

Discovery Report Appendix C

PreDiscovery Meeting Summary

Mid-Hudson Watershed

HUC 02020006

June 2017



FEMA

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

Meeting Summary from Mid-Hudson Watershed Pre-Discovery Webinar

Held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2016, 10am-11am

Attendees:

- Cathy Gibson, Nature Conservancy
- Raymond Ward, Greene County
- Heather Wilson, Town of Pine Plains
- Drew Weaver, Town of Pine Plains
- Dennis Dowds, Town of Schodack
- Dave Wheatley, City of Watervliet
- Robert Wills, Dutchess County
- Bill Gregory, Town of Copake
- Sean Ward, Greene County
- Ed Nabozny, Town of Greenport
- Daniel McCarthy, Town of Saugerties
- Christine Chartrand, City of Watervliet
- William Silk, Town of Greenville
- Amanda LaValle, Ulster County Department of the Environment
- Robert Leslie, Town of Bethlehem
- Dennis Doyle, Ulster County
- Brian Fleury, Schoharie County Planning and Development
- Laura DeGaetano, Albany County Office of Natural Resource Conservation

Meeting Notes

The presentation began at 10 am EST.

Grace Vinson introduced the webinar and called roll.

Kelli Higgins-Roche of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Andrew Martin of the Region II office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) discussed the purpose of the webinar and emphasized the importance of stakeholder participation.

Samara Ebinger of Dewberry covered the following topics:

- The Mid-Hudson watershed Discovery project area, which involves 8 counties and 85 communities.
- Overview of FEMA's Risk MAP Program
- Overview of the Discovery process
- Discovery process products and results
- Overview of background data currently being collected by the project team

Lisa Mahoney of The Clark Group presented information on the stakeholder survey and data the team is looking for from local communities and organizations including:

- Flood mapping needs/historical flood problems

- Community planning/ongoing projects/mitigation activities
- GIS data
- Other people/organizations to invite to the Discovery Meetings

Lisa Mahoney of The Clark Group finished the presentation with the project schedule:

- Stakeholders are asked to complete the survey before June 6th.
- It will be determined at a later date when the in person meetings will take place (based on comments received at the end of the call, they will take place in September)
- Final Discovery report and maps will be finished following the meetings.

Kelli Higgins-Roche of NYSDEC asked attendees for any additional contacts to include in the Discovery Meeting, and ideas for potential meeting locations.

- Kelli Higgins-Roche: We're planning on holding the meetings in July. Are there any concerns about holding a meeting like this in the summer?
 - Consensus that more stakeholders would be able to participate in meetings in September.
- Sean Ward, Greene County: Is the impact of the Upper Hudson on the watershed going to be included in the study? That's what impacts our communities in the northern portion of the watershed- the Mohawk River and Detroit dam.
 - Kelli Higgins-Roche: We requested that FEMA look at the Upper Hudson watershed. I do know the Hudson River study hasn't been updated in a long time. The end result of the report is that we will develop recommendations for FEMA.
- Dennis McCarthy, Ulster County: what kinds of products are we looking at?
 - Kelli Higgins-Roche: The goal is to collect the information to find out where the needs are. The report and the Discovery maps will highlight where the needs are. The end goal is to recommend a project back to FEMA, which could be an updated floodplain map. I do know there are needs outside of Ulster County.
- Dennis McCarthy, Town of Saugerties: Where should the meetings be held? We are actively engaged in buyout programs in NYC watershed and outside of it. Ulster County can offer up a location.
 - Kelli Higgins-Roche: I'm hoping to do one in almost every county.
- Robert Wills, Dutchess County: We used terrain mapping to develop current FEMA mapping. The USGS has completed terrain models for Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam County. One thing you should add to your wish list is to use terrain models as a base of some of the mapping. The other thing, I've been advocating that NYS HS better capture better terrain models. That might be something to advocate for.

Meeting Summary from Mid-Hudson Watershed Pre-Discovery Webinar

Held on Wednesday, May 11th, 2016, 2pm-3pm

Attendees:

- Ruth Moore, Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Aaron Bennet, Ulster County
- Ellen Weiss, Nature Conservancy
- Gerald Couse, Columbia County
- Liz LoGiudice, Columbia/Greene County Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Larry Paggi, Village of Fishkill
- June Gambacorta, Greene County
- William Gallagher, Town of Milan
- Robert Magee, City of Albany
- Ryan Horstmyer, Office of Congressman Paul Tonko

Meeting Notes

The presentation began at 2 pm EST.

Grace Vinson introduced the webinar and called roll.

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- Town of Milan: What is the Community Rating System?
 - Kelli: CRS is a voluntary program that FEMA offers for communities doing above and beyond the minimum National Flood Insurance Program requirements. FEMA will give points, and for every 500 points residents will get a discount on their flood insurance (5% for every 500 points)
- Town of Milan: Does FEMA have a rating right now for towns in the watershed?
 - Kelli: I don't believe so.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension: We're working in Columbia/Greene with Dutchess County C.E. to host a CRS workshop in the fall. I can follow up with NYSDEC in case you're interested in attending.
- Town of Fishkill: Dutchess County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan involved a lot of resource gathering that is probably pertinent to this project.
- Columbia County suggested reaching out again to Town Officials and Highway Superintendent.
- Town of Milan: Will this project affect FEMA assistance in hurricane season?
 - Kelli: No, this project is unrelated.
- Kelli Higgins-Roche: We're planning on holding the meetings in July. Are there any concerns about holding a meeting like this in the summer?
 - Consensus that more stakeholders would be able to participate in meetings in September.

Ideas for Meeting Locations

- Columbia County- 401 State St. in Hudson has some office buildings.
- Dutchess County Cooperative Extension in County Building in Millbrook