

POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Arid Regions Committee

2019 – 2020

(Sept. 25, 2019)

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

Liaisons:

Tom Walker

Active members:

Anthony Barry, Siavash Beik, Ashley Couch, Bob Davies, Mark Forrest, Jon Fuller, Tim Murphy, Jeanne Ruefer, Tom Walker, Massoud Rezakhani and Ted Johnson.

2.0 Task Outline

2.1 Ongoing 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 2019/2020 year:

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. Develop recommendations for higher standards, building on the committee's previous review of the NFIP to reduce flood damage in arid regions. (Objectives 1.3.1 & 2.1.5)
2. Research and make recommendations for analyzing hydrology and hydraulics in arid regions projects. This continues to be an ongoing issue the committee will pursue.
3. Continue to work with the Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee to contribute to a working group/support group for the riverine erosion issue. (Objectives 1.3.2 & 2.1.5)
4. Work on adding Arid Regions Stormwater BMPs to the Arid Regions webpage, in coordination with the Stormwater Committee.
5. Work toward consensus regarding alluvial fan mapping and use of 2D models.

2.3 Parking lot of work items for the future:

The following list of work items was discussed at the annual meeting in Cleveland. 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's national policy goals?

- Clearly identify why arid regions floodplain management concerns are different from floodplain management concerns in other hydrologic regions. What are the current best practices in floodplain management and flood mitigation in arid environments?
- Irrigation ditches – Clean Water Act, stormwater conveyance. Discussions about how roadside v-ditches may become jurisdictional. What are the present criteria in arid regions for establishing when these ditches become jurisdictional?
- Floodplain impacts of building a boundary wall along the border with Mexico.

Ongoing Work Items

Task Name	Task Leader	Approx. Hrs. to complete	Detailed Task Description
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.