

# Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

## March 24, 2008

### Attendees

- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Jamie Caplan, (Caplan Associates)
- Pam Soule (LaGrange County)
- Jonathan Marsch, (FEMA Region V)
- Jennifer Scholl (FEMA Region V)
- Drew Whitehair (Ohio EMA)
- Jim MccLosky (Minnesota)
- Chad Berginnis (Ohio EMA)

### State Reports

#### Minnesota

Jim indicated that he will be supporting Kristin Sailor who will continue to serve the role of HAZUS-MH point of contact for Minnesota.

It was reported that there is ongoing discussion at the Minnesota state EMA of forming a HAZUS-MH support center that would serve the needs of users in that state. Steve Swazy (Governors Council on GIS) is leading this effort as part of a larger effort with state agencies.

#### Wisconsin

Per discussion at the last CHUG meeting, Wisconsin is working on a statewide flood risk assessment project. The pilot for that project will be ready for delivery within one week. Upon acceptance of the pilot, work will begin on the remaining 71 counties

#### Ohio

It was reported that Ohio has been using HAZUS-MH extensively over the last 6 to 9 months. One example of this use is that they are running scenarios in support of their EOC assessment room functions.

Ohio is also engaged in a research project that involves running HAZUS-MH flood scenarios based upon real-time flood frequency information derived from USGS gages.

Ohio is also involved in a project whose team includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This project involves completing a HAZUS-MH level 1 flood study for both 100 yr and 25 yr frequencies for 44 counties in Ohio - approximately 50% of the state. It is planned that the results of this project will be included in the Ohio state plan update process. Work on this project should be completed in the next month or two.

It was reported that Ohio is planning to create a DEM from their new statewide imagery. It is believed that the resolution of this data will be 1 or 2 meters. This data can potentially be used to significantly enhance the accuracy of HAZUS-MH generated flood inundation areas or it can be used to enhance the credibility of other flood models which might generate output that could be integrated into HAZUS-MH via a user defined flood depth grid, thru the Flood Information Tool, or thru the Enhanced Quick Look tool.

## **Indiana**

Pam indicated that in her district of the state they are doing a survey on where everyone stands with HAZUS-MH.

Kevin reported that the Indiana Silver Jackets - (info about this organization can be found at <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nfrmp/docs/Silver%20Jackets%20-%20Many%20Agencies,%20One%20Solution.pdf>), in collaboration with The Polis Center, is nearing completion of the research project that they began in mid-2007. This project involves developing a near real-time tool that integrates credible flood inundation grids developed by the USGS with local location specific assessors data for the purpose of generating realistic loss estimations. The intended outcome of

this project is a web-based tool that can be accessed by anyone with internet access.

Indiana currently has several PDM projects underway. Risk assessments have been completed for 30 counties under funded PDMs. Additional PDMs to perform risk assessments for multiple additional counties are awaiting approval.

### **Illinois**

It was reported that FEMA Region V is sponsoring an Advanced HAZUS-MH Flood class in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois from April 8 to 10, 2008. Those interested in registering for this class should contact Jared Owen at [Jared.Owen@Illinois.gov](mailto:Jared.Owen@Illinois.gov) or 217-782-8719.

The regional planning meetings for the PDM work in Illinois are in progress.

### **Michigan**

No report

### **FEMA Region V**

A GIS resource center that integrates staff from mitigation, operations, and preparedness is being created in the Region V office this fiscal year. This center will support the needs of EMA in all three of these areas.

RiskMap - Jonathan Marsch discussed the goals of the new FEMA RiskMap initiative. A paper about this initiative can be viewed at [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/plan/risk\\_map\\_strategy\\_02202008.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/plan/risk_map_strategy_02202008.pdf). FEMA Region V is working to identify a project meets the objectives of this initiative including the incorporation of HAZUS-MH.

It was voted that the *HAZUS-MH Project Documentation* document created by the CHUG in 2007 is now final. Jonathon Marsch reported that he will be circulating that document to

HAZUS-MH users and will encourage them to use it to support the HAZUS-MH analysis that they complete in association with state/county mitigation plans and other projects.

### **UseHAZUS.com Website**

Jamie Caplin led call participants thru the resources available on the new usehazus.com website. This website provides access to a valuable collection of resources for HAZUS-MH users. It also serves as a resource that can be used to track the considerable amount of HAZUS-MH work being done across the nation.

Jamie requested that CHUG members submit information to her that can be placed on this website.

### **Software Patches and Update Schedule**

- HAZUS-MH MR3 Patch 2 - anticipated to be released in the next few weeks. Major new features include significantly more stabilized analysis in the flood model. This will address ArcMap memory leaks that prevent users from successfully completing hydraulics analysis on scenarios with a large number of reaches. It also addresses issues with the accuracy of the averaged annualized loss estimations in the flood model.
- HAZUS-MH MR3 Patch 3 - anticipated release date is summer 2008. Major new features include dam/levee analysis, updated fire-following analysis in earthquake model, and updated transportation, schools, agricultural, and vehicle inventory data.
- HAZUS-MH MR4 - anticipated to be released in Fall 2008. Major new feature are anticipated to include Windows Vista compatibility
- HAZUS 2,0 - anticipated to be released in 2009. Enhanced capabilities to include 64-bit support.
- Comprehensive Data Management System (CDMS) - anticipated release date Spring 2008. This tool provides major enhancements to the ability of users to replace the HAZUS-MH provided inventory data in both the state and study region databases with local data.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, April 5th, 2007 at 11:00 am ET / 10:00 am CT. A dial-in number will be circulated in the near future.