

# DC Flood Task Force | Action Team Meeting: Governance and Coordination



## Governance and Coordination Action Team Kick-Off Meeting | Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm WebEx Meeting

Meeting began at 11:02 am with the following members, agencies, support staff, and individuals in attendance.

### **Attending Voting Members and Support Staff**

Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure (DMOI)

1. Alan Propp
2. Jonathan Roger

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

1. Salil Kharkar
2. Barbara Mitchell

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) –

1. Nick Bonard
2. Martin Koch
3. Victor Ukpolo
4. Meredith Upchurch
5. Joshua Schnitzlein
6. Nicole Rentz

District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)

1. Melissa Deas
2. Vermechia Alsop
3. Carolyn Meija

District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT)

1. Ravi Ganvir
2. EJ Simie

District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP)

1. Stephen Gyor
2. Imania Price
3. Andrea Limauro

DC Office of Risk Management (ORM)

1. Jed Ross
2. Jane Waters

DC Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Jen Croft

DC Department of Parks and Recreation

1. Brent Sisco

DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

1. Richard Livingstone

DC Department of Public Works (DPW)

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1. Andrew Gerst

## District Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)

1. Chris Bailey

## **Attending Consulting Members and Support Staff**

### DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC)

1. Grace Soderberg
2. Stephen Dudek
3. Jason Cumberbatch
4. Karen Sistrunk
5. Yohannes Mariam

### DC Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency (CCCR)

1. Sandra Knight

### National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

1. Julia Koster

### Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA)

1. Glenn Hugo
2. Eric Jones

### District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)

1. Cellerino Bernardino
2. Erika Wadlington

### U.S. Army Corps Engineers (USACE)

1. Andy Layman
2. Stacey Underwood

### Metropolitan Washington Council on Government (MWCOG)

1. Katie Dyer

## **Facilitators**

1. Kimberly Manning
2. Monte Monash
3. Adria Anderson

## **Additional Attendees**

### 11: 00 am | Welcome

Facilitator Kimberly Manning welcomed everyone to the first Governance and Coordination Action Team Meeting. She provided a summary of the Task Force meeting, shared an overview of the previous meeting from November 17, 2021, and stated that the meeting was being recorded and adhered to in accordance with the DC Public Meetings Act.

### 11: 07 am | Action Team Goals and Objectives

Co-Chair Supporting Staff of DOEE, Nick Bonard, explained that Governance & Coordination is one of two Action Teams within the full Task Force and that the Action Team meetings will be a place where team members can see what is happening in related categories. Separate category meetings or email

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message chains for each category may occur in between scheduled Action Team meetings.

In the Governance and Coordination Action Team there are five Action Categories. Each Action Category is required to have at least one Action Plan. The Action Plans will establish goals for the next 1-10 years.

Today's meeting focuses on

- understanding the task ahead, and
- discussing ideas for potential actions

Goals for the January Governance and Coordination meeting will be to:

- prepare a list of ideas to share at the January Task Force Meeting, and
- begin to evaluate the ideas at a high level of time to implement, cost, and scale of impact

Public Outreach Listening Sessions will begin in February 2022.

## 11: 11 am | Action Plan Template

Co-Chair Supporting Staff of DC Water, Salil Kharkar, shared the Action Plan template document. He highlighted the purpose of the document was to:

- provide an overview and implementation strategy for each category Action Plan,
- provide background information on the need for each category Action Plan,
- document level of work that has been done/completed/or in progress to date for each category,
- establish a timeline including details on short-term and long-term budget requirements, and
- outline considerations for public input, outreach, and equity impact.

Team members asked questions regarding voting purposes and the process of risk assessment to each category. It was communicated that the voting process will be to approve each plan at the time plans are officially adopted. Risk prioritization and the levels of risk associated with each project should be formally addressed in each Action Plan as a component of the group decisions. The goal is to find balance in prioritizing Action Plans with impact and feasibility to implement.

## 11: 20 pm | Action Team Overview and Discussion

Action Category leads facilitated a discussion on each of the five Action Categories listed below.

1) Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Projects;

Lead: Alan Propp (DMOI)

Discussion topics and findings:

- Capital projects could be viewed as individual actions and requested that future discussions include the prioritization of ideas.
- Can the idea of “infrastructure identified by DC Drainage Committee” be combined with a broader infrastructure-related goal since the effectiveness has limitations?
- Helpful for members to share existing lists of capital project ideas

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- if any idea for a flood mitigation solution had been identified (even for a single intersection) it should be shared.
- the list of projects should only apply to projects receiving some level of public funding.
- Modeling work is still in progress however it was suggested that advanced models such as the IFM could help prioritize the most cost-effective capital projects.
- Concrete action ideas developed by federal studies should be shared for prioritization to discuss federal infrastructure projects (i.e. Federal Triangle study, Military Installation Resilience Review study, Northern Virginia airport study, etc.) as many have implications for adjoining non-federal properties.
- Integration of resilience measures in DGS' Facility Condition Assessment of DC-owned facilities was suggested.

