Flood Mitigation Committee
Annual Status Report

Joy Duperault, CFM
Jana Henderson, CFM
Co-chairs

2020-21
Introduction

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 floodproofing. In 2021, our work also included a focus on social equity and environmental justice.

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. Find opportunities to include and engage marginal populations in the flood mitigation discussion to gain understanding about social inequity and environmental justice issues, and seek solutions for a fair and balanced application of mitigation actions across diverse populations

Committee Co-chairs

In 2020 co-chair Mitch Paine left his King County WA position to take apposition with FEMA Region 10. Subsequently Jana Henderson, Mitigation Director for the State of Mississippi accepted the position of co-chair for the Committee. Welcome Jana!

Priorities

Provide feedback on mitigation-related legislation, proposed activities, and conceptual drafts. Topics and opportunities upon which the mitigation committee has shared perspective with ASFPM and other parties during the past year included:

- ASFPM comments on the BRIC Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects Act (May 2020)
- Participation in Bi-monthly ASFPM/FEMA Hazard Mitigation /Floodplain Management Division Calls
- Input on FEMA’s policy for using HMGP funds for USACE projects (May 2020)
- Monitoring and feedback on PIVOT/ ISAA issues (ongoing)
- Assistance to USACE in cost considerations for wet floodproofing (June 2020)
- Participation in ASFPM’s Climate Change working group (since Feb. 2020)
- Participation in ASFPM’s Social Justice working group (beginning Aug. 2020)
- Input on FEMA’s environmental benefits in the BCA, as well as impacts of current BCA on social equity in mitigation projects (July 2020 and Oct 2020)
- Comments on FEMA’s update of State and Local Mitigation Plan Guides (Aug. 2020)
- Provide comments to the ASFPM Regulations Committee for inclusion in their response to FEMA on draft of TB-9 “Breakaway Walls” (Aug. 2020)
- Conversation around improvements to the AW-501 repetitive loss worksheet process (Aug. 2020)
- Participation in several Wetlands Watch working groups “Rolling Easements” and “Managed Retreat/Acquisitions” (ongoing throughout 2020/ early 2021)
- Pressed FEMA for clarification on updated guidance for reuse of acquired properties (Sept. 2020)
- Offered article on federal-state-local coordination for implementation of DRRA1206 (Sept. 2020)
- Reviewed Federal Register notice and changes to HMA Program regulations (Oct. 2020)
- Submitted comments on Virginia’s “Community Flood Preparedness Fund” draft document (Jan. 2021)
- Keeping an eye on progress with the authorized but not appropriated STORM Act (ongoing)
- Keeping an eye out for the development of a national BCA “users group” (ongoing)
- Agreed to provide comments on TRCP’s white paper regarding the use of nature based solutions possible in FEMA’s BRIC program and HUD’s CDBG-DR (yet to come)
- Participating in ASFPM’s FSC Mitigation Library project (ongoing)
- Participating in ASFPM’s FSC Repetitive Loss PAC (ongoing)