

Best Mapping Practices – Phase 1 Project (TA-04)

06.20.02 Meeting Minutes – Wharton (Initial CCO Meeting)

DATE: July 24, 2002
MEETING LOCATION: Wharton City Council Chambers
MEETING DATE: **June 20, 2002**
MEETING NUMBER: MM-03

TO: Attendees

Lynn Lovell, Halff Associates	Gretchen White – Rosenberg, TX
John Ivey, Halff Associates	Andy Kirkland – Wharton Co. Emergency Manager
Jack Quarles, FEMA	Anthony Rachunek – Wharton, TX
John McLeod, LCRA	Timothy Guin – City of Wharton
Melinda Luna, LCRA	Jess Howell, Sheriff – Wharton County
Saul Nuccitelli, PBS&J	Monica Martin – Wharton County FPA (Permits Office)
Martha Juch, TCRFC	Don Mueller, Councilman - Wharton
Sue Burke, Watershed Concepts	V.L. Wiley, Jr., Councilman– Wharton
Rick Prosser, Watershed Concepts	Joyce Vasut , City of Wharton
Amber Karasek, City of Wharton Engineering Dept.	Ronnie Bollom, City of Wharton
David L. Schroeder, Wharton Economic Development	Domingo Montalvo, Councilman - Wharton
Jackie Wheeler, Assistant to City Manager	Andres Garza, Jr., City Manager, City of Wharton

CC:

ATTACHMENTS: Attendance List

FROM: Lynn Lovell, Halff Associates, Inc. &
Melinda Luna, LCRA

June 20, 2002 – Initial Community Coordination and Scoping Meeting – Wharton County Flood Insurance Re-Study, DFIRM Mapping Project

A. Introduce Project Management Team – The City of Wharton had a concurrent Street and Drainage Committee Meeting taking place with the CCO/Scoping Meeting - Domingo Montalvo, City of Wharton, welcomed group and introduced Jack Quarles, FEMA Region VI. Jack Quarles asked for everyone to sign the City's attendance sheet. He introduced the representatives of the LCRA, Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFP) – Martha Juch, and contractors (Halff, Watershed Concepts, PBS&J) themselves. Jack Quarles told the group how the LCRA, Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFC), and FEMA were cooperating on the TA-04 mapping activity, and the role each play. He introduced Saul Nuccitelli, PBS&J, as a representative of the MCC (a review contractor for FEMA), who would be reviewing engineering and mapping products prepared by Halff Associates, Inc. and Watershed Concepts. He emphasized the desire to get input from the local governments and to be able to map as much area in as much detail as limited budgets/funding would allow.

B. Overview of Proposed Project

A one page Fact Sheet explaining the DFIRM Mapping Project was distributed to all attendees.

1. Purpose of Project – Jack Quarles gave an overview of the federal Flood Insurance Program and what the meeting was about.
 - 1.1. Jack Quarles discussed the current maps and goal of revising the old FIRM's with updated digital maps (DIRMS). He stated that we were trying to gain information from the local governments on needs related to historical flooding and development pressures in our near floodplains in the county.
 - 1.2. Jack Quarles introduced Sue Burke, Watershed Concepts, who presented a Power Point slide presentation of the steps in the scoping and completion of a flood insurance study. This included steps in data collection, preparing the technical data, examples of approximate, limited detail, and detailed mapping.
 - 1.3. Example DFIRM maps were also show by Watershed Concepts and compared with the current style FIRMS. Various scales from 1"=500' up to 1"=2,000' were shown.
2. Potential flooding sources that have been identified so far (including limits of project)
 - 2.1. Lynn Lovell showed two county maps, one with current FIRM panels and background of current flood hazard maps; and one with proposed DFIRM panel layout.
 - 2.2. Lovell described briefly the Colorado River Corridor flood study prepared for the Corps and LCRA and how the data would be the basis of the Colorado River floodplain maps in the county. Some of the topographic coverage from that study could help with tributaries in the communities of Wharton and El Campo.
3. Why community/flooding sources were chosen for project.
 - 3.1. Martha Juch, TCRFC, gave an overview of the Coalition's role, the input from the coalition on the initial priorities that included Wharton and Bastrop Counties.
 - 3.2. She also discussed the role the TCRFC would have in helping the communities keep abreast of the DFIRM mapping project, especially for their counties.
 - 3.3. She asked for additional contact member names, including local TXDOT reps. She received several names for possible contact.

