

# CREATING AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE ILLINOIS VALLEY FLOOD RESILIENCY ALLIANCE A TEMPLATE FOR FORMING REGIONAL FLOOD COALITIONS

## INTERAGENCY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

ILLINOIS SILVER JACKETS TEAM  
ILLINOIS VALLEY FLOOD RESILIENCY COALITION  
ILLINOIS STATE INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER  
OTTAWA, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Slides adapted from:

Paul Osman and Mike Sutfin, Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance article

Molly O'Toole & Associates, LTD., Proposal for Consulting Services to Develop the Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance, Illinois, October 12, 2015.

Interagency Flood Risk Management Project FY17 Proposal: Flood Zone Alliance

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Overview of Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance
2. Formation of the IVFRA: a template for forming new regional coalitions
3. Results of IVFRA: measurable benefits for member communities and the surrounding area

**Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance**

*Working together, we can prevent flooding*



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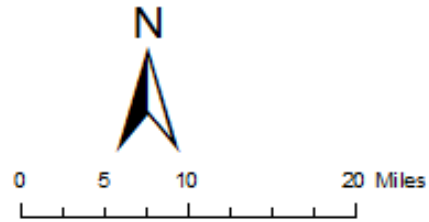
# OVERVIEW

- April 2013 flooding along the Illinois River.
- Communities in Bureau, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties suffered major damage.
- Senator Sue Rezin (Illinois District 38), organized these communities to work together to create a more flood resilient region.
- The Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance (IVFRA) has identified needed steps for communities to be better prepared for future floods, and to implement measures to reduce flood damage
- It is the intention of Senator Rezin that the regional alliance formed throughout her Senate district can be replicated in other districts to create a more flood resilient State of Illinois



