ASFPM Flood Mitigation Committee Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

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April 28, 2019
Introduction & Policy Focus Areas

The mission of the Flood Mitigation Committee is to support all efforts to reduce losses from flooding. This work includes and/or may touch upon the following measures or concepts: review of mitigation policies and procedures; active engagement in mitigation grant or loan programs; involvement in post-disaster mitigation opportunities within federal or state systems; engagement in building sciences discussions including building codes that strengthen the built environment; support of favorable impacts on the affordability of federal flood insurance due to mitigation actions; partnerships that encourage or support mitigation efforts or studies, including the potential impacts of climate change upon flood losses; mitigation planning efforts; and of course, support for all flood mitigation measures themselves, such as acquisition, relocation, elevation, reconstruction and flood proofing.

The Flood Mitigation Committee has the following standard work items that are ongoing in nature:

1. Support awareness and review of national mitigation trends, legislation and policies
2. Investigate and offer information on mitigation resources and opportunities
3. Build committee membership and engagement
4. Develop a guidance document for local funding of mitigation projects

Current Committee Priorities

Provide feedback on mitigation-related legislation, proposed activities and conceptual drafts

The past year has been extremely busy, with new federal legislation, programs and many NFIP reform proposals. Topics on which the mitigation committee has shared perspective with ASFPM and other parties during the past year included NC’s “Flood Risk Guidebook” survey; ASFPM’s “History of Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs;” FEMA discussion on barriers to mitigation; FEMA’s new “Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities” program (BRIC, DRRA 1234); various discussions about building local and regional resiliency; systems development at FEMA, including the CIS and BureauNet changes/replacements; and others.

Develop a guide for non-federal sources of flood mitigation funding

Many examples of local and state mitigation funds have been gathered. We are in the process of writing up these examples and other known sources that may incentivize the creation of new non-
federal mitigation programs at the local, regional or state level. The committee has a number of members working on this product, but we have not achieved a final draft as of yet.

Build committee membership and engagement

To date this year, we held committee calls Nov. 6, 2018 and March 6, 2019. Topics included the work on the Local Mitigation Funding Guide, as well as NFIP/FEMA updates and reform proposals, new legislation (e.g. DRRA1206 and HMGP management costs), climate adaptation in state hazard mitigation plans, barriers to mitigation and desires of the committee for specific policy session topics at the conference.