



ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

Committee Co-chairs Bruce Bender, CFM & Steve Samuelson, CFM

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Introduction and Overview

The ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee supports the ASFPM's floodplain management efforts through information, education and outreach activities on flood insurance issues. The committee provides input on flood insurance legislation and flood insurance rules and guidelines propagated by FEMA. The committee also helps keep the ASFPM membership informed of upcoming changes to the National Flood Insurance Program and the potential impact of these changes.

In support of the ASFPM goals and objectives for 2018/19, the committee developed five broad focus areas. These areas are:

- 1) Continue to monitor modifications and improvements to the insurance aspects of the NFIP, both from FEMA (including the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate) and Congress as well as implementation and their effects on the insurance program
- 2) Continue liaison activities with the Flood Insurance Producers National Committee (FIPNC), Institute of Business and Home Safety (IBHS) and National Flood Association (NFA)
- 3) Work with FEMA on issues affecting flood insurance including insurance aspects of the Community Rating System (CRS), Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC), Elevation Certificate, insurance training and other related topics
- 4) Provide flood insurance-related information and assistance to members
- 5) Inform members of the removal of Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) boundaries and potential impacts, issues and concerns
- 6) Work with FEMA on requirements for insurance rating and regulations for agriculture structures.

2018/2019 Committee Co-chair Activities

1) Monitor Ongoing Changes in the NFIP and effects on insurance program

During the past year, the committee continued to monitor numerous reauthorization/reform bills and other legislative activities on the Hill, reviewed WYO Bulletins and other notices released from FEMA and reviewed news articles on flood insurance, including private flood insurance. Numerous articles were written for the ASFPM's Insider to help keep members updated.

The co-chairs also monitored the Federal Register for notices that could affect the NFIP as well as the changes in the Elevation Certificate.

In November 2017, the Flood Insurance Committee helped organize a working group composed of members from different committees to provide FEMA with suggested updates to the Elevation Certificate, which was to expire Nov. 30, 2018. This working group then was part of a small stakeholder group created by FEMA to get industry input about potential changes. FEMA submitted these in May

2018 to OMB. FEMA is still waiting for the current EC to be approved for three more years before the suggested changes can be then submitted for approval.

2) Continue Liaison Activities with Other Flood Insurance Interest Groups

The committee continued to liaise with other groups including:

- Participated in the ASFPM policy committee conference calls and the retreat, which was held in Madison, Wisconsin in September 2018
- Held two Flood Insurance Committee Calls with members
- Attended three IBHS Flood Committee meetings
- Attended three FIPNC meetings
- Attended the National Flood Conference and annual ASFPM conference
- Attended the National Flood Association (NFA) Conference

3) Work with FEMA on Issues Affecting Flood Insurance

Besides the updating of the Elevation Certificate, three other issues this past year were around agriculture structures in the floodplain, the removal of the CBRS boundaries and private flood insurance. The committee once again sponsored an Early Bird session at the 2018 ASFPM National Conference to provide an opportunity for FEMA to continue an open dialog about the issues related to floodplain managing and insuring ag structures in the floodplain. FEMA released proposed policy and the committee helped gather feedback which was jointly provided to FEMA. A revised policy has not been released nor guidance.

4) Provide Flood Insurance-related Information and Assistance to Members

The committee spent considerable time this year helping keep the members aware of changes and happenings in the flood insurance world that may affect them. These included:

- Conducting two committee conference calls
- Presenting an update at the annual ASFPM conference
- Sharing updates on changes to the federal flood insurance program via member news alerts
- Providing news articles for the bi-monthly Insurance Committee Corner in the Insider and responding to people who commented via the email in that column
- Responding to email questions and correspondences on a number of insurance-related topics including private flood, EC, and changes to the flood insurance program
- Updating the committee website with current fact sheets and information
- Reviewing related documents from the Executive Office and providing direction and input regarding the implementation and impact of the past legislation as well as commenting on upcoming reauthorization legislation

Private flood insurance is becoming a more visible topic discussed amongst members. Members are hearing about and coming across private policies more and more. Issues being raised and discussed include:

- a. The implementation of the 30-day waiting period if a property owner returns back to the NFIP and does not have a loan, and
- b. The guidance for accepting private flood policies recently released by the lending regulators which could be viewed as allowing them to accept any type of coverage as long as they feel it covers their financial exposure

5) NFIP Transformation – Risk Rating 2.0 and PIVOT/PART

The Flood Insurance Committee has been following this development and release of this new flood insurance rating program which FEMA is creating, Risk Rating 2.0. An updated timetable was announced at the NFA in March 2019. As more information becomes available, it will be shared with the members.

As part of the NFIP transformation, FEMA is moving to a new rating system (Pivot) and reporting system (PART). The committee formed a work group comprised of NFIP state coordinators and emergency managers and provide FEMA with feedback on what NFIP data they use and how. The committee will work with FEMA to continue this dialog so the new system meets the needs of ASFPM members that use it.

Future Actions

The committee co-chairs will use feedback from the annual committee meeting in Cleveland to help formulate the work plan for 2019/2020. Work items from the 2018/2019 work plan that need additional work will be incorporated into the next year's plan. In addition, there will be continued focus on working with FEMA with their transformation effort as well as agriculture structures should additional policy and guidance documents are released.

2018-2019 Committee Co-Chairs

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