



Statewide Floodplain Management Training in New York

Presented by:

Cleighton Smith, Bergmann Associates & Bill Nechamen, NYS DEC
15th Annual Southeast New York Stormwater Conference and Trade Show
Beacon, NY
October 14, 2015

Project Background

Background -- New York State

- NFIP Coordinator: Bill Nechamen, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- 67 Counties in NY State
- 1,500 communities participating in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Saw need for locally delivered training (each county)
- Beyond resources of DEC staff
- DEC is Region II Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA Region II
- DEC used CTP consultant team of Bergmann Associates / Sub consultant Atkins
- Fisher Associates (WBE) added to team – provided Project Coordinator
- Funded through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Project Background

- One-day NFIP overview
- Need to be specific to NY State
- Need specific program for NYC (own building code)
- Two instructors for full-day training
- One trainer must be CFM
- Must provide continuing education credit for code officials, PEs, CFMs
- Must organize advertising, registration, site coordination
- Work with DEC to put training program on website

Project Background (continued)

- Also two half-day trainings as required:
 - Levee mapping (LAMP) – where there are levee mapping issues
 - Coastal Erosion Hazard Area (CEHA) – in counties with Great lakes, Atlantic Ocean shorelines, and Long Island Sound shorelines
- LAMP
 - Focus on new mapping policy (sound reach, etc.)
 - Does not cover PAL process
- CEHA
 - NY State DEC regulatory program
 - Covers aspects of mapping and permit requirements
 - In counties with Great Lakes, Atlantic Ocean, or Long Island Sound shorelines

Course & Trainers

Floodplain Training Topics Covered

- Introduction to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Federal and State NFIP participation requirements
- Using Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Studies
- Floodplain Development Standards (ordinances)
- Variances, appeals
- Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage requirements
- Elevation Certificates
- Community Rating System (CRS)
- Letters of Map Change (LOMCs)
- Insurance
- Mitigation

CEC Credits offered – Floodplain Training

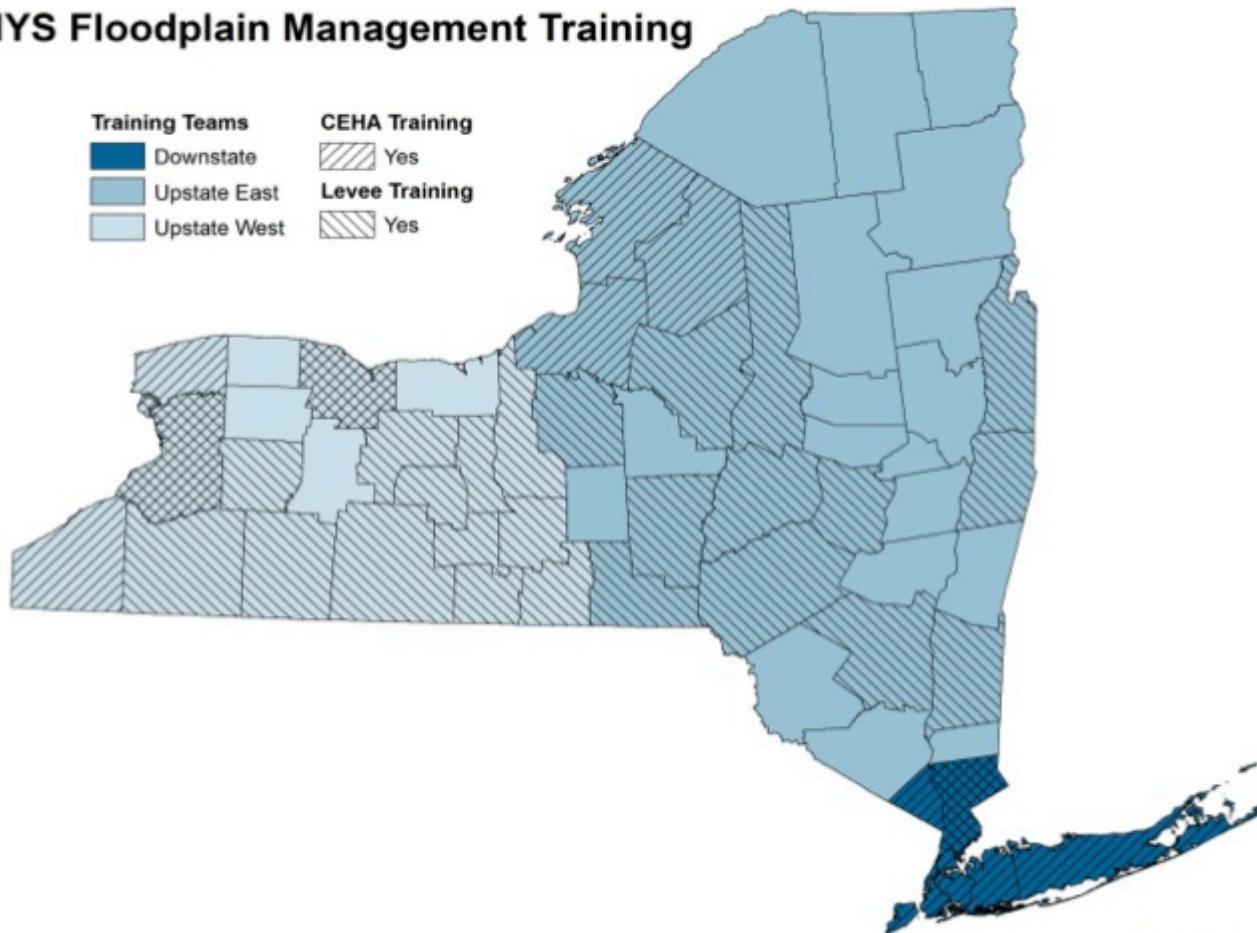
- Floodplain Management Training approved for continuing education credits:
 - Code Enforcement (6 hours)
 - Certified Floodplain Management (6 hours)
 - Professional Engineer (6 hours)

