

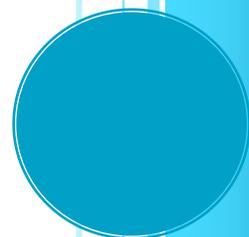
# ASFPM MAPPING & ENGINEERING STANDARDS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

*Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)*



Leslie Durham, P.E., and Dave Knipe, P.E., CFM, Co-chairs

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**2015-2016**

## **Committee Overview**

The primary mission of the [Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee](#) is to provide policy guidance and support for floodplain mapping and engineering issues to foster reduction of future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding. Historically, this committee has had major impacts on FEMA's Flood Mapping Program, requirements for map modernization, [Risk MAP](#) and the National Flood Mapping Program and addressing technical issues related to flood hazards such as levees and dams.

A [subcommittee of Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee](#) focuses on the Cooperating Technical Partner program. This subcommittee is co-chaired by Steve Story with the [Montana Department of Natural Resources](#) and Amanda Flegel with the [Illinois State Water Survey](#). The goal is to help identify mechanisms to measure successes and share best practices among mapping partners.

## **Priorities/Objectives**

- Solicited and consolidated comments to the Advisory Committee on Water Information, Subcommittee on Hydrology, Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group (<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/Frequency/b17c/>) on Bulletin 17C. This update on the procedure to determine flood frequency was released for comment after a 15-year update process and resulted in a refined procedure to better determine flood frequencies. Unresolved issues such as the issue of stationarity (future conditions, climate change), acknowledgement that there are changes in the watershed and no way to differentiate between different flood causes (riverine vs. snow melt, etc.) still exist in the current version, but is an improvement over Bulletin 17B.
- Provided comments to FEMA on fall 2015 and spring 2016 Guidelines and Standards Updates. FEMA maintains standards and guidance on a semi-annual basis to support the National Flood Mapping Program. These updates generally occur in May and November with updates provided in January and July for review and comment. When the notices are received from FEMA, the M&ES Committee distributes the notice and solicits comments from the membership. These comments are consolidated and shared with FEMA. In addition to routine maintenance of the standards, FEMA has also been issuing several new and updated standards, guidance and technical reference documents to implement the requirements of BW-12 and HFIAA.
- Worked to resolve technical and policy issues related to the National Flood

- Mapping Program through the FEMA operating partners. Dave Knipe represented M&ES and Steve Story represented the CTP subcommittee at three operating partner meetings this year and the topics included discussions on new guidelines and standards, FIMA organization, budget discussions, Biggert-Waters & HFIAA implementation and operational issues such as the new QR and KDP standards, non-regulatory products and 3DEP.
- Participated in the [Technical Mapping Advisory Council](#) and provided input to FEMA regarding National Flood Mapping Program metrics, implementation, policies and products, including future conditions and the impacts of climate change. TMAC produced two reports last year. The [TMAC 2015 Annual Report](#) included recommendations on how to improve specific elements of the National Flood Mapping Program such as mapping products, performance metrics, standards, map maintenance, delegation to CTPs and interagency and intergovernmental coordination. The [Future Conditions Risk Assessment and Modeling Report](#) included recommendations to help FEMA ensure FIRMS incorporate the best available climate science to assess flood risks and ensure that FEMA may use the best available methodology to consider the impact of sea level rise and future development on flood risk. Leslie Durham is a member of TMAC, representing state CTPs.
  - The CTP subcommittee facilitated the exchange of information through webinars focusing on First Order Approximations and the 3DEP program for LiDAR.

## Upcoming Activities

- Assist the ASFPM Science Services in updating ASFPMs "[Flood Mapping for the Nation](#)" report
- Facilitate the development of the National Flood Hazard Mapping program, and work with congressional leaders to encourage funding to be devoted to the program. Work with all stakeholders to ensure that CTP/state and local interests are represented in the program.
- Build on the ASFPM 2D Modeling white paper and develop a white paper on the use of unsteady/2D models to identify situations where unsteady/2D modeling is needed to analyze flood risk and identify solutions to facilitate the acceptance of unsteady/2D modeling data into FEMA studies.
- Evaluate the pros and cons of adoption of model-based automated Zone As for all remaining unstudied areas as a temporary measure to address the needs of floodplain management and development in the floodplain until funding is available for detailed modeling and mapping along these unstudied streams.
- Identify the alternatives to map residual risk areas as required by BW-12.

- Work with federal and state partners as the 3DEP program continues to evolve.
- Continue to participate in partnership meetings, such as operating partners and TMAC, to improve the National Flood Mapping Program.
- Work with FEMA and Congress to encourage the further development of the CTP program. Continue to offer information exchange webinars on issues related to CTPs.