

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
June 24, 2015**



The DRBC Flood Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by Joseph Ruggeri, NJDEP, was held on June 24, 2015 at the DRBC offices in West Trenton, New Jersey. Presentations from the meeting are available online at <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/about/advisory/flood/>

Action Items:

1. DRBC will send a letter with FAC recommendations for improved tidal forecasting to Eastern Region Director of NWS and Maritime Services Project Manager of NOS
2. DRBC will reach out to state NFIP offices and gather example model ordinances and crosswalk tools, formation of a small workgroup to be discussed at September meeting
3. Future meeting presentation under consideration include: a) [Delaware Coastal Flood Warning System](#), b) Briefing from National Water Center on plans for coastal/ riverine interface modeling
4. March 31, 2015 minutes were approved

Discussion Items:

- Hydrologic Conditions Report, DRBC and Hydrologic Outlook, NWS
- New Storm Surge Graphics by National Hurricane Center, Ray Kruczko, NWS
 - Graphics will show potential depths of storm surge flooding and identify watch/warning areas
 - Maps will be issued in the event of a named storm, soon after a watch/warning is issued
 - Breakpoints have been submitted up to Trenton, but model resolution will determine how far north mapping will be issued
- City of Philadelphia is interested in improving flood warnings in three areas of concern; Manayunk and Lower Schuylkill (Schuylkill River), and Eastwick (Darby Creek). Possible proposed work may include flood profiling and data collection, modeling, additional gages, flood inundation mapping. Federal agencies are meeting and outlining a proposed course of action. Coordination needs discussed:
 - Any new USGS gage should be coordinated with the National Ocean Service (NOS) and added into the [Delaware Bay Operational Forecast System \(DBOFS\)](#) domain. Currently, NOS issues tidal forecasts for NOS gages only.
 - DBOFS tidal forecasts are issued every 6 hours and do contain an initial freshwater contribution, but no freshwater forecasting. Improvements in forecasting combination flooding in the Delaware Bay (when freshwater and tidal flooding meet) could be realized if NOS incorporated MARFC forecasts into its DBOFS modeling.
- The [Delaware Coastal Flood Warning System](#) (CFMS) is a state web-based tool and alert system designed to provide emergency managers, planners, and others the information needed regarding upcoming coastal flood events. One end-point for all forecast products, easy for end user, and includes inundation mapping and evacuation routes.
- Changes to the National Flood Insurance Program, Andrew Martin, CFM, FEMA Region II
 - Effective April 1, 2015, policyholders must provide proof of primary residence to avoid larger annual surcharge (\$250 vs \$25 if primary residence)
 - Subsidies are being phased out, increases at 18-percent a year, no rate cap for subsidized rates. Elevation certificate needed for appropriate rating. All pre-firm homes are encouraged to get an elevation certificate and submit to their insurance agent to avoid never-ending rate increases.
 - New policy category after 2014 Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. The “Newly Mapped” applies to properties that have been newly mapped into a Special Flood Hazard Area

(SFHA). It allows flood insurance to be purchased at the equivalent preferred risk rate, increased at 18-percent a year, climbing to full risk rating X-zone rate.

- Ways to lower premiums include elevation, fill and vent basements or partial mitigation for partial credit.
- [Federal Floodplain Management Standard](#), Andrew Martin, CFM, FEMA Region II
 - The President has directed federal agencies to update their flood-risk reduction standards. Federal agencies will be given flexibility to select approach for establishing elevation and flood hazard area criteria (future conditions, 2-3 feet freeboard or 500-year flood elevation)
 - Public comment ended on May 6, 2015. Water Resources Council will issue final guidelines and agencies will begin implementing own plans later this year. Federal agencies will seek individual public comment in 2016.
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Projects Update
 - Elevations/Acquisitions projects are main focus in the DRB
 - Acquisition project in the Bay Point section of Lawrence Township notable due to full scale restoration (red knot/horseshoe crab beach) and multiple agency coordination
- Updates from Members on Current Issues/Interests
 - NJ proposed revisions to its [Flood Hazard Area Control Act rule](#), 60-day public comment period ending July 31, 2015.
 - Philadelphia Water Department updating its [stormwater regulations](#) effective July 1, 2015.

Next Meetings: September 23, 2015
 December 2, 2015

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE
June 24, 2015**

NAME	AGENCY
AHNERT, Peter	National Weather Service (NWS), Middle Atlantic River Forecast Office
BENDER, Sanford	FEMA/DHS
BURD, David	Local Emergency Management: Lambertville, NJ
BYUN, Seung Ah	Brandywine Conservancy
GOULD, Chris*	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
HOGAN, Laurie*	National Weather Service (NWS), Eastern Region Headquarters
KRUZDLO, Ray	National Weather Service (NWS), Mount Holly WFO
LIAGHAT, Hoss	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
MARTIN, Andrew	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2
MAZZEI, Vincent	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
MILLER, Jason	United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
MOYLE, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
OLIVIO, Dana	New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)
RADFORD, Mari	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 3
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SANGIOVANNI, Michael	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)
SCORDATO, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SMITH, Cleighton	Bergmann Associates
SURO, Tom	United States Geological Survey (USGS) – NJ
TESSIERI, Laura	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
TESTA, Chris	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)
van ROSSUM, Maya	Delaware Riverkeeper
VOWINKEL, Eric	Rutgers
WESTFALL, Greg	New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM)
WHITE, Kirk	United States Geological Survey (USGS) – PA

*attended via phone