



The purpose of this newsletter is to share recent Silver Jackets news and to provide a forum for team support, sharing successes, lessons learned, and resources.

### Contents

- 2011 Flood Risk Management & Silver Jackets Workshop.....1
- Kentucky Risk MAP: Integration of Flood Risk Identification, Risk Assessment, & Mitigation Planning.....1
- Coordinated Flood Preparedness and Response in Illinois.....3
- Silver Jackets Pilot Project to be Initiated FY11.....4
- The Community Rating System within the National Flood Insurance Program.....5
- Ask an Established Team: Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Team.....6
- NRCS Assistance for Dam Rehabilitation and Removal.....7
- Catching up with the National Levee Safety Program.....7
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Silver Jackets Teams.....8
- Upcoming Events.....8

## 2011 Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Workshop: Sharing Experiences in Driving Down Flood Risk

*Jennifer Dunn, National Silver Jackets Program Manager*



As we are all aware, our nation is confronted with numerous challenges in managing flood risks to public safety and economic enterprise. While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has a key role in managing flood risks, no single federal or non-federal entity is solely responsible. Rather, multiple federal, state, local and tribal agencies, as well as private citizens play a role in flood risk management.

The USACE Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Programs will provide an opportunity to unify these roles at the 2nd annual workshop to be held August 15th-19th in Nashville, TN. This year we will bring together more than 200 partners in flood risk management, both external and internal to the USACE. Opportunities to share experiences will start on Monday evening with a special activity and run through Thursday evening, with an optional tour on Friday morning.

The workshop will emphasize interagency activities in managing flood risk, including those of FEMA, USACE, Silver Jackets (SJ) teams, as well as additional federal agencies, and various state and local initiatives such as hazard mitigation planning. The goal will be to facilitate information-sharing among federal and state partners.

I encourage you to take a look at the comprehensive [program](#) and go online to [register](#) if you haven't already; registration is filling quickly. I look forward to sharing experiences and meeting new partners.

## Kentucky Risk MAP: Integration of Flood Risk Identification, Risk Assessment, and Mitigation Planning

*Carey Johnson, Program Manager for the Kentucky Division of Water*



Resilience...this is the keyword attributed to the goals of the FEMA Risk MAP program. By providing communities better tools to understand, manage, and communicate their flood hazards, they will be able to reduce their flood risk, thus increasing their resilience. Risk MAP has been described as a "paradigm shift"; gone is the mindset of viewing a regulatory flood map to determine if a property is "in or out" of the floodplain and whether flood insurance is required as part of a federally-backed mortgage. By integrating cutting-edge engineering and mapping

technologies and flood risk assessments based on real data, communities will be able to prepare and plan for sustainable development while reducing future flood risks.

The Risk MAP program has been under development for several years. During its development, FEMA has engaged a multitude of stakeholders across a wide array of disciplines. The outcomes are an initiative that enhances ownership of flood risk understanding and an integration of programs that identify, assess and plan for flood risk reduction. The Congressionally mandated Map Modernization (Map Mod) initiative, which served to digitize and update Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for approximately 92% of the nation's flood hazard areas, has been viewed by many as a success. However, depending on with whom one speaks, that success may be very subjective. In the Commonwealth of Kentucky, all 120 counties have digital flood hazard data, a result of Map Mod. The mapping identified flood hazards up to the one



square mile drainage area using best available data. Even though the data used for mapping was deemed "best available", in some instances best available data is quite antiquated. Risk MAP will serve to build on the baseline established through Map Mod and further enhance flood risk identification and risk reduction.

While Risk MAP is a fairly complex endeavor and more comprehensive than Map Mod, it may be summed up in the following manner: identify (map) flood risk, assess the potential losses in a given area due to flooding, plan to mitigate flood risk through local and state hazard mitigation planning activities, and communicate flood risk to a wide array of stakeholders. Particular emphasis will be placed on risk communication; it is widely accepted that risk communication has been somewhat lacking in the past. The implementation plan for Risk MAP in Kentucky ensures that flood risk is communicated properly across federal, state, and local stakeholders and the general public.



