

June 12-13, 2007

Floodwater Forum

Floodwater Forum Update

National Capital Planning
Commission

August 2, 2007

Forum Goals

- Sponsors: NCPC, GSA, DHS, & DC
- Goals:
 - To understand flood risks in Monumental Core
 - To explore risk minimization options through strategies aimed at planning and coordination prevention, and infrastructure measures
 - To obtain local and federal consensus on strategic actions for measurable risk reduction
 - To improve coordination and cooperation between the relevant agencies, and
 - To serve as a model for other cities

Participant Agencies

- GSA
- DHS
- National Park Service
- Commerce
- Justice
- FBI
- National Gallery of Art
- IRS
- National Weather Service
- Corps of Engineers
- NOAA
- FEMA
- Federal Highways Administration
- EPA
- DC Planning
- DC Dept. Environment
- DC WASA
- DC HSEMA
- DC Police
- DC Fire / EMS
- DC OPM
- Architect of the Capitol
- WMATA
- DDOT
- Washington Gas
- PEPCO
- Smithsonian
- National Archives

Agenda

- Opening Session
- Working Groups:
 - Emergency Planning and Coordination
 - Stormwater Management
 - Infrastructure Challenges
- Closing Public Session
 - Each work group reported out on outstanding issues and potential solutions that had been identified

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Emergency Planning & Coordination



Emergency Planning Issues

- Coordination between federal agencies is insufficient
- Existing emergency notification systems not utilized efficiently
- Interaction between key emergency responders needs improvement
- Need to clarify who is “in charge”



Forum Recommendations

- **Establish Command-and-Control**
 - Single-point of command should be designated
 - Federal clearinghouse needed
- **Improve Federal Disaster Planning**
 - “Compliance” is insufficient, plans must be tested
 - Agency COOP plans should be coordinated
 - Emergency responders should know each other
 - Local federal agencies should share secure network

Forum Solutions

1. Develop local, interagency secure network for shared data
2. Establish federal clearinghouse
3. Go beyond “paper” compliance with NIMS
4. Coordinate local COOP plans
5. Create back-ups and redundancies for emergency responders
6. Develop a methodology to improve response time and effectiveness
7. Involve OPM
8. Better utilize the existing emergency notification systems
9. Develop relationships between key personnel
10. Provide single point of command
11. Relax parking enforcement for emergencies

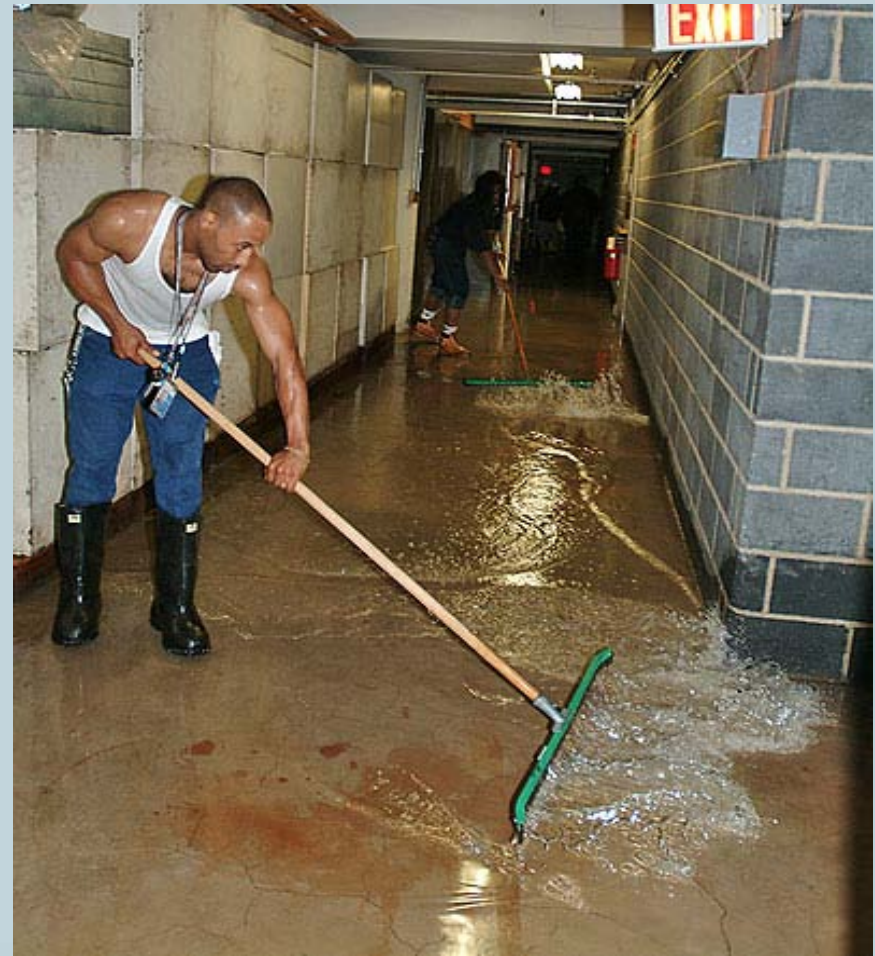
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Stormwater Management



