

Overview of Workshop

8:00 – 8:30

Registration & Coffee

8:30 – 8:45

Welcome & Overview: Charter and Purpose National Committee on Levee Safety

Craig P. Taffaro, Jr., St. Bernard Parish President

Eric Halpin, Vice-Chair, National Committee on Levee Safety

8:45 – 9:15

How Katrina Challenged Our Assumptions & Beliefs

9:15 – 10:15

Overview of the Recommendations of the National Levee Safety Program

Eric Halpin, Vice-Chair, National Levee Safety Committee

Mr. Halpin will present the principles, parameters and sideboards under which the National Committee on Levee Safety operated, the vision of the NCLS and an overview of the main recommendations. There will be time for Q & A.

10:15 – 10:30

Break

10:30 – 12:00

Critical Look at the Main Components of a National Levee Safety Program

Participants will be divided up into groups to discuss particular recommendations or clusters of recommendations. Facilitated discussion on the following general questions:

- Do you think this set of recommendations alone would reduce levee-related flood risk? If so, how significantly?
- Are there any fatal flaws in this set of recommendations?
- What are the most compelling aspects of this set of recommendations and why?
- How would individual and governmental (all levels) activities/behavior change?
- Do you have any ideas for how this set of recommendations could be improved?

**Group One: Governance and Participating State Program Model
(Recommendations 1, 14, 15 and 16)**

**Group Two: National Standards / Inventory and Inspection
(Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7)**

**Group Three: Aligning Existing Federal Programs to Incentivize Levee Safety
(Recommendations 17, 18, 19 and 20)**

**Group Four: Levee-Risk Awareness and Communications
(Recommendation 9 and parts of Recommendations 14, 19)**

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch

1:00 – 2:30

Round Two: Critical Look at the Main Components of a National Levee Safety Program

Breakout sessions are repeated. Participants move to another breakout to discuss the recommendations for a National Levee Safety Program (four groups outlined above).

2:30 – 2:45

Break

2:45 – 3:45

Looking at the Full Suite of NCLS Recommendations

Imagine a life where the full suite of recommendations has been in place for 20 years in every state. If you were to experience a storm similar to Katrina, describe how you think things would play out/be different/be the same/be worse. Key discussion questions:

- How do you predict individuals would act?
- How would you predict local government would act?
- How would you predict businesses would act?
- How would you predict emergency responders would act?
- Would you predict loss of life to be the same? More? Less? Why?
- Would you predict economic damages to be the same? More? Less? Why?
- Would you predict environmental impacts to be the same? More? Less? Why?

If only portions of the recommended National Levee Safety Program were implemented, how would that change your assumptions and the outcomes?

- Program without the National Levee Rehabilitation, Improvement, and Flood Mitigation Fund
- Program without Federal Alignment
- Program without requirements for risk-based flood insurance in leveed areas

3:45 – 4:00

Break

4:00 – 5:00

Implementation Advice

Plenary with discussion questions, such as:

- Are there any gaps in the existing set of recommendations?
- What do you think the biggest implementation challenges are going to be?
- If Congress was only able to fund a partial set of recommendations, which do you think are the most important? Why?
- If Congress was going to start funding a full program, which do you think are the most important to do first? Why?

5:00 – 5:30

Wrap Up & Closing