

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

**May 19, 2009**

The May 19, 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 February 11, 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.

**B. Hydrologic Conditions Report**

A presentation of the current hydrologic conditions was given by Laura Tessieri, DRBC.

The annual precipitation for 2008 in the upper and central part of the basin was approximately 5 inches above normal, whereas, the lower basin was approximately 2 inches below normal. To date, for 2009, the year-to-date precipitation ranges from 3-4 inches below normal over the entire basin.

As of May 18, 2009, the total storage for the NYC Delaware reservoirs was 269.7 BG; Cannonsville was at 99.3%, Pepacton at 99.5% and Neversink at 100.6%. All three reservoirs were releasing at L2 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 May 14, 2009, the salt line (7-day average river mile location of 250 mg/l chlorides) was at river mile 68 which is four miles upstream of its normal position at 64 miles. The next one-three month outlooks show an equal probability of experiencing either higher or lower than normal temperatures and precipitation.

**C. Report from 5/18/09 meeting of Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force**

Bob Tudor of DRBC gave a brief report of the first meeting of the Interstate Mitigation Task Force since the Action Agenda was transmitted to the Governor's back in July 2007. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to assess progress made to date in implementing recommendations and decide where more focus should be directed in the next few years. The meeting concentrated on implementation at a Basin scale in the morning and then focused on the sub-basin scale in the afternoon.

DRBC, with the help of many agencies, compiled an implementation matrix to track the implementation of the 45 recommendations contained in the Interstate Task Force Report. The matrix can be viewed at [http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/Flood\\_Website/DRBProjects0509.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/Flood_Website/DRBProjects0509.pdf). DBRC plans to update this matrix periodically, any updates should be sent to Laura Tessieri at [Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us](mailto:Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us).

**Action Items:**

- a) Link to final product or report in the implementation matrix when possible.
- b) Send the implementation matrix to the Governor's offices to show progress being made.
- c) A request was made to have a status report on the flood model at the next meeting.

**D. Updates on Stream Gage Funding in the Basin**

Laura Tessieri, DRBC, gave an update on stream gage funding in the basin. As many are aware, local cooperator funding is critical in keeping the gages operational. This year, NYCDEP threatened to discontinue its funding for 14 gages in the DRB. The USGS cooperative water program and other partner agencies have stepped in to make sure that the majority of the threatened gages did not become discontinued.

Now funded through the National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP):

1420500	Beaver Kill at Cooks Falls
1434000	Delaware R. at Port Jervis

Now funded by USGS Cooperative Water Program and partner agencies:

1413398	Bush Kill, near Arkville
1422747	East Brook, east of Walton
1413088	East Branch Delaware R. at Roxbury
1421610	West Branch Delaware R. at Hobart

Local Cooperative funding now to be assumed by Pennsylvania:

1432160	Delaware R. at Barryville*
1432805	Delaware R. at Pond Eddy
1427510	Delaware R. at Callicoon **

Action Items:

- a) Motion to identify critical gages both statewide and basinwide; stream gages serve many purposes, so many may need to be involved in such a process.

**E. Presentation of the Floodplain Regulations Evaluation Subcommittee (FRES) Report and FAC Review**

Joe Ruggeri of NJDEP, also a co-chair of the Floodplain Regulations Evaluation Subcommittee, gave a presentation on the Delaware River Basin Floodplain Regulation Evaluation Subcommittee (FRES). The subcommittee was formed by the FAC in November 2008 at the request of New Jersey and Pennsylvania commissioners to address Recommendation FR-1 of the Interstate Task Mitigation Task Force Report. The subcommittee met eight (8) times over the course of seven months. The first meeting convened on November 12, 2008. FRES was composed of twenty (20) representatives who represent the interests of the basin states, federal government, environment, citizens, builders, agriculture, commerce, floodplain mapping and local officials. The charge of the subcommittee was to review and evaluate the similarities and differences in floodplain regulations throughout the Delaware River Basin, and to develop and present recommendations on the potential for more effective floodplain management throughout the Basin to the FAC.

Mr. Ruggeri stated that the subcommittee was tasked to examine current floodplain regulations in the basin and make recommendations to the FAC, although he emphasized that this was not a rule making process. Any implementation of these recommendations would need to follow a full rulemaking process including a cost-benefit analysis and public notice at either at a local, state or regional level. He also clarified that the recommendations of the subcommittee area suite of options that can be considered as a whole, or each individually.

