

DC Flood Task Force Meeting Minutes



**DC Flood Task Force
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023
Virtual WebEx Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 pm**

Meeting began at 2:04 pm with the following members, agencies, and support staff in attendance.

VM = Voting Member

Attending Voting Members and Support Staff

Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure (DMOI)

1. Alan Propp (VM)

District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

1. Apera Nwora
2. Salil Kharkar
3. David Gadis
4. John Lisle
5. Barbara Mitchell (VM)
6. Wayne Griffith
7. Lisa Barton

District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Nick Bonard | 5. Victor Ukpolo | 9. Josh Schnitzlein |
| 2. Lily Cheng | 6. Jeffrey Seltzer | |
| 3. Jackie Zidar | 7. Daniel Conner(VM) | |
| 4. Meredith Upchurch | 8. Andrea Limauro | |

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

1. Vermechia Alsop
2. Melissa Deas (VM)
3. Anne Graf
4. Carolyn Mejia

District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP)

1. Stephen Gyor
2. Will Oliver (VM)

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District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking (DISB)

1. Philip Edmonds (VM)
2. Angela King
3. Sharon Shipp
4. Stephen Flick
5. Pratima Lele

District of Columbia Office of Risk Management (ORM)

1. Jed Ross (VM)

District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

1. Alex Cross (VM)

District of Columbia Department of Public Works (DPW)

1. Andrew Gerst
2. Melvyn Smith (VM)

District of Columbia Department of Building (DOB)

1. Christopher Bailey (VM)

District of Columbia Department of General Services (DGS)

1. Matt Floca (VM)

Attending Consulting Members and Support Staff

Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM)

1. Robert Preston
2. Wes Leary

District of Columbia Mayor's Office of Racial Equity (ORE)

1. Emily Ruskin

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

1. Steve Bieber

District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA)

1. Cell Bernardino

PEPCO

1. James Pittman

National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)

1. Julia Koster

Facilitation Team - Monash Advisory Group

1. Monte Monash
2. Rachel Kendrick

Other Attendees

1. Thomas Glassic

2: 05pm | Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Remarks from Daniel Connor (DOEE Chief of Staff)** - Thanked the staff and ensured the Task Force that it still a priority at DOEE, and leadership will do everything they can to make sure they are put into action.

2: 08 pm | Batch 3 Updates

- **Phillip Edmonds** - Discussed changes made to DISB Action Plans 1.7a and 1.7b based on public comments.
 - Insurance program and grant program were established to remediate within 48 hours of the flood.
 - Clarified which houses are eligible for the program – single family and multifamily owners/renters .
 - Grant money will be distributed in the form of coupons, not reimbursement. Coupons will have up to \$3500 to pay for remediation services. Structural and foundation repairs are not included.
 - DISB will create a list of covered property and a feasibility study to estimate cost of the insurance program, develop policies based on the study.
 - DISB recommends implementing the grant program quickly while the feasibility study for insurance is going on, possibility to layer them after the study is complete.
- **Nick Bonard:** We received 6 public comments.
 - General comments will be made available to public.
 - No other changes besides DISB.
- Final vote for the following Batch 3 Action Plans was conducted:
 - Action Plan 1.5 - Join FEMAs Community Rating System to Reduce Insurance Premiums
 - Action Plan 1.6 - DC Flood Task Force Insurance Outreach
 - Action Plan 1.7 - DC Flood Task Force Remediation Joint Proposal

- Action Plan 1.7a - DC Flood Task Force Grant Remediation Program
 - Action Plan 1.7b - DC Flood Task Force Insurance Remediation
- Action Plan 1.9a - DC Flood Task Force Insurance Mitigation Credit
- Action Plan 1.9b - DC Flood Task Force Insurance Homeowner's Policy Enhancements
- Action Plan 2.2 - Developing a Local Workforce to Perform Flood Related Repairs
- Action Plan 3.2 - Make it Safe for Basement Dwelling
- Action Plan 6.6 - Process Improvements for Floodplain Review
- Action Plan 6.7 - Improve Federal and District Collaboration on Floodplain Management
- Action Plan 7.1 - Mapping Interior Flooding Locations
- Action Plan 8.2 - Improvements to DC Drainage Committee Processes
- Action Plan 8.3 - Finalize Plans for P Street Levee Closure
- Action Plan 8.5 - Providing Additional Capacity via 311 to handle excess calls to DC Water during a Flood Event
- Action Plan 9.1 – Implement an early severe weather warning system
- Action Plan 9.2 - Update Emergency Flood Response Procedures
- Plans were unanimously voted “Yes” by the following agencies:
 - ORM
 - DMOI
 - OP
 - DGS
 - DOB
 - DISB
 - DOEE
 - DC Water
 - DPW

