

POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN
Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee
2017 - 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Overview..... 1
2.0 Task Outline..... 2
 2.1 Ongoing Work Items..... 4
 2.2 2017-18 Work Items **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

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:

Rebecca Pfeiffer; VT DEC, Watershed Management; Essex Junction, VT
Eileen Shader; American Rivers; Camp Hill, PA

Liaisons:

Dave Carlton, dkcarlton & Associates, Seattle, Washington – CRS
Dave Fowler, Stantec - NFFA & ASWM liaison
John McShane – Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup, ASFPM representative

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. Promote a NBF track and Early Bird session at the upcoming national conference.
4. Support Watershed Pod education and outreach efforts, including White Paper development or How-To Guides, as needed.
5. Continue to provide support to the Association on the USEPA/USACE "Waters of the US" rule process
6. Continue to provide support to the Association regarding implementation of FEMA's NPEIS Preferred Alternative
7. Outreach to environmental organizations on behalf of the Association as volunteers are identified and as requested by the Board
8. 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
9. Collaborate with the Flood Science Center on integrating natural functions & ecosystem services considerations into their projects.
10. Continue to provide support to the Association regarding the Pacific Northwest or other regional Biological Opinions
11. Coordinate with (and promote ASFPM goals and objectives to) the Association of State Wetland Managers
12. Support NFFA efforts, including participation in a meeting at the annual conference
13. Represent ASFPM on the Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup
14. Support CBOR on NBF-related CFM Exam question development
15. Act as a liaison for ASFPM with the Green Infrastructure Collaboration that has been organized by the EPA

Work items for the 2017-2018 year:

1. In collaboration with the Arid Regions Committee, and the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee, implement the Riverine Erosion Hazard working group, as a follow-up forum to the 2016 Erosion Hazards White Paper.
 - a. A small group of interested members participated on the group's first call in March 2018. A follow-up call was held in April with intentions to have group participants get together at the annual conference for further discussion. Part of the focus of the group has been how to advance the recommendations from the 2016 Erosion Hazards White Paper. The idea of the group is to put together a follow-up report that would be able to detail changes since the 2016 report was published – successes and setbacks. The group has also explored what kind of group it may be in the long run (i.e. continue to be a NBF subcommittee, look to become some other board sanctioned entity, etc.) and to continue to explore other alternatives outside of the FEMA mitigation/mapping framework.
2. In collaboration with the Insurance and Regulations Committees, provide feedback or input for FEMA's updated guidance for agricultural structures

- a. This effort has been largely taken on by the Insurance and the Regulations Committee.
3. Working with ASWM & NFFA, help to host and participate in a Washington D.C. workshop to continue discussion around natural restoration project barriers & unintentional Federal disincentives to natural restoration projects.
 - a. Committee leaders worked with the NFFA and Wetlands Mapping Consortium to organize and host a workshop on “Exploring Opportunities for Integrated Mapping and Functional Assessment of Riverine and Coastal Floodplains and Wetlands” on April 10, 2018. The ASWM facilitated the planning committee and ASFPM Foundation provided critical financial support for the workshop. Participants expressed significant support for integration of wetland and floodplain mapping and functional assessment. Water resources are naturally integrated systems – by addressing them more holistically and identifying the capacity of their beneficial functions we can make better land use decisions. Mapping these functions can also provide useful visual aids in efforts to communicate about the natural and beneficial functions of natural floodplains and wetlands which can potentially lead to changes at the program and policy levels. Next steps include:
 - i. Developing a workgroup to continue exploring opportunities and challenges over the next year, develop webinars, and participate in conference calls.
 - ii. Planning for a second workshop in 2019 that will dig deeper into the technical challenges and opportunities. An area of particular interest will likely be exploring how to map floodplain functions to support protecting and restoring natural infrastructure and establishing green infrastructure. During the workshop an action plan will be developed for the third year.
 - iii. Planning for a third workshop in 2020 to identify program and policy changes that need to be made in order to implement an integrated approach
 4. In collaboration with the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee, continue to engage FEMA regarding natural restoration project barriers, such as LOMR/MT-2 requirements, etc.
 - a. This collaboration has been quiet this past year, as no new work was completed.
 5. In collaboration with the NFFA, ASWM & the ASFPM Foundation, explore the proposal of mapping natural floodplains
 - a. This effort has been rolled up into work Item #3 and will continue with the second and third workshop in 2019& 2020. This work will also continue with the work group’s efforts in this next year.

Parking Lot of work items for the future:

1. Write white paper on economics of ecology (determining value for natural floodplain functions)
2. Develop/update 5-year strategic plan for the committee

Ongoing Work Items

Task #	Task Name	Task Leader	Approx Hrs to complete	Detailed Task Description
1.	Conference Calls & Committee Retreat	Pfeiffer/Shader	50 hours	At least on co-chair will attend all conference calls or prepare email updates if no call held. At least one co-chair should attend the committee retreat. Co-chairs will prepare bi-monthly conference call agenda ~2 weeks prior to call to solicit member items
2.	Annual Conference	Pfeiffer/Shader	25 hours	Prepare for the Board/Committee meeting and the Policy meeting. Promote an NBF Early Bird or lunch session. Prepare notes of annual meeting for distribution.
3.	Promote NBF Track or Early Bird at upcoming national conference	Pfeiffer/Shader	20 hours	Encourage NBF -related subjects at the national conference. Co-chairs will arrange for conference Early Bird on current, relevant topics
4.	Watershed Pod support	Pfeiffer/Shader	15 hours	Provide support to Stormwater & NAI committee for cross-cutting efforts, including White Paper feedback, outreach efforts, NAI guides, etc.
5.	“WOUS” rule support	Fowler Pfeiffer/Shader	10 hours	Prepare comments on behalf of ASFPM regarding rule repeal effort. Coordinate as necessary with sister organizations, such as ASWM, American Rivers, etc.
6.	FEMA’s NPEIS	Pfeiffer/Shader	20 hours	Prepare comments on behalf of ASFPM regarding draft NPEIS, and continue to engage as preferred alternative is implemented.
7.	Outreach to Environmental Orgs	All	As needed, ~30 hours	Contact and meet with other non-profits interested in floodplains, rivers and coasts to develop partnerships. Potential partners include American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, Naturally Resilient Communities collaborative, etc. Outreach includes providing or soliciting feedback on various projects or publications, advertising participation opportunities to our committee members, etc.
8.	Support Executive Office to promote and provide feedback about NBF considerations	Pfeiffer/Shader/ Fowler	15 hours	Provide feedback and expertise regarding natural floodplain benefits and functions for the policies and procedures issued by FEMA or other

				entities in addition to those already called out
9.	Collaborate with the Flood Science Center	As needed	10 hours	Support and collaborate on FSC's projects as needed, including their Floodway Investigation paper, CRS Green Guide, etc.
10.	Support for Puget Sound or other Regional Biological Opinion implementation	Carlton/Shader/Pfeiffer	5 hours	Help to promote and provide comments on regional BiOps when the opportunity arises
11.	Coordinate with ASWM	Fowler	15 hours	Coordination with EO on which conferences to attend, coordination on cross-cutting issues, or other collaborations.
12.	Support NFFA efforts	Fowler/Pfeiffer/Shader	25 hours	Support NFFA efforts including the D.C. workshop on Federal program disincentives for natural restoration projects, participation in a meeting at the annual conference.
13.	Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup	John McShane	20 hours	Represent ASFPM on the Climate Change Workgroup. *2017-18 - Workgroup was given approval to continue work in Fall 2017.
14.	Support CBOR on changes to the CFM exam	TBD	As needed	Support the Certification Board of Regents in the promotion of NBF focused content and the development of specializations within the CFM program.
15.	ASFPM Liaison for USEPA Green Infrastructure Collaborative	TBD	As needed	Represent NBF Committee/Watershed Pod as a part of EPA's GIC. Provide feedback and collaboration as needed

2.1 2017-2018 Specific Work Items

Task #	Task Name	Task Leader	Collaborator	Approx Hrs to complete	Detailed Task Description
1.	Riverine Erosion Hazard Working Group	Pfeiffer	Arid Regions Committee, Mapping & Engineering Stds. Committee	10 hours	Organize & arrange call for formation of a working group. This group is intended to allow interested people to share ideas, get feedback & trouble shoot issues with colleagues from around the country.
2.	FEMA's Ag Structure feedback	Pfeiffer	Insurance Committee, Regulations Committee	5 hours	Provide input & help review any ASFPM comments on FEMA's anticipated Ag Structure guidance.
3.	Natural Floodplain Restoration Workshop	Fowler/ Shader/Pfeiffer	ASWM, NFFA, Mapping & Engineering Stds. Committee	20-25 hours	Help support & participate in D.C. workshop regarding barriers & Federal program disincentives to natural floodplain & wetland restoration
4.	Discussion with FEMA regarding LOMR expectations/exceptions for natural restoration projects	Shader	ASWM, Mapping & Engineering Stds. Committee	10 hours	Continue to advance discussion on exceptions to and/or fee waivers for LOMR mapping requirements
5.	Mapping Natural Floodplains project	Fowler/ Pfeiffer/Shader	ASWM, ASFPM Foundation, Mapping & Engineering Stds. Committee	Unknown	Collaborate with partners as this project, sponsored by the Foundation, looks to get off the ground. Uncertain on the scope of project.