



Arkansas Natural Resources Commission



J. Randy Young, PE
Executive Director

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Mike Beebe
Governor

March 27, 2013
RDavis@garlandcounty.org

Honorable Rick Davis
County Judge, Garland County
501 Ouachita / Room 210
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Dear Judge Davis:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is leading the Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (MAP) program. The purpose of Risk MAP is continued improvement of flood hazard information, the promotion of increased national awareness and understanding of flood risk, and the support of federal, state and local mitigation actions to reduce risk. As an integrated mitigation-based program, the vision of Risk MAP is to achieve a closely coordinated process to address gaps in flood hazard data, form a solid working foundation for risk assessment and floodplain management, and provide state and municipal entities with information needed to mitigate flood related risks.

The FEMA Region 6 office and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) entered into a Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) for implementation of Risk MAP in the State of Arkansas. ANRC has selected the Upper Saline Watershed, in which your community lies, for the initial step in the Risk MAP process called Discovery. The Upper Saline Watershed and the communities included are provided on the enclosed Watershed Map. The goal of Discovery is to gain a more holistic picture of the flood hazards within your watershed, to collect data to validate the flood risks, identify opportunities to facilitate mitigation planning, and aid local communities in identifying further actions to reduce flood risk across your watershed. Because flood risks can change over time this initial Discovery phase will help identify areas within your watershed where flood risk identification and assessment should be targeted now. The Discovery phase will also help us identify the areas to watch and assess in the future. A Pre-Discovery Newsletter is included to provide a summary of the Discovery activities that are currently underway.

Discovery opens lines of communication and relies on local involvement for productive discussions and identification of flood risk. Active participation in this process will help your community identify proactive steps to reduce flood risks. To begin this effort, the ANRC and its contractor, FTN Associates (FTN), are contacting your community to introduce the concept of Discovery and request your assistance to identify which community staff should be involved in the process. Enclosed is a list of the communities and organizations who will be invited to participate in the Discovery process for the Upper Saline Watershed. We request your assistance by reviewing this initial list of participants and let us know if there are additional stakeholders in your community that we need to include. You and your staff will be vital in helping to initiate an inventory and assessment of the flood risk data available for your community.

An initial inventory of available regional data has been gathered and incorporated into the Upper Saline Watershed Engagement Plan that is being provided to each community in the Watershed via the Office of the Mayor or the County Judge. A copy of this Engagement Plan is also available online at <http://riskmap6.com/> and <http://www.floodplain.ar.gov>. In order to inventory and assess the local available data, ANRC and FTN will be holding a series of Discovery workshops in your area. Please join the ANRC, FTN, and other communities and governmental agencies at any of the following Discovery workshops to be held in your watershed.

**Upper Saline Watershed
Discovery Meeting Schedule**

Meeting 1 Hot Springs Village	Tuesday April 23, 2013 9:00 - 11:00 AM	Ponce de Leon Center (Ouachita Room) 1101 DeSoto Boulevard Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
Meeting 2 City of Benton	Tuesday April 23, 2013 5:00 - 7:00 PM	Gene Moss Building 913 East Sevier Street Benton, AR 72015
Meeting 3 City of Bryant	Wednesday April 24, 2013 9:00 - 11:00 AM	The Center of Bryant in Bishop Park 6401 Boone Road Bryant, AR 72022
Meeting 4 City of Sheridan	Wednesday April 24, 2013 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Grant County Emergency Management 130 Grant 74 Sheridan, AR 72150

These workshops will not have a lengthy presentation, instead, subject matter experts in the fields of Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants, Hazard Mitigation planning, mapping, and NFIP regulations will be present. These experts will be available to answer questions, discuss your needs, and speak about opportunities for actions to reduce risk.

In preparation for the upcoming meetings within your watershed, local communities are being asked to submit data to the ANRC or its contractor prior to attending the Discovery workshops if possible, or bringing this data to one of the Discovery Meetings. By providing available data for your community ahead of time, watershed-wide discussions about locations in your community that have a history or high potential for flooding and possible mitigation actions at the Discovery workshops will be more informed. Your community will have the opportunity to review the results of the initial watershed inventory and provide further data to assist in identifying and addressing gaps in the known flood hazards.

The partnership and exchange of data between FEMA, the ANRC and your community is vital to the success in identifying flood risks and needs that may impact your citizens. If you have any of the data that could assist us in the preparation of Discovery within your watershed, please send in the data to the address below no later than April 12, 2013. A list of requested data is provided in the enclosed Pre-Discovery Newsletter. If you have any information that could assist in the preparation for Discovery within your watershed, please send it to:

FTN Associates, Ltd.
Attn: MaryBeth Breed
124 West Sunbridge Drive, Suite 3
Fayetteville, AR 72703
(479) 571-3334

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Attn: Michael Borengasser
101 East Capitol, Suite 350
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-3969

Before, during and after the Discovery workshops, the ANRC and FTN will:

- Gather, review and validate information about local flood risk and flood hazards.
- Review mitigation plans to understand local mitigation capabilities, hazard risk assessments, and current or future mitigation activities.
- Ask communities to identify additional participants to invite to the Discovery workshop or include in Discovery workshop follow-up.
- Prepare the Discovery Report using information gathered to determine which areas of the watershed may require future study through a Risk MAP project.

Through this integrated Mitigation program, we will work to provide your community with the information using the latest technologies available, as well as easy-to-use risk assessment tools and data you can use to:

- Create or improve your mitigation plan.
- Make informed decisions about local development.
- Communicate your flood risk more effectively to the people who live and do business in your area.
- Find synergies with other communities to reduce flood risk in the watershed.

We look forward to working with you to reduce the risks associated with flooding and increase your community's resiliency, long term. To learn more, please review the enclosed Pre-Discovery Newsletter, go to <http://riskmap6.com/> or contact me at (501-682-3969) or michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov. We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming Discovery Meetings.

Sincerely,



Michael Borengasser, CFM
NFIP Coordinator
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

Enclosures: Watershed Map
Pre-Discovery Newsletter
List of Communities and Organizations that are invited to participate in Discovery
Engagement Plan