

This is to update citizens wondering about the status of the flood mitigation grant. The city portion of the application has been completed and submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and they are making their analysis of the phase 1 area. If and when the city is awarded the grant it will pay for acquisition and demolition of properties in the phase 1 area. The program will be voluntary if it comes to be. We don't want to go into too many program specifics as the city still has to be awarded the grant. It is hard to give a definite time when the DNR will let us know that we have the grant or not. But speculation says July at the earliest, but could take longer. The things that we have going for us is the Natural Resource officials have been working hard for Watseka. The other point is that State Representative Tom Bennett has been working hard for the city. The DNR has advised the city to start running a help wanted Ad for a Grant Project Manager. As soon as the DNR advises we will release more information. If you are in this area please save your receipts for any work done to your residence.

Other news there have been a couple of meetings with DNR, IEMA, Iroquois County Chairman John Shure, Senator Barrickman's Office, and Representative Bennett's about starting our own Flood Alliance Committee. Most of the first initial meetings have been with the organization of the group. Our next goal will be to invite Woodford, Livingston, Vermilion, Kankakee to invite them to join forces with the alliances. Besides training and information sharing of pending floods, is the fact that if the alliance applies for grants together the state and federal entities are more likely to award grants if more people are affected.