

FEMA REGION X
RISK MAP DISCOVERY INTERVIEW
CITY OF OMAK, WASHINGTON
April 3, 2015 9:00 AM PST

Participating

City of Omak

- Todd McDaniel, Public Works Director
- Ken Mears, Assistant Public Works

FEMA Region X

- Ted Perkins, Region X Engineer

STARR (FEMA Contractor)

- Becca Fricke-Croft (meeting host)
- Emily Whitehead, Project Manager
- Troy Sova, Senior GIS Analyst
- Josha Crowley, Regional Service Center (RSC) Lead

Discussion

Becca Fricke-Croft made introductions and presented an overview of the RiskMAP program and the different projects and products that can benefit communities. Our overall goal is discovering how FEMA can help Omak become a more hazard and disaster-resilient community. A copy of the presentation is included with these meeting notes as Appendix A.

Pre-Discovery meetings and interviews with communities within the Okanogan Watershed have been scheduled throughout March and April, 2015. Conducting pre-meeting interviews with communities helps us to better prepare for the in-person local Discovery meetings. The Discovery Meetings are scheduled for May 4 – 6, 2015. Following the Discovery interview and meeting, STARR will prepare a report about the information compiled, including recommendations that FEMA may use to help allocate future Risk MAP funding. During the Discovery process, FEMA will be checking-in with and keeping communities informed every step of the way.

The following information was collected during the interview. Unless otherwise noted, all comments are from the City of Omak representatives.

Confirm contact information

- Contact information was updated as follows:
 - Add Ken Mears as Assistant Public Works for City of Omak.

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- Confirmation that Mayor and Building Official remain the same as what Becca showed on screen.
- Add Kevin Bowling as Fire Chief to contact spreadsheet. Todd will provide contact information for the Fire Chief.

Confirm collected data

- Troy Sova discussed the data, in particular GIS base map data that has been collected thus far during Discovery from local, State and Federal resources.
 - Local – County website provided transportation and parcel layers. Other layers will be requested via CD/DVD from the County. Troy thinks the County may have flown local imagery based on conversations with other communities
- Troy explained that the floodplain data shown on-screen is Q3 data captured from the “old” effective paper FIRMs. “Q3 floodplains” is a GIS layer depicting flood hazard boundaries that were “rubber-sheeted” or digitized from the paper FIRMs.
- Todd McDaniel asks that if STARR gets copies of the spatial layers from the County, he would like to obtain a copy for future use when they start their GIS system for the City since currently they do not have a GIS Department.
- Emily Whitehead explains to the City that at the end of the Discovery project, a report and database (GIS) will be compiled and passed off as a final deliverable.

During the final half of this interview, Becca will be asking questions designed to spark discussion with the City of Omak regarding Resilience.

What is Valuable to the City of Omak? What does the City try to protect?

- The City is small with a population of roughly 5K people and has a Saw Mill that just came back online for operations. Omak is the biggest city in Okanogan County which serves as the retail area for the entire county. Outside of the city is agriculture.
- There are two (2) bridges that would be considered as key infrastructure (State Route 155 and State Route 215) that are important if a hazardous event occurred. State Route 155 services the downtown area with East Omak and beginnings of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.
- State Route 155 is on the City’s list to get replaced in their street plan (State Project)
- Retail hub (Wal-Mart, Home Depot, etc.)
- The City also has the largest airport in the County (City of Omak Airport)

Planning

- The “Okanogan County, Washington Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan” was revised in 2013 and the City of Omak participated and is covered by the plan.

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- The City was not involved in the Hazard Mitigation Plan; however, Kevin Bowling (not present) may have had some involvement.

Earthquake Hazard

- No damage that is known but the City does feel some shaking.
- Depending on the size of the quake, some masonry buildings may be vulnerable to damage.
- No local program to retrofit buildings to protect them in event of an earthquake.

