

# The Flood Record

June 2022

## Draft State Water Plan: Public Comment Period Opening in June

The State Water Plan Task Force began working in March 2019 with the mission to “develop a concise plan for addressing the water issues facing the state in an efficient and unified front.” Separate focus groups were created to tackle thirteen topics in greater detail, including water quality, climate change, water sustainability, flood damage mitigation, and recreation. Over the last three years topic specific groups have been meeting along with the task force and a draft State Water Plan has been written.

The Task Force is on schedule to issue the draft report in June. A series of public meetings will be held this summer along with a public comment period. The draft report and details on the public meetings and comment period will be posted after June 6 on the [State Water Plan Task Force](#) webpage. A final report is expected to be issued later in the summer/fall of 2022.

## Managing Your Community’s Floodplains Webinars

Registration is open now for the next four monthly, one-hour virtual training webinars for local floodplain officials. They are held on Wednesdays, unless noted, from 9-10 am (CT). Webinar attendance will be submitted to ASFPM for CECs for CFMs. Look in the September newsletter for final registration links.

- **Topic #3 Thursday June 23, 2022 (Repeat Performance):** [NFIP Fundamentals for New Floodplain Managers](#)
- **Topic #6 June 29, 2022:** [NFIP Compliance](#)
- **Topic #7 July 27, 2022:** [Managing Map Changes and Community Acknowledgement](#)
- **Topic #8 August 31, 2022:** [Coastal Resilience and Floodplain Management](#)
- **Topic #9 September 28, 2022:** [Resolving Potential Violations](#)
- **Topic #10 October 26, 2022:** Higher Standards
- **Topic #11 November 30, 2022:** Basement Flooding Mitigation
- **Topic #12 December 14, 2022:** No Adverse Impact

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## Updated FEMA Technical Bulletin 7

FEMA Building Science Branch is pleased to announce the release of the updated [Technical Bulletin 7, Wet Floodproofing Requirements and Limitations](#). Technical Bulletin 7 provides additional guidance for accessory structures, such as garages and sheds, and agricultural structures. These structure types are allowed by most ordinances to be built below the flood protection elevation, but they must meet the size limitations and other requirements in your regulations.

This update is consistent with the requirements of [FEMA P-2140, Floodplain Management Bulletin, Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures](#).



## Updated State Model Floodplain Ordinance

The Illinois Model Floodplain Ordinance is now available at [Water Resources Publications](#). When a community joins the NFIP or receives a new Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps, they will adopt the updated model. In lieu of a new study and maps, a communities are not required to adopt the new model language. If your community wished to discuss updating your ordinance, please contact [IDNR/OWR Floodplain Management Program staff](#).

This update includes:

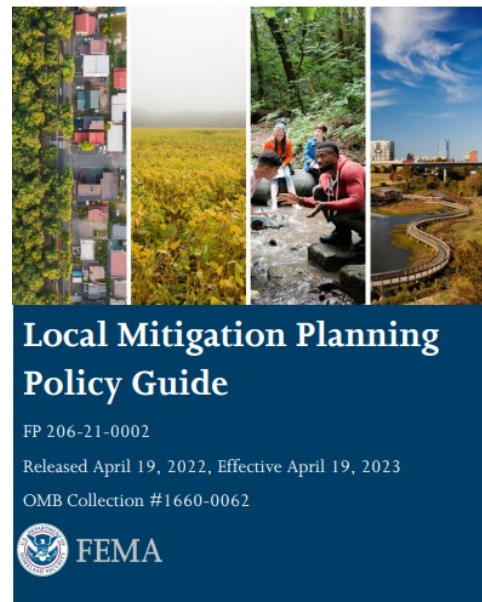
- Connection between the definition for Start of Construction and permit expiration
- Accessory structure definition and ordinance language coordinated with FEMA's guidance Bulletin P-2140
- Expanded on job responsibilities of the Floodplain Administer
- Added variance language for Agricultural Structure coordinated with FEMA's guidance Bulletin P-2140
- Added optional language to encourage higher freeboards, to allow a 10-year cumulative SI/SD tracking, to charge a permit fee and engineering review fee, and to allow a 1.25 to 1 ratio for compensatory storage.
- Added stop work order language
- Added references to FEMA Technical Bulletins for openings in foundations and walls (TB 1) and fill in floodplain (TB-10)
- Expanded text on building on fill, Letters of Map Revision-Based on Fill and local official responsibilities.

## FEMA Updates State and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides

FEMA has released updates to the State and [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides](#) (policies) to improve and better support communities in meeting the federal requirements for mitigation planning. **Please share the updated guide with your community's and county's emergency managers.**

A few of the 2022 local policy changes include:

- Requires local governments to include the effects of climate change and other future conditions in the risk assessment.
- Recognizes the important role of adopting and enforcing building codes and land use and development ordinances in the local government's ability to improve mitigation capabilities.
- Defines who local governments must include in the planning process. This includes representatives from a broad range of sectors, community lifelines, the public and community-based organizations that support underserved communities.



The updated policies become effective April 19, 2023, providing a one-year transition period for local governments to meet the new requirements for plans in process and new plans. For a full list of updates download the [Summary of Changes](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#). Also visit FEMA's [Policy Update](#) web page.

## FEMA: Requests for Repetitive Loss Data

If you are looking for Repetitive Loss data for CRS or a hazard mitigation plan, you will need an **Information Sharing Access Agreement (ISAA)** with FEMA. Typical uses for the information include:

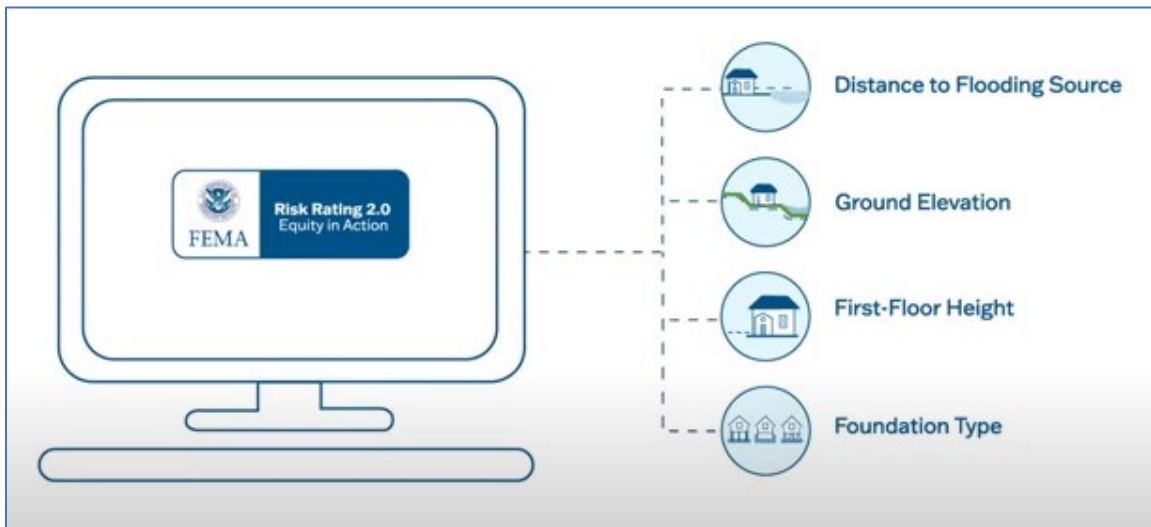
- CRS Program Participation/Certification (including outreach)
- Addressing concerns raised in a community audit
- FMA/BRIC/HMGP Grant Applications and processing
- Disaster Recovery Operations (Substantial Damage Determinations)

To request an ISAA please contact James Sink, FEMA Region V, Flood Insurance Liaison via e-mail at [james.sink@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:james.sink@fema.dhs.gov). Mr. Sink will provide a draft ISAA specific to your community and details on how to complete the process.

## FEMA Video Summarizes New Rating Factors under Risk Rating 2.0

Last fall new policies were written under Risk Rating 2.0. On April 1, 2022, all renewing policies began transitioning, including all Preferred Risk Policies.

FEMA recently developed a nearly 6-minute video, [Risk Rating 2.0 - Equity in Action: FEMA's New Rating Methodology](#), which covers the main factors used in the new methodology for determining flood insurance premiums. Share with your residents if they are confused by the new premiums.



