

State Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Plan Kickoff Public Survey Results

Provided under the provisions of Nebraska Revised Statute §61-228, the State Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan will identify cost-effective flood mitigation strategies to reduce the disruption of lives and livelihoods, prioritize making Nebraska communities more resilient, and identify opportunities to implement flood hazard mitigation strategies that reduce the impact of flood events. The plan development process will work to improve knowledge and understanding of available recovery resources, identify potential gaps in current disaster program delivery, and identify potential funding sources that can be used to improve the resilience of the state through flood mitigation and post-flood disaster recovery.

The State Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan Development Team launched an Interactive Map for comments and three surveys requesting public input during the Plan Kick off June 1-3, 2021 as follows:

- 1. The Comment Form Survey.*
- 2. The Regulatory Environment Survey.*
- 3. The Recovery Efforts and Challenges Survey.*

Identifying information has been removed and survey responses are not in respondent order.

The Comment Form Survey

Q: Please provide any comments and/or questions you would like to share with the study team.

"Best way to protect village of Verdigre from future flooding is a FEMA certified levee system. Half the town is located out of flood on hill. Levee system to fully protect entire town from Verdigris Creek flooding. Can attach to bluff on South end of town encompassing the area and meet with the bluff on North end of town."

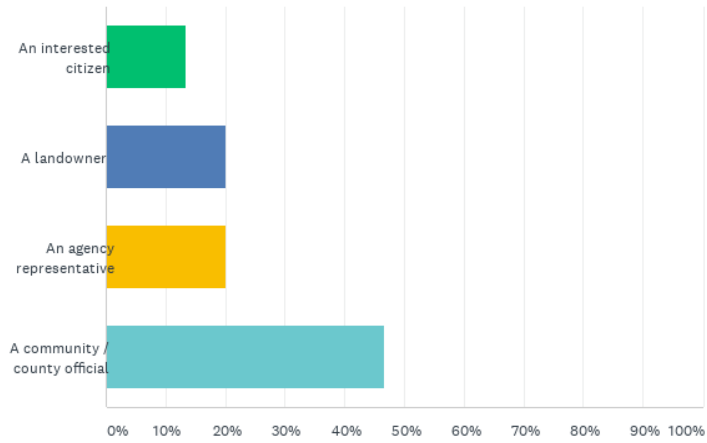
"I noticed that several of your points on the interactive map are populating in the wrong location. For example, Damage #292665 is for a location in Dodge County, but it's plotting in Lancaster County. Similarly, point 284861 is located in Pierce, Nebraska, but is plotting in Lancaster County. Please double-check your coding."

"It is my understanding of FEMA rules and regulations that if there is another federal agency or federal program that can provide recovery assistance to a situation, that option must be vetted and determined ineligible before FEMA assistance is initiated; to the best of my knowledge that was not followed by FEMA in the 2019 Flood Recovery Efforts."

"The Village of Colon has never had a flood. Yet for years some people have had to pay flood insurance or pay a surveyor to have it surveyed to get out of the flood plain. Do you have better data now days? Hopefully so."

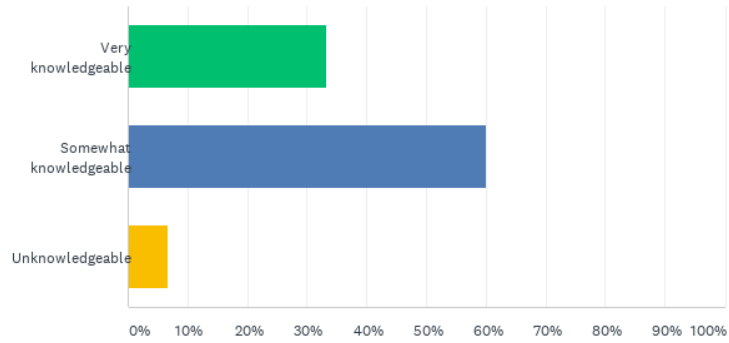
The Regulatory Environment Survey

Q1: I am (Select the option that best applies).



