

Cooperating Technical Partners – ASFPM CTP subcommittee Monthly Call – February 11, 2021

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

Webinars:

The webinar on New Datums being presented by NGS is scheduled for February 24th. Lori Cary-Kothera with NOAA has identified someone from NGS. It actually is someone I saw present at the Michigan Chapter meeting last March before the shutdown. He is very good. Pamela Broviak with FEMA Region V will present on the impact on the NFIP. A map showing the distribution of the registrants highlights that every state had at least one registrant.

Regarding upcoming webinars, we discussed focusing on State Business Plans. On the last call Dave and Darryl indicated they presented on their flood mapping planning efforts at the ASFPM virtual conference. They indicated they would be willing to present the information via a webinar. Darryl reiterated his willingness. Their planning is updated quarterly and is utilized for multiple purposes – communications to communities and outreach. Many states likely do not use the plans to the same extent.

Laura indicated that she is putting on a workshop at the ASFPM virtual conference in May on FEMA flood mitigation grants. They are considering some follow-up webinars either monthly or quarterly. They normally get about 100 – 150 attendees. The CTP webinar series would be an opportunity to reach a larger audience. Considering maybe 3 1.5 hours sessions. Timing will depend on the availability of speakers. Typically a month apart as a minimum. They normally conduct them quarterly but that may be too far apart. Instead of presenting via the ASFPM CTP webinar series, Laura indicated another option could be that they host and advertise through ASFPM.

Best Practices

Laura has asked Nicolle Maccherone to do some enhancements to the draft MO best practice write-up. She would like some additional information on benefits and lessons learned. Alan reached out to Nichole M. regarding the status of finalizing the MO Best Practice write-up. She indicates it will be completed shortly. The Mile High Flood District best practice write-up is next line. MHFD has submitted a best practice write-up on how MHFD works with the National Weather Service to get alerts out to communities.

A potential best practice is the State of Maryland. Maryland has developed an application wherein lines showing the extent of flooding associated with BFEs plus three feet in coastal areas. The intent is to show the impact of sea level rise or the fact that there is uncertainty. They call the application CRAB.

Missouri flood mapping

Darryl indicated that they are still finishing up the testing with HEC-RAS 6.0. They now will be able to devote some time to summarizing their comparison of floodway width based up 1D vs 2D modeling.

Performance Metrics Tool

FEMA is developing a tool to compile data on performance metrics. A draft tool has been developed and testing will begin in March. Laura indicated that this will not be the full blown application but a prototype that will be used to gather feedback.

CTP mentoring

ASFPM is working with FEMA to host a CTP mentoring site on ASFPM's Basecamp site. Laura indicated that she hoped it would be a space where CTPs can connect with other CTPs. Laura hoped it could be a cross between Facebook and match.com. The piloting of that tool will begin soon. Laura indicated that some have already volunteered to be mentors and/or mentees.

CTP conversation

We discussed the CTP conversation. There again will not be a time allotted for the ASFPM committees or CTP conversation at the virtual conference this year. Laura indicated that they are going to have a Community of Practice meeting just before the ASFPM conference so they can provide updates there. Laura suggested possibly a virtual happy hour to allow CTPs to connect informally.

FEMA CTP 5-Year Plan

It has been 5 years since the plan was developed. FEMA has been approved to present on a new 5-year plan at the ASFPM conference in May. So a draft will be completed by then.

RiskRating 2.0

Brooke indicated that MHFD is interested knowing how RR 2.0 will impact their programs. Not only on the mapping side but also on the capital improvement side. Many of MHFD projects focus on reducing the size of the SFHA. They would like to be proactive but their Capital Improvement Planning projects are on a five-year schedule. For example, if they implement a major storm sewer project, will that be reflected in the risk rating 2.0?

Laura indicated the modeling and mapping will still be part of risk rating but there will be other factors included. For example, pluvial flooding. They will refresh the rating periodically but LOMRs will not be immediately reflected. Laura indicated that FEMA recognizes that the SFHA mapping is important for floodplain management and the mandatory purchase requirement. The plan is to start releasing some information on RR 2.0 in April with a target to rollout in October.

Brooke asked about how pipes and inverts are being reflected in the analysis associated with pluvial flooding. Laura indicated it is unclear how urban flooding will be reflected. Brooke indicated that MHFD would like information on this so that they can be proactive vs reactive.

Flood Risk Products

Alan asked if BFE plus 1,2 and 3 inundation mapping is routinely being developed. Laura indicated that early on, FEMA didn't post the datasets anywhere. FEMA would simply provide DVDs to communities. Stand-alone datasets were provided directly to communities and didn't make it into the Map Service Center. In the past 2 or 3 years, there has been a standard or guidance to submit it to the MSC so that it can be published. Some regions go beyond that and put it on the geoplatform so that there is a visual tool for communities. They currently do not have a viewer for these non-regulatory products. It would require a relatively deep dive to determine where those data were delivered.

BLE data

The Region VI web application which serves up BLE data has not been implemented FEMA wide. FEMA does not have a national application. Region VI worked with USGS to post the data on their website. In Region VIII and other areas where this is being done, FEMA is working with CTPs to host some of that data on their sites.

Alan asked if these are being enhanced to build on the BLE data. Laura indicated that some regions (Region VI and IIX) are doing that. Some regions are taking the BLE mapping to discovery meetings to determine the best use of that data for that community.

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