

Agenda Item #9. Draft Floodplain Management Standards and Goals

A Region 13 subcommittee (consisting of Larry Dovalina, Andy Rooke, Larry Thomas, and Jim Tolan) met on August 25th to discuss floodplain standards and priorities and reconvened on Sept 8th to prepare proposed short-term (10 year) and long-term (30 year goals) for Nueces RFPG consideration at the Sept 27th meeting with public input. The following floodplain management standard and goals are proposed:

Draft Floodplain Management Standard: Finished floor of structures should be a minimum of 1 foot above base flood elevations (BFE) 100 year or based on local ordinances, whichever is higher. The standards are based on available data, to be updated based on Atlas 14 data when available.

Region 13 Draft Floodplain Goals	10 Year	30 Year
Loss of Life		
Improve Safety at Low Water Crossings through Structural Improvements or Warning Systems	Conduct an inventory of low water crossings, characterize risk, and rank low water crossings to prioritize those with high risk. Prepare a large scale public outreach campaign to include "Turn Around Don't Drown" signage at LWCs or roadways aimed at reducing loss of life. Address top 30% of high risk low water crossings through mitigation or warning systems.	Address 80% of high risk LWC identified in the study.
Rehabilitation or Removal of Deficient High Hazard Dams as Identified by TCEQ Dam Safety Regulation Program	Conduct a comprehensive study to identify all deficient high hazard dams in the 31-county region. Removal or rehabilitation of the top 30% high hazard dams.	Removal or rehabilitation of 100% deficient high hazard dams.
Improve regional coordination , data collection/sharing of flood events and impacts, and implementation of flood warning systems	Develop (or expand) a successful flood management program on a regional-scale to cover 20% of the data gap area(s) identified in the 2023 Plan. Prepare large scale public outreach to include "Turn Around Don't Drown" campaigns aimed at reducing loss of life.	Develop (or expand) a successful flood management program on a regional-scale to cover 80% of the data gap area(s) identified in the 2023 Plan.
Property Damage		
Perform flood mapping evaluations and update floodplain maps and flood hazard data.	Develop maps to BLE or NFHL level accuracy for 60% of the basin that does not currently have accurate mapping. Identify structures and buildings in the NFHL- Detailed Study Areas with elevations less than 1 ft above BFE.	Develop accurate maps to NFHL level accuracy for 100% of the basin. Identify structures and buildings in the NFHL- Detailed Study Areas with elevations less than 1 ft above BFE.
Reduce the number of structures within NFHL-Detailed Study Area and Existing Floodplain with 1% annual chance flood risk.	Identify structures within existing floodplain with 1% annual chance flood risk for 60% of the basin. Prepare a list of high hazard buildings based on function, critical function, or other community-related importance, summarize, and distribute results to affected floodplain management entities. Reduce the number of high hazard structures within the 1% existing floodplain by 10%.	Identify structures within existing floodplain with 1% annual chance flood risk for 100% of the basin, including areas that have been updated with more accurate mapping. Prepare a list of high hazard buildings based on function, critical function, or other
Floodplain Management		
Prepare minimum flood management standards , including identifying operations and maintenance best practices to maintain drainage structures including remove gravel and sediment deposition to mitigate future flooding impacts.	Provide minimum flood standard recommendation(s) adopted by the RFPG for the Nueces Basin to floodplain administrators and community leaders, to include: Finished floor of structures are to be constructed a minimum of 1 foot above base level engineering (BFE) 100 year or based on local ordinances, whichever is more stringent. The standards are based on available data, to be updated with Atlas 14 data when available. Achieve 30% voluntary adoption of the RFPG minimum standards by counties/cities. Define and recommend additional minimum flood standards for regional support towards implementation, as study results become available.	Achieve 100% voluntary adoption of RFPG minimum standards by counties/cities, including additional minimum flood standards defined during studies conducted through 2033 (10 year).
Promote riparian conservation land protection programs and landowner incentives to engage in voluntary land practices to manage floodwaters.	Identify existing areas noted for conservation protection and develop strategy for expanding these programs and/or identifying high success areas for riparian conservation land protection programs. Identify preferred areas in Nueces Basin to expand NRCS program, including successful practices including those that foster land owner participation.	Work with local leadership to implement riparian conservation land protection programs for 40% of the high success areas identified.
Develop public information campaign to increase community knowledge of rules and regulations, flood-prone areas, and importance of protecting floodplains from encroachment	Identify local, subregional workgroups aligned with flooding issues. Develop public information campaign templates with relevant flood-related communications for 20% of the Region 13 area.	Develop public information plan campaigns with relevant flood-related communications for 80% of the Region 13 area.
Funding		
Increase dedicated funding sources to provide maintenance of drainage and culvert systems to divert flood flows, and identify structural improvements causing flooding issues to remove/rectify.	Dedicated funding sources including state-funding opportunities to support O&M for 20% of the communities and 30% counties in Region 13.	Dedicated funding sources including state-funding opportunities to support O&M for 80% of the communities and 90% counties in Region 13.
administrators or designees to support community outreach including permitting support to verify new projects meet floodplain development requirements.	Dedicated funding sources including state-funding opportunities for 20% of the communities and 30% counties in Region 13.	Dedicated funding sources including state-funding opportunities for 80% of the communities and 90% counties in Region 13.