

POLICY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee

2015 - 2016

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1.0 Overview

Committee Mission

The mission of the Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee is to promote understanding and appreciation of the benefits provided by naturally functioning floodplains by the public, policy makers, and the Association membership. The committee champions the capacity of naturally functioning floodplains to provide multiple benefits to communities, including but not limited to flood damage reduction, water quality protection, habitat conservation, opportunities for recreation, and aesthetically pleasing landscapes. By raising awareness of and promoting the benefits provided by naturally functioning floodplains, the Committee builds support for their protection and restoration.

Committee Objectives

The committee will pursue this mission in order to reduce flood losses, improve public safety, protect ecosystem services that help to minimize flood risk, and promote/enhance the long-term sustainability of our communities and Nation.

Committee Strategy

The committee will pursue these objectives through leadership in the creation and support of educational tools, policies, and partnerships that advance and promote the protection of NBF as the primary option for flood risk reduction.

Committee co-chairs:

Kimberly Berginnis; WEM, Mitigation Program; Madison, WI

Rebecca Pfeiffer; VT DEC, Watershed Management; Essex Junction, VT

Liaisons:

Dave Carlton, dkcarlton & Associates, Seattle, Washington – CRS and USGS Climate Change Workgroup representative

Dave Fowler, Milwaukee MSD, Milwaukee, Wisconsin - NFFA & ASWM liaison

2.0 Task Outline

On-going work items:

1. Participate in ASFPM Policy Committee Conference Calls and Retreat
2. Attend Policy Committee Chair Meeting at the annual conference and hold an annual meeting
3. Support NAI education and outreach efforts.
4. Coordinate with (and promote ASFPM goals and objectives to) the Association of State Wetland Managers
5. Outreach to environmental organizations on behalf of the Association as volunteers are identified and as requested by the Board
6. Support *NFFA* efforts including a meeting at the annual conference
7. Promote a NBF track and Early Bird session at the upcoming national conference.
8. Represent ASFPM on the USGS Climate Change Workgroup
9. Support the Higher Education Committee and their pursuit of a Master's Degree program in floodplain management
10. Support the executive office on providing feedback and expertise to promote natural floodplain function considerations for the policies and procedures issued by FEMA or other entities, including Mitigation Policies
11. Collaborate with the Science Services program effort on integrating Ecosystem Services with floodplain planning
12. Support CBOR on NBF-related CFM Exam question development
13. Provide input on the "NAI How-to-Guides" including writing sections on the natural and beneficial function benefits of NAI or tools that achieve multiple objectives.
14. Be prepared to provide comments and support regarding the Pacific Northwest Biological Opinion
15. Act as a liaison for ASFPM with the Green Infrastructure Collaboration that has been organized by the EPA
16. Provide support to American Rivers use and development of the "successful NBF project" template

Work items for the 2014-2015 year:

1. Provide comments/feedback to the NAI Committee for the “How-to-Guides” focusing on *Mapping and Hazard Identification* and *Higher Regulatory Standards*
2. Provide comments and recommendations for the condensed version of ASFPM’s “National Flood Programs and Policies in Review”
3. Continue to complete the Riverine Erosion Hazard Discussion Paper for public use and explore the possibility for it to become a White Paper for adoption by the Board
4. Begin & develop the second in a short series of discussion papers with NBF-related content, following up on the Riverine Erosion Hazard discussion paper
5. Support and provide content and feedback to ASFPM Science Services as they update and evolve the ASFPM committee web pages. This can be a continuation of the previous website update that had been started in 2014/2015 which includes providing background to “What is NBF” and information about what we consider to be a successful NBF project. This can also include an update of the NBF Committee website to provide a timeline and supporting documentation regarding the implementation of the Puget Sound Biological Opinion
6. Explore the possibility to partner with the APA’s Water Task Force to help promote their key recommendations

Parking Lot of work items for the future:

1. Write white paper on economics of ecology (determining value for natural floodplain functions)
2. Development of several short discussion papers to address specific NBF-related considerations. A series of papers could include such topics as: how to prevent future loss of natural function, how to restore function once it has been lost, what do we mean by naturally systems and what does "restoration" mean? (American Rivers may be working on this), the economics of floodplains, etc.
3. Continue to provide support to the Association on the USEPA/USACE "Waters of the US" rule making process
4. Develop/update 5 year strategic plan for the committee

