



It Takes More Than a Village

A Roadmap for Under-Resourced Communities Seek Climate Adaptation

Julie Nucci, J. Nucci Consulting, LLC
NHC Webinar - Making Mitigation Work
14 November 2023

Village of Owego on the Susquehanna River

Founded in 1787
Population ~4000



Photo by Chris Waits



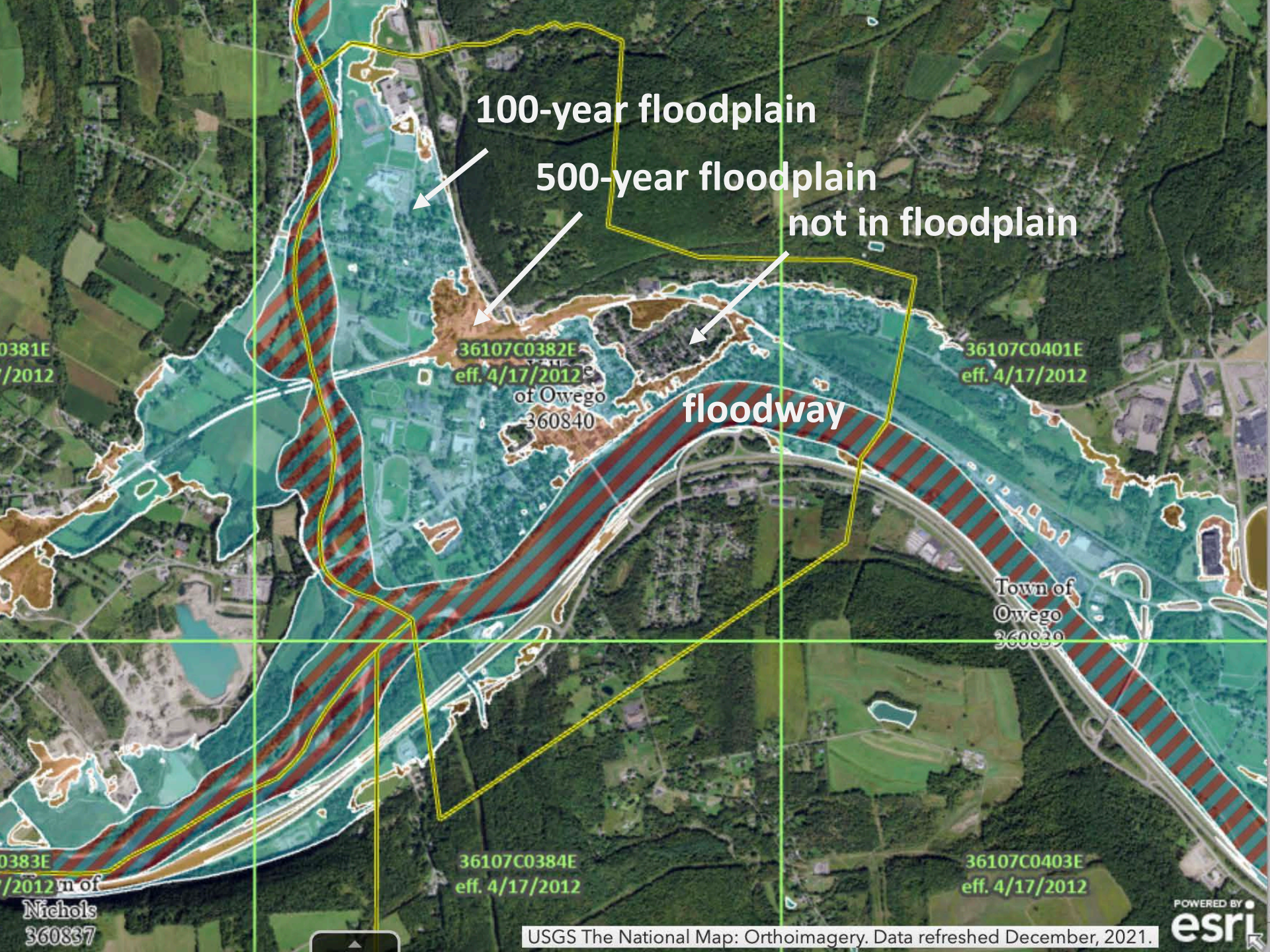


Owego is a historic community



Owego is also a disadvantaged community

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based map interface. At the top, a search bar contains "owego, new york". Below the search bar, a title reads "Find out if you are in a Community Disaster Resilience Zone". To the right of the title, a status indicator says "Identified as disadvantaged? YES". Below the title are two dropdown menus: "Select Your Location" (with a plus sign), "Select a State or Territory" (with a downward arrow and "No category selected"), and "Select a County or Equi..." (with a downward arrow and "No category selected"). The main map area shows a topographic view of the Owego region in New York. A green-shaded area covers the town of Owego and surrounding areas, including parts of Goodrich and Beecher Hill. The Susquehanna River is visible at the bottom. The FEMA logo is in the bottom left corner. At the bottom of the map, there is a footer with text: "Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA | data.pa.gov, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA | FEMA, The Council on Environmental Qual... Powered by Esri".



