

Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association
Resolution
On Map Modernization
August 28, 2004

WHEREAS, in accordance with 42 USC 4101 Chapter 50, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to “identify and publish information with respect to all (emphasis added) floodplain areas”; and

WHEREAS, identifying and publishing information with respect to all floodplain areas will help ensure new development is planned with knowledge of flood risks; and

WHEREAS 44 CFR 59.23, indicates that “Flood-prone, mudslide and flood-related erosion prone communities are placed on a register of areas eligible for ratemaking studies and then selected ... on the basis of the following considerations:

- a) Recommendations of state officials;
- b) Location of the community and urgency of need for flood insurance;
- c) Population of community and intensity of existing or proposed development of the floodplain ... ;
- d) Availability of information on the community with respect to its flood ... characteristics and previous losses and
- e) Extent of State and local progress in floodplain ... management ... “

WHEREAS, the revised Map Modernization Performance Metrics presented by FEMA to the Mapping Coalition on November 4, 2003 do not include measures associated with the quality of the maps, the proposed development of the floodplain, nor the extent of flood hazard that needs to be mapped; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Michigan’s current Flood Insurance Studies utilized land use and streamflow data from the 1970’s and early 80’s, rainfall data gathered through the 1960s, and Great Lake levels observed prior to the high water levels in the 1980’s.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey water resource program, specifically the National Streamflow Information Program and Cooperative Water Programs, are crucial to the availability of accurate streamflow data for the development of quality maps.

WHEREAS, State and local floodplain management staff have a direct interest in the successful implementation of the Flood Map Modernization initiative and possess the detailed knowledge necessary to identify and prioritize floodplain mapping needs in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in order to complete the Flood Map Modernization initiative within 5 years utilizing the funding appropriated, FEMA is authorizing conversion of existing flood profiles, which may or may not reflect current hydrologic or hydraulic conditions, onto digital topography and updating the map date to the date of the digital conversion; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the published digital flood map coincides with readily available digital topographic data (U. S. Geologic Survey 7½ minute topographic maps or more refined local digital data) and the hydrology and hydraulics reflect current conditions is required to maintain credibility with the user community; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association (MSFA) does hereby resolve to recommend the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, to take the following actions in support of modernizing the nation's flood hazard maps:

1. Develop procedures to identify the extent of unmapped and inadequately mapped flood hazards. The procedures for evaluating an existing map's adequacy shall include: an evaluation of current hydrologic and hydraulic information including land use, rainfall, and stream flow data; and hydraulic improvements including but not limited to the installation of by-pass channels and flood mitigation structures.
2. Establish performance measures that support achieving the intended benefits while identifying all floodplain areas in the state by developing a tiered approach based on the communities flood risk.
3. Develop a National Flood Map Modernization Implementation Plan that fully incorporates the mapping needs identified in the State Business Plans and includes a process for selecting projects and allocating funding that has been fully vetted with stakeholders and is consistent with 44 CFR 59.23.
4. Request annual updates of State Business Plans that are prepared cooperatively by states and non-state CTPs.
5. Adopt and enforce technical quality standards and guidelines to define minimum standards and appropriate use of topographic, planimetric, hydrologic and hydraulic information. At a minimum these standards and guidelines should ensure that flood elevations and delineations published coincide with U. S. Geologic Survey 7½ minute topographic maps or more refined local digital topographic data where available.
6. Recognize that the Flood Map Modernization initiative may need to extend more than 5-years to ensure the quality of the flood hazard mapping projects initiated.
7. To maintain credibility with the user community, confirm that the hydrology is current prior to re-delineating effective flood profiles onto digital topography and publishing a countywide map with the date of the digital conversion.
8. Examine, in collaboration with Michigan and the MSFA the feasibility of converting the ongoing pilot project whereby the Denver Metropolitan Area Urban Drainage & Flood Control District performs Letter of Map Revision reviews locally to a permanent program and the feasibility of extending such a program to qualified local, regional, and state CTPs.
9. Restore the reductions made by the House (H.R.4568) to the U.S. Geological Survey water resource program, specifically the National Streamflow Information Program and Cooperative Water Programs. The federally funded network of key stream gages is crucial to the state's ability to understand and manage its water resources and is critical for the identification of flood map elevations and for use in warning our citizens of flooding conditions.