Flood Response in Western Kentucky

The major components of Kentucky Risk MAP are as follows:

1. A comprehensive assessment of the validity of engineering studies to establish flood elevations using FEMA's Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS);
2. An expanded stakeholder group including, but not limited to, federal, state, and local elected officials, emergency managers, floodplain administrators, GIS specialists, property valuation administrators (PVA) and local and state planning entities;
3. Engineering analyses conducted on a watershed basis;
4. Flood hazard mapping on sound topography data that may include the acquisition of new topography through LIDAR or other applicable means;
5. An enhanced suite of flood hazard identification and flood risk communication products including graphical depictions of changes since last FIRM, flood depth grids, percent annual chance flooding probability, probability of flooding during a 30-year mortgage, and areas of mitigation interest;
6. Flood risk assessment using the FEMA HAZUS-MH program;
7. Mitigation planning that will supplement the ongoing state and local hazard mitigation activities required as part of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000;
8. Expanded and enhanced risk communication using traditional (brochures, classroom) methods, web-based mapping and outreach sites, development of training modules through the Kentucky Risk Communication Toolbox (RCT) and FEMA's Risk MAP University, and social media.

Risk MAP is a multi-step, multi-approach program. There are several aspects of Risk MAP product development and even more aspects of coordination and risk communication to local communities and the general public. FEMA has empowered its partners to achieve Risk MAP success according to their needs and knowledge of flood risk. As a result, the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) entered into a Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) agreement with FEMA in 1999. Since 2004, KDOW has overseen FIRM updates in over 90 of Kentucky's 120 counties and will manage the Risk MAP program for the Commonwealth. Initially, Risk MAP will be focused on flooding hazards in Kentucky. However, there are 13 natural hazards addressed in the Kentucky State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP); addressing risk reduction of other natural hazards is a priority as Risk MAP continues to develop. KDOW has integrated dam safety aspects (dam inundation modeling and mapping, emergency action plans, mitigation alternatives, etc.) into its ongoing Risk MAP activities with the hopes of incorporating other natural hazards in the future. By creating risk identification tools that are easy to use and understand, it will be much easier for the state and local communities to manage those risks that are already present and avoid future flood losses.

The development of Risk MAP in Kentucky has evolved significantly over the past several months. Until recently, KDOW and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KYEM) retained separate roles in mitigation management. KDOW managed the Map Mod program while KYEM specialized in management of mitigation projects and developing the state hazard mitigation plan. KDOW and KYEM are now working together to integrate mapping and mitigation to realize the objectives of Risk MAP. In addition, Kentucky stakeholders have been engaged in the USACE Silver Jackets initiative for just under a year. It is this kind of collaboration and program synergy that will allow Risk MAP to be a success and benefit the citizens of the Commonwealth. By delivering high-quality data, increasing the awareness of risk, and promoting mitigation actions, increasing the resilience of local communities is certainly an achievable goal.

*Carey Johnson is the Cooperating Technical Partners program manager for the Kentucky Division of Water. He has overseen the Map Modernization initiative for the Commonwealth and is the Risk MAP Coordinator.*



