

Project Name:	<i>Jefferson County, AR Levee Analysis</i>
Meeting:	<i>Initial Coordination Meeting</i>
Date:	<i>October 28, 2009</i>
Place:	<i>Jefferson County OEM Office, Men's Bunking Room, Pine Bluff, AR</i>
Time:	<i>1:00 PM (CT)</i>

**Attendees:** See attached attendance sheet

## Agenda Items

### 1. Introduction/Sign-in Sheet

Mr. Guy Lowes, representing FEMA Region VI, began the meeting at 1:00 PM (CT) with a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Guy Lowes emphasized that the updated status of Jefferson County levees, in relation to DFIRM revisions, are the focus of this meeting. RAMPP, a joint venture of the Dewberry, URS Corporation and ESP Associates will ensure that they coordinate with the communities and the Region throughout the restudy effort.

Mr. Guy Lowes indicated that RAMPP would compile the results of the Scoping Meeting in the Scoping Report.

Introductions of attendees proceeded. All attendees acknowledged that they had signed the sign-in sheet. The two representatives of Wabbaseka, AR, were present for only a portion of the meeting.

### 2. 44 CFR 66 Discussion

Mr. Mike Seering, Project Manager with RAMPP, began by indicating it is important to establish points of contact for the project at the scoping stage. This helps identify decision makers for each community and creates a good working relationship throughout the project. Ms. Beth Dial identified herself as the main point of contact for the communities involved in the project. Mr. Mike Seering indicated that the main purpose of this meeting is to coordinate with the community on revisions of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) based on levees in the County. Mr. Seering also indicated that another purpose of the meeting is to identify the community needs and to identify concerns for future map maintenance, but that the scope of the current study is already set. He stressed that the maps were being produced for the communities, and that each community would be happier with the maps if all of the final data was correct. He also stressed that it is important for the community to work with the mapping contractor throughout the process so that any issues can be resolved before the maps are released.

Mr. Mike Seering provided a detailed overview of the compliance requirements of 44 CFR 66. The discussion included: the approximate date the proposed study would commence, the areas identified for study, the nature and purpose of the proposed study, the scope and methodologies for the proposed study and the intended use of data obtained for the study.

### 3. Study Overview

#### National Flood Insurance Program Overview and Flood Mapping Process

Mr. Mike Seering provided a complete description of the Flood Mapping Process using a slide. Each task was presented in chronological order, with approximate time frames shown as well.

#### Map Base Options

Mr. Mike Seering indicated that the revisions that result from the levee analysis will be incorporated in the effective vector-based map format.

## **Topographic Data Acquisition**

Mr. Mike Seering provided an overview of the need for the best available topographic data to prepare new flood maps.

## **Engineering Analysis**

Mr. Mike Seering provided an overview of the engineering analyses and the study types including: Detailed Study, Enhanced Approximate Study, Approximate Study as well as Redelineation and Refinement. He also explained that the two levees that are being restudied have effective detailed studies, and that the restudies will also be completed using the detailed study type.

## **Mapping and DFIRM Production Overview**

Mr. Mike Seering provided slides showing an overview of the mapping process of merging base data, topography, flood data, and placing it on a DFIRM.

## **Proposed DFIRM Panel Layout**

Mr. Mike Seering provided visuals of the effective FIRM panel and stream layout, and explained that there is no change in the draft panel layout for the 2009 studies. The draft panel layout includes scales for the urban areas as 1"=500' and 1"=1000' for the less populated areas.

## **DFIRM and FIS Report**

Mr. Mike Seering informed the meeting attendees that all of the new and effective data would be merged to create a single, countywide DFIRM set and FIS.

## **Incorporation of Engineering Studies by Others**

Mr. Mike Seering asked the communities to provide any LOMRs to RAMPP in a timely manner to ensure they are captured and incorporated into the maps. They were also informed that engineering studies may be incorporated into the maps if they meet specific criteria listed in the PowerPoint presentation.

## **4. Levees**

Mr. Mike Seering provided a detailed overview of levee certification process and criteria from the PowerPoint presentation. All effective levees on the FIRMs showing protection on maps must be certified in order to continue showing levees on new maps providing protection. Important points to consider include:

- The burden to certify the levees is on the community
- FEMA does not own or maintain levees.
- FEMA's accreditation is NOT a health and safety standard
- Accreditation is for insurance purposes only
- Only maps the inundation area of landward side of levee which would be affected if levee does not provide "1-percent annual chance" protection
- Dissemination of risk is the goal of the mapping exercise

## **5. Post Preliminary Process and Map Adoption**

Mr. Guy Lowes gave a brief overview of the steps that would be taken once the DFIRM process had been completed.

## 6. Outreach

Mr. Mike Seering indicated there are outreach tools from FEMA to assist in keeping the community informed about the process.

Please refer to the <http://www.rampp-team.com> for more updates on the project.

## 7. Community Risk Assessment

Mr. Mike Seering indicated that every state, County, city, town has some level of risk from some threat, whether it's economic risk, health risks, or flood risks. The difference is in how those risks are managed.

## 8. Mitigation Planning

Mr. Mike Seering indicated Mitigation Plans create a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters. Mr. Seering indicated Technical assistance from the State and FEMA is available upon request. Other resources include:

- Free FEMA 386-series of How-to Guides
- G-318 Mitigation Planning for Local governments
- Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance
- State Hazard Mitigation Office
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Mr. Mike Seering indicated the current status of the Mitigation Plan to be approved.

## 9. Needs Assessment

Mr. Mike Seering indicated going forward needs will be captured via the Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS). CNMS is GIS driven with validation of 7 critical items and 10 secondary items. RAMPP would enter the mapping needs captured at the meeting into needs database. The database would be used to justify funding from Congress for the future.

## 10. Scoping Presentation Summary

Mr. Guy Lowes provided a brief summary of the scoping meeting including contact information.

## 11. Community Needs Collection

Members of RAMPP and FEMA broke-out with each community and began a discussion of community needs. The communities were asked to identify any potential flooding issues that needed to be addressed. It was reiterated that each community has many needs but there is limited budget. The communities were informed that they needed to provide all their mapping needs so they are captured now and put into a database.

RAMPP worked with the communities to develop their mapping needs, the data included the requested stream name; length of water course in feet; requested level of study; name of person who made request; and the prioritization for study. The data has been captured in GIS format and will be added to the Scoping Report.

## 12. Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM