



# The BUZZ

*A Quarterly Newsletter*

The BUZZ is a forum for Silver Jackets teams' successes, opportunities and resources.

## 2014 Silver Jackets and Flood Risk Management Award Recipients

By Jennifer Dunn, USACE IWR

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2014 was an outstanding year for the Silver Jackets and the flood risk management community. With 42 active teams and numerous ongoing interagency projects, it is both exciting to see the amount of impact the program is having in creating collaborative solutions to manage risks, and simultaneously difficult since it is not possible to give adequate recognition to so many great accomplishments. It is with great pleasure that we were able to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of a few members of the Silver Jackets and Flood Risk Management community. The individuals and teams recognized with these awards have exemplified the goals and objectives of the programs and demonstrated their abilities to go above and beyond as duty requires. Congratulations to those who were recognized with awards for such exceptional work! We look forward to a new fiscal year and both the challenges and successes that lie ahead!

### Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year

The Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year Award recognizes outstanding

individual efforts and contributions to a Silver Jackets team. This year's selection was particularly difficult due to the many highly qualified nominations received. Recognizing the high caliber of several nominees, we took the unusual step of selecting two recipients for this award.

The first co-recipient of the Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year Award was Mr. Terry Zien of the St. Paul District, Project Manager for Planning Assistance to States, Floodplain Management Services and Silver Jackets Program. Terry brought a mix of passion, desire, and commitment to a collaborative approach to his role as lead coordinator for the Minnesota and Wisconsin Silver Jackets teams and as co-lead for the North Dakota Silver Jackets team. His efforts have enhanced cooperation and collaboration among USACE and numerous federal, state, and local government agency partners in flood risk management. Through his leadership, numerous interagency projects have been brought to fruition within the teams he supports, greatly benefiting



Mark Roupas, Deputy for the Office of Homeland Security presents the Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year award to Terry Zien.

the states in which the projects have occurred. Terry's efforts through these projects and other activities have resulted in a more coordinated approach among the multiple agencies with responsibility for managing flood risk within St. Paul District.

Our second co-recipient was Ms. Judy Soutiere, Silver Jackets Coordinator in the Watershed Assessment and Ecological Restoration Section, Water Resources Branch, Planning Division of the Sacramento District. Ms. Soutiere has demonstrated significant commitment to the Silver Jackets Program through her role as the lead



Colonel Farrel presents the second Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year Award to Judy Soutiere.

Coordinator for the California, Utah, and Nevada Silver Jackets teams and as a participant on the Colorado, Idaho, and Oregon Silver Jackets teams. She has demonstrated excellent leadership and facilitation skills and used her dedication and collaborative skills to develop and maintain strong relationships with all interagency partners. The teams Ms. Soutiere supports have developed and conducted several interagency

efforts that raise awareness and understanding of the flood risk within these states.

### Silver Jackets State Team of the Year

The Silver Jackets State Team of the Year Award recognizes an outstanding team that exemplifies the goal of effective flood risk management within the context of shared responsibility and that has demonstrated significant accomplishments in flood risk management throughout the preceding year. The award seeks to recognize outstanding team efforts and contributions to optimize the use of federal resources and leverage state investment, prevent duplication among Federal agencies, and produce results that save lives and/or reduce future damages. This award is unique because the winner is chosen through a peer voting process in which only other state teams have the opportunity to vote on the team most deserving of the award.

*These awards are intended to recognize outstanding individuals and teams who exemplify the goals and objectives of the programs.*

The California Silver Jackets Team was this year's recipient. They were recognized for achievements in flood risk management over the last year. Since the team's formation in early 2013, they have been actively engaged in collaborative, interagency flood risk management. The team has focused extensively on activities to increase outreach, awareness of, and education about flood risk management. In the first year of its coming together, this multi-level interagency team has developed and implemented a Flood Awareness Week outreach campaign, participated in the Know Your Line initiative, publicized high water marks from historic flood events, developed a draft charter, and completed the California's Flood Future Report: Recommendations for Managing the State's Flood Risk. Through involvement in this report, the team assisted in developing a strategy for managing future flood risk throughout the state. The California Silver Jackets Team's significant contributions greatly reflect credit upon themselves, the State of California, and our shared Silver Jackets Program.