100-year floodplain

500-year floodplain

not in floodplain

floodway

36107C0382E
eff. 4/17/2012
of Owego
360840

36107C0401E
eff. 4/17/2012

Town of
Owego
360839

0381E
/2012

0383E
/2012 m of
Nichols
360837

36107C0384E
eff. 4/17/2012

36107C0403E
eff. 4/17/2012

8 Sept. 2011, Tropical Storm Lee



Image Source: Doug and Janet Goodrich, Goodrich Aviation



June 2021





ARTICLE

Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings



Left image

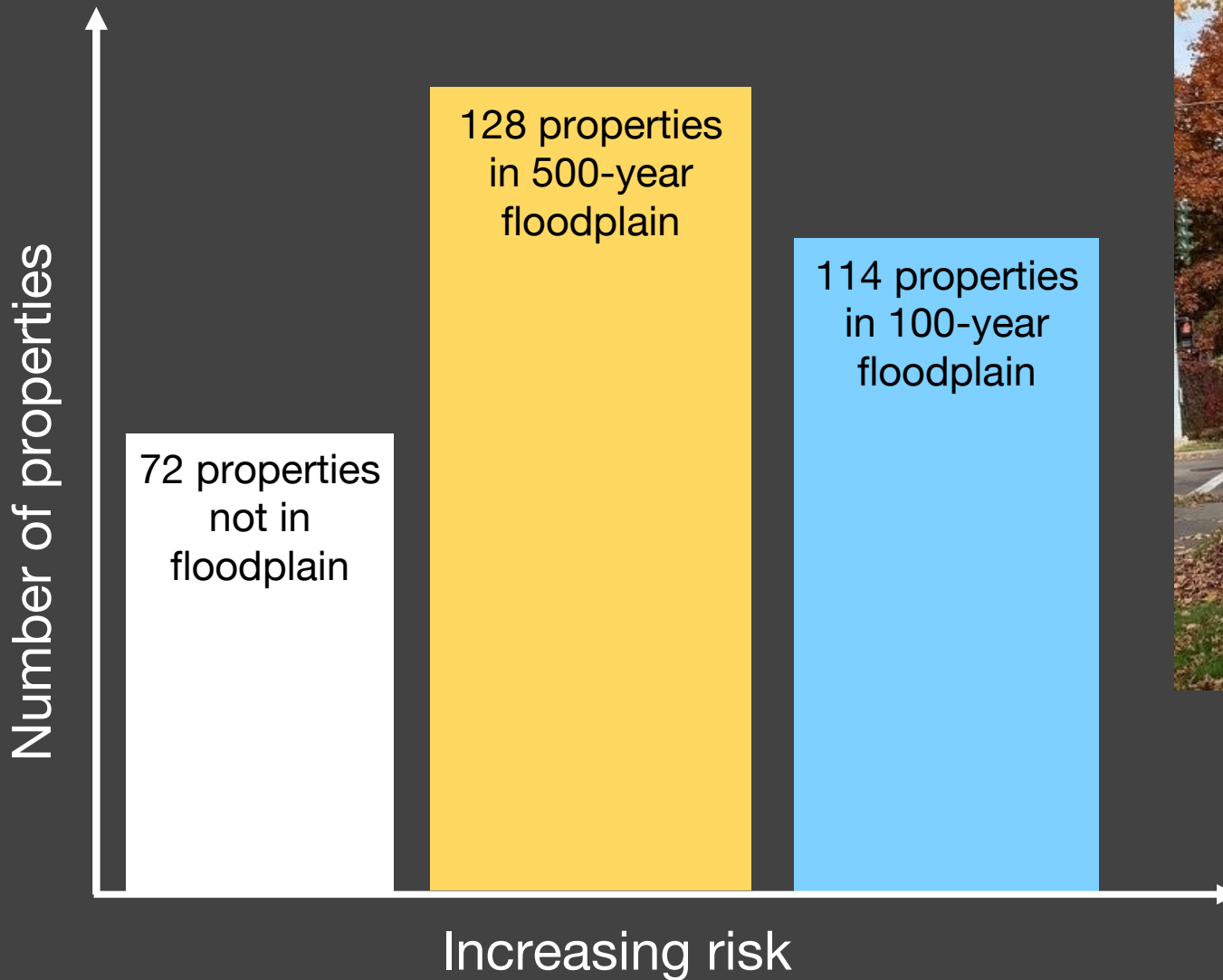
This Greek Revival house sits close to the ground, with little visible foundation. A 2011 flood inundated the first floor (photo below). The house was substantially elevated to reduce future flood risk.

Right image

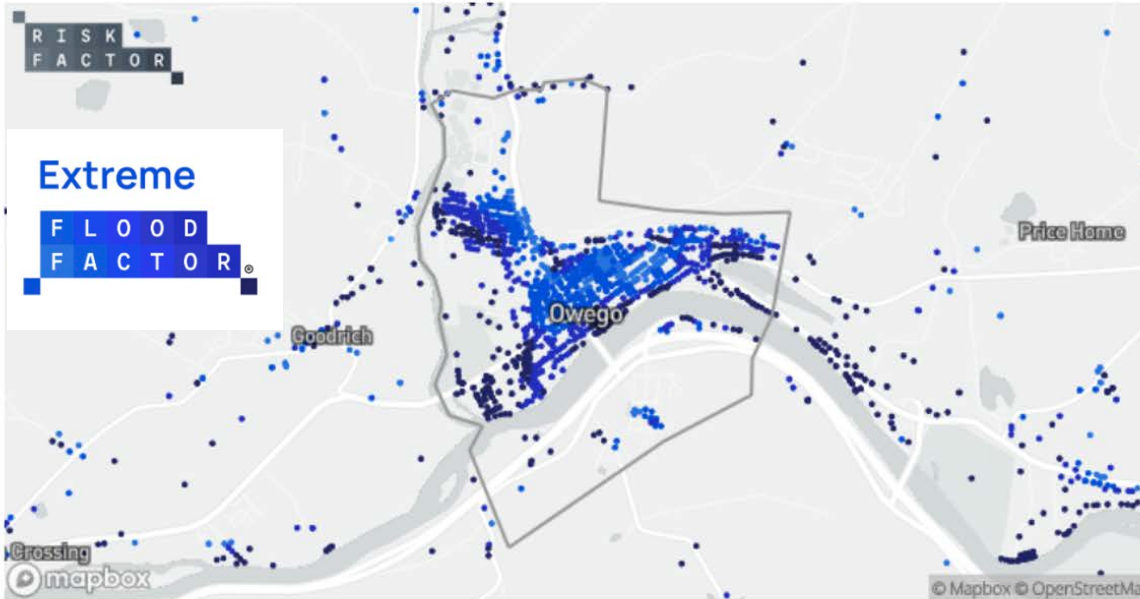
The house was raised on a new foundation with flood vents, and a change in the stair design and materials breaks the stairs into two smaller runs. Plantings and new fill also help disguise the change in height.

It is about more than
just my home; it is
about my village.

Owego Central Historic District



Flood Factor



Search for a property to see its risk from flooding, wildfire, heat, and wind.



Owego Flood Risk [i](#)

Residential **Extreme Risk**

943 out of **1,153** homes [i](#)

Road **Severe Risk**

38 out of **47** miles of roads [i](#)

Commercial **Extreme Risk**

241 out of **263**

commercial properties [i](#)

Critical Infrastructure **Extreme Risk**

4 out of **7** infrastructure facilities [i](#)

Social Facilities **Major Risk**

8 out of **10** social facilities [i](#)



LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY STRATEGY

Date: September, 2013

Village of Owego, New York



Sponsored by the NYS
Department of State,
Office of Communities
and Waterfronts



Prevention Activities (PA)

Goal

To ensure that there is proper language in plans and ordinances to protect properties within the Village of Owego from future flooding.