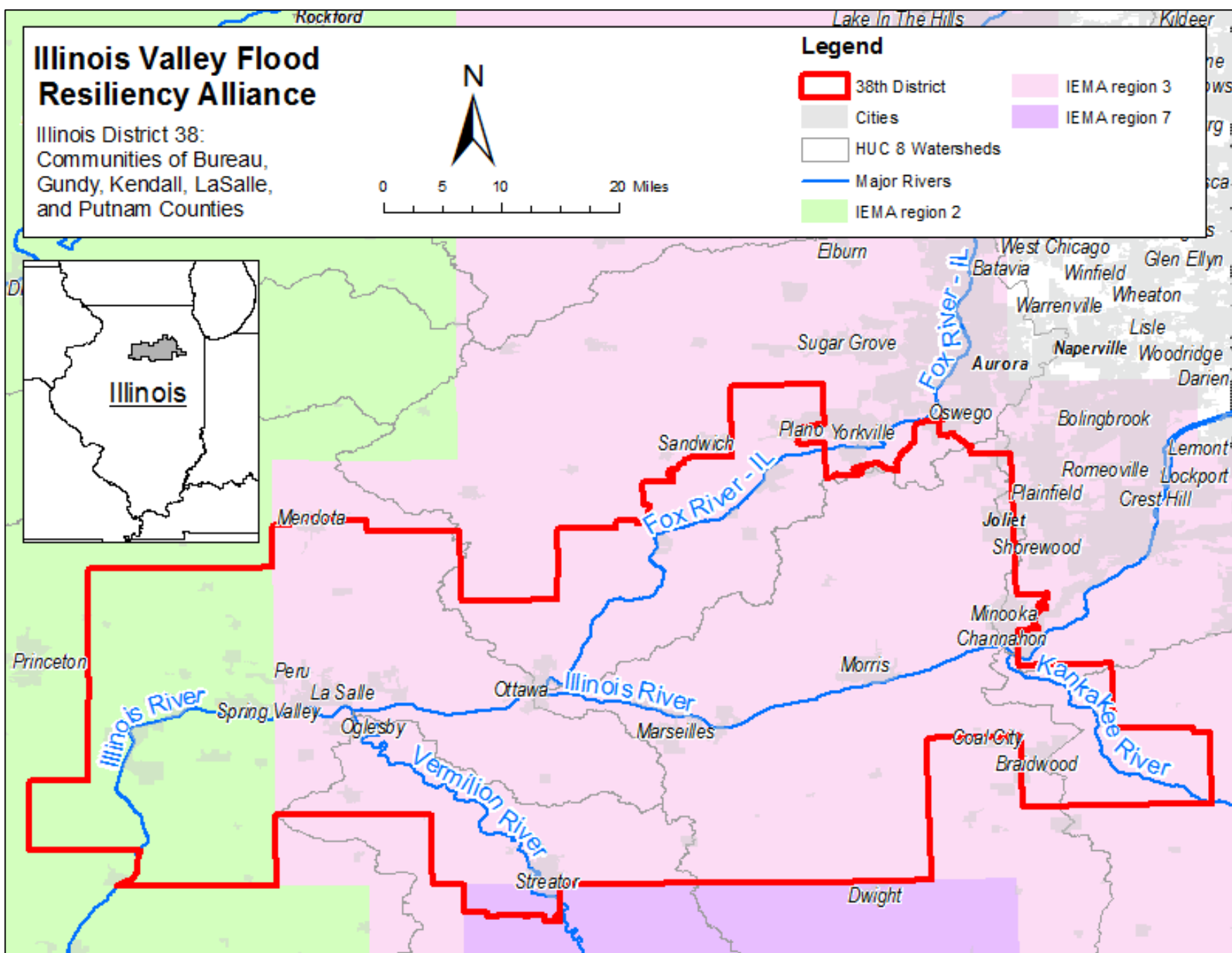
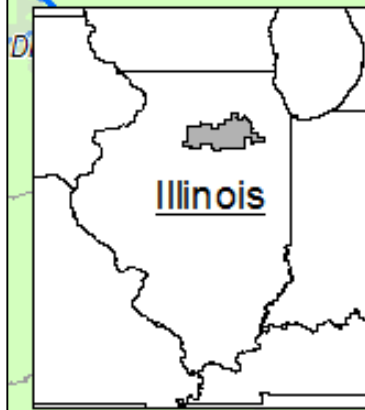
# Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance

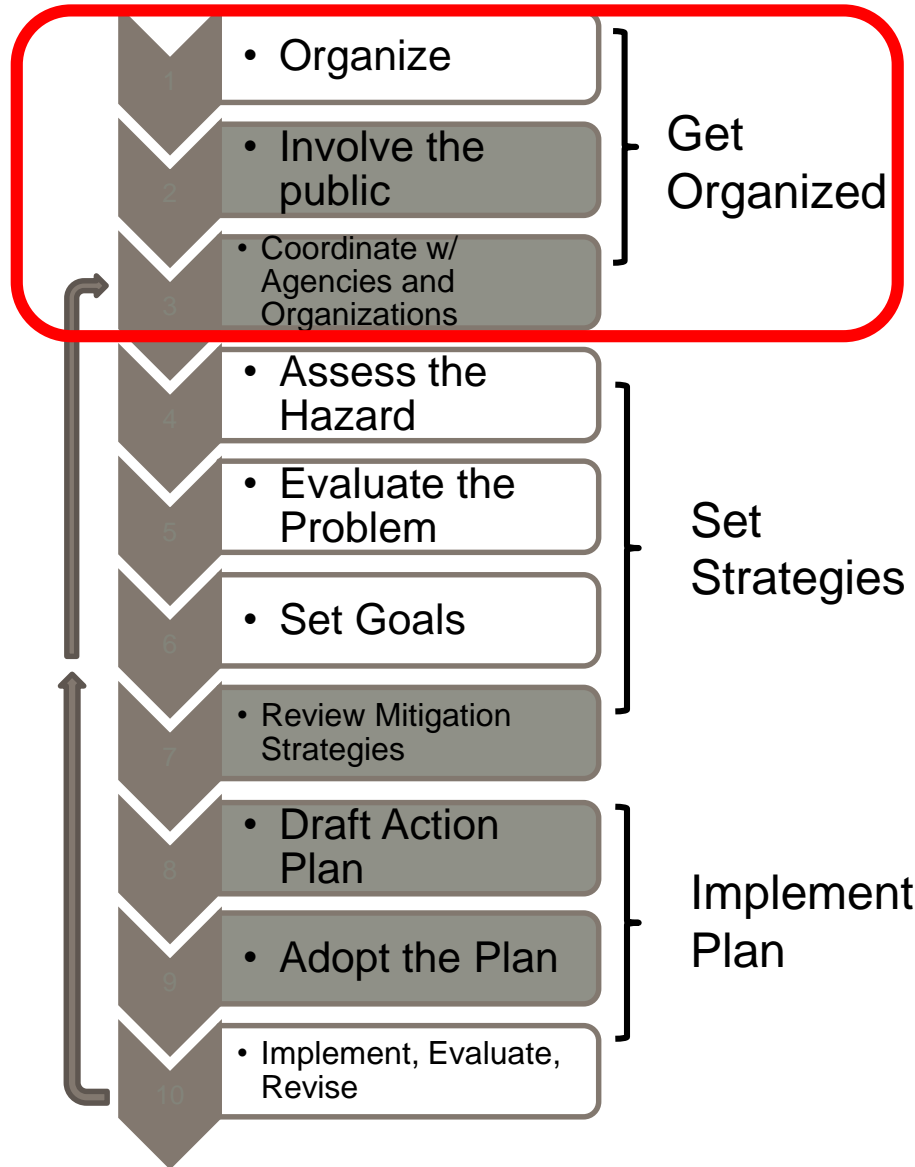
Illinois District 38:  
Communities of Bureau, Gundy, Kendall, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties



## Legend

- 38th District
- Cities
- HUC 8 Watersheds
- Major Rivers
- IEMA region 2
- IEMA region 3
- IEMA region 7





FEMA 10-step plan

# FORMATION OF THE IVFRA: A TEMPLATE FOR FORMING NEW REGIONAL COALITIONS

## STEP 1: GET ORGANIZED


# GET ORGANIZED

## Initial Organization of Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance

- Working with the City of Ottawa and the Illinois Office of Water Resources, Illinois State Senator Sue Rezin (38<sup>th</sup> district) formed a coalition of communities to work together and develop watershed-wide strategies to reduce future flood damages
- Formed in 2013, the Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance now includes 5 counties and 18 communities



# GET ORGANIZED



State Senator Sue Rezin's  
**FLOOD  
PREVENTION  
TOWN HALL**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Grundy County Board Room  
1320 Union Street  
Morris, IL 60450

State Senator Sue Rezin invites you to her free Grundy County Flood Prevention Meeting. She and City of Ottawa Floodplain Manager, Mike Sutfin, will host a forum on how Grundy County can better prepare for a flood, especially if you reside in a flood plain. They will also discuss what you can do now to help decrease flood insurance rates and how communities in Grundy County can develop better ways to reduce flood losses. Please contact Senator Rezin's office with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance  
Working together, we can prevent flooding

(815) 220-8720    facebook.com/statesenatorsuerezin    senatorrezin@gmail.com

## Public involvement

- The Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance has encouraged communities to reach out to citizens and develop strategies to reduce flood risk exposure and increase flood insurance coverage.
  - Insurance agent workshops
  - Realtor workshops
  - Public meeting