### Flood Risk Manager of the Year

The Flood Risk Manager of the Year Award seeks to recognize an outstanding USACE employee who makes an outstanding contribution to flood risk management. This year's recipient is Mr. Stephen Scissons, Hydraulic Engineer at the Albuquerque District. Stephen is recognized for building an extremely effective network within the

local, state, and federal flood risk community, while serving as the Flood Risk Management Program Manager. He has accomplished this by bringing a strong technical understanding and skill set as a hydraulic engineer, exceptional interpersonal skills, flexibility, adaptability, and innovative thinking to his role within the District. Stephen works to understand all points of view, which has inspired trust with his federal, tribal, state, and local partners. He has leveraged his knowledge of USACE programs to create synergy between multiple programs related to flood risk management that has assisted his partners in finding the best opportunities to meet their needs.

Congratulations to all the award recipients who serve as models for the flood risk management community. Your work is greatly appreciated!



Mark Roupas presents Flood Risk Manager of the Year award to Stephen Scissons.

## Informal Leadership

By Mark Roupas, HOUSACE

Informal leadership is a topic that has been on my mind lately. I think that informal leadership is one of the many factors that lead to organizational and programmatic success, including the success we enjoy in the Emergency Management and Flood Risk Management Communities of Practice.

For the purpose of this article, an informal leader is someone within an organization or work unit who by virtue of how he or she is perceived by his peers (or others in the organization) is seen as worthy their attention or following. The distinguishing element between an informal leader and a formal one is that the informal leader does NOT hold a position of power or formal authority.

At its most basic level, the concept of leadership is fairly straightforward; leadership is the process by which we influence others to implement a new product, program, or process or, even more simply, accomplish the mission. In a military organization, it is easy to identify the formal leaders by looking at the organizational chart or, in many cases, a review of the job title associated with the individual.

Formal organizational leaders provide the direction and long-range goals for

our enterprise. Examples of this are the USACE vision and mission statement that are part of the USACE Campaign Plan. Our Campaign Plan outlines how we will attain both the Chief's vision and mission statement through the four stated goals. One of these goals listed under objective 3c is "Enhance inter-agency disaster preparation and mitigation capabilities." One way that USACE will accomplish this goal will be to make use of the internal and interagency expertise in flood risk management offered by our National Flood Risk Management (FRM) Program and our externally focused Silver Jackets (SJ) program.

I was able to observe the role and importance of informal leadership during the 2014 Interagency Flood Risk Management Project Workshop that occurred August 19-21 in Southbridge, Massachusetts. During this working meeting, I was able to observe firsthand the power informal leadership has to describe and implement USACE programs and directions. It is within working meetings such as these that our FRM Program Managers (PM) and SJ Coordinators articulate and inform others about USACE authorities, roles, and missions.

In this way, our FRM PMs and SJ Coordinators become a voice for USACE in advancing our messages of managing

flood risk and risk communications and leveraging the resources of all partner agencies. It is my strong belief that our FRM and SJ team members, working with our internal and external partners, including partners on these state led interagency teams, play an exceedingly valuable role in our ability to articulate our programs and policies to outside organizations, which forms the basis of success to those agency goals established by our formal leadership.

I would like to close by encouraging everyone involved in the FRM and the SJ programs to recognize the role you have to play as an informal leader. The power to ensure that the vision, missions, and programs of USACE, including the NFRMP, are successfully implemented is not insignificant. Further, the ability of an informal leader to get things done will not go unrecognized. If you are not familiar with the concept of informal leadership, I would encourage you to read up on the topic; there are numerous articles and sources of information readily available. To continue the success that we have had to date through the NFRMP and SJ programs, we will need as many informal leaders as possible, so I encourage you all to continue to serve in this role.



*I encourage everyone involved in the FRM and the SJ programs to recognize the role you have to play as an informal leader.*

## Sharing Ideas and Strategies for Success at Southbridge

By Katie Noland, USACE IWR

*Workshop participants share lessons learned and problem solve to address interagency project challenges.*

Funding projects that enable comprehensive flood risk management solutions through an interagency approach was a key component of discussions during the 2014 Interagency Flood Risk Management Project Workshop. Federal, state, and local partners who participated shared project successes and lessons learned, identified and addressed project challenges, discussed project outcomes and metrics, learned about ways to enhance collaboration and leverage resources, and assessed trends, drivers, and developments that may impact future projects, among other topics.

Many of the workshop panel sessions engaged attendees to consider what made interagency projects successful through planning, initial implementation, and the project lifecycle. Workshop participants indicated that funding can be a challenge, but a key to success in securing opportunities to initiate an interagency flood risk management project is to develop a “bull-pen” of potential projects, and to apply often for various funding opportunities.

Some participants also mentioned how vital it is to have a strong local champion involved early in an interagency project



and throughout implementation. Hearing success stories and the types of projects other interagency teams have achieved success with was identified in the workshop evaluations as one of the most useful parts of the meeting.