The FAC agreed to that the report would benefit from the expertise of FAC members. The FAC agreed to provide some clarification to the report and also to recommend means of implementation

or prioritize recommendations when possible. The committee agrees to review and send comments on the Floodplain Regulations Evaluation Subcommittee (FRES) report no later than Friday, July 17th. Following the review and any amendments, the report will become a product of the FAC. The FAC plans to present the report to DRBC Commissioners at an upcoming regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

Action items:

- a) FAC members will send comments on the report by July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to Laura Tessieri, DRBC and Jason Miller, FAC Chair.

## **F. Opportunity for Public and Interested Party Comments**

Jeremy Wo submitted a letter to the FAC from members of the PA state legislature requesting an analysis on the social and economic impacts of the regulations contained in the Floodplain Regulations Evaluation Subcommittee report.

The Nurture Nature Foundation in Easton, PA announced that they have secured \$250,000 in federal funding to support a flood awareness and emergency preparedness education campaign in the recently flooded regions along the Delaware River, in the four Basin states of PA, NJ, DE, and NY.

Elaine Reichart, ACU, expressed displeasure in the composition of the FRES. She stated that there wasn't a large enough cross-section of developers, of residents, of community municipal leaders, in the 4 states in multiple counties represented on this task force. She stated that this subcommittee is not about stopping flooding but is about preventing future development and limiting re-development. She urged the FAC to have much deliberation going forward.

Mick Drustrup, a representative of FRES, commented that a lot of work did go into the report and a lot of very pain staking debate and argument went into each item. He mentioned that the first two recommendations deal with the definition of the floodway and flood fringe. He requested that the FAC look at the impact of the recommendation and understand the impact fully before furthering the recommendation as the subcommittee did not have the time or resources to do this (i.e. 100 year floodplain vs. 125% peak flow vs. 500 year floodplain).

NJDEP announced that preliminary maps were just made available for the main stem of the Delaware River that highlights those changes. Anyone who would like to view the newly proposed mapping prepared by FEMA RII was invited to stay after the meeting.

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, stated that yes, this process has been intense but it has not been a fast process. She urged that we shouldn't be loosing the fire in our belly to do something about flooding on the Delaware - it took 3 big floods in 18 months to get everybody's attention but when that happened everyone paid attention because flood damages were high. Following the floods, the Flood Mitigation Task Force charged in 2007 to look at consistent enhanced flood regulations. It has been 2 years, and now this report from the FRES has come out to the FAC. Ms Carluccio urged that there is a proper time to consider socio/economic impacts, but the goal here is to reduce flood damages and protect our floodplain to allow it to function so that we are better off when the next flood comes down the path. She wanted to clarify that the subcommittee was not charged with writing land use regulations, instead they charged with looking at floodplain regulations, comparing what was done in the different states, and making recommendations to the FAC.

**G. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) has been tentatively scheduled for August 26, 2009.

**FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE**

**May 19, 2009**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>
AHNERT, Peter	National Weather Service (NWS)
BRANDES, Kate	Nurture Nature Foundation
BURD, Dave	Lambertville OEM
CARLUCCIO, Tracy	Delaware Riverkeeper Network
DEANGELO, Jim	Michael Baker
DRUSTRUP, Mick	Lower Delaware, Wild & Scenic
DUNN, Kim	Dewberry
FERRARI, Mark	New York State Emergency Management Office (NYSEMO)
FITZPATRICK, Dan	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PADCED)
FRANZESE, Nicole	Delaware County, NY Planning Department
GOULD, A. Chris	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Dam Safety and Flood Control
GRUBER, Hank	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
HAINLY, Bob	US Geological Survey (USGS) – PA
HOGAN, Rachel	Nurture Nature Foundation
HRABEL, Valerie	NJ Builders Association
MATTE, Al	National Weather Service (NWS)
MILLER, Jason	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
MOYLE, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
NECHAMEN, Bill	New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC)
PICCIANO, Joe	New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (NJOHSP)
PLACER, Katrina	Mercer County Planning
POWELL, Michael	Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
QUINODOZ, Hernan	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
REICHART, Elaine	Aquatic Conservation Unlimited (ACU)
REISER, Robert	United States Geological Service (USGS)
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

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
TAMM, Alan	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
TESSIERI, Laura	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
TUDOR, Bob	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
WATSON, Barbara	National Weather Service (NWS)
WESTFALL, Greg	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
WILLIAMS, David	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Eastern Area
WILSON, Kerry	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
WINSLADE, C. William	Yardley Borough Manager & Emergency Management Coordinator
WNEK, Patti	National Weather Service (NWS)
ZAGONE, Joseph	FEMA RIII