**MOD Team Times**

Monthly E-Newsletter for MOD Team Members

---

**Inside This Issue**

- BFE Notices
- MIP Champions
- Matt Miller
- ASFPM Conference
- MIP Tools Training
- MIP Enhancements
- Information Resource Library
- NFDA Annual Retreat
- Outreach

---

**BFE Notices Now Available on the Web**

In an effort to conserve resources and reach a larger audience, FEMA, with help from the Mapping on Demand (MOD) team, has implemented a system for posting proposed Base Flood Elevation (BFE) changes to the FEMA Flood Hazard Mapping Web site. In the past, proposed BFEs were published twice in a local newspaper to begin the appeal period for new Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Depending on the number of affected flood sources and communities, the ads often required several letter-sized pages, which can cost FEMA thousands of dollars. With the issuance of Procedure Memorandum 44 (effective April 1, 2007), all ads will be replaced by a small notice directing interested parties to the FEMA Web site.

See BFE, Page 2

---

**MIP Champions Unite at MOD Headquarters**

To increase awareness and encourage broader use of the Mapping Information Platform (MIP), FEMA has identified “MIP Champions” in each Regional Office. The MIP Champions will identify MIP changes and help resolve MIP-related issues. The goal of this effort is to increase the value and usefulness that the MIP gives FEMA and its stakeholders.

The official kickoff of the MIP Champions effort began on March 7th and was facilitated by the MOD team and FEMA. The attendees converged upon the MOD team’s Alexandria office with one goal – to get to work.

Several staff from the Regional Management Centers, identified as MIP Black Belt Users, joined the kickoff effort as well. The MIP Black Belt Users will complement the efforts of the MIP Champions, serving as “hands on” Regional experts and systematically removing impediments to MIP use.

With a packed agenda and an eager audience, the meeting commenced with a welcome from FEMA’s Paul Huang and Kevin Long. The initial presentation posed two questions: “Why the MIP Champions?” and “Why use the MIP?”

See Champions, Page 3

---

**Map Mod Architect Retires**

Matthew B. Miller, who most recently served as the Chief of the Risk Analysis Branch in FEMA’s Mitigation Division, retired this month. Matt had over 25 years of experience in the field of floodplain management, and he was involved in the launching of the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) and Cooperating Technical Partners programs.

A reception was held in his honor on March 15 at FEMA headquarters, and FEMA and its partners gathered to roast Matt and toast his career.

“Matt was a true gentleman. He always went out of his way to make people feel better – from strangers in the elevator to his own employees,” said Jim Murphy, a MOD team member who hired Matt in the early 1980s.

Murphy also noted that Matt has continuously worked toward end goals, in both Map Mod and other projects. “Matt’s frequent use

See Miller, Page 5

---

Please Submit Article Ideas to:

Benjamin Accurti
(703) 960-8800 x5304
benjamin.accurti@mapmodteam.com
Charting the Course

Each year, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) sponsors the world’s largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference. “Charting the Course to New Perspectives in Floodplain Management” is the theme of ASFPM’s 31st annual conference in Norfolk, Virginia, June 3-8.

The conference brings together representatives from local, State, and Federal representatives, industry leaders, and consultants to discuss challenges and solutions facing floodplain management and flood hazard mapping. FEMA and the MOD team are always well represented at the conference, and this year will be no exception.

The MOD team is supporting FEMA in leading several sessions and workshops on topics including:

- New, Validated, and Updated Engineering (NVUE);
- Coastal 500-year methodology;
- Floodplain Boundary Standard audit process;
- The levee challenge; and
- Breaking new ground in FEMA storm surge studies.

For more information on these and other sessions, go to www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/norfolk.asp.

The MOD team is also pleased to help prepare for the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) Town Hall session, which will provide an opportunity to discuss the current and future status of Map Mod with FEMA staff. It will include more detailed discussions regarding the levee effort, the Floodplain Boundary Standard, NVUE Standards, a strategy for identifying coastal flood hazards, the Mapping Information Platform, and the post-Map Mod framework. This session is planned as a town hall format with an overview and then break-out sessions to discuss specific topics and obtain feedback from the Association’s members.

Source: Lisa Messano, (703) 960-8800 x3048

BFE

Continued from page 1

“The new process will apply to all studies for which the appeal period starts on or after April 1, 2007, although mapping partners were advised to begin using BFEs on the Web immediately,” said Turgay Dabak, MOD team Project Manager for Map Production and Adoption.

Initially, BFE notices will be available through the existing Status of Map Change Requests page (www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/st_main.shtm) and the newly created BFE Notices page (www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe) on FEMA’s Flood Hazard Mapping Web site. BFE notices will also be added to FEMA’s Mapping Information Platform study status report in the future.

