

Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force
Public Listening Session
May 10-11, 2010
Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia

Objectives

The current Administration's emphasis on consistency and collaboration, as well as the need to respond to new economic and environmental challenges, has inspired a renewed effort for unifying the Federal Government's approach to floodplain management. As an important step in this process, the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force (FIFM-TF) has been reestablished to identify and address critical issues associated with floodplain management. To ensure that this work is well informed by a wide range of stakeholders' perspectives, the FIFM-TF is hosting this listening session to:

- Solicit input on specific topics of interest to inform the content and sequencing of the work of the Task Force.
- Provide an overview of key concepts and themes associated with a unified vision for floodplain management, as well as related laws, regulations and current initiatives to promote a common frame of reference among participants;
- Explore the most significant benefits associated with fully realizing this vision, and identify the challenges to achieving this vision;
- Obtain the perspectives of stakeholders on how these challenges can be addressed to more effectively protect resources and reduce hazards to people and property;

Monday May 10, 2010

12:00 – 1:00 Registration

1:00 – 1:15 Welcome and Opening Remarks – Terrance “Rock” Salt, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense*

1:15 – 2:30 Opening Presentations

Objective: Provide participants with common themes and concepts to be used as context for later discussions

- *The Cost of Flooding* – Sandra Knight, *Deputy Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administrator, MT, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security*
- *Natural Resources and Functions of Floodplains* – John McShane, *NEP Team Leader, Office of Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
- *Key Challenges of Floodplain Management: Federal Perspective* – Edward Hecker, *Chief, Office of Homeland Security and Provost Marshal, Directorate of Civil Works, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense*
- *Key Challenges of Floodplain Management: State and Local Perspectives* – Sam Riley Medlock, *Policy and Partnerships Program Coordinator, Association of State Floodplain Managers*

- *50 Years of Floodplain Management: Concepts & Actions – Dr. Gerald Galloway, PE, Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, University of Maryland*

2:30 – 2:40 Concurrent Breakout Session Instructions

2:40 – 3:00 Break and Move to Breakout Rooms

3:00 – 5:30 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Objective: Promote dialogue among participants and provide feedback to the FIFM-TF on key issues that can guide the future work of the Task Force and its member agencies.

- **Topic 1: A Unified Approach to Floodplain Management**

Facilitator – Linda Manning (The Council Oak)

Co-Convener - Rhonda Montgomery (FEMA)

Co-Convener - John McShane (USEPA)

PRIORITY QUESTIONS:

- Do we need (or have) a national vision or unified, national approach for floodplain management?
 - If so, what type of vision is needed?
 - If not, how should floodplain strategic direction be established?
- Are the goals outlined in the current version of the UNP (1994) appropriate?
 - If not, what goals should be considered?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What are the key challenges, barriers, or opportunities in moving forward with a more unified, sustainable approach to floodplain management?
- Should we use incentives to promote a sustainable approach, and if so, how?

- **Topic 2: Identifying Successes and Conflicts in Floodplain Management**

Facilitator – Lucan Klyne (Coray Gurnitz Consulting)

Co-Convener - Joe Manous (USACE)

Co-Convener – Joe Krolak (DOT)

PRIORITY QUESTIONS:

- In what areas do Federal, state, and local cooperation work well and not work well?
- Where should existing Federal and state programs be linked to provide the best value for the Nation?
- What are the most pressing gaps or frustrations in these programs?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- Which existing Federal laws, programs, and related state and local programs currently work well together?
- Where are existing programs working at cross-purposes to the stated goals of floodplain management?

- **Topic 3: Balancing Environmental, Economic, Social and Public Safety Aspects of the Floodplain Management Vision**

Facilitator – Amy Cowart (Coray Gurnitz Consulting)

Co-Convener - Laura Zepp (USACE)

Co-Convener – Jerimiah Sanders (HUD)

PRIORITY QUESTIONS:

- Does the Nation have balance between the competing interests of economic viability, public safety, and protecting and restoring the natural resources and functions of floodplains (sometimes referred to as the “natural and beneficial values” of floodplains)?
- What are the key challenges in achieving such a balance and what are the roles of the Federal, state, local, and private entities in the balancing process?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What types of multi-benefit analyses should be conducted in floodplains, for what purposes, and related to what types of projects?

- **Topic 4: Fostering Partnerships**

Facilitator – Katie Lundstrom (Coray Gurnitz Consulting)

Convener – Ada Benavides (USACE)

PRIORITY QUESTIONS:

- What are the appropriate roles of Federal, state, and local agencies, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations in the floodplain management process?
- What are the key areas of responsibility that require clarification?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- How can the Federal government work most effectively in this process while recognizing the competing interests at the community level?
- What role(s) should Federal agencies play in watershed and floodplain management activities?

- **Topic 5: Adapting to Climate Change**

Facilitator - Patrick Tallarico (The Council Oak)

Co-Convener - Maria Honeycutt (NOAA)

Co-Convener - Mark Crowell (FEMA)

PRIORITY QUESTIONS:

- What are the most significant challenges in implementing climate change adaptation within projects and programs that affect floodplains?
- Who should be responsible for implementing and funding climate change adaptation for water resources issues?
- What are the Federal, state, and local government areas of conflict and mutual support concerning the implementation of climate change adaptation?
- What are the roles for NGOs within climate change adaptation?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- What should be the roles and responsibilities of the Federal, state, and local government as well as private entities and NGOs concerning climate change mitigation?
- Should mitigation be a priority consideration within the floodplain and why?

5:30 – 7:00 Networking Reception and Gallery-Walk to Review and Add to Input Collected in Breakout Sessions

Tuesday May 11, 2010

8:30 – 8:45 Welcome, Recap of Day 1 and Instructions for Day 2 Breakouts

8:45 – 9:00 Break and Move to Breakout Rooms

9:00 – 10:30 Scenario-based Floodplain Management Breakout Discussions

Objective: Brainstorm strategies and create and capture discussion around the posed FPM scenario. Through a scenario-based discussion and creative brainstorming, small groups will address the following key concepts:

- **Managing Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Rebuilding**
Facilitator – Amy Cowart (Coray Gurnitz Consulting)
Co-Convener – Mike Grimm (FEMA)
Co-Convener - Rhonda Montgomery (FEMA)
- **Balancing Environmental Justice Issues and Challenges**
Facilitator – Lucan Klyne (Coray Gurnitz Consulting)
Co-Convener - Jerimiah Sanders (HUD)
Co-Convener - Angela Gladwell (FEMA)
- **Achieving a Watershed Approach**
Facilitator – Katie Lundstrom (Coray Gurnitz Consulting)
Co-Convener - Ada Benavides (USACE)
Co-Convener - Bill Wilen (FWS)
- **Fostering Disaster Resilience with Community Values and Economic Viability**
Facilitator - Patrick Tallarico (The Council Oak)
Co-Convener – Doug Bellomo (FEMA)
- **Protecting and Restoring the Natural Resources and Functions of Floodplains**
Facilitator – Linda Manning (The Council Oak)
Co-Convener - John McShane (USEPA)
Co-Convener - Tony Kramer (USDA)

10:30 – 10:45 Break and Reconvene in Plenary Space

10:45 – 11:30 Summary of Morning Session with Report-outs from Sub-Groups

11:30 – 12:00 Closing Remarks – Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security

*** Post-listening session comments are welcome and can be submitted via the FEMA website at http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/FIFM_Task_Force.shtm*