Answer Choices	Responses	
An interested citizen	13.33%	2
A landowner	20.00%	3
An agency representative	20.00%	3
A community / county official	46.67%	7
Total		15

Q2: How knowledgeable are you regarding your community's floodplain regulations?



Answer Choices	Responses
Very knowledgeable	33.33% 5
Somewhat knowledgeable	60.00% 9
Unknowledgeable	6.67% 1
Total	15

Q3: If you had a question or concern about floodplain issues, who would you first contact? (Open-Ended Response)

"Chuck Chase or NEMA."

"Chuck Chase, Floodplain coordinator in Lincoln."

"County floodplain manager."

"County, city, or village floodplain administrator."

"Gage County Emergency Manager."

"I asked FEMA who said to ask the county, who said to ask the county engineer."

"I would have to research the issue more. Potentially the emergency manager, or someone in long term recovery for the specific county/area. At the very least I would think they could point me towards the right person."

"Local floodplain manager or administrator."

"My local governmental floodplain administrator. That is Kevin Larson, City of Plattsmouth. Through Kevin, on occasion we have questions for and dialogue with NDNR floodplain management staff."

"Nebraska DNR - Flood Plains Division."

"NeDNR as I am the floodplain administrator."

"NRD."

"Platte County official is Jane Cromwell in the Highway Dept. or Platte County surveyor Tom Tremel and Emergency Manager Tim Hoffbauer."

"The state DNR floodplain division."

Q4: What agencies have you worked with related to development and/or land uses within the floodplain? (Open-Ended response)

"City of Columbus (who know nothing)/ Platte County."

"County floodplain manager, county EM, county boards, consultants who help with mitigation plans county, city, and village floodplain administrators, DNR."

"FEMA, NeDNR, NRD, NEMA."

"JEO, NEDNR, FEMA, NEMA major flooding in 2019."

"Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, NDNR, NEMA, FEMA, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

"NDNR."

"NE-DNR; FEMA."

"NEMA and NDNR"

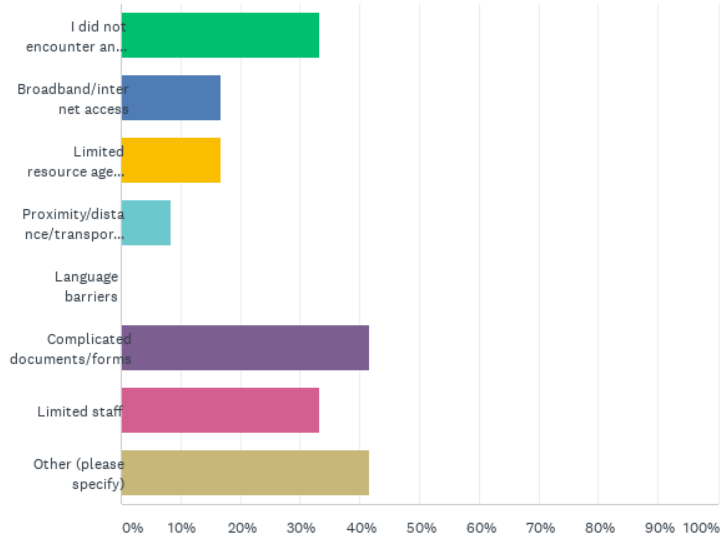
"None."

"None."

"NRD/City of Omaha."

"Work with local zoning, NeDNR, oil company and local home owners."

Q5: What challenges did you encounter related to the availability and ease of accessing recovery resources? (Please select all that apply)



Answer Choices	Responses
I did not encounter any challenges	33.33% 4
Broadband / internet access	16.67% 2
Limited resource agency office hours	16.67% 2
Proximity / distance / transportation limitations	8.33% 1
Language barriers	0.00% 0
Complicated documents / forms	41.67% 5
Limited staff	33.33% 4
Other (please specify)	41.67% 5
Total	12

Other responses (Open-Ended)

"City of Columbus made numerous errors and directed me in the wrong and very costly way."