# GET ORGANIZED

## Other Agencies and Organizations

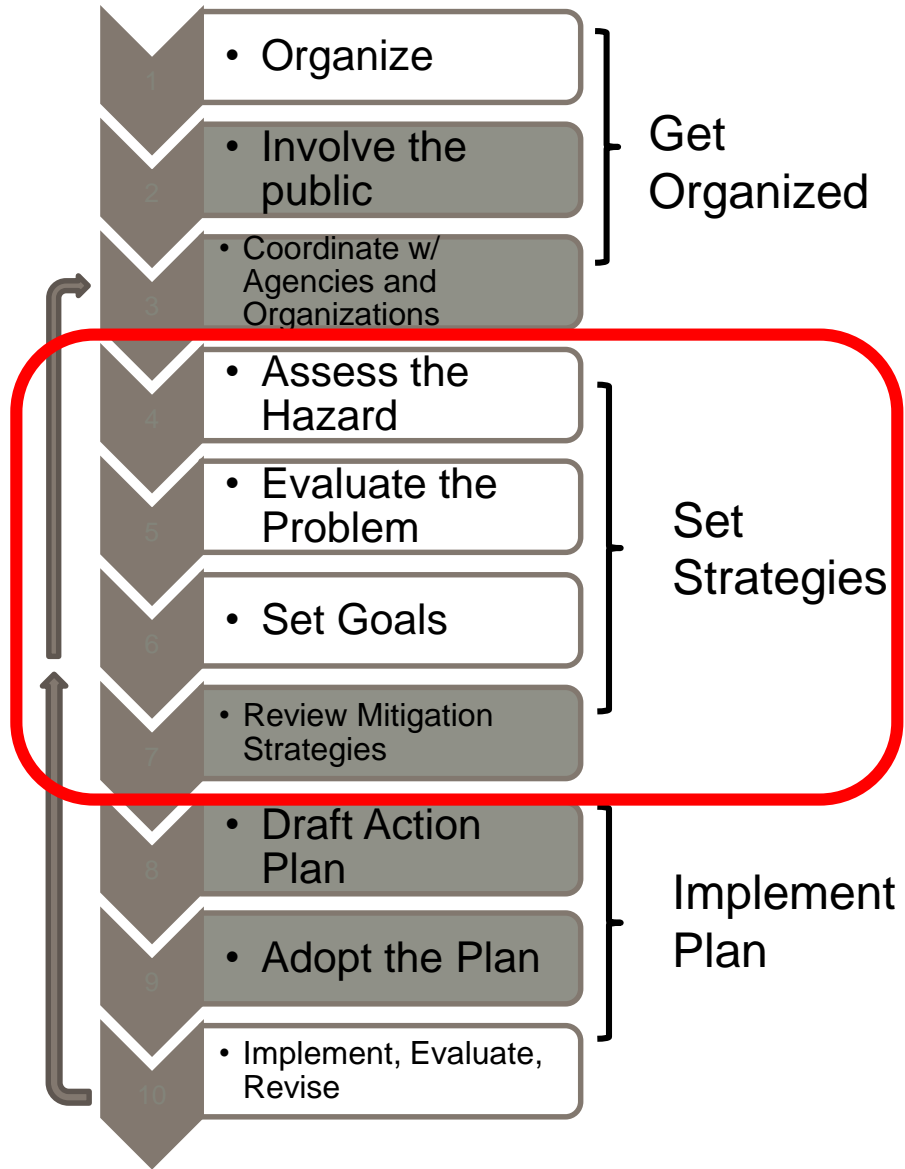
- Illinois Office of Water Resources
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- Northcentral Illinois Council of Governments
- University of Illinois
- Illinois State Water Survey
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Natural Resources & Conservation Service





# FORMATION OF THE IVFRA: A TEMPLATE FOR FORMING NEW REGIONAL COALITIONS

## STEP 2: SET STRATEGIES



FEMA 10-step plan

# SET STRATEGIES



## Problem:

1. Every county in Illinois has had at least one declared flood disaster since 1993
2. Total flood damages in Illinois have been estimated to exceed \$200 billion
3. Record flooding occurred along the Illinois River in the spring of 2013

# SET STRATEGIES



## The missions of the IVFRA are:

1. Have someone in each community become trained in floodplain management and become a Certified Floodplain Manager
2. Have each community join the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System and pursue flood insurance discounts
3. Have each community join the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Storm water Management (IAFSM)
4. Encourage each community to adopt and enforce higher regulatory standards within their floodplains

# SET STRATEGIES

The IVFRA continues to build on its mission points and review mitigation strategies to strengthen the coalition:

- 1. Preventative Measures**  
Consideration of codes, regulations, and higher standards
- 2. Property Protection**  
Review of elevation, acquisition, flood proof existing buildings
- 3. Structural Projects**  
Evaluation of flood control needs, protect infrastructure
- 4. Resource Protection**  
Attention to shorelines, wetlands protection, environmental concerns
- 5. Emergency Services**  
Assessment of flood warning, response needs for critical facilities and people
- 6. Public Information**  
Identification of regional outreach and public information needs



# FORMATION OF THE IVFRA: A TEMPLATE FOR FORMING NEW REGIONAL COALITIONS

## STEP 3: IMPLEMENT PLAN



FEMA 10-step plan



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# IMPLEMENT PLAN

## Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance Accomplishments:

1. The Alliance of LaSalle, Grundy, Bureau, Kendall, and Putnam counties has developed an informal resiliency plan for the region
2. Alliance members meet quarterly to discuss best practices and strategies for flooding
  - Floodplain 101 and Elevation Certificate training conducted by the Illinois Office of Water Resources
  - Mitigation grant training conducted by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Northcentral Illinois Council of Governments
  - Floodplain mapping techniques by the University of Illinois / State Water Survey
  - Flood Fighting School by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - HAZUS tool and LiDAR acquisition by the University of Illinois



# IMPLEMENT PLAN



## Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance Accomplishments (continued):

3. Towns in the area are working on flood damage prevention ordinances that would fit their specific needs, restrictive zoning, and storm water regulations
4. 24 new Certified Floodplain Managers in the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate district
5. Good relationships and friendships between IVFRA, Federal Government, and leaders in flood prevention
6. Mike Sutfin (City of Ottawa, IVFRA leader) on a federal Homeland Security task force interested in the outcome of this regional alliance and may potentially extend this model on a national level.
7. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers secured Silver Jackets funding to assist the IVFRA in (a) documenting and building upon their action plan and (b) creating a template so that this concept can be replicated, scaled, and shared in other regions



## RESULTS OF IVFRA:

**THE ILLINOIS VALLEY FLOOD RESILIENCY ALLIANCE HAS PRODUCED MEASURABLE BENEFITS FOR MEMBER COMMUNITIES AND THE SURROUNDING AREA**



[www.morrisherald-news.com](http://www.morrisherald-news.com)



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# RESULTS OF IVFRA

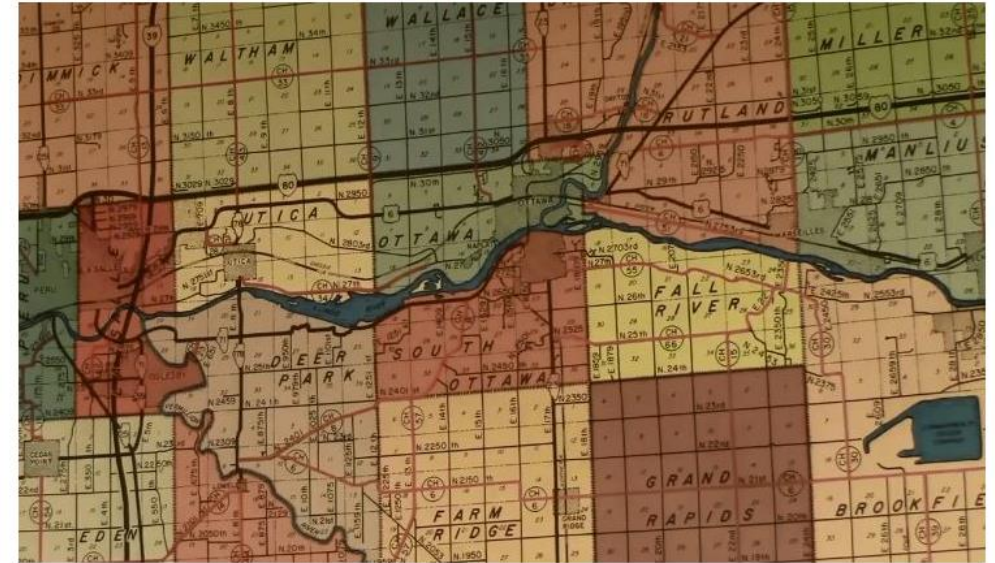
Measurable benefit #1: Improved communication during February 2018 high water event response

