

Association of State FloodPlain Managers

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Conference Call: FEMA and ASFPM

Subject: State Business Plans

Date: October 16, 2003

Participants: FEMA Washington - Mary Jean Pajak, Cindy Croxdale, Allyson Lichtenfels, Anne Flowers

FEMA Region V - Lee Traeger

ASFPM - Alan Lulloff, Mark Riebau

I. Objective/Goals of Cooperative Agreement

ASFPM has signed a cooperative agreement with FEMA to work with the States to develop their State Business Plans. ASFPM sent an invitation to 12 people to participate in a Work Group to develop State Business Plans. The people were selected to represent at least one State from each FEMA Region, one CTP representing local and regional governments, plus one State that indicated they were not likely to be able to assume much, if any, of the mapping responsibilities.

The initial Work Group conference call was held on October 15th, during which the following goals were identified:

- Identify information needed for states to develop a Business Plan;
- Recommend improvements to the "State Business Plan Template" for use in FY05 and beyond;
- Identify needed guidance materials for developing a State Business Plan;
- Recommend ways to help States prepare a business plan; and

FEMA agreed that the above goals are consistent with the terms of the cooperative agreement. FEMA requested that ASFPM provide recommendations based on consensus of the Work Group. FEMA would respond to questions from the group but is relying on ASFPM to lead the development of recommendations from the group.

II. Relationship between State Business Plans (SBP), Regional Business Plans (RBP) and the National Business Plan

FEMA Regional Offices are in the process of developing their Business Plans (drafts are due by December 19, 2003). They have been asked to develop plans by incorporating each SBP and identifying any gaps. It was noted that State Business Plans are not due until after the first of the year and therefore will not be available to the Regions as they develop their draft plans. However, FEMA Headquarters indicated that Regions will be requesting drafts and/or polling their states to assess the anticipated level of involvement in Flood Map Modernization implementation as they are drafting their plans. The Regional Business Plans will fill gaps left by

State Business Plans. The National Business Plan will reflect what is contained in the Regional Business Plans. The entire process of developing a National Business Plan will be an iterative process that will require close coordination and collaboration. This is a new approach to accomplishing flood hazard mapping for the NFIP, so there is no "model" to follow.

A meeting between FEMA HQ and all Regions is being planned for the week of December 8-10 in Chicago to discuss Regional Business Plans. ASFPM suggested that the State Business Plan Work Group (SBPWG) present its findings, conclusions and recommendations to FEMA some time during that week in Chicago. It would present an opportunity for FEMA and the SBPWG to share ideas, to collaborate on the business of developing Business Plans, and promote cooperation between the States, the Regions and HQ. The suggestion is under consideration.

III. Timeline and Process for Selection of FY04 Study Starts

ASFPM asked what the timeline and the process for selection would be for deciding which studies will be initiated in FY04. FEMA said both are still being developed, but both the State Plans submitted in 2002 and the "Atlanta Criteria" will be taken into consideration. The final decisions with respect to the timeline and the process won't be made until the National Service Provider (NSP) is under contract.

IV. Coastal Methodology Evaluation

No coastal studies were initiated in FY03 because a review of current methodologies is being undertaken. An evaluation of the available models has been started with the goal of completing the analyses in 2004. The evaluation of coastal methodologies is progressing on schedule and will be completed early next year. Coastal studies will be initiated in FY04.

The evaluation does not include models designed for the Great Lakes. ASFPM will canvass Great Lake States to identify any concerns regarding the current draft guidelines. FEMA Region V is developing a "problem statement" which, when completed, will be addressed by the Detroit District, USACE.

V. Miscellaneous

- FEMA will be providing an update on Flood Map Modernization implementation to the Mapping Coalition in Washington DC on November 4th.
- NRCS is embarking on a multi-year program to rehabilitate, or decommission, over 2,000 dams. NRCS will be updating and revising hydrologic and hydraulic analyses associated with the dams and developing flood inundation maps to determine the benefits and costs associated with rehabilitating or decommissioning each dam. The h/h data generated and maps created need to be captured and included as part of FEMA's Map Modernization initiative. A meeting/conference call between NRCS, ASFPM and ASDSO to discuss this issue will be held on October 28th at 10 AM (Eastern). ASFPM encouraged FEMA to participate in the meeting/conference call.