



FEMA

Flood Map Scoping Meeting Fact Sheet

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will hold a Scoping Meeting when a new flood map project is initiated in order to engage all local, state and federal stakeholders within the project county. The goals of the meeting are to:

- 1) Inform the local community officials within the project area that a new mapping project will be starting;
- 2) Educate local community officials on the mapping process – from initiating the project through adopting a final, effective map – and what role they will play in the process;
- 3) Seek out and gather as much data that can be used in the new map project as possible and promote local collaboration; and
- 4) Identify and log mapping needs within the community, and establish whether those needs will be able to be addressed during this map update.

Things to Think About Before the Meeting

These are just some questions to consider before the meeting. We realize that you may not be aware of all of the studies or data that may be discussed below, but these are just ideas to help you think about some of the information we'll be discussing at the meeting. If there is someone else in your community that may know more about some of these topics, please let us know or pass this along to them!

- Has a federal agency (Army Corps, NRCS, USGS) performed any flood studies or completed any flood control projects within your community since the effective date of your flood map?
- Has a state agency (DNR, DOT) performed or approved any studies to support new bridges, culverts, or developments within your community since your last flood map?
- Has your local community or a regional entity performed or contracted for any flood studies to support watershed plans, disaster mitigation plans, master stormwater planning or to address any other flooding concerns?
- Have any developments occurred in your community in which a developer completed a flood study?
- Has your community or county performed, contracted for or otherwise received topographic mapping (LIDAR, photogrammetry), aerial photography or other basemapping features?
- Are there areas undergoing high development pressure in your community in which you believe there is, or have witnessed, flood risk, however there is no identified floodplain on the FEMA flood maps?
- If you have witnessed a significant flood, how has that matched up to your existing flood maps? If there were discrepancies, were they because the flood elevation didn't correspond or were the elevations were similar, but the areas that flooded didn't match the mapped floodplain boundaries?

Things to Bring to the Meeting

If flood studies and engineering analyses have taken place in your community on any of your drains, creeks, streams or rivers, please bring whatever you have of the following:

Details (see below) regarding the survey and topography used to create the analysis, as well as which streams are covered by the study and the extents within those streams.

- Files of the engineering models used to determine the flood flows within the waterway (hydrology) and flood elevations (hydraulics) – digital files are preferred if you have them.
- Any maps produced that use those calculated flood elevations to delineate the floodplain boundary.
- Engineering report on the methods & models used in the study and a background of the data, plus certifications by licensed engineers of the work performed.
- Any certification or acceptance by a local, state or federal agency of the work that was performed.

If topographic mapping, aerial photography and other base mapping are available in your community, please bring the following information pertaining to the data, as available:

- The extent of the coverage (county, community, single watershed) and the date it was collected.
- For topography, specifications such as the vertical accuracy of the data, the horizontal and vertical datum.
- For photography, specifications such as the pixel resolution, whether the photos are in color or black & white, if the data is tiled or one large file, and the file format in which the data is saved.
- A certification of the accuracy of the data.
- Contact information to obtain a copy and any agreements necessary for data sharing.

If there are areas not previously mapped on FEMA's flood maps, but you believe there is flood risk that should be identified, please bring a marked up map (existing flood map, USGS Quad Map, aerial photography or other GIS map) indicating the areas of concern.

If there are areas on your existing FEMA flood maps that you have witnessed inaccuracies in, or there have been changes to the watershed or waterway that may impact the existing study, please bring a copy of your existing flood map indicating these concerns.

Things to Do After the Meeting

Please get in touch with FEMA or the FEMA Contractor project lead identified during the meeting if you have any additional data which may benefit this mapping project, or you need to follow up with data discussed during the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the project at any point during the process, please contact FEMA or the FEMA Contractor project lead identified during the meeting.

If You Are Unable to Attend the Meeting

- If you are able to send someone else from your community in your place, please do so. Plus there are several disciplines within your community that may be impacted or interested in this map project – any and all representatives of building, engineer, GIS, surveying, permitting, and development departments, as well as executive offices, are encouraged to attend this meeting.
- If no one from your community can attend the meeting, please feel free to contact FEMA or the FEMA Contractor lead identified on the letter this fact sheet was enclosed with to obtain information and any handouts from the scoping meeting.

Scoping meetings are most successful and productive for those making the maps and those that ultimately use them when there is full participation from all of our communities and local stakeholders. We look forward to seeing you there.