

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Floodplain Updates

Sarah Rafajko, Floodplain Management Policy Coordinator and State NFIP Coordinator, WDNR

WCCA – October 26, 2023



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Floodplain Updates

- Municipal Flood Control Grant
- Elevation & Floodproofing Certificates
- Variance Applications & Outcomes
- Mapping
- Ordinances
- Staffing Update



Municipal Flood Control Grant Program

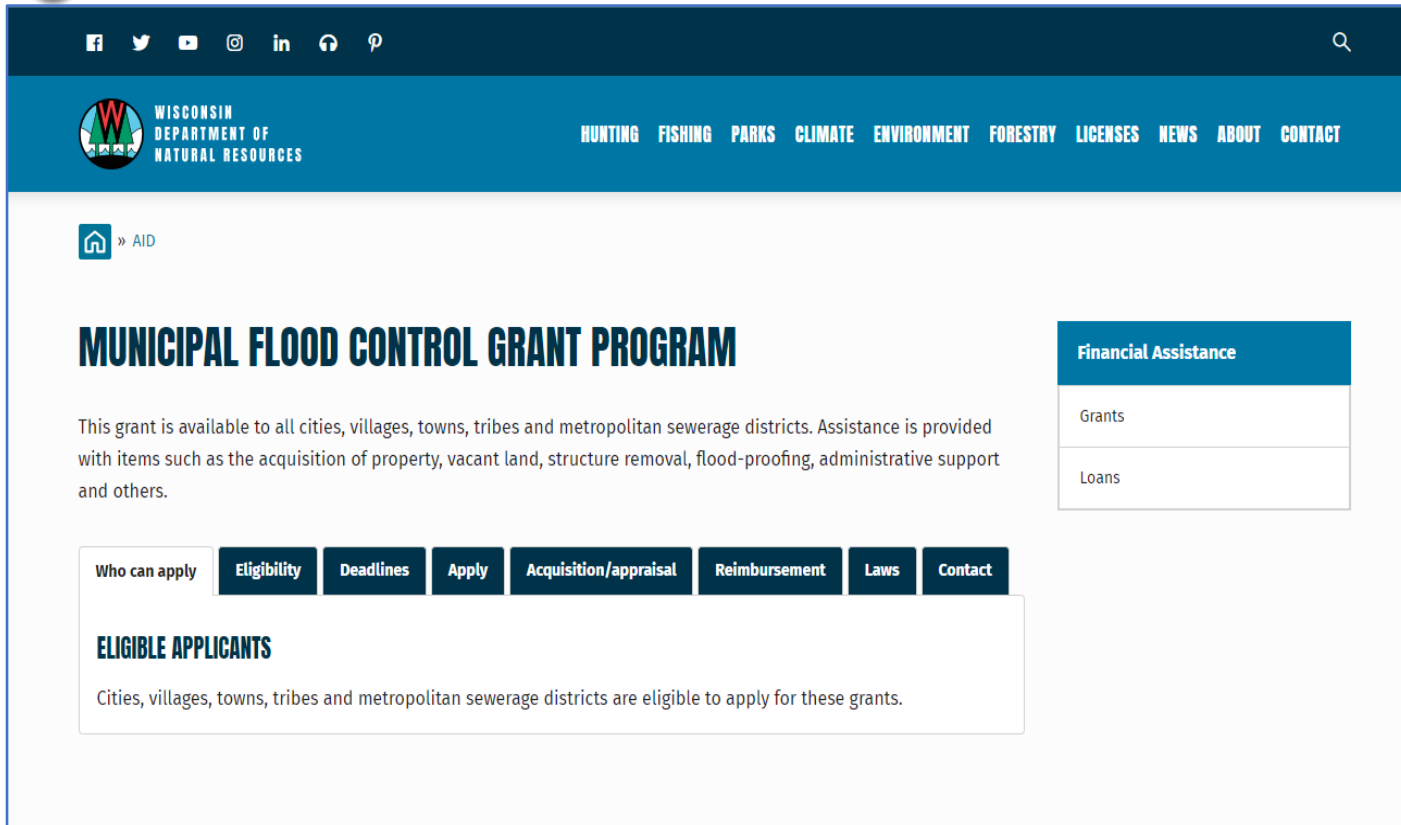
- Grants available to cities, villages, towns, tribal government, and metropolitan sewerage districts to mitigate flooding and flood-related damages.
- This program is only funded enough to run every other fiscal year.
 - Proposed \$2.4 million in this biennium budget for this grant cycle. Cycle opened last week with applications due March 15, 2024.
- The state share of the project cost may not be greater than 50% of total eligible costs.
- Maximum grant award is 20% of available funding as determined by state budget.
 - \$480,000 for this grant cycle.



