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2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FLOOD
PLAIN MANAGERS
November 3 - 5, 2004; Rochester, MN

The Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers is holding their annual conference this November at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown in Rochester, Minnesota. The ambitious conference agenda will focus on the FEMA Map Modernization initiative, issues surrounding the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), No Adverse Impact concepts and practices, and GIS and LiDAR technologies used in floodplain management.

This conference will again include the Certified Floodplain Manager Review and Exam as well as a full day of seminars on the FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners initiative, basic and advanced floodplain management concepts, and a field tour of area flood control projects and the geomorphologic history of the formation of the Mississippi River Valley and bluffs. This conference will also include vendor exhibits, evening entertainment and networking opportunities.

A tentative short list of federal, state and local speakers include:

- Ken Kasprisin, Federal Security Director of the Twin Cities International Airport, and former Director of FEMA Region X
- Chad Berginnis, Chair, Association of State Floodplain Managers
- Ed Buikema, Director of FEMA, Region V
- Norbert Schwartz, Director, Federal Insurance Mitigation Division, FEMA
- Al Bataglia, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Kent Lokkesmoe, MnDNR, Director, Division of Waters
- Ardell Brede, Mayor, City of Rochester

More conference information can be found on the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers website www.mnafpm.org.

See you there!

Minneapolis and St. Paul have solved their Mississippi River flooding problem: They listed it on NASDAQ as "Mississippi.com" and it dropped immediately.

*Garrison Keillor, Host Prairie Home Companion
 April 21, 2001*



Map Modernization Business Plan

by Suzanne Jiwani, PE, CFM

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The Minnesota DNR finished a Map Modernization Business Plan that was submitted to FEMA Region V in January. The Map Modernization Business Plan is posted on the MnDNR website (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/index.html>). FEMA's main goal of Map Modernization is to have digital and countywide mapping for the whole state. The MnDNR's main goal is to have accurate flood hazard information in an easy-to-use format.

The Map Modernization Business Plan describes how the MnDNR will prioritize the updating of FEMA floodplain maps in Minnesota while meeting FEMA's performance measures. FEMA's performance measures track the percentage of Minnesota's population that has digital, countywide data and live in communities that have adopted ordinances using this data.

Although the priorities should remain the same throughout the implementation of the Map Modernization Program, the funding amounts available from FEMA, however, will vary for each fiscal year. The available funding in turn will determine which counties will be remapped. Minnesota's Map Modernization priorities are:

1. completion of existing remapping projects
2. remapping counties in the Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) program
3. remapping counties along major watercourses, and
4. remapping repetitive loss areas not covered by the other priorities.

Table 3 of Minnesota's Map Modernization Business Plan lists which counties will be remapped for each fiscal year. This table will be re-evaluated and updated each year based on the priorities listed above and on the level of FEMA funding. Counties can move toward the top of the list by participating in the CTP program.

The FY04 projects are:

- Conversion of the Hennepin County data into the new GIS digital format

- Completion of existing remapping project in Brown County
- Continue work in Redwood, Chippewa, and Nicollet Counties.
- Funding hydrology and hydraulic analyses in three CTP counties (Dakota, Scott, and Goodhue).

The Hennepin County conversion will be completed in FY04. The DNR will include local input in the form of updated analyses and better topography if it meets FEMA's specifications and if it is submitted early in the conversion process.

In a similar manner, Ramsey County data will be converted in FY05.

To submit information to be included in the Hennepin or Ramsey County conversions, contact Suzanne Jiwani of the DNR, Suzanne.jiwani@dnr.state.mn.us.

The Power of Water



Aluminum canoe wrapped around a dead-head tree in the swollen Root River near Lanesboro, Minnesota. The previous week rainfall amounts in the area totaled more than 8 inches. The velocity of the river was 7 feet per second.



