Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance
Senator Sue Rezin, 38th Senatorial District
Welcome Community Leaders from the 38th District

First Organizational Meeting—February 12, 2014
Morris Hospital
Forced Evacuation
2.5 Million in damage

AuxSable Aqueduct
Failure caused hospital to flood
Dear Mayor:

As you well know, your community has recently been affected by flood related damages. The flooding this past spring was disastrous for many communities in the Illinois River watershed, including many in my District. Since that Federal Disaster of April 2013, I have worked with my constituents to identify the challenges that face our flood prone communities. While many of your flood community issues may be complex and seem difficult to resolve, there are technical resources and programs available to help successfully solve and mitigate flood related problems. I have found that the Federal Government, FEMA, Homeland Security, the Insurance Service Office, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Department of Natural Resources each have resources to help us deal with the post flood challenges at hand, and to help us prevent flood damages in the future.

In an effort to share information, promote sound floodplain management practices, and save the taxpayer dollars I would like to form a coalition of Illinois River watershed communities. We can learn from one another. Joining together with other communities in similar situations has a synergistic benefit. Some communities in Illinois have had tremendous success in mitigating flood losses and we can collectively learn from their experiences. Ottawa, Illinois, in the late 1990’s was one of the worst repetitive loss communities in the State. Today that community has eliminated much of their flood risk and is ranked at the top of the Community Rating System which allows their citizens the benefit of a 25% discount on flood insurance premiums.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers and the City of Ottawa have all agreed to assist my office in the formation of a coalition of flood prone communities in my district. To that end I am asking your participation in this endeavor. I am proposing that we have an initial formational meeting on February 12, 2014. The City of Ottawa has offered the use of their Council Chambers.
2. Education and Outreach

• Seek state programs & staff
• Solicit private sector investment
• Find not-for-profits
• Package programs – leverage power!
• Encourage local ownership
• New technologies
• Think outside the box
The Community Rating System (CRS)

- Basics
- Creditable Activities
- How To Join
- Local Participation
• Restrictive floodway.

• Appropriate uses only. No buildings!

• Stormwater regulations (detention/retention).

• Compensatory storage required (1 : 1.5)

• Freeboard

• Cumulative sub dam

• Restrictive zoning.

• Countywide ordinances.
Fox River Watershed
You Live Behind a Levee
How Safe are You From Floods?

Levees are built to reduce flood risk, but...

• What does it mean to live behind a levee?
• How much protection does a levee provide?
• What should you know to remain as safe as possible
Mitigation Hit List

- Marseilles Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Peru Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Ottawa Waste Water Treatment Plant
- LaSalle (City) Waste Water Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant
- Tonica Waste Water Treatment Plant
- DuPue Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Utica Waste Water Treatment Plant, Village Hall, Public Works
- LaSalle County Nursing Home
LEADERSHIP

- Purpose
  - Vision
  - Mission
  - Values
- People
  - Motivation
  - Capability
- Personality
  - Self-awareness
  - Situational fit
- Performance
  - Culture
  - Strategy and achievement
  - Effective change

OBSIDIAN
Review progress, Planning for Next phase

Plan course of action for next phase

Identify issues which need to be resolved

Start

If all issues are resolved, close the project.

Execution and Testing

Development and various Types of Testing

Analyze and address operational and technical issues

Identification of Objectives, Constraints, Alternatives

Risk Analysis, its Mitigation and Evaluation of Alternatives
IDNR, Office of Water Resources.

US Army Corps of Engineers
“Flood Fighting”

Hands on demo from vendors
Hesco Systems
Dam Bag
Office of Water Resources Flood Surveillance Activities

IL Department of Natural Resources Office Resources
William B. Milner Jr, P.E., CFM Project Engineer

- Provide IEMA with daily updates during the flood event
- Provide technical guidance to IEMA to assist in their flood fighting operations
- Perform flood surveillance operations in the field to gather information concerning the flood event
- Operate Stratton Lock & Dam and Algonquin Dam to minimize flooding upstream in the Chain O’ Lakes and downstream on the Fox River
- Maintain a record of flood impacts for the streams in Illinois
- Document individual flood events
Agenda

- Flood Fighting Methodology
- Flood Fighting Structures
- Surveillance and Inspections
- Common Failure Modes
- Providing Technical Assistance
- Recovery of Resultant Flood Issues
Rapidly deployed sand wall system
RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE PROTECTION

REUSABLE SOLUTION FOR FLOODING, FLASH FLOODING, EROSION CONTROL, HAZARDOUS CONTAINMENT, AND SHORELINE PROTECTION

DAM-BAG saves precious time and manpower when speed of deployment is essential for protection of people and property.

