

Cooperating Technical Partners – ASFPM CTP subcommittee Monthly Call – October 14, 2020

Attendees: Alan Lulloff, Brooke Seymour, Darryl Rockfield, Dave Knipe, and Laura Algeo

FEMA Standards and Guidance Updates

ASFPM provided comments on FEMA's proposed updates to their Standards and Guidance. One of the comments ASFPM provided was on the graphics used to show the surcharge associated with floodways. FEMA is reluctant to include a graphic developed by the USACE that better represents the fact that the surcharge goes outside the floodway – into the fringe and beyond the SFHA. Laura weighed in and indicated that since the focus is on engineering modeling FEMA wanted to show a graphic that represents how the engineering models are developed.

The major issue associated with the new Standards & Guidance is the inclusion of evaluation lines and the surcharge averaging concept associated with floodways in conjunction with 2D modeling. ASFPM has recommended that this portion of the Standards and Guidance be put on hold. Brooke indicated that 2D modeling is a significant improvement over 1D mapping. She indicated that Mile High Flood District provided some comments indicating that more detail is needed on the use of evaluation lines.

Alan indicated that in looking at the site where the standards and guidance is posted it is difficult to determine what comments have been incorporated. Alan found a document with comments included but it was unclear whether the ASFPM comments have been incorporated. Laura indicated she would have Isaac provide a clean copy.

The slides from the IPT call and results presented have not yet been provided to the IPT. Laura indicated that she would get them out to the group.

Webinars:

The webinar on using D/V products to map additional areas as floodways or use to delineate floodways is scheduled for October 28th. Dennis Dixon with Pierce County, WA and Ataul Hannan with Harris County FCD are presenting. Alan will be providing an introduction on the history of floodways and the impacts. Both entities are using a D/V product in the range of 3.0 – which is adequate to protect small children and people with limited mobility.

Alan indicated that it would be made clear that high-risk areas defined by Depth x Velocity products do not meet the intent of the cumulative impact assessment required by FEMA floodway analysis.

Best Practices

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.

These depth grids are useful for showing the area impacted by a floodway surcharge of one foot. They are also useful in considering future conditions and the uncertainty associated the analysis. This would be a good best practice writeup.

Missouri flood mapping

MO has done some comparisons between 1D and 2D floodways. Darryl indicated that the comparisons have not been tabulated but indicated they would be willing to do so. There was some discussion grid cell size and Darryl indicated he would check in to it.

Operating Partners meeting

This meeting is scheduled for November 6th. Dave Knipe indicated that if someone has suggested agenda items to provide them to him.

AL 10/14/20