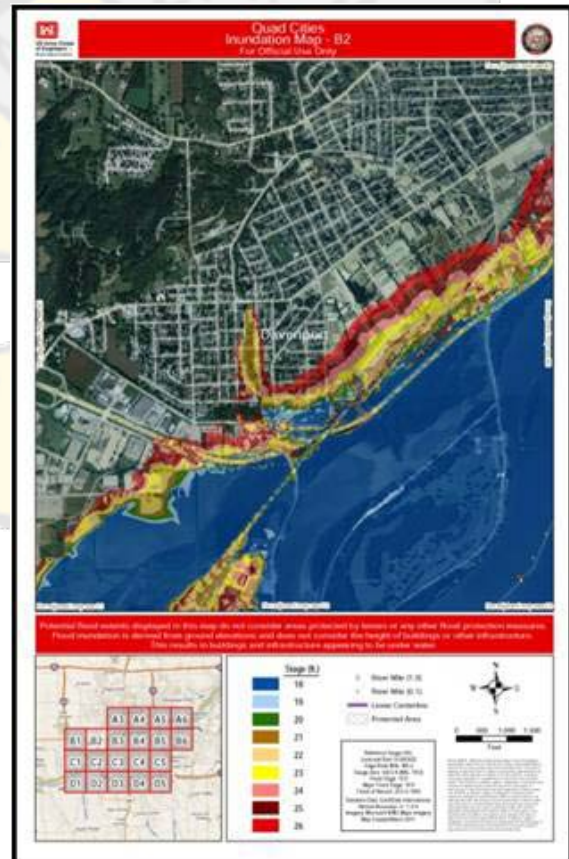
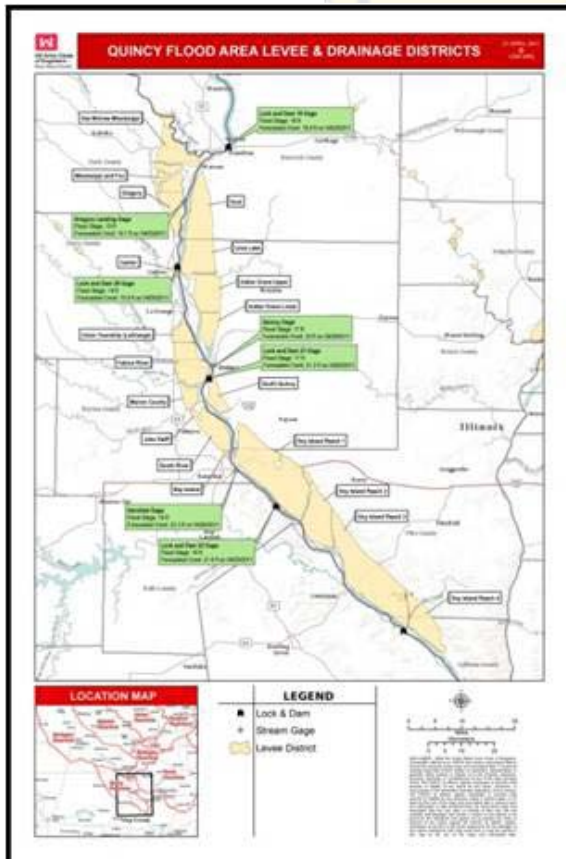
# Coordinated Flood Preparedness and Response in Illinois

Hank DeHaan, USACE Rock Island District

The Midwest floods this year tested the growing capabilities of the newly formed Illinois Flood Risk Management Team (aka Silver Jackets). This team formed in 2008 in response to Mississippi River flooding that caused significant damages that year. The Silver Jackets team was stood up to improve multi-agency coordination of flood preparedness, emergency response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. This partnership of state and federal agencies is chaired by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and meets regularly to coordinate efforts that improve Illinois flood risk management.

Due to extensive Midwest flooding again this year, the primary focus of the Illinois Silver Jackets team in 2011 has been to improve coordinated flood preparedness and response throughout the state. This has been accomplished through enhanced communication, information sharing, and partnered implementation of Silver Jackets efforts by team members. The team has developed a sound communication plan among partner agencies (i.e., IEMA, IL DNR Office of Water Resources, FEMA, USACE, NWS, NRCS, etc.) that allows them to fully prepare and jointly respond to emergencies much more quickly. During spring high water in 2010, and now again this year, team members have been communicating daily to quickly answer questions about flood forecasts, risk, and preparation. The most recent Illinois Silver Jackets meetings focused on continued augmentation of communication by jointly developing information to enhance flood preparedness efforts. Several products were developed by the partner agencies and then communicated to local river communities including enhanced flood forecast information, overall condition of Illinois levee systems, highly accurate inundation maps, critical levee elevations, and freeboard forecasts. Silver Jacket team members partnered in sharing this information with communities and stakeholders to better coordinate flood preparedness among agencies and the public. Several public workshops were conducted throughout the region this spring with IEMA, NWS, FEMA, and USACE. These workshops were very well attended by area communities and resulted in the public more clearly understanding their flood risks and how they could work with state and federal agencies to prepare for and respond to flooding.

If you would like more information regarding the communication plan, you are welcome to contact Hank DeHaan from the Rock Island USACE.





