

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

February 8, 2012

The February 8, 2012 Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting began at 10:00 AM at the Commission office (DRBC) in West Trenton, NJ. Tom Suro, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) chaired the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. NJDEP to work with NOAA to include 1% annual chance flood on Inundation Maps
2. DRBC staff to include FAC comments and finalize brochure highlighting FAC progress implementing Task Force Flood Warning recommendations.

A. Introductions and Review of the Draft Minutes from the November 9, 2011 meeting:

Minutes of the November 2011 meetings were approved with no corrections or changes noted. Minutes are posted to the DRBC web site. Tapes of meetings may be reviewed upon request.

B. Hydrologic Conditions Report: Amy Shallcross, DRBC

A presentation of the current hydrologic conditions was given by Amy Shallcross, DRBC. 2011 was a very wet year with yearly precipitation ending 27 inches above normal for the upper basin and 13 inches above normal for the lower basin. As of February 7th, the year-to-date precipitation for 2012 ranged from 2.92 inches (0.7 inches below normal) for the upper basin (above Montague) to 2.63 inches (1.48 inches below normal) for the lower basin (Wilmington).

To date, for the month of February, streamflow both at Montague and Trenton gages were above the normal range for that time of year. Streamflow at Montague was 135% of normal as of February 7th and Trenton was 125% of normal.

As of February 7, 2012, the total storage for the NYC Delaware reservoirs was 251 BG (93%); Cannonsville at 90%, Pepacton at 93% and Neversink at 100%. As of February 8, 2012, the salt line (7-day average river mile location of 250 mg/l chlorides) was at river mile 68 which is the normal position for this time of year.

C. Floodplain Maps (DFIRMs) in the Basin- Status of Mapping: Laura Tessieri, DRBC & Chris Gould, NJDEP

The status of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) in the basin was discussed. The current status of preliminary maps can be viewed here: <https://www.rampp-team.com/public.htm>

D. Flood Inundation Mapping on the Delaware: New Google Earth Interface: Laurie Hogan, NOAA NWS

Laurie Hogan gave a presentation on the Flood Inundation Mapping along the Delaware. The mapping is now available using a Google Maps interface. The interface allows for better zoom capabilities. It was discussed that the 1% annual chance floodplain should be added to the mapping. NJDEP and FEMA to follow up with the NWS. The mapping can be viewed on AHPS and via this link: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/hydrological/river/ahps/index.html>

E. DRBC Web Redesign: Clarke Rupert, DRBC

Clarke Rupert walked the Committee through the DRBC web redesign. The website can be viewed at www.drbc.net

F. Enhanced Flood Warning System Update & Brochure, Laura Tessieri, DRBC

A brochure, developed by DRBC, was passed out and discussed by FAC members. The brochure highlights the work of the NWS, USGS, USACE and DRBC in implementing the Flood Warning recommendations of the Interstate Flood Task Force report. Following the inclusion of some additions made by the FAC members, the brochure will be posted online.

G. Delaware River Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force: Overview of recommendations addressed/in progress:

FAC members reviewed progress made to date on the recommendations of the Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force Action Agenda, July 2007. Much progress has been made to the Flood Warning recommendations. Additionally, progress has been made on the Reservoir and Floodplain Mapping/Regulations sections. Progress has been being made by many partners in the Basin and is charted by DRBC and posted online.

H. Brief Update on Delaware River Diversion Channel Flood Control Project, Mashipacong Island, Laura Tessieri, DRBC

The project was designed to alleviate flooding from an ice jam similar to that which impacted Port Jervis and the Pennsylvania municipalities in 1981 by allowing ice and water to flow through the back channel of Mashipacong Island if the main channel were blocked with ice.

Based on an engineering feasibility study authorized by Congress and conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), a flood mitigation project was recommended. The project consisted of tree removal in a 200 feet wide and 2.5 mile long section of a natural back channel between Mashipacong Island and the river shoreline in Montague, New Jersey. The project did not entail any excavation, only the removal of trees. The Delaware River Basin Commission agreed to be the non-federal sponsor of the project in 1985 and coordinated the local project funding for the purchase of real estate easements and for obtaining New Jersey State and federal permits. The twenty-five percent local cost share for tree removal, right of way acquisition, and the construction of an access road was shared among New York State and the City of Port Jervis as well as Pennsylvania and its municipalities of Matamoras Borough and Westfall Township. Yearly inspections are now performed and attended by the Corps, DRBC and the three townships.

I. Opportunity for Public and Interested Party Comments

Skip Garlits requested copies of animation developed by John Yagecic, DRBC. The requested animation displays graphs of the non-tidal Delaware River flooding during August and September 2011 and the impact of Hurricane Irene (August 2011) and its storm surge on Delaware Estuary water surface elevations. The requested videos were presented to the FAC in November 2011 and are posted online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_MKFQN5Zbc and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS6ruaAI50A>.

J. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 10:00am in the DRBC Goddard Conference Room.

**FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE**

February 8, 2012

NAME	AGENCY
BANASIAK, Marie	New Jersey Farm Bureau
BELL, Richard	Delaware County, NY Department of Emergency Services
BURD, David	Local Emergency Management: Lambertville, NJ
CAPECCI, Don	PPL Generation
DEANGELO, Jim	Michael Baker Corporation
FANOK, Su	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
GARLITS, Skip	
GAUL, Andrew	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
GOULD, A. Chris	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
HOGAN, Laurie	National Weather Service (NWS)
HOPPE, Heidi	United States Geological Service (USGS) - NJ
KRISTENSEN, Henning	Resident
KRUZDLO, Ray	National Weather Service (NWS)
MILLER, Jason	United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
MOYLE, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
OGIBA, Rich	Business Owner
PEDRICK, Gail	Resident
PLACER, Katrina	Mercer County Planning Division
QUINODOZ, Hernan	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
ROLAND, Mark	United States Geological Service (USGS) - PA
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
RUPERT, Clarke	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
SCORDATO, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SHALLCROSS, Amy	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
SMITH, Cleighton	
SURO, Thomas	United States Geological Service (USGS) - NY

TESSIERI, Laura	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
TUDOR, Robert	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
WATSON, Barbara	National Weather Service (NWS)
WESTFALL, Greg	Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) - NJ
WHITE, Kirk	United States Geological Service (USGS) - PA
WILLIAMS, David	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
WNEK, Patti	National Weather Service (NWS)
Zigon-Richardson Valerie	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)