"FEMA changes their people out too much- too difficult to continually tell a new person the details over and over again."

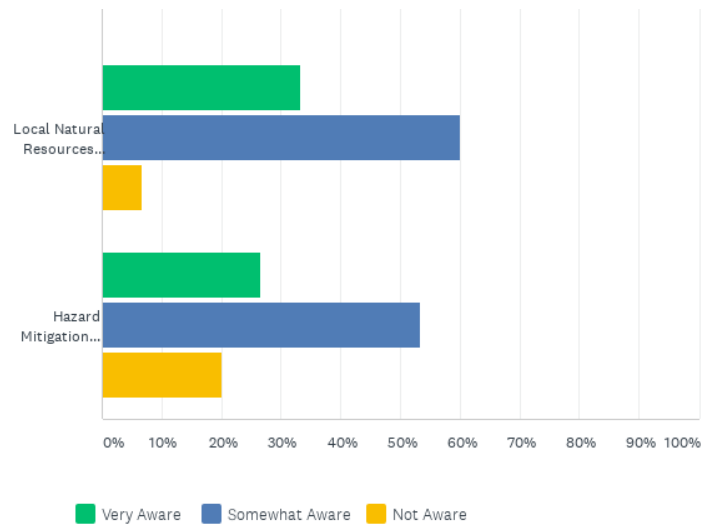
"Limited knowledge of what I needed to do as official."

"New staff still training."

"The only challenge is mentioned above. While FEMA team members are competent and capable, FEMA rotates those folks out routinely which causes communication challenges."

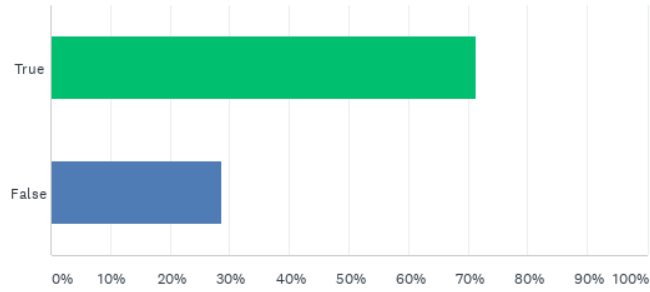
Q6: Indicate your level of awareness and interaction with the following floodplain resources and sources for information:





Answer Choices	Very Aware	Somewhat Aware	Not Aware	Total
NE DNR Floodplain Interactive Map	33.33%	53.33%	13.33%	15
	5	8	2	
Nebraska Floodplain Administrators	28.57%	42.86%	28.57%	14
	4	6	4	
Local Floodplain Administrators	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%	15
	6	6	3	
FEMA Technical Bulletins	26.67%	40.00%	3.33%	15
	4	6	5	
FEMA Map Services Center	33.33%	46.67%	20.00%	15
	5	7	3	
National Flood Insurance Program	33.33%	53.33%	13.33%	15
	5	8	2	
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	46.67%	53.33%	0.00%	15
	7	8	0	
Local Natural Resources District	33.33%	60.00%	6.67%	15
	5	9	1	
Hazard Mitigation Grants	26.67%	53.33%	20.00%	15
	4	8	3	

Q7: I understand which agencies require consultation, coordination and/or permits prior to flood repairs and any planned mitigations.



Answer Choices	Responses	
True	71.43%	10
False	28.57%	4
Total		14

Q8: Please provide any suggestions you have for better coordination between agencies and floodplain guidance to the public (Open-Ended Response)

"Better education before a flood would help more- so it isn't a complete shock after the flooding regarding what can and can't happen to repair a home or rebuild afterwards."

"Communicate in clear language. Have these people available at a shelter or somewhere to talk to us."

"Continued communications amongst local, state and federal recovery agencies."

"Education and outreach with the university system (e.g. College of Architecture and College of Engineering at UNL); Develop floodplain management certificate program with UNL; Engage with professional organizations, such as Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association, America Planning Association - Nebraska Chapter to integrate floodplain policies into local planning system."

