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Title: A Rural Levee Certification Story

Abstract:

This presentation will share practical experience gained by a rural Missouri levee district as they became aware of and acted upon levee certification and FEMA accreditation issues.

There will be an explanation about how knowledge was gained to manage the accreditation process and how this knowledge was used to inform stakeholders of their options and the implications of not certifying the levee.

High resolution aerial photos of the federally constructed 13 mile levee located at the confluence of the Missouri and Little Blue rivers will be used to create interest and provide attendees with orientation. The levee protects over 6,000 acres. Most of this acreage is prime farmland with the exception of a small unincorporated village. The orientation will serve as an introduction to the following topics which will be shared according to attendee interest as determined by a quick showing of hands to indicate affiliations. A predominately "levee sponsor" audience will receive a different emphasis as compared to a predominately regulatory audience.

The importance of local regulatory outreach or visa-versa
The benefits of addressing accreditation requirements early
The risk of not taking timely action
How one performs a cost justification study
Stakeholder communication
Useful levee district organization and procedures
Selecting an engineering firm
Contract structure
FEMA Provisionally Approved Levee (PAL) letter and response
When to start certification work
Conserving capital by strategically addressing project segments
Paying for the project
Question and Answer session

This is planned for solo presentation. However, an effort will be made to recruit a panel made up of the attorney, engineer, and county floodplain manager that worked on this project. There is no indication that the desired panel members will be available but I hope this opportunity will be attractive to them.