is in need of a new detailed study from its confluence with the Champlain Canal to the upstream Town of Fort Ann corporate limits for a distance of 8.1 miles. This study was requested by the Town of Fort Ann in Washington County.
24. Wood Creek should be studied using detailed methods within the Village Whitehall corporate limits for a distance of 0.9 mile. There are culverts near the railroad, as well as a flood control project that should be incorporated into a detailed study. This study was requested by the Village of Whitehall in Washington County.
25. Scotion (Dead) Creek requires an updated detailed study from the confluence with Lake Champlain to the northern Town of Plattsburgh corporate limits for a distance of 2.2 miles. An updated study is needed due to repeated flooding in the area along with new development. This study was requested by the City of Plattsburgh in Clinton County.
26. Little Ausable River needs a new detailed study from the northern Town of Ausable corporate limits to the upstream limits of the current effective study near Clintonville Road for a total distance of 5.5 miles. Due to development in the area, this stream reach would benefit from updated BFEs. This study was requested by the Town of Ausable in Clinton County.
27. Finkle Brook should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Lake George through Edgecomb Pond in the Town of Bolton for a distance of 2.5 miles. There is significant development along this stream reach. This study was requested by both the Town of Bolton in Warren County, and Warren County.
28. The Tributary to Halfway Brook, which crosses Quaker Road in the Town of Queensbury, should be a new detailed study from its confluence with Halfway Brook to Webster Avenue for a distance of 1.25 miles. This study was requested by Warren County.
29. Smith Brook should be restudied by detailed methods for its entire length of 1.90 miles in the Town of Lake George. This study was requested by the Town of Lake George in Warren County.

30. Hague Brook, also known as Sucker Brook, is in need of a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake George to a point 2.35 miles upstream. This area currently has an older approximate study and the existing floodplain boundaries are not accurate. This study was requested by the Town of Hague and by Warren County.
31. Huddle Brook should be a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake George to its upstream limit for a distance of 4.3 miles. There is a dam located near Potter Hill Road that should be included in the modeling. This study was requested by the Town of Bolton, Warren County.
32. Putnam Creek needs a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake Champlain through Penfield Pond in the Town of Crown Point for a total distance of 11.25 miles. While the upstream reach would benefit from updated mapping, the downstream reach currently has an approximate study which is not accurate. This area has development on-going and would also benefit from updated mapping. This study was requested by both the Town of Crown Point in Essex County, and Essex County.
33. McKenzie Brook needs a detailed study from its confluence with Lake Champlain to its headwaters for a total distance of 7.9 miles within the Village of Port Henry and the Town of Moriah. The Village indicates this stream frequently floods near the railroad crossing. This study was requested by the Town of Moriah and the Village of Port Henry, both in Essex County, as well as Essex County.
34. The Tributary to Witherspoon Brook needs an updated detailed study from its confluence with Witherspoon Brook to its upstream limit for a distance of 2.52 miles. An updated study is needed to account for changes due to a dam removal on the Great Chazy River. This study was requested by the Town of Altona in Clinton County.
35. The Unnamed Tributary to Lake George near Amolita Lane should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Lake George to its upstream limit for a distance of 1.03 miles. This study was requested by the Town of Lake George, Warren County.
36. Indian Brook should be a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake George to its upstream limit in the Town of Bolton for a distance of 4.45 miles. This study was requested by Warren County.
37. Cemetery Brook should be studied using detailed methods. The location of this study request made by Warren County could not be determined. This study was requested by Warren County.
38. Lakeview Circle Tributary/Tahoe Outlet should receive a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake George to Route 9 for a distance of 1.34 miles. This study was requested by Warren County.

*Total Detailed Riverine Study Request Mileage: 269.71 miles*

*Total Detailed Lake Study Request Mileage: 293.4 miles\**

*\*Based on length of the of the water body.*

List of Detailed Requests that may be more appropriate as approximate studies due to location and level of development:

1. Greenland Brook should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with South Bay Creek to the upstream Town of Fort Ann corporate limits for a distance of 1.5 miles. There are major flows during the spring which lead to annual flooding. This study was requested by the Town of Fort Ann in Washington County
2. South Bay Creek should be studied using detailed methods from the downstream Town of Fort Ann corporate limits to the confluence with Greenland Brook for a distance of 1.3 miles. There are major flows during the spring which lead to annual flooding. This study was requested by the Town of Fort Ann in Washington County.

