



VILLAGE OF ORLAND HILLS

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Joseph Janachowski, Chair
Stormwater Management Committee
Subject: Status of *Flood Protection Plan* Implementation
Date: January 16, 2012

As part of the Village's commitment to the Community Rating System program, the Stormwater Management committee meets annually to continue monitoring implementation of the Plan Update, evaluate the outreach program and prepare a written progress report to the Board each year. This memo was prepared by the Village Engineer as a follow up to our December 13, 2011 Committee meeting. The meeting notice was posted on the web site.

For credit under the Community Rating System, this memo must be distributed to the media and be made available to the public. It is being sent to the papers that cover Village Hall. Copies of this report and of the Flood Protection Plan are available for review at Village Hall, 16033 South 94th Avenue. Notice of its availability is being posted on the Village's website.

Background

The original Flood Protection Plan was drafted by the Flood Protection Planning Committee during a series of meetings held August 1994 through January 1995. It included a detailed problem statement identifying flooding from Tinley Creek as the worst flooding problem, although storm sewer and yard drainage problems occur throughout the community.

The Plan reviewed a variety of measures that can reduce the problems and/or protect people and property when flooding occurs. Measures reviewed include ditch improvements, retention basins, culvert and storm sewer improvements, floodproofing, flood insurance, emergency response planning, building regulations, public information, erosion and sediment control and regulation of fence construction and yard grading.

The Plan was updated in 2007. The update recommended 14 action items to reduce or prevent flood damage. These action items, which include the education outreach projects, are reviewed in the following section.

Plan updates are required every 5 years, per the requirements of the Community Rating System. The next update will occur in 2012.

A review of the Plan's action items:

The 14 action items found in Chapter 8 of the Flood Protection Plan Update are organized according to the office responsible for implementing them.

Stormwater Management Committee

1. Continue to follow flood programs and provide information and recommendations to the Village Board, staff and residents.

Status:

Ongoing. The Village Administrator continues to attend meetings regarding the development of the Cook County Stormwater Management Plan and associated Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) being prepared by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District). The District has completed an Economic Impact Analysis (EIS) of the ordinance and is considering modifications to the WMO to accommodate the results of the EIS.

The Village Engineer attends various flood related seminars.

2. Monitor the implementation of this plan and prepare a written progress report to the Village Board at least once each year.

Status:

This memo is the status report for 2011.

3. Conduct a flood awareness week with appropriate activities.

Status:

Mayor Hastings declared the week of March 7, 2011, as Flood Awareness Week under Proclamation #2011-1005. The proclamation encouraged residents and businesses to review the various informative materials that were being distributed and to call the Building Commissioner if they want help on a flood problem. The annual letter to floodplain residents was sent out during the week.

Village Administrator

4. Maintain the Village's Community Rating System (CRS) classification.

Status:

In July, 2010 Scott Cofoid, ISO/CRS Specialist, visited the Village as part of the CRS three-year cycle verification process. The Village met all requirements to remain a class 5 community. All requirements were complied with in 2011.

5. Provide flood protection information to residents through a variety of means, including:

- Flood protection references maintained at the Public Library.
- Articles in the Village's quarterly newsletter.
- Flood related information and articles on the village's website.
- Annual mailings to floodplain residents.
- Making the *Guide to Flood Protection* available at the Village Hall, on the village's website and giving copies to residents, hardware and home improvement stores as appropriate.

Status:

- Flood protection references are still maintained at the Tinley Park Public Library

- Newsletter: Four Village newsletters were mailed to residents covering the following nine topics each year flood hazard, flood map, flood safety, flood insurance, property protection, permit requirements, substantial improvement requirements, drainage maintenance and natural and beneficial functions. The newsletter also advertises map information service provided through the Building department and flood protection advice.

- Guide: The May, 2007 *Guide to Flood Protection* is available in the rack near the entrance to Village Hall, area hardware stores (including Ace Hardware, Home Depot, Lowes and Walmart), and on the web site.

- Mailings: A letter was mailed to all floodplain residents in March 2011, as part of Flood Awareness Week.

- Web Site: The web site is updated on a regular basis

6. Disseminate the Flood Protection Committee's "message of the year" through personal contacts, flyers, building permits and the village's web site.

Status:

The "Adopt an inlet" message will continue to be posted on the back of all permits, which are posted in windows making the back visible inside the home. The web site is updated on a regular basis.

7. Provide site-specific information and assistance to inquirers, including map information, flood protection advice and information on selecting and dealing with contractors. Advertise that this service is available at no cost to any resident.

Status:

Ongoing – See newsletter review above.

8. Enforce the regulations related to easements, development in the Floodplain, and stream dumping and pursue violators aggressively.

Status:

Ongoing – The regulations are advertised in the newsletters and on the village website.

Keep Your Easement Open:
One of the biggest causes of flooding problems in Orland Hills has been obstructions built or laced in the drainage easements that were established along lot lines. These areas were set aside to carry water from your house without flooding your neighbors. Keep them open.

8.1.1. Director of Public Works

9. Implement small-scale projects to correct localized flooding problems where the benefits justify the cost of protecting public safety and buildings.

Status: The following construction / stormwater projects were recently completed:

1. Lake Lorin Control Structure Reconstruction
 2. Bike path bridge replacement and channel improvements between 167th Street and Lake Lorin
 3. Miscellaneous street structure and sewer repair or replacement activities.
10. Maintain the drainage system in accordance with the Village's *Drainage System Maintenance SOP*.

Status:

This is an ongoing activity. Inspections were made after every storm. Channel debris is removed on an ongoing basis. Silt and debris removal at storm sewer inlets and outlets is also completed as part of routine maintenance.

8.1.2. Village Engineer

11. Develop a drainage improvements plan that includes flood, drainage, and sewer improvement projects that will reduce flooding, improve water quality, or reduce drainage system maintenance costs. Particular attention needs to be paid to the low flow drain from Lake Lorin.

Status:

The MWRDGC has taken the lead in addressing the Lake Lorin low flow drain issue. They refer to the project as TCR-5.

12. Work with the MWRD watershed councils and consultants to ensure that the Cal-Sag Channel and Little Calumet River watershed plans will help the Village and will meet the criteria needed for Community Rating System credit.

Status:

Ongoing. Reports will be made on progress to the Stormwater Management Committee as needed.

13. Ensure that the new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map FIRM will be corrected to reflect map revisions previously submitted by the Village and accepted by FEMA.

Status:

Completed. The new FIRM became effective 8/19/08. A revalidation letter of the LOMCs was received from FEMA which became effective 8/20/08.

14. Work with IDOT, the Village of Tinley Park, and the Cook County Forest Preserve District on ways to prevent the Route 45 improvements from creating an adverse impact on downstream properties, including those in Orland Hills. It and other projects should be required to meet the same allowable release rates that private developments in the same watershed must meet.

Status:

Ongoing. Final plans for the Route 45 improvements are being completed.

End of Report.