C. Discuss Community’s Assessment of Flood Mapping Needs and Memorandum of Agreement

- 1.1. Jack Quarles discussed the need for a MOA and reminded them that a copy had been mailed to each community and the county. It was described as an open-ended agreement.
- 1.2. He asked for them to review and submit back to FEMA. He emphasized that they are not obligating the cities to any funding, only for cooperation in providing data and willingness to adopt new ordinances, as needed when revised mapping is available.
- 1.3. Martha Juch will follow up on each of the communities’ MOA’s. She will also contact El Campo since they did not have a representative for this meeting and are not in the coalition.

D. Discuss Potential Data Sources (e.g. Digital Base Maps, On-going Projects, and Data Collection Efforts). Request for Data from Communities, such as Mapping, Flood Studies, Flood Photos, High Water Marks, and Survey Data.

- 1.1. Lynn Lovell discussed the various data needs and asked for any input on topographic mapping, drainage or flood studies, flood high water marks, bridge plans, channelization or other flood control project plans, photos, descriptions of flooding events (especially in areas outside of Colorado River effects), and survey bench marks. He said that Halff had contacted TxDOT and received all bridges on the main stem river.
- 1.2. The names of the local newspapers were given by the city.

E. Identify Key Players (e.g. Regional or State Agencies) - Martha Juch received additional names to add to contact list, including Glen Devorick, TxDOT District representative; Mike Howard, TNRCC; and Hugh Bender, TNRIS.**F. Other Topics of Discussion –** A public notice for the project will be distributed to area newspapers (Wharton, El Campo, and Victoria) by Halff in two to three weeks. A web page for the project will be developed by LCRA and the Coalition.**G. Outline Schedule of Future Activities –**

- 1.1. Mr. Quarles, Ms. Juch, Mr. McLeod (LCRA), and Lovell discussed the developing schedule.
- 1.2. Mr. Lovell said that Halff is already underway on the project, preparing hydraulic data for the river corridor.
- 1.3. Mr. Quarles said that the Watershed Concept contract for the remaining areas would be negotiated in next few weeks.
- 1.4. Next formal meeting will be Final CCO Meeting in the fall of 2003, however interim coordination between the project team and the communities would probably occur. Ms. Juch suggests that the quarterly TCRFC meetings include a briefing for the county DFIRM project. Jack Quarles cautioned about holding any coordination meetings that are not considered public meetings. Ms. Juch said that the TCRFC meetings are open to public.
- 1.5. Contacts for Project:
 - 1.5.1. City of Wharton – Andres Garza, Jr., City Manager
 - 1.5.2. City of El Campo – Dennis Smith, City Manager or- Randy Collins, Mayor?

- 1.5.3. Wharton County – Monica Martin, Permits Office and Andy Kirkland, EM Coordinator
- 1.6. The preliminary maps should be ready in fall of 2003. Steps would include:
 - 1.6.1. Preliminary DFIRMS to communities
 - 1.6.2. Community Review (30 days)
 - 1.6.3. Final CCO Meeting
 - 1.6.4. Revisions by FEMA/MCC if required after CCO Meeting
 - 1.6.5. Issue of Public Notices (2 – Ten days apart)
 - 1.6.6. 90 - day appeal period (public notices)
 - 1.6.7. About 6 months after appeals to process/print final maps by Government Printing Office
 - 1.6.8. Community/county ordinance updates required by time of release of final printed maps.

H. Breakout for Individual Community/County Review of Mapping Needs

City of Wharton

Domingo Montalvo and V.L. Wiley, Jr. (Councilmen), Andres Garza, Jr., (City Manager), David Schroeder (Economic Dev), Amber Karasek (Mapping), Phil Bush (PWD), Ronnie Bollom (FPA) and Jackie Wheeler (Asst. to CM) represented the City of Wharton Wharton County Office of Emergency Management – Andy Kirkland (attended both breakout sessions) (Others??- I may have missed on this?)
Anthony Rachunek, consultant, provided insight into flooding issues in the city
Sue Burke represented Watershed Concepts
Lynn Lovell represented Halff Associates
Melinda Luna represented LCRA

