



KANSAS and MISSOURI Floodplain Leader Training Course



Project Description

- A course for community floodplain administrators that need training for strengthening flood hazard awareness / mitigation.
- USACE leads in development of a short-course
- New course will go beyond normal regulatory training
- Training would leverage the **regional planning councils** (RPCs) existing training infrastructure, depending on them to instruct.
- **Multi-agency** contribution key to curriculum development
- Project results in a document outlining a course meeting once a week for about a month for floodplain administrators
- Topics like risk analysis, resilience, climate change and nonstructural measures

Flood Risk Reduction Outcomes

- Course will sharpen skill sets and make floodplain managers, leaders
- Project creates a tipping point in RPCs' training abilities to help communities (rural and urban) more quickly enable floodplain administrators to conduct actions that reduce flood risks
- Newly trained floodplain administrators will be better enabled to help their elected local official to better engage on flood risk reduction actions.
- Training curriculum is transferable to other areas of the country
- Reduced costs on flood insurance premiums, even flood damages when events occur, when a community takes interest in training their floodplain administrators to be leaders in mitigation

Challenges Overcome / Continuing Challenges

- Lack of awareness of flood risks partially due to training
- Lack of ability or understanding on how to do flood mitigation
- Rural communities have no dedicated floodplain administrators or may have multiple duties
- Flood mitigation takes a lower priority in a multi-duty work load too broad for one individual to handle and a risk portfolio is never developed

Partners and Project Cost

Agency	Investment
USACE	\$90k
Existing RPC government training institute (1 RPC's)	~\$100k In-kind
Rural RPC help	\$30k In-kind
State agencies	~\$27k In-kind
County planners	~\$50k In-kind
State floodplain ascs.	In-kind efforts
TOTAL	\$297k

Successes/Best Practices

- Better enable flood mitigation planners in each community
- RPCs are well suited to address the gap
- New floodplain administrators can
 - More quickly understand flood risks
 - More quickly take on flood mitigation actions
- Elected officials will see the benefit to dedicating resources to assist their floodplain leader in mitigating floods

USACE Project Point of Contact

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Kansas City District

Kansas and Missouri - Floodplain Training Course

Letters of support: KDWR, St. Charles County, MO, and MARC; Also support from MfSMA, KAFM, and these RPCs: Flint Hills Regional Council, Bootheel RP and Economic Dev.Comm. Existing RPC training: <http://www.marc.org/gti>
www.sccmo.org/documentcenter/view/183

MANAGES FLOOD RISK: Communities will get better access to expert knowledge beyond the typical regulatory training. While basic training courses are found, few ADVANCED courses exist. The training will foster and improve flood mitigation. Communities that face continuity problems and ad hoc floodplain management stand to learn much. Knowledge retention can be a problem for floodplain managers that typically wear multiple hats: This compounds poor mitigation and decrease flood hazard awareness, reinforcing flood amnesia. To address this effect, the proposal intends to establish a long-living network of floodplain SMEs to support existing regional planning councils' (RPCs') training mechanisms. They will pass knowledge on and change managers to floodplain leaders by sharing experts' tips and tricks. The course would teach how to effectively present solutions to these the elected officials.

RESULTS IN ACTIONS BY OTHERS: Under this proposal, the Lead Silver Jackets Coordinator would first seek to determine precisely what knowledge would be a tipping point in one group of RPC's counties, typically encompassed in the local hazard mitigation plans (HMPs) and the similar RPCs. This would impact implementation of local HMPs strategically planned action items. And determining future action items is dependent on quality of staff expertise. To form any action depends on having adequate training.

This project, if implemented as a pilot training course, could become a transferable curriculum to any neighboring RPC. If that results, the trends in climate change, NFIP reform, and other initiatives can be better addressed by the staff at the smaller communities. In rural communities, expertise is often poor, so more actions there.

One near-term result may be that elected officials see the advantage to adding a new full time employee dedicated to floodplain leadership. The resulting actions would hopefully increase geometrically with these initial steps.

RESULTS IN REDUCED FUTURE EXPENDITURES: Advanced floodplain management training can result in benefits in several ways. Through the FEMA NFIP, Community Rating System, the federal government incentivizes getting communities to do the right thing in flood hazard mitigation. St. Charles County, MO, estimates that resulting flood insurance premium reductions on 1,000 policies amounts to an estimated \$150,000 each year, and in addition to this an unknown commensurate reduction in flood damages and loss of lives. This is documented in "Protecting Our Resources: St. Charles County's Strategy for Floodplain Management," has further details: <http://www.sccmo.org/documentcenter/view/183>

Time to train the Chief Resiliency Officers in each town!

Some communities have no dedicated floodplain administrators or may have multiple duties. Flood mitigation takes a lower priority in a multi-duty work load that is too broad for one individual to handle and as a result a risk portfolio is never developed.

This is a proposal where the Corps works with other agencies to develop a short-course curriculum and pilot semester for community floodplain leaders. This would be an advanced floodplain training course, beyond normal regulatory training, administered by regional planning councils (RPCs) to strengthen floodplain managers at the community level. Corps staff collect knowledge tips and tricks of experts and integrate them into a 5 week course. The content will sharpen skill sets and make floodplain managers leaders by helping to get local officials and elected leaders' communities more involved and effective in mitigating flood impacts. Course Topics: non-regulatory floodplains, continuum of risk, climate change effects, integrating community and local hazard mitigation plans, community engagement and risk communication, public involvement in risk communication and risk informed decision making, and excerpts from the Silver Jackets Interagency Program Guide; FEMA emergency preparedness and CRS; Corps of Engineers, Silver Jackets, dam & levee safety work, and EAPs; HUD and EPA on resiliency and sustainability; USGS, NOAA NWS on helpful tools and awareness campaigns. After draft curriculum is made, the RPC's would establish instructors, and course administration could be supplemented with the network of expert guest speakers identified from federal partnering workgroups, state hazard mitigation teams, and floodplain management associations. The course curriculum will be transferable to other RPCs.

THE PRODUCT: A curriculum outline for a five week course, made up of four hours sessions once a week.

LEVERAGE: Regional Planning Councils and/or Councils of Government already have government training institutes established.