FEMA & Multi-Hazard Flood Map Modernization

**By Lee Traeger
FEMA Region 5**

Recent News

New techniques are beginning to roll out on the web (www.hazards.gov/wps/portal) that will allow partners to streamline studies and improve results. An internet-based data repository will allow for an open exchange of data. A spatial depiction of hazards with an orthophotographic base (where available) will allow end users to more easily read and interpret maps.

Why update maps

This multi-year effort is responding to a user and industry driven demand for better, accessible and up to date maps. Digital and topographic collection techniques have improved in recent years to the point that the *mass* collection of data is now becoming a reality at the local level. Couple this with advances in automated Hydrology and Hydraulic techniques and mapping costs are continually being reduced. Having an electronic dissemination of data and maps will allow for a much wider and broader distribution of the maps.

How you can help

When countywide maps are proposed and you or your client has better data then submit it early in the re-mapping process. As you know any map is only as good as the data that goes into it. Cities and counties have road and drainage structure improvements on an annual basis. One critical aspect involves the survey and field reconnaissance of hydraulic structures. County or city survey departments can certainly assist to provide better data. In other words there are multiple areas where we can certainly draw from.

Working closely with the state of Minnesota DNR and current Cooperating Technical Partners (CTPs), FEMA Region V wants to engage counties, planning commissions, consortiums or other entities in updating **all the states FIRMs** with *countywide* flood hazard maps. The state of Minnesota's DNR floodplain management website has this and other valuable information on map modernization which can be found at www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/floodplain/index.html.

Questions to FEMA about Map Modernization can be directed to Lee Traeger in the Chicago regional office at (312) 408-5538, or e-mail him at lee.traeger@dhs.gov.

MITIGATION PLANNING AND THE NOVEMBER DEADLINE

**by Rebecca Quinn, CFM
RCQuinn Consulting, Inc.**

As time passes, people are starting to ask what will happen on November 1, 2004 . . . that magic date when certain consequences and limitations related to state and local mitigation planning go into effect. What will really happen?

There are two parts to the answer. The first is what happens if a community does not have a mitigation plan in place; the second concerns the consequences if a state has no approved mitigation plan in place by the deadline. Communities need to be aware of both. In October 2002, FEMA issued an interim final rule regarding dates and related requirements for local mitigation plans. A subsequent rule, issued in October 2003, modified one of those dates. The current effective regulations are found at 44 *CFR* Parts 201 and 206 (be sure to use the most current version).

What happens if a community does not have a mitigation plan on November 1, 2004?

The November 1, 2004, deadline is not a “drop-dead” point in time. When that day has come and gone, planning won’t come to a screeching halt - and the opportunity to seek mitigation funds will not be lost forever. Communities can and should continue to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans after that date, and funds to support that planning will continue to be made available by FEMA.

But November 1, 2004, is a very important date to keep in mind because there are certain consequences and limitations that will go into effect then.



For the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

After November 1, 2004, HMGP will only be available to communities in states that have approved mitigation plans (see section below). As set forth in the current federal regulations, there are two consequences or limitations if a community does not have an approved local mitigation plan and the community is included in a declaration of a major disaster. The limitations are distinguished by whether a community may apply for, or may receive grant funds:

1. For disasters declared before November 1, 2004, a community without a plan can apply for and receive an HMGP project grant, but must commit to developing the plan while implementing the project.
2. For disasters declared after November 1, 2004, a community without a plan CANNOT apply for HMGP project grants. It may, however, apply for planning grants from the 7% of HMGP funds available for planning.

For the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDM)

The November 1, 2004, deadline does not affect eligibility for PDM funding (provided the state has an approved plan). From now on (i.e., for notices of funds availability issued after November 1, 2003), a community without an approved plan may apply for PDM funding - but communities must have an approved plan in order to RECEIVE a PDM project grant.

What happens if a state does not have a mitigation plan on November 1, 2004?

These consequences are much more significant - and communities would do well to check on the status of their state's plan. As of late January, FEMA reported that no state plans had been approved under this requirement.