"Lots more public education an awareness of the floodplain is needed in NE. Elected officials need lots of training on topic."

"Our observations are that state team members (NEMA, NDHHS, NDEE, NDNR) all communicate well with each other and with us. We have no additional suggestions for them."

"Technical assistance with mitigation grants is needed. I helped a city with an application and received great assistance from a FEMA consultant."

"The need to be more proactive and preventive maintenance is needed. the meeting at Norfolk which was informal allowed me to be vocal and intimidated ... you guys did a great job."

"There needs to be a stakeholder for the King Lake area so this particular area is represented and kept informed."

The Recovery Efforts and Challenges Survey

Q1: What local, community assets or strengths were valuable during 2019 flood response and recovery efforts? (Open-Ended Response)

"Assistance by city engineering staff in doing damage assessments."

"Coordination with local, state and federal recovery agencies."

"FEMA. There was no recovery at all nothing could be salvaged it was completely devastating to us and our children. Had to start over with nothing not even one picture of our 6 kids or wedding. Devastating!"

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"Food Banks."

"Highway 57 Bridge damaged and closed 7 months. Businesses collaborated on promotion activities to attract out of town visitors."

"I feel we did an excellent job working together as a community. The deputy emergency manager for the area was an excellent resource."

"In Seward County, there was a lot of information shared about water levels, and what was headed our way 'downstream'."

"King Lake Property Owners Association."

"Local fire and law enforcement as well as local citizens was the most welcome and helpful of anybody."

"Many people from the community & surrounding communities helped with clean up."

"People - volunteers."

"The City of Plattsmouth was well experienced with Missouri River flood events and used that experience to the extent it could considering the devastating nature of the 2019 flood which, in Plattsmouth, was both the Platte and Missouri Rivers."

"The faculty and students in the College of Architecture in University of Nebraska-Lincoln participated in 2019's flood recovery planning efforts for multiple towns."

"The Howard County Emergency Manager, Michelle Woitalewicz was very helpful to all of Howard County along with local volunteers."

"The people themselves! Churches opening as shelters and feeding people."

"Verdigre greatest strength was each other as individuals working together. There was not wait and point at each other but the largest team effort I have been a part of."

"Work between law enforcement, road dept, city streets and EM to get roads barricaded and assessed."



Q2: Did the 2019 flood event expose any community vulnerabilities? Please describe.
(Open-Ended Response)

"Community roads, infrastructure, and local industry."

"Drinking water security/waste water security."

"Emergency Management system and county leaders were more worried about paper work than actually doing the job and accessing the problem and helping."

"Knowledge of what assistance is available and where to get that assistance."

"Limited/changed travel for washed out culverts. Not much new that we weren't already aware of."

"Loss of business to out of town visitors and local rural people cut off by damaged bridges."

"Not all areas along the major river banks are managed or owned by a public entity- so FEMA is no help for private citizens or landholders."

"Only vulnerabilities was Omaha and NRD did not participate or offer any clean up assistance to King Lake property owners."

"Our levee system was not compromised during the event. We were vulnerable because of the interior drainage problems that occurred caused from runoff west and north of town. We are close to starting the process of doing a drainage study."

"Poor communication from the state down. It took forever for the state to allow relief agencies, who knew what they were doing, to come in and help. Emergency Managers are good at the moment of a disaster, but the majority have no idea how to start to help their community the minute all is safe."

"The most obvious vulnerability and single point of failure for Sarpy County was the levee to the east of Offutt AFB which failed and subsequently submerged hundreds of homes and businesses as well as causing major damage to the Air Base itself."

"The Village of Adams was not directly impacted."

"Those at or close to lakes, streams, rivers, drainageways (in or out of the floodplain), do not understand and do not seem to want to understand the dangers or what could be done to help the situation during high water times. Also, those in the floodplain,

particularly if damaged, thought this would never happen again and therefore did not want to hear mitigation ideas."