Prevention Activities Recovery Projects

- PA-1: Customize local law Chapter 117 to “flood proof” new or replacement homes.
- PA-2: Update Site Plan Review Legislation.
- PA-3: Review and enforce special use language in zoning code.
- PA-4: Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System (CRS).



2011 - Community Advocate #1

Kevin Millar
former mayor

chaired/assembled
LTCRS steering
committee, spearheads
CRS quick check (2015)
and CAV



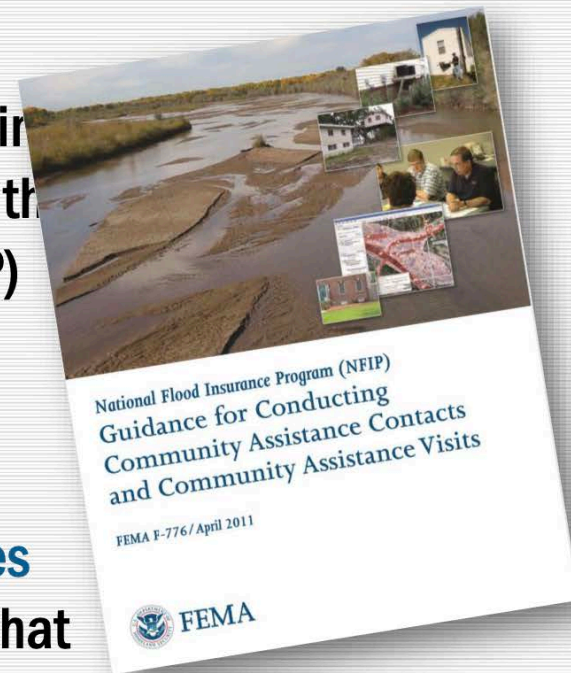
June 2019

The Community Assistance Visit (CAV)

Major Objective:

- Ensure NFIP communities are achieving the flood loss reduction objectives of the Community Assistance Program (CAP)

Community Assistance Program was established to **identify, prevent and resolve floodplain management issues BEFORE they develop into problems that require enforcement action.**



FEMA

August 2019

Mr. Jeff Soules, Village of Owego
August 14, 2019

I regret to inform you that, based on the above unaddressed actions and potentially noncompliant floodplain development, participation in the CRS program is not a realistic option for the Village at this time. Upon address of these issues FEMA Region II would be pleased to resume discussion of CRS with the Village.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact our Floodplain Management & Insurance Branch Chief at (347) 633-4308 or Scott.Duell@fema.dhs.gov, and/or NFIP Program Specialist at (212) 680-3624 or Jason.Fenn@fema.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation on this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Scott Duell

Scott V. Duell, Chief
Floodplain Management and Insurance

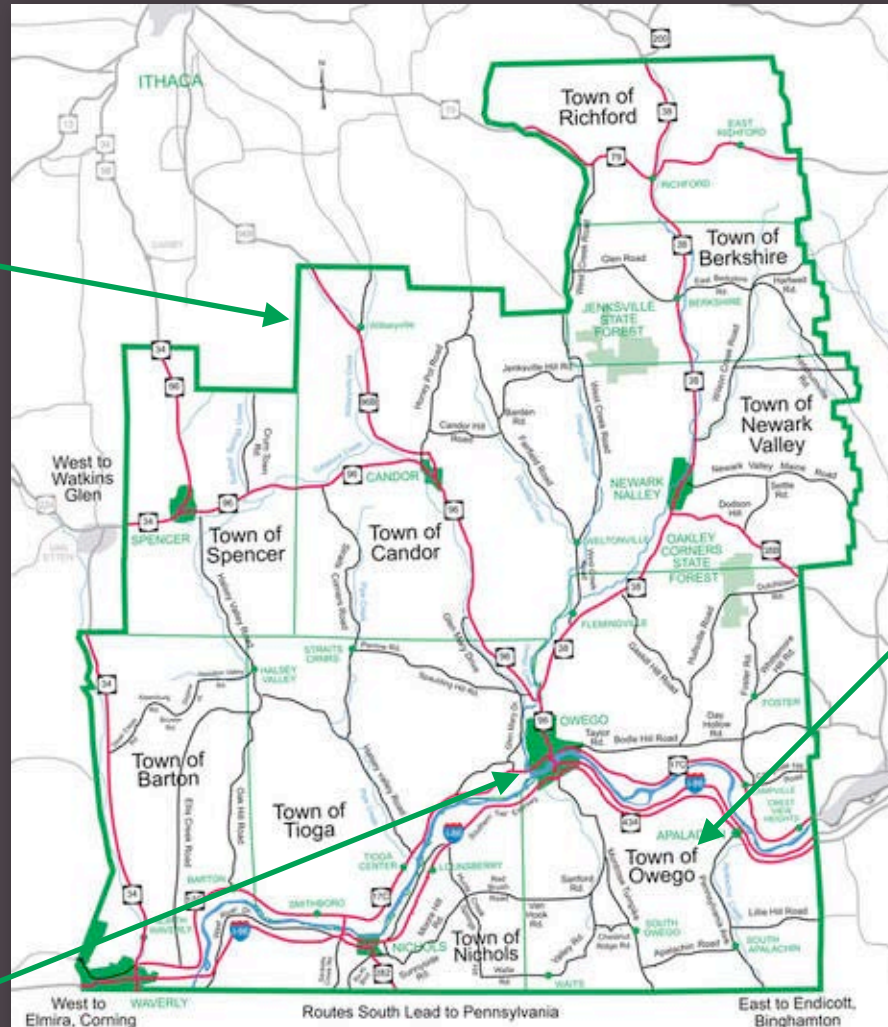
Sept 2020 - Community Advocate #2: me



Dec 2020 - Unified Approach to CAV Response

Tioga County:

- planner



Town of Owego:

- CFM
- planner

Village of Owego:

