Flood Insurance Committee Annual Status Report

Bruce A. Bender, CFM
Steve Samuelson, CFM, BMOC
Co-chairs

2020-21
Introduction

The ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee supports the ASFPM’s floodplain management efforts through information, education, and outreach activities on flood insurance issues. The Committee provides input on flood insurance legislation and flood insurance rules and guidelines propagated by FEMA. The Committee also helps keep the ASFPM membership informed of upcoming changes to the National Flood Insurance Program and the potential impact of these changes.

Areas the Committee focused on in 2020-21 included:

- Monitor modifications and effects of implementation to the insurance aspects of the NFIP, both from FEMA and Congress (including Risk Rating 2.0),
- Liaise with insurance stakeholder groups,
- Work with FEMA on issues affecting flood insurance (e.g., Pivot, Elevation Certificates, CRS, ICC), and
- Keep ASFPM Headquarters and members informed and updated.

Key Accomplishments

While we had hoped for flood reform legislation from Congress, it did not happen (yet again) in 2020. Likewise, we had hoped for an updated Elevation Certificate (EC) that would have made corrections and improvements based on the EC subcommittee’s recommendations, but it is still stuck in review over at the Office of Management and Budget.

The Committee continued to liaise with the Flood Insurance Producers National Network (FIPNC – which represents the top 3 insurance agent associations) and attend FEMA’s Industry Day; however, because we did not meet in person with FIPNC, we did not get to directly meet that same day with the Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS) Flood Committee (which represents Write Your Own Companies). We did, though, receive copies of their minutes.

There was no virtual National Flood Association conference in 2020, but we did virtually attend the 2020 National Flood Conference. We plan to attend both group’s 2021 virtual conferences.

While we continued to work with ASFPM headquarters to help keep members informed about topics that bubbled up (e.g., private flood insurance, bi-annual changes in the NFIP program, lending requirements for private flood insurance), answer flood insurance related questions received from members, and write the bi-monthly Insurance Corner in ASFPM’s Insider, the two main topics that the Committee did watch, report, and engage with FEMA were: Pivot and Risk Rating 2.0 (RR2.0).

- **Pivot** – The Committee continues to work with issues related to FEMA’s new insurance database. The various issues include the ease of use of the data base by States with access, the ability of communities to get information for their use, the indemnification issues that some States have not agreed to, Privacy Act concerns that limit the ways in which the data can be used, Routine Use Letters and Information Security Access Agreements. A Pivot workshop
with FEMA for State Hazard Mitigation Officers and NFIP State Coordinators is planned for April 2020, and depending upon its success and feedback, we will look to hold future ones.

- **Risk Rating 2.0** – The Committee, along with ASFPM HQ, continuously monitored what information was being shared from FEMA HQ to the insurance industry, at floodplain conferences and to the Regions. What was allowed to be shared was then forwarded to members to help keep them informed. When FEMA did finally release more detailed information, the Committee quickly reviewed the plethora of documents and helped ASFPM HQ craft a summary enews blast. More information will be released by FEMA through the Spring and Summer of 2021 until the first phase of RR2.0 starts on October 1, 2021.

**Priorities**

In 2021-22, the Flood Insurance Committee will continue to monitor:

- Risk Rating 2.0 and new policy forms
- Pivot
- Flood Insurance Legislation
- Private Flood Insurance
- Elevation Certificates

**Recommended Activities**

The following are key activities for the Flood Insurance Committee for 2021-22:

- Work with FEMA to include floodplain managers and local officials in their RR2.0 outreach efforts in the first year, including providing the ability to determine the insurance cost benefits of mitigative actions.
- Remain engaged with FEMA to identify ways to provide floodplain managers with the data they require in Pivot more easily and speedily.
- Continue to monitor NFIP changes, legislation, and research around private and federal flood insurance.