"Village levy not tall enough."

"When the roads were washed away, it was stressful for the public to come to town to buy produce. With several counties around Howard County being affected at the same time, getting gravel to bring in was about impossible."

"Yes. No place to live or anything needed to help. We received some basic needs and shelter in a Church for a few weeks. Then left to figure things out ourselves. Destroyed our lives and our children's."

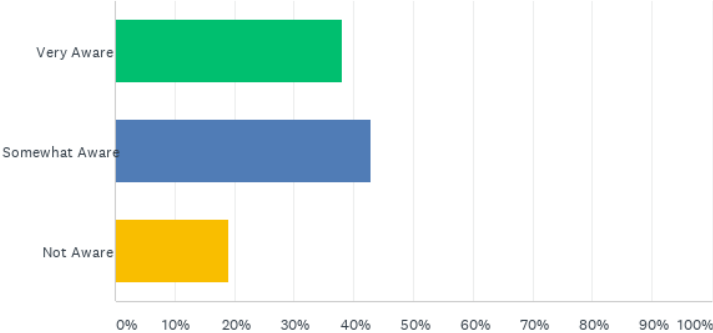
"Yes, it showed that the state and federal aid to fix our roads from the flood was not given to our community."

"Yes, most never believed in floodplain. Village attitude was ignorance."

"Yes. Plattsburgh's drinking water and wastewater facilities are critical infrastructure. They have flooded repetitively with the economic consequences growing greater with each subsequent flood event."

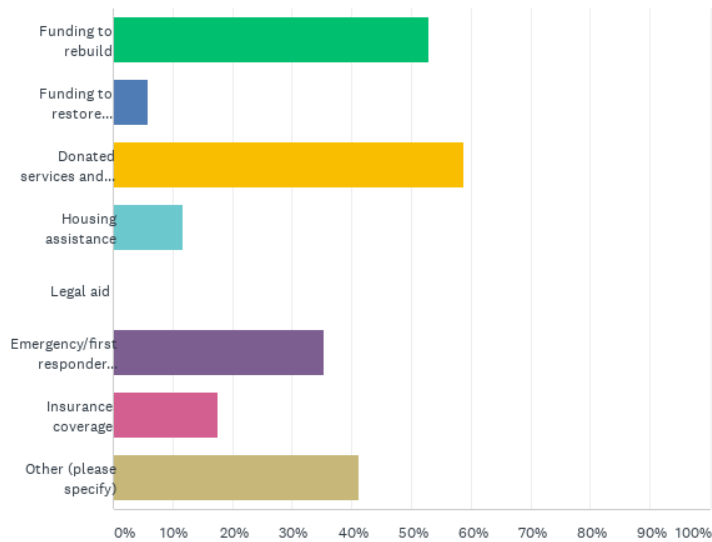
"Yes. Our levies did not hold up and the numerous homes, business, and agricultural industries along our waterways suffered as a result. FEMA did not declare our county as a disaster and I was severely disappointed. The counties to the north and south received full declarations and ours did not. I believe this is because there are so many "hidden pockets" in this county that too many people are unaware of. Too much 'undocumentation' and too many unknowns by our county zoning administrator."

Q3: Please indicate your level of awareness regarding the availability of flood recovery resources.



Answer Choices	Responses
Very aware	38.10% 8
Somewhat aware	42.86% 9
Not aware	19.05% 4
Total	21

Q4: Please select all flood recovery resources you accessed.



Answer Choices	Responses
Funding to rebuild	52.94% 9
Funding to restore farmland	5.88% 1
Donated services and supplies	58.82% 10
Housing assistance	11.76% 2
Legal aid	0.00% 0
Emergency / first responder services	35.29% 6
Insurance coverage	17.65% 3
Other (please specify)	41.18% 7
Total	17

Other Responses (Open-Ended)

- "Each other to function. Major loss was infrastructure."*
- "None - Nothing was available here to rural residents in the Southeastern portion of our county."*
- "None, very limited access to knowledgeable persons to help navigate system."*
- "Nothing."*
- "Volunteer agencies who were trained on what to do."*
- "Volunteer workers to help clean up."*

Q5: Did you access any private funding through non-profits or other community organizations? [yes/no] If yes, please indicate the organization and funding purpose. (Open-Ended response)

"FEMA"

"Local Organization Verdigre Carousel led the charge for individuals distributing donations. Salvation Army were very helpful to individuals. Red Cross was complete scam basically showed up after the fact. Sent meals for individuals unannounced months after the disaster."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No."

