Arid Regions Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 4, 2011

9:00 – 10:00 AM Pacific Time

Dial-in number: 1-218-936-4700, Access Code: 35663 (9 am PDT, 11 am CDT, 12 pm EDT)

Bob began meeting at approximately 9:03 AM

1. Introductions and Welcome – roll call by state to identify new participants.
   - Several new members present on the conference call, mostly from Arizona.

2. Solicitation of a volunteer to take summary notes and post them on the Arid Regions page.
   - Action item made to record meetings in addition to summary notes. Jeanne to investigate if the current phone system has the capability to record the conference call. Clint to investigate other methods.

3. Planning for next Arid Regions conference, proposed for 2013. Arizona Chapter has formed a subcommittee to identify potential locations. (Valarie Swick)
   - Valerie not able to give updates to 2013 Arid Regions conference planning as she was unable to attend the meeting. The location needs to be decided upon.

4. Volunteers to participate on conference planning committee and leader to identify the theme and coordinate with Arizona FMA. Potential themes include the fire – flood connection in arid regions.
   a. Jeanne to reach out to Diane Calhoun, Brad Anderson and others
   - AFMA will be sponsoring the 2013 ASFPM Arid Regions conference
   - New Mexico/Texas chapters were directly asked about interest in sponsoring the 2013 ASFPM Arid Regions Conference. New Mexico initially expressed interest however they could not provide funding. Arizona was the only association which was able to provide funding.
   - Brief discussions on timing of conference and locations. Nothing set to date.
• Several members volunteered to help with 2013 Planning efforts
  • Teri George
  • Bing Zhao
  • Steve Dolan

• A separate meeting will be set-up to begin planning efforts. Jeanne to send out an email by the end of October

• Mark Forest mentioned that it would be a good idea to request participation from other arid regions states in the planning efforts for the Arid Regions Conference. He said that at the FMA conference, the ASFPM Arid Regions event was difficult to differentiate from the FMA conference activities. When the Arid Regions event was initially created in the 1980s, it was separate event that had broad participation from representatives from all of the arid regions which provided for a broad range of topics that are unique to that region. Having it as a part of a state association conference tends to limit participation from other states. Bob suggested that Jeanne’s contact with the region representatives will help stimulate input and interest from several of the other states.

5. Status of the Alluvial Fan Discussion Paper Working Group – Several people have expressed interest in participating in this working group. We are still formulating how the group would be most effective, and would like to solicit suggestions in writing for the committee to consider. Some options include;

  a. Forming an informal group of interested committee members with a regular meeting time and a charter;
  b. Forming a more formal group of interested committee members & non-committee members to have a series of facilitated workshops to go over the recommendations;
  c. Using the next Arid Regions Conference as a forum to explore the recommendations in detail.

• Brief discussion of who will serve on the committees

• Jeanne mentioned that a Charter/objectives will be defined to identify how the committee wants to proceed.

• All interested in being a part of the committee must send an email to Jeanne and Bob before the end of October that states their objectives for being on the committee.
• A posting will be made on the Arid Regions and FMA website(s) that the Arid Regions Committee is looking for members to be a part of the Alluvial Fan Committee.

• Brief discussion on the purpose of the committee and how the discussion paper will be used.
  • Several committee members reiterated the conversation from the August meeting that the discussion paper was not properly reviewed and did not reflect the Committee as a whole.
  • It was agreed that the discussion paper recommendations will not be the sole objective to pursue of the committee. Everything is open for discussion in the committee and objectives will be set during the first meeting.

• A recommendation was made that there is a lack of fundamental understanding of alluvial fan regulations. As a starting point, it may be appropriate to educate everyone of the true intent of existing regulations and proceed from there. Developing an educational document on alluvial fan hazards for floodplain managers was also suggested.

• The forum concept was discussed. Several members expressed that this may not be a good format. This will be later evaluated once a committee is established and tangible objectives are set.

• It was mentioned that at last meeting, comments received on the discussion paper were to be posted. Bob and Jeanne are to post all comments received on the paper on the Arid Regions webpage.

• Several members suggested that the discussion paper be set aside and reevaluated. It was agreed that the discussion paper should not set objectives for the committee.

6. Status of the draft Erosion Zone Discussion Paper. The paper was presented at the ASFPM conference. Comments will be provided to the primary authors for consideration, and posted to the website. The next steps are to submit to the other policy committees for review.
  a. Identify Erosion Zone model ordinance language for posting on the Arid Regions Page of the website (Tucson, Pima County, St. George & Santa Clara, Utah)

• Skipped Item No. 6

8. Solicitation of volunteers to help to shape a survey of committee members about future action items for the committee to include in the workplan.
• Skipped Item No. 8
9. Summary of the ASFPM Policy Committee Retreat – See Attached

- Jeanne gave a summary of the retreat in Wisconsin and that it is an annual retreat that executive board budgets for policy committees to get together and work on mutual issues along with briefing on national issues. Committee chairs are strongly encouraged to delegate.

- Arid Regions workplan was approved with the addition to conduct a survey of membership inquiring what issues/concerns are hot topics and should be addressed at the next conference. Presentation on how to perform an effective survey (item no. 8) was given during the retreat. A sub-committee to identify survey questions for sending out in the Spring (before next August) needs to be formed.

- Jeanne to ask Valerie to be involved with the formation of the committee

- Clarification provided on difference between discussion paper and white paper. Executive board and vice chair agreed to prepare what a formalized writeup on what a discussion paper is. A discussion paper does not necessarily represent the opinion of ASFPM. It would include a list of issues (not recommendations), which would also include the dissenting ideas. A discussion paper is dynamic and subject to change. A white paper would further identify discussion paper topics. The alluvial fan discussion paper may result in a white paper in the future, following potential recommendations from the working group. The Erosion paper will be a discussion paper.

- Any comments received on any discussion/white paper are recommended to be posted on the website. The facilitator should post a response on how to address comments. Bob and Jeanne to post all comments in regards to the alluvial fan discussion paper.

- Massoud mentioned that the two papers should be reclassified to discussion papers and asked if the process should be restarted since the standard was not followed. Massoud also mentioned that a discussion paper should not have recommendations. It was mentioned that there was discussion of scrapping the alluvial fan discussion paper and starting over as it contains recommendations that the committee has not agreed upon. A decision was made during the retreat that the alluvial fan paper will not be withdrawn but that it will be significantly revised via a committee. The alluvial fan paper is a special case, as it was accepted by the Board a year before this new definition of a Discussion Paper was provided.
  - The erosion paper is still in draft and needs to be revised. Recommendations will be removed, the author is currently updating.
  - It was suggested that the alluvial fan paper be withdrawn until the committee can reformulate some clear objectives statements and develop new
recommendations based on those objectives developed with solicited input from other Arid Regions states and floodplain management organizations. Jeanne felt that the current paper needed to be the starting point since it had already been submitted. Several members felt that it should not constrain the future work of the committee.

- Further discussion/comments on a discussion versus white paper.

10. Identify Action Items
- Jeanne to begin formation of committee to conduct a survey of membership
- Bob and Jeanne to post alluvial fan discussion paper comments on the Arid Region Website
- Jeanne to investigate the phone system and recording capabilities. Clint to investigate other options.
- Bob and Jeanne to post on Arid Region and FMA website(s) that committee members are being sought to discuss the issue of alluvial fans
- Jeanne to schedule meeting with volunteers for 2013 FMA conference planning by end of October.
- All interested in being a part of the committee must send an email to Jeanne and Bob before the end of October that states their objectives for being on the committee.

11. Next meeting date
- Not established exactly, first Tuesday of each month