*Clip from the new FEMA video explaining key factors for determining cost of flood insurance policies with Risk Rating 2.0.*

## Is a State Floodway Permit Required? You Must Check the Drainage Area

A state floodway permit is generally required when any development occurs in and along the rivers, lakes, and streams of the state. **Specifically, the state has jurisdiction over a watercourse when the drainage area in an urban area is 1 square mile or more or is 10 square miles or more in a rural area, REGARDLESS OF FLOODPLAIN MAPPING.**

This means all work along a watercourse must be checked for drainage area. When a mapped floodway is shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map, it is easy to remember that a state floodway permit may be required. It is critical that you remember to check for jurisdiction along all water courses with unmapped floodplains and unmapped floodways in Zones A and AE. **Again, check the drainage area or check with the permit staff in Bartlett and Springfield.** Their contact information can be found at: [Water Resources Contact Us \(illinois.gov\)](#) webpage.

## Floodplain Program Staff Transition

Steve Altman has been named the Acting State Floodplain Program Manager until the position is filled. Marilyn Sucoe will return to her position working with the communities in the six counties of Northeastern Illinois. Steve can be reached at [steve.altman@illinois.gov](mailto:steve.altman@illinois.gov) at 217.524.1028. If you have been working with Marilyn on an audit closeout or other floodplain program, she will continue working with you on those projects

## Illinois Dam Removal Program

The IDNR/Office of Water Resources (OWR) continues to collaborate with other governmental agencies to remove dams throughout the state. The IDNR/OWR [Safety at Dams](#) webpage provides details on the program. Recently OWR removed thirteen dams including:

- MacArthur Woods and Wright Woods dams on the Des Plaines River in Lake County
- Armitage, Hoffman, and Fairbanks dams on the Des Plaines River in Cook County
- Blackberry Creek Dam in Yorkville;
- Ellsworth and Danville dams on the Vermillion/Wabash rivers
- Winnetka Dam on the Skokie River

In 2021, Dam 4 and Touhy Avenue Dam, both located on the Des Plaines River near Rosemont, and the Buzzi Unicem Cement Plant Dam, located near Ogelsby on the Vermilion River, were removed. Removing Dam 4 and Touhy Avenue Dam significantly improved the health of the waterway,

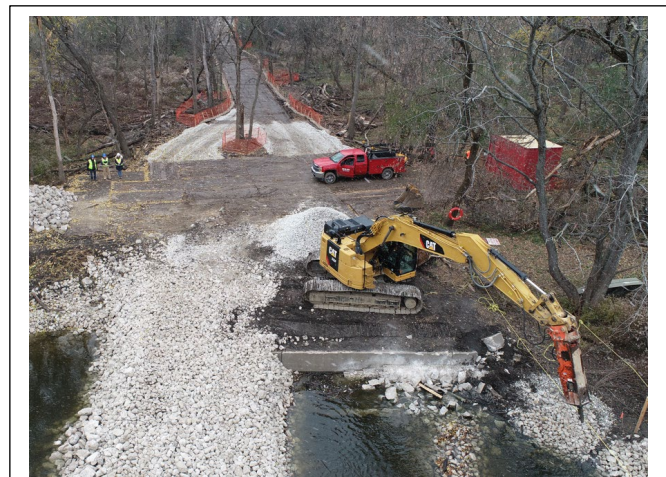
increased the diversity of fish and aquatic life, eliminated costly maintenance, and improved safety for boaters. The Buzzi Unicem Cement Plant Dam was a historically deadly dam that was originally constructed to supply water to the cement plant. The lower reach of the Vermilion River is very popular for whitewater recreation and removal of this dam provides a much safer condition on the river for public canoeing and kayaking.

In 2022 the OWR will continue design work for the removal of the Tam O'Shanter dam on the North Branch of the Chicago River in Niles. Design work is also nearing completion for the removal of the Riverside Park and Color Plant dams on the Sangamon River in Springfield. Removal of these three dams is anticipated to begin in 2022. Design work will also continue for the 2023 removal of the Chick Evans Golf Course dam on the North Branch Chicago river in Morton Grove. OWR is also partnering with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County on the removal of the Carpentersville Dam in the fall of 2022.

The OWR will continue to collaborate with other governmental agencies for additional dam removal opportunities. Presently, collaboration efforts are ongoing with the Villages of Montgomery, North Aurora, and the City of Batavia on the Fox River. Additionally, a dam safety study will also be initiated to investigate opportunities at the Sears and Steel dams on the Rock River in Rock Island County.



Touhy Avenue Dam Removal



Dam 4 Removal