

ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee

2008- 2009 Report

Orlando, Florida

Overview

The primary mission of the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee is to provide policy guidance and support for floodplain mapping and engineering issues to foster reduction of future losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding. Historically, this committee has had major impacts on FEMA's Flood Mapping Program, requirements for map modernization, and addressing technical issues related to flood hazards such as levees and dams.

Co-chairs for the committee are:

Sally McConkey, Illinois State Water Survey, March 2008 - present

Tim Trautman, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services. July 2008 - present

Liaison:

Ki Pak. June 2008 to March 2009

Maria Honeycutt March 2009- present

In August 2008 a work plan was prepared describing on going activities and goals. The items in the work plan directly support Goals and Objectives for ASFPM for 2009 that are mapping and/or engineering related. The work items fall into two categories, Ongoing Work Items and Goals and Objectives. Activities in support of these work items are described below.

Accomplishments

Progress on the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee Goals and Objectives for 2008-2009 is as follows:

1. Participate in ASFPM Policy Committee Conference Calls and Retreats.

The ASFPM Policy Committee Retreat was held August, 2008 in Madison WI. Tim Trautman and Sally McConkey attended.

2. Attend Nation Conference Policy Committee Chair Meeting and hold annual committee meeting.

Sally McConkey attend the Policy Committee Chair meeting on May 18, 2008 in Reno, NV. The annual M&E Standards Com. Meeting was held May 19, 2008 during the Annual Conference. Attendees at the meeting were asked to sign up if they wished to serve on the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee and assist with reviewing reports, letters, and various issues during the year. Approximate 25 people signed up. Presentations by Roy Wright, Doug Bellomo and Paul Rooney provided information on FEMA's future plans.

3. Review ongoing Federal Agency Policy and Rule Making activities and respond on issues that are relevant to Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee Mission.

- Major revisions to FEMA's Guidelines and Specification, Appendix C and Appendix M were initiated in 2008. The M&E Std. Com. Solicited comments from members and submitted detailed comments to FEMA.
- Two draft FEMA Procedural Memorandum were reviewed and comments provided.

4. Represent ASFPM on various government agency work groups engaged in mapping activities (e.g. NSF or FEMA Mapping Work Group)

The FOCUS Group consist of representatives from FEMA, ASFPM, NAFSMA and FEMA primary contractors. This forum provides an opportunity for updates, discussion, and information sharing that provides background for decision making.

Tim Trautman attended meetings on July 22 and 23, 2008, October 29, 2008 and January 27, 2009.

Sally McConkey attended the March 2009 meeting in Washington D.C.

Sally McConkey presented at the Public Briefing (sponsored by ASFPM, Dewberry URS Corporation and the Hazards Caucus Alliance and Congressional Hazards Caucus), "Flood Maps and Reducing Community Flood Risks" at the Rayburn Building in Washington D.C. on April 10, 2008.

Sally McConkey presented on Map Modernization at the Government Affairs Directors Institute in July 2008.

Sally McConkey attended the Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee (IFRMC) meeting on March 26, 2009.

5. Prepare Annual Reports and Develop Work Plans

A detailed work plan was prepared in August 2008.

6. Review and maintain committee Web Page

The 2009 work plan is posted on the ASFPM web page.

7. Review Annual Conference Abstracts and assist with Session assignments

Conference abstracts were reviewed by the committee co-chairs; abstracts were grouped into relevant sessions and prioritized.

8. Promote mapping of residual risk areas associated with levees and dams and promote the use of different design standards based on risk (100 year/500 year—urban/rural—critical facilities, etc).

Sally McConkey served as ASFPM's representative on the Review Committee for the National Levee Safety Committee. Sally attended the review committee meeting December 12, 2008 in Lansdowne VA. She requested comments from ASFPM membership and prepared ASFPM's response to two NLSC questionnaires, compiled remarks, and draft report critiques (Nov 13, 2008 and December 19, 2008).

9. Promote timely completion of map mod and transition to long term management of flood risk data

- Work with FEMA to transition Map Mod to a Risk MAP strategy that supports ASFPM goals and incorporates current and ongoing state and local priorities
- Work with FEMA to develop and implement a long term digital map development and maintenance plan.
- Promote the need for the continuation of ongoing study and map updates.
- Promote mapping of 500-year flood hazard areas, coastal and riverine erosion zones, storm surge areas, and residual risk zones behind levees and below dams.
- Provide input to FEMA on technical methodologies to reduce program costs such as changes to mapping cartographic standards and digital delivery.
- Work with FEMA to be paperless by October 2009

Sally McConkey contributed to a letter sent June 19, 2008 to FEMA commenting on the proposed Risk MAP strategy.

ASFPM and NAFSM formed a joint subcommittee to discuss digital issues, including but not limited to data stewardship. The initial meeting was held on May 21, 2008, during the Annual Conference in Reno, NV. Two follow-up conference calls were conducted in July 2008 and September 2008. Representatives from several states, communities, agencies, and FEMA participated. While a white paper was not forthcoming, the discussions were productive in sharing perceptions and goals about managing digital data.