

Central HAZUS-MH Users Group Meeting

May 5, 2008

Attendees

- Kevin Mickey (Indiana, The Polis Center)
- Jamie Caplan, (Caplan Associates)
- Pam Soule (LaGrange County)
- Jonathan Marsch, (FEMA Region V)
- Jim McLosky (Minnesota)
- Jared Owen (Illinois EMA)
- Roxanne Gray (Wisconsin EMA)
- Robby Stokes (Wisconsin EMA)
- Katriana Covino (FEMA Region V)

State Reports

Minnesota

Jim reported that several Minnesota EMA staff will be taking HAZUS courses this summer and fall at EMI so that they can develop an understanding of the capabilities of the tool and what it takes to make it perform at its optimum level.

Information learned at these training sessions will then be integrated into plans to create the HAZUS-MH support center described at the previous CHUG meeting.

Wisconsin

Roxanne reported that Polis and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are working on a statewide level 1 / level 2 flood analysis. Prototype counties are completed and the remainder of the state is well underway. The project milestones are June 30 for 50% completion of the state and September 30 for the remainder of the state.

Ohio

No report.

Indiana

Kevin reported that the project involving the Indiana Silver Jackets and The Polis Center is going to be presented at the ASFPM Conference in Reno, Nevada. As reported previously, 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.

The PDM projects are progressing on schedule.

Illinois

Jared reported that FEMA Region V sponsored an Advanced HAZUS-MH Flood class in Champaign/Urbana, Illinois from April 8 to 10, 2008. The course was very successful. A meeting was held during the course to determine how to effectively use the information presented in the class to further the goals of the state to develop improved flood risk assessments in the State of Illinois. Action items from this meeting included:

- The participants are working on developing a data clearinghouse
- Several participants will be attending the Comprehensive Data Management course at EMI scheduled in September 2008.
- The participants formed a HAZUS users group within the State that focus on the needs of Illinois HAZUS users and that will work with the CHUG on regional issues.

Jared also reported that the regional planning meetings for the PDM work in Illinois are proceeding according to schedule.

Michigan

Kevin reported that he met several urban planners from Michigan while attending the American Planning Association Conference in Nevada last week. There seemed to be interest among these individuals in becoming part of the HAZUS community. He will contact them prior to the next meeting to extend an invitation to join the CHUG.

FEMA Region V

Jonathan introduced Katrina Covino who is a new Region V Mitigation planner. She joined the call to learn about what the CHUG does and hopefully can continue to participate in the group.

Jonathan reported that many lessons were learned following the Midwest earthquakes that occurred in Illinois in April. One of the key issues that arose is that there were apparently multiple organizations running HAZUS-MH models while using different parameters and assumptions. This led to a great deal of confusion about which models represented an official and credible analysis. FEMA headquarters, in collaboration with the FEMA regional offices, is reviewing the circumstances around this event and may be developing some guidelines that address this concern in the coming months. Jonathan will keep the CHUG posted as this initiative progresses.

Jonathan reported that FEMA Region V is putting together a GIS workstation from which HAZUS-MH models can be run. Frank Changa and Kara Scott are working on this initiative. Additional information about how this might impact HAZUS users and others in the region will be made available at future CHUG calls as appropriate.

UseHAZUS.com Website

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

Software Patches and Update Schedule

Kevin reported that no additional updates were available on the release dates of upcoming patches or new HAZUS-MH versions beyond those related at the previous meeting. It is anticipated that there will be considerable new information on this topic presented at the next CHUG meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is schedule for Monday, July 21, 2007 at 11:00 am ET / 10:00 am CT. A dial-in number will be circulated in the near future.