2022



Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee Annual Status Report

MARIA COX LAMM AND BROOKE SEYMOUR
CO-CHAIRS

Introduction

The primary mission of the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee is to provide policy guidance and support for floodplain mapping and engineering issues to foster reduction of future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding. Historically, this committee has had major impacts on FEMA's Flood Mapping Program, requirements for map modernization, Risk MAP and the National Flood Mapping Program and addressing technical issues related to flood hazards such as levees and dams.

A subcommittee of Mapping and Engineering Standards focuses on the Cooperating Technical Partner program. This subcommittee is co-chaired by Darryl Rockfield with the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency and Dave Guignet with the Maryland Department of the Environment. The goal is to help identify mechanisms to measure successes and share best practices among mapping partners.

Key Accomplishments

As we all know this has been a challenging year. The Mapping and Engineering Standards committee has continued to work hard and has accomplished the following:

- Provided comments to FEMA on fall 2021 Guidelines and Standards Update. FEMA maintains standards and guidance on a semi-annual basis to support the National Flood Mapping Program. These updates generally occur in May and November with updates provided in January and July for review and comment. When the notices are received from FEMA, the M&ES Committee distributes the notice and solicits comments from its membership. These comments are consolidated and shared with FEMA.
- Worked to resolve technical and policy issues related to the NFMP through the FEMA Operating Partners.
- Participated in the Technical Mapping Advisory Council and provided input to FEMA regarding National Flood Mapping Program metrics, implementation, policies and products, including future conditions and the impacts of climate change.
- The CTP subcommittee facilitated the exchange of information through the following webinars:
    - Applied Approaches to Non-Levee Features – March 16, 2022
    - Using the QR3 Checklist – November 30, 2021
    - Flood Damage Data Identifies Risk Issues with Highways and Sound Barriers – September 2, 2021
    - New Datums for the Nation – February 24, 2021

  These webinars can be accessed through the CTP Information Exchange.

Priorities

- Continue to participate in partnership meetings, such as Operating Partners and TMAC, to improve the National Flood Mapping Program.
- Work with FEMA and Congress to encourage further development of the CTP program.
- Continue to offer information exchange webinars on issues related to CTPs.
- Work to further the guidance and standards regarding 2D Floodways and the overall floodway concept.
- Work with FEMA to address concerns regarding Automated Map Production and Risk Rating 2.0.

Recommended Actions

- Use biannual Operating Partners meetings to further committee goals, provide direct programmatic feedback to FEMA HQ, and resolve technical and policy issues raised within the ASFPM membership. (Brooke/Maria/Other committee members).
- Review information and recommendations that arise from the TMAC committee. Provide support to Suzanne Jiwani (ASFPM rep).
- Organize and facilitate regular calls and outreach with CTP sub-committee and general committee membership. Coordination and collaboration with ASFPM Flood Science Center, FEMA CTP Program Coordinator, and FEMA CTP Community of Practice (CoP).
- Conceive, develop, and present webinars on topics relevant and beneficial to CTPs that support capacity building.
- Review ongoing federal policy and rulemaking activities, including proposed federal mapping appropriations and FEMA Guidelines and Standards updates. Coordinate with other ASFPM committees as appropriate. Provide input and comments on issues that are relevant to the committee mission.
- Prepare for the national policy meeting and lead discussions at the annual committee meeting. Prepare agenda lineup of topics and speakers; and prepare notes of annual committee meeting for distribution to the committee members and/or posting on the website. (Brooke/Maria). Lead discussions at the annual CTP sub-committee meeting and coordinate logistics on a CTP social event at the annual conference.
- Organize, facilitate and complete action items associated with quarterly group conference calls.
- Explore social media options for communicating with committee members and work to identify a committee member as a webmaster. Maintenance and update of the M&ES Committee ASFPM webpage.