Eligible Project Activities In Priority Order

1. Land acquisition and removal of structures which, due to zoning restrictions, cannot be rebuilt or repaired. (These are structures are directly located in the Floodway and/or Zone A.)
2. Land acquisition and removal of structures in the 100-year floodplain. (These structures are located within the Flood Fringe.)
3. Land acquisition and removal of repetitive loss or substantially damaged structures.
4. Land acquisition and removal of other flood damaged structures.
5. Floodproofing and elevation of structures.
6. Riparian restoration projects, including removal of dams and other artificial obstructions, restoration of fish and native plant habitat, erosion control and streambank restoration projects.
7. Acquisition of vacant land, or perpetual conservation or flowage easements to provide additional flood storage or to facilitate natural or more efficient flood flows.
8. Construction of structures for the collection, detention, retention, storage and transmission of stormwater and groundwater for flood control and riparian restoration projects.
9. Preparation of flood insurance studies and other flood mapping projects.

Additional Information



The screenshot shows the website for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The header includes social media icons and a search bar. The main navigation menu lists: HUNTING, FISHING, PARKS, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY, LICENSES, NEWS, ABOUT, CONTACT. The page title is "MUNICIPAL FLOOD CONTROL GRANT PROGRAM". Below the title, a paragraph states: "This grant is available to all cities, villages, towns, tribes and metropolitan sewerage districts. Assistance is provided with items such as the acquisition of property, vacant land, structure removal, flood-proofing, administrative support and others." A navigation bar includes: Who can apply, Eligibility, Deadlines, Apply, Acquisition/appraisal, Reimbursement, Laws, Contact. A section titled "ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS" states: "Cities, villages, towns, tribes and metropolitan sewerage districts are eligible to apply for these grants." On the right, a "Financial Assistance" table lists "Grants" and "Loans".

- ELISABETH (LIS) KUISIS
GRANT PROGRAM MANAGER
ELISABETH.KUISIS@WISCONSIN.GOV
(608) 400-3005
- ONLINE: DNR.WI.GOV
 - SEARCH: MUNICIPAL FLOOD CONTROL



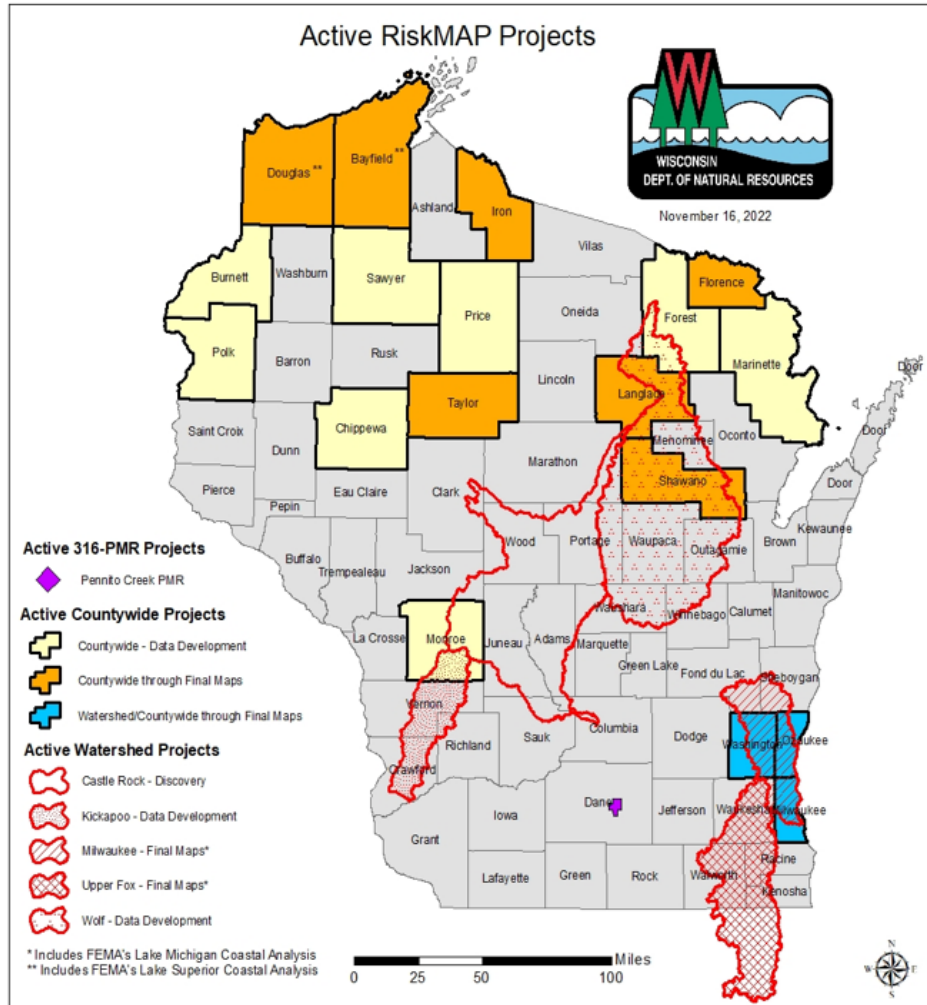
New FEMA Elevation Certificate (EC) and Floodproofing Certificate Forms

