ASFPM POLICY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN
MAPPING & ENGINEERING STANDARDS
2024-2025
October 8, 2024

1.0 Overview

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 NFIP and addressing technical issues related to flood hazards such as levees and dams.

Co-chairs for the committee are:
Maria Cox Lamm, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Brooke Seymour, Mile High Flood District, Colorado

This committee will utilize the entire listing of members who have expressed an interest in the committee as maintained by the ASFPM executive office. A subcommittee list for various tasks will be maintained by committee chairs. In developing and completing the activities outlined in this workplan, committee leadership will attempt to solicit assistance from a core group of members who will serve as Capability Leads or Topic Leads. These members should have expertise or strong interest in a particular area or topic. The committee chairs can delegate action items to the appropriate Capability Lead(s), who in turn can coordinate with other committee members to complete the action and/or provide the deliverable. Some specialty areas may include:

- Hydraulics & Hydrology
- Coastal Mapping
- Levees & Dams
- Technology/Digital Data Management
- CTP Issues

A standing subcommittee of M&ES Committee focuses on the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program. The goal of this subcommittee is to identify successes and challenges of the overall program, inspire collaboration among CTP's, and share best practices among mapping partners. This subcommittee is co-chaired by:

Joanna Rohlf, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Section 2 of this workplan lists the 2024-2025 committee tasks and describes the work required to complete these items. Many items directly support the FY25 Goals and Objectives for ASFPM that are mapping and/or engineering related.

2.0 Task Outline

2.1 FY25 ASFPM Goals and Objectives (Board approved: June 23, 2024)

Following is a list of the Goals and Objectives adopted by the ASFPM board that directly influence the work of the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee. These are provided as reference for the work tasks identified in this plan. Many other adopted goals and objectives are indirectly supported by Mapping and Engineering Standards tasks. Those are not listed below.

1.2 Develop strategies to promote ongoing identification, updates, and maintenance of flood hazard and flood risk data, which can effectively be understood, implemented and defended at the local level, for the purpose of improved hazard mitigation and development standards and flood insurance promotion.

1.2.1 Support the successful implementation of the National Flood Mapping Program (NFMP) including Congressional education for funding and awareness, encouraging FEMA to address operational inefficiencies (i.e. time to get maps completed), and provide input to FEMA on ongoing operations and updates of:: program direction, metrics, development and use of all data products and tools.

1.2.2 Build Congressional support and encourage FEMA's nationwide utilization for enhancement of state and local capacity through the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program and expand CTP funding.

1.2.3 Support adequate funding for NFMP to complete flood mapping in the nation, to include future conditions, implement the FFRMS, and address the remaining paper map inventory.

1.2.4 Support NOAA's implementation of a national Atlas15 program including sustained program funding.

1.2.5 Promote mapping of areas that are unsafe for development through the refinement of floodway methodology and identifying other areas of highest

flood risk, including a coastal component, and development of the corresponding regulatory framework.

1.2.6 Support the collection of LiDAR and stream gaging as inputs into the NFMP.

1.2.7 Support development of training and assistance for SLTT programs geared towards management and understanding of large data sets and models as they continue to evolve into more complex products that require a certain level of expertise.

1.3 Continue a leading role and promoting local, state and federal strategies (through providing specific input and guidance) that provide research, policies, and actions to incorporate resiliency strategies that support adaptations to a changing climate.

1.3.1 Promote and support the implementation of higher standards for all projects (federal and non-federal) to accommodate future conditions.

1.3.4 Support local, state and federal climate adaptation strategies, planning approaches and tools, and promote integration with existing floodplain management and mitigation programs.

2.1 Promote improved national policy--individually and through coordination with ASFPM members, Chapters and partners (such as coalitions and alliances) -- through papers, publications, webinars, and discussions with Congressional, Administration and other decision makers to better promote mitigation and safer development.

2.1.1 Focus on FY24/25 federal budgeting, NFIP reform, FFRMS implementation, Stafford Act (BRIC reforms including equitable distribution of funding), Digital Coast Act implementation, and agency rulemaking related to flood risk and water resources management, concerns for technical input, review, testimony and comments.