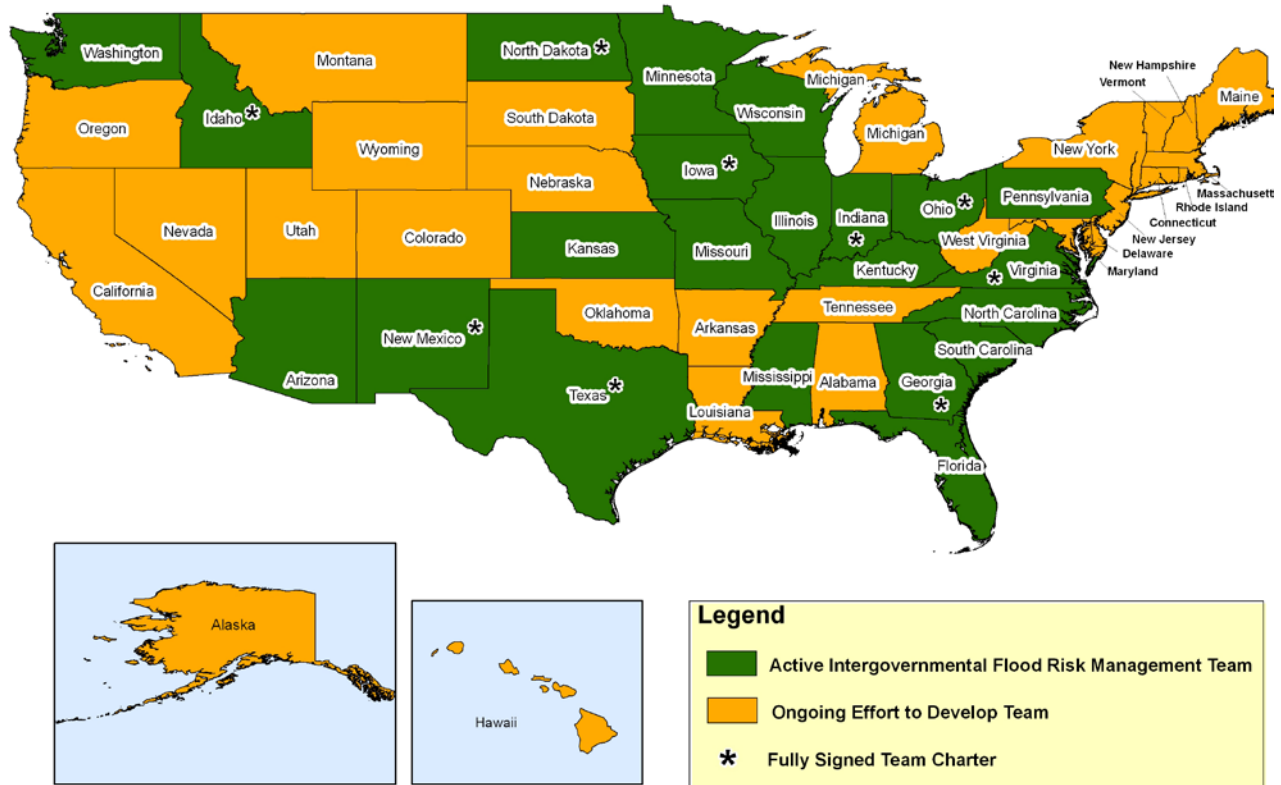
# Silver Jackets Pilot Project to be Initiated FY11

USACE has the opportunity to fund a few Silver Jackets pilot projects this fiscal year. On or around July 29th, USACE district SJ coordinators of active teams will receive a proposal solicitation package. Selection criteria will center around the SJ program goals and objectives that encourage collaboration, interagency effort, leveraging, implementation of state mitigation plans, and facilitating integrated flood risk management solutions. Proposals will be considered and awarded on an ongoing basis; however we request all proposals be submitted by 30 August to allow funds to be distributed before the end of FY11.

Selection criteria include:

- Does the project demonstrate flood risk reduction? How will the project protect life and property and minimize community disruption?
- Will the project leverage resources and support from others? Resources may include data/information, labor, and/or funding. Does the project provide a local, regional, state, and federal multi-agency approach that would help to mitigate and reduce flood losses?
- Does the project reduce future expenditures? For example, the project may reduce future consequences such as expected NFIP payouts or emergency response and recovery efforts.
- Does the project reduce the risk for future generations? For example, does it have long-term positive impacts rather than serve as a temporary measure.
- Does the project address a need identified in the state hazard mitigation plan or provide a solution to an issue in a similar comprehensive plan?

