

FLOOD & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

April 7, 2006

NAFSMA Testifies on House Levee Inventory Bill

NAFSMA President Peter Rabbon testified on Thursday, April 6, before the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee on the Levee Safety Act (HR 4650) introduced by Chairman Duncan in December 2005. This week's witness list included Brigadier General Don T. Riley, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Pam Pogue, CFM, for the Association of State Floodplain Managers; and Peter Nicholson, Ph.D, P.E., M.ASCE, for the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Copies of the testimony for all of the witnesses are attached in pdf format.

Key issues raised during the hearing include the need to first focus resources on developing a national

inventory/database of the nation's flood control infrastructure, and then moving into the assessment phase; and the expected cost to move forward with these initiatives. HR 4650 proposes funding at \$10 million annually for six years. All of the association witnesses expressed the sentiment that additional funding would be needed for this effort.

A total of \$30 million was provided to the Army Corps of Engineers in the supplemental appropriations approved in December 2005 to dedicate to a levee inventory and the Corps's 2007 budget proposal also includes a proposal for \$20 million in funding to be available to produce a levee inventory.

NAFSMA will continue to work closely with Congress, the Corps of Engineers and other associations with a key interest in this issue. Please feel free to call Susan Gilson in the national office if you have any questions on the hearing or pending legislation in this area.

NAFSMA Stormwater Management Committee to Hold April Conference Call

NAFSMA members are urged to participate in the Stormwater Management Committee's conference call on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. This call will be instrumental in setting the committee's agenda and priorities throughout the year. We urge members to participate in this important session. A key issue on the agenda will be discussions that the Board of Directors have had with the General Accounting Office on NPDES stormwater management issues. Please email Susan Gilson in the national office for call-in information and to provide suggested agenda items for the call. Monthly committee calls will also be set and announced for the Flood Management Committee (Corps of Engineers-focused) and Floodplain Management Committees (FEMA) as well.

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