

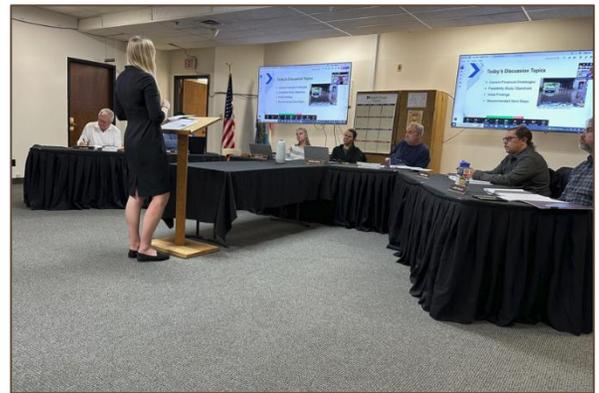
Livingston, Montana

Located in southwestern Montana, the City of Livingston (pop. 8,489) has flood risk from the adjacent Yellowstone River and from in-town flooding due to inadequate stormwater infrastructure, particularly in the northern side of town. For nearly a decade, the city has been considering creating a stormwater utility to establish a dedicated funding pool for stormwater projects and maintenance.

FloodWise began discussing community flood and stormwater resiliency needs with Livingston in 2023. The city prioritized developing a stormwater utility, and FloodWise contracted with AE2S Nexus in 2024 to conduct a feasibility study.

Partnership Outcomes

- AE2S Nexus completed and submitted the Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study incorporating comments from the City Commissioners and the city’s stormwater team.
- In July, FloodWise contracted with AE2S Nexus to work on phase two of the project: creating a Stormwater Utility Implementation Plan.
- AE2S Nexus completed the spatial analysis and rate setting recommendations in coordination with the city’s stormwater team by December.
- FloodWise staff attended the Disaster Preparedness Training in Livingston for mobile home park residents provided by NeighborWorks MT in May 2025.
- FloodWise staff attended City Commission meeting in July when MT DNRC discussed new flood risk mapping for the Yellowstone River.
- FloodWise and AE2S Nexus facilitated multiple meetings with key community stakeholders including the City Manager, Public Works Director, Finance Department, city staff, and more. FloodWise staff regularly attended stormwater utility steering group meetings.



Consultants AE2S Nexus presented results of the feasibility study to the City Commission. (Photo by Headwaters Economics)

Next Steps

- Orient new City Commission members to Livingston’s flood risks, from both the Yellowstone River and stormwater runoff, and clearly communicate how stormwater utilities can reduce risk, improve water quality, and provide stable, locally controlled funding.
- Coordinate implementation efforts between AE2S Nexus and the city’s administrative, finance, and public works teams with a focus on operational readiness, including (if the city moves forward with establishing a stormwater utility) integration of the utility into the city’s billing systems.
- Provide ongoing technical and strategic support through FloodWise to assist with the stormwater utility and maintain momentum for flood resilience in the city.

- FloodWise Community since November 2023
- Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$84,600



FloodWise Community Assistance is a program of Headwaters Economics that provides free technical assistance and customized research to help reduce flood risk and strengthen communities. <https://floodwise.headwaterseconomics.org/>