Coordination in Modeling
FEMA & North Central Council of Governments
Flood Risk Task Force Meeting
August 10, 2018
Goal of this Discussion

▸ To identify pain points and issues related to model preparation & maintenance at multiple levels of government

▸ Step One. Identify Issues

▸ Step Two. Assess responsibilities and requirements

▸ Step Three. Suggestions for immediate implementation

  (Short Term Solutions possible with current resources)

▸ Step Four. Suggestions/requirements collection

  (Define current limitations and resource constraints to support team solution for longer term)

▸ Step Five. Plan, Coordinate, Implement
The Reality of the Situation

**EXPECTATION**

44 CFR 60.3
- Communities have floodplain regulations
  - Part 65
    - Updates are being submitted by community as development occurs
  - FIRMs are up to date

**BUT...**

DEVELOPMENT is occurring more rapidly than communities may be able to study.
- PROJECTS are being completed, coordination is not always occurring.
- COMMUNITY STAFF have more to do than floodplain management.

**REALITY**

Majority of the Nation’s FIRMs are in need of update.
- If the map is WRONG or OUT OF DATE it is still EFFECTIVE.
Map Maintenance – The MINIMUM Rules

Code of Federal Regulations requires:

• Submittal of local updates when construction alters water surface elevation, floodplain or floodway
• Due process is required prior to modeling becoming effective
• Effective can only include current existing conditions

Also...

• Identifies local community as permitting authority, decision maker
• Local community can be more restrictive & have higher standards
• Local community can adopt prior to effective
LOMR Delegation

State of North Carolina
- Early watershed update implementation
- Interest in ownership & maintenance
- Floodplain management & development groups have worked closely to develop a series of trainings & manuals to support this program

State of Alabama
- Second wave of State LOMR delegates
- Established program, trained up staff
- Currently working to transition LOMRs back to FEMA

Harris County Flood Control District (2009)
- Works locally with industry & development to maintain models
- Various coordination meetings with FEMA on front end & continuous to date
- Coordinates local reviews for 33 communities
- M3 system built/paid for by HCFCD
- Submits watersheds and updates once construction is complete or phase reaches a beneficial point (watch for in/out/in scenarios) for incorporation to FIRM
- Acts as FEMA’s Model Storage for effective modeling

San Antonio River Authority (2012)
- Model check out system deployed and in use
- More coordination with FEMA HQ than with FEMA Region
- Updates generally smaller scale, CTP work generates larger updates
What should a final more coordinated modeling and mapping update look like in the future?

Future State

The Vision

SOLUTION