

House Passes WRRDA Bill

From ASDSO:

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (HR 3080) was passed by the House by a vote of 417-3 on October 23. Now it's on to Conference Committee with the Senate to create a final version agreed to by both Houses of Congress.

The \$8.2 billion bill would authorize Corps projects including port, dam, flood protection and environmental projects and it would streamline project approvals. WRRDA deauthorizes \$12 billion worth of projects from past water infrastructure bills.

Most important to ASDSO members is the inclusion of language to continue the National Dam Safety Program that expired in September 2011. It directs FEMA to continue state dam safety program assistance grants, training, research and public awareness. WRRDA also establishes some elements of a levee safety program that would assist states in setting up regulatory programs on levees.

ASDSO NEWS

ASDSO's 2013 National Conference brought 900 people from across the country to Providence, Rhode Island in September. Representatives from New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, and the Bureau of Reclamation in Denver were invited to speak about their reclassification programs and the challenges that come with downstream development. OWRB Dam Safety Engineer Yohanes Sugeng discussed reclassification criteria, the transition process, end results, and future considerations specific to Oklahoma.

ASDSO's 2014 conference will be held in San Diego, California. Exhibitor registration is open now.

OWRB NEWS

In collaboration with a private engineering firm, OWRB Dam Safety staff is working to update existing Emergency Action Plans (EAP) by providing new breach inundation maps to all high hazard-potential dam owners. These maps are an integral part of an EAP because they detail the potential flood extent that could occur in the event of a dam failure and aid emergency managers in determining evacuation areas. By October 2014, OWRB will have complete breach inundation maps for one third of Oklahoma's state regulated high hazard dams.

OWRB Dam Safety staff continue to conduct public outreach through events including:

- OK Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) Annual Conference
- OK South Central Arc User Group (SCAUG) Annual Conference
- Governor's Water Conference
- Association of County Commissioners of OK (ACCO) Fall Conference

Issue #2 of the *Western Dam Engineering Technical Note* is available on the Forms/Publications page of the OWRB website.



ASDSO National Conference



OKSCAUG Annual Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 12, 2013 ASDSO Webinar: Identifying Hazards & Improving Public Safety at Low Head Dams
- Dec 5-6, 2013 OWRB talks about Dam Safety & Floodplain Management at the ACCO Safety Conference
- Dec 10, 2013 ASDSO Webinar: Internal Drainage Systems for Embankment Dams

2014: WHAT TO EXPECT



Hydrology for Dam Safety will provide participants with the necessary background to understand and perform hydrologic analysis for dam safety studies. Participants will gain an understanding of how to develop the probable maximum precipitation for a particular region, and model-based predictions of the probable maximum flood. Computer modeling tools, HEC-HMS and Vflo, will be used to demonstrate hydrologic principles and analysis techniques. The instructors are experienced in hydrologic applications used in dam safety studies and the field of engineering hydrology.

MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Baxter Vieux, PhD, P.E.

Dr. Vieux is an authority on hydrology with 30 plus years of experience. He had ten years of service with the USDA/NRCS in dam design and construction. His specialties are radar rainfall and distributed hydrologic modeling. As full professor at the University of Oklahoma he taught and performed research in hydrology. He is author of more than 100 publications, including co-author of the popular textbook, *Hydrology and Floodplain Analysis*, Fifth Edition. As a principal of Vieux & Associates, Inc. he leads development and application of hydrologic information services.

Dr. Jonathan Looper, PhD, P.E.

Dr. Looper is an expert in hydrologic/hydraulic modeling using GIS and radar rainfall. He has had broad experience in development of hydrologic/hydraulic modeling, setup, calibration, and validation of operational flood forecasting systems. Dr. Looper is experienced with HEC modeling tools including HEC-HMS, HEC-RAS, HEC-GeoRAS, and HEC-GeoHMS; use of ArcGIS and AutoCAD; and application of hydrologic/hydraulic applications software.



Over the next few months, OWRB will begin offering free inspections and breach inundation maps to low hazard dam owners in an effort to promote awareness about effective maintenance, safety guidelines, and the importance of monitoring downstream development. For owners of particularly small regulated structures that now fall outside OWRB jurisdictional criteria, participation in this unique program could result in the declassification and subsequent exemption of the dam from state program requirements. *Online registration coming soon.*



Late next spring OWRB will host two workshops that will give high hazard dam owners the opportunity to interact with dam safety staff and emergency management officials in order to develop current emergency action plans. *Drafting and Implementing an Emergency Action Plan* will be held in Oklahoma City on May 21, 2014, and in Tulsa on June 19, 2014. *Course information and registration materials will be mailed to all high hazard dam owners early next year. Online registration will be available as well.*