- “Senator Rezin, along with Mike Sutfin, Ottawa’s Building and Zoning Official, and members of the Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance, discussed flooding concerns in our area.”
- “The discussions included officials with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, certified floodplain managers, emergency response personnel with LaSalle and Grundy Counties, among others.”

-wcsjnews.com

## Flood Alliance Playing Crucial Role

Patrick Barrins Feb 22, 2018 (0)



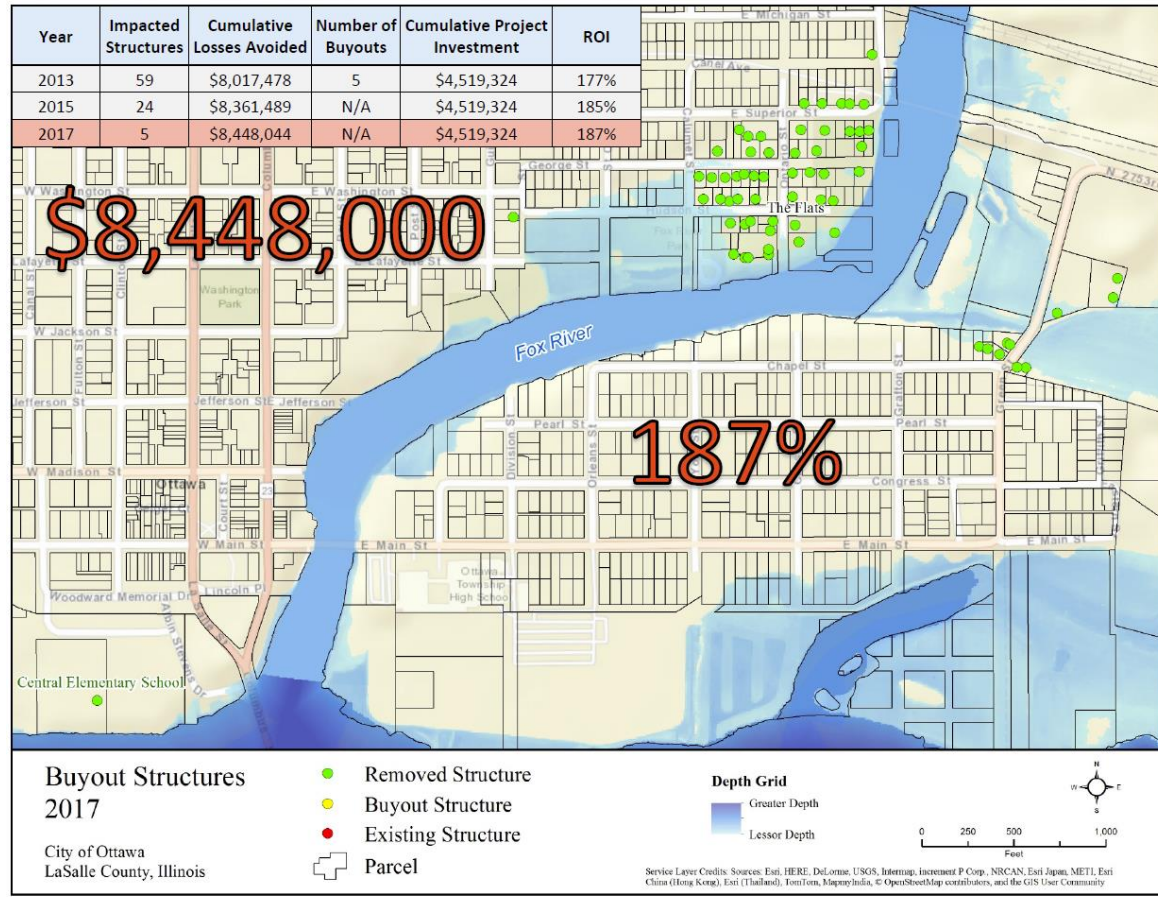
State Senator Sue Rezin met with local government officials to discuss flooding as a response to the flood event occurring along the Illinois and Fox Rivers.

