Cooperating Technical Partners – ASFPM CTP subcommittee Monthly Call –September 9, 2020

Attendees: Alan Lulloff, Brooke Seymour and Darryl Rockfield

Webinars:

Alan reiterated that the next webinar will be on the Pierce County WA Deep and/or Fast Flowing Floodways they have implemented. The webinar will highlight the Pierce County DFF product of 3.0 which is intended to protect children in conjunction with public safety. Dennis Dixon has agreed to present. The webinar will likely be the end of October.

The draft guidelines mention the DxV product concept and include a statement that in areas where there would only be vehicles a DxV product of 9 or 10 would be appropriate. ASFPM expressed concern regarding suggestions of using a DxV product that would be hazardous to children.

Regarding potential topics for upcoming webinars, Brooke suggested we review the poll question answers submitted during one of our past webinars. We also discussed the potential of adding a poll question again during our next webinar.

Best Practices

Considering using the Pierce County Deep and Fast Flowing concept to enhance the floodway mapping in the county for a best practice write-up. They have been using it since the late 1980s and it has been useful in preventing development in at risk areas. Once example is a mobile home park that was flooded and was not in the FEMA mapped floodway. It was however, in the Pierce County DFF area so the permit to place mobile homes in the area was denied. Looking for ideas on the next best practice. The land owner took the issue to the State of Washington supreme court and the county prevailed.

Comments on FEMA Draft Guidelines and Standards

Brooke indicated that the Mile High Flood District had submitted comments directly to FEMA, separate from the ASFPM comments. They were more focused on the technical details vs the more high-level comments submitted by ASFPM. Brooke indicated that a primary concern was the lack of detailed guidance. Brooke indicated the district made the offer to work with FEMA as they were updating the guidance based on comments received, with the goal of achieving clear and detailed guidance by November.

We discussed the fact that it would be useful for the 2D floodway guidance to be a separate document. A benefit would be that the 2D floodway guidance could then be kept as draft until the next review cycle so that case studies could be developed and the processes tested prior to the guidance going final.

One of the issues is to provide an opportunity for vetting the concepts with communities. Brooke indicated that she is working on a subgroup of the CO 2D modeling consortium (C2DC) on how to address local government floodplain management in conjunction with 2D modeling.

Missouri flood mapping

MO switched over to 2D mapping in 2017. Presently have 34-39 counties in the works that will go out as preliminary next year. There is 400-600 miles of flood hazard mapping in each of the counties. They are including Freeboard grids associated with 1, 2 and 3 feet of freeboard above the 1% annual chance

event. USGS will hopefully be using their 2D models updated with HEC-RAS 6.0 to create inundation mapping for the counties. They are incorporating hydraulic structures by simulating bridges with culverts in detailed study areas. In approximate areas they are creating a trapezoidal opening and adjusting the manning's coefficient at the crossing to match the flow associated with the Level of Service of the road so that the event that it was built to go under the structure without overtopping, occurs in the model. The Level of Service for county roads is usually a 25 year flood event while a state road is usually a 50 year flood event.

Some counties have building footprints (15 – 20 counties). In addition, the University of Missouri-Columbia has a project where they are creating a geospatial point file for every structure in the state. It goes beyond residential structures (hay bales and ancillary structures) so some review of the data is necessary. The MO flood mapping program is attempting to use some of these data for flood risk assessments by buffering points that represent residential and commercial structures.

State Conferences

Missouri has canceled their conference for this year. Colorado is going with a virtual conference at the end of the month. They are modeling it after the ASFPM conference wherein the presentations are prerecorded. Brooke indicated that the ASFPM conference was more effective than many others she has participated in during the pandemic.

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