



# Town of Blooming Grove

## NYRCR Program

### Committee Meeting #1

### (Kick Off)



## Agenda

**NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Program  
NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Planning Committee Kick-Off Meeting  
Wednesday, July 2, 2014  
4:30pm-6:30pm, 6 Horton Road, Blooming Grove**

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roles
  - a. NYRCR Staff & NYS Department of State Planners
  - b. NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Planning Committee Members
    - i. Discuss roles of the Co-Chairs
  - c. Tetra Tech Team
  - d. Communications, Information Exchange & Approval Protocols
2. Today's Goals
  - a. Overview of the NYRCR Program
    - i. Review of NYRCR Planning Process
    - ii. Review CDBG-DR program guidelines
  - b. Review of the NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Plan Components
  - c. Hit the Ground Running
    - i. Geographic Scope
    - ii. Storm Damage
    - iii. Critical Assets
      1. Discuss critical assets in the community
      2. Identify committee members to conduct the Critical Asset Inventory
    - iv. Discuss Regional Issues
    - v. Establish draft vision
    - vi. Begin to identify short, mid and long term goals

- d. Public Outreach Strategy
    - i. Public Engagement Meeting #1
      - 1. Date and Time
      - 2. Potential Locations
      - 3. Methods of Advertisement
    - ii. Public Engagement Meeting #2
      - 1. Tentative Date and Time for the meeting
      - 2. Potential Locations
    - iii. Identify key stakeholder groups in the community
  - e. Committee Meeting Schedule – every two weeks
    - i. Combination of in-person and teleconference
    - ii. Establish the dates, time and Location
- 3. NYRCR Administrative Item
    - a. Ethics Document and Discussion
  - 4. Meeting conclusion

## **CONTACT**

NYRCR Regional Lead – Lori DuBord  
[ldubord@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:ldubord@stormrecovery.ny.gov)

NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Community Planner – Emily Slotnick  
Email: [Emily.slotnick@tetrattech.com](mailto:Emily.slotnick@tetrattech.com)  
Phone: 302.283.2250

## **More Information**

<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov> (Main Site)  
<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/resources-0> (Plan Elements)  
<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/faq> (FAQs)



NY Rising Communities  
 NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Planning Committee Kick-Off Meeting Sign-in Sheet  
 Wednesday, July 2, 2014 - 4:30pm-6:30pm

Name	Agency	Phone Number	Mailing Address	e-mail address
Perry Ragusa		845 458-1776	Box 62 Blooming Grove, N.Y. 10914	perry 450@yahoo.com
Lisa Melville	NYS DOS	914 734- 1342	250th road Peekskill, ny	Lisa.Melville@dor.ny.gov
Richard Bachman		845 496-3952	101 BARKER ROAD WASHINGTONVILLE, NY	rbachman114@hotmail.com
MILLET WOODS	N/A	496-4480	S BARKER LAKE WASHINGTONVILLE NY	jets@nira-phoo.com
Jacius Sas		845 783 3805	12 HOLLAND CT MONROE, NY 10950	JACIUSASAS@gmail.com
Amel GilBERT	N/A	845 774-5715	9 ARLINGTON DR MONROE, NY 10950	Amel.GilBERT@earthlink.net
Lori DuBard	NY Rising	845 334-8951		ldubard@earthlink.net
Jay Beaumont	Medford watershed	845 778-3141	46 Highland Ave Walden NY 12588	jbeaumont@hvcrr.com
Robert Fromagel	Town BG	845 496-5223	5 ARLINGTON DR MONROE NY	Bob.Toups@peewee.com
William C. HARDING	NYS DOS	914- 734-1342	2 SARAWASHI BLVD SUITE 306 PEEKSKILL, NY. 10566	William.HARDING@DOS.NY.GOV.



NY Rising Communities

NVRCR Town of Blooming Grove Planning Committee Kick-Off Meeting Sign-in Sheet  
 Wednesday, July 2, 2014 - 4:30pm-6:30pm

Name	Agency	Phone Number	Mailing Address	e-mail address
Emily Suornick	IT			Emily.Suornick@TetraTech.com
SUSAN ROTH	IT sub	845-853-0134	26 Lamo Rd MORRIS NJ	SUSANROTH@TETRA.com
DAN TAKOLGIN		614-0008	Blooming Grove 1000 The American Rd.	BORRIS@TETRA.com
Cynthia Rance	Tetra Tech	478-630-8044	Morris Plains, NJ 07950	cynthia.rance@tetratech.com



## NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Program

Working Together to Build Back  
Better

## Welcome Introductions, Roles

- NYRCR Staff, NY Department of State Planners
- NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Committee
  - Name, residence/business, community role
- Tetra Tech
  - Lead Local Community Planner – Emily Slotnick
  - Others (now and later)
  - Communications Protocols
    - ✓ To review and approve materials, provide feedback
    - ✓ To communicate with Planning Committee members

