



Floodplain Management Working Group

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Attendees:

First	Last	Title	Acronym	Organization
Bunny	Bishop	Chief, Water Planning and Drought Resiliency	NDWR	Nevada Division of Water Resources
Patricia	Bowlin	Project Manager, Carson Superfund Site	EPA	EPA Region 9
Kristina	Burnette	Env. Scientist – Aquatic Invasive Species, WQ	WEPD	Washoe Environmental Protection Dept.
Kathy	Canfield	Planning Manager , AICP	Storey	Storey County Planning Dept.
Louis	Cariola	Senior Planner	Lyon	Lyon County Community Development
Katie	Clancey	Civil Engineer, Special Studies Division	BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
Patrick	Clancey	Project Manager, Risk Analysis	FEMA	Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency, Reg. 9
Jackie	Conway	Emergency Management Coordinator	FPST	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe Emer. Mgmt
Tom	Dallaire	Director	Douglas	Douglas Co. Community Development
Tanner	Dye	Emergency Management Coordinator	Douglas	Douglas Co. Emergency Mgmt
Sarah	Fichtner	Floodplain Mapping Coordinator	NDWR	NV Division of Water Resources
Chris	Fritsen	Branch Supervisor, Nonpoint Source Pollution	NDEP	NDEP Bureau of Water Quality Planning
Kaitlyn	Garber	Climate Action Corps Fellow	AWG	Alpine Watershed Group
Katie	Hay	Stormwater Technician	Douglas	Douglas County
Gavin	Henderson	Community Development Director	Lyon	Lyon County
Brenda	Hunt	Watershed Program Manager	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy Dist.
Ed	James	General Manager, PE	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Lori	Leonard	River Fork Ranch Preserve Manager	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
Lindsay	Marsh	Water Resource Specialist 1	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Lisa	Nash	Senior Planner	Lyon	Lyon County Community Development
Debbie	Neddenriep	Water Resource Specialist 2, CFM	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Kelly	Nicholas	Watershed Tech, AmeriCorps	CWSD	Carson Water Subconservancy District
Karin	Peternel	Carson City Stormwater Program Manager	CCPW	Carson City Public Works
Jeanne	Ruefer	Program Mgmt Lead, Risk Map Program	FEMA	Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency, Reg. 9
Rachel	Schmidt	Conservation Innovation Technician	DVCD	Dayton Valley Conservation District
Amanda	Singleton	Assistant Project Manager	CCPW	Carson City Public Works
Angela	Slais	Emergency Manager	AC	Alpine County
Christy	Sullivan	District Clerk	LVCD	Lahontan Valley Conservation District
Sarah	Traiman	Planner II	Alpine	Alpine County Community Development
Tristan	Wadsworth	Emergency Management Analyst	Storey	Storey County
Courtney	Walker	Stormwater Program Manager	DC	Douglas County Public Works
Adam	Wilson	Emergency Management Director	Storey	Storey County Emergency Management
Rich	Wilkinson	Project Manager	CVCD	Carson Valley Conservation District
Janell	Woodward	State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Supervisor	DEM	NV Department of Emergency Mgmt
Tom	Young	Chief Hydraulic Engineer	NDOT	NV Department of Transportation

Round Robin:

Louis Cariola, Lyon – Working on ADMPs in Stagecoach; reviewing a draft for Silver Springs. Will be presenting to their Board of Commissioners Aug. 1. Also still working through the Walker River flood risk assessment. Deferring to other staff members for additional updates.

Tom Dallaire, Douglas – Floodplain mapping 90-day comment period is closing soon, next step is to get applicable maps out to Douglas Co.; they were updated in 2012 and submitted in 2016.

Sarah Fichtner, DWR – Has been to a couple conferences and vacation, getting back up to speed and will be doing an update later in the agenda.

Tanner Dye, Douglas – Keeping an eye on the southern flash flood watch, just put out some sandbags in the southern locations, which can be found on [their website](#). Have been working with stormwater and public works on DC's hazard mitigation plan to get project updates. Anticipates working with this group for ideas.

Lisa Nash, Lyon – Nothing to add to Louis's report.

Karin Peternel, CCPW – Have met with CWSD and Courtney Walker, getting up to speed.

Rachel Schmidt, DVCD – Boss (Rich Wilkinson) thought it would be good to tune in and stay up to date.

Jackie Conway, FPST – No updates. As per a question from Brenda, the tribe works with Churchill Co. and the City of Fallon on a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan. Currently it's in update status.

Adam Wilson, Storey – Currently updating hazard mitigation plan. A public survey is out; if anyone would like a link to it, let them know. New employee, Tristan Wadsworth, started this week.

Rich Wilkinson, CVCD – Hope to do bank stabilization on five river sites in the Carson Valley this fall as well as three river restoration projects in Dayton Valley. Rachel has been brought on board to help with an NDEP monitoring project; she'll be taking current photo waypoint pictures of past projects to see that they're intact and functioning.

Janell Woodward, DEM – Invited by Debbie to speak about DEM grant opportunities.

Kathy Canfield, Storey – No updates

Amanda Singleton, CCPW – Will speak about HWM later in the meeting.

Angela Slais, Alpine – First time joining meeting, here to listen.

Lori Leonard, TNC – No updates, but the fourth Thursday Science & Nature Speaker series (7/25) will be related to Lahontan cutthroat trout management and Independence Lake conservation.

Christy Sullivan, LVCD – No updates.

Katie Clancey, BOR – No updates.

Gavin Henderson, Lyon – Went over direct technical assistance program with DEM and CWSD this week and hope to apply for the program. It was exciting to a) gather information and b) learn how to apply and move forward.

Bunny Bishop, DWR – Will report later in meeting.

Jeanne Ruefer, FEMA – Very familiar with CTP grants in process in the watershed. Have a great interest as a Washoe Valley resident, and Debbie invited her to attend.

Sarah Traiman, Alpine – No updates.

Patricia Bowlin, EPA – Wrapping up first sampling round in Virginia City. Probably will be going out to all the houses that provided them with access agreements for sampling their residential yards. Kristen (Young) is in the field and asked her to attend because of ongoing discussions with the counties and CWSD with FEMA re: the Superfund site.

Kristina Burnette, WEPD – No updates.

Kaitlyn Garber, AWG – Hope Valley Project grant ends in 2024. They have down monitoring since the April meeting and conducted a tour for the technical advisory committee that was well attended. The post-project cram will

happen in August. They are selecting a consultant for the WF Carson Prioritization Plan and hope to start work on that in the fall. They submitted an extension request to the State Water Board to potentially include the 2025 field season - this is for a geomorph assessment, sediment model and HAB monitoring. HAB monitoring at Red Lake happened in June and July and will continue through September. For the Faith Meadow restoration project, they completed some monitoring in June with American Rivers. Creek Day is Sep 21 and there will be a project out there. Markleeville Utility District I am hoping that their sewer upgrade project can go to construction this year; the Markleeville floodplain restoration project permits have been submitted, AWG and Alpine Co are responding to comments, and construction is slated to begin in 2025. She and Bella (Kurtz) will be there for another year. They have secured funding for an East Fork geomorphology and sediment transport study through CA 319 funding.

Tom Young, NDOT – Getting a consultant to update scour-critical bridges throughout the state. This started in the 90s and the update will be over the next three years, to include Carson River bridges. He'll get CWSD in touch with the engineer.

Patrick Clancey, FEMA – They have planned activities for the upcoming grant cycle to get the submission in. There are some upcoming deadlines, but right now the ball is in FEMA's court with Cooperating Technical Partner grants recently submitted.

Chris Fritsen, NDEP – Current GFO for watershed-based planning. Currently discussing the best release date for projects and will probably reach out for timing feedback. Need more watershed-based plans that meet EPA's nine elements. Has mentioned to several people on this call the need for QAPPs for any proposals that include water or soil sampling/quality components that generate data; he will be part of a meeting with applicants about that next week. Kelly Nevilles has joined the NDEP team. Right now there is about \$200K available. The solicitation is open and it won't be closed until several proposals are received. They might shift to batch deadlines like NRCS, and they'll want to evaluate batches in September, potentially sooner.

Ed James, CWSD – Listening in, especially on the funding sources. Currently working on several grants with emergency management and FEMA.

Courtney Walker, Douglas – Having internal discussions regarding the Stormwater Master Plan. There's talk of assembling a resident task force that will consider options and then present to the board. The current message is "if you're having a flooding issue, call your commissioners." There have been some recent flash floods, but nothing major; seeing what happens. Thought there would be some on Pinenut Creek.

Katie Hay, Douglas – New employee, learning, no updates.

Lindsay Marsh, CWSD – No updates.

Kelly Nicholas, CWSD AmeriCorps – No updates except this is last meeting.

Brenda Hunt, CWSD – No updates, have items later in the agenda.

(Mitch Blum, HDR) – Working through the revisions for the Churchill Co. PMR. The modeling and most of the mapping is done. They're hoping to resubmit that study in the next couple of months. They've also been working with NDOT on preliminary modeling. NDOT is looking at replacing structures on SR 88, so HDR is using the FEMA model to look at the impacts of those changes; it looks promising. Unrelated, the Truckee Meadows PMR has been accepted by FEMA.

Nevada Division of Water Resources – Updates

Floodplain Management – Bunny Bishop

The State Floodplain Manager/NFIP Coordinator position is still open. [THIS IS THE CORRECT LINK TO APPLY.](#) There are also a couple requests from FEMA: FEMA is conducting a National Floodplain Administrators Training Needs Assessment survey; she will forward that to the contact list; she thinks that closes Aug. 30. It's a chance to give input on training needs. Also, NFIP-FEMA is requesting public comment on Community Rating System redesign. She will forward the e-mail she received from FEMA Region 9 last week so you can provide input on the redesign; she thinks that closes Aug. 9. FEMA is also doing an overhaul of the community audit system for the National Flood Insurance Program. The former process entailed getting documentation from communities, then doing a floodplain drive, then meeting with the communities – an in-depth, paper-intensive process. The

redesign will start with a health check; if answers to a questionnaire submitted to your NFIP coordinator look good, you're done. A more involved audit comes into play if there are any red flags or more in-depth needs. DWR will also look at the state's capacity for assisting with ADMPs outside the Carson River Watershed.

Debbie: How will federal flood risk standards that go into effect 9/9 impact local floodplain managers?

Bunny: Basically that means federal building needs to comply with the higher standards. She will share a link. There are three different methods that can be used to ensure building is above and beyond and to the height of 500-yr floodplain standards that will need to be in place for federal development. This will have implications for federal funding and grants.

Brenda: Can this affect infrastructure?

Bunny: My understanding is that it's more for buildings. Will send all the links because she doesn't want to pass along erroneous information.

Debbie: My understanding is that there are federal flood standards but different agencies will be releasing theirs at different times.

Links from Bunny:

This is the FEMA webpage for FFRMS [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard | FEMA.gov](#)

Our FEMA Region 9 FFRMS Specialist is Frank Mansell who works in the FM&I Branch:

[Frank Mansell, CFM](#)

Emergency Management Specialist – Mitigation | FEMA Region 9

Cell (510) 368-0877

Frank can discuss and share info with you on the:

[FFRMS FAQ | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

And the White House announcements... [Beta Federal Flood Standard Support Tool \(climate.gov\)](#), [Federal Flood Standard Support Tool Beta \(climate.gov\)](#)

[Beta Federal Flood Standard Support Tool \(climate.gov\)](#)

The website also includes a number of additional resources:

- A video on determining the FFRMS floodplain
- Federal Flood Standard Support Tool User Manual
- FFRMS Interim Flood Mapping Data Development Methodology report
- 2023 CISA State of the Science Report
- Information on nature-based solutions that Federal and non-Federal partners can use in their efforts to identify practicable alternatives and minimization techniques

[HUD Publishes Final Rule for Federal Flood Risk Management Standard \(FFRMS\) - HUD Exchange](#)

Link from Debbie:

Follow-up on new flood risk standards -

The [ASFPM July Insider newsletter](#) had a great article "FEMA Raises Bar for Flood Protection with New FFRMS

Rule: “ On July 10, FEMA finalized a rule requiring that projects built using its funds not only take into account previous and current levels of local flood risk, but for the first time consider the future risk of flooding, which is being exacerbated by climate change. The new [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard \(FFRMS\)](#), which takes effect on **Sept. 9, 2024**, will result in higher-elevated and better-fortified buildings, and could help break the cycle of destruction and reconstruction that has cost taxpayers billions of dollars over the past few decades. This rule allows FEMA to consider the best available science in making projects and communities more resilient to increased flood conditions. The standard applies to FEMA-funded actions involving new construction, substantial improvement, or repairs to substantial damage. This includes applying to grants under FEMA programs such as Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), as well as grants processed by FEMA’s Grants Programs Directorate (GPD) involving grants for preparedness activities. FFRMS applies to Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects involving structure elevation, dry floodproofing and mitigation reconstruction. This rule also puts greater emphasis on natural features or nature-based solutions, wherever possible.”

