Management Options for Flood Risk
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• General Observations:
  – Every branch of government, stakeholders and levee owners has a role in communication and a responsibility to collaborate.
  – Need National guidelines and standards yet have flexibility for local conditions.
  – Participants in Flood Risk not only include Levee Owners and governmental agencies but also business and industry, realtors and lenders, professional engineering agencies, etc.
  – Decision makers need to be informed.
  – Locals need to be more involved in Federal policy development

• What are your responsibilities as a levee owner – continued operations and maintenance, liability?
  • Responsible for verifying FEMA mapping is accurate.
  • Responsible for creating an evacuation plan and for warning the public.
  • Levee owners are the most knowledgeable about the levee vulnerabilities and are responsible for communicating the flood risks.
  • Levee Owners are responsible to coordinate their responsibilities as a business. (ie funding) Levee Owner needs to operate, maintain, repair, monitor, and record.
  • Communicate updown and sideways
  • Levee owners need to take a hard line when obtaining environmental permits for maintenance and operations.
  • Aware of and adjust for changing conditions
  • Levee owner responsibility ranged from 80% to 100%

• What are the appropriate roles for levee owners and local, state, regional, and federal government in managing flood risk
  – Local: Education, emergency planning, land use decisions
  – State: Funding, Monitor, establish performance standards and levee safety programs (similar to Dam Safety programs), help facilitate communication between the local and federal agencies.
  – Regional: Watershed Management, promote communication for regional issues.
  – Federal: Funding, technical assistance, national goals/standards with flexibility for local conditions (i.e. Desert vs. East Coast Levees)

• How could the current federal policies and programs (levee certification, NFIP, and more) produce greater impacts on reduction of flood risk?
  – Flood insurance based on flood risk/actuarial and encourage more participation.
– Analyze: climate changes, future development, levee and dam break hazards
– Predictability
– Uniform standards but recognize regional differences.
– Flood Risk Reduction instead of Flood Damage Reduction
– Mandatory flood insurance
– CRS rewards good behavior better

• How can local and state policies bring greater reductions in flood risk?
  – Good land use regulations
  – Disincentives for poorly designed development (regional in nature)
  – Promote nonstructural alternatives
  – Increase from 100 year protection (without increasing risk)
  – Out of box thinking to develop funding sources
  – Risk education in schools
  – Create the desire to reduce flood risk

• How can we improve intergovernmental communication and cooperation?
  – Improvement of communications from federal to local (ETL on website not adequate)
  – Flood Control is both technical and political and they need better communication.
  – Federal Ombudsman/Hotline for each region
  – More exercises, training and cooperation (Flood Awareness Week, Conferences, Silver Jackets, Lunch Meetings)
  – Professional organization and associations (i.e. NAFSMA, ASFPM, ASCE, etc.)
  – Federal agencies speak with one voice.

• Other Topics
  – Conflicting State and Federal policies need to be resolved.
  – Environmental permitting issues.
  – Need to acknowledge link between environmental concerns and public safety.
  – Separate levee public safety from flood insurance.
  – How do you get out of the levee business?