

RECOMMENDATION 4-2022

To: Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission
From: Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Subject: Flood Response/Flood Resilience Plan
Date: February 24, 2022

DESCRIPTION: Recommendation 5.2.5 and 5.2.6 of the Commission’s work plan urge the development of formal Flood Response and Flood Resilience Plans.

“Flooding along the Kankakee, Yellow River, Iroquois River, and other tributaries is unavoidable. Flood response plans should be developed for each flood-prone community along the corridor to help emergency responders take appropriate actions in response to flooding of homes, critical infrastructure, and transportation corridors. Such plans would provide guidelines on how to forecast, detect, and classify the severity of the flooding event, communicate with emergency response personnel, notify affected citizens, take appropriate flood fight actions, and implement post-flood recovery.” (Flood and Sediment Management Work Plan; page 51, paragraph 3)

As with certain other recommendations, the provision is not targeted not solely to the Commission specifically, but to the watershed generally. However, the Commission has a primary leadership role in and a direct interest in promoting timely and coordinated flood responses.

LOCATION: N/A

ISSUES: The work plan recommends the development of these essential documents beginning in CY2024. However, given the historic frequency of flood conditions on the Kankakee and Yellow Rivers, initiation of the task may be expedited with sacrificing other funded priorities.

RECOMMENDATION: In order to expedite the formalization of Flood Response and Flood Resilience Plans, the Committee recommends that the Director seek outside sources (e.g. USACE; FEMA; DNR) of funding and technical assistance for the formulation of these important documents. The Committee also recommends that the Commission support these efforts as necessary to 1) better integrate the basin’s existing emergency response procedures; 2) better clarify jurisdictional roles during a flood event; 3) more thoroughly identify specific actions to be taken in response to a flood event; and 4) provide a working template for successors in various roles throughout the watershed.

ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE 2/24/2022

ADOPTED BY COMMISSION 3/31/2022