## Today's Goals

- NYRCR Program Objectives, Overview
- Discuss NYRCR Plan Process and Components
- Discuss Public Engagement Strategy
- Discuss Immediate next steps
  - Identify Meeting Dates/Locations
  - Create Subcommittees (if necessary)
  - Identify Geographic Scope
  - Define Vision
  - Identify Critical Issues
  - Identify Damages



## Understanding the NYRCR Program

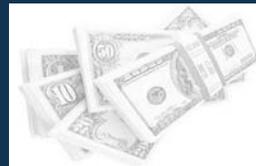
- New York State and Governor Cuomo providing \$650M+ planning/implementation for hard-hit communities (Sandy, Lee, Irene, 2013 floods)
  - Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds
  - Round 1: 102 communities; Round 2: 22 communities
  - NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove: Up to \$3M
  - Amounts based on federally-assessed storm damage

## Understanding the NYRCR Program

- NYRCR Program Goal
  - “... to empower the State’s most impacted communities with the technical expertise needed to develop thorough and implementable reconstruction plans to build physically, socially, and economically resilient and sustainable communities so as to rebuild New York’s communities in a way that will mitigate against future risks and build increased resilience.” <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/faq>
- Bottom-up community participation & collaboration
  - Identify assets/risks, needs/opportunities
  - Best options/viable alternatives

## Qualifying for CDBG-DR

- Is the project eligible under traditional CDBG?
  - Public facilities and improvements, and privately-owned utilities
  - Relocation planning, capacity building
  - Acquisition of real property
  - Clearance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and construction of buildings
  - Economic development assistance



## Qualifying for CDBG-DR

- Is there a direct link between the project and the disaster?
  - Does it address damage caused or exacerbated by a storm?
  - Does it address emerging issues that have been exposed and identified as a result of the storm?
  - Does it create greater resiliency against future storms?



## Program Steps



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Initial NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Plan Components (due early August)

SECTION 1	DESCRIPTION
<b>Overview</b>	Describes NYRCR Program and its objectives, land uses, housing stock, demographics, hazard history
<b>Geographic Scope</b>	Identifies the geographic boundaries for the NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Plan
<b>Description of Storm Damage</b>	Irene, Lee, Sandy
<b>Critical Issues</b>	Focuses on gaps/needs to improve safety, economic revitalization, sustainability, housing, natural systems, and others
<b>Community Vision</b>	Statement that expresses desired outcomes for recovery and resiliency
<b>Relationship to Regional Plans</b>	Examines links between land use and critical issues region-wide

## Initial NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Plan Components (due late August)

SECTION 2	DESCRIPTION
<b>Description of Assets</b>	Inventories and describes facilities/assets critical to recovery/resiliency efforts Examples: fire house, medical care, grocery store, pharmacy, school, social service providers, evacuation shelters, etc.
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	Evaluates and determines potential risk for damage or loss as a result of future disaster events; includes hydraulic (HEC-RAS) modeling
<b>Needs &amp; Opportunities Assessment</b>	Describes existing needs and opportunities to advance recovery and future resiliency Examples: flood mitigation, housing, economic revitalization, infrastructure repair, etc.

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## Project Timeline

- **JULY 2014**
  - ✓ BY JULY 18 – Public Engagement Meeting #1
- **AUGUST 2014**
  - ✓ BY August 1 – CR Plan Section 1
  - ✓ BY August 22 – CR Plan Section 2
  - ✓ BY AUGUST 29 – Public Engagement Meeting #2
- **SEPTEMBER 2014**
  - ✓ BY September 12 – List of Strategies
- **OCTOBER 2014**
  - ✓ BY October 3 – List of Projects and Actions
  - ✓ BY October 22 –Draft 1 CR Plan

## Project Timeline

- **NOVEMBER 2014**
  - ✓ BY November 14 – Draft 2 CR Plan
  - ✓ BY November 14 – Public Engagement Meeting #3
- **DECEMBER 2014**
  - ✓ BY December 5 – Final CR Plan
- **JANUARY 2015**
  - ✓ BY January 16 – Public Engagement Meeting #4

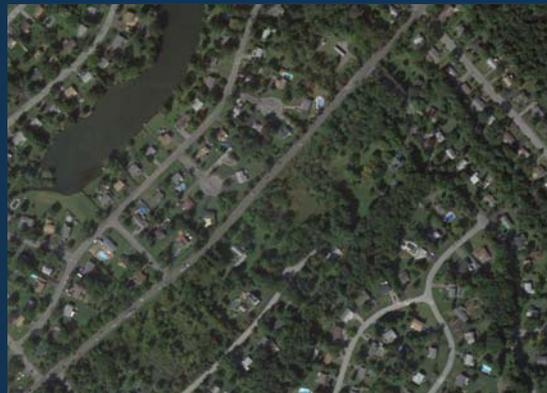
## Hitting the Ground Running Today's Agenda