Ability to use virtually any readily available aggregate.

Unlimited length of barrier walls.

Continuous or with access points which can be closed later when flood waters arrive.

Available in 2 ft, 4 ft, and 6 ft heights.

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Hesco Sandwall System
Dear Governor Rauner,

Flooding in the 38th District is all too common, especially in the spring. Just two years ago, several communities along the Illinois and Fox Rivers lived the hardships that come with severe flooding. It wreaked havoc on our neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure. Thousands of lives were impacted, property was lost, tokens of precious memories were gone forever, and infrastructure had to be rebuilt. The flood in 2013 cost LaSalle and Grundy Counties alone more than $150 million. It’s not a matter of if we will have another flood, but when we will have another flood. I want to stress, the state of Illinois has the largest collection of inland bodies of water and rivers in the continental United States! 12% of surface in Illinois is mapped as a floodplain!

That’s why in 2014, my office started the Illinois Valley Flood Alliance. It’s an effort to get communities together to learn more about how to prevent flooding, how to coordinate people and materials during a flood, and the best practices of clean-up and recovery. It also educates communities in floodplain management by joining established state and federal organizations, certifying key people as floodplain managers, and adopting higher regulatory standards.

Towns in my district were then encouraged to adopt a model flood damage prevention ordinance that would fit their needs. One, to not only regulate certain permits, prevent increased flood heights and protect buildings as well as provide subdivision requirements and public health considerations when dealing with flooding. Ideally, this ordinance would prevent developments that would increase flood or drainage hazards to others as well as protect new buildings and major improvements to buildings from flood damage. Once enacted, this ordinance alone would prevent spending millions in the future. Our goal is simple: be prepared now and know how to properly fight flooding, so when our rivers start to rise, we can save lives, property, homes, and our infrastructure.

I am confident our flood alliance will help keep our neighborhoods and infrastructure dry and also save lives the next time our rivers start to rise.

I’m also asking for your support of roughly $25,000 needed for a graduate level internship by Feb. 1, 2015. Bradley University’s Department of Engineering is interested in partnering with the Illinois Valley Flood Alliance to create a Master’s level Research Student Internship to further the initiatives of the alliance. This initiative could be supported by accessing unspent funds that went unspent from the disaster relief funds housed at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. These community development block grant funds are federal and are intended to assist eligible counties that were affected by prior disasters. The category that would support this effort would be planning.

This regional effort could also be a model that other regions could follow. Bradley University has the unique opportunity to make this model a reality. The Illinois Valley Flood Alliance is in need of a dynamic individual who can assist with the development of this newly formed alliance. The likely candidate would have a background in the principals of hydrology, geology, environmental engineering and civil engineering and will be directly recruited from Bradley University’s Engineering Department by the Department Chair. This person will also help us to continue to improve our strategy to prevent flooding.

I also want to make you aware my office recently filed a grant application for $650,000 as part of our initiative. This grant application would help our district pay for the purchase of temporary levees. These temporary levees would then be distributed to communities that can put them up right now to prepare for potential spring flooding. Our goal is to secure enough funds so all communities in this region have the materials, knowledge, and relationships in place to ensure they can fight flooding in the best ways possible. We are hopeful for this, as the Federal Government has money available for communities that are taking a pro-active approach to flood management. From there, our long term goal is to establish a flood management plan for the 38th District. This plan could then become a model for regions around the state, even the country.

The goal is simple: be prepared now and know how to properly fight flooding, so when our rivers start to rise, which we know they eventually will, we can save lives, property, homes, and our infrastructure. This proactive approach also saves money in the long run. Investing thousands now will prevent spending millions in the future.

I am very happy our communities are taking a proactive approach, so we can prevent what happened in 2013 again.

Thank you very much for your considerations. I look forward to working with you.
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QUESTIONS?