What is at risk if a FEMA-approved state mitigation plan is not in place by November 1, 2004? Plenty. The federal regulation at Sec. 201.1 states that

By November 1, 2004, States must have an approved

Standard State Mitigation plan meeting the requirements of this section in order to receive assistance under the Stafford Act In any case, emergency assistance provided under [several Stafford Act sections cited] will not be affected.

The distinction, then, is whether disaster assistance is "emergency" in nature. The following emergency assistance WILL BE PROVIDED even if a state does not have an approved plan (section references are to the Stafford Act (as amended by DMA2000)):

- 5170a: General Federal Assistance
- 5170b: Essential Assistance
- 5173: Debris Removal
- 5174: Assistance to Individuals and Households (including Housing Assistance and Financial Assistance to Address Other Needs)
- 5177: Unemployment Assistance
- 5179: Food Coupons and Distribution
- 5180: Food Commodities
- 5182: Legal Services
- 5183: Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training
- 5184: Community Disaster Loans
- 5192: Federal Emergency Assistance.

Certain categories of Public Assistance are permanent restorative work and are not considered "emergency" in nature. Public Assistance WILL NOT BE PROVIDED for Category C (roads and bridges), Category D (water control facilities), Category E (public buildings), Category F (public utilities), or Category G (other facilities).

But the consequences don't stop there. Three more streams of federal disaster assistance will not be available unless a state has an approved plan: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds (HMGP); Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants (PDM); and Fire Management Assistance Grants (the non-emergency components).

It is clear that Congress, as expressed in the passage of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, expects states and communities to get serious about reducing the long-term impacts of disasters. How serious? Well, consider what the loss of the "non-emergency assistance" would mean to your state and community if the state's plan is not in place. Between 1989 and



1998 (the only period for which ASFPM has data), FEMA’s disaster assistance provided

- \$7.96 billion for Public Assistance (permanent restorative works categories only); and
- \$1.47 billion for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Excerpts from the appropriate sections of the federal regulations, a list of emergency assistance vs. non-emergency assistance, and a pdf version of the information in this article are available on the ASFPM website at http://www.floods.org/policy/PlanningConsequences_Nov_1_2004.pdf.

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What do a tornado, a fire, a flood and a divorce have in common? Four ways to lose your house!

A river starts to flood in a small town and the water starts to close in on a house near the river. The owner of the house (Sam) has faith that God will save him so he doesn’t worry.

A man drives by and stops at the house. He says; “Sam, get in, the river is rising fast.” Sam says no. He replies “I’m not worried. I have faith. God will save me”.

Soon the water was up to the window on his house. A man in a boat comes by and says, “Sam, get in.” Sam says no. “I’m not worried. I have faith. God will save me”.

Presently Sam has retreated to the roof to escape the rising water. A man in a helicopter comes by to rescue Sam. Sam again says no. “I’m not worried. I have faith. God will save me”. The water rises above the roof and Sam drowns.

Upon arriving in heaven, Sam requests an audience with God. Sam asks, “What happened during the flood? I had faith that you would save me.” God replies “What do you mean? I sent a car, a boat and a helicopter!”

MnAFPM Spring Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon meeting was held on Tuesday, May 25th at the Cherokee Sirloin Room in West St. Paul. The luncheon was attended by about 40 MnAFPM members and guests. This excellent turnout at the MnAFPM’s first lunch meeting provided a great opportunity to network with others involved in floodplain management.



Mr. Ed Fick, Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Program Manager, from the Minnesota DNR Waters, gave a presentation on the basics of the FDR Grant Program along with a breakdown of program funding. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Fick, conducted a question / answer session to address issues and inquiries made by the luncheon attendees.

Lunch and conversation



Networking at it’s finest!





Become a Member of MnAFPM

Becoming a Member of MnAFPM is easy. There is an application form on our website at www.mnafpm.org/member.htm. Simply fill it out and mail it with your dues.

Annual dues are only \$30 for a full membership. A student membership is only \$10. Additional options are listed on the application form.

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