Mapping contractors and Cooperating Technical Partners will be able to prepare and enter BFE data in the BFEs-on-the-Web database if they are funded through post-preliminary processing for their studies and have been granted access by the Web Tool Administrator.

To test the new BFE publication process, results of a restudy of Harris County, Texas, were entered using the BFEs on the Web Tool. The study contained 230 streams, 36 communities and 460 modified BFEs. Once quality control was performed and no issues were found, the newspaper notice containing instructions for viewing the proposed changes on the Web was published in 15 newspapers. The total cost to publish the notice twice was $7,000—an estimated savings of approximately $200,000.

To assure that this change in the notification process is implemented smoothly, FEMA and the MOD team held training sessions for FEMA contractors and mapping partners several months ago. In early April, another training session will refresh the memories of contractor and mapping partner staff members who have already been trained and provide introductory training to those staff members who have not been trained. Additional details on the training sessions will be distributed in the near future.

Proposed BFE changes will continue to be posted in the Federal Register.

Source: Turgay Dabak, (703) 960-8800 x6286
FEMA continuously improves the Mapping Information Platform to meet user needs. Improvements are often bundled together in service packs that are then deployed by the MIP team. Below is schedule of upcoming MIP-related items and enhancements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Enhancement</th>
<th>Purpose or Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2007</td>
<td>MIP Service Pack 13</td>
<td>Improve the Work Item list.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2007</td>
<td>MIP Corrective Action Plan finalized</td>
<td>Reduce data entry requirements and standards compliance for legacy projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Free up legacy projects currently “stuck” in the MIP Workflow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dramatically increase the number of up to date Studies Projects in the MIP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Summer 2007</td>
<td>MIP Service Pack 14</td>
<td>Significantly redesign of the MIP Studies Workflow.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have a question or a comment, please contact MIPHelp at miphelp@mapmodteam.com or 1-877-FEMA MAP.

Source: Lisa Messano, (703) 960-8800 x3048

### Spring 2007 MIP Tools Training

To help mapping partners use the Mapping Information Platform and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) tools, FEMA sponsors training sessions. Training is online and instructor-led. Registration is first-come, first-served. Mapping Partners must contact their Regional Management Center (RMC) to register. For more information please go to hazards.fema.gov > Tools & Links > Mapping & Engineering Tools Training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Date</th>
<th>Enhancement</th>
<th>Purpose or Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5/8 and Thursday 5/10 – Friday 5/11. Please Register by 4/27</td>
<td>Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Tools Training Dates:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Future MIP Enhancements

FEMA continuously improves the Mapping Information Platform to meet user needs. Improvements are often bundled together in service packs that are then deployed by the MIP team. Below is schedule of upcoming MIP-related items and enhancements.

If you have a question or a comment, please contact MIPHelp at miphelp@mapmodteam.com or 1-877-FEMA MAP.

Source: Lisa Messano, (703) 960-8800 x3048

### Champions

The kickoff tackled many topics, from MIP User Care to Key Performance Indicator and Earned Value reporting. The most significant discussions, however, involved removing MIP impediments and improving the status of stalled study projects. The attendees discussed how to address stalled projects and created a Corrective Action Plan, with the goal of getting all study projects into the MIP and through the MIP Workflow. Entering data into the MIP Workflow allows FEMA to track and manage study projects. It is imperative that interim and final information on study projects and mapping work products is captured in the MIP wherever possible.

“The MIP Champions did a phenomenal job representing their concerns and their partners at the meeting,” said Josh Smith, MIP Acceptance Lead and moderator of the kickoff meeting. “Although each Region is different, all MIP Champions share similar goals and obstacles. The MIP Champions and Black Belt Users realize that the MIP can help them manage their projects and Map Mod. And with a little effort, FEMA and their partners will begin to see the benefits proposed when the MIP was built.”

With the kickoff completed and new tasks in hand, the MIP Champions returned to their Regions with a renewed drive to make the MIP a success. The MIP Champions and Black Belt Users left with increased insight and a renewed focus on using and promoting the MIP. FEMA is encouraged that this collaborative effort will improve the value of the MIP and help achieve Map Mod goals.

Source: Ken Hamer, (703) 960-8800 x6285

---

FEMA’s Kevin Long facilitates discussion.
FEMA Launches Information Resource Library

Looking for a brochure, report, poster, or video? Now you can search and retrieve FEMA materials quickly and easily with the Information Resource Library (IRL). The IRL is a searchable, Web-based collection of publicly accessible FEMA resources. Located online at www.fema.gov/library, the IRL is your one-stop shop for FEMA-related materials.

To make resources across FEMA easier to locate and obtain, you can search the IRL by keyword, subject, audience category, hazard type, language, and resource type. A single Resource Record in the IRL can hold information in several media formats, such as PDF, TXT, and Word. Additionally, larger documents are available as a whole and in sections. You can download electronic records directly from the Web or have them burned to a CD and mailed by the Map Service Center.

