

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

June 8, 2011

The June 8, 2011 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. Tom Suro will contact FAC members to determine who is interested in becoming Vice Chair.
 2. USGS will to extend stage/discharge measurements above 125 percent of record flow for ten (10) prioritized gages. This work will be completed using FY10 Delaware River Basin Enhanced Flood Warning funds, obtained by DRBC through a NOAA grant with congressional support.
 3. DRBC staff will develop a brochure to highlight progress implementing Task Force Flood Warning recommendations and other grant tasks
- A. Introductions and Review of the Draft Minutes from the February 16th meeting.** – Approval of the February 16th minutes were deferred until the October 19, 2011 FAC meeting.
- B. Nominations of Vice Chair, State/Local Member** Nomination of a vice-chair was deferred until the October 19, 2011 FAC meeting because candidates have not yet been identified. Tom Suro will reach out to members of the FAC (State/local members) who were not present to see if they would be interested in becoming vice chair.
- C. Hydrologic Conditions Report,** Amy Shallcross, DRBC
May's precipitation averaged .34 inches above normal for the 38 reported counties. Twenty counties recorded above-normal precipitation for the month. For the 180-day period ending on June 5, 2011, precipitation averaged 2.87 inches above normal. As of June 8, 30-day running averages for streamflows at 18 Pennsylvania index stations were at normal to above-normal levels. As of June 8, groundwater levels at all 10 Pennsylvania county monitoring wells were in the normal to above-normal range based on 30-day running averages. As of June 8, storage in the NYC Delaware reservoir system was at 99.0 percent usable capacity. The median storage for the date is 98.5 percent usable capacity. As of June 6 (the most recent date the data is available), the salt line was located at river mile 60. The normal location for June is river mile 67.
- D. Ice Jam Monitoring at DRJTBC Bridges to support NWS,** Patti Wnek, MARFC
The National Weather Service (NWS) has an agreement with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC) to provide ice information and photographs to the NWS. In the winter (December 15 – March 31 (as conditions warrant), DRJTBC will electronically send NWS one image every morning from each bridge (17 bridges) and provide notifications of ice jams or break-ups to improve NWS river forecasts.
- E. Updates to Flood Impact Statements on AHPS,** Ray Krudzlo, NWS Mount Holly WFP
Representatives of river communities were consulted to verify existing and acquire new flood impacts. From the survey, NWS acquired 400-500 new impacts not only for river flooding but for tidal gages along the coast. Both impacts and EM responses revealed that flood categories were valid for New Hope, Stockton, Frenchtown, Easton, and Tocks Island. New impacts from Hopewell Twp and Upper Makefield Twp revealed that initial Washington Crossing flood categories needed to be revised. Changes are also being proposed for Riegelsville, Belvidere, Norristown, Reading, and Pottstown.
- F. Detailed Precipitation Network Inventory and Gap Analysis,** Sol Summer and Rick Fromuth, NOAA Contract Support

NOAA prepared an inventory the precipitation stations within the Delaware River Basin and adjacent counties in support of Recommendations FW-1.1 and FW-1.2 of the Flood Mitigation Task Force. The project identified data gaps but also inventoried non-NOAA and non-NWS gages, including those operated by private weather services such as Weather Underground and Earth Networks (Weather Bug). Candidate gages were recommended for further consideration to address gaps and the costs of upgrades were estimated. A total of 52 existing gages and two new gages were recommended to address gaps in coverage and improve NWS forecasting.

- G. RiskMap Floodplain Mapping Strategy in the DRB**, Jeff Smith, Accenture
FEMA is finishing its map modernization program, which converted more than 100,000 map panels within 1,000 communities to GIS information, available for the public for risk based analyses and better emergency response. FEMA has moved into a Risk-map program – Mapping, Assessment, and Planning to provide quality data and improve public awareness and actions that reduce risks. Risk-MAP projects will allow public participation at many levels and use a watershed study approach at the HUC-8 scale. Since the Delaware River Basin crosses states and many municipalities FEMA is creating HUC-10 and HUC-12 to facilitate collaboration in the region. FEMA will maintain their traditional regulatory products. FEMA Risk-MAP: http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtm
Flood map data: msc.fema.gov
- H. Delaware River Flood Inundation Mapping Update on AHPS**, Patti Wnek, MARFC
Mapping was developed based on Task Force recommendations. With funding through Delaware River Basin Enhanced Flood Warning System, USACOE developed inundation mapping for nine NWS river forecast locations along the Delaware River main stem using existing topography and floodplain studies. Maps provide information on the spatial extent and depth of flood waters in the vicinity of NWS River forecast locations. Prior to posting, local officials with knowledge and experience of past floods reviewed the maps. The locations are Trenton, Lambertville/New Hope, Stockton, Frenchtown, Riegelsville: Phillipsburg/Easton, Belvidere, Montague, and Port Jervis. The mapping (expected in July 2011) will be online through the AHPS.
- I. Opportunity for Public and Interested Party Comments** – None.
- J. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 10:00am in the DRBC Goddard Conference Room.

**FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE**

June 8, 2011

NAME	AGENCY
AHNERT, Peter	National Weather Service (NWS)
BELL, Richard	Delaware County, NY Department of Emergency Services
BURD, David	Local Emergency Management: Lambertville, NJ
CHILLAG, Charlie	NWS
CROWLEY, Mary Jo	Delaware Riverside Conservancy (DRC)/Aquatic Conservation Unlimited (ACU)
CROWLEY, Tim	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 2
DEANGELO, Jim	Michael Baker Corporation
GALLAGHER, Sheila	DRC
GRIGGS, Pat	FEMA Region 2
KOCH, Ryan	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) - PA
KRUZDLO, Ray	NWS
MAROSI, Bill	NWS
MATTE, Al	NWS
MILLER, Jason	United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
MOLZAHN, Bob	Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin
OLIVIO, Dana	New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)
QUINODOZ, Hernan	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
REISER, Robert	United States Geological Service (USGS) - NJ
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SCORDATO, John	NJDEP
SHALLCROSS, Amy	DRBC
SMITH, Jeff	Accenture
SURO, Thomas	USGS - NY
WEBERG, Paul	FEMA Region 2

WESTFALL, Greg	USDA-NRCS - NJ
WILLIAMS, David	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
WNEK, Patti	NWS

