Association of State Floodplain Managers

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ASFPM
Region 7
Status Report

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Introduction & Regional Overview

The ASFPM Region 7 area includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. ASFPM chapters and floodplain management associations in Region 7 include Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association, Kansas Association for Floodplain Management, Missouri floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association and Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association.

Iowa

Iowa had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4334 for nine counties in August for severe storms, straight line wind and flooding. Flooding across 27 counties. Flood mapping is an important issue in Iowa. There were 14 DFIRMS that became effective and three more are in process of becoming effective. Starting in 2009, the Iowa DNR partnered with the Iowa Flood Center and U.S. Army Corps to develop new approximate (unnumbered) A Zones for the entire state based on the state’s 2-ft. LiDAR. The draft products have been completed for all counties and (as of May 2018) the data (along with a number of SFHA re-delineations) has incorporated into 28 effective DFIRM. Over the next three years the data will be incorporated into DFIRMs for 47 additional Iowa counties.

The 12th annual Iowa Water Conference was held March 21-22, 2018 in Ames.

Missouri

Flood recovery was an issue for Missouri this year. There was massive flooding in central Missouri in April 2017. Additional flooding occurred in NW Missouri in the Kansas City area in August. Three disaster declarations for flooding in Missouri. Missouri developed and distributed a post flood damage estimation packet to affected communities, and has also had to deal with staffing changes during the flood recovery process.

The Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association conference was held in Osage Beach, April 11-13, 2018.

Nebraska

Nebraska business plans focused on Risk MAP for 49 of the 93 Nebraska counties. Flood maps are in final phase for seven counties in SE Nebraska, almost every county is involved in some phase of discovery and more than half of the panhandle counties in western Nebraska in various phases of Risk MAP.

Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association sponsored four events in 2017. A 2D HEC_RAS training was offered for three days with over 30 people attending. The conference was in July and included a field tour of sites impacted by 2011 flooding. The ninth annual conference
was held in Nebraska City in November, and its 10th annual conference will be July 18, 2018 in Kearney.

**Kansas**

Kansas did not have any major flooding in the past year. This allowed the state to concentrate on other areas. Division of Water Resources staff worked on Silver Jackets special projects, mapping and training.

The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management will have its next conference Sept. 5-6, 2018 in Wichita.

**Overall**

Region 7 had important staff changes this year. Mitch Paine, NFIP coordinator for Nebraska, and Tom Morey, NFIP coordinator for Kansas, both resigned to take new positions. Katie Ringland has been promoted in Nebraska. New staff hired in Nebraska include Brian Dixon, Jeewoon Kim and Isaac Remboldt. Losing long-term staff means a loss of institutional knowledge in Region 7.

**Region 7 Priorities**

- **Grant Management:**
  - Delays in grant funding caused problems for Region 7. Getting the CAP-SSSE grant funding more than three quarters of the way through a state’s fiscal year is of problem. States were not always able to spend funds that haven’t been awarded yet. The CAP-SSSE grant will be extended next year to June 30, 2019. Changing the period for the grant may solve some of these issues.

- **Mapping**
  - Every state in Region 7 has some focus on flood mapping. Better maps will continue to be needed.
  - Open house workshops combined with map meetings have been a proven success in several states in Region 7 and should be continued and improved.

- **CRS Increase**
  - Region 7 is assisting communities towards CRS.
    - Missouri is developing a program to assist communities with CRS support similar to what Kansas has been doing.
    - There were 57 CRS communities in Region 7 at the last report. There are now 64 CRS communities in Region 7.
    - Two communities have dropped out of CRS and that is a concern.

- **Training Needs**
  - Training of insurance agents has been an issue of special concern because policies have
been rated incorrectly, making flood insurance more expensive. Insurance agent training comes up with new mapping. Agents don’t know how to rate properties with Letters of Map Amendment or how to use Newly Mapped Procedures.
  - All states reported training events and CFM exams being given.
  - Nebraska rolled out a course this year called “Violations and Enforcement.” One of the instructors is the legal counsel for Nebraska DNR.

- **Model Ordinances**
  - Nebraska unveiled new model ordinances this year.
  - Kansas is in process of a new model ordinance update.

**Recommended Actions**

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

- NFIP reform that will ensure sound floodplain management policies.
- Funding for flood maps in accordance with the ASFPM publication “Flood Mapping for the Nation.”
- More training opportunities for insurance agents.
- There is an agriculture study underway. The results of this study will affect Region 7 greatly because of the amount of agriculture in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.