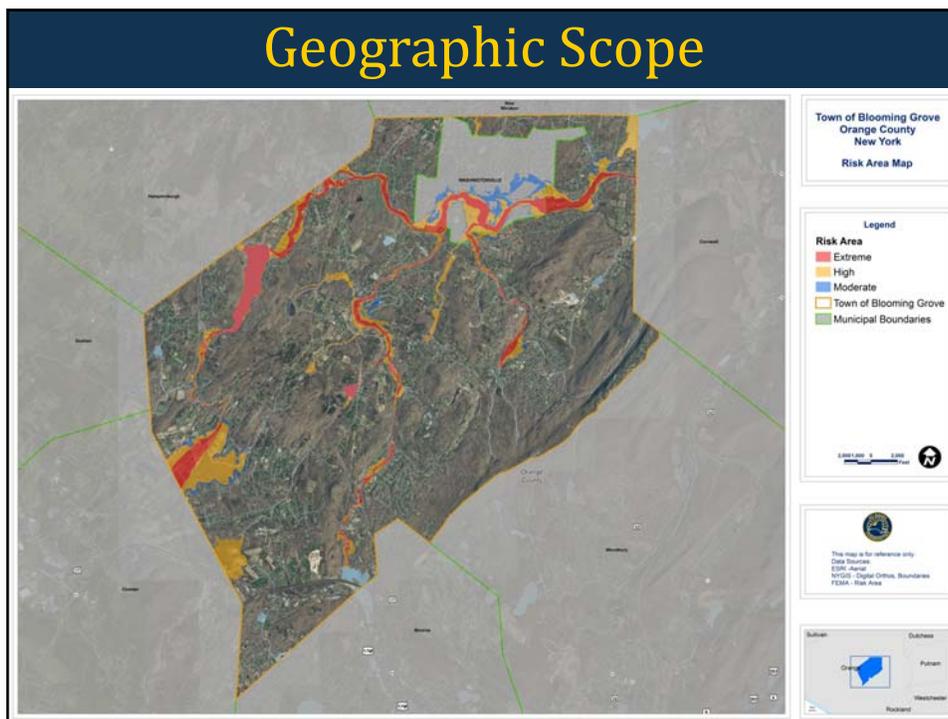
- Advancing Initial Plan Components for Section 1
  - Establish Geographic Scope
  - Discuss Storm Damage
  - Discuss Critical Assets & Regional Issues
  - Establish Vision Statement
  - Discuss Public Outreach Strategy
  - Develop Committee Meeting Schedule



## Geographic Scope

- Area where assets are most at risk
- Area where reconstruction, future construction, or other resiliency measures should be encouraged





## Description of Storm Damage

- Remember – Must be a direct link to damage from Irene, Lee, and/or Sandy to justify each proposed project!!!

Resources for Storm Damage Details	Status
Blooming Grove Guided Tour	Completed today with Committee Members
Committee input via mapping exercise	To complete at the end of this kick-off meeting
Local Stakeholder Feedback	To be gathered through outreach over the coming weeks/months
Local, State, Regional, Federal Documentation	Data collection in process

## Inventory of Assets

- Identify assets in each “asset class,” or category
  - a. Economic
  - b. Health and Social Services
  - c. Housing
  - d. Infrastructure Systems
  - e. Natural and Cultural Resources
  - f. Socially Vulnerable Populations
- Provide additional detail on all assets identified
  - Asset located in “Extreme” and/or “High-Risk Areas”?
  - Asset defined as **critical facilities** by FEMA (essential to health and welfare of the whole community, especially after hazard events)?
  - Identify Community Value
  - Identify Vulnerability

### EXAMPLES of ASSETS

- Emergency service facilities (EOCs)
- Police, fire stations
- Public works facilities
- Schools
- Food stores
- Medical facilities
- Pharmacies
- Medical supply vendors
- Evacuation shelters
- Jails and juvenile detention centers
- Senior, vulnerable population housing
- Disaster assistance services

## Assets: Economic

- What elements of the built, natural environment are paramount to economic health:
  - Office buildings, industrial parks and manufacturing facilities, downtown center/commercial district, seasonal and tourist destinations, major employers
- What Investments Could Restore, Enhance Future Economic Development?
  - Protect / Strengthen Business Areas
  - Capitalize on Assets, Key Features
  - Diversify
  - Ensure Continued Access to Employment
  - Back-up Systems



## Assets: Housing

- Which neighborhoods are most vulnerable?
- What types of housing are most at-risk?



## Assets: Infrastructure

- What is at-risk?
  - Transportation Systems
  - Roads, bridges
  - Water/Wastewater Facilities
  - Electric Grid
  - Communications
  - Fuel



## Assets: Health and Social Services/Community Facilities

- Preserve Uninterrupted Emergency Response and Medical Services
- Protect Educational Facilities
  - Other assets include health care, day care, and elder care facilities, emergency operations, government and administrative services



## Assets: Natural and Cultural Resources

- Open Space Resources to be Incorporated into Resiliency Planning
  - Wetlands, floodplains, riverbanks, recreation facilities, parks, public access, open spaces, agricultural areas
  - Religious establishments, libraries, museums, historic landmarks, performing arts venues

## Regional Issues and Plans

- Regional Economic Development Council (Mid-Hudson and Orange County Business Association and Orange County Partnership)
- Orange County Water Authority (Moodna Creek Watershed Plan, October 2012)
- Mid Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan
- Orange County Transportation Council Long Range Transportation Plan, Dec. 2011
- Village of Washingtonville NYRCR Plan, March 2014



