

ACSE-24 Freeboard Task Force
July 12th, 2022
12:00 P.M.
8181 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair, Ms. Jackie Dadakis, requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: Dr Carol Friedland, Mr. Rick Foster, Mr. Matt Johns, Ms. Shirley Laska, Mr. Randy Noel -12:13, Ms. Cindy O’Neal, Mr. Bobby Byrd, Ms. Tresa Byrd, Ms. Jackie Dadakis, Mr. Stephen Laughlin, Scott Masterson

Members Absent: Ms. Julie Cherry

Excused absence: Ms. Julie Cherry

11 members present and 1 member absent constitute a Quorum.

The Chair, Ms. Dadakis, welcomed the task force members and those attending from the public. In her opening statement she reminded the task force members that they had been assembled by request of the LSUCCC to provide three options on how Freeboard should be addressed in the 2021 Code. It was noted that after discussion with Legal Counsel the task force could set a minimum without going over minimum/maximum via word smithing. This would give local jurisdictions the right to adjust as they see needed in their local areas.

Ms. Dadakis asked Task Force Member, Mr. Bobby Byrd, to state the task that has been set forth by the Governor’s office concerning decisions made during code reviews, including those of the ASCE-24 Freeboard Task Force. Mr. Byrd stated, 1. To be technically accurate. 2. Protect the life safety of the citizens and visitors to and of our state. 3. To not negatively impact the economics of our state.

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business. First meeting of the Task Force.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and discussion of ASCE-24 Freeboard topics to develop 3 proposed amendments to the LSUCCC for consideration.

Mr. Gilbert Giron, Jr., Regional Flood Liaison for FEMA from Region 6, provided a presentation to the Task Force members. He also provided answers to their questions concerning Risk Rating 2.0 and ASCE-24 Freeboard. His presentation also included how each can and will affect insurance ratings.

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Flood Insurance is not provided to areas that do not adopt the MFIP. 49% of flood policies that FEMA has is residential policies. Risk rating 2.0 is going to be based on the risk of the structure to a flood hazard instead of if the structure is in a Flood Zone. The yearly increases in the cost of flood insurance cannot be more than 18%, set by legislation.

Mr. Giron spoke to the task force in depth about different hazard areas and how they will be affected by the new Risk Rating 2.0 – Equity In Action.

Cindy O’Neal, DOTD, spoke in favor of the one foot of freeboard on the basis it provides protection to the citizens of Louisiana. She stated that had the one foot been in effect over 50% of the homes that flooded in 2016 would not have taken on water.

Rick Foster spoke on clarification of ASCE-24 and how it will be assessed when “Fill” is used on a property and how it will affect the point of measurement. Also, how will using Fill affect the neighbors next to the property, as far as water drainage. Locally there would be a Fill Ordinance that would be in effect to provide for protection to neighboring properties, but how would that be handled on a state level?

Watershed is now a big conversation statewide. During flooding, watershed was not a subject before. Now, including watershed to the conversation gives the local governments the ability to be able to set their freeboard based on the knowledge of their area.

Mr. Joiner explained the process of referencing a recommendation and amendment concerning freeboard to the code, and how the local jurisdiction can, by ordinance, adopt a higher freeboard requirement in their area.

Mr. Giron spoke on the concerns of using Fill to elevate land for development. Measures would be used by the developer to be able to disperse the water so as not to create a flood hazard from the displacement of the water due to Fill being used. These mitigation measures would include extra drainage, retention ponds, etc.

Dr. Carol Friedland asked to be able to present information to the task force. The Chair, Ms. Dadakis, opened the floor for Dr. Friedland for her presentation.

It was noted that many grants and special funding available for disaster recovery are tied to mitigation measures, elevating structures, and elevation efforts for repetitive loss properties.

After more extensive discussion between the task force members and those in attendance, it was the consensus of the group to take the information presented and plan a second meeting in August to continue discussion. It is the hopes of the task force to have the recommended three options written during the August meeting.

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Ms. Dadakis asked if there was any other business to discuss. With no other items on the agenda or discussion, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM.

END OF MINUTES