

Updated April 12, 2012

Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission Report

Progress of 15 recommendations since the issuance of the Report on Feb. 10, 2011

Acronyms

H&H – Hydrologic and Hydraulic modeling

JBOC – Joint Budget Oversight Committee

LURP – Land Use Regulation Program

NJOEM – New Jersey Police Office of Emergency Management

PMP – Project Management Plan

SOW – Scope of Work

USGS – United State Geological Survey

1. Federal and State Floodway and Floodplain Property Acquisitions

March 8, 2012

- The Borough of Pompton Lakes requested that FEMA reallocate their approved award under HMGP DR 1954 to the DEP. DEP Green Acres/Blue Acres will assume the role of sub-applicant for the FEMA award using the State Blue Acres funds as the match. The funding allocation is to acquire the eight Pompton Lakes properties that were part of DEP's DR 4021-Hurricane Irene application submitted on September 30, 2011 that did not receive funding. The Borough also provided a list of six parcels they would like DEP to add to its project list (five are substantially damage).

September 13, 2011

- The DEP Green Acres Program submitted a HMGP/SRL/HMA application September 2011 to acquire 95 additional properties in the Passaic River Basin (4 in Little Falls, 8 in Pompton Lakes, 26 in Lincoln Park and 57 in Wayne).

August 3, 2011

- NJOEM has acquired 97 properties between 2006 and 2009. The agency is poised to acquire at least 212 by the end of 2013 using FEMA funds. These numbers do not include Green/Blue Acres buyouts that are not partnered with NJOEM.

July 1, 2011

- FEMA approves \$48.3 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for state, county and local flood protection projects.

May 2, 2011

- DEP, NJOEM, and FEMA met with elected officials to discuss buyouts and elevations. NJOEM is the lead agency.

March 11, 2011

- NJOEM and Green Acres are leading this effort and met with FEMA on February 18.

February 18, 2011

- NJOEM and the DEP Green Acres Program held a meeting with FEMA to start coordinating buyout activities so that State Blue Acres funding can be used to match FEMA funds, thereby maximizing the buying potential of State funds.

2. Structure Elevations in Floodplains

April 2, 2012

- NJOEM has identified 26 additional homes that will be elevated with FEMA funding.

February 2, 2012

- NJOEM has identified 75 homes that will be elevated with FEMA funding.

August 3, 2011

- With the help of FEMA funds, NJOEM is working on the elevation of 94 structures by the end of 2013.

May 2, 2011

- NJOEM is discussing with municipalities which structures in areas are appropriate for elevation, as opposed to buyout.

March 11, 2011

- NJOEM is taking the lead.

3. Federal Open Space Acquisition and Preservation

April 9, 2012

- The Army Corps has received the appraisals for the five additional properties.

January 9, 2012

- The Army Corps has also identified five additional properties totaling 68 acres for eminent domain.

November 14, 2011

- The Army Corps acquired 50 acre site in Parsippany-Troy Hills Township

March 31, 2011

- A letter from the Governor to the Army Corps Lt. General Van Antwerp was sent requesting that the acquisition process proceed expeditiously.

March 22, 2011

- A letter from the Governor to the Army Corps has been drafted to include land negotiations as needed.

March 11, 2011

- The Army Corps is taking the lead and will update land negotiations as needed.
- The Army Corps needs, and DEP supports, a revision to the federal land acquisition process; condemnation of open space must be an option for the Army Corps to use to preserve natural storage areas.

4. Improved Operation of the Pompton Lakes Dam Floodgates

April 12, 2012

- AECOM provides final report to DEP.

February 29, 2012

- AECOM provides draft report to DEP.

February 15, 2012

- AECOM to present draft report to DEP for review.

December 30, 2011

- AECOM work on hydrologic and hydraulic analysis is ongoing.
- AECOM is on schedule to produce a draft report on flood gate operation by February 29, 2012.

October 4, 2011

- DEP holds technical meeting with engineers and mayors.

September 15, 2011

- Kickoff meeting is held.

September 6, 2011

- The AECOM received the notice to proceed and a preliminary report is expected in February 2012.

September 1, 2011

- DEP awards contract to AECOM.