During another panel session, participants heard presentations from other federal agencies on programs that may not be well known among the Silver Jackets community and teams. The overview of federal programs helped participants identify new partners and opportunities

for leveraging resources, programs, and authorities. One participant indicated in an evaluation of the workshop that it was useful to hear from different agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The diversity of the invited parties was a huge asset to the conference, according to one participant. Other participants highlighted the benefits to having the



Julie Amman, USACE Portland District, examines interagency project posters.

opportunity to discuss these topics face-to-face with multiple agencies, allowing for a broader perspective than sometimes seen when working primarily within one's own agency. In addition to these face-to-face discussions, participants also received copies of the Special Edition Newsletter, where multiple agencies' programs, missions and key activities are highlighted. This resource (available on the Silver Jackets website) not only gives teams easy access to key agency information, but it also can serve as a communication tool for best practices and collaboration.

Workshop participants also had in-depth discussions of key challenges

they are facing and identified potential solutions to these challenges. The most critical challenges that participants identified included:

- Preventing future at-risk development (land use policy) and implementing non-structural measures.
- Identifying shared goals among local, state and federal partners that will be acted upon at project conclusion.
- Identifying definitive interagency partner resources within varying funding cycles and funding constraints.

Participants found the exercise of addressing obstacles and challenges to be an excellent means of informally exchanging views on problems and concerns.

Additional sessions asked participants to consider how to move beyond information sharing in their projects, and on to actions that reduce risk and achieve flood risk management outcomes. Many committed to conducting more outreach and including additional agencies that each work together toward common

goals and outcomes. Additional partnerships with local communities were also put forward. Many suggested that communicating the significance of the project as well as what sorts of actions can be taken when the project is considered complete is paramount. The newly revised Silver Jackets website and web-based Playbook, which was presented in beta version at the workshop, were identified as useful ways to establish best practices, and are expected to be great resources for connecting teams and team activities.

Mark Roupas, Deputy for Homeland Security, challenged all participants to continue to be advocates for the SJ approach by communicating the benefits of participation to each potential partner and by using examples to highlight the successes that have been experienced through the program, teams, and projects.

Overall, attendees evaluated the workshop agenda topics and speakers to be very relevant to their work. All workshop materials are posted online and available through either the Silver Jackets (<http://www.nfrmp.us/state/index.cfm>) or NFRMP (<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/Missions/FloodRiskManagement/FloodRiskManagementProgram.aspx>) websites.

*“Well organized workshop with an excellent facilitator. Addressed obstacles and challenges and was an excellent teaching moment.”*

*Pete Rabbon receives award recognizing federal employees who have helped shape floodplain management.*

## Pete Rabbon, Early Supporter of the Silver Jackets Initiative, Recognized for Distinguished Service

On September 3, the Floodplain Management Association recognized Pete Rabbon, USACE Special Assistant, National Flood Risk Management Program, IWR, with the *Karl Mohr Distinguished Service Award for National Activities*. The award is for federal employees who over the span of their careers have helped to shape floodplain management in the states of California, Nevada, and Hawaii, as well as on the national level.

Mr. Rabbon was recognized for his success in creating the USACE National Flood Risk Management Program



Sara Agahi, Acting Flood Control District Manager at County of San Diego, presents Karl Mohr Distinguished Service Award for National Activities to Pete Rabbon.

(NFRMP), which aims to integrate and synchronize the diverse flood risk management projects, programs and authorities within USACE and with counterpart projects, programs, and authorities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), other Federal agencies, state organizations, and regional and local agencies.

Mr. Rabbon was also an early supporter of the Silver Jackets program and was instrumental in revitalizing the Federal Floodplain Management Task Force (FIFM-TF), composed of 12 federal agencies with floodplain responsibilities or interests. Additional significant accomplishments in this role are his efforts to coordinate agreement of the FEMA/USACE joint memo on aligning the National Flood Insurance Program regulations with the USACE feasibility study process.

More recently, Mr. Rabbon worked collaboratively to ensure USACE participation and support was provided for the Administration's Initiatives under Presidential Policy Direction #8 and the National Mitigation Framework (NMF). He led a federal policy subgroup which developed a new federal flood risk

management standard. The standard is currently undergoing White House review.

Prior to joining USACE in 2006, Mr. Rabbon spent 20 years in the area of flood management of the State of California. His most recent State position as General Manager of the California State Reclamation Board and Executive Officer of the California Water Commission charged him with the responsibility to align federal and State flood management programs to maximize benefits to the public.

Mr. Rabbon was also a board member and past President of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Agencies. As president, he was vital in arranging the first meeting between FEMA and USACE Headquarters to discuss nonfederal collaboration of flood risk management and mitigation, and authorities.

