# FLOODS ARE AN ACT OF GOD; FLOOD DAMAGES RESULT FROM ACTS OF MEN.

### House Document 465, 89th Congress, 2d Session:

A Unified National Program for Managing Flood Losses, August 1966

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New Water Areas: Includes flooded marsh, sheared marsh, eroded marsh, scoured marsh, and flooded developed agricultural areas.

Breton Sound Basin

Water Area Changes Fall 2004 to Mid-October, 2005

Selected Areas Water	Area (n
East of the Mississippi River	79.
Chandeleur Islands	3
North Shore Marsh	2
N. W Orleans East	
Lan. bridge Marsh	
Labrait, he Wetlands	
Louisana Coartal Area Subprovin	ca One

Mississippi River Basi

brage Source: Andust 5 Thematic Mapper satellite imagery is provided by the USGS EROS Data Center.

The background land-water image represents Oct. 18 and Oct. 25,2005, classified landwater data.





# **FPMS/PAS Conference**

# Looking to the Future: Time To Do Something About Flood Damages

Napa, CA December 4, 2007



Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., PE, PhD Water Policy Collaborative, University of Maryland Maas-White Scholar, US Army Corps of Engineers IWR President, American Water Resources Association





# Caution

#### THE SPEAKER DOES NOT REPRESENT ANYONE OR ANY AGENCY.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE HIS OWN AND DO NOT REFLECT, NECESSARILY, THE POSITIONS OF AWRA, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS OR ANYONE ELSE.







## **Floods Were Part of Early North American History**







## And People Tried to Deal wit the Flood Challenge





Lowell

# And Again in 1936



#### Pittsburgh



# Early Guidance on Flood Damage Reduction

Flood Control Act of 1936 - The Nation

•...destructive floods upon the rivers...constitute a menace to national welfare; it is the sense of Congress that **flood control is a proper activity of the Federal Government** 



# In 1936 It Was **Control** the Floods!



# Water Away



# And Flood Protection Was Extended Across the Nation



## And the Flood Control Infrastructure Has Provided Protection to Millions



# But It and Other Human Activity Caused Significant Environmental Degradation



# But Some Had Other Ideas The Birth of Floodplain Management

The University of Chicago

HUMAN ADJUSTMENT TO FLOODS

A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH TO THE FLOOD PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES IN CANDIDACY FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

> DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY JUNE, 1942

Research Paper No. 29

By GILBERT FOWLER WHITE



#### **Gilbert White**



## Jim Goddard

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

1945

## 1953 -TVA Floodplain Management

 1960 - Corps Floodplain Management Services



# **Thinking in Broader Terms**



- Senate Select Committee on Water Resources
- Water Resources Planning Act of 1965
  - » Water Resources Council Coordination
  - » Basin Planning- Comprehensiveness
  - » Principles and Standards 4 Accounts

# **Understanding the Environment**

- Recognition of the Problem
- Environmental Movement
- NEPA and Follow-On Legislation



# **National Flood Insurance Program**

- » Established in 1968
- » Led to National Flood Hazard Mapping Program
- » Mandatory Purchase Provisions in 1973



# We Still Have a Flood Challenge

- 71 Years of Flood Control
- 39 Years of Flood Insurance
- Increasing Flood Damages
  - Average annual losses \$6 Billion (BK)
- Inadequate Protection
- Inadequate Maintenance



• Major Floods Have Been Significant Hydrometeorologic Events



## And Major Floods Will Continue to Occur

# We Have Identified Needs

- Define Responsibilities
- Take Balanced and Systems Approach
- Revise Principles and Guidelines
- Avoid Unnecessary Use of Floodplain
- Increase the Level of Protection
- Use Non-structural Techniques
- Maintain and Upgrade Infrastructure
- Identify Risks Structure Location and Condition
- Continue Insurance Reform
  - » Repetitive Losses
  - » Residual Risk

We Know the Solution



## Losing Sight of the Mission



# Tight (Short-Term) Economics.... Environmental Concerns



**Cost Sharing** 

and the 100year Flood Standard

# Flood Protection Levels: Started Strong and Finished Weak



# We Are Letting People Believe They Are Safe

- The Assumption is Protection
- We Don't Talk About or Prepare for Disaster



# We Don't Communicate Residual Risk

- Things Do Go Wrong and Consequences Can Be Estimated
- No Incentive or Requirement to Cover This Risk
- Exposure is Federal Government's



# We Are Ignoring Policies that:

- Promote intensification in risk areas
- Ignore changing conditions
- Provide 35 year old H&H for current maps
- Ignore adverse impacts to existing properties
- Undervalue natural floodplain functions



# Where Are We Going?

Photo by J Korn

Into the 21st Century!

- Population Explosion
- Pressures for Development
- Scarce Resources
- Technological Surge
- Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous National and World Situations (\$\$\$)



Rescuing an endangered ecosystem -the journey to restore Am EVERGLADES



oration

Save the Bay

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

#### California Bay-Delta Authority

The mission of the California Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta.



