

Watseka has discussions with State and Federal Officials on Recent Flooding.

Earlier this week officials from the City of Watseka had preliminary discussions with numerous governmental agencies regarding the recent flood in the city. State and federal officials represented were from: FEMA, IEMA, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Iroquois County, IL. Senator Jason Barrickman's Office. and IL. Representative Tom Bennett. Also represented was the Army Corp. of Engineers by conference call as were the city's engineers from Robinson Engineering.

The meeting involved the discussion of multiple options to address the city's flooding issue and consequential damages from these incidents. One option is a flood mitigation grant, which, on a voluntary basis, would provide for the acquisition and demolition of affected properties. Another possibility would be to continue the Army Corp of Engineers feasibility study which has a cost to the city of \$200,000. From the beginning of the study to the actual start a construction project could be up to 5 years.

The potential avenues of solution laid out take time to coordinate between all the agencies involved. As much as we would like them to be, none of these possible solutions are guaranteed. Further developments will be made available to the public once these options have been validated.