How the Training is Delivered

- One Full-Day (6 hour) Training
- Training is Free
- Classroom Setting / PowerPoint Presentation
- Locally Delivered
- State-Specific Content
- Coffee & Donuts Provided to Attendees
- 1 hour Lunch Break

Delivered by Region-Specific Teams

NYS Floodplain Management Training



Project Manager Role

- Guides Trainers & Training Coordinator
- Helps Develop the PowerPoint
- Provides Contacts to Further Promote Trainings
- Acts as the Technical Guru for the Team
- Intermediary Among Team, NY State, & DEC
- Coordinates Budget and Project Scope
- Does not deliver training

Training Coordinator Role

- Develops Online Registration (MailChimp Forms)
- Coordinates Training Calendar / Update DEC with New Trainings
- Coordinates Calendar with Trainers, DEC, & Project Manager
- Develops & Distributes Promotional Materials
- Collects List of Community Contacts (i.e. Code Enforcement Officers, Building Inspectors, Planning & Zoning Officials, Engineers, Floodplain Administrators)
- Finds Nexus-Point Contacts, to Build Promotion Network
- Gathers Data on Attendance
- Distributes Continuing Education Credits
- Updates FEMA CIS & DEC with Attendees
- Orders, packages, and distributes training folders

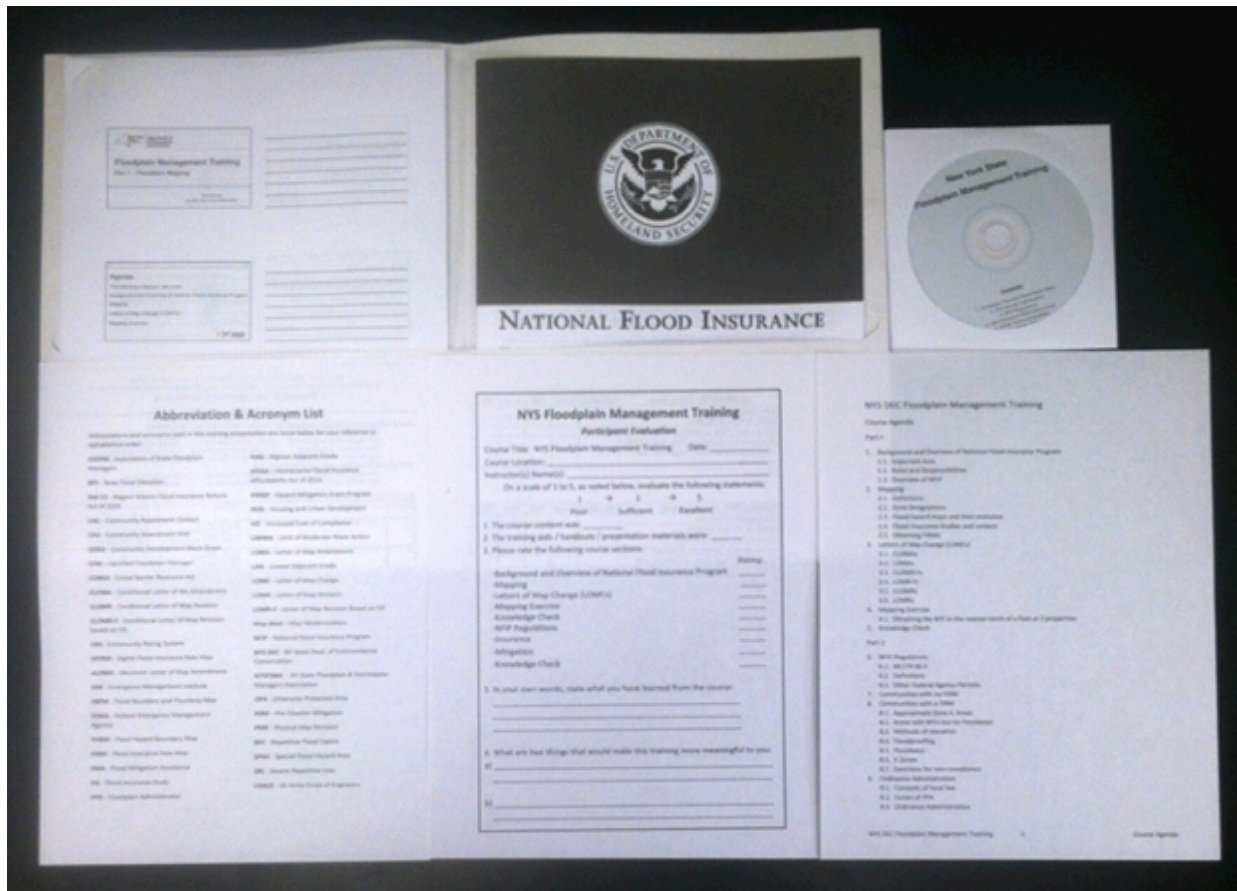
Trainers' Roles

- Two Trainer Teams
- Each team has
 - one from Bergmann Associates
 - one from Atkins
- Help Develop and Localize the PowerPoint
- Each Trainer Teaches a 3-hour Portion (AM / PM)
- Encourage Discussion of Local Flood-Related Issues
- Gather Credit Sign-In / Sign-Out Sheets and Relays them to Training Coordinator

Training Folder Contents

- PowerPoint Handout (*with notes section for trainees*)
- FEMA Elevation Certificate
- CD with Relevant Documents
 - FEMA-480, NFIP Regulations, State-Specific Documents, PowerPoint Slides, FEMA Technical Bulletins, Table of Contents
- List of Common Abbreviations & Acronyms
- Mapping Exercise
- List of Regional Floodplain Management Coordinators
- Participant Evaluation Form

Example Student Folder





Coastal Erosion Hazard Area (CEHA) & FEMA Levee Mapping Requirement Trainings

CEHA Training

- New York State CEHA program provides
 - additional protection against flood damages
 - by restricting development in erosion-prone coastal areas through permitting.