# Infrastructure Shortfalls

- Annual Shortfall Wastewater - \$12 Billion
- Annual Shortfall Water treatment \$11 Billion
- >3500 Unsafe Dams
- 30% Shortfall in Hydro
- Levee Backlog



# **Climate Change Bears**

- Glacial Melt Sea Level Rise
- Increased Hurricane Intensity -SST
- Increased Coastal and Riverine Flood Potential



# Dealing with Climate Change: Project Foresight HM TREASURY

- 1) Maintain current flood policies and expenditure, accept reduced standards of flood protection and hence a substantial increase in flood risk, and live with the increase in Expected Annual economic Damage; or
- Reduce flood risk by the application of a portfolio of flood response measures to levels at or similar to the present; or
- 3) Reduce flood risk further, which may be difficult in economic and sustainability terms under some scenarios, but feasible under others

# Political Power

- Shift in center of gravity from federal to state level
  - » Strong Governors
    - Schwarzenegger
    - Spitzer
    - Bush
  - » State Funding
    - Everglades funding
    - California Bonds
    - Louisiana Off-Shore Oil Revenue
  - » Dam Safety
  - » Water Quality





# Shifting Policies - WRDA 2007

### • 2031. (a) National Water Resources Planning Policy- It is the policy of the

United States that all water resources projects should reflect national priorities, encourage economic development, and protect the environment by--

- (1) seeking to maximize sustainable economic development;
- (2) seeking to avoid the unwise use of floodplains and flood-prone areas and minimizing adverse impacts and vulnerabilities in any case in which a floodplain or flood-prone area must be used; and
- (3) protecting and restoring the functions of natural systems and mitigating any unavoidable damage to natural systems.

#### • (b) Principles and Guidelines-

- Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue revisions, consistent with paragraph (3), to the principles and guidelines for use by the Secretary in the formulation, evaluation, and implementation of water resources projects.
- (3) CONSIDERATIONS- In developing revisions to the principles and guidelines under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall evaluate the consistency of the principles and guidelines with, and ensure that the principles and guidelines address, the following:
- (A) The use of best available economic principles and analytical techniques, including techniques in risk and uncertainty analysis.
- (B) The assessment and incorporation of public safety in the formulation of alternatives and recommended plans.
- (C) Assessment methods that reflect the value of projects for low-income communities and projects that use nonstructural approaches to water resources development and management.
- (D) The assessment and evaluation of the interaction of a project with other water resources projects and programs within a region or watershed.
- (E) The use of contemporary water resources paradigms, including integrated water resources management and adaptive management.

(F) Evaluation methods that ensure that water resources projects are justified by public benefits.

• (4) CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION-

# WRDA 2007 Sec 2031 National Water Resources Planning Policy

- It is the policy of the United States that all water resources projects should reflect national priorities, encourage economic development, and protect the environment by--
  - (1) seeking to maximize sustainable economic development;
  - (2) seeking to avoid the unwise use of floodplains and floodprone areas and minimizing adverse impacts and vulnerabilities in any case in which a floodplain or floodprone area must be used; and
  - (3) protecting and restoring the functions of natural systems and mitigating any unavoidable damage to natural systems WRDA

# WRDA 2007 Sec 2031 Principles and Guidelines

# ...ensure that the principles and guidelines address, the following:

- (A) The use of best available economic principles and analytical techniques, including techniques in risk and uncertainty analysis.
- (B) The assessment and incorporation of public safety in the formulation of alternatives and recommended plans.
- (C) Assessment methods that reflect the value of projects for low-income communities and projects that use nonstructural approaches to water resources development and management.
- (D) The assessment and evaluation of the interaction of a project with other water resources projects and programs within a region or watershed.
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- (F) Evaluation methods that ensure that water resources projects are justified by public benefits

# Potential Changes in NFIP

- Extend Insurance to 500 year
  Floodplain
- Require Insurance Behind Levees
- Consider Future Conditions Hydrology
- Charge Actuarial Rates in All Zones



# Levees

- Inspection and Assessment of Levees
  - » Decertifications
- Planning for Residual Risk
- Insurance Behind Levees
- Increased Risk Communication
- Move to Risk-Based Methodologies



The National Levee Challenge Levees and the FEMA Flood Map Modernization Initiative

Report of the Interagency Levee Policy Review Committee Washington, DC

September 2006

# Flood Map Modernization

- Improved Map Accuracy...but
  - » 54% Digital Conversions
  - » 33% No New H&H
- Strong Local Input ..in some states and municipalities
- Map Maintenance at Local Level



# Flood Maps of Tomorrow

- Risk Mapping
- Multi-Hazard Risk Identification
- Individual Hazard Identification Systems
- Who Is in Charge?



# FEMA



## NOAA



# Corps



## **IPET Risk Assessment Model**



RISK = Chance of Flooding from Hurricanes X Loss of Property or Life



## **Sound Science**



# Risk Based Planning



Risk Reduction Tools (Cumulative) Figure 2

## **Example of Public Product**





# Before Katrina, there was a 1% chance every year of flooding this deep from Hurricanes



This is the same chance as having your car stolen in any year.

# Today, there is a 1% chance every year of flooding this deep from Hurricanes



# Today, you have a 0.2% chance (1 in 500) every year of flooding this deep from Hurricanes



## **Reduction of Consequences**



Opportunities

HEIGHT ISN'T

EVERYTHING

Mississippi River and Jurricanes are built by t

• NOLA

• Etc.

ERS OF EARTH AND CONCRETE

• Sacramento – San Joaquin

I also Churles

CO



# The FPMS COP Needs to:

- Work as a Team
  - » Horizontally/Vertically
  - » Across Corps Regulatory/Planning/Etc
- Provide Links to States Silver Jackets
- Know the Territory
- Push/demand Non-Structural
- Push Comprehensiveness
- Use Authorities to Make Things Happen (LCA)
- Remember the Federal Interest is Not Necessarily the Local Interest

# The Bottom Line

- We Have Let the Corps Floodplain Management Program Wither
- FPMS/PAS Are a Critical Component of Flood Damage Reduction-Risk Management
- We Need FPMS/PAS to Help Lead a Multi-Program Effort to Ensure Wise Use of the Floodplain –NOW!

# Professionalism

Our ethical responsibility is to do what is best for the community, not what is best for the federal government or the Corps or us.

# NO FEAR **FPMS/PAS Is Here!!**

# Thank You