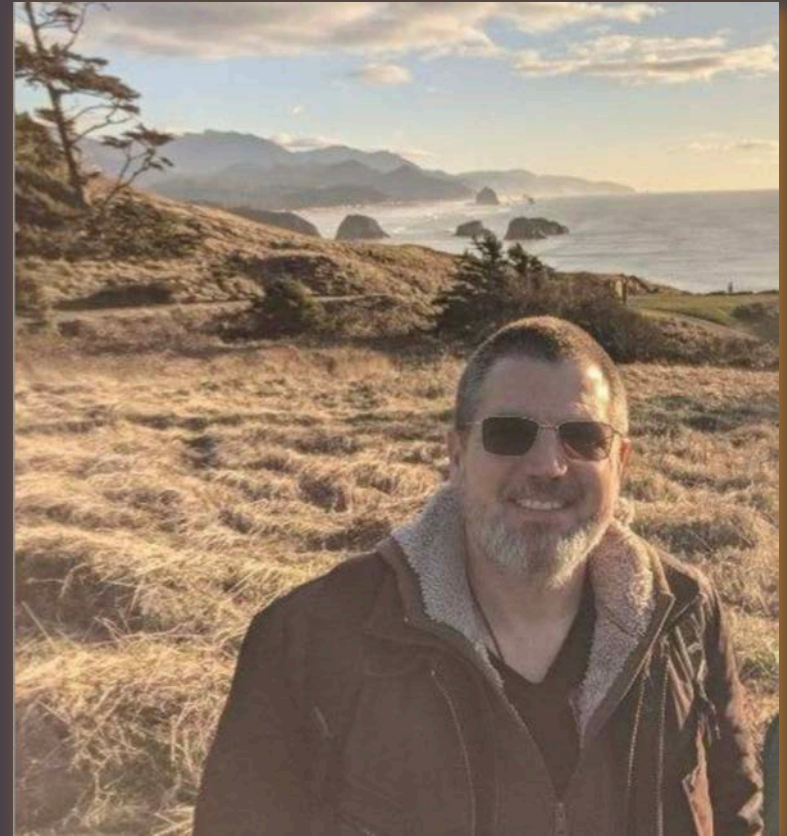
- community advocates
- code enforcement

