

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public input on our proposal to revise Municipal Flood Control application materials to make it possible for interested parties to apply for grant funding in the category of “preparation of Flood Insurance Studies and other Flood Mapping Projects”. The DNR is being proactive in notifying potential 2014 applicants now about this anticipated change so that you can better plan your grant application work.

A. Why Are We Making This Change?

So that our grant application materials are consistent with ch. NR 199, Wis. Admin. Code.

B. Background. The Municipal Flood Control (MFC) grant program was established by the Wisconsin Legislative in 1999. Grant application materials created soon after administrative rules were established for this program included space for eligible project sponsors to request funding in 8 of the 9 MFC program categories. Omission of the 9th category was unintentional. This oversight was recently brought to our attention. We desire to correct this oversight and make it possible for future project sponsors to apply for MFC grant funding in the 9th category [*Preparation of Flood Insurance Studies and other Flood Mapping Projects*].

Addition of this 9th category into the application materials does not increase the overall available funding for the MFC grant program nor does it alter the implementation of the administrative code that implements the MFC grant program (ch. NR 199, Wis. Admin. Code). This means that grant funding will still be awarded based on the priority order of the nine program categories. This also means that we must fund all category #1 applications before we can award grants under category #2, #3, etc. The nine MFC program categories, shown in priority order, are as follows:

- s. NR 199.05(1) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.** The following activities, in priority order, are eligible for funding under this section:
- (a) Acquisition and removal of structures which, due to zoning restrictions, cannot be rebuilt or repaired.
 - (b) Acquisition and removal of structures in the 100-year floodplain.
 - (c) Acquisition and removal of repetitive loss or substantially damaged structures.
 - (d) Acquisition and removal of other flood damaged structures.
 - (e) Flood proofing and elevation of structures.
 - (f) Riparian restoration projects, including removal of dams and other artificial obstructions, restoration of fish and native plant habitat, erosion control and streambank restoration projects.
 - (g) Acquisition of vacant land, or perpetual conservation or flowage easements to provide additional flood storage or to facilitate natural or more efficient flood flows.
 - (h) Construction of structures for the collection, detention, retention, storage and transmission of stormwater and groundwater for flood control and riparian restoration projects.
 - (i) Preparation of flood insurance studies and other flood mapping projects.
[previously omitted]

Over the history of the MFC grant programs, the value of applications has exceeded available funding. Based on past performance, we typically exhaust grant funding for applications submitted for projects in categories 1 through 5. Were this to again occur, this would mean that we would be unable to fund applications submitted for projects in categories 6 through 9.

C. Summary of Proposed Changes. The Department recognizes the possibility of multiple kinds of flood insurance studies and flood mapping projects. To assist the Department with the evaluation of applications for grant funding in this ninth category, we plan to prioritize funding requests as follows:

1. Detailed study for an A zone where there is no hydraulic study to support the current map
2. Detailed study for an A zone where there is a hydraulic study to support the current map
3. Study to delineate a floodway for AE zone w/o floodway
4. Study to determine risk in un-mapped area of increasing flood frequency or known flood damages
5. Study to determine risk in un-mapped area of increasing development pressure
6. Study to re-determine risk in AE zone of increasing flood frequency
7. Study to re-determine risk in AE zone of increasing development pressure
8. Study to complete/link series of previous LOMAs/LOMRs
9. Study to incorporate new hydrology or LIDAR data
10. Prepare a dam failure analysis for a large dam
11. Develop new mapping based on existing study
12. Develop new engineered Zone A in un-mapped area

In the event in any of the ninth category subprograms listed above, the application with the largest number of claims will be awarded first.

D. Remaining Steps. Once the 21-day comment period is complete, all comments will be considered, revisions will be made to this draft guidance document as warranted, a *Response Summary* will be prepared, then both the *Response Summary* and *Final Guidance* will be made available using the existing DNR Program Guidance web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html>) and will be posted on the MFC grants web page.

Please forward your comments about this proposed policy no later than December 16, 2013, to:	Name: Gary Heinrichs – Watershed Management Program & Policy Analyst	Phone: (608) 266-3093
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