

ASFPM Region 7 Annual Report



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Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017) 2016-2017

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska

INTRODUCTION and 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 the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association.



Iowa had two declared disasters in September and October of 2016, with flooding across 27 counties. Many of the communities that flooded in these events – including Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls and Waterloo - also flooded in 2008. However, effective mitigation measures and better flood preparedness/response resulted in those communities experiencing much less damage for these recent events.

Flood mapping was another important issue for Iowa. There were two DFIRMS that went in to effect in 2016 with 10 more scheduled to become effective in 2017. Starting in 2009, the Iowa DNR partnered with the Iowa Flood Center and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop new approximate (unnumbered) A Zones for the entire state based on the state's 2-ft. LiDAR. That project is near completion with draft products scheduled to be completed for the few remaining counties by the end of 2017. The approximate A Zones developed (as well as a number of SFHA re-delineations) are already being incorporated into 22 self-financed county FIRM products, as well as a number of FEMA-funded mapping projects. Over the next three years they will be incorporated into FIRM's for 41 more Iowa counties.

The Iowa Water Conference was held on March 22-23, 2017 in Ames.

Flood recovery was an issue for **Missouri** this year. There was massive flooding at the very end of the 2015. A goal of the floodplain management section is to be prepared in advance for future disasters. Missouri has also had to deal with staffing changes during the flood recovery process.

State NFIP coordinator Dale Schmutzler retired Nov. 30, 2016 after 33 years of service. The section was reorganized and divided in to two segments. Floodplain management section under Karen McHugh will be responsible for NFIP and Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element requirements. Floodplain engineering and mapping section under L. Scott Samuels will be responsible for engineering, mapping functions and Cooperating Technical Partners requirements.

The Missouri Floodplain & Stormwater Managers Association annual meeting, usually held in April of each year in conjunction with its state conference, will be May 4, 2017 at the ASFPM Conference in Kansas City. MFSMA will hold its 2018 state conference at Tantar-A Conference Center, Lake of the Ozarks, April 10-13, 2018 with our annual meeting on April 13, 2018.

Nebraska devoted much of 2016 to creating a strategy for strengthening their NFIP program. This strategy includes elements of training. They conducted 100 Community Assistance Contacts. Floodplain management issues that Nebraska worked on were dealing with violations, substantial improvement assistance, helping communities join the NFIP, updating the model ordinance, Risk Map Integration and working with communities to develop administrative tools for Letters of Map Revision on Fill.

Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association will hold its annual conference July 13, 2017. 2D HEC-RAS Training was held March 28, 2017 with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

Kansas saw two severe floods in the Mulvane area in 2016. The flood events were just a few weeks apart. One death occurred near Rose Hill during these floods. The governor signed a proclamation declaring the week of March 6-10, 2017 to be Flood Safety Awareness Week in Kansas. The state continues to work on RISK Map, CRS and training. The NFIP coordinators office began to meet and work with the Kansas Department of Insurance in 2016. A big issue in Kansas is the costs to insure agriculture structures in floodplains.

The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management will hold its annual conference Sept. 6-7, 2017 in Lawrence.

REGION VII PRIORITIES

Grant Management

Delays in grant funding caused problems for Region VII. Getting the CAP-SSSE grant fund more than three quarters of the way through a state's fiscal year is of problem. States are not always able to spend funds that haven't been awarded yet.

Mapping

Portions of Region 7 do not have flood maps or small communities are shown as area not included. Flood maps are a required tool for managing the floodplain. Mapping is a priority.

Open house workshops combined with map meetings have been a proven success in several in Region 7 states and should be continued and improved.

CRS Increase

Region 7 is assisting communities towards CRS.

5 new or upgraded communities across the region.

57 current CRS communities in Region VII.

Training Needs

Insurance agent training has been an issue of special concern because policies have been rated incorrectly, making flood insurance more expensive. On April 20, 2017 there was an agent training held in Kansas City, Missouri for agents from all four states in Region 7. This training was organized by H₂O Partners and lead by Chris Parsons from FEMA Region VII. Nebraska participated in an Independent Insurance Agents of Nebraska "3-day road show" and invited the FEMA Region VII insurance specialist to join them for the presentations. Kansas organized a training with the Kansas Insurance Agents Association that was a live streamed classroom instruction. This event was recorded and will be rebroadcast by KAIA. Community officials have indicated a need for training on a variety of topics that states are trying to provide.

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.

Speeding up the process of receiving grant funds, such as CAP-SSSE.