- Effective November 1, 2023, new EC and Floodproofing forms must be used.
- Forms can be found at
 - [National Flood Insurance Program Underwriting Forms | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-underwriting-forms)
- Floodproofing Certificate Slides from FEMA Training:
 - https://asfpm-library.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/FSC/General/FEMA_2023_Dry_Floodproofing_Certificate_Slides_August2023.pdf
- Elevation Certificate Slides from FEMA Training:
 - https://asfpm-library.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/FSC/General/FEMA_2023_Elevation_Certificate_Slides_July2023.pdf
- Forms must be opened with Adobe.

DNR Dam Safety/Floodplain Variance Training

- Variance Applications should be forwarded to the Department Regional Office at least 10 days before the hearing.
- The final decision regarding the appeal or variance application shall be sent to the Department Regional Office within 10 days of the decision.

DNR Active Mapping Projects



The floodplain team is currently working on 19 projects across 28 counties in various stages of the FEMA lifecycle.

Letter of Final Determination (LFD) Dates:

1. Upper Fox River Watershed – Kenosha County: 10/11/2023 (just happened)
2. Milwaukee River Watershed – Ozaukee County: 12/20/2023
3. Shawano County – 01/17/2024

Other Counties *projected* (subject to change) to go LFD sometime in 2024/early 2025:

1. Milwaukee River Watershed – Fond du Lac County
2. Milwaukee River Watershed – Sheboygan County
3. Milwaukee River Watershed – Milwaukee County
4. Milwaukee River Watershed – Washington County
5. Pennito Creek (Dane County) PMR

Projects going Effective with maps/FIS:

1. Milwaukee River Watershed – Waukesha County: 10/19/2023
2. Upper Fox River Watershed – Racine County: 01/11/2024
3. Taylor County: 03/13/2024

Current WDNR Model Floodplain Ordinance

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MODEL FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

FOR

WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES

Effective March 10, 2022

A cooperative effort
of
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource
and
Federal Emergency Management Agency

- The current WDNR Model Floodplain Ordinance is dated March 2022 and went effective in April 2022.
- Includes Act 175 language (enacted March 2020 and created §87.30 (1d)(d), Wis. Stats)
- Includes coastal language
- Clarifying language in floodfringe, campground updates, removal of lands from the floodplain updates, cumulative 50% rule.
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Floodplains/ModelOrd.pdf>

Blue highlights are instructional for the ordinance writer and can be deleted once the item is completed

Yellow highlights are places where the ordinance needs to be filled in with community specific information

Grey highlights are ordinance additions for communities that choose to implement Act 175

Red highlights are ordinance additions for communities that have existing Cranberry Farms (FA-C) (when applicable)

Green highlights are ordinance additions for communities that have adopted a Flood Storage District (when applicable)

Pink highlights are ordinance additions for communities that have adopted a Coastal Floodplain District (CFD) (Great Lakes when applicable)

WDNR Model Floodplain Ordinance Adoptions

LFD County (if there is a number after the county, we do not know the FIRM and FIS split yet)	# FIRM	# FIS	LFD work in previous years	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
Ft. McCoy	2	8	10 communities - June - Dec 2019															
Pierce Co	2	7	9 communities - June - Dec 2020															
Lafayette Co	11	0	11 communities June - Dec 2020															
			None in first half of 2021															
Cedar Creek	7	3	10 Communities - Aug 2021 - Feb 2022															
Walworth	8	7																
Manitowoc	4	9																
Oconto	2	5		7	7	7	7	7										
Brown	8	4			12	12	12	12	12	12								
Iron	3	0			3	3	3	3	3	3								
Florence	1	0					1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Waukesha	27	3								30	30	30	30	30	30			
Chippewa	3	7								10	10	10	10	10	10			
Racine	12	2												14	14	14	14	14
Taylor	5	0												5	5	5	5	5
Kenosha	9	0													9	9	9	9
Door	5	1														6	6	6
Ozaukee 11																	11	11
Shawano - 14																		14
Total communities in LFD at the same time				7	22	22	23	23	16	56	41	41	41	59	68	34	45	59

Ordinance Update Suggestions

- We recommend that each jurisdiction adopt a Stand-Alone Floodplain Ordinance.
- When you have a mixed ordinance, any revisions to that ordinance will require DNR approval for the floodplain ordinance even if the revision has nothing to do with the floodplain ordinance.
- Stand Alone ordinances are easier to enforce both from the state and local level
- DNR staff can do the draft for you
- If you are going through the Ordinance Adoption Process to adopt new maps, please stay on schedule!
- Ordinance needs adopted within 6 months of the LFD date or your community will be suspended from the NFIP.

