

Summary of Targeted Users and Stakeholders Meetings

Two stakeholder meetings were held on November 3 and 4 in Burlington Vermont USA and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu Quebec Canada, respectively. These meetings presented study results, showcasing the flood inundation map products on the IJC web site. Participants were able to use the web pages and experience the maps and to provide comments on study products. A total of 53 participants were present at both meetings representing emergency responders, community planners, and a host of government agencies.

Participants expressed support for study products and had a number of helpful comments. They liked the flood inundation maps and felt they would be useful in their work.

Comments on the mapping application and the draft maps included:

- It would be important to add an explicit context to each scenario tabs (flood type, frequency, probability, explanatory notes).
- Access to “data/metadata/layers” and not only the maps was requested. However, concerns were also raised about any interpretation of the maps by the general public (*i.e.* non-specialists).
- Land imagery should be added to the Compare feature. The ability to compare two scenarios would also be appreciated.
- People would like to find specific places quickly (for example Rouses Point).
- The visual effect of the uncertainty area on the map was very effective.
- Flood depths for the Lake Champlain area of the maps should be added.
- It was felt that accessibility during disasters and emergency situations will be important.
 - There was some concern about the ability of the mapping server to handle many users during flooding. This would have to be tested to see if the server could handle many users at once.
 - Power and/or internet can be to be out, or decision-makers on the road so access via mobile devices could give the tools more utility during the type of extreme circumstances for which they were developed to help.
- This could be a good tool to build public awareness of watershed dynamics and the interconnectivity of the Lake and River.

Further developments:

People see this past year’s effort as a good first step to be built upon. They would like the work to continue towards an operational real-time flood forecasting and mapping system for the whole area. They would also like governments to continue to implement the recommendations contained in the 2013 Plan of Study (PoS) so as to identify measures to mitigate flooding and the impacts of flooding.

- Participants felt it was very important to add the New York side of the Lake to the map application and the static maps when the LiDAR data becomes available. There was also a lot of interest in obtaining flood maps for the area from Chambly to Sorel along the Richelieu River.
- Participants would like the work to continue with respect to incorporating the effects of wind and waves. This was mentioned at both the Burlington and Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu meetings.
- Eventually, with further work, several users expressed an interest in using the maps and models to generate flood protection management scenarios so that flood mitigation options (including costs) could be assessed for flood impacts.
- Good communication of end products will be important.