## Vision Statement

- Vision Statements can be short-, mid-, or long-term
- What is the realistic “favorable future” we want to see in Blooming Grove?
- Reduce risk, increase community resiliency
- Solution-focused, comprehensive
- Community-inclusive of all demographics, especially the most vulnerable who struggle with self-protection and rely on services susceptible to disruption
- How can we capitalize on current assets?
  - Social, economic, natural, cultural, other

## Public Outreach Strategy

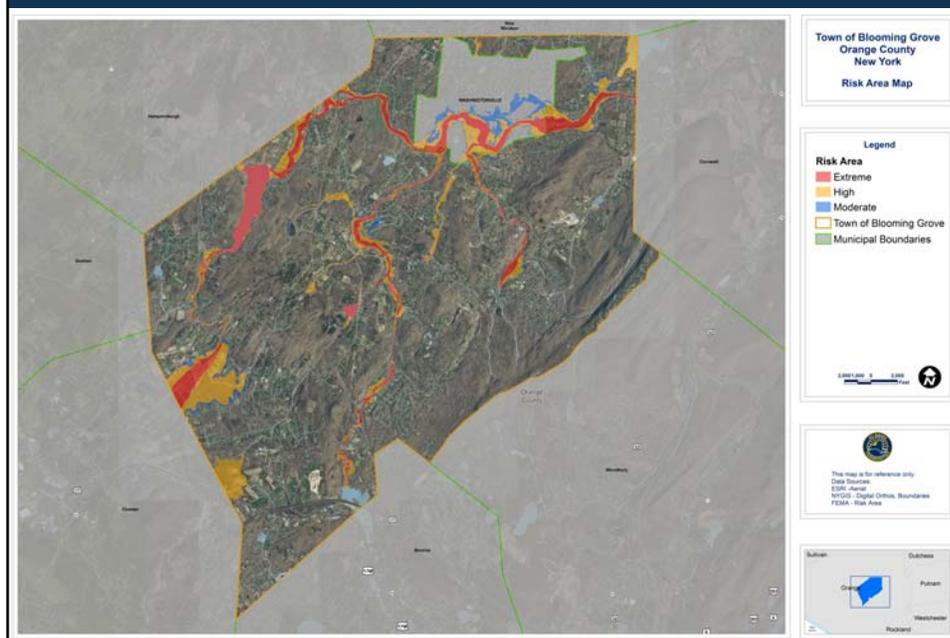
- Identify audiences, stakeholders
  - Primary residents, out-of-town property owners
  - Businesses, non-governmental organizations
  - First responders, emergency management teams
- Identify engagement techniques, outlets
  - Public meetings/workshops, websites, e-campaigns, social media, public access channels, mailings, ads, special events, high-traffic venues
- Develop timeframe for action
  - Schedule PM #1 – Need date and time
  - Schedule PM #2 – Need date and time
- Photos, photos, photos!



## Committee Meetings

- Committee Meeting Frequency
  - When? Where? Time?
- Expectations of Consultant Team
  - Agendas and meeting minutes distributed in advance
  - Agendas to reflect current elements in process, next steps
  - Provide all materials for informed decisions making, including presentations by subject matter experts
  - Ensure that meetings will begin/end on schedule
  - Encourage public participation throughout planning process
- Expectations of Committee Members
  - Regular attendance and active participation
  - Respect all ideas
  - Encourage community participation in all public events

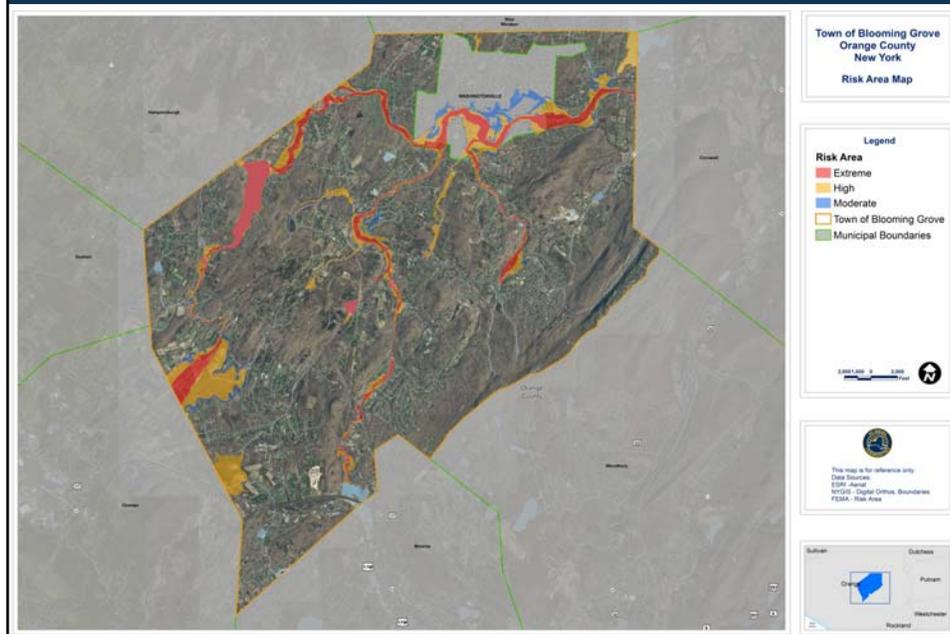
## Storm Damage Mapping Exercise



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## Storm Damage Mapping Exercise