2020 - FEMA Region 2

Jason Fenn

Senior Program Specialist

strongly supports Owego's
NFIP compliance and
resilience efforts



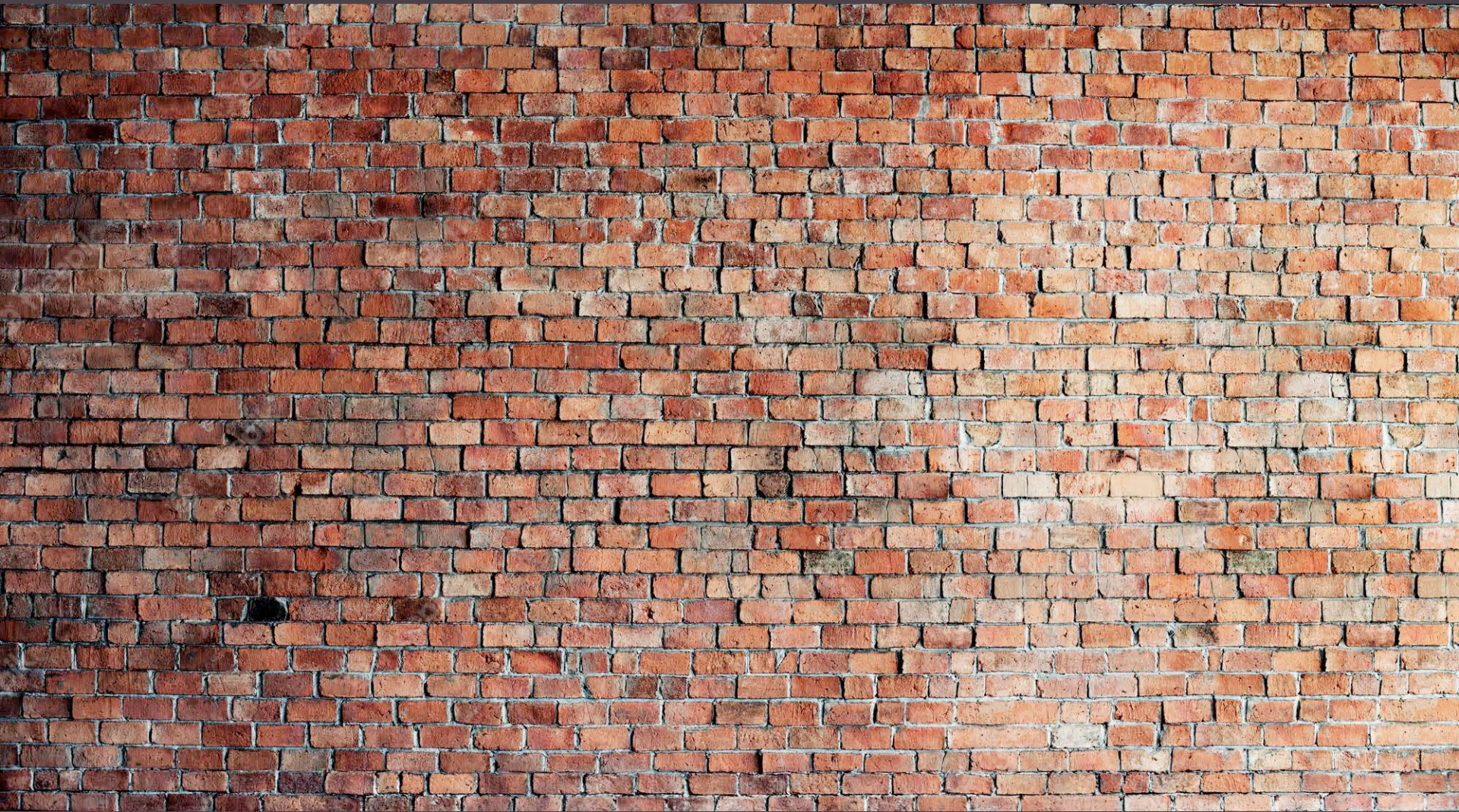
Dec 2020-Feb 2021

- Administrative Review submitted

Dec 2020-March 2021

- Regulatory Review clears 4 of 5 violations

Spring 2021 - Spring 2022



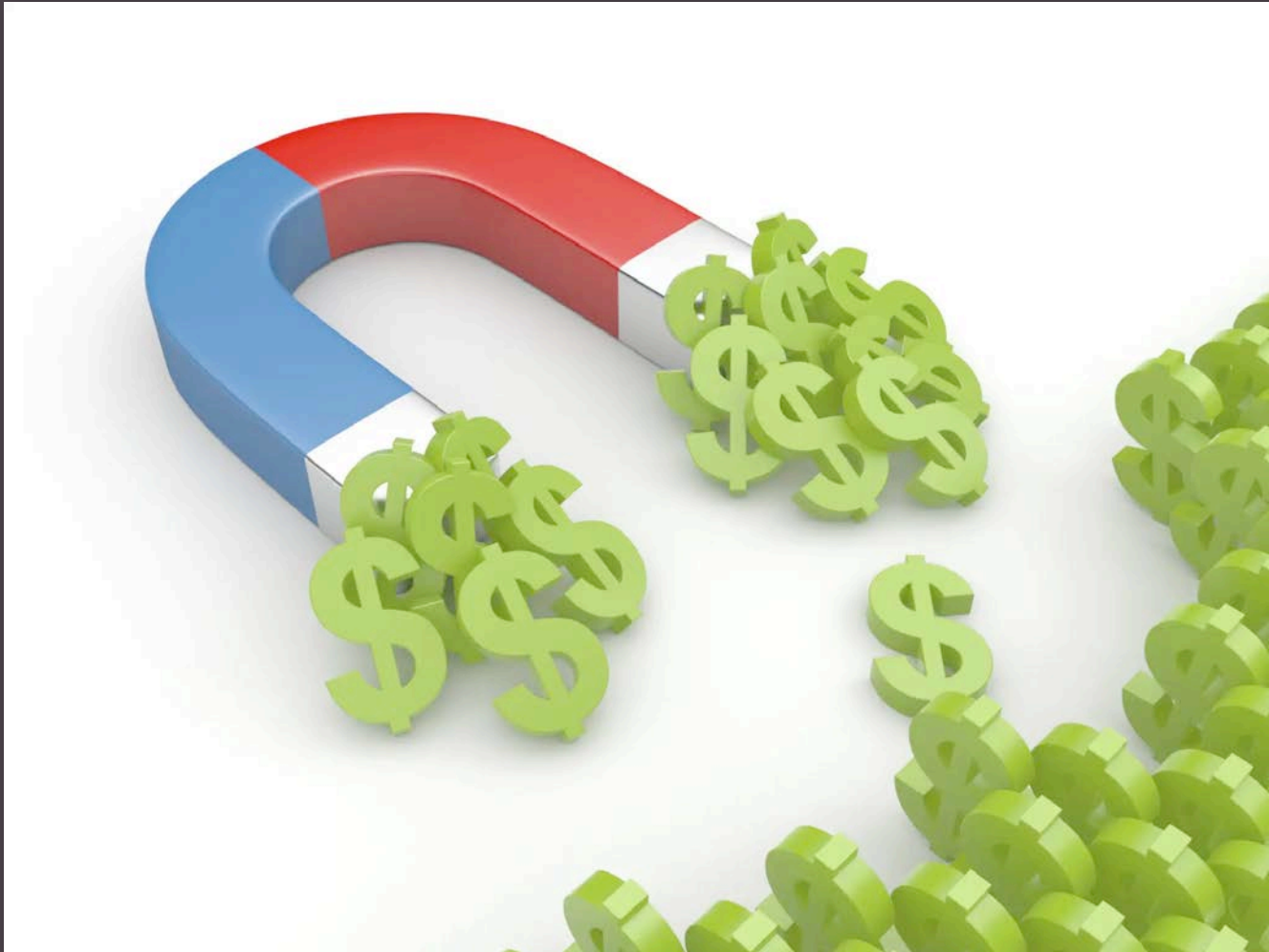
...until Julie met Jayme at NYSFSMA in May 2022

Jayme Breschard
Senior Managing
Community Planner

Barton and Loguidice
Private Partner



Identify a CRS Funding Strategy



NYS Climate Smart Communities Program



\$125K, 5-year grant
Submitted: July 2022
Received: January 2023

* DOS - funded Recovery Plan enabled direct application for an implementation grant

2022 - Owego Village Trustee

Laura Spencer
Trustee

strongly and actively
supports CRS/CSC
participation



Laura's Riverrow Bookshop in 2011



2022 - Southern Tier Eight Sustainability Coordinator

Ashley Seyfried
Southern Tier Eight

actively supports CSC
proposal preparation and
project implementation



B&L 5-year work plan

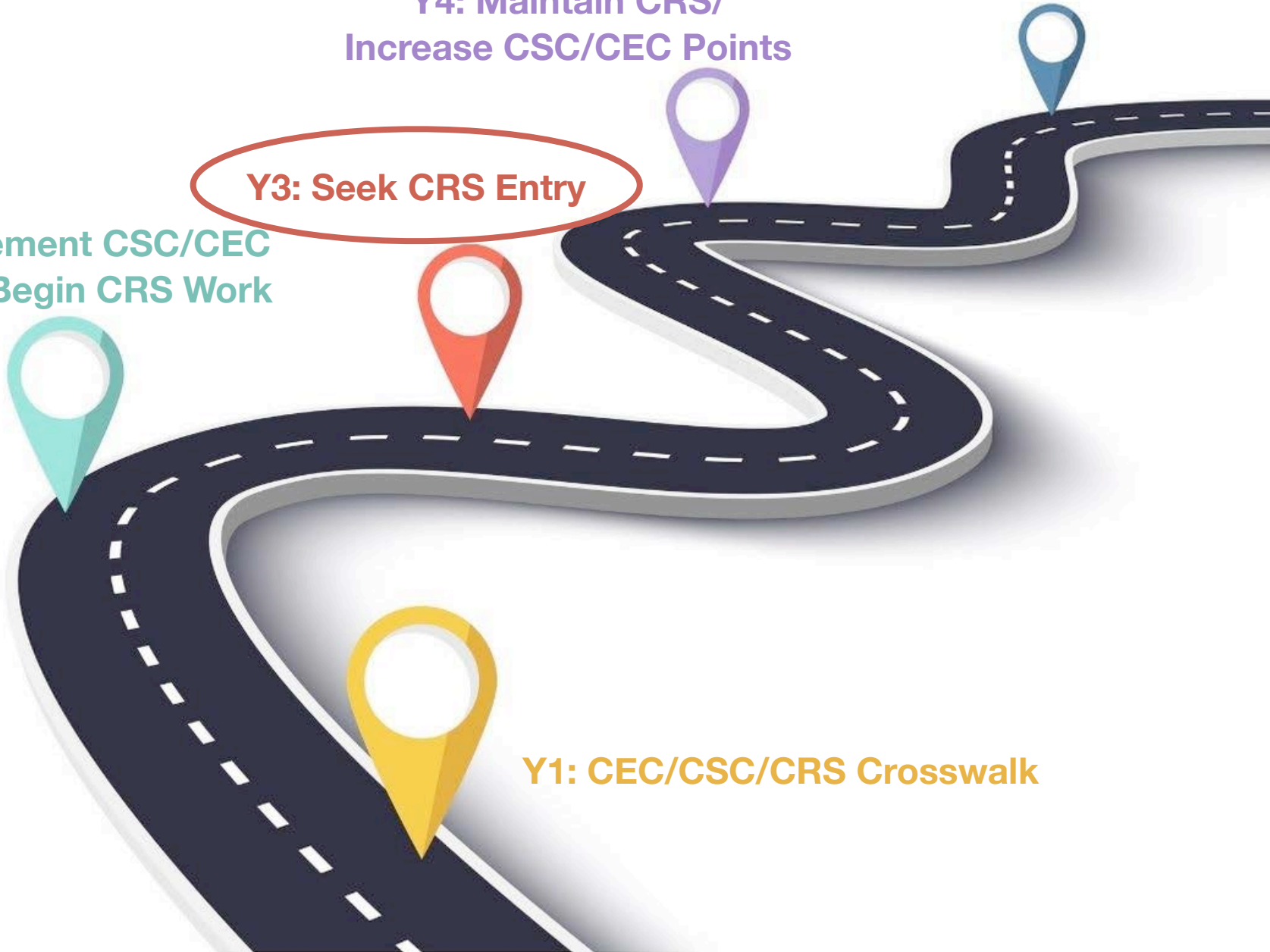
Y5: Increase CRS Rating/
Increase CSC/CEC Points