The USACE Institute for Water Resources has developed tools such as Shared Vision Planning, Watershed Investment Decision Tool, and SimSuite that may be utilized as part of the pilot projects. A webinar to demonstrate and discuss these tools will be held on August 5th, 2011, from 2-5 Eastern; logistics will be provided in the proposal solicitation package. Additional opportunity to discuss these pilot proposals will be provided at the FRM-SJ workshop in Nashville. For more information please contact [Jennifer Dunn](#).



States shown in green are states understood to have active teams. If your state is not green, but should be, please contact your USACE District SJ Coordinator and request the change.

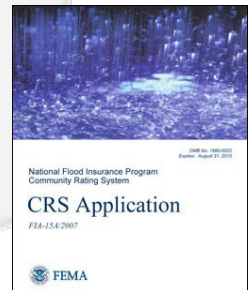


# The Community Rating System within the National Flood Insurance Program



Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that communities adopt and enforce a floodplain management ordinance that regulates development in Special Flood Hazard Areas mapped by FEMA. The Community Rating System (CRS) program provides incentives to recognize communities that take further actions to manage their flood risk beyond those minimum steps required by FEMA as a condition of participating in the NFIP. Incentives are provided to communities through discounted flood insurance premiums for policy holders in CRS participating communities. CRS participating communities receive a certain number of points for the actions that they take. They are assigned to a CRS Class ranging from 9 to 1 depending on the number of points they receive. A CRS Class 9 provides the lowest flood insurance premium discounts with a CRS Class 1 earning the highest premium discount. The discounts range from 5% for a CRS Class 9 community to 45% for a class 1 community, increasing in increments of 5% per class. Currently the CRS program generates over \$300 million in insurance premium discounts.

The CRS Coordinator's Manual provides guidance on the actions that communities could undertake to receive credit. The possible actions are organized into four series that are broken down into 19 activities and further broken down into 85 elements. The program has previously focused heavily on public safety, but is now beginning to emphasize natural and beneficial floodplain functions as well. The three goals of the program are to reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.



Analyzing flood risk and developing long-range strategies for floodplain management are essential for ensuring that new development does not exacerbate local flood risks or create downstream flood hazards. This year CRS has revised several of its planning requirements and added a new element to its floodplain management planning category to provide additional credit toward improving the community's class rating. Tools are now available to help floodplain managers track flood hazards and guide regional growth in a way that does not adversely impact their community or downstream residents and businesses.

The CRS Coordinator's Manual is undergoing revisions, with a new manual expected in early 2012. There will be a number of changes including activities and elements added or removed and changes in the number of points possible per element. Changes to the activities and elements and their associated points are being finalized through late June and then a series of webinars will be offered over the summer and early fall to explain the anticipated coming changes. Information on the changes and CRS webinars to explain the changes can be found at <http://www.crs2012.org/>.

The Silver Jackets program is offering a webinar to provide an overview of the CRS program on September 20th from 2-3:30 pm EST. Details to access the webinar will be available in September. For questions about the CRS program, please contact Stephanie Bray ([Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil](mailto:Stephanie.N.Bray@usace.army.mil)) or Bill Lesser of FEMA ([Bill.Lesser@fema.gov](mailto:Bill.Lesser@fema.gov)).

Due to popular demand, the CRS team has scheduled three more webinars on the proposed changes:

- August 3, 1:00 Eastern time, on Activity 330 – Outreach Projects
- August 9, 1:00 Eastern time, a general overview of all the changes for communities in the Central United States.
- August 11, 2:30 Eastern time, sponsored by the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association's CRS committee

Note that anyone can sign up for any of the webinars listed on the registration page at [www.CRS2012.org](http://www.CRS2012.org). While they may have a local sponsor, 90% of the materials discussed will be pertinent to the whole country.

Only the first 20 registrants will be able to ask questions. Due to system constraints, the rest of the registrants will be able to listen but they cannot be heard on the conference call.

To register, go to [www.CRS2012.org](http://www.CRS2012.org) and hit "Webinar Info."

Go to [www.CRS2012.org](http://www.CRS2012.org) where you can download the overview of the changes proposed for the 2012 CRS Coordinator's Manual. This document covers all the changes that will be discussed on the webinars and will be needed when you are on signed on.



