

KAMMM



Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers

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Notes from the Chair

Hello from Louisville, home to the 2011 National ASFPM conference! We are getting very excited about the opportunity of showcasing our state and organization to the rest of nation. The 2011 ASFPM conference in Louisville (May 15-20) is a tremendous opportunity for you to experience a wide array of Floodplain Management techniques and experiences. Please visit <http://www.floods.org/> for more information on the upcoming conference.

The KAMM board has been working very hard to maximize our experience of hosting the national conference. We are currently

working with FEMA and KY Division of Water to provide registration scholarships for Kentucky floodplain managers. (See ASFPM Conference Scholarships Article pg. 1)

Another great way to get involved with the conference will be to volunteer. Volunteering will provide you an opportunity to participate in the event you volunteer for. There will be opportunities to be room monitors, workshop monitors, lunch monitors, sales volunteer and tour volunteers. To volunteer please go to <http://www.kymitigation.org/ASFPM.html>

With the national ASFPM conference coming to Kentucky this

year we will be moving our annual conference to the fall. The extent of our fall conference will be measured after the national conference.

Also, we will be providing a KAMM sponsored lunch at the ASFPM conference. This will take place on Monday (May 16). The KAMM board will be following up with further information as the conference draws closer.

Lastly, I would like to encourage our members to contact me or their regional representatives about workshops/training they would like KAMM to offer. Providing training to our members at a free or reduced rate is a goal for this year.

Renew Your KAMM Membership Today!

Time to join the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM). KAMM was formed in order to promote natural hazard mitigation and management in Kentucky. Our members represent local floodplain coordinators, planning and zoning officials, engineers, surveyors, GIS specialists,

hydrologists, public safety and emergency managers.

We have changed a few things this year to improve our members experience and benefits. Our membership categories have been simplified and include only 2 types (Individual/Student). Also we will be providing some free workshop/

training opportunities to our members. Finally, it is important to **NOTE** that KAMM members will receive a discounted **RATE** at this years ASFPM conference.

To renew visit:

<http://www.kymitigation.org/membership.html>

ASFPM Conference Scholarships

As most of you know through the notices Emily Frank sent out, KAMM is working with the KY Division of Water (KDOW) and FEMA to provide scholarships for 50 local and state officials and floodplain administrators to the 2011 Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Conference in Louisville (May 15-20, 2011). This generous scholarship will cover the conference registration fee – a \$370 value! At this point Emily has received over 50 requests. The selection process was based on a first-come-first-serve basis.

We are currently working with FEMA and KDOW to set up a contract that will allow KAMM to manage this grant. We feel very confident that KAMM will receive this grant and be able to provide these scholarship opportunities. While receiving a scholarship is not contingent on volunteering at ASFPM, we encourage you to consider adding your name to the volunteer roster. Most volunteer commitments only require 1-2 hours of time and provide the opportunity to “give back.” Click here to sign up to volunteer: <http://www.kymitigation.org/ASFPM.html>

Additionally, while KAMM membership is not a requirement to participate, we encourage you to visit our website to learn more about becoming a KAMM member: <http://www.kymitigation.org> Emily Frank will be contacting those that received the scholarship’s as soon as KAMM receives the grant from KDOW. A big thanks goes out to FEMA, KDOW, KAMM board, ASFPM and especially Emily for managing this for us.

KAMM Conference Report

The Annual KAMM Region 2 Fall Conference was held on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at the University of Louisville / Shelby Campus in Louisville Kentucky.

Moderated by Steve Cummings, P.E., CFM, the conference included five dynamic speakers who presented topics including Weather Situation Awareness,

Flood Mitigation Grant Funding, Keeping Louisville Informed the MSD Way, and 2010 Louisville Metro Risk Assessment Model.

The morning session was followed by lunch then a tour of Louisville's National Weather Service office, guided by Joe Sullivan, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the

National Weather Service (NWS) Warning and Forecast Office in Louisville. The conference was attended by over 50 participants from across the state.

A big thanks goes to Steve Cummings putting together another great program for his region!

Growing KAMM on a local level provides KAMM members the opportunity to be involved in training, networking and finding support in the local region.

Risk MAP: The Evolution of Flood Risk Identification and Awareness

For the past six years, Kentucky has been going through the process of Map Modernization (Map Mod); a comprehensive update of the Commonwealth's inventory of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). To date, every county in Kentucky has received updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). Some counties are still within the due process phase of flood map finalization and adoption; over 80 counties have received their final DFIRMs. While the flood hazard mapping process has not always been popular in some communities, the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) has strived to produce high-quality digital flood hazard mapping based on best available data. Efforts were made to include data from various sources such as FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USGS, and local communities with the intent to identify flood hazards on streams with a one square mile or more drainage area. This resulted in flood hazards being identified on some streams where they may not have been a previously mapped risk, but REMEMBER, every stream has a floodplain.

