

# **POLICY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN**

## **Arid Regions Committee**

### **2015 – 2016**

(last update: 08/30/2015)

## **1.0 Overview**

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.

### **Committee co-chairs:**

Bob Davies  
Jeanne Ruefer with Tetra Tech, Inc.

### **Liaisons:**

Tom Walker

### **Active members:**

Steve Dolan, Anthony Barry, Siavash Beik, Robert Bezek, Ashley Couch, Bob Davies, Mark Forrest, Jon Fuller, Teri George, Tim Murphy, Jeanne Ruefer, Valerie Swick, Tom Walker, Massoud Rezaghani, Ted Johnson.

## **2.0 Task Outline**

### 2.1 On-going work items (see Table):

1. Participate in ASFPM Policy Committee Conference Calls, routine POD calls, and Retreat.
2. Attend Policy Committee Chair Meeting at the annual conference and hold an annual Arid Regions Committee meeting.
3. Organize and Facilitate Regular (monthly) Committee Conference Calls.
4. Prepare Annual Reports and Develop Work Plans.

### 2.2 Work items for the 2015/2016 Year (see separate Task Summary Sheets):

The following work items are ongoing from last year. The Committee intends to begin and/or continue work on at least one of the priority Arid Issues this year and is committed to identify sub-tasks to initiate evaluation and progress of those efforts.

1. Review NFIP regulations and recommend appropriate higher standards for arid regions. (Issue 1) Steve Dolan has been leading this effort on the committee. He has summarized his analysis, and has identified potential topics for a sub-committee to further pursue.
2. 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.
3. Research and recommend tools and techniques for communicating the risks related to erosion. (Issue 3) Several members of the committee have been working with members of the Natural and Beneficial Functions committee to revise and update a Riverine Erosion Hazard Discussion Paper, which will be presented at the Arid Regions Track of the FMA conference in September 2015.

### **2.3 Parking Lot of work items for the future:**

The following list of work items was discussed at the annual meeting in San Antonio at the Arid Regions Committee meeting – May 2012. This list of items will be reviewed one by one, and decide whether to add new items, leave/delete or embellish each item for consideration in upcoming or future work plans. Some items may be of a similar nature and could be combined. How do these items support the ASFPM Board national policy goals?

- Alluvial fan issues. Get consensus on state of practice for delineations.
- Clearly identify why Arid Regions floodplain management concerns are different. Political? Property values higher as we get near waterways.
- Irrigation ditches – Clean Water Act, stormwater. Discussions are ongoing regarding how roadway v-ditches may become jurisdictional.
- Levee-like structures, canal stability issues.
- LAMP (Levee Analysis and Mapping Approach) - There has been little discussion of alluvial fan flooding and Zone D SFHA application.
- If the engineering community could get FEMA to accept residual risk, it would really help with risk and Zone D issues.

## 2.4 Ongoing Work Items

<b>Task Name</b>	<b>Task Leader</b>	<b>Approx Hrs to complete</b>	<b>Detailed Task Description</b>
Conference Calls & Committee Retreat	Bob Davies/ Jeanne Ruefer	44 hours	A co-chair or the liaison should attend all conference calls and one of co-chairs should attend the conference retreat.
Annual Conference	Bob Davies/ Jeanne Ruefer	16 hours	Prepare for the policy committee co-chairs meeting, the Arid Regions committee meeting, and optional 'early bird' arid topic meeting. Prepare notes of annual meeting for distribution.
Committee Coordination and Conference Calls	Bob Davies/ Jeanne Ruefer	48 hours	Organize and facilitate regular monthly conference calls with active committee members (hours assume both co-chairs participating, 90% of 12 calls per year, and prep/post meeting tasks)
Prepare Annual Reports and Develop Work Plans.	Bob Davies/ Jeanne Ruefer	40 hours	Prepare annual progress report and solicit committee feedback to establish workplan tasks for upcoming year.

## 2.5 2015-2016 Work Items

### 2.5.1

Task Title: Review NFIP regulations and recommend appropriate higher standards for arid regions.	Task Leader: TBD
ASFPM Goal # Cross Reference – 2.0 REFINE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE NATION/Highest ranked arid issue survey task	
Prerequisites Needed: this activity is in progress. Steve Dolan reviewed the NFIP regulations and identified gaps and areas that could be improved.	
Other Policy Committees/entities to Engage for this Task: Floodplain Regulations, Map& Engr. Stds., NAI, Stormwater Management	
Completion Schedule: 08/2016	
Deliverables: a document describing higher standards that can be adopted by communities interested in becoming more resilient.	
Other Necessary Support or Resources: a committee sub-group to review the summary document and craft some language that would be suitable for inclusion in ordinance.	
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) Volunteer labor	
Approval Process: may need legal review to determine acceptable language	
Assumptions:	
Prepared by/ Date: B. Davies/J. Ruefer	Approved By/ Date:

Note: The following issue is aligned to NFIP reform. The intent for considering work on this item is that through reviewing NFIP regulations relevant to Arid Regions issues, which specific higher standards may be recommended for communities to consider when adopting their ordinances.

### 2.2.3




Approval Process: N/A	
Assumptions:	
Prepared by/ Date: B. Davies/J. Ruefer	Approved By/ Date:

Note: The following issue is aligned to NFIP reform. The intent for considering work on this item is that through reviewing NFIP regulations relevant to Arid Regions issues, that specific higher standards may be recommended for communities to consider when adopting their ordinances.

**2.2.4 (This work item is to be developed and refined)**

Task Title: Research and make recommendations for analyzing hydrology and hydraulics in arid regions projects.	Task Leader: TBD
ASFPM Goal # Cross Reference -2.0 REFINE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE NATION/ Second highest ranked arid issue survey task	
Approximate Start/End Date: 2013	Approximate # Hrs to Complete: ??
Detailed Task Description: This work item will be addressed in presentations and panel discussions at the Arid Regions Conference.	
Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) Get commitment from Arid Regions committee participants to participate and contribute to effecting assessment and progress on this task. Narrow the general goal to more specific and achievable sub-goals. Establish timeline for progress.	
Other Policy Committees/entities to Engage for this Task:	
Completion Schedule: September 2016	
Deliverables:	
Other Necessary Support or Resources:	
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) Volunteer labor	
Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?)	
Assumptions:	
Prepared by/ Date:	Approved By/ Date:

**2.2.5 (This work item is to be developed and refined)**

Task Title: Research and recommend tools and techniques for communicating the risks related to erosion.	Task Leader: Jon Fuller (interest tbd)
ASFPM Goal # Cross Reference - 2.0 REFINE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO IMPROVE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE NATION/Third highest ranked arid issue survey task	
Approximate Start/End Date: 2013 - 2014	Approximate # Hrs to Complete: unknown
Detailed Task Description: solicit comments from other interested Policy Subcommittees on the existing draft Erosion Zone Paper . Organized a group of other people interested in identifying erosion zones to research what is being done at the local and state level and make recommendations to the ASFPM board.	
Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) This activity is in progress, and the Draft will be presented at the FMA conference in September 2015, before bringing to the Board for consideration.	
Other Policy Committees/entities to Engage for this Task: Mapping & Engineering, Natural and Beneficial Functions and Coastal	
Completion Schedule: December 2015	
Deliverables: Finalize the Riverene Erosion Hazard Discussion Paper and evaluate need for White Paper.	
Other Necessary Support or Resources:	
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) Volunteer labor	
Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?)	
Assumptions:	
Prepared by/ Date:	Approved By/ Date: