

**Floodplain Management Plan Planning Committee Meeting Agenda
For
November 4, 2019**

Members in Attendance:

Carolyn Campbell, Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Christina McVie, Tucson Audubon Society
Diana Durazo, County Administrator's Office
Eric Holler, Community Water Coalition
Eric Shepp, Pima County Regional Flood Control District
Jonathan Horst, Tucson Audubon Society
Matt McGlone, Pima County Office of Emergency Management
Nicole Fyffe, Pima County Administrator's Office
Steve Dolan, Tucson Mountain Association
Jeanette DeRenne, Pima Association of Governments
Luke Cole, Sonoran Institute
Jennifer Varin, Coronado National Forest

Others in Attendance:

Ann Moynihan, PCRFCDCivil Engineering Manager
Brian Jones, PCRFCDFloodplain Management Division Manager
Evan Canfield, PCRFCDCivil Engineering Manager
Joseph Cuffari, PCRFCDCoordinator for Public Information
Greg Saxe, PCRFCDCRS Coordinator

1) Welcome & Introductions

The Community Rating System Coordinator (Coordinator) welcomed the group and the members introduced themselves as new participants had come.

2) Project Schedule Review

The CRS Coordinator presented an updated project powerpoint which had been used for the Arizona Public Works Association and Arizona Planning Association informational talks. Topics included project schedule, the hazards identified, problems by watershed and remaining steps.

3) Presentation of Problem Assessment (Exposure)

a) Building density in floodplains heat maps

Paper maps for each watershed showing the building density within floodplains as a color ramp "heat map" were presented and are available on the project webpage along with the hazard maps and draft plan.

b) Hazard and Problem Assessments – regional and by watershed

The CRS Coordinator demonstrated how to access the contents of the project webpage including the draft plan as searchable pdf, as well as watershed specific hazard and problem assessment.

c) Summary list of problems identified in Step 5

See problem list below, please submit any comments via email to the CRS Coordinator.

d) DRAFT Plan Availability

*A complete searchable PDF is available on the project webpage at: www.pima.gov/fmp. The watershed specific hazard and problem assessments have been separated for ease of access under each watershed tab. These chapters are more accessible due to their significantly shorter length and are complemented by full scale maps of hazards and building density in floodplains, and exposure fact sheets. Assessment of countywide hazard exposure is contained in the master document. This is the **first draft** and contains sample goals, a detailed report on current activities, and a sample action plan. After the next three meetings, a complete plan, including goals and action plan proposed by the committee will be made available to the general public and the Board for their consideration and approval.*

e) Goals from the Floodplain Management Ordinance

The approved goals contained in the Floodplain Management Ordinance were reviewed as food for thought, and to help describe the difference between regulatory and the floodplain management planning goals the Committee will be asked to identify in the next meeting.

4) Next Steps

a) Review DRAFT problem list for errors and omissions

See attached problem list, please submit any comments via email to the CRS Coordinator.

b) Review Ordinance Goals & identify additional possible floodplain management planning goals.

Please see the attached goals excerpted from the City of Tucson, Maricopa County and Ft. Worth Texas Floodplain Management Plans, in addition to those from the ordinance contained herein.

- 5) Schedule next 2 meetings for Goal Setting and Review of Activities to address listed problems.

Please respond to this email with your availability for the proposed dates noted below.

- 6) Adjournment

Notes:

Step 5 Goals

Monday November 25, 1:30 - 3:30; or
Tuesday Dec 3 9 -11 or 1:30 - 3:30

Step 6 Activity Review

Monday December 16, 1:30-3:30; or
Thursday December 19 9-11 or 1:30-3:30

Step 7 Action Plan

Monday January 13, 1:30-3:30; or
Thursday January 16 9-11 or 1:30-3:30

Problem List

Hazard Assessment (What are the hazards?)

Information Gaps:

Geomorphologic Environment

- Erosion Hazard Areas – head-cutting, bank failure, channel migration
- Active Alluvial fans – distributary and uncertain flow paths
- Canyon wash floodways
- Riverine overbank flooding – Missing data or approximate Zone A only
- Sheet flooding – Approximate mapping could be better defined
- Subsidence

Changing Conditions

- Climate Change – Increasing frequency and severity of rain events
- Outdated and unidentified flood and hazard areas
- Inadequate or exposed infrastructure

Problem Assessment (Who is exposed to these hazards?)

Population Exposure

- Critical facilities in the floodplain
- Large floodplain population particularly in low income areas with low mobility and resources
- Frequency of flood damage claims outside mapped floodplains
- Road design – prevalence of dips, flow capture, private unmaintained and dirt roads
- Inadequate or exposed infrastructure and utilities

Existing Development and Trends

- Existing development that does not meet current standards (old and undersized infrastructure)
- Frequency of grandfathered and entitled rights
- Cumulative improvements
- Lot splitting
- Infill and redevelopment
- Encroachment and channelization
- Major multi-jurisdictional developments (Gravel pits, I11, Rosemont, Sahuarita Farms, Effluent)

Natural Floodplain Function

- Geologic floodplain development along major rivers
- Loss of natural tributary connectivity

- Groundwater depletion
- Encroachments
- Loss of energy dissipation and flow attenuation

Maintenance

- Inadequate maintenance of private drainageways
- Major river conveyance - aggradation, vegetation, and debris

Emergency Response

- Inadequacy of inter-agency 2-way reporting during events for road closures and situation assessment
- Lack of public tool for real time reporting of maintenance needs and problem areas
- Need for advance warning for road closures and flooding
- Invasive species fire nexus
- Swift water rescue frequency

Unauthorized Uses

- Homeless camps
- Off road vehicles
- Grazing
- Utilities
- Incremental Encroachments & Habitat Destruction

Awareness

- Lack of familiarity with District activities including technical assistance and emergency warning
- Lack of familiarity with floodplain environmental services and function
- Lack of awareness about ALERT and My Alerts
- Lack of knowledge about alternate routes
- Lack of renters getting flood insurance for their belongings

What's Next?: Step 6 Goal Setting

The product of the previous steps is a list of problems. This includes those identified by staff at the end of each watershed problem assessment chapter and those identified by the Committee to date. The draft contains a seed list, and the complete list will be distributed prior to the Committee meeting. The following policy goals and objectives are from the Floodplain Management Ordinance as reported each year in the District Annual Report and will be used as starting point for Committee discussion in the next meeting.

- 1) Minimize flood and erosion damages;
- 2) Meet or exceed state and federal requirements relating to floodplain management thereby enabling Pima County residents to purchase low-cost flood insurance, receive disaster relief (should the need arise), and seek residential and commercial real estate loans;
- 3) Establish minimum flood protection elevations and damage prevention requirements for structures and other types of development that may be vulnerable to flood and erosion damage;
- 4) Regulate encroachment and building development located within areas subject to flooding, erosion, or located within riparian habitat areas, and ensure that the flood-carrying capacity within the altered and/or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained;
- 5) Encourage the most effective expenditures of public money for flood control projects;
- 6) Minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and erosion, which are generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- 7) Minimize damage to utilities and public facilities such as water and gas mains, electricity, telephone and sewer lines, and streets and bridges located in regulatory floodplain and erosion hazard areas;
- 8) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing protection of regulatory floodplain and erosion hazard areas;
- 9) Inform the public where property lies within a regulatory floodplain, riparian habitat area or erosion hazard area;
- 10) Ensure that those who occupy areas within regulatory floodplain and erosion hazard areas assume the responsibility for their actions within those areas;
- 11) Protect, preserve and enhance groundwater recharge; and
- 12) Encourage the preservation of natural washes, riparian habitat, and preserve the riverine environment.