# Ask an Established Team: Pennsylvania Silver Jackets Team – How to Get a Silver Jackets Team Up and Running

Stacey Underwood, USACE Baltimore District



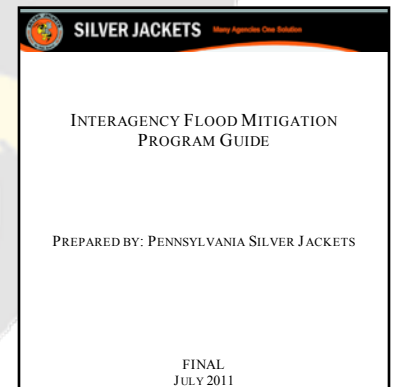
Once the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets team got started, it has kept going and has not slowed down. Stacey Underwood, the Silver Jackets Program Manager for the Baltimore District, contacted Tom Hughes, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, in December 2009 to see if there was an interest in developing a Silver Jackets team. Mr. Hughes was interested since Commonwealth officials had previously had a floodplain work group that was dissolved due to budget constraints. The Pennsylvania SJ initiative lended itself well as it was able to provide coordination and administrative assistance that was lacking from the previous work group. The Pennsylvania SJ team also added the local and federal coordination elements that were missing from the previous work group. Mr. Hughes wanted to learn more, but was currently in the middle of developing the State’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update, a top priority. Ms. Underwood, who had never participated in developing an HMP, offered to attend the HMP meetings as a participant to learn about Pennsylvania’s hazards, programs and goals. Other federal, state and local agencies were also present which provided a great opportunity to coordinate with others, while learning about the Commonwealth’s priorities. The HMP update process was the springboard for the Pennsylvania SJ team since the plan identified the Commonwealth’s flood risk management goals and actions and various agencies had participated in the process. This showed that when establishing a SJ team in a state, the opportunity to piggyback onto other flood risk management teams, events or activities, rather than starting from scratch, can be expeditious.



A small team consisting of USACE, FEMA and Pennsylvania representatives began meeting in March 2010 and determined what other agencies should be invited to participate. After contacting numerous agency representatives, the SJ team quickly grew into a group of approximately 12 active organizations. The interagency SJ team was formally established and began holding monthly webinars and quarterly face-to-face meetings in September 2010. Monthly webinars have been an excellent way to keep in touch and maintain momentum. Many of the Pennsylvania SJ monthly webinars have included presentations from different agencies on their flood risk management related programs, projects or initiatives and have been kept to no more than one hour so the time commitment has been minimal. The quarterly face-to-face meetings have allowed for a more personal touch and have helped build relationships among the team members. The yearlong schedule of webinars and meetings was established early on so that team members had the dates set on their calendar and could plan around it. This has allowed more team members to actively participate in the program.

In addition to federal and Commonwealth agency representatives, a few members from river basin commissions, professional organizations and municipalities have been actively participating. The input from these agencies has been invaluable since no one knows more about the flooding problems than local governments. They have helped to keep the federal and Commonwealth representatives in check with reality.

Working on a project together as a team at the start was critical to the success of the Pennsylvania SJ team. Initially it was decided that the team would develop an interagency program guide that would summarize all of the agencies’ flood risk management programs and services, a product that would be useful to numerous officials. This gave the team a focal point, and a useful document was developed that will soon be shared with the public. The team is currently focusing on outreach and education.



To show the support of agency leaders and to help guide the team, the SJ team also prepared a charter that is in the signature process. Collaboration, communication and goal setting were key in building the momentum for this successful team.

To view the Pennsylvania SJ program guide, topics of webinars, and other information about the Pennsylvania SJ team please visit their [website](#).



# NRCS Assistance for Dam Rehabilitation and Removal

As a Silver Jackets team member, knowing your resources, including funding and viable programs, is critical to assisting communities in managing flood risks. NRCS existing programs and financial assistance for much needed dam safety concerns are highlighted below as described in the recently signed NRCS/USACE Partnership Handbook:



Low head dam in Illinois

and typically does, provide inspection assistance and engineering services at the request of the local sponsor.

