

ASFPM ARID REGIONS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia



Robert Davies & Jeanne Ruefer, Co-chairs
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STATUS REPORT

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia

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The primary mission of the Arid Regions Committee is to provide policy guidance and support of arid regions floodplain management issues to foster reduction of future losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding. Historically, this committee has influenced FEMA's Flood Mapping Program through education and outreach in the arid areas. This has been accomplished through forwarding local arid regions floodplain concerns to ASFPM for actions, disseminating ASFPM policies and questions to local floodplain decision makers for action, and sharing information between communities in the arid regions.

The Arid Regions Committee has the following standard work items that are ongoing in nature:

1. Participate in ASFPM policy committee conference calls and retreats. – Bob and Jeanne participated on the conference calls as availability allowed. Bob attended the Policy Committee Retreat in Madison 2014.
2. Conduct committee coordination and planning – The annual work plan was updated with active committee member input. The work plan will be refined and finalized at the annual meeting in Atlanta.
3. Attend Policy Committee Chair Meeting at national conference and conduct the annual committee meeting. – The co-chairs attended the

Policy Committee Chair Meeting and conducted the annual committee meeting at the national conference.

4. Prepare status reports and develop work plans, and submit on schedule.

The Arid Regions Committee completed or made significant progress on **four major work items** in 2014/2015. These items are:

1. The Arid Regions Committee is participating in planning an Arid Regions Tract at the upcoming California FMA conference in September 2015. The conference will be located in Rancho Mirage, CA. This meeting promises to be well attended and have an excellent technical program.

2. Continue conference calls/meetings regarding Alluvial Fan Issues Working Group. Several conference calls were held initially. The participants have strived to identify key concerns, then outline problem statements and stepwise how to approach these concerns and who will volunteer to assist in the work. Three face-to-face meetings have occurred with sub-committee members

3. Continue to conduct monthly committee conference calls with active committee members and new participants.

- a. Conference calls are conducted monthly, the first Tuesday of the month. The conference calls allow the co-chairs to share information from the board calls and the policy committee calls with our membership. Thanks to ASFPM staff for setting up the call and posting the agenda.

- b. The committee has revisited the present goals and objectives and has streamlined them for this year and is providing welcome input for the upcoming goals and objectives for 2014/2015.

4. The committee has an ongoing goal which relates to the Arid Regions Issues Survey completed last year. Members continue to discuss and look for volunteers and opportunities to address the top three goals identified from the survey.

- Review NFIP regulations and recommend appropriate higher standards for arid regions. **Issue 1:** Steve Dolan has been leading this effort on the committee. He had made numerous phone calls and is narrowing down potential topics for the sub-committee to further pursue.

- Research and make recommendations for analyzing hydrology and hydraulics in arid regions projects. **Issue 2:** This continues to be an ongoing issue the committee will pursue.
- Research and recommend tools and techniques for communicating the risks related to erosion. **Issue 3:** The ASFPM board has requested this goal be further pursued. A draft erosion paper has been previously compiled by several Arid Regions Committee members. The board has encourages the committee to share this with other policy committees for interest and feedback in further developing this effort. It's likely a draft of this effort will be forthcoming at the Atlanta meeting.

5. The committee was actively involved in reviewing, participating, commenting and refining arid regions input for the “National Flood Programs and Policies in Review” this year.

The committee may consider tackling another goal based on our Arid Regions Issues Survey as we move into the next planning year.