MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

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

RE: Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative
    Chickasaw, Lafayette and Monroe Counties

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 Geographic Information, LLC. This group consists of Waggoner Engineering, Watershed Concepts, and Earthdata.

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team (MEMA, MDEQ, and MGI, LLC) will conduct a consolidated ‘Meet & Greet’ meeting with Chickasaw, Lafayette, and Monroe Counties and the twelve incorporated communities within the three counties on February 23rd at 10:00 AM. This meeting will take place in the conference room of the Three Rivers Planning & Development District located at 75 South Main, Pontotoc, MS  38863.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide partner communities with an overview of the flood map modernization initiative and to begin the process of soliciting input from the...
communities regarding their flood map study needs. This will hopefully ensure that the
new maps will adequately address these needs by providing more accurate flood hazard
information.

I will request the assistance of each County CD/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-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. As this will
be a countywide re-mapping effort, it is important that both the county and the various
communities found within the county provide input into the process. The maps will be
constructed with the full input of each concerned community.

The following five bullets are the type of information that we will be soliciting at the (to
be scheduled) follow-up ‘Scoping Meeting.’

- 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, high water marks, bench mark inventory, etc.)?

We encourage the involvement of local engineers and surveyors who are familiar with
the current flood maps and topography of the communities. 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
LOCATION: Conference Room, 75 South Main, Pontotoc, MS  38863

DATE: February 23, 2006

TIME: 10:00 AM CST

SITE CONTACT INFO: Kurt Brummett, 3 Rivers PDD, 662-489-2415