"No. Our recovery will be funded through local dollars, state (NEMA and SRF), and federal (FEMA) disaster recovery resources."

*"No. Again, people were unaware of the trauma residents of the south eastern portion of Seward County faced. The focus stayed on the city of Seward and those in the county facing trauma were 'forgotten'. Shame on the state, FEMA, and the county for this."
"UNL intern to assist with promotion."*

"We formed a flood relief committee to manage the donated money for flood relief. The money was given out to residents who were effected by the flooding to help purchase new appliances, assist with clean up efforts, etc."

"Yes, none of anyone's business."

"Yes, we got a grant from the Great Plains United Methodist Conference Disaster Response for clean-up cost and beginning to start over."

"Yes-local church organizations were a great help when we needed it."



Q6: How would you characterize your experience with the recovery reimbursement process? [positive, neutral, negative, other] Please add any details you would like to share regarding the reimbursement process. (Open-Ended Response)

"FEMA was extremely slow. 14 project managers to the transitional meeting to NEMA. FEMA was completely wanting to help but is set up to help large communities. As a small village records, data, engineers that FEMA wanted reports from simply are not available. All was left up to volunteer elected officials to complete or there is no help."

"Frustrating. Sometimes I had no clue what in the world people were talking about, filled out so much paperwork just because people said you must."

"I personally didn't use."

"I think it went well. The changing of contact person delayed some communications."

"It was somewhat difficult to navigate and understand."

"Negative at the very least. Everyone is more interested in paper work and who is going to benefit rather than just helping and working together."

"Negative didn't get much. Was in the process of purchasing had just moved in was told it wasn't a Flood zone. The Community Park in which we were purchasing set up loan insurance and taxes. So no Flood insurance so we lost everything and recovered nothing."

"Negative! We need FRMA money to fix our roads!"

"Negative. Businesses in flood plain are just up a creek."

"Negative. It did not exist."

"Neutral."

"No direct experience."

"Not interested in any money just would have like to have seen the City of Omaha or NRD offer to help King Lake residents clean up their community."

"Our experience with FEMA and NEMA is positive. The NEMA team is experienced, stable, and helpful. Our only negative experience is that FEMA changes its team members so much that new team members have to be reintroduced to the problems and solutions."

"Smaller communities do not have the ability to pay for all recovery and rebuilding efforts up front nor do we have personnel on staff to do all the work that is needed for FEMA funding. Can't afford a disaster but we can't afford to go through the FEMA process either."

"Time consuming. We still have not received reimbursement for the replacement of five intersections in town that were damaged by floodwaters. This work was done last fall. We received FEMA funding for the other categories but have yet to see a dime from the State."