Mr. Rabbon is a practicing civil engineer registered in California, Nevada, and Oregon, a Certified Floodplain Manager and a Diplomat of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. Congratulations and many thanks to Pete!

## Tennessee Formalizing Silver Jackets Program With Signing Ceremony

By Lee Roberts , USACE Nashville District Public Affairs

On September 23, federal, state, and local agencies formalized an official partnership to promote flood risk reduction by signing the Tennessee Silver Jackets Charter during a ceremony at Metro Nashville's Development Services Center.

The charter signing formalizes the relationship between stakeholders that have an interest in reducing the risks associated with flooding and other natural hazards.

Maj. Gen. Terry M. "Max" Haston, adjutant general for the Tennessee National Guard, represented David W. Purkey, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency deputy commissioner and Homeland Security advisor, at the event.

The general spoke about the importance of forming the Silver Jackets team after Tennessee's great flood of 2010 and emphasized how the interaction between partners would generate great ideas and facilitate a positive exchange of information.

"We all need each other in an emergency," Haston said. "And just as impor-



Tennessee Signatories for Silver Jackets Charter.

tantly, we all need to work to help each other get ready for the next emergency before it happens."

State agencies involved in Silver Jackets include TEMA, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation, and Geo-

graphic Information Systems Servicers. Federal partners include the USACE Nashville District, USACE Memphis District, Tennessee Valley Authority, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and National Weather Service.

"With today's signing, the Tennes-

*Tennessee Silver Jackets formalize team charter, establishing a team vision and mission statement, and goals.*

*Tennessee  
benefits  
from the  
collaboration,  
pooling of  
resources,  
and  
enhanced  
preparedness.*

see Silver Jackets Program is officially recognized by the signatories,” said Lt. Col. John L. Hudson, Nashville District commander.

“The state benefits from the collaboration, pooling of resources, and enhanced preparedness. When technical experts share in the responsibility of flood risk management, the interaction stems a greater flow of information and leads to more viable solutions,” he added.

Mayor Jim Coppinger of Hamilton County, Mayor Mark Lutrell of Shelby County, Mayor Kim McMillan of Clarksville, Mayor Andy Berke of Chattanooga, Mayor Madeline Rogero of Knoxville, and Mayor Karl Dean of Nashville represent localities that are also involved with Silver Jackets.

Mayors Dean and McMillan, who represent cities which were significantly affected during the May 2010 flood of the Cumberland River, spoke and addressed disaster preparedness and the value of working together with Silver Jackets partners to reduce flood risk.

“The charter we’re signing today builds on the years of work that teams at the local, state, and federal levels have done to share our collective experiences and ensure that we’re doing everything we

can to reduce our flood risk,” Dean said. “We look forward to active involvement in the Tennessee Silver Jackets team. It’s one more thing we can do to keep our city safe, and we welcome the opportunity.”

McMillan pointed out that Clarksville has experienced a devastating tornado and a 100-year flood in the past 15 years, so emergencies happen that are unpredictable and tragic.

“And when they do (happen), our citizens should and do look to us for help,”

McMillan said. “This organization of caring, dedicated, and talented professionals will help us all respond better and faster when those potentially devastating events occur.”

The charter includes vision and mission statements and goals. It also defines roles and responsibilities for the team. The Silver Jackets team meets on a quarterly basis at locations predetermined by its members. Decisions are accomplished through team consensus as defined by the charter.



Mayor Kim McMillan of Clarksville, TN, signs the SJ Charter.



## National Flood Risk Awareness Survey Highlights Opportunities to Improve Risk Communication with Communities

By Stacy Langsdale, USACE IWR

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) annually conducts a [Flood Risk Awareness survey](#) of both local officials and the general population of the U.S. Presented here are some of the key results from the 2013 survey that are quite relevant to flood risk communicators.

The responses (from 1710 local officials and 1022 members of the general public across the country) reveal citizens are much less aware of their community's flood risk than their local officials and local officials do communicate risk but not by the modes where people would prefer to receive their information.

This suggests that by better matching preferred communication modes, local officials may more effectively build awareness of flood risk among their communities.

### (1) Flood Risk Awareness

*Seventy-seven percent of local officials identified their community as being at risk of flooding.* This is an increase in the level of awareness among local of-

officials compared to previous years.