Y4: Maintain CRS/
Increase CSC/CEC Points

Y3: Seek CRS Entry

Y2: Implement CSC/CEC
Actions/Begin CRS Work

Y1: CEC/CSC/CRS Crosswalk



2023 - Clean Energy Communities Coordinator

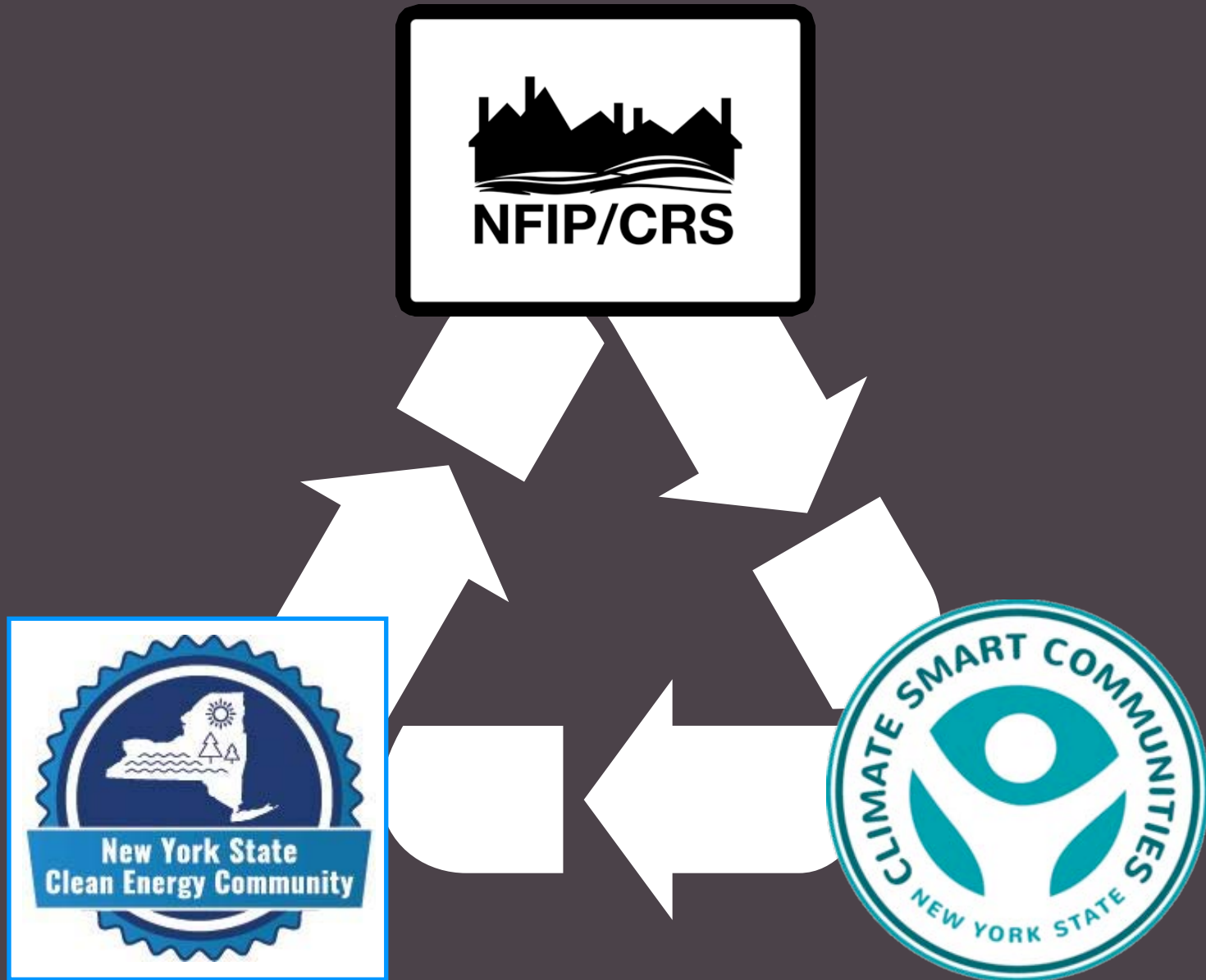
Michael Brown
Schuyler Co.
Cooperative Extension

actively working to
process a \$10K grant
and seek a \$20K grant



Clean Energy
Communities

Play the points game!



