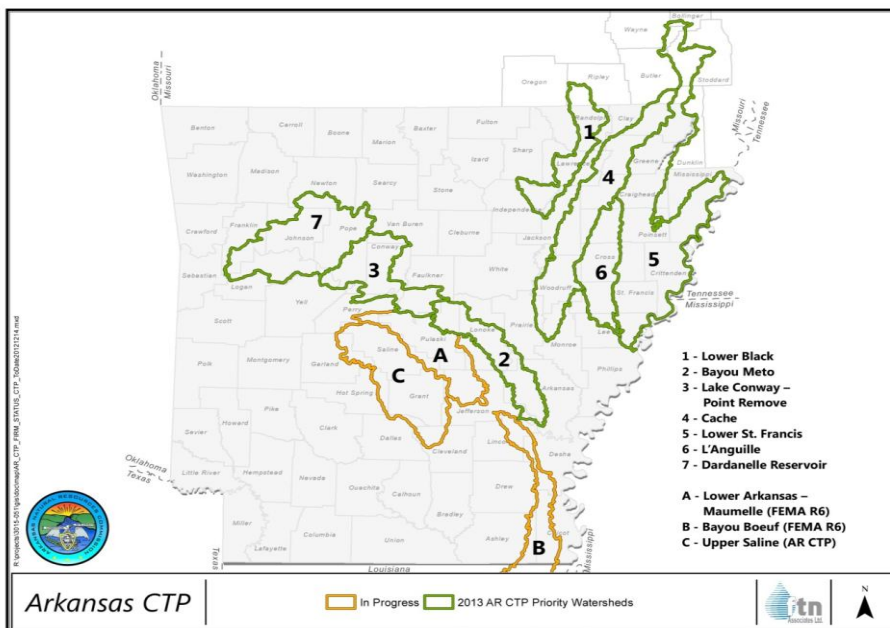


2nd Annual Arkansas State Partnership Meeting April 17, 2013 in Jacksonville, AR Meeting Summary

The meeting started with Introductions from the hosts, Mike Borengasser with ANRC, Linda Johnson and MaryBeth Breed with FTN Associates, and Stephen Noe and Alicia Williams with AMEC Environment and Infrastructure, and those in attendance. The companies / agencies represented included:

Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism	US Geological Survey (USGS)
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department (AHTD)	US Forest Service (Ouachita & Ozark)
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC)	US Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock
Metroplan	FTN Associates, Ltd
National Weather Service (NWS)	AMEC Earth & Infrastructure
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	

A presentation was delivered that provided an overview of the FEMA’s Risk MAP program, being managed through the Cooperating Technical Partnership between FEMA and ANRC. Some specific topics included the Risk MAP products, the program focus, the metrics FEMA must reach, and the need and desire to develop partnership across agencies (local, state, and federal). The ANRC discussed the current “Risk MAP projects” underway or nearing completion, Lower Arkansas Maumelle (central AR), Bayou Boeuf (SE AR and NE LA), and the Upper Saline Watershed (central AR) just getting started. The project watersheds that are proposed in the near future, depending on FEMA grant funds, include the following watersheds in NE AR: Lower Black, Cache, L’Anguille, and Lower St. Francis. The watersheds proposed in central and north central AR are: Bayou Meto, Lake Conway – Point Remove, and Dardanelle Reservoir. Please refer to the project map below.



A copy of the presentation and all of the poster exhibits will be posted on the following AGIO Website for review: http://www.gis.arkansas.gov/Programs/riskmap_res.html.

The meeting was then opened up to those attending to share with us what projects they are aware of and how or if there can be some collaboration with the proposed Risk MAP project plan. The following is a brief summary of those projects.

In northeast Arkansas in the vicinity of Pocahontas, several projects are proposed to evaluate the integrity of the Running Water Levee to identify areas of potential stress (i.e. sand boils) before / during flooding events. Due to the flooding that occurring during the spring of 2012 on the Black River and the damage to levees there are several projects proposed by the US Army Corp of Engineers and the USGS. A limitation in that part of the State is the lack of good topographic data. If other agencies find that elevation data is to be acquired in that part of the state it would benefit the advancement of some additional projects.

It was noted that the White River basin has been designated as a Blueways Waterway*, which is a new national designation that could be a source of future funding.

The USGS is finalizing a Flooding Report of the 2011 flooding that occurred throughout AR, but especially on the Lower White and Cache Rivers. This was a joint project with US Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, NRCS, and USGS.

USGS is hoping to update the Arkansas Regression equations, but this project is in its infancy and its future is not confirmed.

The US Forest Service (Ouachita / Ozark) sponsored a flood study for their recreation areas to identify and map the floodplains for several recurrence intervals in order to better define their campsite policy. The flood boundaries will be provided in a digital format and upon review and acceptance by the US Forest Service can be made available to other agencies. The initial dataset was received by the US Forest Service in late March and was being reviewed.

The NRCS continues to collect LiDAR data around the state and posts the acquisition area to the AGIO website. A copy of the most recent topographic data extents in AR are included on the poster included at the meeting. ANRC (through the CTP Program) will continue to coordinate with NRCS and FEMA to keep this information updated.

NRCS is also involved in a Dam Watch Program and dam breach analyses.

The National Weather Service is primarily involved in forecasting however they do collect high water marks that are generally available in a GIS data format. They are very interested in the US Forest Service flood study results to assist in forecasting and issuing warnings.

The AHTD is generally planning their projects several years in advance so accessing the projects to be let for bid in the coming year is generally able to be reviewed on their website. The AHTD is also very accommodating to data sharing whenever possible.

For additional information please contact Michael Borengasser, State CTP Coordinator at 501-682-3969, or michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov .

**On July 3, 2013 the National Blueways designation was removed from the White River due to local concerns from within the State.*