Stormwater Management Issues

- Excess stormwater is problematic at smaller amounts than expected
- Catastrophic flooding is infrequent, yet likely problem
- Insufficient data exists to understand the Monumental Core hydrology, or systems and regulations in place to manage it



Forum Recommendations

1. Improve stormwater governance
2. Increase funding for sewer operation, maintenance & capital improvements
3. Promote local stormwater management improvements
 - Develop stormwater BMPs
 - Create incentives for low impact development
 - Update stormwater management regulations, if necessary
 - Assessment of acceptable risk

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Infrastructure Challenges

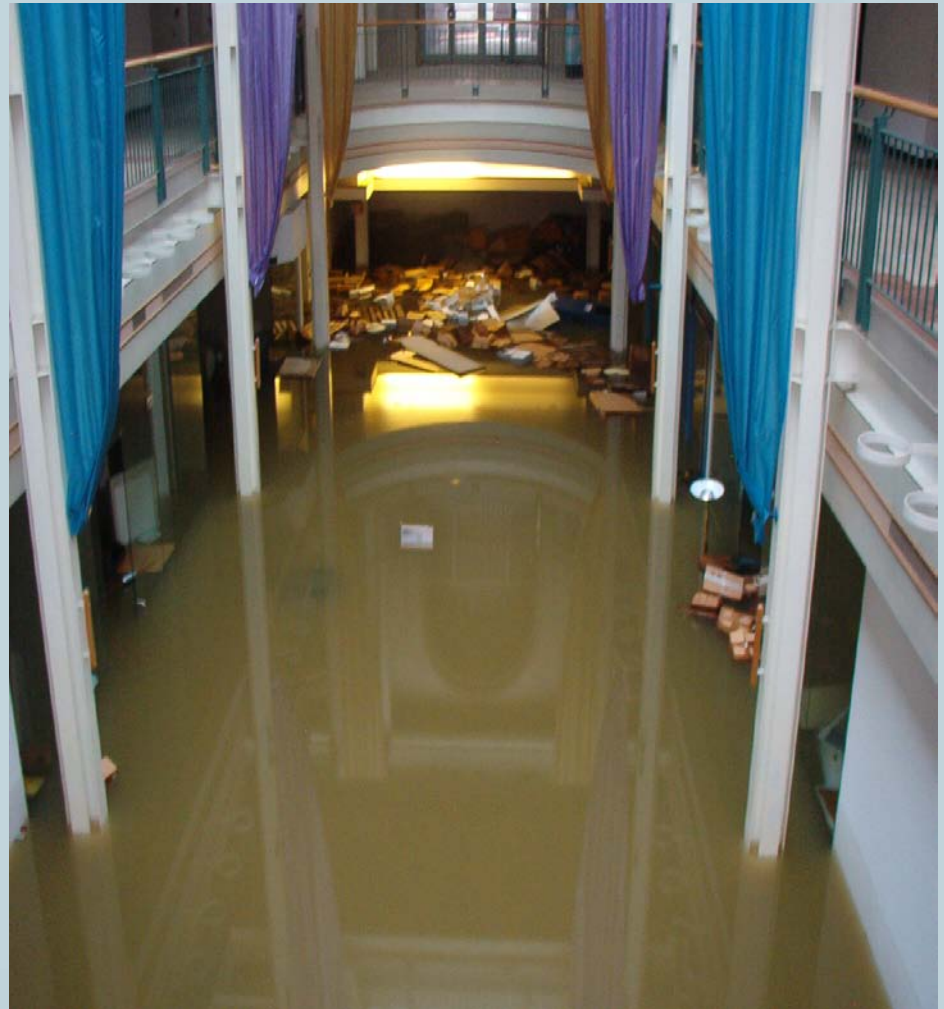


Infrastructure Challenges

- Sewer system in Monumental Core is old
 - No major renovations or improvements planned
 - Sewer upgrades occurred over many years and in piecemeal fashion
- Capacity of any particular sewer section varies
 - Depends on design standard used at the time of construction or renovation
 - DC WASA reports that capacity of the system varies between a 2-year to a 15-year storm event.

Forum Solutions

1. Flood-proof federal buildings
2. Improve street and catch-basin cleaning
3. Undertake stormwater study



Stormwater / Engineering Study

- Need a thorough hydrology and sewer engineering study
 - To model for various storm scenarios to determine sewer performance capacity issues
 - To estimate the cost to design and construct those measures
- Three key outstanding issues
 - Who is the most appropriate to oversee this study
 - How much the study would cost
 - How the study would be funded

Next Steps

- Distribute forum proceedings to participants from sponsoring agencies
- Meet with relevant partners to discuss next steps and responsibilities
- Consider establishing a Steering Committee:
 - Members: NCPC, GSA, DHS, District representation
 - Goal: Offer direction to smaller working groups tasked with implementing the recommended strategies
 - Final report: Fall 2008
- Flooding risks east of Anacostia River
 - Research in progress, expect to be completed shortly