

# Association of State FloodPlain Managers

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Conference Call: State Business Plan Work Group

Date: November 10, 2003

Participants: Rich Zingarelli-MA, Bill Nechamen-NY, Lisa Jones-SC, Alan Lulloff-WI, Mark Ogden-OH, Brian Hyde-CO, Bill DeGroot-Denver UDFCD, John Dorman-NC, Mark Riebau-ASFPM

## I. Conference Call Summary for October 29, 2003

Accepted without change. The summary will be posted on ASFPM Website.

## II. Meeting with FEMA

The Work Group has been invited to meet with FEMA in Chicago the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>. FEMA will have representatives from HQ in Chicago to present their vision of Map Mod to all the Regions and the new National Service Provider will present their vision for "Mapping On Demand" (MOD).

The Work Group will attend the opening plenary session on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, then meet all day Wednesday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at Region V offices to work on ASFPM's report to FEMA. Alan Lulloff, Chair-Mapping and Engineering Standard Committee and Mark Riebau, ASFPM will present preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the Work Group to FEMA on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## III. List of Map Mod Activities

Alan Lulloff combined several lists of "activities" associated with Map Mod from previous meetings and mailings and distributed them to the Work Group. Alan reviewed his steps and asked each member of the Work Group to review the "Comprehensive List of Flood Map Modernization Activities" and offer corrections, additions or deletions prior to the next conference call.

*ACTION ITEM 1: Work Group to provide comments to ASFPM on comprehensive list of activities.*

Alan also provided a list of 4 categories of items or information that are important to be able to develop a state business plan. These items should be provided to the States by FEMA. They are:

1. Definition of quality "baseline"
2. Comprehensive list of Flood Map Modernization activities
3. A vision statement for the national program
4. An inventory of data sets needed

These need to be reviewed and agreed on by the Work Group to be included in the recommendations.

*ACTION ITEM 2: Work Group to review and provide comments on 4 items of information.*

#### **IV. ASFPM Report**

Jim Williams prepared and submitted to ASFPM a draft of a report outline that could be used as a starting point for defining our deliverable. Mark Riebau will distribute it to all Work Group members for review and comment. Each member of the Work Group should see if there are pieces that they could contribute.

*ACTION ITEM 3: Work Group to provide comments on the report outline to ASFPM.*

John Dorman reported that Region IV has provided 4 metrics for Map Mod that they want each state to incorporate in their business plan. John agreed to send the metrics to the Work Group so they could be discussed at the next conference call

*ACTION ITEM 4: John Dorman to provide metrics to Work Group.*

#### **V. Estimating the Cost of Studies for Developing a State Business Plan:**

There was general concurrence that there is little solid guidance for estimating the costs of studies for the purposes of developing a State Business Plan. In general, the “cost per mile” numbers that are available are considered to be “too low” for some areas and “too high” for others. Everyone is in agreement that costs will be different from state-to-state. In fact, there can be a considerable difference in cost for studies on a “per mile” basis within a state. The difference in cost is based on a variety of reasons.

There needs to be some agreement between FEMA and each state regarding what they should use for their Business Plan. Further, FEMA needs to recognize that the estimates are for planning purposes only and may not be accurate due to the lack of adequate historical data. It will be possible, and necessary, to refine the costs as Map Mod is implemented.

John Dorman said that FEMA funded the development of the “North Carolina Floodplain Management Reference Manual” published in April 2003. It would be helpful to other states for estimating costs associated with managing flood studies for the development of their business plan. It includes an estimate of the number and skill set of staff needed to manage flood insurance studies.

*ACTION ITEM 5: ASFPM to obtain an electronic copy of the “North Carolina Floodplain Management Reference Manual” and make it available to the Work Group and all states.*

#### **VI Vision for Supporting Map Mod**

Each state is planning to contribute to the extent they can under their existing authorities and staff capabilities, but that differs widely across the country.

Each state is defining its vision based on its legal authority, staffing levels and expectations for

any increases in either. In some states agencies that are not involved with the NFIP have much greater staff capabilities than the agency that is the coordinating agency. This makes developing a Business Plan a challenge, particularly when the other agencies have their own priorities and responsibilities.

Determining where to “draw the line” between a detailed study and an approximate study is also a challenge in establishing a comprehensive business plan. The more detailed studies, or miles of detailed studies, the greater the cost.

John Dorman said North Carolina has developed a tool they use to help decide where to do detailed studies and where to do limited detailed studies. He said anyone can have it, but they must keep in mind it was developed for North Carolina and the parameters may not be applicable everywhere.

*ACTION ITEM 6: (A) Each member of the Work Group will provide a copy of their states “Vision Statement,” to the extent they are available, to ASFPM; (B)The vision statements will be combined into a collage and made available on ASFPM’s website.*