

ASFPM Coastal Committee Meeting – 05/20/2019: Annual National Conference in Cleveland, Ohio

Notes:

1. Introductions
2. Committee overview and accomplishments:
 - Quick overview of ASFPM components:
 - ASFPM Executive Office ~20 staff
 - Elected Board – 19 positions (regional directors, POD Facilitators, chapter directors, etc.)
 - Certification Board of Regents (CBOR)
 - Policy Committee – 14 committees total, voluntary participation. Policy committees support ASFPM's members, advance coastal resilience, and implement ASFPM's strategic plan
 - Coastal Committee accomplishments from the last year:
 - Established a quarterly lunch and learn webinar series (3 hosted so far)
 - Supporting Community Rating System Coastal Committee
 - Advancing the Digital Coast Partnership:
 - ASFPM and CSO are co-hosting a new Digital Coast Fellow – Alexis Cunningham
 - Supporting passage of the Digital Coast Act – hoping that it is authorized this year
 - Supporting Digital Coast Connects Projects focused on the CRS
 - Provided comments on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA)
 - What's next:
 - Continuing the lunch and learn series
 - Establishing regular calls for the committee
 - Check out [ASFPM's Coastal Committee webpage on floods.org](#) for more information, including an annual report and workplan.
3. Spotlight on the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM)
 - NJAFM was created in response to a riverine flooding event in Burlington County in 2004
 - The state experienced many more flood events in subsequent years (riverine, Nor'easters, and Hurricanes – including Sandy)
 - NJAFM doesn't have a coastal committee, but they focus on coastal issues at their conference and in their legislative committee
 - Key historical actions of NJAFM:
 - Participating on Governor's Task Force and Commission post-disaster
 - Making comments on proposed regulations
 - Visiting Capitol Hill
 - Corresponding with the NJ State Legislature
 - Giving testimony before a special committee of the NJ Legislature

- Participating in National Workshops, such as the Gilbert White Flood Policy Forums, NAI Coastal Workshops, workshops hosted by the National Academies of Science, and more...
- Hurricane Sandy (2012) – NJAFM was partly ready for Hurricane Sandy. After Sandy, NJAFM wanted to have a presence on the ground. Members put their personal cell phone numbers on the state chapter website and received lots of calls. NJAFM also got involved with the Governor’s Office. When your community has a major disaster, you become the local experts. The state chapter received many requests to be on the radio, was asked to be a keynote speaker to share their story/lessons learned from Sandy, met with HUD/the Sandy rebuilding task force, worked with the state of Colorado who faced flooding, and more.
- Current Key Coastal Topics:
 - USACE Harbor and Tributaries and Back Bay Interim Reports
 - NJAFM continues to monitor dune compensation Takings cases and submitted an Amicus Curie
 - Supporting NJ Shore Protection Fund Legislation
- Key Partnerships:
 - ASFPM
 - NJ State League of Municipalities
 - NGOs including: NJ-American Water Resources Association, New Jersey Future, and the Littoral Society
 - Media
 - State and Federal agency staff and leadership
 - Academic institutions – Rutgers and out-of-state universities
- Chapter Recognition:
 - Awarded John Ivey Award
 - Almost 400 CFMs in the state
- Lessons Learned from NJ Chapter:
 - It takes a long time to build a reputation – stick with it, it will happen After Sandy, reporters went to the state chapter regularly for information
 - Be ready for a flood. Be the go-to organization. Plan for it. What is your plan for when the flood happens? How will you share information? Make a plan
 - Look for ways to reduce the learning curve of other NGOs. They will help to spread your messaging down the road if you take the time to educate them
 - Know the decision-makers
 - Be the hub for knowledge
 - Pay close attention to messaging – be specific and deliberate
 - Formalize the board election process
- NJAFM Annual Conference – Save the Date: October 15-17, 2019!
- Comments:

- At the time of Hurricane Sandy, APA, FEMA, and ASFPM did a week-long series of workshops in NJ on recovery planning. A committee member encouraged NJAFM to translate some of the collaboration that has occurred at the national level to the state level.
4. Agency Updates (NOAA, FEMA, EPA):
- Peter Herrick (FEMA Risk MAP):
 - FEMA is changing its approach to risk communications. Specifically, by starting to do a lot more customization to meet people where they are.
 - A clear need was expressed by FEMA Region 5 for new communications products when they were getting ready to roll out new coastal maps in the GL Region. Staff in FEMA Region 5 needed help explaining the differences between coastal and riverine hazards, what those differences look like on the map, and a tool that could be used to communicate those changes.
 - Everyone wanted the tool to include their own “thing.” This was a challenge, required the tool to weave all the important pieces together in a way that makes sense to everyone. Different stakeholders have different level of expertise, need to accommodate all of them to make sure everyone starts from the same place.
 - Key elements of the story map:
 - Infographics – a picture is worth 100% words
 - Interactivity – tabs that would allow users to jump to the information they need and skip what they know already and bookmarks that allow you to save your place and find information when needed were included.
 - Products:
 - An Introduction to FEMA Coastal Floodplain Mapping
 - FEMA’s Risk Products
 - Learning from Lycoming
 - Coastal Infographics
 - An Introduction to FEMA Coastal Floodplain Mapping – An Overview:
 - Includes a basic introduction to coastal mapping
 - An introduction to coastal hazards (e.g. storm surge, wave setup, waves)
 - Features on a coastal map (e.g. SFHAs, LiMWAs)
 - A basic overview of how coastal maps are made
 - An overview of different coastal flood zones and what they are
 - Real-world examples
 - Tutorials – Using coastal Flood Maps for Floodplain Management
 - Helpful tools and resources, connecting users to other sources of information
 - Questions?