To support the launch of the IRL, the MOD team loaded over 600 resource and data records for items accessible on FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Web site into the IRL. Loading these resources was a significant effort that included documenting the metadata for each resource record, writing abstracts for each resource, and updating the Web links.

With conference season right around the corner, seminar attendees can expect to hear about the IRL this spring at the National Flood Conference in Denver, Colorado, and other conferences. FEMA team members from each of the online sites related to floods will be jointly presenting the available online resources. These resources include the IRL, the Flood Hazard Mapping Web site, the Mapping Information Platform, the Map Service Center Web Site, and the FloodSmart Web site.

Source: Mack Rhoades, (703) 960-8800 x6522

National Flood Determination Association Annual Retreat

This year's National Flood Determination Association (NFDA) annual retreat was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, March 25-27.

The focus of this year's retreat was the impact of the 2005 hurricane season on the flood determination industry. Retreat speakers also examined resulting litigation and legal issues.

On Monday, March 26, Dwight Beranek participated in a panel discussion, where he responded to questions from the audience as a representative of Flood Map Modernization. Mike Godesky of FEMA gave the Map Mod presentation this year, with a focus on program status, the Mapping Information Platform, the post-preliminary process, digital vision, special outreach initiatives, and post-Map Mod planning. Mike also gave separate presentations on levees and eLOMA.

The NFDA holds two technical meetings every year, in addition to the annual retreat. FEMA participates in these meetings (as observers) along with the MOD team. In December 2006, the MOD team, FEMA, and the NFDA met at Baker's offices to discuss the update to the Denver Map Mod Summit, the progress of the Mid-Course Adjustment, updates on levees, the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan Version 2.0, eLOMA, Digital as Official, the post-preliminary process, MIP public reports, the historic map inventory project, and the Map Service Center.

The NFDA is a national nonprofit organization comprising flood determination companies, their vendors, and re-sellers. The association is dedicated to the interest and success of members involved in the making, distributing, and reselling of flood zone determinations. For more information about the NFDA, visit www.floodassoc.com.

Source: Lisa Messano, (703) 960-8800 x3048
Outreach Information at Your Fingertips

Over the past few months, the outreach team has continued to coordinate with FEMA and Mapping on Demand (MOD) team subject matter experts to ensure that all fact sheets, brochures, pamphlets, flyers, and other Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) resources reflect the most up-to-date information available. As materials are updated, they are posted to SharePoint>Communication & Outreach>Outreach Consortium Central Library.

All members of the MOD team should have access to this link. Here, team members can find fact sheets on the Mapping Information Platform, the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan, Cooperating Technical Partner Program information, and other Map Mod-related tools and information.

The outreach team is also preparing a new fact sheet regarding vertical datum for the Regions and Regional Management Centers (RMCs) to use at community meetings. This fact sheet will explain the shift from the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). Many RMCs expressed the need for this information to help communities understand that the change in vertical datum is a technical change only. The fact sheet will include graphics to help people visualize this information. Be sure to check the SharePoint link in the future for this helpful fact sheet.

Another fact sheet, concerning FEMA's "Digital as Official" policy, is also in the works. This publication explains the many information options and formats available to map users wanting to obtain flood hazard data. The final version of the fact sheet will be available as soon as the Digital as Official policy is adopted by way of a Procedure Memorandum. Remember to check SharePoint in the future to download these fact sheets.

The outreach team is also updating the Map Mod multimedia presentation, to provide a context for the program and its dynamic past, Map Mod progress to date, and a glimpse into the future.

"We're really looking forward to showcasing this multimedia presentation at the ASFPM conference in June," said Lisa Messano, MOD team Project Manager for Stakeholder Engagement. "It's exciting to work with the team and our FEMA counterparts to tell the Map Mod story at the midpoint of the program. And a multimedia presentation on CD is a great vehicle that can be easily distributed and have a shelf life beyond the conference."

Once complete, the multimedia presentation will be available for conferences and other presentations. Copies will be accessible through FEMA's Information Resource Library, so that stakeholders and members of the public can use this and other resources to meet a variety of stakeholder and community needs.

Source: Lisa Messano, (703) 960-8800 x3048

Miller

Continued from page 1

of the saying ‘perfection is the enemy of good’ is a piece of common sense advice that often allowed us to move forward when things stalled.”

Dwight Beranek, the MOD team Program Executive, had this to say about Matt: “I was very impressed with Matt’s knowledge of Map Mod, his dedication to public service, and his professional integrity. As a former Federal employee, I have the greatest respect for him. I wish Matt and his family a very happy and productive retirement.”

Doug Bellomo has been named the Acting Branch Chief and Paul Huang has been named Acting Deputy.