OTHER

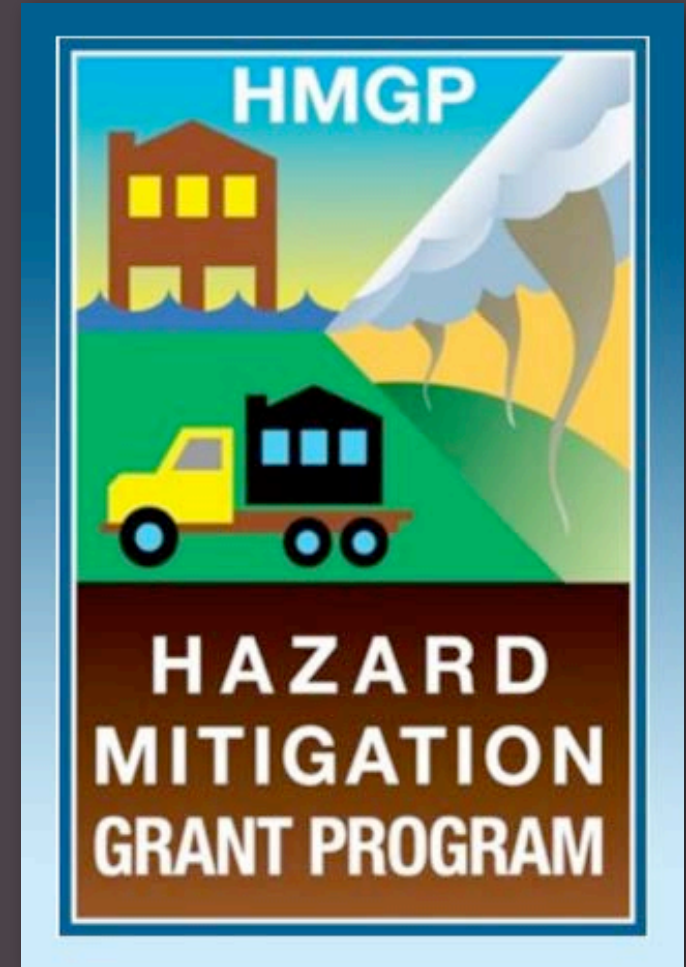
Important
Stuff

Submitted spring 2022: FEMA HMGP

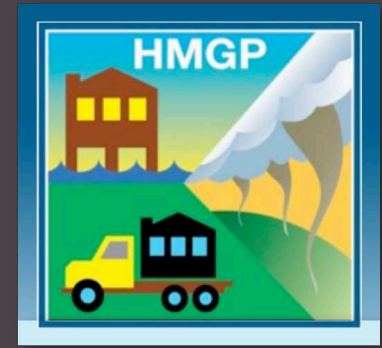
Pump station generators

- Water and sewer (~\$400k)

Elevation of a historic home (~\$250K)



Elevation of an 1802 Greek Revival



2023/2024 - Cornell University Professor

Jamie Vanucchi
Landscape Architect

Student landscape
architecture design
competition underway
for elevation



In-kind CSC effort



Cornell **CALS**
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

2022 - USACE

Laura Ortiz

Flood Risk Program Manager

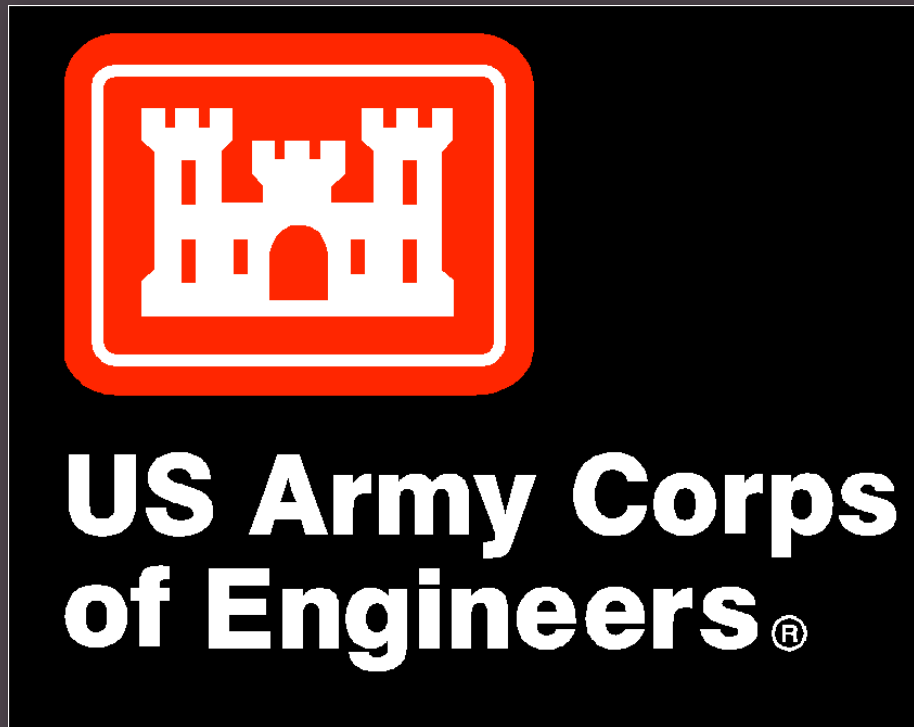
Opened doors for Owego
USACE project proposals



Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program

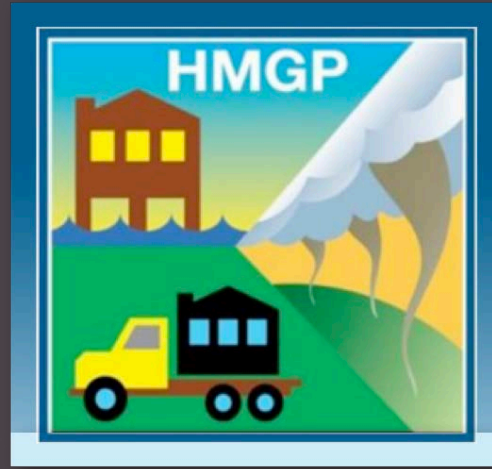
\$307k awarded in 2023

First US Community to receive 100% PAS funding



1. Non-structural analysis of structures in the floodplain
2. Stormwater system redesign
3. Project management and grant support

Motivated community advocates can make great progress in underserved communities



\$125k + ~\$650k + ~\$300k

~\$1,075,000 in funding for my village

It was inevitable...based on my lived experience



The image is a map of the Village of Owego, NY, with a red and blue hatched flood zone overlay. The map shows property boundaries with parcel numbers such as 8122, 813, 818, 814, 18, and 815. Labels include 'Zone AE' in three locations and 'Village of Owego 360840' in the bottom left. The company name 'J. NUCCI CONSULTING, LLC' is overlaid in large, bold, dark red letters.

**J. NUCCI
CONSULTING, LLC**

**CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SCIENCE
COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

National Hazard
Mitigation Association



~~Boiler Plate
HMP~~

CRS-informed
Hazard Mitigation
Plan Update

Owego Case Study

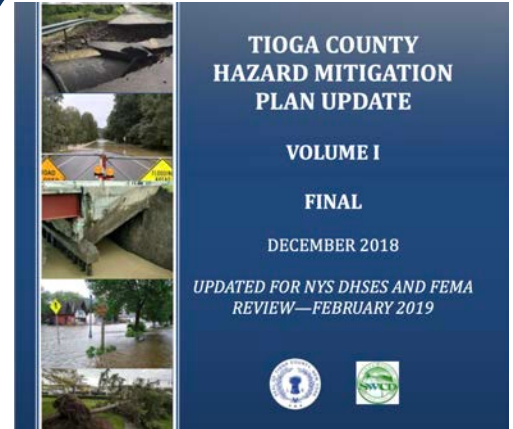
Leverage/Synchronize Resources for HMP Update!



