

Floodplain Management Plan Meeting Series: Meeting 2 Assess the Problem
February 1, 2023, 3-4 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Lori Rafferty (MSD Floodplain), Jennifer Caummisar-Kern (MSD Floodplain), Matt Schaaf, Meghan Brown (MSD Emergency Preparedness & Operations Resiliency Administrator), Sheryl Lauder (MSD Communications), Harold Adams (MSD Communications), Gary Muller (Louisville Metro Building Department), Angela Richardson (Louisville Metro Public Works), Amy Rose (Louisville Metro EMA), Emily Liu (Louisville Metro Planning & Design), Jessica Kane (Louisville Metro Parks), David Wicks, JP Carstone, Teena Halbig, Brad Allgeier, Josh Hunn, Tony Arnold, Tyler Mahoney, Layson Hagan, Jeff Frank, Marilyn Coffey, Zachary Dettlinger, Lucas Frazier

Lori Rafferty presented information on the history of MSD, floodplain ordinances and stormwater regulations, a history of modification of natural channels, development in the floodplain, a history of major flood events, the economic impact of flooding, depth of structure flooding and development trends. Meghan Brown presented information on types of flooding, health impacts of flooding, and the impacts of flooding on critical facilities and major employers. Jennifer Caummisar-Kern presented information on substantial damage, flood insurance and risk, repetitive loss properties and the importance of open space. Lori Rafferty finished the presentation with information about the benefits of natural buffers.

Questions following the presentation included:

David Wicks asked for clarification about stream buffer distance compliance for a current development. He also requested we explore new terminology for modified channels instead of calling them “improved”. David asked for confirmation on the time frame for substantial damage thresholds. Lori confirmed this is a rolling one year period.

Jeff Frank pointed out the development trend in Floyds Fork for building on raised areas of previous floodplain and that he would like to see a prioritization of wetland areas for stormwater management. Lori added that constructing wetland areas is an option for meeting water quality regulations.

Lucas Frazier ask how the flashiness of streams is monitored. Lori stated USGS gauges are funded by MSD and there are 27 gauges in the county, every main stream is gauged. Brad Allgeier added a link in the chat to gauges in Jefferson County within the Salt River Basin.

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ky/nwis/current/?type=flow>

Teena Halbig asked if MSD would consider credits for residential property owners who provide open space. Lori Rafferty stated that this would be something that could be considered in the future, but currently stormwater credits are only available for non-residential properties. Jeff Frank added that retaining open space should be better incentivized when developing.

Tyler Mahoney brought up the increasing frequency of billion-dollar storms. He asked if insurance rates consider the impact of climate change related flooding. Lori responded that while current flood maps are not based on climate change but on current development scenarios, the depth of rainfall used to determine the floodplain will likely increase in the future.

David Wicks asked if Metro Parks considered the impact of future climate change. Jessica Kane with Parks stated that they are in the middle of their resiliency planning process and Metro has a sustainability committee that considers related topics.

Jeff Frank would like to see MSD work more cohesively with Louisville Metro Planning & Design services to advance the use of low impact development. Lori stated that MSDs Tony Marconi is included in the working group for the Land Development Code Reform to consider a Conservation Form District.

Teena Halbig expressed that she would like to see water quantity be evaluated as well as quality.