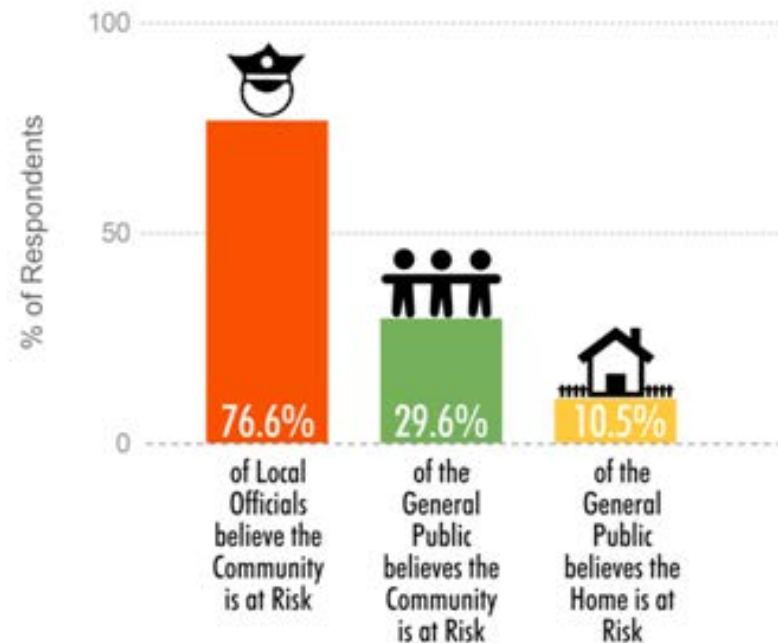
However, the level of awareness among the general population was less than half this value!

*Among the general population, only thirty percent of respondents believe their community is at risk of flooding, a*

*level that has been fairly consistent in all four years the survey was administered.*

Furthermore, the majority of respondents who believed their community was at risk did not believe their home was at risk.

### Respondents' Awareness of Flood Risk



*Seventy-seven percent of local officials believe their community is at risk, but only thirty percent of the general public shares the belief.*

*FEMA study findings can be leveraged to inform or adjust outreach, community engagement, and marketing strategies.*

## (2) How Flood Risk Information is Communicated and Received

The general public respondents overwhelmingly prefer local media as a source of information about flood risk in general.

Four out of five survey respondents identified “local media” (e.g., newspapers, TV, radio) as one of the top three ways they would like to receive information about their flood risk.

Despite the public’s preference for local media, local officials typically rely on different communication channels to deliver flood risk information. When asked to describe their community’s methods to inform and educate citizens about flood hazards and mitigation actions, local officials cited community website (69%) and traditional print media (66%). Community meetings were also a com-



monly cited channel (53%).

## (3) When and What to Communicate?

- One in four survey respondents reported looking for flood risk information. A recent move to a new residence was the single most commonly cited reason for flood risk research.
- Seven out of ten respondents reported taking at least one form of hazard risk mitigation action. Of the respondents who had acted to reduce their risk, their safety and the safety of their families was the most commonly cited reason. Nearly half of respondents raised their furnace or water heater, about a quarter bought flood insurance, and another quarter sealed their basement walls.

## Summary of Key Takeaways

The findings from this study can be leveraged to inform or adjust outreach, community engagement, and marketing strategies.

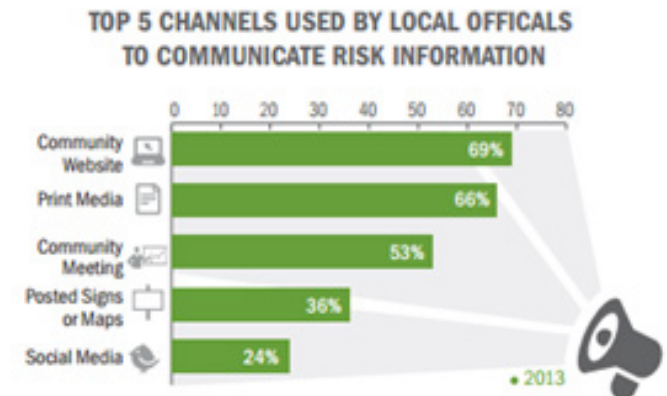
Despite increasing awareness of flood risk among local officials, there continues to be a need to increase awareness among the general public. Local media

continues to be a great resource for getting these stakeholders flood risk information.

The survey results also indicate that raising the furnace or water heater can be used as a tangible example of a mitigation activity that could increase a home’s value and resilience during or after a flood.

Findings also suggest that a recent residential move is a prime opportunity to deliver flood risk information to citizens to help them protect their investment through mitigation action or insurance.

For questions, contact Vince Brown at [Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Vincent.Brown@fema.dhs.gov) or Stacy Langsdale at [Stacy.M.Langsdale@usace.army.mil](mailto:Stacy.M.Langsdale@usace.army.mil).



