



Mississippi Emergency  
Management Agency  
P.O. Box 4501  
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Mississippi Department of  
Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 20305  
Jackson, MS 39289

January 14, 2005

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

**FROM:** Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM  
State NFIP Coordinator

**RE:** Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative  
George County 'Meet & Greet'

Background: The State of Mississippi was designated by FEMA as a Cooperating Technical State in January 2003. With this designation, the State assumed primary responsibility for the development of new National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Mississippi communities. Through a 'Request For Qualification' process, the *Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems* selected a contractor from five interested groups on January 12, 2004. The state's contract was awarded to the multi-discipline team of the Mississippi Geographical Information, LLC. This group consists of Watershed Concepts, Earthdata, and Waggoner Engineering.

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team (MEMA, MDEQ, and MGI) will conduct its initial 'Meet & Greet' meeting with George County and the city of Lucedale on February 14, 2005 at 10:30 AM. This meeting will take place in the Courtroom of the George County Justice Building, located at 368 Cox Street.

I am requesting the assistance of the George County EMA Director in inviting each appropriate Board Supervisor, Mayor, Alderman, Community Engineer, Community Administrator, Community Development Planner, GIS staff, and any other appropriate person(s) to the briefing. This is not a public meeting; we are not at that stage as of yet.

We propose a one and a half-hour session, which will inform the local officials of the method in which the State of Mississippi is conducting the new flood map modernization program, in partnership with the local stakeholder communities. We wish to make personal contact with the community officials in order to build goodwill and a team attitude. The maps will be constructed with the full input of each concerned community.

This will be a countywide re-mapping effort, so the county and the city are cordially invited to the meeting to provide input into the process. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit input from George County and Lucedale regarding their flood map study needs and to ensure that the new maps will adequately address these needs by providing more accurate flood hazard information.

At the conclusion of the meeting, our Team will be seeking input from county and municipal officials on issues such as:

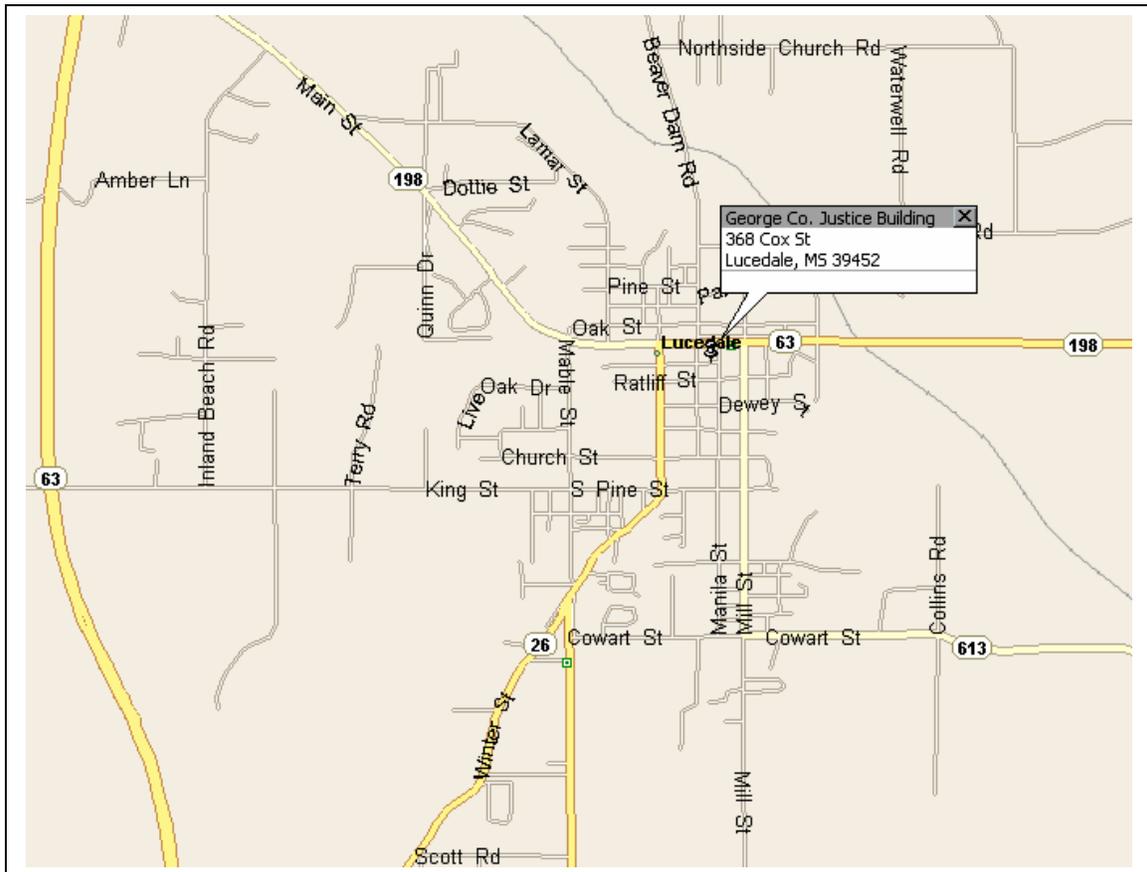
- How accurate is the information on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) currently used by the communities?
- Are there areas of the community that routinely flood, but are not depicted as flood zones on the current FIRMs?
- Are there areas where new or planned development will increase stormwater runoff and cause flood heights to increase downstream?
- What are your proposed stream study priorities?
- What data are available from the county or communities that might assist in the remapping effort (such as new orthophotography, digital topographic data (LIDAR), GIS data layers, etc.)?

The responses to these and other questions will be used to identify any currently mapped flood sources that should be restudied to reflect current conditions, and any additional sites that need to be studied and delineated on the new maps.

It will be helpful if the county and municipal officials most familiar with both recent and historical flood events, current and future development patterns, and accuracy of current FIRMs are available to meet with the Team. In addition, this group may include county planning/zoning officials, emergency management personnel, and building officials. Representatives from local offices of state and federal agencies such as MDOT, NRCS or USACE may also have valuable input to the scoping process.

We also encourage the involvement of local engineers and surveyors who are familiar with the current flood maps and topography of George County. Since the new FIRMs will be produced in both printed and digital formats, community GIS personnel may wish to discuss how the new maps can be integrated with other county and city GIS systems.

This is our great opportunity to improve our existing flood maps, let's make a best effort to improve these flood risk identification tools for our citizens. We look forward to working with you and your staff to provide a superior flood hazard risk map for your citizens. A better map will lead to better floodplain management within your community. If you have any questions, please contact me at 601-366-6325 or through the agency web page at <http://www.msema.org/nfip/nfip.htm>.



**LOCATION:** George County Justice Building, Courtroom, 368 Cox Street

**DATE:** February 14, 2005

**TIME:** 10:30 AM CST

**CONTACT INFO:** CD Office: 601-947-7557