

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)**

**August 26, 2009**

The August 26, 2009 Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting began at 10:00 AM at the Commission office (DRBC) in West Trenton, NJ. Jason Miller of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers chaired the meeting.

**A. Introductions and Review of the Draft Minutes from the May 19, 2009 Meeting**

The minutes were approved with no corrections or changes. The summary will be posted on the DRBC web site. Tapes of the meeting may be reviewed upon request.

Jason Miller read an obituary for Joseph Zagone, an FAC member and FEMA Region III employee, who passed away on July 14, 2009. Joe's accomplishments spanned 42 years of federal and civic leadership. His federal career included service with the Philadelphia Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Throughout his treatment for pancreatic cancer, Joe served on the Floodplain Regulations Evaluation subcommittee (FRES) formed by the FAC. His knowledge of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and support of strong floodplain management will be remembered and missed by this Committee.

**B. Request Nominations for Vice Chair – Federal Member**

Jason Miller, Committee Chair and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee, reported that this was his last FAC meeting as Chair. As is customary, the current Committee Vice-Chair will assume the role of Chair at the next meeting. As such, the next FAC Chair will be John Moyle, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Mr. Moyle is the NFIP Coordinator for the State of New Jersey and is Manager of the Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control at NJDEP.

Mr. Miller subsequently requested nominations for the next Vice-Chair. As is customary, the Chair and Vice-Chair alternate representation from federal and state organizations from year to year. Since the next Chair will be a state member, it was requested that the next Vice-Chair be a federal member of the Committee.

Dave Bollinger, FEMA RIII, was nominated but declined as he stated he was unsure if he could commit to the position at this time due to low staff levels in the Mitigation Division of FEMA RIII.

Thomas Suro, USGS, was nominated and approved. Mr. Suro is an Engineer and Hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey New York Water Science Center.

**C. Hydrologic Conditions Report**

A presentation of the current hydrologic conditions was given by Amy Shallcross, DRBC. To date, for 2009, the year-to-date precipitation ranges from 4+ inches above for the upper basin to 1-3 inches above normal in the lower basin.

As of August 25, 2009, the total storage for the NYC Delaware reservoirs was 259 BG; Cannonsville was at 95.6%, Pepacton at 95.9% and Neversink at 95.8%. All three reservoirs were releasing at L1b levels. The USACE reservoirs in the lower basin storage (Beltzville and Blue Marsh) were at or slightly above their normal pool indicating that all of flood control storage in the two reservoirs was available.

As of August 24, 2009, the salt line (7-day average river mile location of 250 mg/l chlorides) was at river mile 68 which is nine miles downstream of its normal position at 77 miles. The next one-three month outlooks show an equal probability of experiencing either higher or lower than normal temperatures and

precipitation.

In July, NOAA came out with a forecast stating that we are in an El Nino year. El Nino means that hurricane activity in the Atlantic tends to be suppressed. This does not mean that the intensity will be less, but it might mean we have a chance for near normal or below normal hurricane activity.

**D. Flood Analysis Model – Status Report - Bob Tudor (DRBC)**

Bob Tudor, DRBC, gave an update on the Flood Analysis Model. The development of the model is one of the 45 recommendations of the Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force. That report was completed in 2007. DRBC entered into a contractual relationship with three federal agencies in 2007, USGS, Army Corps of Engineers, and National Weather Service (NWS). The idea was to have an ensemble of different models, an integration tool or graphical user interface (GUI) and documentation/software that would be available to the public. The original expectation was that the tool would be available in 18 months, which would have been January 2009. There have been some delays in the development of the model but it is reported that it will now be expected by the close of this year. The model results will be presented to the Task Force at a public meeting, the date of which has yet to be scheduled. Notice of the meeting will be given in advance to the FAC.

**E. FY-09 Flood Warning Improvements – Delaware River Basin Enhanced Flood Warning System**

Barbara Watson, NWS, gave an update on the status of the Delaware River Basin Flood Warning Recommendations Report. This report addresses three recommendations FW-1.1, FW-2, and FW-7.2 of the Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force Action Agenda of 2007. These three recommendations focused on evaluating the precipitation and stream gaging network, and improvements to river flood forecasting services. The draft report includes 50 recommendations related to these three areas. The report also includes Appendices A through C with reference maps showing gage and flood warning point distributions throughout the Delaware Basin. Appendix D provides a summary list of the recommendations and reference maps showing the approximate location of the improvements.

The revised draft of the report (after incorporating NWS field office recommendations) was sent out to the cooperating water agencies asking for comments. They were given a date of September 4<sup>th</sup> to get back with comments/suggestions. After the reviews are back and the comments are addressed, the report will be ready for distribution.