## Contact

- NYRCR Regional Contact
  - Lori DuBord, Regional Lead
  - [ldubord@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:ldubord@stormrecovery.ny.gov)
- NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Community Planner
  - Emily Slotnick
  - Email: [Emily.Slotnick@tetrattech.com](mailto:Emily.Slotnick@tetrattech.com)
  - Phone: 302.283.2250; 508.287.8665
- More Information
  - <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov> (Main Site)
  - <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/resources-0> (Plan Elements)
  - <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/faq> (FAQs)

\*Photos non-attributed are courtesy of Tetra Tech

## Adjourn





# Meeting Summary

## Planning Committee Kick-Off Meeting

July 2, 2014 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
6 Horton Road, Blooming Grove, NY

**Attendance:** (Members, Planner, Firm Representatives, Invited Guests)

**Town of Blooming Grove Steering Committee:**

Perry Ragusa

Carl Takiakjian

Richard Bachman

Walter Millet

Julius Sas

Carl Gilbert

Jay Beaumont

Robert Fromaget

**New York Rising Program**

Lori DuBord

**New York State Dept. of State:**

William C. Harding

Lisa Melville

**Tetra Tech, Inc.:**

Emily Slotnick

Cynthia Bianco

Susan Roth

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Agenda Item: Introduction

Presenter: Lori DuBord/Cynthia Bianco

Summary of Discussion:

1. Lori DuBord: Welcome to committee members, The New York Rising Program was developed by Governor Cuomo in response to the need to address significant flooding impacts in communities in the State of New York. She is the New York Rising Regional Lead in this region. Introduced Cynthia Bianco of Tetra Tech.
2. Cynthia Bianco introduced the consultant team members: Herself as Program Manager, Emily Slotnick as the Community Manager for Blooming Groves NYRCR plan, and Susan Roth, a local planner hired to assist Tetra Tech during this process. Cynthia Bianco introduced the NYSDOS team members: Bill Harding and Lisa Melville.
3. The project will be to complete a plan that will provide a list of projects that will help the community bounce back from a flood event. The Town has an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan was just completed. This plan is different from the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. This one focuses on public participation as an important component of the planning process.
4. Other members of the committee were invited to introduce themselves and say something about themselves and why they volunteered.
5. Noted that all meetings were open to the public, including Committee meetings. Committee meetings will occur on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 in July and August, then starting in September will begin at 4:30 and end at 6:30. Meetings may be held in the Town Hall or the Senior

Center across the Street. First public engagement meeting set for July 23 at 7:00, alternate date of the 30<sup>th</sup>. Venue proposed was the Middle School. Second Public Meeting tentatively set for August 20<sup>th</sup>. It can be postponed if the HEC-RAS study is not completed.

6. Discussed potentially effective ways to reach the public. The Town has a phone notification system and can reach all residents through a recorded message. The paper to advertise in is the Times Herald Record.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

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Action Items: N/A

Person Responsible:

Due Date:

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Agenda Item: Today's Goals/Understanding NYRCR

Presenter:

Emily Slotnick

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Summary of Discussion:

1. The NYRCR program was created in response to the need to address flooding in hard hit communities during the storm events of Irene, Lee and Sandy in 2013. The funding is from the CBDG-DR (Community Block Development Grant-Disaster Recovery), which is a federal funding source. This program is in its second year. The first year included 102 communities, the second includes 22 communities in New York.
2. The town of Blooming Grove is eligible for up to 3 million dollars that can be used to fund programs and projects identified during the planning phase of this program. Funding is flexible, but must tie back into creating more resiliency during the next major flood event.
3. The goal of the NYRCR program is to assist communities with the implementation of a plan to "build back better" rather than repair in kind to increase the communities resiliency and protect vulnerable populations and critical services after flood events. This will help mitigate the damage experienced during flood events and create a safer and more sustainable community.
4. The plan will develop a list of projects and analyze these projects in order of the positive impact that will have on restoring the community after a flood event. These projects will also be analyzed for feasibility in terms of completion and permitting in order to ensure that the funding available under this program will be met.
5. Projects that qualify for CDBG-DR funding include public and privately owned facilities and utilities improvements, relocation, flood capacity building, acquisition of property, clearance, rehabilitation, and construction of buildings, economic development assistance. The planning team and state will help the community understand what sources of funding would be appropriate for projects that are beyond the scope of the 3 million awarded to the community under the NYRCR program.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

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Action Items: N/A	Person Responsible	Due Date
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Agenda Item: Program Steps/Plan Components	Presenter: Emily Slotnick
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Summary of Discussion:

1. Briefly discussed the program steps to put them in context with the Plan components. First step is Organize for Action, Vision Statement, and Geographic Scope, which the committee will start today.
2. TT will review existing plans and studies, and help the committee with an inventory of critical assets at the next meeting.
3. This study will benefit from the plan completed in Washingtonville, and some of the data developed for the HEC/RAS. The HEC/RAS study explained briefly as a modeling study that can examine the impacts of flooding on the town by estimating the water level rise in flood areas, inputting the project's projected impact, and running the model again to verify the projected improvements. One of the benefits of this process is that it is led by science, and the committee will be included in the process of prioritizing projects based on the positive greatest impact to the community overall.
4. Asked if they were going to look at data generated by FEMA. Yes, it will be a starting point, and TT will develop models using FEMA data as a starting point.
5. Qualitative Impacts are important. The plan will "tell the story of the flooding event." It's designed to be read by everyone, and be understood. Other plans are available on the New York Risings website and can be read and viewed. The website includes the Washingtonville Plan.
6. Section 1 of the plan is due by early August and will include the following sections: Overview, Geographic Scope, Description of Damage, Critical Issues, Community Vision, and Relationship to other Plans.
7. The Overview (Section one), a description of the program and its objectives, describe the land uses, housing stock, demographics and hazard history (tell the story of the flood event, what happens?)
8. The Geographic Scope was discussed. The committee felt strongly that the Geographic Scope should include the Village of South Blooming Grove. Other areas outside the Town should include the Orange and Rockland Lake in Monroe, and the O&R because there is a dam that when open effects the Town which is downstream. Round Hill Substation was also mentioned as important. Emily reminded committee that there will be a separate meeting to identify critical assets. Vulnerable populations include the Mountain Lodge community, which does not have any stormwater infrastructure. It is a converted summer residence community.
9. Irene had the largest Storm Damage impact. Lee and Sandy had less impact. The impacts due to Sandy were mostly due to wind.
10. Critical Issues identified included problems with the dams and the impact on flooding.

11. The community Vision Statement was discussed, and the handout that had examples was presented. Emily solicited comments from the committee as to the direction of the vision statement. The statement will be more fully developed in emails prior to the next meeting. Ideas generated included the following: Restore the natural drainage patterns in Mountain Lodge to better protect the residents and communities downhill from flooding, create a plan to coordinate Dam releases to help prevent flooding in the Town of Blooming Grove, acknowledge that Stormwater has an impact on flooding in the community. Inclusion and coordination with the Village of South Blooming Grove is important.
12. Section 2 is due by the end of August and will include a description of the assets in the Town that help with flooding events, resiliency, and recovery. Not limited to public services. Can include businesses, schools, etc. Places that help the community get back to being normal.
13. A risk assessment will be undertaken to best understand how flooding impacts assets using hydraulic modeling (HEC-RAS)

Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

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Action Items:	Person Responsible	Due Date
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Agenda Item: Discuss Public/Stakeholder Outreach Strategy	Presenter:	Emily Slotnick
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Summary of Discussion:

1. The Blooming Grove Supervisor indicated that the town has an existing phone notification system, and they can send out a recorded message. Orange Post is not a popular newspaper, use Times Herald Record instead. Discussed feasibility of hanging posters in the Library, Senior Center, and Grocery Store. The supervisor felt the best way to reach residents would be through the phone notification system. Discussed mailings for the second meeting as well. Facebook and Twitter may also be possible.
2. Tetra tech will be also reaching out to emergency response teams in the area (Fire Department, etc.)
3. A committee member asked why have the public meetings. This program requires public outreach and heavy public input. Described as a bottom up process. By the end of the planning process, it is hoped that the committee will be leading the final public meeting.
4. Members discussed the possibility of going to neighbors that were impacted to ask them questions. Bill suggested that they use the three question survey that was developed by the state to collect the information. Discussed the possibility of putting the survey up on the website, and using Survey Monkey to collect the information. The form could also be printed out and made available to residents.

Decisions/Motions/Votes: N/A

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Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
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Summary of Discussion:

1. Lori DuBord discussed the roles of the committee chairs, which will be selected at a later meeting. The committee chairs will have a prominent role in the process, and will be the local face of the committee and this process. She also discussed the ethics policy which will be emailed to the committee members. All members are required to sign that they received and read and agreed to the terms of the ethics policy. Members are required to attend meetings to be able to vote on projects.
2. Jay Beaumont (retired from the water authority) said that there are several nearby gauges installed in the creeks that read the depth. These are located as follows: on Horton Road, Satterly Creek, Stream off Cromline Creek-not sure of the road, between the boundaries of Blooming Grove and Hamptonburgh. The last one is on the Otterkill off Otterkill Road. The county collects the information from these gauges. Jay located them on the map, and made a note.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

1. Meeting adjourned

Action Items: N/A

Person Responsible

Due Date



# Town of Blooming Grove

## NYRCR Program

## Committee Meeting #2



## Agenda

**NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Program  
NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Planning Committee Meeting #2  
Wednesday, July 16, 2014  
5:00 pm -7:00 pm**

