

2:00 to 3:30 pm WHA Office

Attendees on October 8, 2018

Lee Lennard	Scott Saenger	Bill Callegari	Brian Gettinger
Auggie Campbell	John Grounds	Imani Forrest	Andy Palermo
Carmen Kumpula	Alex Kamkar	Alan Bauer	

1. **Welcome/Introductions** ..... Lee Lennard
2. **Flood Control Advocacy** ..... Lee Lennard

a. Atlas 14, Volume 11

- i. Lennard reported that the new isopluvials of 100-year 14-hour precipitation is 17” for our region. The current number is 13.2 inches so Atlas 14 has increased by 3.8 inches (29%). The study was extended to include the rainfall from Hurricane Harvey but it is not known if Harvey was treated as an outlier or not. Lennard reported that there is an interactive map for Atlas 14 on their website ([https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds\\_map\\_cont.html](https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds_map_cont.html)).
- ii. The committee discussed that this will likely affect the detention requirements for development. Currently, .5 acre ft for each acre is set aside to use for detention. If the amounts are increased to 17” then the developer would need to set aside .75 acre ft for each acre. The new 100-year criteria will now be closer to the 500-year criteria.
- iii. This group will need to engage officials about a timeline of when these changes will be implemented. It will likely take approximately 3 years for the updated NOAA maps to be created. The committee discussed that very few of the new structures built to 2009 standards flooded which shows how the current standards are still working. Many people think that if they did not flood during Harvey then they will never flood and do not need flood insurance. This is a misconception and the committee discussed the need to educate the public. The 100-year water surface elevation streamflow should be mapped instead of the rainfall to show the public the risk for their property.
- iv. The committee discussed creating a series of white papers about the main issues.

b. Fort Bend County Drainage Criteria

- i. The committee reported that they need to become more engaged with the proposed changes. A subcommittee might be beneficial to focus on Fort Bend County. This committee could join with ACEC and provide additional guidance. Letters of support from various organizations will be needed to ensure that the criteria is properly vetted. The committee discussed wanting to get ahead and influence the decision instead of reacting later.
- ii. Meeting with political contacts from each county will be very important. Possible champions of this effort are Rob Bamford, Bill Callegari and Alan Bauer.

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c. Harris County Hazard Mitigation Plan

- i. *Harris County's HMP was published in 2015 while the state HMP was reauthorized in 2015. Florida has been utilizing this system at the state level and receiving more federal funding. Campbell reported that 50% of the smaller counties do not have a HMP or the funds/staff to get the plan created. The goal is to take FEMA grants and pass them through to the local districts and the state will leverage the funds similarly to SWIFT. Ideally the state will allocate \$1B for our region (keeping in line with this group's original plan) and put another \$1B into a revolving fund helping other counties create a HMP to provide Texas with an enhanced mitigation plan.*
- ii. *The committee discussed keeping pressure on the federal legislation to make sure our region gets funding. The goal is to talk to key legislators and organizations in the region to show that this is not just a Houston issue.*

3. Adjourn

**2018 WHA DRAINAGE & WETLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE (PROPOSED)**

All Meetings at WHA Offices, 2 pm

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Monday, February 12  
Monday, April 9  
Monday, June 11  
Tuesday, August 13

Monday, October 8  
Monday, December 10