Wildfire Hazard

- The City is concerned about losing commercial power that would service the wells and sewer plants
- During the Carlton Complex fire the fear was losing power so they were running their reservoirs high. They also feel they have enough agriculture around the City that they are fairly protected.
- Omak's Fire Chief may know of critical infrastructure that could be at risk to wildfire.

Landslide Hazard

- Potential for landslides on the northwest edge of City, south of Hillcrest Circle Drive
- Kermel Rd along with other roads in the area could be impacted from a landslide event

Severe Storm Hazard

- The City does not experience this type of hazard very often but within the last 3 years they've had a few events "Thunderheads" that comes through and dumps large amounts of rain associated with high winds but are brief.
- Damage that does occur with substantial amount of rain, the City can't get the water out of the downtown corridor quick enough to where flooding events occur. A couple feet of water at City Hall has been present but it takes a while to move the water across the levee and into the river.

Power Outages

- The City has only had isolated incidences with power issues and power is down for no more than an hour.

Shelters/Safety

- The City has not had to provide shelter to the public during or after any storm events.
- Shelters have not been identified within the City for the public during or after hazard events.

Warning Sirens/Mass Notification System

- The City has not been in the position to notify the public about incoming weather situations and they would fall back on the County and their Emergency Services Program
- No Reverse-911 is present in the City of Omak

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Flood Hazard

- Within the City limits, the floodplains look pretty accurate
- Levee system that has been built to the east of the City limits but the City is not sure how it functions or who maintains it
- Any other flood concerns?
 - Downtown is the lowest spot and that is where all of the stormwater collects.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Todd is not aware of any areas but said that he would have to get the Planner involved to see if any areas have been identified.

Communications and Outreach

- Current community outreach/engagement
 - Todd is not aware of any recent outreach that has been done
 - Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Center, Rotary Clubs and local radio station do most of the outreach.
 - Public open meetings at City Hall and also use newspaper to get the word out
- Use of RiskMAP products for outreach, communication, and education
 - The City would want to look at the various levels of risk they have before dedicating time, materials before getting involved with materials that FEMA can provide

Compliance and Training

- Floodplain administrator
 - Local FPA is identified: Patrick Dalton
 - City would defer to Patrick for floodplain permitting process but the City could use more trainings/information
- City of Omak's main hazard concern would be flooding as it pertains to potential levee breach.
- The City thinks they are in pretty good shape but are curious what another evaluation would be resulting in. They have limited resources (time and employees) if more involvement is required.
- Emily explains that the project is more about data collection and cataloging any concerns that the City may have and brought to FEMA's attention.

Next Steps

- Discovery Meeting arrangements were discussed. The City would like to meet with us and gather local plans and invite additional people to the Meeting, such as the fire Chief.
- Meeting Venue Option:
 - City Council Chambers seats over 100 people standing, and 25 people sitting. Recommend scheduling the May meeting through the City Clerk.

Appendix A - Interview Presentation



FEMA

Risk MAP Discovery

Okanogan & Wenatchee Watersheds

Information Exchange Sessions
March/April 2015

RiskMAP

Increasing Resilience Together



Information Exchange Agenda

- **Overview of Risk MAP and Discovery**
- **Introduction to Enhanced Risk MAP Products**
- **Interactive Questionnaire**
- **Close**

The Vision for Risk MAP

Through collaboration with State, Local, and Tribal entities, Risk MAP will deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property