1. Call Meeting to Order
  - a. Sign-in sheet for Planning Committee
2. Review Meeting Notes from the July 2 meeting
3. Discuss status of deliverables
4. Public Input
5. Vision Statement and Goals
  - a. Finalize vision statement
  - b. Finalize goals
6. Critical Issues
  - a. Identify key issues
7. Risk Assessment- Community Asset Inventory
  - a. Review Purpose
  - b. Present draft list of Critical Assets for review
  - c. Review Material
    - i. Discuss potential establishment of Sub-committee to review and verify list of  
Critical Assets

8. Plan Status

a. Committee Review Section I – July 20, 2014

i. Tetra Tech Submit Section I – August 1, 2014

9. Next Meetings

a. Public Engagement Meeting - July 23, 2014

ii. Discuss and finalize details of presentation for Public Meeting #1, July 23rd pending venue being secured with potential to move to 7/30

b. Planning Committee - Next meeting - August 6, 2014

8. Conclusion/Additional items

**CONTACTS**

NYRCR Regional Lead – Lori DuBord  
[ldubord@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:ldubord@stormrecovery.ny.gov)

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Email: [Emily.slotnick@tetrattech.com](mailto:Emily.slotnick@tetrattech.com)  
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**More Information**

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<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nycrcr/faq> (FAQs)



# Meeting Notes

## Planning Committee Meeting

July 16, 2014 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
6 Horton Road, Blooming Grove, NY

**Attendance:** (Members, Planner, Firm Representatives, Invited Guests)

**Town of Blooming Grove Steering Committee:**

Perry Ragusa                      Carl Takiakjian  
Richard Bachman                Rick Bukowski  
Walter Millet                      Lorraine Tomassi  
Julius Sas  
Jay Beaumont  
Robert Fromaget

**New York Rising Program**

Lori DuBord

**New York State Dept. of State:**

Lisa Melville

**Tetra Tech, Inc.:**

Emily Slotnick

Susan Roth

**Town of Blooming Grove**

Robert Fromaget, Supervisor

Johanna Kiernan, Town Board

Agenda Item: Future Meetings/Status of Deliverables                      Presenter:            Tetra Tech

Summary of Discussion:

1. Meeting notes will be sent to members via email in PDF format, and will not be printed out for future meetings.
2. The Co-Chairs were selected, Richard Bachman and Perry Ragusa.
3. The first public engagement meeting will be held at the Town Hall Board meeting room and will be the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, from 7-9. Ads have already been purchased. The format of the meeting was described. The committee agreed to promote the meeting as well.
4. Next committee meeting is the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 5-7pm.
5. Tetra Tech is working to collect background data for the plan, and will continue to move forward to write the first section of the plan.

Decision/Motions/Votes: Notes from July 2 were accepted without change.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Due Date:
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Prepare for Public Engagement meeting on 7/30	Tetra Tech	ASAP
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Agenda Item: Vision Statement                      Presenter:            Tetra Tech

Summary of Discussion:

1. The Draft Vision statement was circulated via email was discussed and finalized at the meeting.

Decision/Motions/Votes: The committee accepted the following as a draft vision statement: “To provide a stronger safer more resilient community for the residents of the Town of Blooming Grove and the Village of South Blooming Grove by restoring natural systems; expanding the body of knowledge regarding the causes of local flood events; creating and implementing projects to address those causes and current damage; and plan for future flood safe neighborhoods to reduce future damage while maintaining the vitality and viability of the Town of Blooming Grove.”

Action Items: N/A	Person Responsible	Due Date
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Agenda Item: Finalizing Goals	Presenter: Tetra Tech
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Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra tech will come back to the committee with a list of about 10 goals after the critical assets and flood prone areas are identified more fully. These goals will tie into the Vision Statement.
2. Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Due Date
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Agenda Item: Critical Assets and Issues	Presenter: Tetra Tech
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Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra Tech identified a preliminary list of critical issues, identified through discussions with the committee members and from other sources. The list is still in the process of refinement. This list contains several general topic areas that will be presented at the first public meeting to request further public input.
  - Residential Flooding
  - Stormwater Impacts
  - Undersized Culverts and inadequate infrastructure
  - Flood water hindering access of town services
  - Understanding the source of flooding, including monitoring of stream gauges
  - Potential Stream Maintenance
  - Private and public property management of spillways.
2. Committee members contributed the following details regarding past damages:
  - Beaver Dam Lake is going to be drained and rebuilt this fall.