*Total Detailed Riverine requests downgraded to Approximate Riverine Requests: 2.8 miles*

Several stakeholders also provided a list of stream segments where they would like to see new or updated approximate studies.

1. An approximate study of the North Branch Boquet River is needed both upstream and downstream of the detailed study segment requested in the Town of Lewis. The approximate study should extend from the North Branch Boquet River's confluence with the Boquet River to the start of the detailed study that begins at the I-87 crossing in the Town of Lewis and again from the northern Town of Lewis corporate limits to its headwaters in the Town of Chesterfield for a total distance of 16.5 miles of approximate study.
2. A revised approximate study is needed for Glen Lake Outlet from Glen Lake to the confluence with Halfway Brook for a distance of 5.8 miles. Both Glen Lake and Dream Lake (downstream of Glen Lake) failed in this area in 2011-2012. This study was requested by Warren County.
3. A new approximate study is needed for Roaring Brook from its confluence with the Boquet River to a point 3.90 miles upstream. There are historical flooding problems in the area. This study was requested by Essex County.
4. The Hog Pond area is in need of a new approximate study from its confluence with Mount Hope Brook to Owens Road for a distance of 2.1 miles. There is development in the area, steep slopes, and spring flooding occurs. This study was requested by the Town of Fort Ann, Washington County.

*Total Approximate Riverine Study Requests: 28.3 miles*

A number of communities provided study requests for stream segments located outside of the project. These segments will not be prioritized as part of this effort; however, they will be added to FEMA's CNMS database for inclusion in a future project.

- The Ausable River is in need of an updated detailed study for its entire length within Clinton County. There is a buyout program along this river reach due to past flooding. This study was requested by Clinton County.
- The Ausable River should be a new detailed study from its confluence with Lake Champlain to a point 3,100 feet downstream of the western Town of Ausable corporate limit. This river reach had flood events in the past. This segment should be upgraded from its existing approximate study. This study was requested by the Town of Ausable in Clinton County.

- The Ausable River should be a detailed restudy in the Ausable Forks area. This study was requested by Essex County.
- The entire Ausable River corridor, including the East Branch Ausable River and the headwater tributaries, should have a detailed restudy. Stakeholders indicate the floodplain boundaries are inaccurate and the area is prone to flooding. This study was requested by Trout Unlimited.
- The Saranac River should have an updated detailed study for its entire length within Clinton County. There is an active buyout program along this flooding source. This study was requested by Clinton County.
- The Saranac River should have an updated detailed study from its confluence with Lake Champlain through Main Mill Dam Lake for a distance of 3.16 miles. This is an area prone to repeated flooding. This study was requested by the City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County.
- True Brook in the Town of Saranac is in need of a new detailed study from its confluence with the Saranac River to a point 5.3 miles upstream. There is recent residential development in the area. This study was requested by Clinton County.
- The Batten Kill from its confluence with the Hudson River to the Vermont border is in need of a revised detailed study. There are major inaccuracies on the FIRM and a high level of vulnerability to flooding in this area. This study was requested by Washington County.
- The Hudson River requires a detailed restudy in the Towns of Fort Edward, Greenwich, and Easton. This study was requested by Washington County.
- White Creek should have a detailed restudy in the Towns of Salem, Cambridge, and White Creek in Washington County. This study was requested by Washington County.

#### *Floodplain Study Requests Summary*

*Total Detailed Riverine Study Request Mileage: 269.71 miles*

*Total Detailed Lake Study Request Mileage: 293.4 miles*

*Total Detailed Riverine Requests downgraded to Approximate Requests Mileage: 2.8 miles*

*Total Approximate Riverine Study Request Mileage: 28.3 miles*

*Total Mileage of All Requests: 594.21 miles*