- A lot of regions have their own websites that explain their study processes, are those linked to?
 - FEMA's regional websites are being removed. FEMA is revamping their web-presence. FEMA is trying to consolidate all of that information, so it is in one place.
 - Have you received any feedback?
 - Yes, getting feedback that has been pretty positive from floodplain managers in region 5.
 - Yi is developing a Coastal Processes Manual for Wisconsin Coastal Management Agency. Yi has found the website very helpful. Has included it in the Coastal Processes Manual.
- Michael Craghan (US EPA):
 - Michael leads EPA's climate change and adaptation efforts in coastal areas
 - Why is EPA interested in coastal floodplain management?
 - EPA is interested in drinking, waste and stormwater infrastructure. EPA cares whether these pieces of critical infrastructure are being flooded as it can impact their efficacy.
 - Environmental justice is a big concern for the EPA. There are many places in the coastal zone where populations are at risk and do not have the resources required to manage.
 - Water quality - EPA cares about point and nonpoint sources of pollution.
 - Trash-free waters
 - EPA also has an interest in habitat. EPA is charged with preserving healthy ecosystems including coastal wetlands, seagrass, shellfish populations, coral reefs, etc.
 - Helpful tools and resources:
 - Creating Resilient Water Utilities (website)
 - Climate Ready Estuaries Program (website)
 - Hydrologic and Water Quality System (HAWQS) interfaces with the SSWT Model (tool)
 - Stormwater Calculator (tool)
 - Flood Resilience Checklist (tool)
 - EPA is working on natural and nature-based features for flood protection
 - Coastal wetlands and coral reefs serve as flood hazard mitigation features. Would love to hear from the coastal committee how they think about natural infrastructure, or stories of how others have implemented these features for flood hazard mitigation.
- Mark Osler (NOAA NOS):
 - Mark Osler is the Senior Advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience
 - Took this job about a year ago
 - Background is in civil and hydraulic engineering

- Mark's position gives him a lot of latitude to engage on tough, cross-cutting questions about flood science, data, risk, mapping, modeling, and human behavior. You name it, NOAA is involved.
- Mark is choosing to use his time to advance the science of coastal flooding and sea level rise. He wants to strengthen relationships between scientists that produce vital information and developers that design decision support tools based on that information. Mark also wants to formalize connections across NOAA and the US Government Agencies. A lot of the relationships that exist are interpersonal and could be lost if people move to new jobs. Agencies need to work together at the federal level and must get better at communicating what our roles are/advocating for one another. Finally, Mark will support emerging markets of coastal risk, e.g. the reinsurance industry.
- Opportunities for the Coastal Committee to engage:
 - Advocacy – this committee should advocate for change, share best practices, etc. Committee members should also consider commenting on the future of the DRRRA. FEMA is looking for feedback from stakeholders. Finally, there is a clear need for greater consideration of beach nourishment and its role to risk reduction.
 - Run for Mayor – engage with state and local governments, they need our guidance.

5. ASFPM's Flood Science Center – Jeff Stone:

- Rebranded in the last three years – Sciences Services is now known as the Flood Science Center
- The Flood Science Center has grown quite a bit in the last few years:
 - 9 staff
 - Over 40 active projects
 - Over 10 clients
 - Over 30 partners and collaborators
 - Over 2,000 library resources
- Work closely with the Digital Coast partners to get things done!
- Examples:
 - Digital Coast CRS Strategy – many of the Digital Coast partners have tools and resources that help communities that are in the CRS. ASFPM and CSO's Digital Coast Fellow developed this strategy for the partners in an effort to ensure that our efforts are complementary not competing.
 - CRS Green Guide – finished the official project about two years ago.
 - Alexis is working to advance this right now! Continuing/advancing training opportunities.
 - Working to obtain a funding stream for CRS going forward.
 - Coastal NAI, Legal Issues, and CHARM Workshops:

- ASFPM hosted two workshops in Florida in 2018. They were able to get state partners that don't normally work together in the same room to look at future scenarios.
 - ASFPM has funding for four more workshops in the future.
 - Wisconsin Coastal Management Program – Shoreline Inventory and Oblique Photo Viewer
 - 40,000+ oblique images of the WI coast
 - Added recession rate models
 - Bluff and beach condition profiles and reports
 - Building Coastal resilience through Capital infrastructure Planning Guidance for Practitioners
 - Local Government Guide to Coastal Resilience – partnership with NACo, CSO, and NOAA
 - Flood Event Archive
 - Project is funded by the ASFPM foundation, based on Gilbert White's Boulder Creek Flood Notebook
 - Also bringing in crowd-sourced information on flood events
 - Updating ASFPM's elected official guide
 - Interviewing Mayors on camera to get a better understanding of what they have done to mitigate flooding
6. Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper Demo – Russell Jackson, NOAA OCM:
- NOAA completely revamped the tool in recent weeks. It now includes all of the coastal US except the Great Lakes Region and AK.
 - The goal of the tool is to get a conversation started around coastal flood exposure at the community level
 - New features:
 - Can get more information based on an address
 - More advanced sharing features – when users want to share a map, they can create a unique URL so that exact map can be sent to another person. Users can also create specific maps, name them, and download jpegs of the maps. They can also share whole collections of maps with others.
 - Information on each layer included is in the map and explains why you should care about the data
 - Sea Level Rise projections go up to 10 feet now – the slider tool allows users to adjust SLR projections foot by foot
 - Hurricane storm surge – this tool not only shows the extent of flooding but also depth and is adjustable by hurricane category
7. Other updates from the Coastal Committee:
- Coastal Engineer's Toolbox for Integrated Stormwater Management - Jeffery and Jake (Moffatt and Nichol)
 - Coastal Modeling Tools:
 - CHAMP (WHAFIS and RUNUP)
 - PC Overtop, EurOtop Manual
 - Artificial Intelligence

- Probabilistic Modeling
 - Exceedance probabilities and SLR Projections
 - CA Coastal Commission recently shifted towards this kind of modeling for their projections. Communities understand the approach already, so it has facilitated the integration of these kinds of projections into hazard mitigation plans.
- Resilience and Vulnerability
 - VAST (FHWA) – Department of Transportation, allows users to evaluate and rank vulnerability to Climate Stressors such as SLR, Precipitation, Temperature and Wind
- Life Cycle Cost Estimates
 - CLASIC tool – evaluates lifecycle costs of green infrastructure
- Funding opportunities
 - Tax Increment Funding
 - Environmental Impact Bonds
 - Stormwater Management Utilities
 - EPA’s Water Finance Clearinghouse
 - EPA’s Green Infrastructure Funding Opportunities
- Gilbert White Flood Policy Forum – last topic was Urban Flooding. Coastal issues were well represented since urban flooding isn’t just an inland issue.
 - There will be a presentation on this later this week!
- Improving Understanding of Inundation Terminology – Nicole Rice (NOAA GLERL)
 - NOAA Rotational Assignment Program project – goal is to connect different line offices to one another. It allows NOAA employees to get a better view of how different NOAA offices can and should be working together.
 - OCM heard that some of their terminology around inundation is confusing.
 - The goal of this project was to reach out to staff within NOAA as well as NOAA’s partners to get a better understanding of what these confusing terms are.
 - Outcomes: a glossary including a consensus on terms that will be used NOAA-wide. NOAA will also host local workshops and an implementation and outreach plan.
- Coastal Committee for CRS - Wes Shaw (Blue Urchin) and Russell Jackson (NOAA OCM):
 - Coastal group looks at Coastal A Zone credit, coastal erosion credit, and tsunami credit
 - Sea Level Rise standards – the 2013 CRS Coordinator’s Manual created the baseline for getting credit for SLR.
 - FEMA has heard from the CRS Coastal Committee that the CRS Program needs to be more flexible and encourage use of the best available data.

- How? Communities will get more credit (a bonus) for using more severe SLR projections and longer planning timescales
 - What's next? Open space credit for coastal wetlands, living shorelines, and new ways to address SLR
 - Take-aways: the committee wants thoughts on the SLR approach to crediting, adaptation examples, and ideas of other things that the CRS should be providing credit for. Reach out if you have ideas.
 - The next CRS Coordinator's Manual should be out in 2021. After that, FEMA will be switching to a 5-year update cycle for the Manual.
8. Group discussion:
- What would you like the coastal committee to focus on? (show of hands)
 - Opportunities to talk more about green infrastructure (yes)
 - Hearing more about CBRA (maybe)
 - Beach re-nourishment (yes)
 - Would the committee be interested in having a tool-based webinar or discussion?
 - Yes!