- The Merrywell Lake Dam should be examined.
  - A privately owned dam on Lake Hildergard on Prospect Road is silted up and does not have any capacity.
  - There is a big retention pond and a drainage coming off of David Plotkin's property and entering the water system.
  - The present dam gate at Tomahawk Lake takes two weeks to lower the level 6 feet and may be too small. It is a private lake. The larger concern is how to approach the owner to coordinate the opening of gate, and how to balance private and public interests regarding the release of the water. A project could be to add a second gate to the dam.
  - A committee member noted that management of the streams in a village owned park is hindered by the requirement that equipment not use oil based machinery.
  - The committee discussed installing more stream gauges as a potential project.
  - A homeowner at 106 Barnes Road has not returned to her home because the property was condemned. This comment led to a discussion of buyouts (FEMA), and the potential of a NYRCR project to assist home owners with a buyout program. One of the committee members stated that several people were offered buyouts through FEMA in Blooming Grove, but only three accepted. Tetra Tech mentioned flood proofing and changing zoning codes as two options that can help create more resiliency in the future.
  - The committee noted that flood events in the area since 2007 have been more severe, though the cause is unknown.
  - There are two developments where the design of the housing development has increased problems with runoff. One is called Prides Crossing (located in Washingtonville).
  - Severe stormwater flooding plagues residences in the Mountain Lodge community. Heavy sheetflow flooding brings debris down from the adjacent hillside. Original drainage facilities in the community have not been maintained, and all of the access roads are privately owned dirt and gravel roads (or trails) limiting the Town's ability to provide services, although emergency vehicles do have access. Most homes are owner occupied, and there is a homeowners association in the community.
  - Another area of improvement is Glenwood Hills and Orchard Lake. These communities have similar access problems as Mountain Lodge as well as similar problems with sheet flooding from the surrounding hills.
3. The committee members collectively expressed concern about the timing of the release of the dams, avoiding flood damage from uncoordinated dam releases, and the need to synchronize such releases. The hydraulic modeling will provide a basis to begin the discussion with the owner. The state agency review team (SART) can provide information on rights of the owner versus rights of homeowners downstream or of the State, and further advice on funding strategies, if necessary, for improvements.
  4. Most residents are concerned about rising flood insurance rates.
  5. The committee members discussed hazard zone buffers as a means to minimize flood damage. Many of the homes in the planning area were built prior to regulations, and are in flood zones. While new





# Town of Blooming Grove

## NYRCR Program

### Committee Meeting #3



## Agenda

### NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Program NYRCR Town of Blooming Grove Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2014 – 5pm

1. Call Meeting to Order
  - a. Sign-in sheet for Planning Committee
2. Public Input
3. Review Minutes from the July 16 committee meeting
4. Public Meetings
  - a. Discuss results of Public Meeting #1
  - b. Confirm Public Meeting #2 (September 3, 2014, 7pm)
    - i. Agenda: Final Vision, Goals, Issues, Needs and Opportunities; Preliminary Risk Assessment Results (include snapshot of final damage area map); Preliminary HEC RAS Results; other?
    - ii. Materials to be displayed/distributed
  - c. Outreach Efforts – Committee Member and Tetra Tech
5. Plan Goals, Needs and Opportunities
  - a. Finalize draft goals
  - b. Needs and opportunities
  - c. List of strategies due by Mid-September
6. Preliminary Project List
  - a. Potential projects and actions due by October 3, 2014
7. Next Meeting
  - a. Planning Committee - Next meeting August 28, 2014
7. Conclusion/Additional items



# Meeting Notes

## Planning Committee Meeting

August 6, 2014 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Senior Center, Horton Road, Blooming Grove, NY

### Attendance:

#### Town of Blooming Grove Steering Committee:

Perry Ragusa- co-chair  
Richard Bachman – co-chair  
Lorraine Tomassi  
Julius Sas  
Jay Beaumont  
Carl Takiakjian

#### New York Rising Program

Lori DuBord

#### Tetra Tech, Inc.:

Emily Slotnick  
Becca Eith  
Susan Roth

#### New York State Dept. of State:

Lisa Melville  
William C. Harding

#### Town of Blooming Grove

Robert Fromaget, Supervisor  
Johanna Kiernan, Town Board

#### Public

Louis McDaniel  
Andrew Vitale

Agenda Item: Welcome/Public Meetings

Presenter: Tetra Tech/Slotnick

### Summary of Discussion:

1. Public Engagement Meeting #1 was successful. Results of the voting exercise indicated that the overwhelming majority of the participants felt that improvement in infrastructure (42%) was the most important to explore. Other areas that were included in the voting exercise (all percentages rounded to the nearest number): Community Capacity Building (18%), Cultural Resources (11%), Housing (13%), Vulnerable Populations (11%), Health and Human Services (3%), and Economic Development (2%). The voting exercise generally reflected the results of the narrative style surveys that were received.
2. Public Engagement Meeting #2 is September 3, and the location is still to be determined. The format of the meeting will include an updated damage location map including the information received at the public engagement meeting, more photos of storm damage, and an introduction to the modeling process provided by the hydraulic engineers. There was a short discussion of additional public outreach to increase awareness of the public engagement meetings and how the committee can help with this process. Outreach materials for the Public Engagement Meeting #2 will be finalized within the next week.
3. There were no comments on the Vision Statement from Public Engagement Meeting #1. The Vision Statement will be presented at Public Engagement Meeting #2 as final.
4. The next Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.



Decision/Motions/Votes: N/A

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Action Items:	Person Responsible	Due Date
Coordinate dates for HEC/RAS field visits	Emily Slotnick	A.S.A.P.

End of Meeting Notes