

Memo:

To: To the ASFPM informal Climate Change Taskforce members.
From: Bob Freitag
Date: February 25, 2021
Subject: Notes of the February 19th Zoom meeting

Here are notes transcribed from our February 19th Zoom meeting.

Our next meeting will be at 9am PST, March 19th 2021. To join the meeting, [click here](#).

Those attending the February meeting include: ([Recording of the February 19nd Meeting](#))

First	Last	Email
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Shanna	Udvardy	sudvardy@ucsusa.org

This was the first Climate Taskforce.

The next meeting of the Taskforce will be from 9:00a to 1000a, PST March 19th. Here we will continue our discussion as to our role with the larger ASFPM context, but I assure you that every attempt will be made to have subsequent meetings address the substance of our changing climate, its effect to our nation's floodplains, ASFPMs' role in reducing adverse associated impacts.

Discussion:

This meeting was to determine an approach and offer a direction for the Taskforce (TF) leading to a work plan.

We concluded that our purpose, as a group, should be organized so as to assure that climate change is thread weaving itself through the work plans of other committees. We do not see the taskforce as a body designed to address basic climate related question by the larger membership.

Considerable time was discussing how this could be accomplished. Here the key suggestions / concerns.

1. The Biden Administration is offering a host of initiatives, Executive Orders and policy. The Taskforce could react to assess their role within the ASFPM committee structure. Taskforce (TF) meetings could be driven by these. Each TF meeting having a unique policy related topic building off the momentum introduced by the Administration.
2. Climate change is a big topic. We could survey ASFPM committees and determine the topics of importance, sort and priorities them, and in turn devote their discussion at monthly taskforce meeting. Topics would be driven from the results of a survey. The survey, when approved should be given to Co-chairs through the Board Vice President and promoted during a co-chairs conference call.
3. Basic climate education maybe a driver. Climate change science may not be understood by the membership and the TF could hold Webinars to address basic climate science and according how our understanding of floodplain management is changing. After a lengthy debate it was suggest that basic education may be better address in a webinar series, under the direction of the TF but not within the context of TF monthly meetings.

To address these differences in emphasis we agreed as a taskforce to assign supporters of each of these areas to present a strategy at the next TF meeting. Here are those who volunteered by area of interest. Let me know if you have not been assigned an area but are interested in helping.

1. Webinar series possible topics: (e.g. Climate mitigation / Hazards Mitigation, Climate change as captured energy, sea level rise, impact on future conditions mapping, polar vortex...)
 - a. Darryl
 - b. Yanan
 - c. Burrel
 - d. Bob
2. Policies as driven by the Administration
 - a. Shanna, (Shanna will reach out to other interested TF members.)
3. Survey – Develop tool to go to co – chairs (See Appendix)
 - a. Nicki
 - b. Jeanne
 - c. Bob

Appendix:

Draft Survey

- A. Issues of concern including but not limited to that currently within you work plans. (Please rank your top 3)

(NOTE: Climate Change parlance uses words that mean different things to floodplain managers. Climate “Mitigation” refers to carbon reduction/sequestering, not altering or re-directing the built environment to reduce hazards vulnerability as the phrase Hazards “Mitigation” is used in floodplain management. The reduction of vulnerability to climate impacts is often referred to as “adaptation”.)

Hazards mitigation/adaptation approaches:

1. Retreat management *(e.g. restricting investment in new development; facilitating staged/managed relocation, acquisition of properties)*
2. Protection and fortification *(e.g. historic district, infrastructure... protection where facilities cannot be relocated)*
3. Accommodation/adaptation. Example would include elevation, floodproofing, infrastructure adaptation, river corridor management, restoration of damaged natural systems that directly impact / support the built environment, preservation of ecosystem services and natural functions. *(e.g. watershed cover, marshes/wetlands, sediment transport, barrier islands)*

Mapping:

4. Future conditions/scenarios *(e.g. hydrograph changes; urban development of open land areas within watersheds)*
5. Mapping of erosion, shoreline retreat, and channel migration

Insurance:

6. Individualized risk-based rating *(e.g. taking into account future conditions, incentivizing hazards mitigation approaches.)*
7. Community-wide insurance *(e.g. community based risk sharing)*

Climate Mitigation – Direct and indirect carbon sequestering / generation:

8. Carbon sequestering. *(e.g. promoting blue carbon, Green Infrastructure; protection/restoration of sensitive or damaged forest/wetlands)*
9. Reducing carbon production. *(e.g. Promotion of micro-grids, [decarbonize buildings and materials](#), promote lower carbon solutions with the context of disaster recovery)*

Additional concerns:

10. Climate change impacts in regards to community justice and fairness – Equity, gentrification, knowledge of risk *(e.g. assessing impact to vulnerable populations)*
11. Tools that can be used by Floodplain Managers (?):
 - a. Financial tools *(e.g. Carbon offsets, incentivizing bond ratings and other current financing mechanisms for resilient communities, tax increment financing)*
 - b. Regulatory tools *(e.g. Enhanced zoning, subdivision, building and stormwater management regulations)*

- c. Planning and zoning (e.g. Land Use Planning and Capital Improvements programming, Transfer/ Purchase of Development Rights, directing new development to low hazard areas)
- d. Ecosystem services (e.g. Incorporating Ecosystem services into Benefit / Cost analyses, promotion of nature-based solutions, and natural functions.
- e. Public-private partnerships for resilient communities

B. What climate change element is not covered in the above list? Or what may need clarification?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

C. What Issues is your Committee concerned with that would benefit from being discussed within the context of an inter-committee Taskforce on climate change?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

D. What climate related concerns currently with in you work plan could benefit from the involvement of a climate taskforce.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Climate issues of concern suggested by the Climate Working group.

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