NWS Business report

National Hydrology Program Managers Conference

In mid-May, the NWS held the 2015 National Hydrology Program Manager's meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. NWS personnel from the WFOs, RFCs, WPC, NWC, regions, and headquarters, and partners, stakeholders and academia, such as USGS, FEMA, USACE, and NYDEP attended the meeting, which took place from May 11 to 15, 2015. The meeting's theme was "Leveraging the National Water Center to transform NWS water resources services to build a Weather-Ready Nation". The meeting featured an "Open House" and an "e-Poster Session" at the National Water Center. Poster abstracts, posters, presentations, and notes from the meeting are available for download via the National Hydrology Program Managers Meeting

- https://sites.google.com/a/noaa.gov/nws-hydro-managers-meeting/?pli=1

National Water Center

On May 26, NOAA and partners officially opened the new National Water Center building on the campus of the University of Alabama on May 26, 2015. This center is poised to become an incubator for innovative breakthroughs in water prediction products and services. The center will be a hub of integrated water prediction and forecasting for the federal government. Scientists and forecasters at the 65,000 square-foot building will collaborate to provide the nation with enhanced water-related products and services to support water management decisions across the country. Bringing experts together in this new collaborative center provides an unprecedented opportunity to improve federal coordination in the water sector to address 21st century water resource challenges, such as water security, and analysis and prediction of hydrologic extremes, like droughts and floods. For pictures and video, please see:

- http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/20150526-national-water-center-opens-on-university-of-alabama-campus-in-tuscaloosa.html

The Summer Institute of the National Flood Interoperability Experiment.

The National Water Center and the University of Alabama hosted a seven week intensive Summer Institute. The Summer Institute took place June 1 through July 17, 2015 and included 44 graduate students from 19 universities. The program provided students an opportunity to participate in developing and modifying a prototype NFIE flow modeling and data testbed that is being created based on the NHDPlus geospatial dataset describing the nation's river network. In addition, the Summer Institute provided training on the following topics:

- Modern information services made available through web services
- Introduction to hydrometeorologic models such as WRF-Hydro and RAPID
- Distributed high performance computing environments
- Best practices in programming and application development

The students worked on many projects, among them river channel representation and flood inundation mapping. CUAHSI, NWS, and UA were the main pillars for this opportunity. Please see the CUAHSI website on NFIE for additional details https://www.cuahsi.org/NFIE.

FERC Business report

FERC staff participated in multiple flood related activities of some examples listed below:

- Emergency Action Plan functional exercises for dams, for example, on June 24 the Wissota Hydroelectric Project located on the Chippewa River in Chippewa County
- A conference call with Georgia Power to discuss ongoing flood frequency and Inflow Design Flood (IDF) studies for the Tallulah Falls Dam located on the Tallulah River in Rabun County, Georgia
- A Board of Consultants meeting to review the site specific Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) / Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) studies for the North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project located on the North Umpqua and North Fork Rogue Rivers in southern Oregon. The BOC is charged with reviewing the methodologies, assumptions and conclusions of the study and identifying any outstanding issues.