# Welcome and Introductions

**Flood Risk Review**

**Meeting Notes Hampshire County and Incorporated Areas, West Virginia**

**May 4, 2023**

**1:00PM**

* Introductions were made for the presenters of the meeting:
	+ Andrew Jackson, FEMA Region III
	+ Jon Langley, Senior GIS Consultant
	+ Tim Keaton, West Virginia State NFIP/CTP Coordinator
* Agenda Overview
	+ Welcome & Introductions
	+ Where We Are – Draft Maps
	+ Flood Study Update
	+ Study Impacts
	+ Using Flood Risk Data to Reduce Risk
	+ Floodplain Management
	+ Discussion
* There were 3 County and Town representatives and 7 State and Federal partners – please refer to the attendee list at the end of this document.

# Presentation

## Where We Are - Draft Maps

* Timeline for Hampshire County and Incorporated Areas
	+ Effective FIRMs – November 2002
	+ Risk MAP Study Notification – May 2021
	+ Risk MAP Kickoff Meeting – June 2021
	+ Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting- May 2023
	+ Community Coordination and Outreach (CCO) Meeting – Fall 2023
	+ Appeal Period – Spring 2024
	+ FEMA issues Letter of Final Determination (LFD) – Winter 2024
	+ Final Maps Become Effective – 6 Months after (LFD)
* The Discovery Process for this watershed restudy was conducted in May 2021, and data development has been underway.
* The Flood Risk Review (FRR) meeting gives local officials an opportunity to examine new study areas, discuss how the analysis and mapping have changed since the previous FIRM, and work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of the community and its partners are met.
* Preliminary flood maps are scheduled to be released in the Fall of 2023, and another meeting will be scheduled to help County and community representatives prepare for outreach to property owners affected by the preliminary maps. Afterwards, a 90-day appeal period for all new or modified flood hazard information will start (anticipated for Spring 2024).
* Maps are expected to be finalized through a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) around Winter 2024 and will become effective six months later. However, if appeals are received the process may take longer.

***Flood Study Update***

* The forthcoming Preliminary FIRMs and associated products will follow a new format (including symbology, labeled elevations on modeled cross-sections, and more).
* Summary of primary FIRM features was presented, such as definition of the regulatory 1% annual chance flood hazard (aka Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) and different zone designations such as Zone AE / Zone A.
* Riverine Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analyses, including:
	+ Updated GIS-based regulatory products, including:
		- Updated maps / database / report formats based on new FEMA guidelines and specifications
	+ Utilization of high-resolution topographic data (for modeling and mapping)
	+ Model-backed Approximate ‘Zone A’ Studies – 445 miles
	+ Detailed ‘Zone AE’ Studies – 70 miles
	+ Production of associated non-regulatory flood risk data

## Study Impacts

## Compared to effective NFHL, widening and narrowing of the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain (SFHA) extent was observed throughout the county.

## Extended study reaches (with drainage areas of 2 square mile and greater, and not on current effective FIRM) result in new properties within the SFHA.

## Most streams experienced both increases and decreases when comparing the computed model WSELs to the current regulatory base flood elevations.

## After the map update, an estimated total of 950 structures are expected to be in the Zone AE SFHA.

***Data Accessibility***

## The draft data can be accessed by the following platforms:

* + FEMA Region 3 Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF) Viewer at <https://arcg.is/1qjni90>
	+ National Flood Hazard Layer at <https://msc.fema.gov/draft> and <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-hazard-layer-nfhl>
	+ West Virginia Flood Tool at <https://www.mapwv.gov/flood/>

## Using Flood Risk Data & Public Outreach to Reduce Risk

* The West Virginia Flood Tool, Changes Since Last FIRM, Water Surface Elevation Grids and Areas of Mitigation Interest are all great resources!
* The local communities must adopt compliant floodplain ordinances and have them approved prior to the effective date of the new maps. Communities can be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) if the compliant floodplain ordinances have not been adopted prior to the effective maps being issued.
* The FEMA Map Service Center is the official public source for flood hazard information

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

## ***Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management***

## Now is the time for communities to start assessing the impacts of the new floodplain boundaries

## Permits are Required for all development in the regulatory floodplain

## Communities can regulate to standards higher than the NFIP minimum standards. For additional information and resources, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/manage-risk/local>

## Risk Rating 2.0: Considers more flood risk variables to more accurately reflect property-specific flood risk [www.fema.gov/NFIPtransformation](http://www.fema.gov/NFIPtransformation)

## ***Discussion***

## The revisited Project Timeline and contact information for FEMA R3, State NFIP, and the Study Partner was shared as part of the FRR conclusion.

# Questions/Comments

## **Comment:** Discussion regarding the West Virginia Regional Planning and Development Councils, the community officials who attended were not aware of the councils. It was emphasized to community officials that they are a great partnership to have.

## **Comment:** Hampshire County has a surveyor that will be submitting their own data.

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## **Comment:** Discussion regarding the county having a lot of repetitive loss structures. They are going to collaborate with the State NFIP to work on this issue.

**Attendee List**

|  |  |  |  |
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| **Community/Agency** | **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Attended** |
| Hampshire County | Amanda | Barnes | Yes |
| Hampshire County | Emily | Sisk | Yes |
| Town of Romney | George | Park | Yes |
| FEMA | Andrew | Jackson | Yes |
| State NFIP  | Tim | Keaton | Yes |
| State NFIP  | Julia | Sears | Yes |
| State NFIP |  Ruthie | Maniscalchi |  Yes |
| WSP | Madison | Matera | Yes |
| WSP | Crystal | Smith | Yes |
| WSP | Jon | Langley | Yes |