- Training provides New York's 86 coastal communities with CEHA designated areas technical assistance in the following:
 - overview of CEHA program
 - Erosion
 - Erosion solutions

CEHA - Topics Covered

- Overview of CEHA
- History of New York's Coastal Erosion Mapping Program
- CEHA Building Requirements
- Obtaining and Understanding CEHA Maps

Counties with CEHA Communities

- Chautauqua County
- Erie County
- Monroe County
- Niagara County
- Jefferson County
- Oswego County
- Nassau County
- Suffolk County
- Westchester County
- New York City
- Orleans County
- Wayne County
- Cayuga County

CEC Credits Offered – CEHA Training

- CEHA Training approved for following continuing education credits:
 -
 - Professional Engineering (3 hours)
 - Certified Floodplain Management (3 hours)

FEMA Levee Mapping Requirement Training

- FEMA requires levees to be accredited:
 - if they are to be shown as meeting requirements for protection from the base flood on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- training provides local community and county officials with a better understanding of:
 - Mapping procedures for non-accredited levees

Topics Covered

- Levee Accreditation vs Levee Certification
- USACE, NYS DEC, FEMA roles in levees
- Levee accreditation
- Provisionally Accepted Levee (PAL) process (not in detail)
- Mapping of levees no longer providing protection
- Maintenance plan

Counties with Levee Training:

- Cattaraugus County
- Erie County
- Monroe County
- Westchester County
- Allegany County & Wyoming County
- Cayuga County
- Chemung County
- Ontario County & Seneca County
- Schuyler County & Yates County
- Steuben County
- Tioga County
- Tompkins County
- Broome County
- Chenango County
- Delaware County
- Dutchess County
- Herkimer County
- Oneida County
- Onondaga County
- Otsego County
- Rensselaer County
- Schoharie County
- Ulster County
- Washington County

CEC Credits Offered – Levee Training

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Course Origin, Funding, & Value

How it Came About

- NYS DEC
 - state NFIP coordinating office
 - routinely conducts 12 or more half- to full-day NFIP training session per year
 - however, these are insufficient to cover the entire state
- HMGP from Sandy provided opportunity to do comprehensive, state-wide training
- HGMP application had strong support in Governor's office

How it Came About, cont...