**F. Floodplain Regulations Report**

Jason Miller, USACE and Committee Chair, handed out a draft copy of the FAC Report, “Recommendations for More Effective Floodplain Regulations in the Delaware River Basin”. Mr. Miller reminded the committee that at the May 2009 meeting the Floodplain Regulation Evaluation Subcommittee (FRES), created by the FAC at the request of DRBC Commissioners, gave a presentation to the FAC and provided their report with recommendations to the FAC. At that last meeting, the committee agreed to take the next several months to review that document and provide comments from your agency or your jurisdiction point of view. Mr. Miller stated that he hoped, following discussion of comments received, that the committee could take action on the report today and forward it onto DRBC Commissioners.

FAC member comments received between May 19, 2009 and August 25, 2009:  
PEMA, David Williams

NWS collective comments, transmitted by Albert Matte  
FEMA RII, Mary Colvin  
DNREC, Mike Powell  
NYSDEC, William Nechamen  
NYCDEP, Senobar Safafar  
USGS, Tom Suro  
PADEP, Kerry Wilson  
PEMA, Thomas Hughes

Other comments received between May 19, 2009 and August 25, 2009:

New York State Department of Transportation  
Delaware County Planning, Nicole Franzese (FRES member)  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Stroud Water Research Center  
New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM)  
Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)  
Borough of Amber, PA

The draft report under review at the meeting contained tracked changes reflecting comments received by FAC members. Committee discussion covered the following topics and resulted in modifications to the draft report:

- Need for an executive summary
- Mention possible means of implementation to inform DRBC Commissioners
- Mention that basin states must get out ahead of efforts of the federal government regarding the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and incorporate this information in its flood mitigation strategies.
- Include that FEMA must develop a means to incorporate into its flood mapping program the projected impacts of sea level rise and precipitation due to climate change in assessing flood hazard areas.
- Regulatory Floodplain and Floodway definitions – mention that new mapping isn't recommended at this time, but when new studies are done that we recommend this higher standard.
- Floodplain Mapping – emphasize using best available hydrology data
- Freeboard Recommendation – consideration of a provision for floodproofing of non-habitable and/or commercial structures instead of freeboard
- Enclosed Areas below Flood Elevation - remove reasoning of recommended openings due to equalizing hydrostatic flood forces, instead clarify that it is to prevent conversion into living space.
- Enclosed Areas below Flood Elevation - NFIP elevation requirements refer to “lowest floor (including basement)” not “lowest habitable floor”
- Substantial Damage Declaration – correct definition
- Dam Safety – modification of dam removal language and requirement of EAPs
- Include comments received from agencies or municipalities as an Appendix

The committee voted by majority in attendance to approve the document under the condition that the discussed revisions to the report would be made. There was one dissenting vote from New York State, NYSDEC. Kelli-Higgins Roche, NYSDEC, expressed concern for the implications that a larger floodplain and floodway would have on the communities in the upper basin.

It was discussed that the report may be presented to the Commissioners by the FAC at the next Commission meeting of October 22, 2009 if the agenda allows.

**G. Opportunity for Public and Interested Party Comments**

No comments from the public or interested parties.

**H. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) is scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 10:00am in the DRBC Goddard Conference Room.

**FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE  
August 26, 2009**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>
AHNERT, Peter	National Weather Service (NWS)
BANASIAK, Marie	NJ Farm Bureau
BELL, Richard	Delaware County, NY Emergency Services
BOLLINGER, Dave	FEMA Region III
BRANDES, Kate	Nurture Nature Foundation
BURD, Dave	Lambertville OEM
ERICKSON, William	Philadelphia City Planning Commission
FITZPATRICK, Dan	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PADCED)
GRUBER, Hank	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
HAINLY, Bob	US Geological Survey (USGS) – PA
HIGGINS-ROCHE, Kelli	New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC)
HOGAN, Rachel	Nurture Nature Foundation
KRUZDLO, Raymond	National Weather Service (NWS)
MILLER, Jason	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
MOYLE, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
PEDRICK, Gail	Delaware Riverside Conservancy
PLACER, Katrina	Mercer County Planning
POWELL, Michael	Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
QUINODOZ, Hernan	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
REISER, Robert	United States Geological Service (USGS)
RIMANI, Hani	Medina Consultants
RIPKA, Dan	Delaware Riverside Conservancy
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
RUPERT, Clarke	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
SAFAFAR, Senobar	New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)
SCORDATO, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

STEIGERWALD, Scott	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
STUM, Dennis	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
SURO, Thomas	United States Geological Service (USGS) - NY
TESSIERI, Laura	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
TUDOR, Bob	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
WATSON, Barbara	National Weather Service (NWS)
WILSON, Kerry	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
WNEK, Patti	National Weather Service (NWS)