ASFPM Region 5 Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

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INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The ASFPM Region 5 area includes Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. ASFPM chapters and floodplain management associations in Region 5 include Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management, Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management, Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association, Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers, Ohio Floodplain Management Association and Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater & Coastal Management.

Declared disasters for Region 5 include:

Aug. 2, 2018 - Michigan had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4381 for three counties to recover from severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides that occurred June 16-18, 2018. $4.4M

Sept. 5, 2018 – Minnesota had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4390 for 27 counties and several reservations to recover from severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred June 15, 2018 – July 12, 2018. $8.8M

Feb. 1, 2019 – Minnesota had a second declared disaster FEMA DR-4414 for one county to recover from severe storms and flooding that occurred on Oct. 9, 2018 – Oct. 11, 2018.

April 8, 2019 - Ohio had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4424 for 20 counties to recover from severe storms, flooding and landslides that occurred Feb. 5, 2019 – Feb. 13, 2019. $41.4M

Aug. 10, 2018 - Wisconsin had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4383 for six counties to recover from severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred June 15-19, 2018. $2.3M

Oct. 18, 2018 - Wisconsin had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4402 for 14 counties to recover from severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, flooding and landslides that occurred June 15-19, 2018. $11.0M

REGION 5 PRIORITIES

- Mitigation
  - Continue pushing for support of State-Administered FEMA Programs to increase efficiency.
  - Establish / increase funding for State Mitigation Programs.
• **CRS Increase**
  
  o Region 5 is working with communities to move forward in CRS.
  
  o From 2015 – 2018, 23 new communities have joined CRS.

**Training Needs**

  o Illinois continues to be a national leader in post flood damage assessments and compliance. The Illinois association has organized a mutual aid program to assist communities faced with large numbers of damage assessments. The Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT) has completed over 1,000 damage assessments. The Illinois mutual aid program and RAFT) should be used as a model for other Region 5 states / communities to follow.

  o Elevation Certificate Training – too many surveyors are incorrectly filling out the EC and don’t understand the impact(s) of these errors on flood insurance premiums.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Based on input from the NFIP coordinators and SHMOs within the region and various other floodplain management professionals, the following goals and recommendations are made for the next year:

1. **State Mitigation Programs** – State programs are much more efficient and effective. Lobby FEMA to consider allowing federal mitigation programs to be administered at the state level.

2. **Federal Disaster Declarations** - It is VERY difficult for Region 5 communities to meet the eligibility requirements for a federal disaster declaration since most have engaged in sound flood mitigation practices / projects for the past +35 years (striving towards resiliency!). Region 5 states are very progressive and have adopted higher regulatory standards. Floodways are much more restrictive, allowing very little rise resulting in much wider footprints. Freeboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># CRS in 2015</th>
<th># CRS in 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>176</td>
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</tbody>
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requirements result in Flood Protection Grades 1-2' higher than the Base Flood Elevation and most communities have adopted some sort of compensatory storage requirement, so there is no net loss of floodplain storage. Lobby FEMA HQ to adopt incentives for progressive states where credits can be awarded and help meet the damage threshold for a federal disaster declaration.

3. **Protecting Higher Standards** - Higher regulatory standards are under a constant threat of being repealed. Emphasis should be placed on educating state lawmakers on sound floodplain management principles. Most state lawmakers don’t understand how the NFIP is administered and often sponsor state legislation to “fix” a problem that is a federal issue. This could be very dangerous.

4. **Mutual Aid Assistance to small communities** - The biggest challenge is with communities that do not have staff educated on floodplain management principles. Funding, in many instances, is the driving force because a city clerk may be forced to wear multiple hats and perform multiple duties even though they aren’t competent to do so. Find ways to broker mutual aid agreements / inter-governmental agreements to allow staff from larger communities to serve smaller impoverished communities.

5. **Sharing Success Stories** - Several states are implementing programs that could be very useful to the other states within the region. Promote sharing success stories for the benefit of other Region 5 states and provide to FEMA Region V to support our position that Region V states have greater capabilities and that those capabilities should be embraced for the greater good of the region.

6. **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans** – Advocate FEMA may want to consider standardization of State Hazard Mitigation Plans (SHMPs); what should and should not be included. Consolidating the SHMP and THIRA into a single document as done in one of our Region 5 states is something that should be considered by other states.

7. **Support Risk Map Program** - Map Modernization / Risk Map Program is failing to keep DFIRMs updated every five years for communities in Region 5. Several states have old FIRMs that have not been updated. Mapping updates MUST be coordinated with each state. The fact that Region 5 states have communities still using first generation FIRMs only reinforces the fact that FEMA must start recognizing state’s capabilities and embrace them. The mapping update process is burdensome and complicated and instead of delegating this work to private contractors unfamiliar with our region, it should be administered at the state level to improve efficiency. For Region 5 states that have the capability to administer such programs, lobby FEMA to allow / support state-administered programs.
8. **Seek Congressional Support** - Region 5 states should lobby their congressional delegation to support: A) an increase in FMA and PDM funding; B) making Acquisition / Demolition a top priority for FY18 Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding; and C) incentivizing the Disaster Assistance Program so that progressive states who have mitigated much of their at-risk structures can still qualify for a Presidential Disaster Declaration and be rewarded for their efforts. States that have not embraced mitigation SHOULD NOT be rewarded for their failure to act.

9. **Compliance Enforcement Support** - In general, the struggle with implementing FPM programs is attributed to local communities who refuse to properly administer / enforce their NFIP responsibilities. Lobby support for state officials from FEMA Region V staff when addressing a community’s deficiencies.

10. **Silver Jackets** – Promote support of Silver Jackets chapters. Several states have established their own mitigation program and find that it is much more efficient than FEMA’s mitigation programs. The concern amongst the Region 5 states is that FEMA region staff no longer go into the field and are basically non-existent at the local level.