Local communities and local watershed improvement districts, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,000 dams in 47 states since 1948. Most of these structures were constructed as part of the Small Watersheds Program (PL-534 Flood Control Act of 1944 and PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act) with the primary purposes as flood control and sediment storage. In some cases municipal water supply storage was added to the flood pool requirements at the expense of the local sponsor. These structures typically consist of a compacted earth fill embankment, a concrete/steel pipe principal spillway with concrete riser overflow structure, and a vegetated earthen auxiliary spillway. In most cases, these structures were constructed on private lands with perpetual easements granted to or purchased by the local sponsor. The local sponsor has full responsibility for the operation, management, control, and maintenance of these structures. NRCS can,

Many of these dams are nearing the end of their 50-year design life. Rehabilitation of these dams is needed to address critical public health and safety issues in these communities. NRCS currently has a Watershed Rehabilitation Program which can provide technical and financial assistance to local sponsors for rehabilitation of these structures to current standards and to extend the design life well into the future. Non-structured approaches to flood risk reduction are also authorized by both PL-566 and the Rehabilitation Amendments of 2000. The purchase of floodplain easements, as well as the removal and relocation of buildings at risk from dam failure, are authorized. Rehabilitation projects may be cost shared between the federal government and local sponsors. NRCS may provide 65 percent of the total cost of the rehabilitation project. Local sponsors can provide the remaining 35 percent in cash or through “in kind” costs for the value of land rights, project administration, and other planning and implementation costs associated with the project. However, federal funds cannot be used for operation and maintenance activities.

For more information on these programs, you are invited to contact your state NRCS representative. Information on NRCS organization and contact numbers can be found at the NRCS [website](#).

## Catching up with the National Levee Safety Program



Communities across the nation rely on levees to reduce the impact of flooding on their residents’ homes and businesses. Spring flooding this year was the worst it has been in decades. Hurricane season is just beginning. Both remind us how much we rely on levees. It should also remind us that our levees are aging and

we have far from a complete handle on the location and condition of our nation’s levees other than those enrolled in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Safety Program.

The second edition of [Levee Safety Connections](#) is now out, a quarterly newsletter with status updates on the recommendations for proposed National Levee Safety Program, activities of the National Committee on Levee Safety, and information about the state of levees in the nation.



From FEMA FloodSmart



## Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Silver Jackets Teams

Every now and then, such as when a charter is being signed, a question arises regarding how FACA relates to Silver Jackets teams. Because all the Silver Jackets teams are state led teams and the state decides on the need for a team, the requirements of the FACA do not apply. Dan Murray from USACE HQ Office of Council provides further clarification. A summary follows.

The requirements of the Federal Advisory Committees Act apply to any committee or group, established or utilized by the President or a federal Agency, for the purpose of obtaining advice or recommendations on a matter of policy. Committees are utilized by a federal agency when that agency manages, controls, or funds the advisory committee. The Silver Jackets teams are not established by a federal agency. Moreover, they are run by the individual state representatives and are not utilized by USACE because USACE does not manage, control, or fund the Silver Jackets teams. To avoid complications with FACA, USACE representatives on Silver Jackets teams should permit the state representatives to: set the final agenda for the meetings, determine the membership and composition of the team, and otherwise manage the team. If requested, USACE can provide support to the team, including, but not limited to, scheduling and planning meetings, coordinating participation, keeping and distributing meeting minutes, drafting meeting agendas, and facilitating meetings. Moreover, USACE should not provide any funds for the operation of the Silver Jackets teams themselves - other than covering the expenses of the USACE participants. However, the Corps participation in Silver Jackets should not limit any other authority available to USACE (i.e., Flood Plain Management Services, Planning Assistance to States, General Investigations, Continuing Authorities Programs, etc.).

## Upcoming Events

### *August*

[Flood Risk Management and Silver Jackets Workshop](#), Nashville, TN, Aug 15-19

### *September*

Community Rating System (CRS) Webinar co-sponsored by FEMA and USACE, Sept 20

Webinar on North Carolina's Digital Vision in Risk MAP , TBD

### *October*

[National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies \(NAFSMA\) 2011 Annual Meeting](#), St. Petersburg, FL, Oct 31-Nov 3

### *November*

[National Flood Proofing Conference V](#), Sacramento, CA, Nov 28-Dec 1