



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
72 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0072

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR
MG JOHN W. LIBBY
COMMISSIONER

PHONE: 207-624-4400/800-452-8735
FAX: 207-287-3180

ROBERT P. MCALEER
DIRECTOR

TO: Darryl Brown, State Planning Office
FR: MG John W. Libby, Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
Robert McAleer, Maine Emergency Management Agency
DATE: July 20, 2011
RE: State Planning Office Re-Organization

It is our recommendation that the Maine Floodplain Management Program (MFMP) and its staff be considered for re-assignment to the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) which is a bureau within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management (DVEM). Our rationale is detailed in the following bullets:

- MEMA's federal agency counterpart is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which also oversees the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The MFMP, in turn, manages the NFIP in Maine. There are several common mission areas between the two agencies, and it makes logical sense to co-locate the MFMP within MEMA to better coordinate efforts and streamline communications with FEMA.
- The Director of MEMA has existing relationships with FEMA Region 1 officials in Boston, including the Regional Administrator, and can provide assistance and "high cover" for MFMP staff and issues. Because of these relationships, the level of support MEMA can provide to the MFMP is considerable.
- MEMA is governed in statute by MRSA Title 37-B, Chapter 13 which assigns the responsibility for hazard mitigation to the Agency. The MFMP, at its heart, is a hazard mitigation program specifically designed to help communities reduce their risks from flooding.
- MEMA's State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) works directly with the MFMP staff on a weekly, if not daily, basis. MFMP staff participates in the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Review Committee, bringing their wealth of data and expertise on floodplain issues to the evaluation of Hazard Mitigation Grant applications before they are submitted to FEMA for consideration.
- Due to the limitations of having a single staff member for mitigation (the SHMO), MEMA has only been able to administer two of the five available Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs provided by FEMA. The incorporation of MFMP program staff may enable the State of Maine to offer one or more of the additional programs to communities to assist with disaster preparedness and recovery.
- The MFMP also provides data and expertise to MEMA's Dam Safety Program in the form of detailed floodplain maps which inform the Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) required of all Significant and High Hazard dams in Maine. This data is invaluable to creating inundation maps and in developing the notification and action plans for Dam EAPs.
- There is historical precedent for this organization of the program. The MFMP previously resided within MEMA until it was re-assigned to the Department of Economic and Community Development, and subsequently to the State Planning Office, during the McKernan Administration.
- MEMA currently has the space available in its office at the Central Maine Commerce Center to accommodate the existing three MFMP staff members. Co-locating with the SHMO and Dam Safety program staff will make communications and information sharing easier and more efficient.