## Coastal Management Survey Directs Services and Future Products

By Chris Ellis, NOAA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management works on strategies that improve the understanding of, as well as the ability to manage, protect, and utilize valuable coastal resources. In order to assess the needs of its partners and customers in the coastal resource management community (e.g., program administrators, educators, coastal planners) and to guide strategic planning, professional development, and delivery of future products and services, the Office routinely conducts a Coastal Resources Management Customer Survey. Select results are highlighted below.

### Priority Issues

Coastal resource managers were asked to indicate up to four of their most important priorities. The results are shown in the figure. Additionally, respondents were asked about their most important sub-issues in those topics. The results for select priorities are as follows:

Coastal planning and development

- Climate change impacts (70%)

- Habitat loss/fragmentation (48%)
- Comprehensive land use planning (48%)

Conservation

- Habitat restoration and monitoring (54%)
- Climate change impacts (51%)
- Habitat loss/fragmentation (41%)

Hazards

- Climate change impacts (78%)
- Flooding/inundation (70%)
- Hurricanes/coastal storms (69%)
- Shoreline change and erosion (65%)
- 71% of respondents indicated that *climate changes and impacts* are a priority for at least one of the topic areas most important to their work.

The survey asked respondents to list the issues that would require the most attention in the future, and respondents most frequently chose the following terms to describe those issues: “climate change,” “sea level rise,” and “resilience.” Other common words included “hazards,” “spatial planning,” “adaptation,” “restoration,” and “management.”

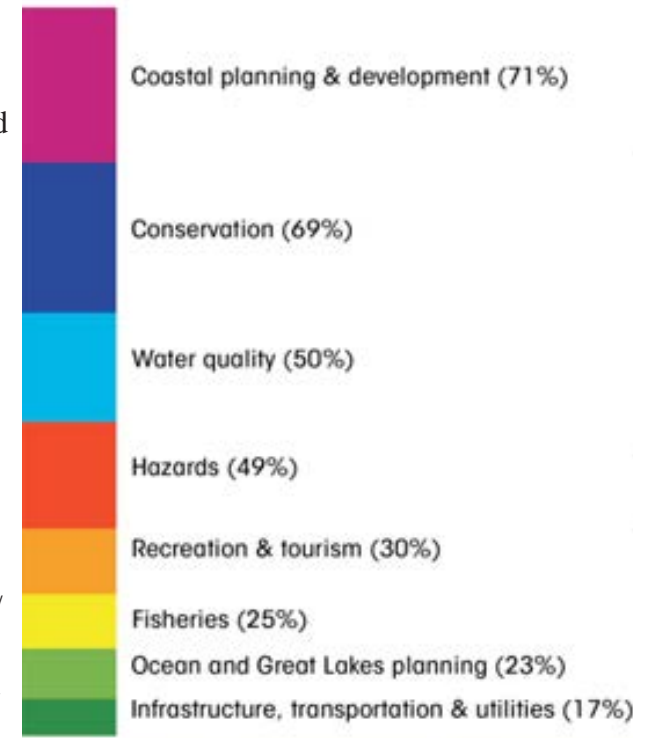
### Requested Data, Services, and Training

Respondents had numerous requests for tools, data, and training to support their work towards healthy ecosystems, resilient communities, and sustainable coastal economies. The most frequently used types of data included: climate change/impacts, wetlands, human use, land cover and change, and socioeconomics.

Categories for which frequent data users felt there needs to be more, updated, or finer resolution information included: climate change/impacts, socioeconomics, and bathymetry.

In answer to the most needed

*NOAA strives to improve understanding and use of coastal resources.*



**Distribution of responses regarding coastal management topics most important to one's work**

*Coastal partners surveyed identified in-person events as preferred communication methods.*

products and services (excluding funding), coastal resource managers indicated their three most desired items are:

Products

- GIS layers, applications, and tools (46% of respondents)
- Biological, physical, and social data sets (40% of respondents)
- Remote sensing data and derivatives (37% of respondents)

Training and Technical Assistance

- Integrating physical, biological, and social science data for decision-making (38% of respondents indicated in

top five; 93% interested in more training on this topic)

Using and selecting economic methods or tools to aid in decision-making (37%

of respondents indicated in top five; 84% interested in more training on this topic)

- Effectively communicating risk (36% of respondents indicated in top five; 89% interested in more training on this topic)

Respondents were enthusiastic about the information they receive from NOAA, indicating that the top types of communication they desire include:

- Available coastal data, tools, training, and technical assistance (84%)
- Examples of coastal management “best practices” (77%)
- Programmatic news (71%)

**Communication Preferences**

To better disseminate its information, NOAA asked its respondents about their preferred communication methods. Survey respondents answered that:

- In-person conferences and events continue to be the most preferred option for learning new job-related information. However, travel budgets continue to be limited making non-regional events difficult to attend.
- Use of social media for job-related activities is minimal.
- NOAA web resources appear to be

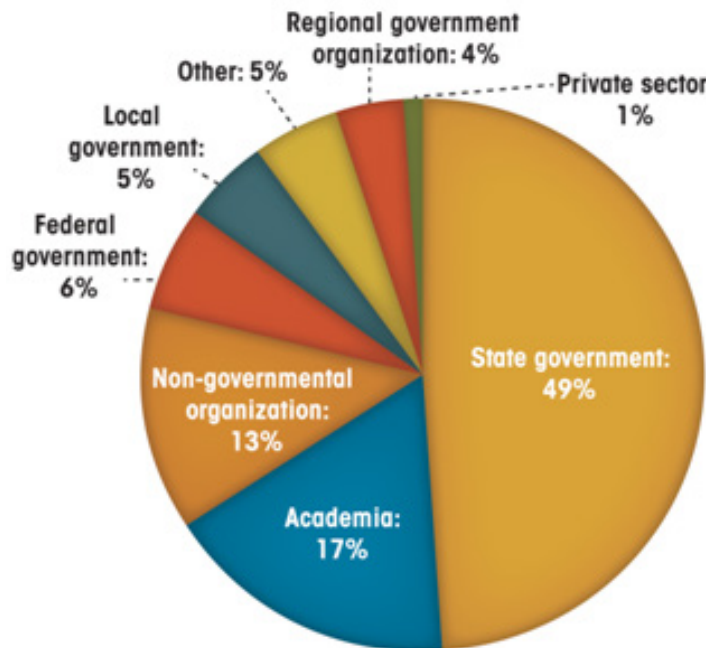
underutilized. The National Estuarine Research Reserve’s website had the most recognition with 20% of coastal resource management familiar with it.

**Survey Respondent Demographics**

The survey population was identified using lists of NOAA contacts. Responses were fairly evenly distributed across the coastal regions with the exception of the Caribbean, which has the lowest representation in the sample. When asked to identify their primary job duties, the most commonly selected responses were “program administration/management” and “education and outreach.”

Almost half of the coastal resource managers participating in the survey were affiliated with state government. Three-quarters of the respondents also work for an organization (e.g., National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, Coastal States Organization, The Nature Conservancy) associated with Digital Coast—a partnership with NOAA, other federal agencies, state and local government, non-profit organizations, and private industry to integrate tool, data, and other resources into one platform for use by coastal resource managers.

To view the full report, please visit: <http://coast.noaa.gov/survey/2013/CustomerSurveyFinalReport-April2014.pdf>



Professional affiliation

## CHARG Moves Coastal Resiliency Forward in the Bay Area

By Craig Connor, USACE San Francisco District

With a growing realization of the implications and impacts of future sea level rise and the current challenges with extreme tides, leaders from federal, state, local agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the San Francisco Bay region have come together, for the first time ever, to address various aspects of flood protection on a regional scale. A working group of over 100 planners, scientists, engineers, and policy makers called CHARG (the San Francisco Bay Region Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group) is now engaged in ongoing discussions to develop and implement regional flood protection solutions to extreme tides and sea level rise.

The present goals of this group are to improve regional coordination, identify and work to solve regional floodplain management issues, exchange ideas and transfer technical knowledge and expertise, and improve flood-forecasting tools in support of activities that address climate change.

Kathy Schaefer of FEMA Region IX, who is currently serving as the group leader, stated in the kickoff meeting, “There is a need to surf the inter-governmental space in a way that helps us

understand our institutional barriers and then we need to work together to move the conversation forward in spite of barriers. We need to navigate the uncertainty curve. The watershed is changing and will be different tomorrow than it is today. Working collectively, we can find ways to adapt and move our agenda forward.”

The group hopes to differentiate itself in several areas from other organizations in the Bay Area. CHARG will engage groups such as NGOs, private corporations, Silicon Valley 2.0, SPUR, and others to gather innovative ideas. They are solution orientated and will push for project implementation while overcoming challenges with regulatory requirements, funding, and technical know-how. CHARG will look at issues on a regional scale from a multiple agency perspective. The group will be in an excellent position to consolidate public outreach material to underline the importance of the message. CHARG expects to bring key issues forward if necessary from the San Francisco Bay region to both capitals: Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

An early task for CHARG is to inventory and locate flood control and flood

risk management projects in the making or planning stage for the Bay Area, as well as sea level rise studies as the basis for collaboration. It is their intention to bring key players together to keep the discussion and momentum going that will lead to project implementation. For example, at a recent steering committee meeting with over 65 attendees, the group heard comprehensive presentations from San Francisco Climate Program Director, the State Department of Water Resources Program Manager for Statewide Flood Management Planning Program, and Our Coast-Our Future Coordinator.