- In response to the increasing damage wrought by major storms, FEMA and the NYS DEC recognized the need to educate local officials about the following:
 - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
 - Floodplain development standards
 - Reading and understanding Flood Insurance Rate Maps & Flood Insurance Studies
 - Community Rating System (CRS)
 - Understanding and properly using Elevation Certificates
- Application supported by Governor's office; approved as part of 5% set aside so no match required.

Why Invest in Flood Insurance Training?

- Educating local officials pays measurable dividends:
 - With 1500 communities, it's difficult to reach out to all local floodplain administrators (many of whom don't know that they are floodplain administrators!)
 - Delivering basic NFIP knowledge on the local level is a never-ending requirement, and doing so will reduce future flood damages.
 - Many communities may then want to go a step further and join the CRS.

Trainee Comments + Program Progress

Trainee Evaluations & Comments

“What Trainees Learned”

- “How better to work with local communities to raise compliance.” (Canandaigua)
- “Processes involved with floodplain impacts, changes, & amendments, especially for landowners.” (Orchard Park)
- “The homeowner should go to FEMA before coming to Codes. The program gave us a lot of #'s to contact for help.” (Saratoga)
- “Better understanding of mapping & process to get flood insurance and/or removal from flood zones.” (Saratoga)
- “A better understanding of (NFIP). What our responsibilities as an agency are under the program.” (Hudson Falls)
- “Better understanding of LOMA, LOMA process, and LAG, and requirements of NYS Code for residential.” (Schenectady)

Trainee Evaluations & Comments

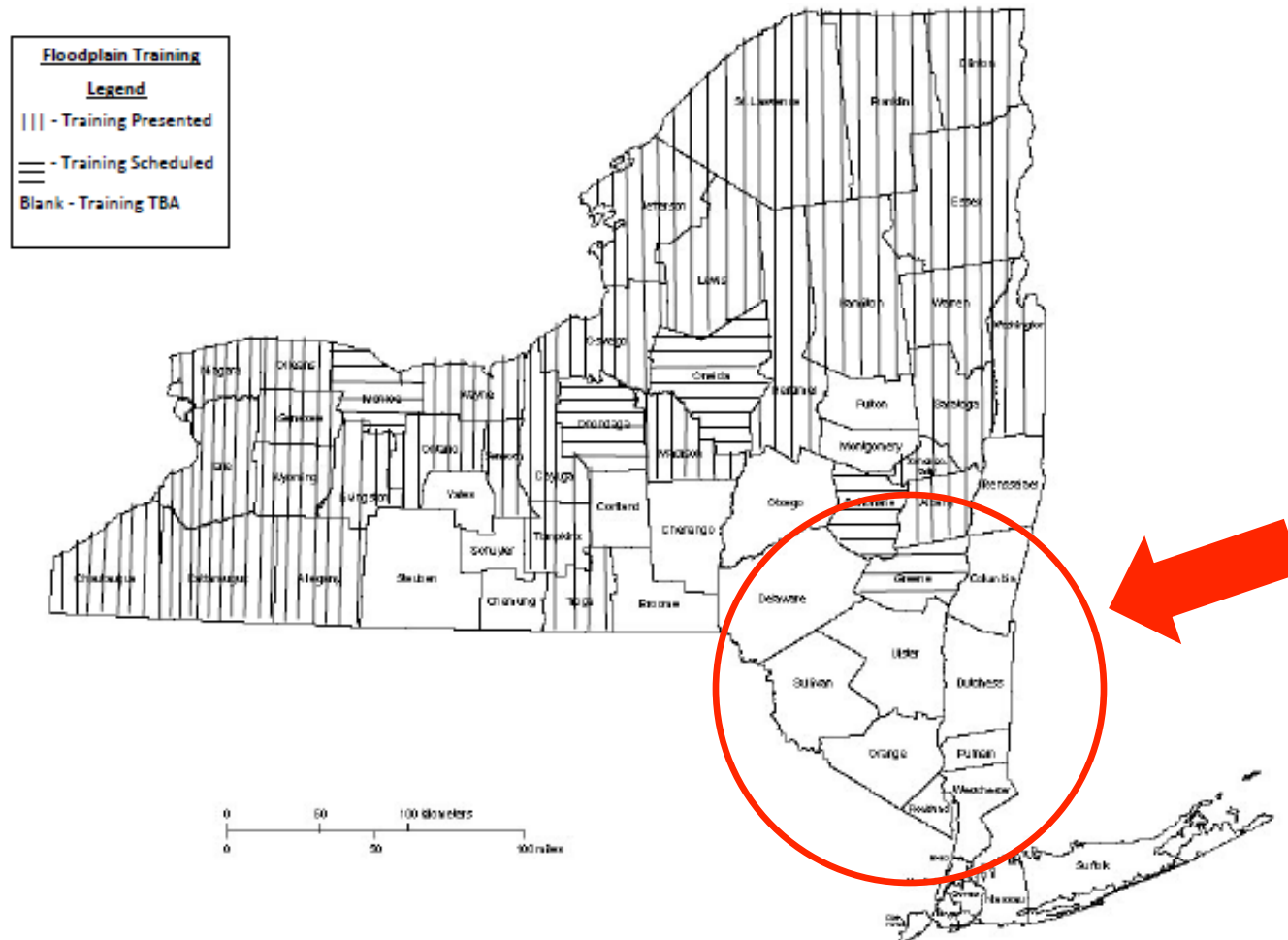
“Trainer Comments”