## 2) Regulations, Legislation, Compliance, and Permitting;

Lead: Chris Bailey (DCRA)

- Implementation of regulatory changes would take time due to required steps such as Building Code changes, but communication improvements could be effective immediately. Appendix G of the Building Code is a key tool for coordinating regulatory requirements between agencies for projects in floodplains, as several other Codes reference Appendix G.
- DDOT would be the key agency for the regulation of public space and that DCRA's authority does not apply to federal facilities.
- DCBIA would be interested in new legislation and new fees, especially in terms of strict insurance requirements for new construction. This is something DCBIA has frequently met with Director Wells to provide feedback.
- Construction Codes Coordinating Board and Technical Advisory Group Meetings are open to the public (<https://www.open-dc.gov/public-bodies/construction-codes-coordinating-board>) and that code changes include a public comment period. Code changes are also reviewed by the Mayor's office for legal sufficiency and reviewed by the Council.
- Homeowners with flooding complaints can be addressed within the jurisdiction of the Construction Codes and DOEE stormwater regulations for drainage problems caused by neighboring construction, but drainage problems from existing homes would correspond to the DCRA Property Maintenance regulations. Drainage problems from public space and public roads would be referred to DDOT or appropriate federal agencies. The Drainage Committee has historically had the responsibility of addressing jurisdictional questions.

## 3) Mapping and Modeling;

Lead: Nick Bonard (DOEE) and Salil Kharkar (DC Water) – a joint effort with DOEE/DC Water

- Good idea to leverage schools and fire departments for storm data collection.
- Proposed designating an agency to be a FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner. It was noted that DOEE receives CTP grants, but the suggestion was to see if that funding could potentially be shifted to emphasize modeling.
- Desire for DC regulatory efforts (i.e. changes to freeboard requirements) to be coordinated with the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. It was noted that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments would be a good partner for the model clearinghouse as well as USGS.

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- Non-USGS sensor technologies could assist with stream gauge implementation.
  - USGS could potentially shift mobile gage locations in response to demand, however, the lead time would need to be a consideration.
  - USGS has an experimental technology group.
  - A new suite of low-cost flood sensors was developed through grants from the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate that is currently being tested in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC, and in Texas.

## 4) Flood Mitigation Planning and Coordination;

Lead: Alan Propp (DMOI)

- Participants identified gaps in mitigation planning.
  - DISB quarterly public outreach events were successful at promoting engagement.
  - DOEE plans to implement Flood Awareness Week again in June 2022.
  - The DC Flood Task Force Public Listening Sessions (February/March 2022) will provide an opportunity for outreach.
  - DCRA has a repository of projects in the floodplain based on the address and is working to add SSL location data to the repository.
  - DDOT has attempted to create a flood response plan, but that it is still under development and requires interagency coordination. The plan is geared to transportation but addresses other issues as well – this may also fall into the next category
  - Need clarity on the responsible agency for the P Street Levee Closure.

## 5) Flood Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery;

Lead: Vermeicia Alsop (HSEMA)

- Background information provided regarding the DC Ready Preparedness Campaign
  - supports the idea of implementing an early severe weather warning system.
  - predictive capabilities regarding projected utility outages and connections to critical facilities would be useful due to the importance of electricity and communications service to flood response.
- DC Water's goal was for developing a visual platform to view real-time data.
  - Project initiated after the 9/10/2020 flooding to improve crew response times.
  - The platform is currently in beta testing; it displays complaint calls in real-time categorized by overland flooding and sewer backflow flooding
  - Potential access to other agencies
  - DC Water is working with a Canadian firm (Vue) on a predictive model based on rain gauge data. The model can assess flood risk at the resolution of 2-mile squares, but additional gages would provide a greater level of accuracy.
- HSEMA uses a version of WebEOC called CoreEOC and is working to leverage Esri geospatial data for an emergency response to ensure that all agencies have access to the same information.
- Support for creating a centralized system for flood complaint processing because of its direct assistance to homeowners.

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12: 28 pm | Closeout

Homework for each agency was communicated with the documentation to be submitted by January 3, 2022. The next Governance and Coordination Action Team meeting was set for January 14 at 9:30 AM.

## Important Dates

- Homework submission due January 3, 2022
- Next Governance and Coordination Action meeting – January 14, 2022, at 9:30 AM
- Next Task Force meeting – January 19, 2022, 2 – 4 PM

**The meeting ENDED at 12:32 pm.**