Innovations on Changes Since Last FIRM Toolset

Vikram Shrivastava, PE, PMP, D.WRE, CFM
Carrie Sigrist, CFM
Scott Ralston, PE, CFM (Iowa DNR)
Chris Kahle (Iowa DNR)
Outreach at CCO Meetings and Open Houses at Preliminary Issuance

Focus of this presentation will be on outreach at CCO Meetings and Open Houses at Preliminary Issuance
Why do outreach on impact of new flood hazard mapping?

• No surprises
• Transparency
• Due process
• Community acceptance of new flood hazard mapping
• Map adoption
Tools to assist in outreach on preliminary FIRMs
Tools mapping to different levels of Outreach

**Countywide**
- Prelim FIRMs, FIS, SOMA, DFIRM DB
- CSLF

**Neighborhood**
- CSLF?

**Property**
- Depth & WSEL Grids
- Percent Annual Chance Grid
- Building Footprints & Structure Centroid Data
- Preliminary Map Comparison Tool
- CLSF?
Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF)

- CSLF enables a visualization of changes to the floodplain and floodway extents.

**Advantages**

- Gain insights into horizontal changes between effective and preliminary floodplains

**Disadvantages**

- Does not fully communicate BFE changes in area of “no change”
- No insights into depth of flooding in areas newly mapped in the SFHA
CSLF Limitations - Why do we need insights on BFE changes in area of no change?

- Miscommunication that certain property owners are not affected by preliminary FIRMs
- Allow community officials and FPAs to engage with such property owners and explain why the flood hazards are changing
- Avoid property owners learning of change from insurance agents or mortgage companies
CSLF Limitations - Why do we want insights on flood depths in areas newly mapped in the SFHA

• Allow community officials / FPAs to determine if there are properties that are mapped in the SFHA but may benefit from a LOMA

• Allow community officials / FPAs to identify properties that may benefit from mitigation actions or buyouts
Proposed CSLF Enhancement

• Solution
  ➢ Heat map of differences in WSELs on effective FIRM and preliminary FIRM

• Attributes
  ➢ Indicates change in BFE
  ➢ Estimated depth for areas newly mapped in SFHA
  ➢ Identification of areas where depth grids are needed
Case Study 1. Restudy of effective Zone AE reaches
Case Study 1. Restudy of effective Zone AE reaches

- Insights gained
  - Changes for properties in effective SFHA
  - Significant changes for properties newly mapped in SFHA
  - Need for outreach
Case Study 2. Restudy of effective Zone A reaches
Case Study 2. Restudy of effective Zone A reaches
Case Study 2. Restudy of effective Zone A reaches

- Insights gained
  - 1% annual chance WSELs now available for Zone A reaches
  - Some reached are now studied in detail (i.e. WSEL available) which were Zone As with no WSEL on effective FIRM
  - Community officials and FPAs can determine if LOMAs are useful for property owners.
Proposed CSLF Enhancement
Proposed CSLF Enhancement

Advantages
› Simple to understand, heat maps
› Provides neighborhood level insights

Disadvantages
› For areas newly mapped in SFHA, the difference is based on difference in WSEL, does not take interest account topography
› Additional depth grid information needed for better understanding in areas newly mapped in the floodplain
Conclusions

- Proposed CSLF enhancement fills gap in tool for community officials/FPAs to identify neighborhood level BFE changes
- Simple to understand as uses heat maps
- Allows FPAs to identify areas of significant change and thus outreach
Thank you
&
Questions