

Disaster Unified Review Team (DURT) | Meeting Notes | 11/20/13

Federal Emergency Management Office (FEMA) Centennial Joint Field Office (JFO)

Introductions

- Steve Hardegen | FEMA Region VII Environmental Officer (REO)
- Steve Wade | FEMA, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination (FDRC) Coordinator
 - Support communities and address long term legal aspects of disaster recovery
 - FDRC is put together into incorporate the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)
 - <http://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework>
- Thomas Parker | Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Environmental Protection Specialist
- Nat Miallo | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) NDRF
 - Transportation, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE) Section 404, Sustainability, Philanthropy
- Buddy Nichols | U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Bob Stewart | Department of the Interior (DOI) REO Region VII
 - Coordinates NEPA and USACE Section 404
 - DOI delegates Endangered Species Act (ESA) responsibilities to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- Douglas Mutter | DOI, Recovery Support Function (RSF) Field Coordinator
 - Natural and cultural resources coordinator
 - Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) coordination with Federal partners
- Glenn Bowles II | FEMA, Disaster Support & Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator
 - Creating matrix of existing Categorical Exclusions (CATEX) to identify gaps and overlap
- Stephanie Gibson | Department of Transportation (DOT): Colorado Division Office
 - Coordinating with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) on joint stream restoration and roadway design. All CDOT roads to be open prior to Dec 1st.
- Dave Rigirozzi | Housing and Urban Development (HUD) REO, Region VIII
 - Community Block Development Grant (CBDG)
 - Programmatic Agreement (PA) under Super Storm Sandy between FEMA and HUD for the sharing of determinations and project development.
- Dan Corson | Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), History Colorado
 - Intergovernmental Services Director
- Amy Pallante | CO SHPO, History Colorado, Section 106 Consultation Program
- Jeannine Neipert | FEMA NDRC: Mitigation Advisor
- Terry Sage | Representing National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - DURT coordination includes initiation of fish passage dialogue. Field person to be identified for fish passage in relation to FEMA funded projects.
- Alison Michael | USFWS
- Ricardo Zunigae | FDRC External Affairs Advisor

- Congressional interest in DURT already as staff members referencing onerous environmental obstacles to recovery. Unified Review being mentioned.
- Lois Coulter | FEMA Incident Management Assessment Team (IMAT) East,
 - Working towards nationwide uniform emergency response
- Jeffrey Fullmer | FEMA Environmental Protection Specialist
 - GIS and Critical Infrastructure for DURT support
- Portia Ross | Environmental and Historic Preservation Advisor (EHAD)
 - Coordinating transition from short term to long term recovery efforts
- Rick Myers | FEMA Deputy REO
 - FEMA → USFWS Coordination

Upcoming Meetings

- Boulder County Sheriff's Headquarters, 5600 Flatiron Parkway. Thurs, November 21, 2-4pm
- Department of Local Affairs recovery meeting. Friday, Loveland CO, Embassy Suites, Open to All.

DURT Tools

- GIS | Aggregate and share secure Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) data sets.
 - Solicit data sets from represented agencies. Everybody has a unique prospective to offer and abundant resources will encourage proactive scoping.
 - NRCS Soils data available to all.
 - FWS easement data.
 - Hosting platform in use internal to FEMA. Plans to nationalize and socialize platform is 2014.
- Staffing | In addition to regular disaster staffing FEMA has 12 local hires inbound dedicated to proactive project scoping coordination, resource collection and project review.
 - Local hire staff onboarding. What does this mean? We are using Fed disaster \$\$ to fund recovery effort. If can identify cross use, would be in the spirit of DURT. At least for resource identification. We can broader scope to look at corridor. Help to identify resources and mitigation is target. Will not take over 106 responsibility for other agency,
 - ENVAS, all about identifying and sharing resources.
 - SHPO wants busy local hire for research and data search. Want 106 reviewer if need comes. Reviewer could coordinate mitigation etc... position would be disaster recovery researcher/reviewer?. Help facilitate disaster recovery review process.
- FEMA turning around full NEPA review in 8 hours for Emergency Work

Floodplain \ Implementation of Executive Orders (EO) 11988 & 11990

- Seek coordination with State of Colorado and CWCB
 - FEMA has very clear guidance from EOs: Goal of practicable minimization.
 - FEMA must comply with local floodplain standards. Neighboring communities may have different floodplain standards.

- Regulation must be based on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or local ordinance adopting best available data.
 - CO State | Law mandating that all local communities get on par with state standard, which exceeds federal standard.
- Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) has principal guidance saying other agencies need to have clear guidance.
- DURT needs USACE on board. FEMA looking to develop guidance for cross utilization of information for permitting and review purposes.
- Best Available Data for Floodplain will be based on LIDAR raw engineering data. Until that time must use effective FIRMs.
 - LiDAR data collection is underway. FEMA's portion does not include orthoimagery however Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG) is partnering with FEMA to do collection, including orthoimagery, for areas outside of FEMA need. Contractors have 1110 Lines flown (90.6% of the total Lines), comprising 19,035.73 Flight Line Miles (89.5%); with 114 lines and 2213.53 flight line miles.
 - Highest priority available here http://fema-archive.esri.com/lidar/CO_LIDAR
- CWCB possibly a vehicle to push best available data adoption to local floodplain managers.
- HUD has had direct implementation for 11988 and 11990 for ten years.
 - Defers to 8-step process for new construction (avoidance via practical alternative), regulations in 24 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 55.

Endangered Species Act / National Historic Preservation Act

- Endangered Species Matrix initiated by FHWA, FEMA asked for expansion.
 - Increase awareness that matrix / agreement is out there. Looking for partners
- Roadway and Bridge Relocations Programmatic also out for review. FHWA currently reviewing. SHPO coordination still required all around. Will be circulated soon.
 - Essentially is Decision making process guidance agreement under NEPA.

Conclusion

- DURT continues to make inroads between agencies that previously may not have been as communicative. Transparency continues to increase around unique processes surrounding uniform compliance needs. These new connections are a major result of the DURT effort.