RiskMAP

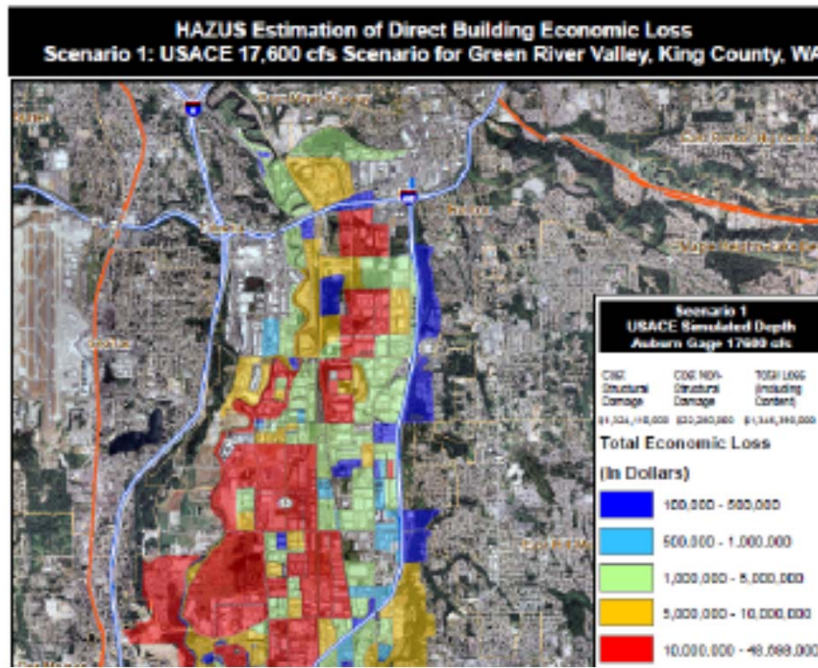
Increasing Resilience Together

- Collaborative approach
- Goals: quality data, public awareness, action that reduces risk
- Watershed-oriented
- Multi-Hazard
- Focus on up-front coordination
- Discovery is mandatory

Risk MAP Products

Multi-Frequency Depth & Water-Surface Elevation (WSE) Grids

10%, 2%, 1%, 0.5%, 0.2% annual chance profiles



Inundation

- 3 feet or less
- 3 to 6 feet
- 6 feet +

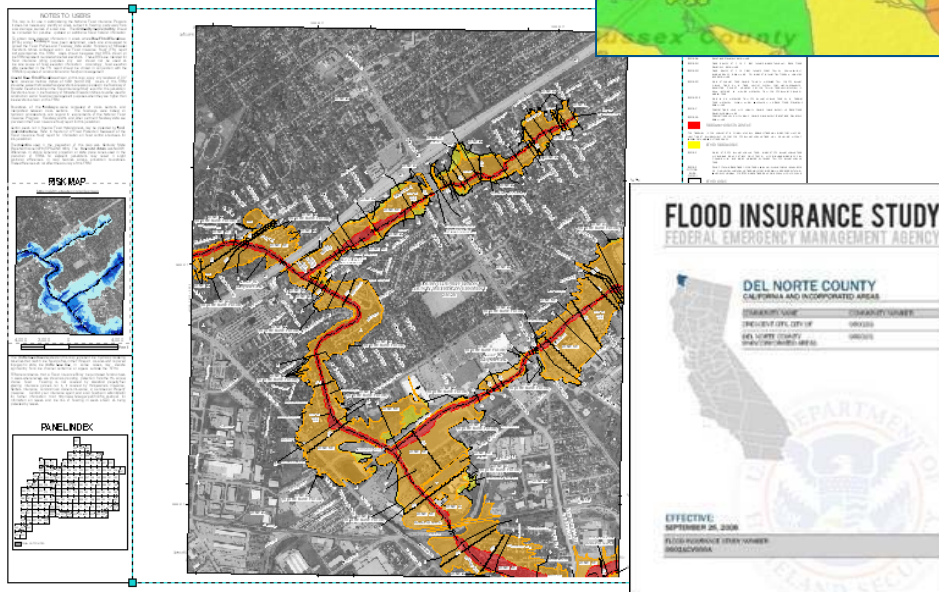
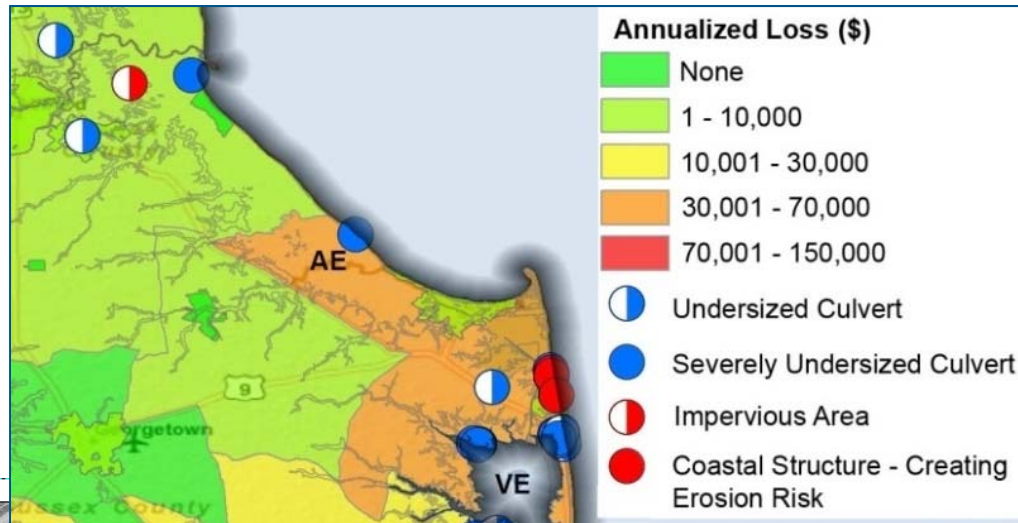
HAZUS Risk Assessment & National Flood Risk Layer

Enables communities to understand risk by reference to existing structure loss

Risk MAP Products

Contributing Hazard Factors

Highlights areas of concern identified throughout project



FIS Reports and DFIRM Maps

DFIRM and FIS will continue to fulfill regulatory requirements and support the NFIP

Discovery

Discovery is the process of data collection and analysis with the goal of initiating a hazard risk or mitigation project and risk discussions within the watershed

When:

- After an area/watershed has been prioritized
- Before a Risk MAP project is scoped or funded

Required for new and updated...

- Flood studies
- Flood risk assessments
- Mitigation planning technical assistance projects

Why:

- Increases visibility of flood risk information, education, involvement
- Helps inform whether a Risk MAP project will occur in the watershed



Okanogon & Wenatchee Discovery

- **Federal and State Data Collection**
- **Local Issues: Identify Risk MAP Needs**
 - Need support with mitigation planning?
 - Need mitigation projects?
 - Need new flood study data?
 - Need training on floodplain management?
 - Need support developing a hazard risk outreach program?
 - What else can FEMA do to help your community become resilient?
- **Pre-Discovery Interviews: March/April 2015**
- **Discovery Meetings: May 4-6, 2015**
- **Risk MAP Project(s) Identified**
- **Possible FEMA Funding Allocated for Risk MAP Project**

Discovery Interview

- **Local Contacts**
- **Data**
 - LiDAR
 - Local or Regional GIS Data
- **Mitigation Planning**
 - Desired Mitigation Projects
- **Local Hazards**
 - Earthquakes
 - Wildfires
 - Landslides
 - Severe Storms
 - Flooding
- **Levees**
- **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
- **Communications and Outreach**
- **Compliance and Training**

Mitigation Planning		
How would you describe your level of involvement with the development of the mitigation plan? (Considerable, Moderate, Minimal)	Do you need assistance with mitigation planning in your community? (Yes, No, Possibly)	Mitigation Planning Comments, Explanations, Questions

Questions?

FEMA

- **Amanda Siok, Risk Analyst, amanda.siok@fema.dhs.gov**
- **Kristen Meyers, Mitigation Planner, kristen.meyers@fema.dhs.gov**
- **Ted Perkins, Regional Engineer, dwight.perkins@fema.dhs.gov**

WASHINGTON

- **Jerry Franklin, State Risk MAP Coordinator, jfra461@ecy.wa.gov**
- **Michelle Gilbert, Floodplain Management Specialist, migi461@ecy.wa.gov**

STARR

- **Emily Whitehead, emily.whitehead@stantec.com**
- **Troy Sova, troy.sova@stantec.com**
- **Becca Fricke-Croft, becca.croft@starr-team.com**