NO Adverse Impact (NAI) Committee Annual Status Report

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Introduction

The No Adverse Impact (NAI) Committee’s mission is to coordinate the development and integration of a foundational concept for floodplain management. The NAI approach to floodplain management is a strategy to shape development in such a way that mitigates adverse impacts. The No Adverse Impact Toolkit defines seven areas where the NAI approach can be incorporated, including hazard identification, education and outreach, planning, regulations and standards, mitigation actions, infrastructure and emergency services. By incorporating NAI principles into these existing activities, flood risk can be drastically reduced. Activities undertaken to implement the committee mission include an expanding array of education and implementation tools for decision makers and the development community at large.

Key Accomplishments

The Committee worked to advance implementation of NAI principles, with the following significant accomplishments during 2021-2022:

- **NAI How-to Guide – Legal Issues**
  The NAI Committee is coordinating with the Flood Science Center on the development and completion of the last How to Guide – Legal Issues (after securing funding from the ASFPM Board in 2020). Jeff Stone is the FSC lead; principal writers, Jerry Murphy and Thomas Ruppert, are under contract. Significant progress has been made and the team anticipates completion in the 2022 calendar year. The final products will be a web-based resource for both floodplain managers and lawyers.

- **NAI Lunch and Learn Series**
  The NAI Committee continues to offer bi-monthly Lunch and Learn Webinars. This task is conducted in conjunction with the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) and Michael Baker International with Sean Roche serving as the facilitator. This year saw the 50th webinar in this successful webinar series.

- **Support for national policies based on NAI principles – written comments**
  The NAI Committee developed suggestions for incorporating NAI floodplain stewardship principles into the National Flood Insurance Program in response to a Request for Information issued by FEMA (Docket ID FEMA-2021-0024). NAI comments were posted to the Federal Register and provided to the ASFPM policy team.
• **Support for national policies based on NAI principles – virtual presentation**
  In conjunction with the Natural & Beneficial Functions Committee, the NAI Committee presented an NAI Lunch and Learn session entitled “Recommendations for Including No Adverse Impact (NAI) and Natural & Beneficial Functions (NBF) Into NFIP Management Standards on December 15, 2021.

• **Texas Citizen Planner**
  The NAI Co-Chairs and ASFPM Flood Science Center staff served on the Advisory Council for the Texas Citizen Planner. With support from the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (the same folks who gave us CHARM) is continuing the Texas Citizen Planner program, including two new online specialty courses: “ASFPM’s No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management” and “Community Planning for Flood Mitigation and Resiliency.” The NAI Co-Chairs, along with other NAI SMEs, helped shape the NAI curriculum, its delivery, served as instructors, and suggested ways to recruit attendees.

• **Coordination with other ASFPM committees and task forces**
  The NAI Committee continues to coordinate and partner with other ASFPM committees and task forces. This includes participation in the ASFPM Climate Change Task Force, the ASFPM Social Justice Task Force, Watershed Pod calls, meetings of other Watershed Pod committees, and ASFPM Committee Co-chair meetings.

**Priorities**

The NAI Committee will continue to provide outreach, training, and resources to promote implementation of No Adverse Impact floodplain stewardship principles. This will include:

• Complete the **NAI Legal Issues Guide** and then promote use of this resource.
• Continue to offer bi-monthly **NAI Lunch and Learn** virtual presentations.
• Work with the Coastal Committee on developing **coastal NAI resources**, either by updating the Coastal NAI Handbook or developing a Coastal NAI How-to Guide and a Coastal NAI Legal Issues Guide in the same format as the current NAI How-to Guides. Initial tasks involve evaluating the need, developing a strategy, preparing a scope of work, and working with the Coastal Committee to secure funding from the ASFPM Board of Directors.
• **Work collaboratively with Flood Science Center (FSC) staff to provide content, feedback, or assistance on current and proposed projects to enhance integration of NAI, including but not limited to NAI How-to Guides, NAI website, and NAI/CHARM joint project.**
• Support **NAI training and outreach** by developing and presenting workshops on multiple NAI topics for various audiences. Work with ASFPM staff to prepare “Procedures and Guidelines for NAI Presentations.”
• Write **NAI newsletter articles** for publication in ASFPM (News and Views and the Insider) and Chapter newsletters (“NAI Idea of the Month”).
• Develop **handouts and papers on various NAI topics.**
• Continue to support **NAI approaches in national programs and policies.**
• Continue to support and collaborate with other committees, task forces and organizations, including the Climate Change Task Force, Social Justice Task Force, Watershed Pod committees, Coastal Committee, Professional Development Committee, National Floodplain Functions Alliance, and others.

**Recommended Actions**

The NAI Committee Co-chairs will use the next annual committee meeting as a basis to formulate the work plan for 2022/2023. Volunteers will be identified to work on work plan tasks, including the priorities identified above, items from prior work plans, and new initiatives.

The committee will resume periodic NAI Committee calls.

The annual committee meeting and committee calls will provide opportunities to engage with committee members, assess member priorities, identify discussion topics for committee calls, review content of the NAI website, etc.