

Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

July 9, 2007

Attendees

- Roxanne Gray (Wisconsin Emergency Management)
- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Jamie Caplan, (Caplan Associates)
- Pam Soule (LaGrange County)
- Jonathan Marsch, (FEMA Region V)
- Jennifer Scholl (FEMA Region V)
- Jeff Bloomquist (Minnesota USDA)
- Rick Warren (Ohio EMA)
- Gerald Nieman (Indiana Department of Transportation)
- Martin - (Gary, Indiana)

State Reports

Minnesota -

Jeff reported that the state is planning to fly 2008 NAIPS orthophotography at 1 m resolution. Jeff will talk about how the NAIPS photography can be used in HAZUS-MH inventory updates during the next call.

Kristen Sailer was unable to attend the call, but emailed the following update:

- MN HSEM will now be able to support HAZUS as they have just purchased the ARCGIS software to include spatial analyst and will be able to start running level I analysis after MR3 is released.
- They are working to fill the State Hazard Mitigation Officer position and a full-time permanent position to replace Jeremy Klein's old temporary position which will be a relief to have full staffing by September.
- She has contacted Goodhue County, MN to see if we could work on a position paper on the use of HAZUS with the Byllesby Dam project - no word back yet.

Wisconsin -

Roxanne reported that they are continuing to work on filling a 3-year project position as well as a full time position. Once filled, that position will be able to resume some of the HAZUS-MH responsibilities that were addressed by former staff.

Roxanne also reported that Wisconsin has submitted a 2007 PDM grant request to contract with the University of Wisconsin and The Polis Center to complete a statewide flood and coastal risk assessment using HAZUS-MH. Roxanne stated that the PDM has been noted as being approved for further consideration and she is hopeful that it will be fully funded by the end of the month.

Ohio

Rick Warren reported that Ohio is putting together a plan to do a statewide level 1 analysis. They are likely to contract with the USACE and Ohio DNR to do the project. The project will begin shortly after the release of HAZUS-MH MR3.

Indiana

Kevin reported that the Polis Center is working on a joint proposal with USGS that will involve the HAZUS-MH flood model. This proposed project will take advantage of the latest technological advances in HAZUS-MH as well as in USGS H & H models to produce a more real-time and accurate flood loss estimation. The project is now fully funded and will be in progress for the next few months.

Illinois

No Report

Michigan

Jonathan M reported that he contacted Matt Schnepf (schnepf1@michigan.gov) to see if he can participate in the calls. He has not received much feedback as yet.

FEMA Region V

Jonathan is now part of a new Risk Analysis branch at FEMA Region V. HAZUS-MH is also under that branch along with the Mitigation Planning and Map Modernization programs. Jennifer is in the Floodplain and Insurance Branch and will continue to be involved in HAZUS-MH as well. This organizational structure applies to all regional offices as well as to FEMA Headquarters.

National HUG Call

The role of state geologists and how they can support HAZUS-MH users was discussed.

The South Carolina project was briefly discussed. This is a project that involves collecting data from counties and posting it to a web portal which then replaces the HAZUS-MH provided inventory.

The next national call is on July 24th for the user group leaders. Training, the CDMS tools, and the South Carolina project will be discussed.

HAZUS-MH Users Conference

The first annual HAZUS-MH National Users Conference was held in San Diego, California on June 19 and 20, 2007. Approximately 350 persons pre-registered and an additional 50 walk-ins were in attendance.

- Feedback from the conference was very positive.
- The second national HAZUS conference is already in the planning stages for next year and will likely occur during the ESRI conference - the week of August 4th, 2008 - as a result of the success of the 2007 conference.
- The CHUG won an award for User Group Innovation specifically for our activities in training and outreach.
- Jamie reported that there will be materials from the conference available online this week or next week.

Status of HAZUS-MH MR3

Kevin M reported that there has been no change announced in the delivery date of HAZUS MR3 - which is anticipated to be mid August - since the last CHUG meeting.

A new feature of MR3 will include the ability to provide the model with a flood boundary and a DEM from which a flood grid will be generated by HAZUS-MH. This is in addition to the new ability to directly link a completed flood depth grid to HAZUS-MH.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, September 4th, 2007 at 10:30 am CT / 11:30 am EDT. A dial-in number will be circulated in the near future. Topics to be discussed include the 2008 NAIPS Photography and HAZUS-MH MR3 States.