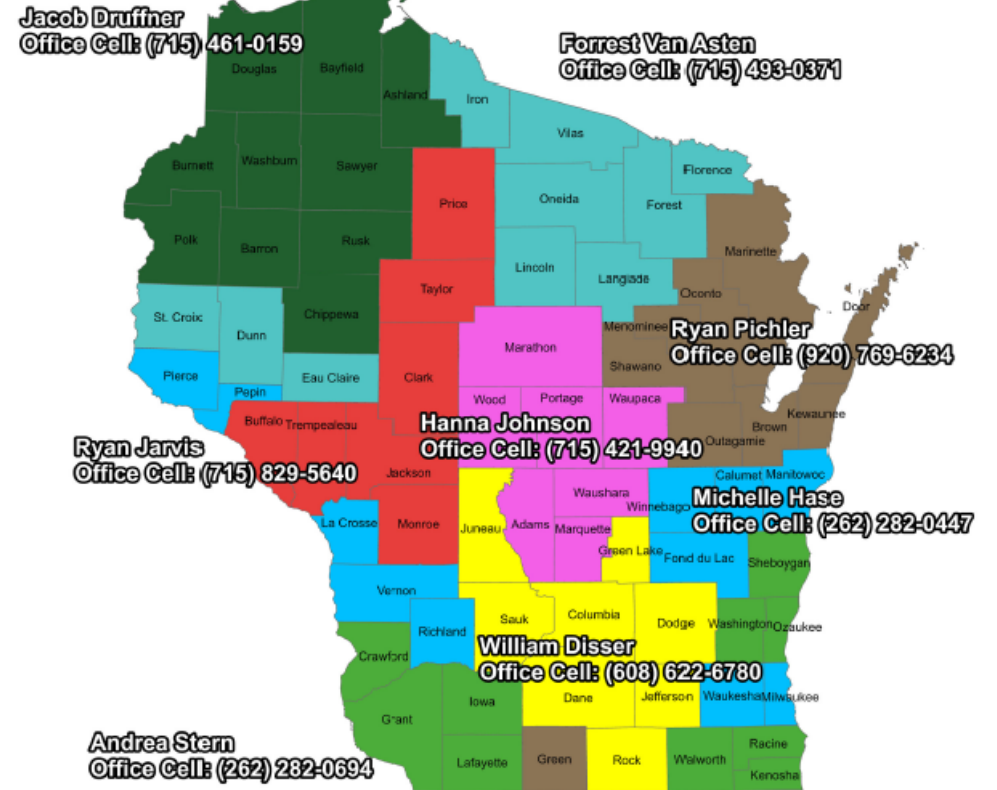
Wisconsin Minimum Standards

Chapter NR 116, Wisconsin Administrative Code Basic Overview

- Exceed NFIP minimum standards (Federal)
- 2ft of freeboard (Flood Protection Elevation = RFE + 2 ft)
- Fill around the residential structure shall be one foot above the regional flood elevation and shall extend at least 15 feet beyond the limits of the building
- Dry land access for new development
- Prohibits most floodway development
- Cumulative improvement/damage standards (50% provision for legal non-conforming structures)
- Zero rise mapping standard (i.e. project cannot cause an increase in the RFE)

WME-by-county-External

WDNR Dam Safety & Floodplain



CENTRAL OFFICE

- Tanya Lourigan, Dams and Floodplain Section Manager - Office Cell: (608) 444-2089
- Uriah Monday, State Dam Safety Engineer - Office Cell: (608) 225-6716
- Christopher Olds, Floodplain Engineer - Office Cell: (608) 422-0410
- Konny Margovsky, Dam Safety / Floodplain Engineer - Office Cell: (608) 419-6531
- Chad Heimerl, Floodplain Engineer - Office Cell: (608) 576-2811
- Sarah Rafajko, State NFIP Coordinator - Office Cell: (608) 893-8710
- Mia Van Horn, Floodplain Zoning Ordinance Coordinator - Office Cell: (608) 590-5296
- Emily Szajna, GIS Project Lead - Office Cell: (608) 422-0365
- Fritz Statz, GIS Project Lead - Office Cell: (608) 220-4290
- Ben Sanborn, Floodplain Mapping Project Lead - Office Cell: (608) 455-7417

What floodplain training topics would you be interested in?



CONNECT WITH US

QUESTIONS?

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"WILD WISCONSIN:
OFF THE RECORD"