There are multiple benefits of digital flood hazard mapping: future updates may occur faster and with less expense, aerial imagery allows users to locate specific properties affected by flood hazards, and engineering models that establish the regulatory flood elevations. By establishing a baseline of digital flood hazard mapping through Map Mod, KDOW and FEMA have embarked on the next generation of flood hazard mapping and awareness...enter Risk MAP.

The vision for Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, and Planning) is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life

and property. Risk MAP builds on flood hazard data and maps produced during the Map Mod program. While the focus of Map Mod was to create digital regulatory products (DFIRMs); Risk MAP has multiple areas of focus including:

- Assessing the viability of the engineering data that was used to create the DFIRMs
 - If the engineering data is sound, new studies will not be performed.
 - If the engineering data is outdated or land use has altered stream flow characteristics, new studies may be initiated to update the flood hazard areas.
 - All new studies will be performed on a watershed basis instead of countywide.

- Creating larger stakeholder groups to increase flood risk awareness and understanding.
 - Stakeholder groups may involve not only FEMA and KDOW, but also a community's floodplain administrator, emergency managers, GIS and planning departments, political interests, and the general public
 - Stakeholder involvement allows the community to be informed from the beginning and encourages input so that a final product is better received and understood by the public

-Conducting flood risk assessments and create products that allow for a better understanding of the ramifications of flood events

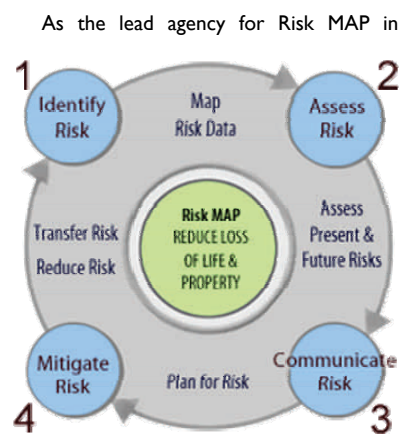
-Better risk identification that will lead to improved costs/benefits for Hazard Mitigation Assistance and grants

-Tying flood risk identification and assessment into the State and Local Hazard Mitigation planning process

-Better communicating risk that will lead to a reduction in current and future vulnerability

As you can see, Risk MAP sets lofty goals for achievement. While the revision of a regulatory product (DFIRMs) may be one of the end results of Risk MAP efforts, the main goals lie in increasing risk awareness, understanding risk, and ultimately reducing risk.

FEMA has prepared the graphic below which demonstrates the vision for the Risk MAP life cycle. The cycle begins with identifying risk, assessing risk, communicating risk, and mitigating risk.



Kentucky, KDOW has formed working relationships with other federal, state, and local agencies to ensure Risk MAP is a success. At this point, Risk MAP is still very much in its developmental stages; stay tuned for future developments.

Carey Johnson is the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program manager for the KY Division of Water. Carey also serves on the KAMM Board as an At-Large Representative. Carey.Johnson@ky.gov

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The View at the Local Level by Shawn Moore, CFM

Luckily, it isn't that often that we have to actually put our first-class mitigation knowledge to use. However, with the past floods of May, I was (pardon the pun) dropped into the deep end of the river. The May Floods of 2010 were felt all over the state, but from my standpoint, nowhere was this more evident than on the Kentucky River along the Palisades area of Mercer County.

47 properties exist along a 3 mile stretch that was inundated with flood waters, ranging from a couple of inches to more than 15 feet of depth. Once the waters had receded, thus began the process of putting the owner's lives back together. As the local floodplain manager, we are tasked with making substantial damage determinations on each property that sustained a loss and filed a claim with the NFIP. As many of you know, any structure that sustains damage in excess of 50% of the structure's market value must be deemed "Substantially Damaged". This places the property owner in a position to perform mandatory mitigation projects. There are three options for residential dwellings: Elevation, Relocation, and Demolition.

The process is long and can be quite drawn out. As of the publication of this newsletter, 10 of those 47 properties were deemed substantially damaged and only one has been property mitigated thus far. It is an elevation project (see attached before and after photo's). Many of the delays rested in relying on the property owner providing a copy of the damage assessment and then using that data to compare it against the PVA records to make the SD determination. Having attended the recent KYDOW training seminar that was put on by FEMA, I now have the ability to utilize the new Substantial Damage Estimator created by FEMA. If you don't have this program in your arsenal, you can download it directly from FEMA's website.

