

POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee

2018 - 2019

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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:

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 Velimesis- Stormwater and NAI Committees

2.0 Task Outline

On-going work items:

1. Participate in ASFPM Policy Committee Conference Calls and Retreat.
2. Provide input and suggestions for the Board of Director's annual Goals & Objectives.
3. Attend Policy Committee Chair Meeting at the annual conference and hold an annual meeting
4. Promote a NBF track at the upcoming national conference. Transition our traditional Early Bird Session into a Monday policy discussion meeting.
5. Support Watershed Pod education and outreach efforts, including White Paper development or How-To Guides, as needed.
6. Continue to provide support to the Association, and update Committee members on natural and beneficial floodplain related policy issues including:
 - a. USEPA/USACE "Waters of the US" rule process
 - b. Endangered Species Act implementation
 - c. policies and procedures issued by FEMA or other entities, including Mitigation Policies
 - d. Federal Floodplain Management Standard requirement to consider Nature-Based Approaches
 - e. Water Resources Development Act
7. Provide outreach to, and represent ASFPM, to:
 - a. environmental organizations as volunteers are identified and as requested by the Board
 - b. the Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup
 - c. the Green Infrastructure Collaboration that has been organized by the EPA
 - d. the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance
 - e. the Association of State Wetland Managers
8. Collaborate with the Flood Science Center on integrating natural functions & ecosystem services considerations into their projects and promoting FSC deliverables that focus on NBF topics or content.
9. Coordinate with (and promote ASFPM goals and objectives to) the Association of State Wetland Managers
10. Support NFFA efforts, including participation in a meeting at the annual conference
11. Support CBOR on NBF-related CFM Exam question development

Work items for the 2017-2018 year:

1. Plan and deliver a Natural and Beneficial Functions Workshop for ASFPM 2019 Annual Conference
2. Develop fact sheet on the spectrum of natural infrastructure, green infrastructure and nature-based approaches and define common terms used
3. With members of the NBF Committee, Arid Regions Committee, and the Technical Pod, lead the Riverine Erosion Hazard sub-committee/work group and develop Community How-To Guide for riverine erosion hazards programs.
4. Working with ASWM, NFFA, and ASFPM Foundation organize, host and participate in the second workshop to integrate natural floodplain functions mapping.

Parking Lot of work items for the future:

1. Write paper/guidance on planting trees on floodplains
2. Write white paper on economics of ecology (determining value for natural floodplain functions)
3. Develop/update 5-year strategic plan for the committee
4. Develop white paper on property acquisitions (how to make them easier and faster and/or how to restore natural and beneficial functions on deed restricted lands)
5. Develop policy proposals to improve FEMA's ability to restore floodplains using FEMA funding.
6. Restart discussions with FEMA regarding LOMR & mapping expectations for natural restoration projects
7. With the Riverine Erosion Hazard sub-committee/work group, develop an update to the 2016 REH White Paper by providing information in changes to state, county and local programs, and changes to Federal or other policies.

2.1 Ongoing Work Items

Task #	Task Name	Task Leader	Appx Hrs to complete	Detailed Task Description
1.	Conference Calls & Committee Retreat	Pfeiffer/Shader	50 hours	At least one 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 Goals & Objectives input	Pfeiffer/Shader	~5 hours	Review the Board's current Goals & Objectives. Provide input and feedback that integrates and promotes natural floodplain functions.
3.	Annual Conference	Pfeiffer/Shader	25 hours	Prepare for the Board/Committee meeting and the Policy meeting. Prepare notes of annual meeting for distribution.
4.	Promote NBF Track at upcoming national conference	Pfeiffer/Shader	20 hours	Encourage NBF -related subjects at the national conference. Co-chairs will transition from Early Bird sessions to using the Monday Policy Discussion to cover current & relevant topics
5.	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.
6.	Natural & Beneficial Policy issue support	Fowler Shader/Pfeiffer	10 hours	Prepare comments and provide feedback to the EO on a variety of NBF policy issues, including WOUS, ESA, FFRMS, various mitigation policies, and WRDA. Coordinate as necessary with sister organizations, such as ASWM, American Rivers, etc.
7.	Represent ASFPM & provide outreach to various audiences regarding natural floodplain functions	Fowler/Pfeiffer/Shader	20 hours	Target outreach groups include environmental organizations, Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA), the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM), the EPA Green Infrastructure collaboration, among others
8.	Collaboration with Flood Science Center	All	As needed, ~10 hours	Work collaboratively with the staff of the Flood Science Center to help provide content or feedback on current projects that include a natural functions consideration. This work includes

				promoting draft or completed projects to the committee or provide support during the rollout of new efforts.
9.	Coordinate with ASWM	Fowler/Shader	15 hours	Coordination with EO on which conferences to attend, coordination on cross-cutting issues, or other collaborations.
10.	Support NFFA efforts	Fowler/ Pfeiffer/Shader	25 hours	Support NFFA efforts including the participation & planning support for the second of three D.C. workshops on the mapping of natural floodplains. Also includes participation in a meeting at the annual conference.
11.	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.

2.2 2018-2019 Specific Work Items

Task #	Task Name	Task Leader	Collaborator	Approx Hrs to complete	Detailed Task Description
1.	Develop and Deliver a Natural & Beneficial Functions Workshop at ASFPM 2019 annual conference	Fowler/Shader/Pfeiffer	NAI & Stormwater Committees, Possibly Flood Science Center	40 hours	Identify workshop objective. Develop or find existing content for a ½ day workshop. Collaborate with the entire Watershed Pod to develop and deliver workshop.
2.	Develop fact sheet on the spectrum of NBF approaches	Shader	EPA, USACE Silver Jackets	20 hours	Coming from the feedback of the Committee's 2017 Early Bird, this fact sheet would help to define common terms, as well as promote the range of approaches used in restoration work (natural infrastructure, green infrastructure, and nature-based approaches).
3.	Riverine Erosion Hazard Working Group	Pfeiffer	Arid Regions Committee, Mapping & Engineering Stds. Committee	30 hours	Organize & arrange calls for the sub-committee. Current work is on developing a How-To guide for municipalities interested in starting up their own REH program. Help to develop guide and promote after completion.
4.	Mapping Natural Floodplains project	Fowler/Pfeiffer/Shader	ASWM, ASFPM Foundation, Mapping & Engineering Stds. Committee	40 hours	Collaborate with partners as the second of three workshops is planned for this Foundation-sponsored project. Provide input and feedback on developing technical mapping needs and standards.