August 3, 2011

- DEP is working with AECOM on finalizing the cost estimate proposal and expects to sign a work order by August 31.

July 7, 2011

- The cost estimate to perform the SOW is to be submitted to DEP.

July 5, 2011

- The Army Corps met with DEP to clarify details of the SOW.

June 10, 2011

- DEP and Treasury met with a potential Army Corp consultant to discuss SOW.

April 29, 2011

- After additional input from local officials, a revised SOW has been provided to downstream mayors.
- DEP is working with Treasury to select a consultant.

March 22, 2011

- After input from local officials, the Army Corps will no longer be directly involved in contacting an independent consultant for the floodgate evaluation.
- DEP will now work with Treasury to contract an independent consultant.

March 15, 2011

- Contract with USGS has been amended to allow for the installation of a remote camera at Dawes Avenue stream gage.
- The SOW has been developed and reviewed by the Army Corps and provided to the local downstream mayors.

March 11, 2011

- USGS increased Ramapo River stream gage readings from every 15 minutes to every five minutes at the Pompton Lakes and Dawes Avenue gages.
- USGS has prepared SOW for the installation of a remote camera at the Dawes Avenue stream gage, contract sent to the DEP Office of Budget and Finance.
- DEP meets with the Army Corps and potential consultant to discuss SOW for the floodgate analysis.

- DEP is helping with SOW development.

February 15, 2011

- DEP requests that the Army Corps contract with an independent consultant to evaluate floodgate operations and downstream flow patterns.

5. Desnagging and Shoal Dredging

March 8, 2012

- Riverdale and Pompton Lakes start stream cleaning work.

February 9, 2012

- Pequannock starts stream cleaning project.

January 23, 2012

- Wayne starts stream cleaning project.

December 30, 2011

- Work is estimated by the towns to begin in February 2012.

November 1, 2011

- Towns working on SOW and contract bid documents for December advertisement.

October 10, 2011

- The grant agreement is executed with the towns.

September 8, 2011

- DEP's Office of Land Use Management issued permit to do stream cleaning work.

August 3, 2011

- A grant agreement has been prepared for the project which must be signed between DEP and the municipalities.

July 1, 2011

- LURP has requested additional information for the permit. A grant agreement can now be prepared for the project which must be signed between the municipalities and DEP.

June 24, 2011

- DEP has received plan and cost estimates from the selected municipalities.

April 29, 2011

- Awaiting proposals and cost estimates from communities.
- Upon receipt, a grant agreement will be signed between DEP and communities.

March 22, 2011

- For the first funding round, DEP will provide of \$350,000 in grants to municipalities.
- DEP will enter into contracts with municipalities/counties for starting work (first meeting was held on March 11).
- A meeting with LURP will occur next week.

March 11, 2011

- Need legislative appropriation of funds.
- Once the legislation is in place, DEP will enter into contracts with municipalities/counties for stating work.

6. Feeder Dam Removal

March 13, 2012

- Civil Dynamics informally reviewed the three dam removal alternatives with the DEP Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control.

September 26, 2011

- A contract has been awarded to Civil Dynamics.

August 2, 2011

- A pre-bid meeting was held to discuss the SOW for the project with consultants. Proposals are due back from the consultants by August 16, 2011.

July 1, 2011

- Treasury has the SOW for the project which is anticipated to go out for bid by mid-July with proposals due back in August.

March 11, 2011

- DEP has developed SOW so that Treasury can bid for the design and deconstruction of two significant hazard dams in State Parks that were a component of the Morris Canal system. Expected costs: \$1,250,000, which is available.
- Initiated discussions with Office of Resource Development for removal and need to develop SOW to send to Treasury.

7. State Adoption of National Flood Insurance Program Regulations

January 15, 2012

- At the request of DCA, DEP provided an updated model flood plain ordinance on the Bureau of Dam Safety Flood Control webpage.

August 3, 2011

- On August 4, DEP and DCA staff met to discuss the preparation of a draft Executive Order that will require all state departments to be compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program.

June 1, 2011

- The DEP Land Use Rule team is discussing with DCA rules and incorporation of FEMA requirements.