Senator Rezin, along with Mike Sutfin, Ottawa’s Building and Zoning Official, and members of the Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance, discussed flooding concerns in our area.

The discussions included officials with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, certified floodplain managers, emergency response personnel with LaSalle and Grundy Counties, among others.



# RESULTS OF IVFRA



Illinois State Water Survey | **ILLINOIS**

Measurable benefit #2: University of Illinois HAZAS survey in City of Ottawa estimated return on investment and cumulative losses avoided from buyout structures since 1996.

- ROI: 187%
- Cumulative losses avoided: \$8,448,000

McVay, B., Hanstad, C., and McConkey, S. "Estimating the Return on Investment of Buyouts: Loss Avoidance Study for the City of Ottawa, Illinois" PowerPoint presentation, Illinois State Water Survey, University of Illinois, 2018.



# RESULTS OF IVFRA

Measurable benefit #3: Clear goals, collaboration, communication, and planning have brought federal grant money into local IVFRA communities.

- “Out of 12 communities that received federal dollars, four of them are members of our Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance,’ State Sen. Sue Rezin said. ‘That speaks volumes to the values of our Flood Alliance. These are the positive things that can happen when we work together as one group.’”

-[www.senatorrezin.com/News](http://www.senatorrezin.com/News)

## Rezin's Flood Alliance secures major flood grants for Ottawa and Marseilles

3/28/2018



State Sen. Sue Rezin announced March 28 that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released \$1,200,000 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds to the City of Marseilles, for the construction of a floodwall and a pumping station to protect the city's north wastewater treatment plant. FEMA has also released \$1,184,250 in PDM funds to the City of Ottawa, for the construction of new sections and upgrades to existing sections of a floodwall/levee system protecting the Ottawa Township High School and adjacent neighbors in the City of Ottawa from floodwater damage.

