

RHODE ISLAND FLOOD MITIGATION ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2007 at 9:30 am
Independent Insurance Agents of Rhode Island
2400 Post Road, Warwick, RI

I. Attendees:

Pam Pogue, RIEMA; Chair
Wayne Barnes, City of East Providence; Secretary
Buvana Ramaswamy, CDM, Vice-Treasurer
Carissa Lord, ESS Group, Inc.
Richard Berstein, Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation
Lenny Cook, Smart Vent, Inc.
Jennifer Kilsey, City of Pawtucket
Charles Hampton, City of East Providence
Kevin McBride, Caputo and Wick Ltd.

II. Call to Order:

Chair Pam Pogue called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

III. Approval of Minutes

Lacking a quorum of board members, approval of minutes of the meeting of August 22, 2007 was deferred to the next meeting.

IV. Topics of Discussion

A. MapMod

- Much of what is being done involves digitizing old maps, which does not address potential global warming/sea level rise. In some cases, there is updated mapping being done.
- An uncertified levee in Woonsocket remains an issue for Providence County mapping.
- Local ordinances must be coordinated with the new maps. Pam has funding for workshops regarding how to appropriately amend local ordinances to account for the new maps.

B. Legislature

- Legislation has passed regarding the incorporation of freeboard calculations for construction in V-zones (Ref. R.I.G.L. Ch. 23-27.3-100.1.5.5. Hurricane, storm, and flood standards). The amount of freeboard to be required remains in question.

C. Membership and Participation – Comments and Suggestions

- Active board members and committee chairs are needed to coordinate various activities and tasks for RIFMA. There is still no formal membership committee, which is seen as an immediate need as membership outreach and coordination is a top priority. A new technical committee chair is needed. A general membership e-mail soliciting more active involvement including assistance on committees may be necessary.
- A RIFMA newsletter needs to be generated. Carissa can assist with content and notes that plenty of material is available. The Vice-Chair does the newsletter in some state chapters.
- The use of an intern from one of the local colleges was suggested as a way to lighten the administrative load and assist with the newsletter.
- It is widely thought that effective public and private sector outreach will lead to increased interest and a larger and more active membership.
- Kevin suggested that RIFMA should focus on one major organization attribute at a time and membership would be an appropriate place to start.
- Richard recommended using conference calls to enable involvement from key people who may be unable to attend RIFMA meetings. (This was also suggested by board member Victor Hom in a phone conversation with Wayne.)
- Lenny offered to assist with membership issues.
- Wayne will poll board members regarding a date for the next meeting before that meeting is scheduled, stressing the importance of their involvement. That meeting should probably be in mid to late October.
- Rich suggested annual awards for groups or people who have exhibited leadership in dealing with flood-related issues.

D. Upcoming Events and Outreach Opportunities

- There will be a one-day Coastal Construction (FEMA-55) Course on October 15, 2007, which will be fully accredited for building officials. Pam will contact ASFPM regarding CFM credits.
- The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns has offered us a booth and the opportunity to provide a seminar at their annual convention in January of 2008.
- RIFMA should provide speakers to address pertinent issues at various events, and for groups including Rotary Clubs.
- Wayne suggested that we hold an event (seminar, workshop etc.) as soon as possible to get outreach established quickly.
- Pam noted that there are good seminar possibilities that would be very popular including insurance and elevation certificate workshops. She also related the Indiana chapter's "twilight seminars" on various subjects, where free snacks and beverages are available. These have been effective as they draw private-sector participants who cannot attend events during the workday.
- Carissa and Buvana can both help with event logistics.

- Jennifer can also help with logistics including finding a venue. She will explore availability of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council facility, which includes a small auditorium, for a RIFMA event.
- Cost to attend seminars was discussed. Kevin noted that a charge for accredited seminars is common and expected. After discussion, it was suggested that the charge for such events would be \$30 (which would include a membership) for non-members, and \$10 for RIFMA members.
- Carissa and Pam can both work on accreditation of events with various professional boards and organizations.

V. Correspondence

Wayne presented an e-mail from ASFPM regarding inclusion of a motion limiting state chapter liability resulting from membership and board meetings. Its inclusion at this meeting was considered unnecessary without a quorum of board members present. This motion will become part of future meetings.

VI. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.
Next Meeting: To Be Determined.