March 11, 2011

- The DEP Land Use Rule team will take the lead on meeting.

8. Expedited DEP Permit Process to allow towns to clear trees and repair river walls and shoals

March 1, 2012

- DEP has provided for expedited scheduling of pre-application meetings for all stream cleaning projects in the Basin with the above dedicated engineering and environmental review team. (Posted on DEP LURP website)
http://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/fha_clean.html

November 10, 2011

- Draft "Stream Cleaning Guidelines" available at:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/stream_cleaning_guidelines.pdf

June 28, 2011

- A meeting was held with the municipalities to provide local elected officials the opportunity to meet with DEP Land Use Regulation staff to discuss the expedited permit process.

June 1, 2011

- DEP rules are being reviewed for potential revisions.
- DEP Office of Engineering and Construction will assist municipalities with the application process on projects within the scope of the grant in recommendation number 5.

March 11, 2011

- The DEP Land Use Rule team taking lead.

9. Improved Effectiveness of County and Local Emergency Response Plans

February 4, 2012

- NJOEM to provide flood response training at NJEPA conference in Atlantic City in May 2012

August 4, 2011

- NJOEM has a plan to partner with county and local officials to train residents on NJ Alert and encouraging them to improve communications systems. Morris County is being encouraged to provide its residents with a Reverse 911 system. This may added to their NWS Storm Ready or SkyWarn pursuits.

March 11, 2011

- NJOEM is taking lead.

10. Enhanced Passaic River Flood Warning System

April 4, 2012

- USGS personnel visited the sites of the proposed continuous–record discharge gages on the Passaic River at Two Bridges and Pompton River.
- The location for the shelters was selected. High water marks flagged and surveyed at these locations after Hurricane Irene were used to select locations on ground above flood stage. DOT was contacted about getting permission to install the shelters and equipment at these two bridges

January 31, 2012

- USGS reports 30 % completion on the installation of cell phone telemetry, installation of new continuous discharge gaging stations and new precipitation gages.

August 4, 2011

- DEP has signed a joint funding agreement with USGS for upgrades, that started on June 1 and ends on September 30, 2012. This agreement funds the addition of cell phone telemetry at eight existing gaging stations, installation of five new continuous-record discharge gaging stations, addition of precipitation gages at three existing gages, re-activation of one discontinued continuous-record discharge gaging station, and re-activation of one discontinued crest-stage gage. The discontinued crest-stage gage on Passaic River near Bernardsville (USGS Station number 01378690) has already been reactivated.

July 1, 2011

- DEP has signed a joint funding agreement with USGS to start the upgrades.

June 1, 2011

- \$285,000 has been provided for additional flood gage implementation for the Passaic River Basin and for inundation mapping; \$1,000,000 of 2003 Bond Act money already was provided for upgrading USGS stream gages.

March 22, 2011

- Funds for JBOC were transferred on March 8.
- DEP met with USGS and a proposal will be drafted.
- The next step is to sign a joint funding agreement with USGS.

March 11, 2011

- DEP met with USGS and will create a proposal for the warning system. Funds need legislative appropriation.

11. Inundation Mapping

March 12, 2012

- DEP provides Independent A/E (Dewberry) Notice to Proceed for 12 gage sites

September 14, 2011

- The Silver Jacket program awards DEP and the Army Corps a grant to develop inundation maps for four flood gages.

August 4, 2011

- DEP and USGS signed a joint funding agreement to start the process, at the same time requesting that the following gage inundation map projects be started: Peckman River at Little Falls, NJ (01389550), Saddle River at Ridgewood, NJ (01390500), Hohokus Brook at Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ (01391000) and Saddle River at Upper Saddle River, NJ (01390450).

July 1, 2011

- DEP has developed a plan for preparing the inundation mapping for the appropriate gage locations.
- DEP has signed a joint funding agreement with USGS to start the process.

June 1, 2011

- \$500,000 has been provided for inundation mapping preparation and risk assessment at USGS gage and NWS flood forecast locations.
- DEP has prioritized the existing 30 USGS gages (which include 12 AHPS flood forecast points).

