

Project Name:	<i>Update to the Jefferson Parish Preliminary Map to Incorporate the USACE HSDRRS Projects.</i>
Meeting:	<i>Jefferson Parish- Initial Coordination Meeting</i>
Date:	<i>September 20, 2011</i>
Place:	<i>Jefferson Parish Government Building – 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd, Jefferson, LA 70123</i>
Time:	<i>01:00 PM CT</i>

Attendees: See attached attendance sheet

Presentation: See meeting presentation for detailed information on each slide

Agenda Items

1. Introduction/Sign-in Sheet

Mr. Matthew Dubois, representing FEMA Region VI, began the meeting at 01:10 PM (CT) with a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Dubois introduced himself and briefly discussed the purpose of the meeting and the items to be discussed during the presentation. Mr. Dubois also indicated to those present that his business card is available at the front of the room together with the business cards for two information portals on the web. The first portal is ramp-team.com where the copy of the presentation would be posted. The second portal was RiskMAP6.com where once fully operational; the revised FIRM information would be posted.

Introductions of attendees proceeded. All attendees were reminded to sign the sign-in sheet.

2. Project History

Mr. DuBois explained that in 2004, FEMA had funded a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Update but during 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita made landfall in Louisiana affecting Jefferson Parish. In the same year the coastal analysis update was expanded. The following year, 2006, Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps were prepared to establish “rebuild” elevations. In 2008, FEMA issued Preliminary Digital FIRMs for Jefferson Parish which incorporates Katrina analysis developed by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Jefferson Parish East Bank and West Bank communities currently use the 2008 Preliminary DFIRMS and the 2006 ABFE maps respectively, for permitting and rebuilding efforts.

Mr. DuBois explained that by the end of 2011, the USACE will have features in place to defend against the 1-percent-annual-chance storm surge. FEMA is working with the USACE to receive the analysis performed to date on the levee system in the Greater New Orleans area.

3. Description of Update Effort

Mr. DuBois explained that for this particular project, FEMA is only updating the flood hazard information in the areas of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) which is the perimeter levees that protect parts of Plaquemines, St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard parishes. He presented a USACE workmap that indicated the various components of the HSDRRS system. He added that these perimeter levees will keep the waves out.

FEMA will receive the Interior Drainage Analysis from USACE for the Federal Project Area only and the USACE analysis will only include features of the HSDRRS shown on the USACE accreditation map. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Dubois also stressed the fact that updates to the preliminary FIRM for

Jefferson Parish are being done only for the areas within the HSDRRS areas shown on the USACE Accreditation Map.

Mr. Dubois also stressed that as part of the update effort, FEMA and RAMPP would need to collect information on local flood control projects to understand what those projects are and to see if they can be incorporated into the current efforts. The data collection efforts would also be helpful in identifying any potential gap between the USACE and the local flood control projects.

4. Project Benefits

Mr. DuBois stated that FEMA would update the interior drainage analysis within the HSDRRS system to include the local flood control projects. This will provide local authorities with better risk information for use in decision making. Mr. DuBois emphasized that the local flood control projects that will be included in the interior drainage analysis must be already in place (i.e. completed) or which will be completed very soon.

Updated DFIRMs (with the updated interior drainage analysis) will help local business owners and residents to understand their current flood risk and enable them to make more informed decisions about protecting themselves against that risk. Furthermore, the updated DFIRMs will aid communities and state officials in the grant application and review process.

5. Project Schedule

Mr. DuBois then proceeded to explain the project schedule was as follows:

- ❖ September 2011
 - Expected announcement from the USACE on the HSDRRS Perimeter Construction
- ❖ Spring 2012
 - Issuance of the Revised Preliminary FIRM for the panels affected by the HSDRRS project (i.e. panels within the HSDRRS areas)
- ❖ Summer/Fall 2012
 - Following the Revised Preliminary there will be an appeal and protest period on all parish FIRM panels (i.e. the HSDRRS panels and other preliminary panels issued in 2008)
- ❖ Fall 2014
 - USACE Levee System Evaluation Review (LSER) will be completed and presented to FEMA
 - Letter of Final Determination issued 6 months prior to the FIRM panels becoming effective
 - Effective FIRM Issuance

Mr. DuBois added that FEMA is aware of levees outside the HSDRRS system that do not provide protection from the Base Flood (100-yr or 1% event) but that may be taken into account based on new levee guidance that is being prepared by FEMA HQ. This guidance is expected to be released later this year for public review. The analysis required to take such levees outside the HSDRRS into consideration may change the schedule of issuance of the revised preliminary and post preliminary processing.

Mr. DuBois stated that once HSDRRS area maps are updated:

- the revised DFIRMs will be delivered to the parish communities for review
- the entire parish study will then enter the post-preliminary processing phase

- residents, business owners and communities will be allowed to view the DFIRM data through an interactive map viewer on-line

Mr. Dubois also mentioned that the 2014 date is only an approximation since at this point, FEMA does not know how many appeals and protests that would come until after the Appeal and Protest Period ends.

6. How the Community Can Help

Mr. DuBois asked for assistance from Jefferson Parish on providing information on local flood control projects that may be not included in the USACE interior drainage analysis. He asked that the Parish review the USACE Accreditation Map to identify projects that are not included in the current analysis and provide data for such projects to FEMA as soon as possible for incorporation. FEMA is looking to partner with the Parish's technical staff to ensure the most up-to-date information is included in the FIRM panels for Jefferson Parish.

During the presentation, Mr. Mark Drewes, Jefferson Parish Engineer, and his team mentioned the ongoing local projects and their impacts on revised maps. Mr. Dubois explained that those projects that will finish within the map revision period will be evaluated and if applicable, could be incorporated. However, those projects that will finish after the map revision period will be evaluated on individual basis and could be incorporated via a separate map revision process.

Mr. DuBois asked that the Parish work with FEMA to communicate natural hazard risks to the parish residents and to identify educational and outreach opportunities. FEMA has tools and templates that will assist in such communication, education, and outreach. Some of these are available on RiskMAP6.com which is still under construction.

Mr. DuBois also briefly reviewed a number of online FEMA publication that would be of interest to Plaquemines Parish officials in their work on levees. These publications included:

- NFIP and Levees: An Overview Factsheet (August 2011)
- What is a Levee? (Factsheet - August 2011)
- History of Levees (Factsheet – August 2011)
- The Facts about Levees (August 2011)
- Living with Levees Factsheet for Property Owners (August 2011)
- The NFIP and Levee Systems: Frequently Asked Questions (March 2011)
- Levee Certification vs. Accreditation Factsheet (August 2011)
- Provisionally Accredited Levees Factsheet (August 2011)

Following the presentation, FEMA and RAMPP had a one to one discussion with the community and began discussion of the community local projects. The Parish would like to incorporate the storm sewer components to the models but since the system was not designed for the 1% event there would be no impact to the flood maps. The East Jefferson Levee District indicated that during high flow events like the recent Tropical Storm Lee, there was overflow from St. Charles Parish to Jefferson Parish along Hwy 61.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 PM CT.