



FEMA

## Flood Risk Review Meeting Minutes Monroe County, WV

5/31/2022

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Zoom/Virtual

### Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

- Amanuel Ghebregziabher, Project Officer, FEMA Region 3
- Agenda Overview
  - Welcome and Introductions
  - Where We Are - Draft Maps
  - Flood Study Update
  - Using Flood Risk Data to Reduce Risk
  - Map Changes and Flood Insurance
  - Discussion
- Presenters
  - Yukun Xing, Mapping Manager, Wood Group, Inc.
  - Swetha Konduru, Engineering Manager, Wood Group, Inc.
  - Kurt Donaldson, Program Manager, WV GIS Technical Center, WVU
- Attendees
  - There were 14 attendees that includes representatives from West Virginia State, Monroe County, Town of Alderson, and Town of Peterstown
    - Amanuel Ghebregziabher
    - Betsy Ranson
    - Yukun Xing
    - Swetha Konduru
    - Jason Sevanick Durant
    - Kurt Donaldson
    - Devon Delvecchio
    - Melissa Raines-
    - Tim Keaton
    - Danielle Curtis
    - Devon Delvecchio
    - Eric Hopkins
    - kristine mo.
    - Eric Hopkins
    - Richard Miller
    - Travis Copenhaver

## Contacts

### FEMA Region III

Amanuel Ghebreegziabher, P.E.  
Project Officer  
[Amanuel.Ghebreegziabher@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Amanuel.Ghebreegziabher@fema.dhs.gov)  
(202) 718-2759

Elizabeth Ranson  
Mitigation Planning Specialist  
[Elizabeth.Ranson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Ranson@fema.dhs.gov)  
(215) 347-0686

### State Partners

Chuck Grishaber  
State NFIP Coordinator  
[Charles.C.Grishaber@wv.gov](mailto:Charles.C.Grishaber@wv.gov)  
(304) 414-8462

Tim Keaton  
State CTP Manager  
[Tim.W.Keaton@wv.gov](mailto:Tim.W.Keaton@wv.gov)  
(304) 957-2571

Kurt Donaldson, GISP, CFM  
WVGISTC, Manager  
[Kurt.Donaldson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:Kurt.Donaldson@mail.wvu.edu)  
(304) 293-9467

### Mapping Partner

Yukun Xing, Ph. D., CFM  
Mapping Manager  
[yukun.xing@woodplc.com](mailto:yukun.xing@woodplc.com)

Swetha Konduru  
Engineering Manager  
[swetha.konduru@woodplc.com](mailto:swetha.konduru@woodplc.com)

Jason Sevanick Durant, CFM, GISP  
Senior FEMA Program Specialist  
[jason.sevanick@woodplc.com](mailto:jason.sevanick@woodplc.com)  
(301) 254-2160

## Presentation

See the presentation for the slides that align with the notes throughout this section.

### **Meeting Purpose, Timeline for where Monroe County is at in the process.**

- Preview and discuss the update of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Monroe County, West Virginia
- Examine new study areas, discuss how the analysis and mapping have changed since previous study, work collaboratively to ensure that the needs of the community and its partners are met, and to present timeline of next steps.
- The FRR meeting gives local officials the opportunity to review and discuss the draft study data with representatives from FEMA and the State of West Virginia.
- Currently the project is at Draft Floodplain Mapping: FRR Meeting – May 31, 2022; moving forward timeline – Preliminary Maps and CCO Meeting – Spring 2023, Appeal Period – Winter 2023, End of Appeal Period – 90 days after appeal start, FEMA issues Letter of Final Determination (LFD) – Summer 2024, Effective Date – 6 months after LFD
- Communities can review the draft study data and submit any concerns or comments to FEMA up to 30 days from the date of the FRR meeting follow-up-email. FEMA uses the feedback to modify the maps and develop the preliminary FIRM.

### **Flood Study Update**

- The current effective FIRMs use a black and white imagery background with the 100-year flood event in a blue boundary line and blue spotted pattern, floodway is the same color but has white hatching, and the 500-year event (black spotted Zone X) is a black boundary line and black spotted pattern. The updated FIRMs will be in full color aerial imagery with the 100-year event in solid blue, floodway with alternating blue and red hatching, and 500-year event in orange.
- The jurisdictions studied are Unincorporated Monroe County, Town of Alderson, and Town of Peterson
- Except for the Monroe County Disaster PMR area (limited change in the ongoing disaster PMR), all AE and A are updated. Previously unmapped open/continuous streams draining 2 square miles or more are modeled and added as Zone A. A total of 3.5 miles (including 1 mile of 2D analysis) of new or updated Zone AE and 247 miles of Zone A were studied.
- LiDAR data from 2016/2017 along with field survey data from 2020 were used to help develop the new floodplains.
- The updated draft floodplain in some areas will be wider than the effective floodplains in some areas while in other areas it will contract. As a result, county wide a total of 175 structures will be added to the special flood hazard area (SFHA) while 330 will be removed from SFHA.

### **Overview of Flood Risk Products & Datasets**

- Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and preliminary FIRM will be provided at the Preliminary Issuance stage of the project.
- Non-regulatory Flood Risk Products (FRPs) can help inform flood mitigation management and decisions.
- Five non-regulatory FRPs will be provided:
  - Changes since last FIRM -- shows floodplains change compared to the effective floodplain;
  - Flood Depth Grids — shows the depth of flooding;
  - Water Surface Grids — shows water surface elevation at any location (pixel) in the floodplain.

- Percent Annual Chance Flooding Grid Raster — provides the relative probability of being flooded for any given location within the mapped floodplain.
- The Percent Chance of Flooding over a 30-yr Period Grid raster — represents the percent chance of flooding at least one time during a 30-year period for a given cell, or location, within the mapped floodplain.
- Once the draft study becomes effective and the local officials adopt it, the communities must regulate based on the FIRMs. Permits are required for all development in the floodplain — development means any manmade change to improved or improved real estate.

### ***Project Timeline***

- The expected timeline for the study is as follows: Flood Risk Review Meeting – May 31, 2022, Preliminary Maps and CCO Meeting – Spring 2023, Appeal Period – Winter 2023, End of Appeal Period – 90 days after appeal start, FEMA issues Letter of Final Determination (LFD) – Summer 2024, Effective Date – 6 months after LFD.

### ***Discussion***

- Following the FRR meeting, there will be a 30-day comment period for county and community officials to submit comments on the draft floodplain data. FEMA and its mapping partners can be reached to answer any questions about the study.
- It is important to note that the earlier we know the better.
- Comments can be made via email or phone using the provided contact information.
- Attendees were encouraged to discuss mitigation actions in their communities.

## **Questions/Comments**

**Question:** *Can the slide presentation be shared?*

**Answer:** The slide presentation will be sent with the follow up email.

**Question:** *Is the Town of Alderson behind, are we restudying the recently issued mapping?*

**Answer:** The revised Preliminary Greenbrier River Study (PMR) is still reflective with this study. It is included here because this is Study is county wide. Thus, what we have for the Town of Alderson is consistent with county wide draft data. The Town is entirely in Panel 7 of the three PMR panels. At this point no change to the panel.