## Rezin's flood alliance helps bring major flood grants for DePue and Peru

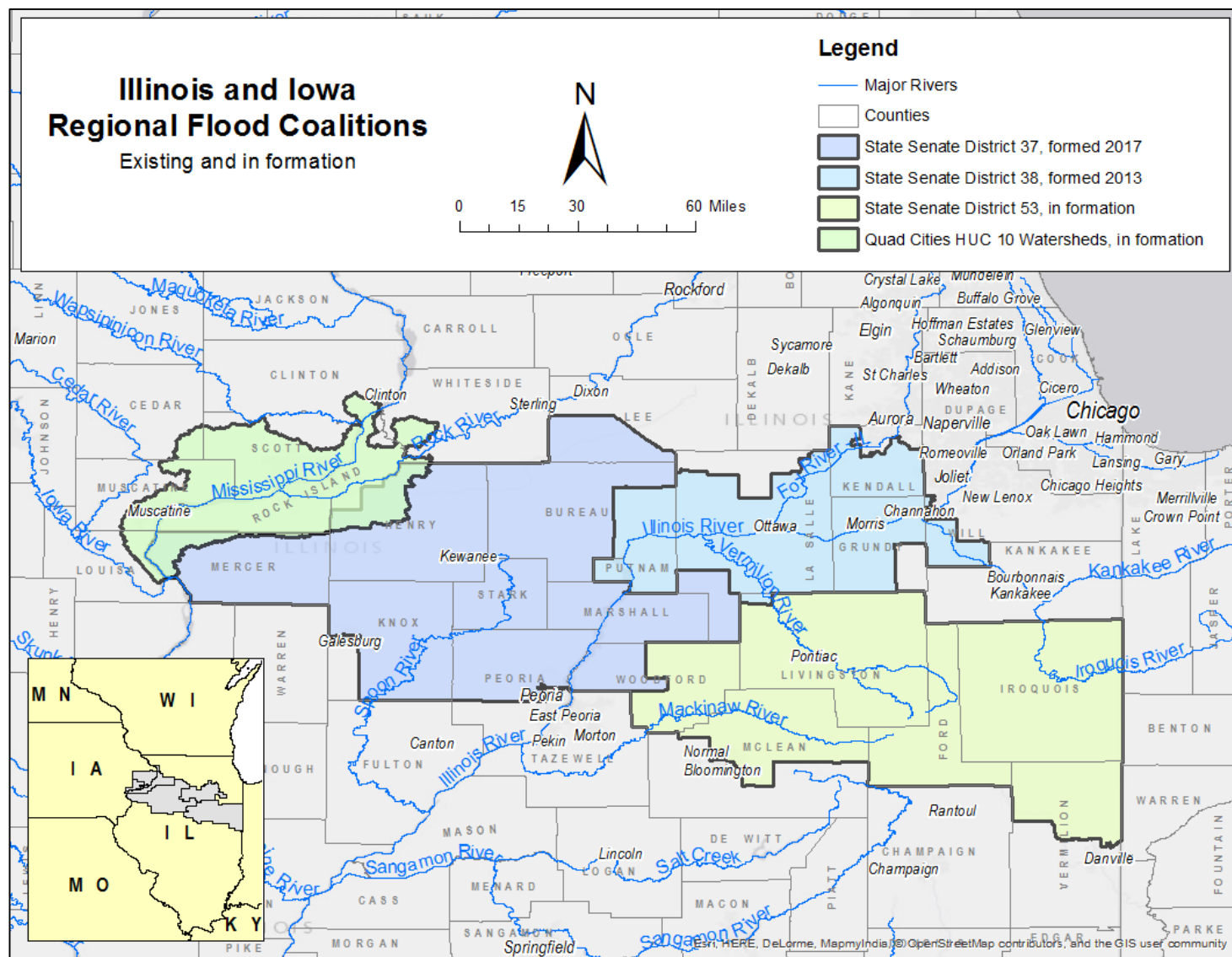
3/19/2018



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **announced funds that would be released** to the Village of DePue and to the City of Peru to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. Last month, areas across the region that faced severe flooding and damages due to intense rains.

Specifically, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released \$687,062 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds to the Village of DePue for the construction of a floodwall and floodwater storage basin to protect a wastewater treatment plant. FEMA has also released \$365,428 in PDM funds to the City of Peru for the construction of a floodwall to protect the city's east wastewater treatment plant.

# RESULTS OF IVFRA



Measurable benefit #4:  
Nearby communities are interested in forming their own flood coalitions

- State Senate district 37
- State Senate district 53
- Quad Cities River Action



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# CONCLUSIONS

- The Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance is a cohesive, 'disaster ready' alliance with enhanced collaboration, communication, training, education, and mitigation.
- With measurable benefits, the IVFRA directly protects citizens from flood hazards and save lives, property, and resources of local governments, municipalities, and residents.

**Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance**

*Working together, we can prevent flooding*



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## POINTS OF CONTACT

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