1. All of current FEMA mapping for City of Wharton are shown on FIRM Panel 0005 (Scale 1" = 1000'), FIRM and FBFM.
2. Some discussion of the upcoming Corps' flood control study was discussed. Any information generated by that study will be applicable to this work, if timing allows.
3. Study Priority #1 - Main Stem Colorado River
4. Study Priority #2 - All Streams within City Limits (Upper Caney Creek; Caney Creek Outfall; Lower Caney Creek; and Baughman Slough)
5. Study Priority # 3 – ETJ streams.? See county priorities—some overlap
6. TxDOT is preparing a planning study/conceptual design of US 69. Halff will follow up on this, during data collection.
7. A canal on the west side of the river could have an impact on flooding, due to elevation and limited openings.
8. Descriptions of past flooding from various city staff and consultants were given. Mr. Bush
9. Discussion of times for evacuations as the October 1998 flood occurred were discussed by Mr. Kirkland, Emergency Management. He will try to find records/maps to send to Halff.

Wharton County

Monica Martin represented Wharton County
Andy Kirkland represented Wharton County Office of Emergency Management
Rick Prosser represented Watershed Concepts
John Ivey represented Halff Associates

1. Wharton County said there are major problems with the Wharton County FIRM.
 - a. Railroads in the vicinity of the City of Wharton and the County have been removed including gravel ballast that acted as a levee during flood events. The FIRM shows zone breaks at these railroad location and now that the rail systems have been removed the zone delineations should be revised. An example of this problem is shown on FIRM Panel 210 between Caney Creek and the Colorado River floodplain. There are major BFE changes between the two flood sources. There is a change in BFE from 109 to 102 in 3500' which the County says is impossible.
 - b. Panel 210 shows an area that if a cross section was taken it would show a continuous floodplain with 6 SFHA Zones. The SFHA changes Zones from Zone A to Zone A6 to Zone A0 to Zone AH to Zone A2 to Zone A14. The County said there are no physical or terrain changes through this area to explain the zone changes and the flooding is deep (8 to 10 feet and not a Zone AO).
2. Study Priority #1 San Bernard River along the county line. The County said development pressures from Fort Bend County development is extending into Wharton County. Three areas along the San Bernard had major flooding in 1998 forcing emergency rescue operations.
3. Study Priority #2 East Bernard River (Panel # 50)
4. Study Priority #3 East Mustang Creek adjacent to El Campo
5. Study Priority #4 West Mustang Creek (Panel 100) north of FM 1300
6. Study Priority #5 is a low priority Turkey Creek East Trib, West Trib and Middle Trib. There is major flooding in this area but it is sparsely populated and low priority for study.
7. The Studied stream between Wharton and El Campo should not be studied because they are within the backwater of the Colorado. The County said they should not have been studied in the latest FIS.
8. Current FIRM Panels, include only 1"=2000' scale maps.
9. Ivey and Lovell went by County Engineering offices with Monica Martin and borrowed several files related to original flood insurance study **(Note: The county has 5 boxes containing the original Wharton (city and county) flood insurance work files, prepared by TC&B for FEMA in the original FIS. Halff borrowed some files to take back and may request the entire set of data, including HEC-1 and HEC-2 printout. Halff has officially requested this data from FEMA and others since the beginning of the LCRA Colorado River Flood Study. PBS&J has reported only minimal data in the FEMA archives.)** Monica Martin also provided Halff with some county maps and offered her assistance in obtaining any other data available from the county.
10. Wharton County has countywide ArcView coverage. Jim Guinn (979) 282-7911 is the county GIS Coordinator and assigns 911 addresses, countywide.

Action Items:

Status	Item	Resp.	Date Issued	Due Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up on each of the MOA's 	TCRFC/Juch	6-20-02	8-20-02
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Table/Maps of detailed vs. approximate for the counties—for FEMA to see what needs to be studied.</u> 	Half/WC	6-20-02	???
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices to local newspapers when scope is finalized 	Half	6-20-02	8-20-02
Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lovell needs to request the latest Wharton Corporate map 	Lovell	6-20-02	7-20-02
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide project website or link to website. 	LCRA	6-20-02	8-5-02

WHARTON MEETING ATTENDEES

NAME	AGENCY	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
Lynn Lovell	Halff Associates, Inc.	llovell@halff.com	817-847-1422
John Ivey	Halff Associates, Inc.	jivey@halff.com	817-847-1422
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Gretchen White	Rosenberg, TX		979-618-1918
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