The Interactive Map Comments

Category	Comment	Global ID
Parks, Recreational and Other Facilities	<i>Public Boat Access, Not repaired</i>	{321e9add-e48c-471c-b068-0ece1cc4ede8}
Private Property	<i>Private property not repaired</i>	{60d725e9-bf74-42d5-ab80-9fc73db40848}
Roads, Bridges and Culverts	<i>Road has been undermined</i>	{13f41344-d0ec-46ab-b82b-9c5f7dc65583}
Private Property	<i>Homes no longer present</i>	{3f1b8921-3bdd-41c9-a716-fb28b1f09480}
Other	<i>Receives flooding in town from Elkhorn River</i>	{f1aa3765-c7a3-42fe-a1f8-d48bc5adc8a6}
Other	<i>Possible future ditch along roadway to help drainage</i>	{da5a76bb-9ed2-4c1f-bde9-5972e0e07ee1}
Other	<i>Flooding NW side of town in pasture and old lake bed</i>	{03fdf715-61d0-4aa0-b2b0-21c4ff04c712}
Other	<i>Old lake area drainage ditch improvements</i>	{777f0311-b942-4121-9fcf-00477757db2b}
Emergency Protective Measures	<i>The river is encroaching upon the northern part of HWY 281 into St. Paul. I believe the river needs to be trenched out in the middle, so it will stop eating away at the North river banks. Looks like in time the river will be running into the city of St. Paul.</i>	{d71cc9f8-e858-4f06-a68e-854126737a62}
Other	<i>Request Damage Report from USACE that would show damages Lower Elkhorn NRD</i>	{39b57711-956a-45c2-9b06-478fdacf69e7}
Other	<i>Show available damage report repairs from USACE across state</i>	{147d7cb7-2977-4101-954f-e23a57175a3f}
Other	<i>Show damage report or repairs from USACE levees</i>	{f07ab69d-1548-4059-9c7c-54b5cc5e1cd3}
Other	<i>Significant damage to railroad washouts</i>	{bdb20082-9121-4738-9a20-8fee36a3bbba}
Other	<i>City of Randolph taking action to get out of floodplain, multi million dollar project</i>	{713e9ca5-5f3a-4cec-b579-933758305b0f}
Other	<i>bridge causing flood issues in 2019, closed multiple times for flooding</i>	{3b5db304-c4fa-4464-916e-0ee009e81633}

Other	<i>Flooding issues on creek for years Bow creek</i>	{780dcb90-5cab-49c7-8b3d-47a582834455}
Other	<i>Cedar Knox waterline rupture over bridge</i>	{b0c940f3-d1bc-4305-87ef-3b7b11efc6fb}
Other	<i>Ron Rylie - public comment if levee had failed damage would have been much worse</i>	{d48ce5f3-3237-4453-b46a-4f1616557911}
Other	<i>Other counties show flood areas outside of river lines, why does Pierce County not have this done also?</i>	{f11f56fe-cf66-4303-894f-c702a2ac45bc}
Private Property	<i>1.5 miles of fence destroyed.</i>	{1b44b260-729c-47fa-8b7f-eed764838519}
Private Property	<i>This private property is located in King Lake subdivision, Valley, Nebraska. King Lake was established in 1925 as a private recreational area for City dwellers. Assistance was not provided from the City of Omaha who has the current ETJ. Assistance was however, provided by the City of Valley. This area is unique in nature and needs to be preserved instead of targeted for removal. Assistance in the form of affordable funding needs to be provided to keep this community. King Lake has been in existence for almost 100 years. It is a way of life that should remain as an option for those who choose to live along a river. Targeting of this area, like what the City of Omaha did after the 2019 flood, is illegal and homeowners need an avenue of recourse when this happens. There is history in King Lake which needs to be preserved and celebrated! If my choice is to remain, then there should be adequate avenues to allow me the freedom to mitigate flood damage.</i>	{3db87ac9-98c5-4935-8ff2-244320409767}
Other	<i>Homeowner died in flooding event</i>	{dee0c0d8-48dc-42e1-8e80-a6f5510304c8}
Other	<i>The development of Lake Allure to our knowledge did not obtain a flood plain permit as required through Saunders County flood plain regulations, Lake Allure filled up like a bowl causing catastrophic damage to the homes on the lake and due to its construction damage to roads, Western Sand, Lincoln Water utilities, plus many other.</i>	{215ffe2e-a5ba-4984-88ea-e7442542558e}

Private Property	<i>Lost 2 miles of 4-strand barbwire fence</i>	{79d8687f-3d99-4fd5-a92f-a469c00d80ae}
Other	<i>Receives flooding in town from Elkhorn River</i>	{f1aa3765-c7a3-42fe-a1f8-d48bc5adc8a6}
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