Outreach - Sarah

Flood Awareness Week is Nov. 10-16, 2024. Looking at doing another HWM event, probably at Washoe Lake. Something similar to the event at Lahontan with a lot of booths but on a smaller scale. They are partnering with State Parks (State Parks printed the sign.)

Silver Jackets projects overlap a little because the high-water mark sign is through SJ. We’re also in the middle of a summer webinar series, Hot Topics in Flood Risk Management. We did funding for rural communities and covering DEM’s direct technical assistance program. Did one last month as well, Engineering with nature. In August we’ll feature unhoused populations in the floodplain.

Engineering with Nature webinar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhPipCsfoqs&feature=youtu.be>

For Nights Out, CWSD will be in CC 8/6 and VC 8/13; DWR will be in Lockwood 8/6. 8/3 Lindsay from CWSD and Rebecca Feldermann from River Wranglers will be at Agricultural Heritage Day at the Douglas County Historical Museum in Gardnerville.

Watershed University Forum (FFRMS presentation starts~2:52:10):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPATagr549o>

High-Water Mark implementation updates – Amanda:

Morgan Mill is installed; waiting for sidewalks and curb ramps installed and the interpretive signs. Timeline should be pretty quick. There’s another HWM for the River View trail. She and Lyndsey will do a walk for the best site. She needs to check in about the funding; the install shouldn’t be expensive and she hopes within the next few weeks something will be in place. They are planning an unveiling for Morgan Mill and will coordinate that with CWSD staff.

(2:40- 2:50) Emergency Management Updates

NDEM Update & Grant opportunities (Janell / Heather)

Brett Compston, new NDEM Chief starting November 1. He's actually already working with us as an intern

fellow. Brick grant opportunities hopefully sometime in August. Last year it didn't drop until the middle of October and so it really kind of threw off the process but this year, we're hoping that it comes through at the normal time or at least as close as possible. We also have some HMGP postfire, which is post disaster funding available and we are starting to accept applications. The application materials are on our website right now. Under the recovery mitigation, and then hazard mitigation and grant mitigation materials or resources. So those are available for funding right now. We are working toward a FEMA grant related to NFIP covered properties. Bunny, until you find a State Floodplain Manager, it will be just like old times, working together to see if we can apply for a FEMA grant to support the NFIP. Let me know if others have ideas. Reach out and hopefully that for FEMA and BRIC, that application period should start either the very end of September or the beginning of October, depending on when they release the NOFO but we'll be getting that out to everybody when it comes up. Post Fire Funding available is about 2.6 million, although there was just another estimate declared last week which I think might push it up to more like three and a half million. However, most of the time the only fire projects we're getting are from Washoe County, and they'll, usually submit something or a couple of projects. But the in order to spend all of the funding that's available, we open it up to everybody and then see what comes in. We would first prioritize any kind of fire projects, but in the past we'll fund anything, as long as it's in your hazard mitigation plan. BRIC =building resilient infrastructure and communities.

Do you have an example of successful Washoe County grants? I'm wondering if something like that could be used for some fire project in Douglas County, or the Tamarack fire burned or in, you know, up above Topaz ranch estates. Janell discussed vegetation management projects, defensible space and even solar backup energy sources for fire stations. Generally, if you are contemplating doing grants with homeowners, you need to know who is opting in advance.

Local Emergency Manager Updates

Jackie Conway stated the Fallon Paiute- Shoshone Tribe will be hosting a hazardous materials awareness course on Friday, August 1 at the convention center and they had 10 openings available.

(2:50 – 3:00) Association of Floodplain Managers Conference Report Out (Debbie and others)

Report one topic to be aware of that impacts floodplain management.

Tom and Kathy were at ASFPM: Here are their thoughts:

Tom D'Allaire reported the conference was policy heavy; the update to Engineering ASCE standards have him concerned. They've created a standard for the 750-yr to 1,000-yr. design standard. This could eventually become the design standard for construction, so it's coming through building codes - a path other than FEMA's flood regulations. He expressed frustration because these are standards based on climate change. He noted there are entities back east that are including the storms in their models. He would like them get the current work of making FIS accurate for 2D models before they add more regulations. Current flood maps do not include a 500 year floodplain, so it's a jump to 750 or 1,000 yr.

Kathy agreed there was a lot of new regulations coming down the pipe, without considering how that will look for local floodplain managers. I was surprised at how large it was, and I learned a lot, but agree that a lot of it was very frustrating to know like thinking that we're going to have to be figuring out how to deal with some of these rules that don't really fit very well with our situation.

Debbie mentioned a couple of highlights:

Utah they only have one cooperating technical partner, and that is Utah's emergency management. And one of the things that they're doing there with CTP funding is mapping. Now they have done first level of mapping and identified their active alluvial fans in populated areas for the entire state. They will use CTP funds to then identify the next steps like rank which alluvial fans need more information and create detailed maps all the active, Next, they will systematically map fans. I am not sure if they're regulatory or non regulatory maps. They also have created some great alluvial fan outreach materials I believe we can adapt for Nevada / our watershed. Montana has gotten millions of CTP dollars to create regulatory flood maps in their entire state. Over the last eight years they have built up both their Water Resources Division with the state and their emergency management. Enjoyed Natural Flood Function Alliance meeting and found it interesting because FEMA and EPA have funded a "pilot" to jump start integrated planning. FEMA is funding workshops around the country to discuss how to integrate clean water funding and hazard mitigation program funding. Over 1700 people attended the conference. Plan to go to New Orleans 2025; and it's the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. They've already have eight tours planned and more to come. Debbie mentioned the ASFPM Arid regions committee meeting tomorrow.

Mitch Blum HDR agreed it was pretty policy heavy. I felt like it wasn't as technical as it has been in recent years. Yet one of the one of the offhand interesting things that I learned about is that there the USGS is redoing their NHD data set their hydrography data set for the country That will be a much more robust data set that's derived from elevation data. Currently, old NHD data is based on old USGS topo maps, you know, they just basically delineated the blue lines and are not too accurate. They will be doing much more robust analysis and it'll all be topographic base. In the near future, we'll have a much better hydrographic data set for the country. That was just one of the interesting topics that I saw.

NOAA is also updating ATLAS,

Janell: (I think) Also learned there's a burgeoning interest in mapping, post fire. Potential debris flow, mudflow areas post wildfire, and FEMA does have a zone. They have both zone E for erosion and a zone M for mudflow. They're not currently mapped unless there's some special request. FEMA did some mapping, following the Montecito fire of potential mudflow zones, but there's there's more interest being generated in that, so it's something to keep an eye on that affects arid regions.

There may be an opportunity to work with the Corps of Engineers and other agencies who are interested in and pursuing this post fire erosion zone mud flow mapping. This is very applicable for where we live right here in western Nevada.

Brenda drove back on Highway 50 from Sacramento last weekend, and looked over and the American River, that fork of American River is just like a big mud flow. Right now. It's just muddy. And disgusting. And it's like thick, churning mud.

Valerie Swick who works for Bureau of Reclamation, said there's a lot of ILA infrastructure \$\$\$ coming through to fund projects.

Brenda noted Bureau of Reclamation grants are only available for NGOs to apply and are only available in the Western US.

Chris Fritsen: I'll just add a couple of thoughts to follow on from the fire and flood after fire conversation. That is something that we've been having conversations about making sure that we make it explicit in the new state management plan. NDEP wants to be participants and we welcome opportunities to contribute resources to those efforts for mitigating flood after fire. You can just look at some of these streams and see it's a big risk to water quality. Specifically, I think we're really looking for not just vegetation management or reseeding after fire type projects, but projects where they're linking some vegetation management in the uplands to the lowlands into the riparian area, an integrated response, as opposed to just one component of a response to a flood after fire mitigation effort. On the other topic, which was just mentioned briefly, if we could identify a partner 501C3 or otherwise willing to champion going after some Bureau of Rec funding that could be applied to the to the Carson Watershed, that would be really good.

3:00– 3:05) Discuss Floodplain Management Plan Update (Debbie)

We are planning a Workshop on the Regional Floodplain Management Plan update. Editors Note: This was originally set for Sept 23 but will now be Oct. 30 from 9am-12pm at the Ormsby Room in the Sherriff's Office.

(3:05 -3:20) There was a discussion to develop strategies to identify and address barriers to mitigation funding in CRW (Debbie). This will be in a write up at the CRFPM plan meeting October 30, 2024.

(3:20-3:30) Grant Updates (not previously mentioned)

- a. FEMA (Debbie) i. CTP Grant status: Coms 1, & Coms 2
CWSD expects to be awarded CTP Coms 2 grant by end of September.

Next Quarterly Meeting: October 23, 2024, 1:30 – 3:30pm