

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
February 26, 2014**

The DRBC Flood Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by Gary Szatkowski, NWS Mount Holly, was held on February 26, 2014 at the DRBC offices in West Trenton, New Jersey.

Action Items:

1. Ice observations are important for river forecasting. Postings to twitter, tagged with Delaware River, proved useful during the January 2014 event. Critical times of observations are when ice is forming and also during break up. Any field employees, USGS and others, posting pictures during future events would aid the NWS. Should the methods of sharing the photos be formalized?
2. Determine distribution list for Preliminary Threat Assessments developed by CREEL (see below). Can the list be expanded for future ice events to include NWS, other interested parties? Who would coordinate dissemination? Is the CREEL database still operational and open to the public?
3. Inundation mapping may not be accurate during ice jam or debris events, a note on observation sites will be added.
4. USGS and NWS communicating regarding gage equipment at each gage location. Since radar does not accurately convey stage during ice jams and sites with bubblers can easily be clogged, agencies are confirming sensor type at each gage for more accurate forecasting.
5. Future possible meeting presentations: a) HAZUS in the DRB, b) Report out on USGS plan for deploying storm sensors, c) NNC to report on Flood Risk Study findings in late 2014-2015 d) real-time web cams at USGS gages to increase public awareness

Discussion Items:

- Snow water equivalent and determining the rate of melt includes a number of factors such as temperature, time of year, dew point and wind. In determining the range of possibilities for melt, interactive snow information is available at <http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/interactive/html/map.html>
- River Ice Observation Networks – extremely helpful to river forecasting.
Links from presentation by Jim Brewster, Binghamton WFO
 - River Ice Report Map Display: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/ctp/hydro/riverice/index.php>
 - NWS BGM River Ice Text Report: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/textProducts/RVSBGM.txt>
 - NWS PHL River Ice Text Report: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/phi/rvsice.php>
 - Army Corps CRREL Ice Guide: <http://icejams.crrel.usace.army.mil/tectran/IEnews15.pdf>
 - NWS Great Falls Ice Jam Guide:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/hydro/IJAD/JamTypes.php?wfo=txf>
 - NWS Great Falls Ice Types Guide:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/hydro/IJAD/RiverIceTypes.php?wfo=txf>
 - Twitter: @NWSBinghamton or #bgmiceobs
 - Facebook: US National Weather Service Binghamton NY
- DRJTBC Agreement with NWS, screen shots sent daily from each of the bridges during periods of ice
- Debrief of January Ice Jam event:
 - US Coast Guard sent two ice cutters to the top of their navigational channel (just north of Duck Island). Ice cutters effective up to 18", some ice was 2-3' chunks. Decision to deploy based on ice observations from their facilities and communication with Bucks County, FEMA and NJOEM.
 - States requested USACE call in to US Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CREEL) for Ice conditions on the Delaware. Ice Jam was added to the CREEL database and Preliminary Threat Assessments were developed. It would be helpful to determine distribution

list and dissemination of those assessments as others in the Basin would be interested during any future event.

- NYCDEP coordinated with NWS on reservoir releases. NWS requested NYCDEP to stop releases so as to not aggravate any possible downstream flooding
- Flood Task Force Recommendation FW-13: Ice Conditions Monitoring and Communications Plan reviewed, a lot has been implemented.
- Adding FEMA layers to AHPS gage maps, presentation by Laurie Hogan, NWS Eastern Region Headquarters
 - NWS is working to add FEMA’s National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) to AHPS gage maps.
 - The NFHL is a database that contains flood hazard map information from FEMA, otherwise known as Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs).
 - Benefits include sharing risk data and promoting availability of FEMA information to public concerned with flooding
 - Implementation on a regional basis, AHPS impact statements will be reviewed during inclusion
- FEMA will soon be releasing new mapping for Sullivan County, NY.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

**FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE**

February 26, 2014

NAME	AGENCY
BREWSTER, James	National Weather Service (NWS), Binghamton WFO
BURD, Dave	Lambertville, NJ OEM
CARR, Rachel	Nurture Nature Center (NNC)
GAUL, Andrew	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
HANCOCK, Harmony	Nurture Nature Center (NNC)
HARTIGAN, Matt	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC)
HOGAN, Laurie	National Weather Service (NWS), Eastern Region Headquarters
KRUZDLO, Ray	National Weather Service (NWS), Mount Holly WFO
MCDONNELL, Bill	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region II
MILLER, Jason	United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
MOYLE, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
NAJJAR, Ken	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
OLIVIO, Dana	New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)
PADELETTI, Angela	Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
PETREWSKI, Gary	PPL Corporation
REISER, Bob	United States Geological Survey (USGS) - NJ
ROLAND, Mark	United States Geological Survey (USGS) - PA
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
RUPERT, Clarke	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
SCORDATO, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SHALLCROSS, Amy	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
SMITH, Cleighton	Bergmann Associates
SPRINGETT, Alan	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region II
SZATKOWSKI, Gary	National Weather Service (NWS), Mount Holly WFO
TESSIERI, Laura	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
TESTA, Chris	New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)
TUDOR, Bob	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)

WATSON, Richard	Hamilton Water Pollution Control
WHITE, Kirk	United States Geological Survey (USGS) - PA
WNEK, Patti	National Weather Service (NWS), Middle Atlantic River Forecast Office