CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN SURVEYOR PROGRAM
GENERAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION
Friday, April 11; 9:00 – 12:00
NSPS – Arlington, VA

1) Administration

2) Training

3) Testing

If we can work out these three simple matters, it’s a go. Everything else will fall into place.

1) Administration
   a. How are CFeds and the Hydrographic surveying programs administered? Use for guidance?
   b. Involve Curt and Trish for advice.
   c. Nationwide certification or on a state by state basis?
   d. Fees and fee distribution if state by state or if nationally administered.
   e. Partner with Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

2) Training and 3) Testing – these might be a combination. The testing would follow the training sessions and be a part of it.

Background: North Carolina has established, with the assistance and direction of FEMA, a program for the Certified Floodplain Surveyor. Tennessee works the state of North Carolina to administer their CFS program. FEMA does not recognize the Tennessee program. Currently the NC and TN CFS certification process requires a two and half day live, “physically present in the class room” course. The second half of the third day is spent on review and questions/answers. A fourth day is required for testing. The test is 125 questions in two parts. Part 1 requires a 75% passing score and the second part requires 85%. If either part is not passed, the entire test is failed. Normally, there is only a 50% pass rate. The fee for training and testing in both states is $450 for members of the state associations and $600 for non-members. Currently, North Carolina evaluates the tests for both states; each state’s NFIP Coordinator then issues pass/fail notices and CFS Certificates. Tennessee relies heavily on the state of North Carolina, although in Tennessee, the course is presented based on the NC outline, using Tennessee instructors.

Now how to move this up to a national level? Danny Martinez, myself and others feel that to expedite this process, we should not seek assistance from FEMA at this point, due to its refusal to expand the CFS program beyond NC over the last 20 years. We feel that NSPS should get the program going and once it is fairly established, the go to FEMA and ask for their “blessings”. Amy Miller, NFIP Coordinator for the state of Tennessee, has worked tirelessly seeking recognition from FEMA for Tennessee. At this time, FEMA does not seem to be interested in recognizing the program (TN). Perhaps with numbers, we can increase their interest.
2) Training and 3) Testing (continued)

a. Training
I. A single central location on an annual or semi-annual basis? North Carolina has offered to present a course on the national level and I’m certain Tennessee would offer the same. Possibly choose a more central location in the mid-west and hire the NC or TN folks for travel and time. For the NSPS administration, it might be convenient to request using the governmental training facility in Emmitsburg, Maryland (“Emergency Management Institute” or EMI). It would be an easy sell, convincing FEMA that surveyor training could be to their essential benefit.
II. State by state? Would require a number of train the trainer courses. NSPS sponsored?
   By states, it would possibly mean 50 systems of administration.
III. By districts? Follow FEMA’s division of the country into 10 different regions?
IV. Online training.

b. Testing
I. Follows training at same venue.
II. NSPS would need to have a central location for test results and certification of individuals.
III. State by State. At present, some tasks are performed by the NFIP coordinator of that state.
IV. NC is going to an online exam this year.
V. Evaluating and grading tests. Issuing scores.

Amy Miller offered some comments on this outline. She and Wendy Lathrop spent quite a bit of time revising the original draft. Amy’s comments:

* Each State NFIP Coordinator needs to be on board to help teach (especially the nuts and bolts of NFIP)
* Each state surveying association needs to be active with promotion, registration, catering food, sending pass/fail letters and certificates. (I assume she means this based on a state by state approach.)
* NSPS develop a webpage about the CFS and have each state’s information on it. (we already have this)
* Have a training session for State Coordinators at the ASFPM conference.
* Have an informational session at NSPS conference for state chapters. (I believe she may be under the impression that we still have a national meeting.)
* Target FEMA to have a representative trained from each of the 10 regions to help with questions from each state or to help teach.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. Barton (Bart) Crattie, LS, CFS, CFM
Tennessee