

FLOOD & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE

October 6, 2006

NAFSMA CTP Mentoring Slots Still Available

Although we have had a great response, NAFSMA still has some slots available for members and colleagues to participate in the Day at the District, which will be held at the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Offices, in downtown Denver on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. A copy of the invitation, including the agenda, registration forms and hotel information, is attached to this email. The agenda for this meeting is meant to benefit communities interested in participating in FEMA's map modernization program or becoming a Cooperating Technical Partner with the agency.

There is no registration fee being charged for this one-day session and NAFSMA will be offering a \$250 travel reimbursement check to the participating agencies.

Please fax your registration as soon as possible to 202-478-1734. Please feel free to contact Susan Gilson in the national office at 202-218-4133 if you have any questions on this unique peer information exchange opportunity.

NAFSMA Presents National Leadership Award to Lt. General Carl A. Strock



Through a special video-conference on September 7, 2006, at the NAFSMA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, the association was very pleased to present its National Leadership Award to Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, the Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This award is

NAFSMA's way of recognizing outstanding contributions from a federal agency or congressional official.

NAFSMA has been pleased to work closely with General Strock on key issues in the flood management arena since he first arrived at Headquarters as Deputy Chief of Engineers in the fall of 2003 and through his current tenure as Chief of Engineers which began in 2004. General Strock announced that he had asked to resign as commander of the Corps, on August 10, but he has committed to stay on in the post until his successor is named.

In recognizing his accomplishments, NAFSMA President Derek Guthrie stressed the great value the association has put on General Strock's commitment to the Corps mission and its partners missions. Derek noted how much NAFSMA appreciates the respect that the Chief has shown to its non-federal partners and their issues. The association also recognized the outstanding courage and candor of the General and his strong leadership

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exhibited within Corps Headquarters. General Strock's willingness to participate in the NAFSMA Annual Meeting, even if it was through videoconference, symbolizes his respect and commitment to the Corps non-federal partners.

In addition to the videoconference presentation, General Strock was presented with the National Leadership Award this week in a brief ceremony in the halls of the Pentagon by Dusty Williams, NAFSMA Director and General Manager of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

NAFSMA wishes Lt. Gen. Strock all of the best in his new endeavors and again thanks him for all he has done on behalf of the nation's non-federal partners.

Excellence in Communications Awards Announced

NAFSMA has named the recipients of its Excellence in Communications Awards, which honor outreach work in educating the public about improving water quality and the adverse impact of floodwaters.

The Awards were announced and presented at NAFSMA's Annual Meeting & Workshop in San Antonio Texas on September 7, 2006. DVD's which provide information from all of the submissions will be provided to NAFSMA members by early November.

The top honor for Exceptional Merit was given to the Clark County (Nevada) Regional Flood District for its flood control and stormwater awareness efforts. The agency used print, Web and television to reach more than 7,000 residents who move to the Las Vegas area each month.

The President's Award was given to Charlotte-Mecklenburg (North Carolina) Stormwater Services for its comprehensive public information program, which included an interactive Website geared towards teaching children about stormwater.

In the judging category of Public Awareness of Flooding and Flood Prevention, the Santa Clara Valley (California) Water District was honored with First Place for its 2005-2006 Flood Safety Awareness Campaign that highlighted the message "We see Water...so you don't have to." The City of Tucson (Arizona), was awarded Second Place in the category with Third Place given to Pierce County (Washington) Water Programs.

Pierce County was honored with the First Place award in the judging category of Improving Water Quality, for its "Scoop the Poop" campaign designed to educate the public about pets and water quality. Second Place in the category was given to Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, representing the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) with Third Place award going to the Santa Clara Valley (California) Water District's Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program.

NAFSMA President Derek Guthrie, The Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer for Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District said, "I'm thrilled about the number of submissions, especially since this was the first year of the awards. Showing all of this work to our member agencies will give them great ideas for their own outreach efforts. We look forward to seeing even more entries next year."

Water Resources Development Act Conference Stopped Until Mid-November

House and Senate conferees on the pending Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) failed to reach agreement before Congress departed at the end of September for its pre-election recess. Conference leaders are planning to revisit WRDA in mid-November. WRDA is the legislative vehicle that authorizes the projects and activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Key unresolved issues include differences in the number, and cost, of projects in the bill, as well as Corps reform issues, such as differences in the language on peer review. With six years since enactment of the last WRDA, it is critical that NAFSMA members let their congressional delegations know how important it is to move the bill this year.

Key Appropriations Bills Also Await Consideration Until After Elections

With Congress home campaigning, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which funds the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation activities, and the Interior Appropriations Bill, which includes funding not only for the Department of the Interior activities, but also the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Both await final action by Congress.

At this point there are two schools of thought on appropriations committee action, both of course revolving around the results of the upcoming elections. One line of thinking has Congress staying in session through a good part of December and finishing up the funding bills before this Congress adjourns. The other line of thought has Congress returning back to Capitol Hill for a brief period following the elections to approve a long-term continuing resolution that would keep the government in business until the new session of Congress begins in January 2007. If the House or Senate majority flips to the Democrats, we could expect that they would push to have the final appropriations bills held over until the new Congress assumes power, but Republicans would be pushing to finish the bills before this Congress adjourns at the end of the year.

Levee Guidance Jointly Released by Corps and FEMA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency both released guidance late last month addressing levee certification issues. Copies of the guidance documents are provided to the NAFSMA membership in conjunction with transmittal of this update. NAFSMA has been working closely with both the Corps and FEMA on the key issues addressed in these guidance documents.

Based on a preliminary inventory of levees with a federal nexus, FEMA and the Corps are contacting levee owners and operators to let them know if their levee has been identified for further followup. Local officials and congressional representatives will also be briefed. Outlined in the guidance document is a provisionally accredited levee status, which will allow the levee a provisional status while certification is pursued. NAFSMA is planning to have a conference call with key Corps and FEMA officials later this month to provide the opportunity for NAFSMA members to ask questions on the policy.

Although these guidance documents go a long way in outlining the process for certification and the relationship of this effort to the FEMA map modernization program, critical questions still exist on funding for the certification process as well as the larger funding issues that may come down the road if extensive levee repairs are identified as needed in the certification process.

Please feel free to call Susan Gilson in the national office at 202-218-4133 with questions on the new levee guidance documents.