Nonstructural Floodproofing Annual Status Report

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Introduction

The Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee provides educational information to ASFPM members, government entities, homeowners, and business owners on acceptable nonstructural techniques commonly used to reduce flood damage and increase structure resiliency. Nonstructural measures can decrease the consequences of flooding to individual structures. Nonstructural techniques do not modify the existing flood characteristics (stage, velocity, and areal extent), as is the case with structural measures, and support ecosystem benefits.

The number of structures vulnerable to flooding continues to increase across the country, primarily due in part due to changes in rainfall/snowmelt runoff, development outpacing the creation of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and outdated FIRMs being used for floodplain regulatory purposes.

Key Accomplishments

During 2020-2021, the Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee has focused its efforts in the following areas:

- Supporting the ASFPM 2020 annual (virtual) conference
- Committee conference calls highlighting guest presenters
- Committee involvement in FEMA Technical Bulletin reviews
- Supporting the Flood Science Center Library flood mitigation project
- Monitoring and discussing potential changes to flood loads in ASCE 7

Priorities

The following items represent the Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee’s current priorities:

- Participation in the 2021 ASFPM Annual National Conference.
- Participate and support to ASFPM Board’s conference calls.
- Supporting the nomination of a candidate for consideration of the John R. Sheaffer Flood Proofing Award.
- Continued support in reviewing and commenting on ASFPM directed documents.
- Organizing and facilitating committee conference calls.
- Providing support to the National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program.
- Development of products and support to activities identified within the annual work plan.
- Increase committee membership and expand visibility of committee activities.
Recommended Actions

In support of the ASFPM Board’s current goals and objectives, as well as the committee’s current work plan, the Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee foresees continuing advancement of the following activities:

- Development of two additional informational documents that promote and support Section 26 of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, recognizing the use of alternative flood proofing measures for residential and commercial structures. The informational document “Actions You Can Take to Protect a Flood-Prone House or Business with Crawlspace” was completed during 2020 and resides on the committee website.
- Providing continued support to the Flood Science Center on its development of the Flood Mitigation Library Website.
- Develop talking/discussion points for HQASFPM on a new definition for dry flood proofing, as new technology continues to be developed, and several federal agencies are not in consensus on current terminology.