

Discovery Report Appendix O

Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Lake Ontario – Oswego Watershed

HUC 04140203

July 2016



FEMA

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

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Water, Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety

625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-3504

P: (518) 402-8185 | F: (518) 402-9029

www.dec.ny.gov

November 1, 2015

Mr. Alan Springett
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

Re: Oswego Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Dear Mr. Springett:

Please accept the State's priorities for new or revised floodplain mapping within the Oswego Watershed as developed by the Lake Ontario Discovery project. Pre-Discovery community engagement meetings were held via webinar the week of September 16, 2013 to discuss the Discovery process and collect information on community mapping needs, as well as determine if any data that might exist could be incorporated into a possible Risk MAP project. There were nine webinar meetings held for the counties, communities, and other interested stakeholders throughout the Lake Ontario Contributing watershed area. Stakeholders within the Oswego Watershed were specifically invited to attend the Pre-Discovery webinars on September 16th and September 17th, 2013; however they were welcome to attend any of the other webinars scheduled that week. There were nine webinar meetings held for the counties, communities, and other interested stakeholders throughout the Lake Ontario contributing watershed area. Participation on the webinars was mixed with some counties and communities very interested in providing feedback and other communities more reticent to provide information.

Following the Pre-Discovery Engagement meetings the project team held ten Discovery meetings for the communities within the Lake Ontario contributing watersheds during the weeks of November 11th and November 18th, 2014. There were two in-person meetings, the first was held on November 12th and the second was held on November 13th, for stakeholders within the Oswego watershed. During these meetings the project team followed up on the information collected during the Pre-Discovery meetings and provided an additional opportunity for the communities and other stakeholders to give further information on mapping needs. NYSDEC used the information collected throughout the Discovery Process, as well as information collected from previous stakeholder engagement meetings, to develop this proposed scope. All study requests will be entered into CNMS to be considered for future floodplain mapping projects.

The Oswego Watershed is the smallest in area of the eight watersheds that make up the larger Lake Ontario Watershed. The Oswego Watershed consists of three counties and ten communities. Only a handful of the communities within the Oswego Watershed attended the Pre-Discovery meeting and/or the Discovery meeting to provide requests for updated stream studies. NYSDEC made numerous attempts via E-Mail and direct calls to invite community officials to the meetings. Of the stakeholders that did provide requests for new or updated stream studies, none of the streams requested fall within the Oswego Watershed area. Although there were no requests for streams in the Oswego Watershed during the Discovery process, NYSDEC has a record of some of the county and community requests from the May 2007 Map Modernization scoping meetings held with Oswego County and the communities within the county. NYSDEC

would like to consider the requests that were made during the 2007 scoping meetings since no detailed study requests were included in the 2013 countywide mapping update. There are also recent CNMS requests entered for the City of Fulton that we included as part of this recommended scope of work. Onondaga County and Cayuga County did not provide any stream study priorities within the small portions of the Town of Lysander (Onondaga) or the Town of Ira (Cayuga) that fall within the Oswego Watershed.

Based on all the information gathered from the Discovery meetings, CNMS, and past scoping meeting notes, the Oswego Watershed stream restudy priorities are as follows.

1. The Oswego River should be restudied by detailed methods from the confluence with the Seneca River to the confluence with Lake Ontario for a distance of 24.9 miles. Oswego County representatives requested this stream be restudied during the 2007 scoping meetings. It was last studied in the early 1980s for most communities along the river, with the exception of the reach within City of Oswego that was studied in 1999. There have been many hydraulic and possibly also hydrologic changes to the stream since it was last studied. The Town of Volney also requested a new detailed study for the Oswego River within the corporate limits of the town at the 2007 scoping meeting. There is a note in CNMS that Route 3 Bridge over the Oswego River has been replaced or had major repairs in the City of Fulton.
2. Black Creek should be studied by detailed methods from the confluence with Black Creek Tributary 2 to the Confluence with the Oswego River for a distance of 1.7 miles in the Town of Volney. This stream reach was requested by the Town of Volney in the 2007 scoping meeting due to an increase in development in this area.
3. Waterhouse Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 5.7 miles from its headwaters to the confluence with Oswego River. The study is currently an approximate study in the Town of Volney, and the town requested that it be updated to a detailed study during the 2007 scoping meetings with Oswego County. There are comments in CNMS that there has been population growth or change within the floodplain of Waterhouse Creek in the City of Fulton. There is also a note in CNMS that there is a portion of the creek that is piped underground.

Since Oswego and Cayuga County both have recently digitized maps there were no requests for updated approximate studies within the Oswego Watershed. The Town of Lysander in Onondaga County also has preliminary digitized maps, so all the approximate studies within the town have been updated as part of that project.

It is NYSDEC's understanding that in counties receiving new digital maps where they do not currently exist, all existing approximate A studies will be updated with new approximate A modeling where topography was collected. These existing approximate studies will not be listed separately at this time. NYSDEC would also like to request that any existing Lake BFE's that were determined as published as part of the LOMA process be included on the new maps if possible. This would enable communities to adopt the flood elevations and would allow residents currently residing along these lakes and ponds to have accurately rated flood insurance policies.

Thank you for providing NYSDEC with the opportunity to recommend a scope of work for areas within the Oswego Watershed. We look forward to working with you to refine and finalize this

scope as we move forward. Please feel free to contact NYSDEC if you have any questions or would like additional information provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Horton". The signature is written in a light brown or grey ink.

Jennifer Horton
Environmental Engineer
Floodplain Management Section