2.1.2 Promote conversation and support enhanced mitigation through increased funding, nature-based solutions, state and local land use policy, and codes and standards to reduce floodplain encroachment and promote avoidance or resettlement strategies.

2.2 Ongoing M&ES Activities

The following are the ongoing tasks and activities the M&ES Committee strives to complete each year:

Operating Partners Meetings (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.1 & 1.3.1): Use quarterly 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).

Technical Mapping Advisory Council (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.1): Share information and recommendations that arise from the TMAC with the larger committee and gather feedback and comments. Provide support to Jeff Sparrow (ASFPM rep). (Brooke/Maria/Joanna/Dave)

CTP Subcommittee Calls (supports Goal/Objective 1.2.2): Organize and facilitate regular calls and outreach with CTP subcommittee and general committee membership. Coordination and collaboration with ASFPM Flood Science Center, FEMA CTP Program Coordinator, and FEMA CTP Community of Practice (CoP). (Brooke/Joanna/Dave)

CTP Webinars (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.2): Conceive, develop, and present webinars on topics relevant and beneficial to CTPs that support capacity building. (Brooke/Maria/Joanna/Dave)

Policy and Rule Making Review (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 1.3.1 & 2.1.3): Review ongoing federal policy and rule-making 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. (Brooke/Maria/Other Committee Members)

Annual Conference: 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 subcommittee meeting and coordinate logistics on a CTP social event at the annual conference. (Joanna/Dave)

Annual Report and Work Plan: Prepare annual report and develop workplan (Brooke/Maria)

Conference Calls & Committee Retreat: A co-chair will attend all conference calls and both co-chairs will attend the conference retreat. (Brooke/Maria)

Quarterly Committee Calls/Virtual Meetings: Organize, facilitate and complete action items associated with quarterly group conference calls. (Brooke/Maria)

Information Sharing: Explore social media options for communicating with committee members and work to identify a committee member as a webmaster. Maintain and update the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee ASFPM webpage.

2.3 Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee Work Items:

In support of the mission to provide policy guidance and support for floodplain mapping and engineering issues, the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee and its CTP subcommittee will continue to develop strategies and promote support for the ongoing identification, updating and maintenance of flood hazard and flood risk data. In addition to the ongoing activities and functions of the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee, there are several additional efforts and initiatives that have been prioritized for the 2024-2025 work cycle. Some of these activities may result in Discussion/White Papers related to policy issues while others will be administered through ongoing coordination with ASFPM Flood Science Center, FEMA, CTPs or other operating/mapping partners. Any Discussion/White Papers produced will be consistent with the ASFPM Goals and Objectives and follow the association's development policies and procedures.

Flood Science Center project collaboration: The Flood Science Center has a number of ongoing projects that will require input from the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee, including (but not limited to):

- **Cooperating Technical Partners:** The CTP-subcommittee documents best practices and provides training for Cooperating Technical Partners. As part of this initiative, ASFPM helped FEMA set up and hosts the CTP Mentoring Network Program. The peer-to-peer network is hosted on cloud-based team communication software called Basecamp. The goal of the CTP Mentoring Network is to provide a professional platform so that CTPs can make connections, share information and experiences, and discuss relevant topics through an accessible, peer-to-peer channel. Learn more here: https://floodsciencecenter.org/projects/cooperating-technical-partner-support/.
- **Floodway and 2D Modeling Outreach:** Over the last three years, FEMA has funded ASFPM to develop outreach materials related to floodways and 2D modeling to help communities understand the floodway and how to use 2D modeling data to better managing development. Learn more here: https://floodsciencecenter.org/projects/floodway-and-2d-modeling-outreach/.
- **Impacts of Floodway Surcharge:** As 2D modeling becomes more prevalent, there is an interest in mapping SFHAs and floodways using 2D modeling technology. FEMA Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping: Floodway Analysis and Mapping (December 2020) includes provisions related to 2D modeling. This project focuses on two issues associated with floodways - surcharge averaging and appropriately representing the impact of floodway surcharge. Learn more here: https://floodsciencecenter.org/projects/impacts-of-floodway-surcharge/.

