An Opportunity and Ten Challenges for the Flood Risk Management Community

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The 21st Century

- Population Explosion
- Pressures for Development
- Scarce Resources
- Technological Surge
- Climate Change
- Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous National and World Situations
The Opportunity
To have a United States in which floods are managed in a manner that will concurrently support economic growth, all but eliminate natural disasters, improve social well being, and restore, preserve, and enhance the natural environment.
Challenge #1

Deal with Floods on a Systems Basis

• Manage on a watershed level
• Recognize our growing ability to manage at the watershed and basin level
• Break open stovepipes
Challenge #2

Accept and Adopt Flood Risk Management

- All Systems are Not Equal
- Recognize uncertainties in hazards, structures and other systems and factor into management
- Develop realistic and supported risk profiles
Challenge #3

Better Coordinate Flood Risk Management Activities

- Define a Unified National Program - who does what and manage it
- Pass a Flood Risk Management Act - codify UNP
- Reduce/smooth overlapping activities - levee management, mapping, communication
Challenge #4

Use All Tools in the FRM Effort

- Recognize the growing value of green approaches (infrastructure)
- Don’t throw out gray infrastructure
- Get behind land planning, building codes, early warning, etc, and insurance
Challenge #5

Effectively Communicate Flood Risk

• Harmonize Federal Messages
• Push Support to Local Level
• Use all Communication Tools including Risk Maps
Challenge #6

Come to grips with the need for fiscal support for gray and green infrastructure development and renewal and make these resources available. We are living on the backs of the past.

• Accept that there is no free lunch and pay our way.
• Use Innovative resource approaches (Infrastructure banks, etc).
• Let beneficiaries pay
Challenge #7

Identify and Address Future Conditions

- Don’t Ignore Climate Change and Development
- Map Best Judgment
Challenge #8

Identify National Exposure and Vulnerability

• Act on WRDA 2007  Sec 2032

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report describing the vulnerability of the United States to damage from flooding…
Challenge #9

Keep Up the Moves Forward

• Bigger-Waters 12 – Risk
• ABFE + 1
Challenge #10
Move to Integrated Hazard Management
Success

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford
Thank You