

RHODE ISLAND FLOOD MITIGATION ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

I. Date: February 1st, 2007

(Next Meeting: February 22nd, 2007- 9:30AM to 11:30 AM- at RIEMA)

II. Attendees included (but not limited to) the following:

Carissa Lord, RIEMA
Victor Hom, NWS Northeast River Forecast Center
Erik Skadberg, City of East Providence
Mia Manzotti, RI League of Cities and Towns
Janet Freedman, CRMC
Buvanna Ramaswamy, CDM
Nicole Belk, NWS
Nancy Hess, Division of Planning
Kathleen Crawley, RI Water Resources Board
Ron Miner, CDM
Pam Pogue, RIEMA
Gardner Bent, USGS
Brent McCarthy, Watershed Concepts
Wayne Barnes, City of East Providence
Paula Palozzi

III. Topics of Discussion:

A. Summary of Progress to Date

Pam discussed progress achieved to date in RIFMA

B. RIFMA Incorporation into ASFPM

Pam Pogue provided information regarding application for as well as benefits of ASFPM Chapter Status

- Pam distributed copies of the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management binder, to demonstrate what is involved in this type of application
- We would be nominated to ASFPM Board of Directors to become a Chapter
- Cost of \$200 per year for attain Chapter Status
- Website cost would be \$100 per year
- ASFPM will pay airfare for presenters at annual RIFMA Conference
- We are above and beyond the necessary prerequisites to apply for Chapter Status
- A big discount would be offered for attendance of annual ASFPM meeting
- The group unanimously approved to apply for ASFPM Chapter Status
- Pam will put together the application package for RIFMA

C. Bank Account Update

- Buvanna Ramaswamy and Ron Miner discussed status of the bank account

- Account set up at Citizen's Bank
- Additional monthly fee of \$30 per month if we required 2 signatures for any checks
- We may have additional options or discounts as a non-profit
- The group approved waiting for 2 signature requirement until we build up \$10,000 in funds; only 1 signature required for now
- Three people will be able to write checks from account. This will include Buvanna and Ron.
- During the meeting, an Audit Committee was set up to periodically check the finances of RIFMA
- Brent McCarthy and Erik Skadberg were approved by the group as Audit Committee members

D. Mailing Address

- Buvanna provided the new P.O box address for RIFMA
- RIFMA, P.O. Box 1240, Providence, RI 02901
- P.O. Box is located on Exchange Street, on South side of Kennedy Plaza

E. Tax Status

- Mia Manzotti stated that RIFMA should become a 501 C3 Nonprofit Organization
- Mia will fill out necessary paperwork for application

F. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

- These documents were distributed with the January Meeting Minutes, and hardcopies were distributed at this meeting
- A smaller committee was approved to review these documents, and recommend any changes at the next meeting
- Review Committee: Pam Pogue, Mia Manzotti, Wayne Barnes and Erik Skadberg

G. Conference Update- Carissa Lord spoke on Corinne Rosenblum's behalf

- A draft agenda for the First Annual Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Conference was distributed
- The conference would be held on April 24th, 2007, with a networking session in the evening
- Four breakout rooms will be available during the afternoon- one would be used for CFM exam. Breakout sessions would be offered during that timeframe as well
- The draft included suggested presentation topics, as well as a call for additional suggestions. Pam and Carissa took notes on the complete list of suggestions, which included the following. The top four topics are listed first
 - i. Pair up Joe Cirillo with David Vallee (NWS) to discuss upcoming flood/hurricane season and impacts of flood/wind, and a primer on building code

- ii. Dennis Charland and Paula Palozzi discuss insurance premium issues and implications, “State of the State for Property Insurance”
- iii. Coastal erosion and sea level rise (John Boothroyd presenting?)
- iv. Structural engineering/buildings that withstand floods (Dean Sebranis, FEMA Region I?)
- v. Mapmod vs. ordinances (Kevin Flynn or Nancy Hess, moderated by Carissa Lord?)
- vi. Open discussion in afternoon
- vii. How National flood risk is established (Scott Elliman presenting?)

H. Pam asked for potential invitees to the conference that are not currently on our distribution list

- Ask IIARI for insurance recipients – Nancy Hess has a list of about 500
- Greenwich Bay Advisory Committee – Jim Boyd is the contact
- Pam can request that FEMA Region I send conference invitation to FEMA Region I list server- this would prompt distribution to other states as well as RI
- Septic designers
- Old NEFSMA list
- Conservation districts in RI
- Chambers of Commerce
- Academia- Carissa Lord knows how to contact URI. Also contact Brown and Roger Williams
- RI Sea Grant
- League of Cities and Towns
- All town solicitors
- Invitees would be asked what sessions they want to attend

I. Web Page Status – Victor Hom provided an update

- a. A draft form of the web page is available on the internet
- b. The group reviewed the web site, and offered recommendations to the site, including the following:
 - i. Provide credit for East Providence photo to East Providence Planning Department
 - ii. Place mailing address on site
 - iii. Add a link for each committee, showing purpose, actions planned, co-chairs’ names and contact info
 - iv. Provide a page with links to other water-related agencies and organizations
 - v. A RIFMA Conference link
 - vi. Add a sections on last year’s conference
 - vii. Add a members only section (for example, providing access to meeting minutes)
 - viii. A free tracker can be added to the web page

- ix. E-mail distribution list will be provided the website address, and ask for comments.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next RIFMA meeting is scheduled for:

- Thursday, February 22nd (9:30 to 11:30 AM)