

ASFPM Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee Status Report



Co-chairs: Leslie Durham and David Knipe
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Introduction & Policy Focus Areas

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 focuses on the Cooperating Technical Partner program. This subcommittee is co-chaired by Thuy Patton with the Colorado Water Conservation Board 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

- Provided comments to FEMA on fall 2016 and spring 2017 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 its 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 HIFFA.
- Worked to resolve technical and policy issues related to the NFMP through the FEMA Operating Partners. Dave Knipe represented M&ES and Steve Story represented the CTP sub-committee at two Operating Partner Meetings this year (October and March) and the topics included discussions on new guidelines and standards, budget discussions, Biggert-Waters & HIFFA implementation and operational issues such as PMR/LOMR issues, MIP redesign and Large Scale Automated Engineering.
- 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. This year TMAC produced the [2016 National Flood Mapping Program Review](#), which provides FEMA with a review of the National Flood Mapping

Program in regard to its ability to provide technically credible flood hazard information. When the program is implemented as designed, in areas where FIRMs are prepared or updated and includes recommendations to FEMA, where appropriate, to assist the agency to provide technically credible flood hazard data into the future. This report (and previous reports) are available on the FEMA TMAC webpage (<http://www.fema.gov/technical-mapping-advisory-council>) Leslie Durham is a member of TMAC, representing state CTPs.

- The CTP subcommittee facilitated the exchange of information through webinars focusing on state led hydrology reviews and vertical datum. Committee members participated in four CTP Community of Practice steering committee calls to assist the CTP program leaders in developing FEMA led information sessions and development of a five-year strategic plan for the CTP program.
- With Leslie's retirement from the state of Alabama, she is stepping down as co-chair. Steve Story from Montana will be replacing her.

Upcoming Activities

- Assist the ASFPM Flood Science Center in updating the *ASFPM Mapping of 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 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. Lead discussion on issues related to 2D and unsteady modeling, based on the advent of HEC-RAS 5.0 and initial FEMA guidance on utilizing these methods for Flood Insurance Studies.
- Evaluate the pros and cons of adoption Large Scale Automated Engineering modeling 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 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 further development of the CTP program. Continue to offer information exchange webinars on issues related to CTPs.