

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

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

FEMA proposed updates to their Standards and Guidance related to 2D floodways.

ASFPM had a phone call with Mike Grimm and some FEMA staff on October 28, 2020. ASFPM suggested that the surcharge averaging in conjunction with 2D modeling be kept as draft to garner more input. FEMA indicated that the guidance is open to revision so they plan to implement the guidance for 2D floodways with the Nov 2020 rollout. There was some discussion about how there should be more of a focus on higher standards floodways. FEMA agreed to include increased emphasis on higher standards floodways with less than a foot of surcharge.

Laura indicated that the pilot projects should be provided to FEMA in mid-January. The preliminary results show that the difference between all cells vs. evaluation lines is small in many areas. The biggest variation is in split flow areas.

The case studies cover a number of issues. They plan to schedule a call with the 2D Floodway IPT (Integrated Planning Team) in January or February to provide them with the results.

Laura indicated that FEMA has a signed agreement with HEC to develop tools for mapping floodways using 2D modeling. HEC is presently working on providing additional functionality with HEC-RAS 6.0. HEC-RAS v 6 should be out by Christmas. Developing the 2D floodway tools that FEMA is funding will take about a year. There are ways to manually use evaluation lines to develop floodways but HEC will automate the process.

The November 2020 guidance is with external affairs for their final approval for posting.

Best Practices

The draft MO best practice write-up has been provided to Nicolle Maccherone to get the write-up into the proper format. The write-up is related to that freeboard mappnd MO is developing to promote community adoption of freeboard standards in the state.

The mapping developed show how far beyond the SFHA the inundation for 1, 2 and 3 foot above the BFE will extend. The intent is to give communities information to show the extents of each so they can recognize the risk and potentially adopt higher standards associated with freeboard.

When they begin mapping the boot heel the areas is wicked flat so streams are not as contained by bluffs and the freeboard extents will be much more extensive. These depth grids can also be used to show communities the extent of the surcharge associated with one-foot surcharge floodways.

MHFD is drafting a Best Practice write-up on how MHFD works with the National Weather Service to get alerts out to communities.

Missouri flood mapping

MO has done some comparisons between 1D and 2D floodways. Wood is in the process of developing a spreadsheet wherein the comparisons are documented.

Webinars:

Alan has contacted Lori Cary-Kothera with NOAA has indicated that she could get one of her colleagues to present on the Datum of 2022. We are looking at holding the webinar in late January or February.

Regarding upcoming webinars, we discussed in the issue of large dataset storage. Lidar datasets can be extremely large. The lidar datasets associated with FISs are not always consistent with the USGS site for lidar data. Lidar data for FISs include breaklines associated with roads in addition to the bare earth point cloud. Topographic data is available on the FEMA sharepoint via the FRSEL system. One of the issues is how to break up the large datasets and put them back together. One of the projects that HEC is working one is archiving data used in HEC-RAS modeling.

We also discussed the option of having a webinar on RAM access agreements. Laura indicated they are developing a user guide cheat sheet on Risk Analysis Management (RAM) Systems Access Requests (SAR). We determined that with a user guide – a webinar may not be needed.

CTP Mentoring

FEMA is working with ASFPM to use the ASFPM Basecamp for CTP mentoring. It is intended to be a resource to connect CTPs. It will include discussion boards and a means to share documents. Laura indicated that it will be mobile friendly and will include notification capabilities for when new information is posted on the site.

Zoom

Using Google Meet was problematic for some so we determined we will try to use Zoom for our next call. Alan indicated he would check to learn how ASFPM's Zoom license could be used. There could be scheduling issues. Laura indicated that we could use FEMA's license but that would only work when she can make the call.

AL 12/23/20