

CHUG Meeting Minutes

November 14th from 12:30 to 1:30 pm EST

In attendance were Tony Bellovary, Becky McKinley, Kevin Mickey, Shane Hubbard, Kent McLaughlin, Kelly Parry, Pam Soule, and Jaime Caplin.

HAZUS-MH Updates

Kevin M reported that the version of the Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) posted on the FEMA website (as of the meeting date) is not the most current one available. The RAT is a tool that generates a useful report similar to the Global Summary Report but much more comprehensive in that it includes numerous maps as well as listings of site specific data, their addresses, and so forth. The updated version is temporarily posted on the Polis website and can be downloaded until the end of November from the following URL. It should be extracted to a temporary folder and then installed by double-clicking the setup.exe file.

<https://www.slashtmp.iu.edu/public/download.php?FILE=kmickey/7772912A0x0>

Kevin also reported that the version of the Flood Wizard currently posted on the FEMA website is now functional. This tool allows users to generate a summary of aggregate building stock losses summed to the study region level. It only requires that users provide a flood boundary polygon and a DEM. The flood extents are assumed to match the polygon boundary.

The group discussed the report that was issued by FEMA last year which outlines HAZUS use across the United States to date. The URL where that report can be found is http://www.fema.gov/hazus/hz_pubs.shtm. The report title is **HAZUS Annual Progress and Utilization Report for Fiscal Year 2004**.

State HAZUS Activity Updates

The Wisconsin representatives reported that after several attempts to successfully run the flood module in HAZUS MH at Wisconsin Emergency Management they identified there could be an issue with either their software or hardware that was preventing successful runs of HAZUS. Over the course of two and a half months they worked with ABS consulting to resolve their issues. With the release of the MR1 patch, Wisconsin's problems with running the flood module for HAZUS-MH MR1 were resolved. Planners and related parties can now take full advantage of HAZUS. Wisconsin Emergency Management is taking a two pronged approach in its future HAZUS usage. Their first goal is outreach. Since very few parties in the state are currently using HAZUS, they want to make the local governments aware that HAZUS is available and that it is a great tool for hazard planning. In addition to this effort they will demonstrate to those whom have unsuccessfully tried to use HAZUS in the past that the program will now successfully work with few to no errors. They are also working to obtain funds to

conduct HAZUS training in Wisconsin. Their second goal is to perform a statewide, level one, flood analysis using HAZUS-MH. This assessment has already begun and they hope to have it completed sometime next year. In the near future they will release their proposal for the statewide HAZUS-MH flood assessment.

Indiana has completed its statewide HAZUS runs for the 100 year flood assessment. Results of that study should be forthcoming in the near future. The Polis Center is also working with the Indiana Geological Survey and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to conduct level II analysis for multiple Indiana counties under the latest Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant allocations. Indiana will be holding two HAZUS courses in November – ArcGIS for Emergency Managers on November 21 and 22 and Using HAZUS for Risk Assessment from November 28 to 30. Interested persons should send email with name, organization, email, title(s) and date(s) of the course(s) of interest to hazusgis@yahoo.com. These courses are free to participants – although any incurred travel costs are the responsibility of participants. Additional Indiana course dates will be announced shortly.

Ohio is just getting started with use of HAZUS-MH, but it has the potential to become a major user.

Kevin M reported that interest continues in Illinois for offering HAZUS courses and he hopes to be able to report scheduled course dates in the near future.

There was no report on Michigan or Minnesota. Kent McLaughlin is contacting the Minnesota EMA to determine who would be a good contact person for that state. Tony Bellovary is contacting Michigan State University to determine if someone at that institution might want to represent HAZUS activities in that state.

It was agreed that summaries of HAZUS related activities will be developed by designated state CHUG steering committee representatives and will be submitted to Kevin M prior to or immediately following the CHUG meetings for inclusion in the CHUG Meeting minutes.

Website Development Updates

Jaime Caplin reported that she is working on finding a suitable host for HUG websites. She indicated that disasterhelp.com offers some possibilities. Shane Hubbard reported that he had developed a prototype for a CHUG website. He will distribute that to CHUG steering committee members for comment.

Conference Update

The discussion about a possible CHUG conference was tabled until the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next CHUG meeting is scheduled to occur on Monday, December 5, 2006 from 12 to 1 pm EST. The primary topics of discussion will be conference planning and updates on the CHUG website development efforts. The dial-in number is 1-800-320-4330 and the PIN is 527548