

Discovery Report Appendix O

Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Lake Ontario – Chaumont-Perch Watershed

HUC 04150102

July 2016



FEMA

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

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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December 15, 2015

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

Re: Chaumont-Perch Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Dear Mr. Springett:

Please accept the State's priorities for new or revised floodplain mapping within the Chaumont-Perch Watershed as developed through the Lake Ontario Discovery project. Pre-Discovery community engagement meetings were held for the Chaumont-Perch Watershed via webinar the week of September 16, 2013. The purpose of the pre-Discovery webinars was to discuss the Discovery process and collect information on community mapping needs, as well as determine if any data exists 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 Chaumont-Perch Watershed were specifically invited to attend the pre-Discovery webinar on September 16, 2013; however they were welcome to attend any of the nine webinars held that week. Participation on the webinars was mixed with some counties and communities very interested in providing feedback and other communities taking a less active role.

Following the pre-Discovery Engagement meetings the project team held ten Discovery meetings for stakeholders within the Lake Ontario Contributing watersheds during the weeks of November 11th and November 18th, 2013. There were two in-person meetings held on November 14th for stakeholders within the Chaumont-Perch 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 to develop this proposed scope. Certainly more stream requests were provided than can be studied as part of this project and all additional study requests will be entered into CNMS to be considered for future floodplain mapping projects.

The Chaumont-Perch Watershed is the one of the eight watersheds that make up the larger Lake Ontario watershed. This watershed consists of one county and twelve communities. A majority of the communities within the Chaumont-Perch Watershed attended the Pre-Discovery meeting and/or the Discovery meeting to provide requests for updated stream studies.

Many communities in Jefferson County have older Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) which were developed in the 1970s and 1980s. These communities would benefit from a modernized Countywide DFIRM. The community officials find the existing maps very difficult to work with and find it challenging to locate structures on these maps accurately. Jefferson County is experiencing growth along the major water bodies and are seeing the conversion of summer cottages to year round residences. A wholesale restudy of each county may not be warranted, but there are several key stream segments which require new detailed studies. The new detailed studies

combined with updated approximate studies in a new digital format would assist both the communities and the county in enforcing floodplain regulations and managing development.

Beyond upgrading the existing detailed and approximate mapping to a digital format, the Chaumont-Perch Watershed stream restudy priorities are as follows.

1. The Lake Ontario should like should be studied using detailed methods within the Town of Brownville, Town of Cape Vincent, Town of Henderson, and Town of Hounsfield. These communities have requested new detailed study of the Lake Ontario shoreline due to the amount of development along the lake and the low lying topography of the shoreline. A base flood elevation would be useful to aid community officials permitting building.
2. The Chaumont River should be studied using detailed methods in the Town of Clayton and Orleans for a distance of 14.1 miles and a revised detailed study in the Town of Lyme for an additional 3.5 miles. This total stream study for 17.6 miles was requested by the Town of Clayton and the Town of Orleans, as well as Jefferson County. The Town of Orleans is experiencing development pressure along the Chaumont River and updated base flood elevations would be useful. The Town of Clayton experiences flooding along the Chaumont River near the Route 12 Bridge in Depauville, especially in during the spring thaw and due to ice jams.
3. Perch River should be studied using detailed methods for 9.6 miles in the Town of Brownville. Jefferson County has requested that this stream be studied due to the age and lack of detail on the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map for the Town of Brownville.
4. Horse Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 3.8 miles within the Town of Lyme and the Village of Chaumont. There is a significant elevation drop in the creek as it enters the village which causes water to back up into the Town of Lyme. The stream is currently not mapped within the village. This study was requested by both the Town of Lyme and the Village of Chaumont.
5. Soper Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 1.0 mile in the Town of Lyme. The current study is outdated and there is dense development in this part of the town along Three Mile Bay. This study was requested by the Town of Lyme.
6. Mill Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 1.1 miles in the Village of Sackets Harbor. This study was requested by Jefferson County due to increased development in this area.
7. Three Mile Creek should be studied by detailed methods for 1.0 mile in the Town of Lyme. The stream is currently and approximate study and has been requested to be restudied by the Town of Lyme due to the amount of development in proximity to the stream.
8. Rays Bay Road Creek should be a new detailed study confluence with Rays Bay to approximately 1.0 mile upstream. This stream was requested by the Town of Henderson as a detailed study due to repeated flooding in this area.

Communities also provided a list of stream segments where they would like to see updated approximate studies. Any mapping project moving forward should include these new or updated approximate studies if the required topography is available.

9. Kents Creek should be updated as a digital approximate study for 6.7 miles in the Town of Cape Vincent due to development in the area. This study was requested by the Town of Cape Vincent.

It is NYSDEC's understanding that in counties receiving new detailed modeling all existing approximate studies will be updated where topography is available. 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 and 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 Chaumont-Perch 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".

Jennifer Horton
Environmental Engineer
Floodplain Management Section