To manage this information and track progress, a web page has been established as a repository for the working group’s communications at <http://www.acfloodcontrol.org/SFBayCHARG/>. On the site, one can find an impressive number of publications on climate change and its impacts.

Representatives from the multiple agencies are optimistic that the group will be action-orientated and will implement measures that will lead to long-term benefits.

*CHARG is solution-oriented, looking at issues on a regional scale from a multiple agency perspective.*



CHARG Lead Kathy Schaefer of FEMA Region IX engages Craig Connor, USACE San Francisco District, at a recent Stakeholders meeting.



*Updates  
from  
Nevada  
Flood  
Awareness  
Week and  
HUD grants  
availability.*

## Announcements:

### Nevada Flood Awareness Week Kickoff Event

On October 10, Governor Brian Sandoval from Nevada attended the kickoff event for State's Flood Awareness Week in Reno, NV. Representatives from offices of Senators Reid and Heller also attended.

The event was coordinated as part of a NV Silver Jackets Pilot Study: *Northern Nevada Flood Awareness Week*. After the ceremony, the Governor thanked the Corps of Engineers for the support of advanced measures in Southern Nevada.

There were approximately 40 people at the event from local officials, National Weather Service Reno, FEMA Region IX, NV Division of Water Resources, NV Division of Emergency Management, and the public.

Judy Soutiere, NV Silver Jackets Coordinator, attended and had a booth with flood risk information.



Judy Soutiere shaking hands with Gov. Brian Sandoval.

### Grant for Making Communities More Resilient to Future Threats

On September 17, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the availability of nearly \$1 billion of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. HUD will award these funds competitively for resilient recovery initiatives.

Through this competition, HUD is seeking proposals from eligible applicants for innovative resilience projects that address unmet disaster recovery needs and make their communities more resilient to future threats.

The competition encourages innovative projects that are rooted in forward-looking risk analysis to address recovery, resilience, and

revitalization needs.

HUD seeks to provide eligible applicants with the capacity to both develop the most innovative projects for the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) and address resilience needs more broadly and over a longer time period.

To that end, HUD has entered into a partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation to provide a capacity building program that will enhance applicants' understanding of resilience; provide additional support for assessing risks and vulnerabilities; and support applicants via world-class expertise in designing, financing, and implementing resilience projects.

More information on the Rockefeller effort can be found on the [Rockefeller Foundation National Disaster Resilience Competition page](#).



## Upcoming Events

October

[10th Annual Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Conference](#),  
Linthicum, Maryland  
October 23

November

American Water Resources Association  
[Annual Water Resource Conference](#),  
Tysons Corner, Virginia  
November 3-6,

E176: [Hazus-MH for Floodplain Managers Course](#),  
Emergency Management Institute,  
Emmitsburg, Maryland  
November 10-13

Webinar on Social Science Study  
on Effective Flood Risk Messaging,  
presenter: Rachel Hogan Carr from  
Nurture Nature Center  
November 12

November Continued

Webinar on Social Media Opportunities  
for Water Leaders, featured speaker:  
Michael Campana  
November (TBD)

USACE will be celebrating the 6th  
Annual "Virtual" GIS Day with  
presentations from around the world!  
November 19

Nebraska FSMA  
Fall Membership Meeting at  
Strategic Air and Space Museum,  
Ashland, Nebraska  
November 20

ASFPM Webinar:  
[Implementation & Impacts of 2012  
and 2014 Flood Insurance Reform  
Legislation](#)  
12-1 p.m. CDT  
November 20.

Iowa annual partnering  
meeting between the four  
Corps of Engineers Districts  
that encompass the state and multiple  
state agencies  
Des Moines, Iowa  
November 20

February

Michigan [Stormwater Floodplain Association Conference](#),  
Lansing, Michigan  
February 25-27

April - May

AWRA  
[National Capital Region Section Symposium](#),  
Urban Water Management and  
Resiliency in  
Uncertain Times,  
Washington, D.C.  
April 10

EWRI [World Environmental & Water Resource Congress](#),  
Austin, Texas  
May 17-21



US Army Corps  
of Engineers