2:26 pm | Member Input

- What have been the best outcomes of the process so far?
 - **Melissa Deas (HSEMA):** Extensive list of things we will accomplish, have already started a lot of them. Format kept us organized and on track, making sure we had actionable items every meeting.
 - **Will Oliver (OP)** – List of infrastructure projects will help inform future projects and capital budgeting.
 - **Phillip Edmonds (DISB):** The proposals themselves were thoughtful and well organized. Was good to align the departments in different action teams, with clear tasks and deadlines.
 - **Sharon Shipp (DISB)-** Liked the iterative process structure.
 - **Jed Ross (ORM)** – Was great to hear good ideas from different agencies, inspiring for future projects.

- **Matt Floca (DGS)** – Enjoyed gaining a better understanding of what the public / other agencies are prioritizing.
- **Melvyn Smith (DPW)** – The task force came up with concrete measures and built relationships with agencies to see how we can collaborate with actionable conversations.
- **Chris Bailey (DOB)** – Enjoyed the education and collaboration between agencies. Important to know how other agencies are processing information and regulatory responsibilities, and collaboration has helped with this. Interesting to see how each agency handles permitting and notifying individuals that they're in a flood zone. Brought light some issues that need to be improved, such as systems and intake methods.
- **Emily Ruskin (ORE)** – Thanked the task force for keeping equity at the forefront, central to the conversations. ORE currently undergoing a process for an action plan, in conversations with residents issues of environmental justice and flooding has come up and its encouraging to be able to report that we actively working on this.
- What would you like to see continued?
 - **Cell (DCBIA):** Consider the impact of rising sea level and weather patterns on neighborhood basis. Critical to include when looking at capital projects.
 - **Will Oliver (OP):** Want to continue to see increased collab with community stakeholders and gaining more information about opportunities for financial aid.
 - **Phillip Edmonds (DISB):** Want to see continued collaboration and task force meetings.
 - **Jed Ross (ORM):** Make sure we push from a budgetary perspective.
 - **Matt Floca (DGS):** Continue to focus on funding.
- What are you excited to implement / see implemented?
 - **Phillip Edmonds (DISB):** Excited to see the help the community.
 - **Jed Ross (ORM):** Continue to invest in environment, continue to advocate for funding.
 - **Melvyn Smith (DPW):** Engagement with community and flood warning, things that directly impact the residents.

2:54 pm | Next Steps and Task Force Summary

- Summary by the Numbers



- **Meredith:** Has been satisfying to see our thoughts about potential things that need to get fixed, now turn to action plans to solve the problems. Thank you to those who came to every meeting and committed their time to give their input.
- **Next Steps**
 - Flood Task Force Report delivered to CA in February
 - Continue working on Action Plan implementation
 - Focused discussions to further develop key initiatives
 - Infrastructure projects, insurance options, & more
 - Identify grant funding requests and local funding requests for FY25
 - Reconvene Task Force in late summer 2023 for status and priority updates and FY25 budget priorities to Mayor’s office
- **Closing Remarks**
 - **Alan Propp (DMOI):** This has been a great model for how cross-agency collaborating can and should work. It has been run with vigor, outreach, collaboration that we rarely see. Lots of background work from those who organized. Excited to see where this leads on implementation and the trust that was built with this forum continue to put our heads together.
 - **Nick Bonard (DOEE):** Proud of staff connections we have made throughout the process, now know who we can call from other agencies and have good working relationships.
 - **Salil Kharkar (DC Water):** Has been great to see everyone chipping in towards the same goal. Rising sea level and high density and duration storms must be considered. Storms are getting harder to predict. These projects contribute to a solution, part of work moving forward is to sequence work, such as the integrated flood models.
 - **Monte Monash (Monash Advisory Group):** The task force has been thoughtful and helpful to Mayor’s projects.
 - **David Gadi (DC Water):** Thanked the task force and the community participants providing their input. Flood sensors, etc. are just a start. Will continue to focus on equity moving forward.

Additional Materials

A copy of the staff presentation used during the meeting, the meeting recording, and a transcript of any in meeting chat comments can be accessed at dcfloodtaskforce.org.