

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION  
FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

**November 9, 2011**

The November 9, 2011 Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting began at 10:00 AM at the Commission office (DRBC) in West Trenton, NJ. Tom Suro, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) chaired the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. DRBC staff to finalize brochure highlighting FAC progress implementing Task Force Flood Warning recommendations.
2. FAC to review work completed/in progress regarding Interstate Task Force recommendations

**A. Introductions and Review of the Draft Minutes from the February 16<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

Minutes of both the February and June 2011 meetings were approved with no corrections or changes noted. Minutes are posted to the DRBC web site. Tapes of meetings may be reviewed upon request.

**B. Nominations of Vice Chair, State/Local Member:** Tom Suro nominated Dave Williams (PEMA) as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. Dave Williams (PEMA) accepted the nomination.

**C. Hydrologic Conditions Report:** Amy Shallcross, DRBC

On August 27-28, Hurricane Irene traveled up the east coast delivering widespread rainfall in amounts of 5 to 8 inches of rainfall, with locally higher amounts of up to 12 inches in the State of Delaware. The Pocono and Catskill regions received 3 to 5 inches of rainfall. Tropical Storm Lee followed, shortly thereafter, from September 5-9. Approximately 5 to 7 inches of precipitation fell over much of the basin, with lesser amounts of 2 to 4 inches recorded in the estuary region. Portions of the Schuylkill watershed and western New Jersey received 7 to 10 inches.

Through November 8, precipitation averaged 63 inches, which is 25 inches above normal, in the upper and middle basin. Precipitation averaged 48 inches for the southern part of the basin, which is 11 inches above normal. For the 90-day period ending on November 8, 2011, precipitation averaged 200 percent above normal.

As of November 8, storage in the NYC Delaware reservoir system was at 93.9 percent usable capacity. The median storage for the date is 68.2 percent usable capacity. As of November 3 (the most recent date the data is available), the salt line was located at river mile 64. The normal location for November is river mile 80.

**D. Animated Graphs of Flood Events:** John Yagecic, DRBC

Through programming in VBA Excel, DRBC has developed a way to view large sequential data sets from NOAA and USGS in an animated form. The first simulation shows an animated graph of non-tidal Delaware River flooding during August and September 2011.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_MKFQNZbc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_MKFQNZbc)

The second simulation animates the graphing of the impact of Hurricane Irene (August 2011) and its storm surge on Delaware Estuary water surface elevations.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QS6ruaAI50A>

**E. Brief reports by Agencies following Irene and Lee**

Jim Brewster, NWS Binghamton WFO, Peter Ahnert, NWS MAFRC, Tom Suro, USGS-NY, Dana Olivio, NYCDEP, Dave Burd, Lambertville Emergency Manager and Jason Miller, Corps

of Engineers provided agency reports following Hurricane Irene, August 27-28, and Tropical Storm Lee, September 5-9.

**F. Floodplain Mapping: Revisions to Flood Elevations on the Main stem Delaware:** John Scordato, NJDEP & Bob Pierson, FEMA RIII

The USACE Philadelphia District was tasked to review and compare modeling and mapping on the Delaware River. USACE looked at the 1994 HEC-2 model developed for FEMA in Pennsylvania, which is the current effective model for Flood Insurance purposes in Pennsylvania to the HEC-RAS 4.0 model developed by Medina Consultants in 2010. The ranges of calculated differences range up to about +/- 4.5 feet. However, the differences in elevation are not as pronounced when translating those elevations to area on the ground, i.e. Special Flood Hazard Areas (FEMA mapped floodplains).

NJDEP provided a handout comparing water surface elevations for the 10, 20, 100 and 500 year profiles of proposed and effective studies. The change in water surface profiles varies and depends greatly on location. The variation is largely caused by the more accurate topography used with the new modeling.

Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are available for viewing at:

<https://www.rampp-team.com/pa.htm>

<https://www.rampp-team.com/nj.htm>

<https://www.rampp-team.com/ny.htm>

<https://www.rampp-team.com/de.htm>

Bucks County produced a web service for public use shows overlay of effective and preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM): <http://gisweb.co.bucks.pa.us/floodplainviewer>

**G. Floodplain Maps (DFIRMs) in the Basin: Status of Mapping & Process to becoming Effective:** This topic was tabled.

**H. Discussion of Current Mitigation/Acquisition Initiatives:** This topic was tabled.

**I. Opportunity for Public and Interested Party Comments**

Members of the public requested that the FAC form a subcommittee to review and evaluate progress made towards the reservoir and structural/nonstructural recommendation sections of the Interstate Task Force Report. DRBC staff and FAC members responded that such a request would need a defined scope of work and would need to be supported by DRBC Commissioners.

**J. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2011 at 10:00am in the DRBC Goddard Conference Room.

**FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**November 9, 2011**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>
AHNERT, Peter	National Weather Service (NWS)
BARTHOLOMEW, Travis	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
BONOS, Mary	Aquatic Conservation Unlimited (ACU), Delaware Riverside Conservancy (DRC)
BREWSTER, Jim	National Weather Service (NWS)
BURD, David	Local Emergency Management: Lambertville, NJ
CABRERA, Reggina	National Weather Service (NWS)
CREVELING, Ellen	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
DEANGELO, Jim	Michael Baker Corporation
FANOK, Su	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
FERRARI, Mark	New York State Office of Emergency Management Region II
GARLITS, Skip	Stakeholder
GAUL, Andrew	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)
MILLER, Jason	United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District
OLIVIO, Dana	New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)
PIERSON, Robert	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III
QUINODOZ, Hernan	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
REISER, Robert	United States Geological Service (USGS) - NJ
RUGGERI, Joseph	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SCANNAPIECO, Alycia	Stakeholder
SCHREFFLER, Curtis	United States Geological Service (USGS) - PA
SCORDATO, John	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
SHALLCROSS, Amy	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
SMITH, Cleighton	
SURO, Thomas	United States Geological Service (USGS) - NY
TESSIERI, Laura	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)

THARP, Diane	The North Delaware River Watershed Conservancy (NorDel)
TUDOR, Robert	Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
WESTFALL, Greg	Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) - NJ
WILLIAMS, David	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)