March 22, 2011

- Funds for JBOC were transferred on March 8.
- DEP met with USGS and a proposal will be drafted by the end of March.
- The next step is to sign a joint funding agreement with USGS.

March 11, 2011

- DEP met with USGS to work on a priority work plan based upon updated H and H. A proposal is expected within a month.

12. Enhanced Public Involvement, Information and Outreach for Flood Response

April 3, 2012

- DEP provides Community Assistance Training on Elevation Certificates & Openings in Foundation Walls Workshop, Pompton Lakes

March 1, 2012

- A Bergen County Freeholders meeting was held at Bergen County Community College for mayors and legislators on 15-point plan

January 19, 2012

- DEP, NWS and USGS provided information on inundation mapping to Passaic Flood Warning Users Group.

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October 1, 2011

- The third workshop on emergency preparation and response will be scheduled for mid- to late October and will feature the NJOEM.

June 28, 2011

- DEP held the second workshop on the Expedited DEP Permit Process to allow towns to clear trees and repair river walls.

May 2, 2011

- DEP held the first meeting on Federal and State Floodway and Floodplain Property Acquisitions and Structure Elevations in Floodplains.

April 1, 2011

- DEP has developed a total of six workshops to explain recommendations.

March 11, 2011

- DEP will develop six outreach sessions on recommendations (ongoing).

13. Reevaluation Request to U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

March 29, 2012

- NJDEP signs Project Management Plan for the reevaluation study.

February 9, 2012

- Commissioner Martin met with Army Corp Colonel Boule to provide comments to finalize the PMP on reevaluation. Corps designates \$250,000 in work plan to execute agreement.

December 16, 2011

- The Army Corps provided updated PMP estimate.

October 20, 2011

- DEP met with Army Corps to discuss preliminary draft PMP to be completed in December 2011.

July 1, 2011

- The Army Corps expects the PMP to be completed in December 2011

April 29, 2011

- A letter from the Governor to the Army Corps signals the start of work.
- Meetings were held in Lincoln Park and Fairfield to discuss preparation of the PMP.
- At this time, the New York District is currently in the process of developing the PMP that includes the scope, schedule, and cost estimate for the re-evaluation study.
- Upon mutual acceptance of the PMP, the Army Corps will move forward with executing the cost-sharing agreement with DEP.
- The Army Corps will start preparing work plan and budget.
- Still no funds in the President's budget. Need Congressional support.

March 31, 2011

- The Governor sent the Army Corps Lt. General Van Antwerp a letter requesting that the Army Corps prepare a work plan and budget to review and revise flood control project proposals.

March 22, 2011

- Commissioner Martin has drafted a letter for the Governor's signature.
- The Army Corps will start preparing work plan and budget.
- Still no funds in the President's budget. Need Congressional support.

March 11, 2011

- DEP met with the Army Corps. DEP will send a letter to the Army Corps to start work. The Army Corps will start preparing work plan and budget.
- There are no funds in the President's budget. Need Congressional support.

14. Updated Flood Risk Mapping

October 15, 2011

- Notices to proceed were issued to both AECOM and URS.

September 1, 2011

- DEP awards Flood Risk Map Contracts to AECOM and to URS for updated modeling/mapping of major rivers within the Passaic River basin.

August 3, 2011

- Preliminary cost estimates are currently being reviewed by DEP, with the goal of signing work orders by August 31, 2011.

June 24, 2011

- A coordination meeting was held with FEMA and the consultants to discuss technical requirements.

June 1, 2011

- DEP has received \$4,000,000 from FEMA to revise floodplain risk mapping in NJ.
- Treasury has awarded four, three-year term contracts to the firms of URS, AECOM, Baker and Dewberry.
- In coordination with Treasury, DEP has forwarded SOW to update flood risk mapping within the Passaic-Hackensack Watershed to URS and AECOM for their review and preparation of task work orders.

March 11, 2011

- Treasury received qualification proposals on February 24.
- DEP needs to select consultants to award tasks.
- Awards expected within four months.

15. Moratorium on All New Development within the Floodplain

March 11, 2011

- Municipalities need to consider this recommendation for inclusion in their master plans; DEP and municipal discussions need to be scheduled.

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