- “Good overall understanding of management, procedures, & rules.” (Orchard Park)
- “Great overview. Explained very well.” (Orchard Park)
- “This was an excellent refresher course!” (Hudson Falls)
- “Kept participants engaged with real life examples & stories that were not on the slides.” (Schenectady)
- “Great knowledge and very helpful examples.” (Orchard Park)
- “Great team!” (Orchard Park)

Project Timeline

- 4 Months – Preparation:
 - Getting PE, CFM, & Code Enforcement credits approved
 - Meet with DEC floodplain & coastal erosion staff to go over course outline
 - Gathering appropriate materials & developing PowerPoints
 - Deliver practice training to DEC employees
- 1 Year, 2 Months – Delivery:
 - Obtain classroom or lecture hall type training facilities; centralized locations
 - Schedule training sessions
 - Promote trainings and network with local officials to spread the word
 - Maintain class sign-in sheets, and distribute continuing education credits
 - Participate in bi-weekly conference calls with NYSDEC and NYSOGS

Project Status (Floodplain Management)



Contacts

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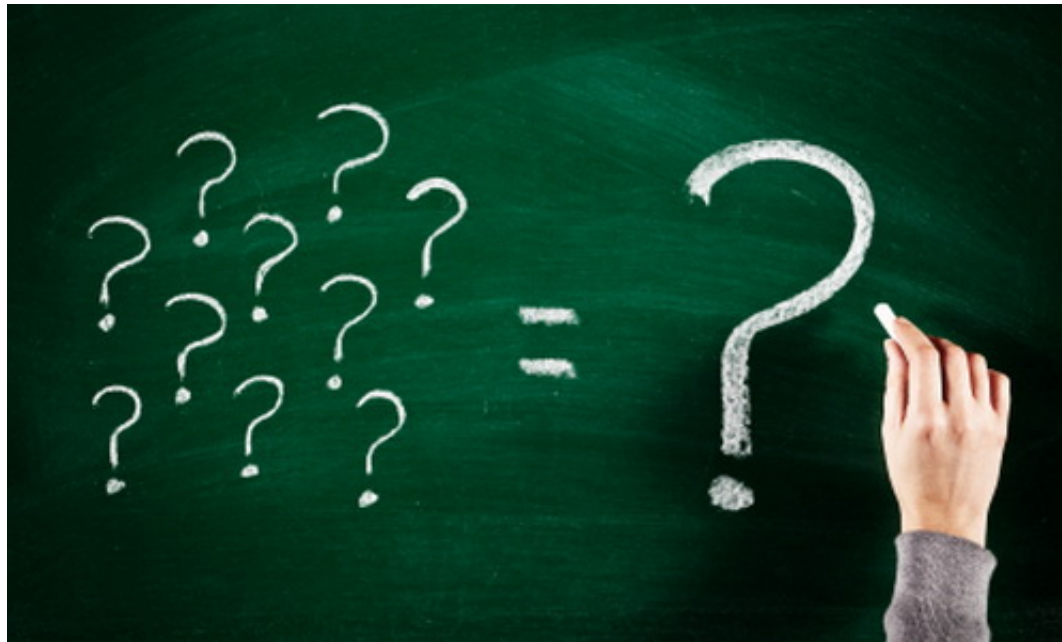
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See me after presentation for signing up to host or attend future training event in SE NY



QUESTIONS ?????



THANK YOU !!!