The other mitigating factors that cause these delays are related to the NFIP agents themselves. They are often overwhelmed by the sheer volume of activity that occurs during a natural disaster. Combined with the previous floods that occurred in Nashville, you can imagine the sheer volume of work. It is also important to note that there is often miscommunication between the NFIP Insurance agents and the property owners.

Lessons learned:

Be proactive – get out there and meet those affected ASAP.

Be patient – with both the property owners and the insurance agents

Be prepared – utilize every training resource that you can find.

It is also important to remember that you won't always have an answer for the property owners, which is okay! Make sure that you share with them that you don't have the answer, but you will find out for them. Always follow up.

A note about training, KY DOW is making new training available; FEMA has Flood Plain Manager training on multiple topics available at the National Emergency Management Institute in Emmittsburg, Maryland and other floodplain manager training is available online at the EMI website. As the local floodplain managers, we are the go to person for knowledge and expertise. Remember that there are no elected officials' who know more about your job and the ability to help the property owner than you!

Be well and stay dry!



Post Flood August, 2010



Post Mitigation December, 2010

When the Best Available Data Isn't The Best Alternative by Brian Bishop

Let me preface this by saying that DFIRMS are great. I don't think there are any KAMM members who would disagree with this statement. Is there really any fair comparison to old, inaccurate, vague paper maps to new, digital maps that are based on more recent and much more accurate data? Unequivocally no. Not to mention, it is overlaid on aerial photography that is easily accessed with relatively inexpensive or, in some cases, free GIS software.

That being said, allow me to present to you a cautionary tale of my own. In Henderson County, we are very proud of our GIS data. I am so proud of it that I transferred from the Henderson County Codes Dept. to the Henderson City-County Planning Commission just so that I would have more opportunities to work with GIS.

Now to the events that lead me to write this cautionary tale....I, along with other local officials, met with a representative from the Division of Water and the contractor who would be preparing our DFIRMS. The scoping meeting was a success, and the contractor bragged on our data. In fact, they said that it was some of the best in the Commonwealth.

Fast forward a year — we have now found out that there is a small section of the county where our highly-regarded data is...incorrect. This discovery is made at approximately the same time that FEMA informs the DOW that there was some errors in the way.

We also decide at this time that new county-wide GIS data is now needed and obtained. Naturally, we contact

the parties involved and relay the message that we have new data and would like it incorporated into the review that is already underway. Of course, the Henderson City-County Planning Commission paid for the additional engineer analysis which would be submitted to FEMA. From the local standpoint, we see this as a win-win situation: newer, more accurate data that is already under FEMA review that requires no additional cost to FEMA. How could we go wrong?

Well, the answer is that we do not know. We have yet to receive our new DFIRMS. After obtaining two costly sets of GIS data that we readily use, we are still legally bound to use antiquated FIRM's.

Be careful what you ask for.



2011 ASFPM Golf Tournament

Hosted by the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers

The 2011 annual ASFPM Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at Fuzzy Zoeller's Covered Bridge Golf Club in Sellersburg, Indiana. "The Bridge" as it's commonly called is a Fuzzy Zoeller- designed and owned 18-hole course nestled on a gently rolling plain at the foot of Southern Indiana's famous Floyds Knobs. Each hole has been laid out to emphasize the natural beauty of the landscape and panorama. The par 72 circuit features five lakes, a meandering creek and is pleasantly forested. Registration will begin at 7:30 AM, followed by a shotgun start at 8:30AM. Cost of \$90.00 includes green fees, cart, range balls, continental breakfast, lunch and prizes. Format will be 4-Person Scramble. A limited number of rental clubs will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Company Name _____ Contact Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Fee's : Number of Players _____ @ \$90 per player = TOTAL: \$ _____

Team Roster Affiliation

We're looking for event sponsors and prize contributors. (You're welcome to donate prizes or \$100 per sponsored hole).

Longest Drive Sponsor _____ Straightest Drive _____ Closest to Pin _____
 Putting Contest _____ Hole Sponsorship _____

Contact Shawn Moore at smoore@mercerky.com or (859) 734-6066 X101 for more information or to reserve sponsorships.

Mail Entries to:
 Mercer County Joint Planning & Zoning Commission
 Attn: Shawn Moore
 109 Short St.
 Harrodsburg, KY 40330