2.1 Ongoing Work Items

Task Name	Task Leader	Approx Hrs to complete	Detailed Task Description
Conference Calls & Committee Retreat	Berginnis/Pfeiffer	44 hours	A co-chair or the liaison should attend all conference calls and one co-chair should attend the conference retreat.
Annual Conference	Pfeiffer/Berginnis	26 hours	Prepare for the chairs meeting and the annual committee meeting. Promote an NBF Showcase Session and a possible Early Bird or lunch session. Prepare notes of annual meeting for distribution.
NAI Support	Berginnis/Pfeiffer	20 hours	Develop NAI Workshops and other outreach materials as well as supporting other NAI projects.
Coordinate with ASWM	Fowler	15 hours	Coordination with EO on which conferences to attend.
Outreach to Environmental Orgs	All	32 hours	Contact and meet with other non-profits interested in floodplains, rivers and coasts to develop partnerships. American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy and others are potential partners.
Support NFFA efforts	Fowler/Carlton/Pfeiffer	25 hours	Support NFFA efforts including their meeting at the annual conference.
Promote NBF Track or Early Bird at upcoming national conference	Berginnis/Pfeiffer	20 hours	Encourage and coordinate members to participate in and present on NBF-related subjects at the national conference.
USGS Climate Change Workgroup	Carlton	20 hours	Represent ASFPM on the Climate Change Workgroup for USGS.
Support the Higher Education Committee	Pfeiffer/Berginnis	10 hours	Support the Higher Education Committee in their pursuit of a Master's Degree program in floodplain management

Support Executive Office to promote and provide feedback about NBF considerations	Pfeiffer/Berginnis	15 hours	Provide feedback and expertise regarding natural floodplain benefits and functions for the policies and procedures issued by FEMA or other entities
Collaborate with the Science Services program	??	10 hours	Support and collaborate on SS's project on integrating Ecosystem Services in floodplain planning and on their CRS guide on Community Resilience & NBF
Support CBOR on changes to the CFM exam	Pfeiffer/Berginnis	10 hours	Support the Certification Board of Regents in the promotion of NBF focused content and the development of specializations within the CFM program,
NAI How-To Guide Support	All	15 hours	Provide Feedback/comments on in-process guides on NBF benefits or achieving multiple benefits from NBF approaches
Puget Sound or other Regional Biological Opinion implementation	Carlton/tbd	5 hours	Help to promote and provide comments on the Puget Sound (or other regional) BiOp when the opportunity arises
ASFPM Liaison for USEPA Green Infrastructure Collaborative	Berginnis	20 hours	Represent NBF Committee/Watershed Pod as a part of EPA's GIC. Provide feedback and collaboration
American Rivers support for NBF project template	Pfeiffer/Berginnis	10 hours	Provide ongoing feedback, Committee updates and example projects for American Rivers' use and evolution of the NBF project template

2.2 2015-16 Work Items

2.2.1

Task Title: Provide comments/feedback to the NAI Committee for the “How-to-Guides” focusing on Mapping & Hazard ID and Higher Regulatory Standards	Task Leader: Pfeiffer & Berginnis
Approximate Start/End Date: 6/1/2015 – 1/1/2016	Approximate # Hrs to Complete: 80
Detailed Task Description: Integrate committee knowledge and experience that explores the options for and benefits of ecosystem services mapping when done in conjunction with floodplain management planning & examples of higher regulatory standards that supports natural floodplain functions	
Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) Collaboration with NAI Committee to understand their project timeline and information needed.	
Completion Schedule: 1/1/2016	
Deliverables: Comments on NAI How-to-Guide drafts	
Other Necessary Support or Resources:	
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) Volunteer labor	
Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?) No	
Assumptions: None	
Prepared by/ Date: Pfeiffer 8/19/2015	Approved By/ Date:

2.2.2

<p>Task Title: Provide comments and recommendations for the condensed version of ASFPM’s “National Flood Programs & Policies in Review”</p>		<p>Task Leader: Berginnis & Pfeiffer</p>
<p>Approximate Start/End Date: 9/1/2015 – 8/31/2016</p>	<p>Approximate # Hrs to Complete: 15</p>	
<p>Detailed Task Description: Identify priority NBF-related recommendations contained in the NFPPR that can be included and called out in the condensed version of the NFPPR</p>		
<p>Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) Collaboration with the EO to determine the timeline and scope of the publication.</p>		
<p>Completion Schedule: tbd</p>		
<p>Deliverables: Comments on drafts</p>		
<p>Other Necessary Support or Resources: possible subcommittee membership needed to support effort.</p>		
<p>Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) Volunteer labor</p>		
<p>Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?) No</p>		
<p>Assumptions: None</p>		
<p>Prepared by/ Date: Pfeiffer 8/19/2015</p>		<p>Approved By/ Date:</p>

2.2.3

Task Title: Continue work on Riverine Erosion Hazard Discussion Paper		Task Leader: Pfeiffer
Approximate Start/End Date: 9/1/2015 – 1/1/2016	Approximate # Hrs to Complete: 80-100	
Detailed Task Description: Continue to support and organize the Riverine Erosion Hazard Task Force and discussion paper effort. Explore the potential to bring the discussion paper into a white paper for board adoption and approval		
Prerequisites Needed: None		
Completion Schedule: Public Draft released by 9/1/2015; Completion of public draft review by end of 2015; Explore White Paper options in early 2016		
Deliverables: Riverine Erosion Hazard Discussion Paper		
Other Necessary Support or Resources: none		
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) Volunteer Labor		
Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?) No, potential approval needed from Board if evolved into a White Paper process		
Assumptions: None		
Prepared by/ Date: Pfeiffer 8/19/2015		Approved By/ Date:

2.2.4

Task Title: Begin & develop the second in a short series of discussion papers with NBF-related content	Task Leader: Berginnis/Pfeiffer
Approximate Start/End Date: TBD – 6/1/2015	Approximate # Hrs to Complete: 80
Detailed Task Description: Identify a topic and begin to develop a second discussion paper within the NBF committee to discuss NBF related concerns or issues. This may be a chance to partner with other entities, such as the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), to produce this paper.	
Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of paper topic, • development of subcommittee for writing • Identify possible partner entities, such as the ISC 	
Completion Schedule: tbd	
Deliverables: Discussion Paper	
Other Necessary Support or Resources: None	
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) volunteer	
Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?) No; board approval would be needed if discussion paper is to become a white paper	
Assumptions: Subcommittee/task force interest to complete	
Prepared by/ Date: Pfeiffer 8/19/2015	Approved By/ Date:

2.2.5

Task Title: Support & provide content/feedback to ASFPM Science Services as the web site is updated		Task Leader: Berginnis
Approximate Start/End Date: TBD – 6/1/2016	Approximate # Hrs to Complete: 30	
Detailed Task Description: Update and provide content for the website update. Provide feedback on website flow & usability		
Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) None		
Completion Schedule: tbd		
Deliverables: Updated website content, including time line of Puget Sound Biological Opinion		
Other Necessary Support or Resources: None		
Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) volunteer		
Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?) No		
Assumptions: n/a		
Prepared by/ Date: Pfeiffer 8/19/2015		Approved By/ Date:

2.2.6

<p>Task Title: Explore the possibility to partner with the APA's Water Task Force to help promote their key recommendations</p>	<p>Task Leader: Pfeiffer/Berginnis</p>
<p>Approximate Start/End Date: 9/1/2015 – tbd</p>	<p>Approximate # Hrs to Complete: 15</p>
<p>Detailed Task Description: Provide input into and look for opportunities to partner with the American Planning Association (APA) to promote NBF principles. Possible areas of collaboration is on recommendations #5 & #6.</p>	
<p>Prerequisites Needed: (Activities That Need To Be Performed Before This Task Can Begin) EO to initiate the update process</p>	
<p>Completion Schedule: 2nd draft to EO on 9/14/2014; final document to be adopted by Board of Directors early 2015</p>	
<p>Deliverables: tbd</p>	
<p>Other Necessary Support or Resources: Committee review and comments to be solicited and integrated into NBF Committee Comments</p>	
<p>Approximate Direct Cost to Complete: (Labor and Non-Labor) volunteer</p>	
<p>Approval Process: (Does The Task Require Board Approval?) No</p>	
<p>Assumptions: None</p>	
<p>Prepared by/ Date: Pfeiffer 8/20/2015</p>	<p>Approved By/ Date:</p>