



PA MHIP Advisory Team –Summary

A workshop was held on March 14 and 15, 2006 to discuss the impact of FEMA's **Flood Map Modernization Program (MapMod)** and related floodplain issues on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its municipalities. The meeting was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (**DCED**), the PA Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (**PaMAGIC**) and **FEMA**. A cross-section of interested parties representing local, state and federal agencies, as well as business (total attendance of 25) was invited to participate in a strategic planning session to develop an enhanced approach to MapMod in Pennsylvania.

Goals Established

1. Form a board (ongoing, but temporary for now). Start by reviewing MHIP and providing comments to FEMA before June 2006. After that, address DFIRM, flood plain management and criteria for setting priorities. (25)
2. Integrate map modernization process with PA MAP, storm water management planning, flood warning, and storm water plan. (25)
3. Secure stable funding from legislature through lobbying and outreach by end of map modernization phase I (2009). (24)
4. Organize a Pennsylvania conference on flood plain management (perhaps a PASFPM chapter?). (17)
5. Provide outreach to the local level. (6)
6. Achieve accurate and detailed flood mapping and studies across Pennsylvania by December 2016. (6)
7. Quantify current spending on flood plain management in Pennsylvania. Identify what needs to be spent to improve mapping. (5)
8. Develop a single data needs and tools process to transfer information up and down. (4)
9. Create a long-term (20 year) plan for mapping activities. (1)

Note: The number in parentheses is the number of votes received for each goal.

Post-Workshop Activities (includes both direct results and related facts)

Reconfiguration of FEMA priorities to reflect 2006 LiDAR data acquisition – 5/2006
Initial PA MHIP Advisory Team meeting – 7/20/2006
Presentations to Agency Geospatial Steering and Advisory Committees – 7/2006 and 9/2006
Increased recognition of LiDAR topography funding needs for flood mapping – 12/2006
Agency-internal Policy /Coordination Meetings – 12/2006 and 1/2007 (continuing)
Second MHIP Advisory Team meeting on 1/4/2007
Technical sessions at PAGIS Conference May 16-17-2007
Third MHIP Advisory Team meeting held May 17, 2007
Fourth MHIP Advisory Team meeting held November 14, 2007
-LiDAR completion and QC prioritized
-Tentative County focus in MapMod and related floodplain management proposed
Formation of PA Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers proposed – November 2007

Next Steps

Consolidate interest and investment in FEMA MapMod so that its implementation takes full advantage of Pennsylvania assets and related initiatives so that flood maps are as accurate as possible.

Assist in the development and change required to prepare Pennsylvania's state and local governments to utilize improved flood mapping in floodplain management and flood mitigation.

For more information contact:

Dan Fitzpatrick, PA DCED – dafitzpatr@state.pa.us or Eric Jespersen, PaMAGIC – ejespersen@rettew.com