- **Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study Outreach:** FEMA is updating the Great Lakes Coastal Methodology and is revising the FIRMs for the Great Lakes coastline. FEMA has funded ASFPM to assist with outreach and host a website associated with the project. Staff have been attending the workmap rollout meetings and providing guidance to communities to ensure they understand the new V Zones and the updated methodology. Learn more here: https://floodsciencecenter.org/projects/impacts-of-floodway-surcharge/.

The Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee will collaborate with and assist the Flood Science Center with these projects, along with providing review and suggestions for the final report deliverables. (Brooke/Maria/Joanna/Dave)

The National Flood Mapping Program (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.1): Section 216 of the ''Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012'' established a framework for a formal program for developing and providing flood risk information, that would include:

- Traditional Items included on FIRM's (100-year floodplain, floodway, etc.)
- The 500-year floodplain
- Areas of residual risk associated with levees, dams and other flood control structures
- Potential failure zones associated with levees, dams, and other flood control structures
- Future Conditions mapping

Even though this has been spelled out in legislation, there has been little effort by FEMA to date to implement all of these concepts. The Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee will facilitate discussion regarding this topic, and if warranted, create specific work products with the goal of assisting FEMA in implementing these mapping data elements, and championing funding to these efforts. (Brooke/Maria)

2D modeling issues (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.1, 1.2.6 & 1.3.1): There are considerable interest and advances in 2D modeling for floodplain, stormwater, dam safety and other water resources applications. As these types of models become more widely used, modeling, mapping and regulatory issues have arisen that need to be addressed. Work items associated with this topic include:

- Review work products/papers about 2D & unsteady modeling that may be issued by FEMA or by other organizations (NAFSMA, FMA, etc.) or any regional guidance that may be available.
- Provide a forum at the annual conference (either during Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee meeting, or an early bird session) for identification of issues for further discussion regarding advanced modeling techniques.

- Provide guidance to mapping partners, including FEMA, on how to incorporate advanced modeling outputs into regulatory and non-regulatory flood hazard products and datasets.
- Facilitate any ad-hoc review groups to address discussion topics.

(Brooke/Maria)

2.3 CTP Subcommittee work items:

CTP support (supports Goal/Objective's 1.2.2 & 2.1.1) - FEMA has funded ASFPM to help support Cooperating Technical Partners. The project involves documenting best practices and providing training via quarterly webinars. In conjunction with this effort, a Mapping & Engineering Standards subcommittee has been established that focuses on CTPs. The ASFPM EO (Alan Lulloff) and various committee members FEMA CTP Community of Practice Steering Committee and associated workgroups. ASFPM has highlighted that the Cooperating Technical Partner program is just as much about building partnerships as it is about mapping. The goals of the CTP Sub-committee include:

- Fostering communication among federal, state, regional, and local mapping partners and data sharing.
- Providing a forum for mentoring and building capabilities in support of CTP and National Flood Mapping Program goals.
- Identifying topics for webinars and best management practices to support the FEMA CTP grant being completed by the ASFPM Office.
- Encouraging and coordinating feedback on CTP issues to FEMA, including program updates, partner engagement, and participation in working groups.

(Joanna/Dave)

2.4 2024 – 2025 Topics for Future Development

With the commitment needed to maintain the ongoing tasks and activities, the Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee is limited on the number of new activities and initiatives that can be prioritized for each year. However, the following activities have been identified as priorities for the committee and in some cases potential paper topics if a committee member desires to serve as task lead. These activities are listed below in no particular order.

- Base Level Engineering
- LiDAR issues
- Bathymetry funding support
- Advanced modeling issues
- Atlas 14/15 update
- FEMA's Future of Flood Risk Data (FFRD) Initiative
- FFRMS floodplain mapping (FEMA's FFSST Tool)