

### Happy Groundhog Day

Do you ever feel like you are reliving the same day over and over again? That still may be better than 6 more weeks of winter, though for us the cooler weather is a treat. But then we are not shoveling feet of snow. As I spent the bulk of January working with many of you for project updates and the required fields, I felt like I have been saying the same thing for two years now. I resolve not to do this anymore. I feel that we are reaching a turning point for the LMS, in that we have been able to build a strong foundation from which we can now really grow. Here are the changes I have made and propose to make as we move forward for projects:

1. Underway: The fields that are mandatory for projects will be required in WebEOC. Which means you must add all of the required information before your project will be saved.
2. Proposed: As we are now able to make online updates, I propose that this now only be required to be done once a year as opposed to twice. You may of course update your projects more often but they must be updated at least one time each calendar year. I will open this up for discussion at our next quarterly meeting and we will put this to vote.
3. Proposed: Increase the opportunities for participation. I know it can be challenging for you all to get to the quarterly meetings each year, we are looking for ways to increase opportunities. I am considering the following:
  - a. Adding other meetings that people already attend such as the Healthcare Consortium or Quarterly Municipal Meetings that would have an LMS component added to the agenda. This could also allow us to discuss topics more relevant to these particular groups. I would love to hear of other groups that are meeting that would be relevant for us to include.
  - b. Perhaps return to more of a divisional EOC concept so we can discuss mitigation concerns for smaller areas. I would love to get out to see the areas and learn more about your concerns and projects.
4. Proposed: Have meetings to address areas of concern. As we have been moving ahead with mapping, perhaps we can have a meeting with the concerned parties to talk in greater detail about what mitigation opportunities exist or could be proposed. As I have been looking at the repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties this has been something I am wondering if we can do more about. Or perhaps there are interagency meetings occurring that we are not documenting that we can include as part of LMS.

## LMS Calendar

### Next LMS Quarterly Meeting:

**Date:** March 18, 2015

**Time:** 9:30-11:30 am

**Location:** TBD

All Working Group Members and the public are welcome to attend.

### SubCommittee Meetings:

#### CRS/Floodplain Managers

March 18, 2015

1:00 pm

9300 NW 41 Street, EOC Policy Room

### Future Quarterly Meetings:

**June 17, 2015**

**September 16, 2015**



5. Proposed: Review current Steering Committee members, determine if the groups represented are appropriate or if we need additional members/representation. Hold nominations and elections. On this note, I do want to thank all of the current Steering Committee members for their assistance in helping me with their guidance and feedback over the last two years. I do know that we are losing some to retirement and some have taken on new responsibilities and their ability to be engaged has become more difficult. We will discuss this in greater detail at the next quarterly meeting.
6. Proposed: Develop process for Inactive projects/agencies. As you know, in November 2013 we migrated all of the old projects from the LMS into the new WebEOC board. For the very reason that we could track them and ensure they are updated and are current. Unfortunately, we have some projects that were not updated, hence the inordinate amount of time I spent in January reaching out to agencies. I am proposing that projects that are not updated at least once in the calendar year will be made Inactive. In January of the next calendar year, the point of contact for the agency will be notified and given until the first quarterly meeting to make updates. Failure to do so will result in those Inactive projects being permanently removed from the list. We will open this up for discussion at the next quarterly meeting so we can come up with a solution.

As you often hear me say this is your LMS. It will be what we make it. I can only do so much. I want it to be more than just a list of projects or a document that checks off a box for the State and FEMA requirements. I believe in the last few years that we have started to make progress and engage in more meaningful conversations but I also feel we have more to do.

### **10 Years After the Indian Ocean Tsunami**

Last month the *Natural Hazards Observer*, published by the Natural Hazards Center, profiles the Indian Ocean Tsunami and what has been learned. There is an interesting discussion about the recovery of Banda Aceh and how the phrase “building back better” became a lynchpin to its success. A community can certainly replace the buildings and infrastructure that has been lost to a disaster, but are they always successful in rebuilding a community that can continue to be resilient? Catastrophic disasters are horrible but they can also present us with an opportunity to analyze the community as a whole. If you had to re-structure your community what would you do to address social and economic factors and future threats? There is also an article on Hurricane Sandy and the rebuilding design process they have gone through. This and more can be found at

[http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/o/archives/pastobservers.html?utm\\_source=NHC+Master+List&utm\\_campaign=c8e62b1d85-January\\_2015\\_Observer&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_dabc309806-c8e62b1d85-54369658#issues2015](http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/o/archives/pastobservers.html?utm_source=NHC+Master+List&utm_campaign=c8e62b1d85-January_2015_Observer&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dabc309806-c8e62b1d85-54369658#issues2015)

## Community Rating System (CRS) Webinars

The CRS offers webinars to help communities with their CRS requirements. Many will be recorded, so they can be accessed later. Registration is free, but required, as space is limited. Some courses provide continuing education credits for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs). See [www.CRSresources.org/training](http://www.CRSresources.org/training). The following one-hour topical webinars are on the calendar, and others can be scheduled. All webinars begin at 1:00 pm EST / 10:00 am PST.

**Introduction to the CRS**— February 17, 2015; April 21, 2015; June 16, 2015

**Developing Outreach Projects (Activity 330)** — February 18, 2015

**Preparing for a Verification Visit**— March 17, 2015; May 19, 2015

**Developing a Program for Public Information under Activity 330 or a Coverage Improvement Plan under Activity 370**— March 18, 2015

We are hosting a local meeting at the EOC for the webinar and then discussion on how we can prepare our local PPI.

**Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540)**— April 22, 2015

**The CRS and Higher Regulatory Standards**— May 20, 2015

**The CRS and Natural Floodplain Functions**— June 17, 2015

**Preparing an Annual Recertification**— August 18, 2015; September 15, 2015

Some of the other webinars anticipated in 2015 include **CRS Credit for Mapping and Regulations (the 400 Series)**; **CRS Credit for Flood Damage Reduction (the 500 Series)**; and **CRS and Climate Change**.

## FL Governor's Hurricane Conference - May 10-15, 2015

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference will be held in Orlando again this year. I have been invited to speak in a session with Rob Molleda and Betty Morrow on *Conveying Meteorological Uncertainty: How Social Science is Helping the NWS and Partners Communicate Hurricane Threats*. My portion of the presentation will be on the community survey we conducted in 2014. The full agenda of conference workshops and training sessions may be found at <http://flghc.org/>. Hope to see you there.

## Proposed Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, the President signed an Executive Order – Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/30/executive-order-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and->

I am attaching a document forwarded by Nichole Hefty, Chief, of the Office of Sustainability. The new flood standard will apply with Federal funds are used to build, or significantly retrofit or repair, structure and facilities in and around floodplains to ensure that those structures are resilient, safer and long-lasting. There is a public comment period currently open and listening sessions will be scheduled. Are there any unintended consequences like we saw with Biggert-Waters? How would this impact your projects?