

# ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Region 3 Report 2013-2014  
(Washington D.C., DE, MD, PA, WV, and VA)

John Gysling, PE, CFM, Region Director

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

### **District of Columbia**

No report as of 5/1/14. Report will be forwarded when received.

### **Delaware**

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control  
Michael Powell, CFM  
Greg Williams, CFM

Flood studies:

The Delaware DNREC is conducting riverine flood studies in all three counties primarily consisting of Limited Detail flood studies, with model backed A –Zones and some streams which have been studied in detail in the past being restudied or re-delineated on improved topography. New Castle County’s mapping is the first in Delaware to be handled through the Discovery program, which is requiring a more watershed-based approach to the otherwise countywide restudy.

The Delaware DNREC and many communities in Sussex County are concerned about shrinking SFHAs along the coast, decreasing V-Zone coverage, and Base Flood Elevations decreasing by 2-3 feet in some areas where repeated flood damage has occurred. Several comment letters have been sent to FEMA expressing concerns about the new maps showing decreased risk compared to previous studies.

Mitigation Issues & Successes:

As a result of Hurricane Sandy, approximately \$1.2 million in HMGP projects are being implemented, with emphasis on elevating homes in high risk floodplains. A concern is certain buildings which were “substantially damaged” as a result of Sandy may not meet the new Biggert-Waters definition of “Repetitive Loss” structure, lowering the likelihood of these projects receiving FMA funding.

Regulations:

The state has four model floodplain ordinances that communities can adopt. 1) Basic NFIP; 2) Basic NFIP; with V-Zones; 3) higher standards; 4) higher standards with V-Zones. All three

counties in Delaware will be receiving new county-wide flood studies between July 2014 and March 2015 which means all communities in Delaware will be updating their ordinances. All three counties in Delaware have LIMWA 1.5-3 foot wave hazard areas identified: however, Delaware is reluctant to promote the Coastal A-Zone standards until acceptable ordinance language is developed (the FEMA CAZ model regulation has been found to be confusing) and until the elevation certificate contains instructions for Coastal A-Zones.

#### Risk Map:

FEMA has conducted a coastal study for the entire coastline in Delaware. Kent County will be the first County in the region to receive the effective coastal study map. It is projected to go effective in July 2014. Sussex and New Castle County are proposed to go effective in early 2015. DNREC created Changes since last FIRM (CSLF) and Depth Grid products for parts of all three counties. DNREC is concerned that the specifications for CSLF only show plan form changes to the floodplains and zone designations and not changes in BFE. Delaware is concerned that the Discovery and Risk MAP products are adding to the cost of flood mapping studies, reducing the amount of mapping updates that are possible with limited budgets. Prior to 2011, Delaware's flood mapping projects typically included topographic data collection, hydrology, hydraulics, mapping and post preliminary processing. Risk MAP and Discovery requirements have added HAZUS studies, "changes since last FIRM", flood depth grids, model backed A-Zones for any panel being remapped, stream revalidation for any panel being remapped. While these products all have value, their across-the-board implementation is adding about 25% to the cost of flood studies.

#### Other important needs from the state:

Delaware is taking steps to form a Silver Jackets Team.

On September 12, 2013, Delaware Governor Jack Markell signed Delaware Executive Order 41, directing State agencies to develop procedures to adapt to climate changes. Among other requirements, state projects in non-tidal floodplain will be required to avoid the floodplain or design projects for BFE + 18 inches, in tidal floodplains state projects will be required to avoid floodplains and sea level rise impacts or design projects for BFE + 18 inches + anticipated sea level rises.

## **Pennsylvania**

No report as of 5/1/14. Report will be forwarded when received.

## **Maryland**

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), State Coordinating Office  
David Guignet, P.E., CFM, State NFIP Coordinator  
Kevin G. Wagner, CFM, Natural Resources Planner

Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)  
Mark James, CFM, State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
William Carroll, Hazard Mitigation Planner

### **CAP-SSSE Update:**

- A total of 140 communities participate in the NFIP in MD; 1 joined in 2013, and 5 more are in the process of joining.
- 20 CAVs were conducted in 2013.
- MD Model Ordinance revised in December 2013, and includes a resource version with links to CFR, State regulations, the building code and creditable CRS activities.

### **Disaster status:**

- To be completed by MEMA

### **Mitigation Issues & Successes:**

- Mitigation projects handled by MEMA
- The State NFIP Office participates in a Mitigation Advisory Committee to review and comment on projects.

### **Map Mod & Risk MAP:**

- 15 countywide DFIRMs effective, 7 countywide DFIRMs preliminary and 9 counties with a revised coastal analysis.
- Attended 3 Flood Risk Review meetings, 10 CCO meetings,
- Attended 5 outreach meeting related to preliminary maps

### **Training courses offered and needed:**

- Presented at 2 Maryland Society of Surveyors meetings (April and July).
- Held a one-day CRS workshop in September on the Eastern Shore.
- In late 2013/early 2014, 4 half-day floodplain management workshops were held around the State that focused on a real-world floodplain permitting example. In addition, 2 CFM exams were offered after the workshop.
- An L273 course is planned on July 14-17, 2014 at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD. A CFM exam will be offered on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **ASFPM Assistance needed/ASFPM focus/goals for the next year:**

- Offer webinars on hot topics (i.e. BW-12 and HFIAA-14) at no charge to members.

**Other important needs, issues, or success from the State:**

- Maryland continues to work with communities and be proactive in public outreach related to the new DFIRMs. Computer stations are set up at public open houses, and technicians help residents prepare a one-page map created with the Flood Risk Application on [www.mdfloodmaps.com](http://www.mdfloodmaps.com).
- A Beta version of the map viewer is currently being tested that includes additional enhancements that include better access to preliminary and effective DFIRM data, CSLF, link to property information, etc..

**Virginia**

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**West Virginia**

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