

Discovery Report Appendix O

Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Lake Ontario – Salmon-Sandy Watershed

HUC 04140102

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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January 25, 2016

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

Re: Salmon-Sandy Watershed Recommended Scope of Work

Dear Mr. Springett:

Please accept the State's priorities for new or revised floodplain mapping within the Salmon-Sandy Watershed as developed through the Lake Ontario Discovery project. Pre-Discovery community engagement meetings were held for the Salmon-Sandy 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 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 Salmon-Sandy watershed were specifically invited to attend the Pre-Discovery webinar on September 16, 2013 and September 17, 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 less active in the conversation.

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. Communities within the Salmon-Sandy watershed were invited to one of four in-person meetings, held on November 13th and November 14th. 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 Salmon-Sandy Watershed is the one of the eight watersheds that make up the larger Lake Ontario Watershed. This watershed consists of three counties and 36 communities. About half of the communities within the Salmon-Sandy Watershed attended the Pre-Discovery meeting and/or the Discovery meeting to provide requests for updated stream studies.

Many communities in both Lewis and 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 it can be close to impossible to locate structures on these maps accurately. Both Jefferson and Lewis are 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 A studies in a new digital

format would assist both the communities and the counties in enforcing floodplain regulations and managing development.

Oswego County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps are in a digital format with updated approximate studies; however, no detailed streams studies were updated during the 2013 revision. A number of communities requested updated stream studies to account for hydraulic changes to the streams, such as new bridges and culverts, or to account for development throughout the watershed.

Beyond upgrading the existing detailed and approximate mapping to a digital format in Jefferson and Lewis Counties, the Salmon-Sandy watershed stream restudy priorities are as follows. NYSDEC is aware that financial constraints and the length of the stream reaches requested for restudy may not allow for all requests be fulfilled and is willing to work with FEMA to refine these recommendations to meet the available budget.

Highest Priority

1. Wine Creek should be restudied as a detailed study from its confluence with Lake Ontario in the City of Oswego to the existing approximate study limits in the Town of Scriba for a distance of 4.75 miles. This study was requested by Oswego County, City of Oswego, and Town of Scriba. All three indicate the floodplain extents are inaccurate and the existing studies do not take into account hydraulic improvements made to the creek. Wine Creek was previously studied in the City of Oswego in 1999 and in the Town of Scriba in 2001.
2. Sandy Creek should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Lake Ontario in the Town of Ellisburg to its upstream limits in the Town of Champion for a distance of 39.1 miles. This was the highest stream study request was made by Jefferson County and was also requested by the Town of Ellisburg, Village of Ellisburg, Town of Adams, and Village of Adams. The County and impacted municipalities indicated there is significant flooding at several locations along the Creek including Route 84, Route 178, and County Route 69 within the Town of Adams. There is also development pressure along the creek which would benefit from the development of base flood elevations. The upstream most segment of approximately 4.25 miles in the Town of Champion is currently unstudied, and much of creek upstream of the Town of Ellisburg is currently an approximate study. *If financial constraints will not allow of a complete study of Sandy Creek within Jefferson County, the County indicated the upstream stream reach, totaling approximately 8.56 miles in the Towns of Champion and Rutland are a lower priority.*
3. The Salmon River should be restudied as a detailed study in both the Town of Richmond in Oswego County for a distance of 8.47 miles and the Town of Osceola in Lewis County for a distance of 7.31 miles. This was the highest priority request for Lewis County and both the Towns of Osceola and Richland. Within the Town of Osceola the older maps coupled with frequent flooding make enforcement difficult and the Town of Richland indicated the floodplain delineation within their community is inaccurate.
4. Lake Ontario should be remapped using detailed methods in the Towns of Ellisburg and Sandy Creek. Both communities indicated there is development along the shoreline. Additionally, dunes may be increasing in the Town of Ellisburg with many dune stabilization projects in the area.
5. Stony Creek should be restudied using detailed methods in the Towns of Henderson, Adams and Rodman for a distance of 23.5 miles. Both Jefferson County and the Town of Henderson felt the existing study is not up to date in the downstream areas, and

development pressure upstream reflects the need for base flood elevation development. The existing maps in the Town of Adams do not have any base flood elevations which makes floodplain development enforcement difficult. Further upstream in the Town of Rodman, Stony Creek is an unstudied stream and the County feels a detailed study is warranted.

6. Fall Creek should be studied as a detailed study from its confluence with the Salmon River to the limit of the existing effective study in the Town of Osceola for a distance of 3.12 miles. There are issues with both ice jams and repeated flooding with in the Town. There is an additional five miles of un-studied stream upstream.
7. Little Sandy Creek should be studied using detailed methods for its length within the Town of Sandy Creek, Village of Sandy Creek, and the Village of Lacona for a distance of 8.7 miles. Future development along this stream reach is likely and base flood elevations would be helpful.
8. The Little Salmon River should be restudied using detailed methods due to changes in hydraulic conditions along the River in the Village of Mexico. Recommending a new study from its confluence with Lake Ontario to the upstream limits in the Village of Mexico for a distance of 7.7 miles. This stream segment was previously study in 1981 in the Village of Mexico.

Medium Priority

9. Harbor Brook should be studied using detailed methods within the City of Oswego for a distance of 2.67 miles. This stream segment was previously studied in 1999.
10. North Sandy Creek should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Sandy Creek to its limits in the Town of Rodman for a distance of 6 miles. No base flood elevations are available on existing maps which have limited usefulness for managing floodplain development due to their age.
11. South Sandy Creek should be studied using detailed methods in the Town and Village of Ellisburg from its confluence with Lake Ontario to upstream Town of Ellisburg corporate limits for a distance of 13.35 miles. There are no base flood elevations on the existing maps in the Village of Ellisburg and the maps have limited utility.
12. Lycoming Creek (also known as Miner Creek) should be studied using detailed methods from its confluence with Lake Ontario in Sunset Bay to a point upstream of Woolson Road for a distance of 4.6 miles in the Town of Scriba. The Town is requesting this restudy due to hydraulic improvements made to the creek that are not accounted for in the current study. Lycoming Creek was studied in the Town of Scriba in 2001.
13. North Pond and the hydraulically connected South Pond should be restudied by detailed methods due to development pressure along its shoreline for a distance of 3 miles within the Town of Sandy Creek. There are a five recreational vehicles parks and five marinas on North Pond.

Lower Priority

14. Skinner Creek should be a detailed study from its confluence with the North Pond in Oswego County to its upstream limits in the Town of Ellisburg for a distance of 9.6 miles. Jefferson County indicated this new study was a lower priority request.
15. Little Stony Creek should be studied using detailed methods in the Town of Henderson from its confluence with Lake Ontario in the Town of Ellisburg through the Town of

Henderson and to its upstream limits in the Town of Adams for a distance of 12.9 miles. Jefferson County indicated this is a lower priority request.

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 updated approximate studies if the required topography is available.

16. Blind Creek should be a new approximate study for its entire length of 4.3 miles from its confluence with Lake Ontario at Blind Creek Cove to its upstream limits near Route 11 in the Town of Sandy Creek.

It is NYSDEC's understanding that in counties receiving new detailed modeling 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 Salmon-Sandy 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 blue ink that reads "Kelli A. Higgins-Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelli A. Higgins-Roche, CFM
Environmental Engineer
Floodplain Management Section