ASFPM Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee Status Report

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia

Leslie Durham & Dave Knipe, Co-chairs
5/31/2015
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:
- Dave Knipe, Indiana Department of Natural Resources
  June 2009 – present
- Leslie Durham, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
  June 2013 - present

In August 2014 the M&ES annual work plan was prepared describing ongoing activities and goals. The items in the work plan directly support Goals and Objectives for ASFPM for 2013-2014 that are mapping and/or engineering related. The work items fall into three categories, Ongoing Work Items, Goals and Objectives, and White Paper Deliverables. Activities in support of these work items are described below.

Accomplishments
A summary of progress on the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee ongoing work items for 2014-2015 is as follows:

1. Resolve ongoing Mapping and Engineering issues through the FEMA Operating Partners Focus Group.

   The co-chairs participated in quarterly meetings, which include the National Stormwater and Floodplain Manager Association, FEMA, and its contractors. The meetings are used to further committee goals and resolve technical and policy issues that arise within the ASFPM membership.
David Knipe, Leslie Durham, Bill Nechamen and Alan Lulloff attended the meeting in Crystal City, VA Aug. 4-5, 2014.

David Knipe, Bill Nechamen and Ceil Strauss attended the meeting in Crystal City, VA May 6-7, 2015.

Summary of issue topics

- CTP Issues – benefits of partners, accountability and performance
- New Mapping Standards and Guidance
- Mitigation Actions in Risk MAP
- Levee Issues – LAMP, Pilot Studies and New Standards
- LOMR/PMR – mapping, due process
- Unsteady 1D/2D Modeling
- Technical Mapping Advisory Council
- FY15/16 Budget Outlook and program impacts
- Risk MAP Contract Transition

2. ASFPM Policy Committee Conference Calls and Retreats.

- Reported on committee activities during committee chair conference calls.
- The ASFPM Policy Committee Retreat was held July 29–31, 2014 in Madison, WI. Leslie Durham attended.

3. Attend National Conference Policy Committee Chair Meeting and hold annual committee meeting.

- David Knipe and Leslie Durham attended the Policy Committee Chair meeting June 1, 2014 in Seattle, WA.
- The annual M&ES Committee Meeting was held June 2, 2014 at the beginning of the annual conference in Seattle, WA.
- Paul Rooney, FEMA HQ, provided a FEMA update and discussed the future vision of the flood mapping program, new guidelines and standards (KSS), LAMP and Key Decision Points.
- Alan Lulloff, ASFPM, provided an update on a joint ASFPM/NASFMA CTP questionnaire and an ongoing Science Services effort with CTPs followed by a facilitated discussion on CTP issues.
- Early Bird session on Unsteady and 2D Modeling June 4, 2014. The committee sponsored a discussion focused on the Unsteady and 2D Models Paper that had become a hot topic for the committee during the year.
4. Prepare Annual Reports and Develop Work Plan.

- Developed annual M&ES committee report
- Prepared a detailed work plan at the annual committee chair meeting in August 2014.
- Participated in the review of the National Flood Program and Policies Review by providing comments on the matrix and distributing the draft report to the M&ES committee for review and comment. A significant number of comments were received by the committee and forwarded to the NFPPR writing team for consideration. Suzanne Jiwani led our efforts in gathering and compiling comments.

5. CTP subcommittee development.

- At the ASFPM board meeting in Seattle, the board passed a resolution in support of the Cooperating Technical Partner program.
- At the M&ES Committee meeting in Seattle, committee members volunteered to form a Cooperating Technical Partner subcommittee. Steve Story (State of Montana) and Amanda Flegel (Illinois State Water Survey), are co-chairs of this subcommittee.
- The ASFPM executive office included CTP mentoring as a component of ASFPM’s cooperative agreement funding from FEMA.
- Alan Lulloff, Steve and Amanda held routine conference calls throughout this past year to discuss strategies associated with supporting CTP.
  - June 24, 2014
  - Sept. 11, 2014
  - Oct. 2, 2014
  - Nov. 12, 2014
  - Dec. 3, 2015
  - Jan. 13, 2015
  - Feb. 17, 2015
  - April 22, 2015
- A list of accomplishments for this year include:
  - Online surveys – an online survey was conducted to assess CTP activities and needs.
  - Contacts database - A contacts database was developed.
  - Online Meetings – two online meetings were conducted.
    - July 22, 2014, CTP subcommittee and discussion topics, 33 attendees
    - Dec. 10, 2014, Digitizing Unmodernized Flood Hazard Maps, 28 attendees
Online collaboration forum – the ASFPM executive office developed a basecamp site for sharing documents.

6. Review and maintain committee Web Resources
   - Updated all webpage materials and content.

7. Review Annual Conference Abstracts and assist with session assignments.
   - Reviewed conference abstracts submitted under technical tracks 7 & 8 for the 2015 annual conference in Atlanta. Dave Knipe, Leslie Durham and Del Schwallls grouped abstracts into relevant sessions and prioritized them. Committee members and local host representatives were instrumental in helping with this year’s tracks, including: Chris Budd, Garrett Skinner and Jill Bazinet.

8. Unsteady and 2D Modeling Paper was adopted by ASFPM’s board of directors during the annual meeting June 1, 2014 in Seattle, WA.

   - Dave Knipe, Leslie Durham and several committee members participated in the development of a NAI Mapping How-to-Guide.
   - The Mapping NAI guide will be the fifth in a series of NAI how-to guides and will expand on the approach and tools of the NAI Toolkit to provide floodplain managers with more details on how to implement No Adverse Impact programs.

10. Technical Mapping Advisory Council
   - TMAC was established under Biggert-Waters to develop recommendations on the national flood mapping program and recommendations to ensure that flood insurance rate maps incorporate the best available climate science.
   - Sally McConkey is ASFPM’s representative on the Council and Leslie Durham is a state CTP representative on the Council.
   - TMAC has held six meetings since September 2014; one virtual and five in-person.
   - TMAC will produce two reports by October 2015: Future Conditions and an Annual Report with recommendations. TMAC will also provide comments on FEMA’s Compliant Mapping Program Report.
   - Three subcommittees have been formed to gather information and perform research with subject matter experts in the following areas: Future Conditions, Flood Hazard and Risk Determination and
Operations. These subcommittees are led by Scott Edelman, Sally McConkey and Leslie Durham, respectively, and have been meeting virtually approximately every two weeks.