CRS 510



**Climate
Adaptation Plan**



**Village of Owego
Annex to HMP**

Longer term vision: Integrate HMP into Village of Owego's comprehensive plan

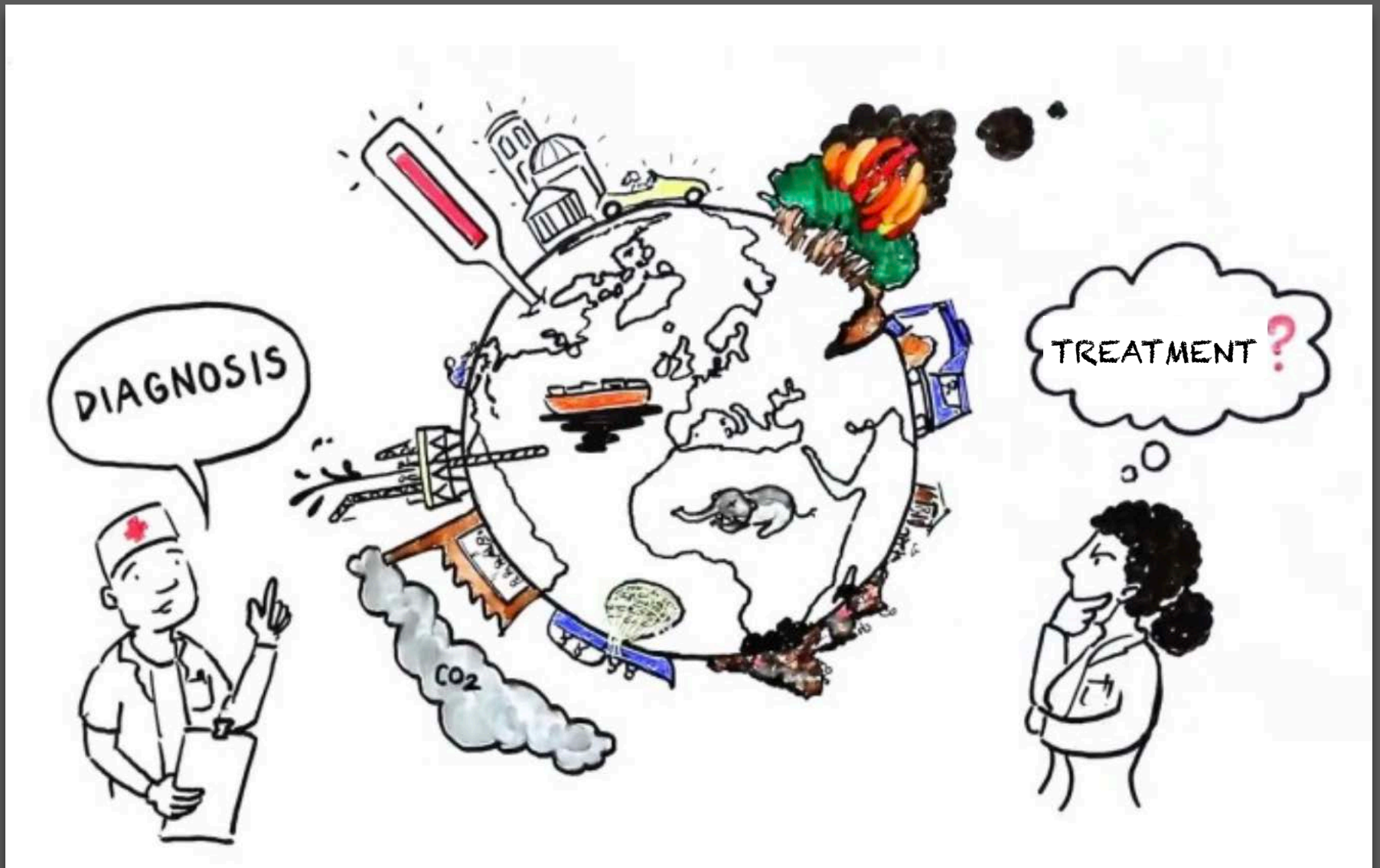


Last comp plan update: 2013

Longer term vision: Leverage USACE study and disadvantaged status for larger implementation grants



It is about more than
just my village.



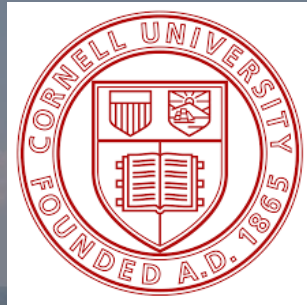
Sustained community advocacy can lead to burnout



FEMA Region 2 Hubs for Equitable Resilience & Engagement (HERE) Position Paper

October 25, 2023





Cornell, a land grant university, will be working to help state and federal governments get assistance funding to underserved and vulnerable communities.

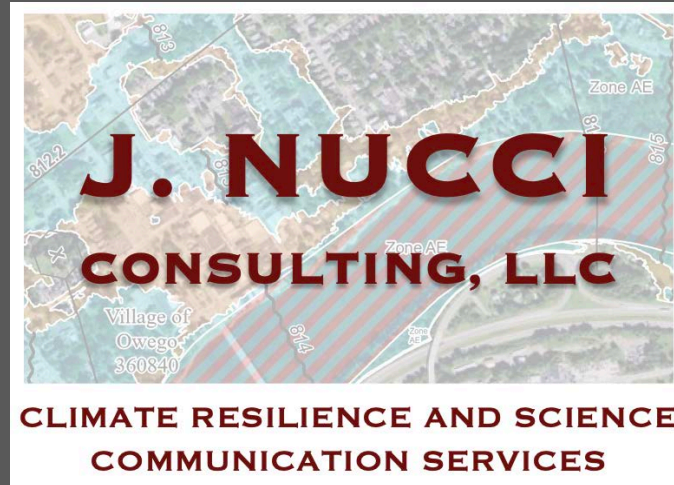
Resilience funding must make all communities safer, not just wealthy ones!

Responding to Rising Inequality

Policy Interventions to
Ensure Opportunity for All



Thank you!



National Hazard
Mitigation Association



julie@jnucciconsulting.com