Flood Victims Action Council Resolution, 1972 November
& notes

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REMARKS--FLOOD VICTIMS ACTION COMMITTEE
HOST MOTEL   NOVEMBER 9, 1972

INTRODUCTION:

Thanks for invitation
Following closely your activities
Splendid leadership - Min, Bernie, Mrs. Bosch, et al.
Common cause

FLOODS ARE NOT A NEW EXPERIENCE:

1902 flood
1936 flood - no help - state, fed. etc.
    Local contributions
    Little organization
mother rebuilt. Tillie drove the truck. Bartering.

THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT CATASTROPHE. IT NEED NOT BE A CALAMITY IF WE STRIVE.

(a) Co-Insurance would have done much. It would not have been the full answer but it would have gone a long way.
(Congressional Debates)

(b) Much has been done, but in a disaster with these dimensions, there is no limit to what must be done

Four months have elapsed -- the next four are critical.

THE BATTLE FOR RECOVERY CANNOT BE FOUGHT ALONE. NOR CAN IT BE WON IF WE SEEK ONLY OUR OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS:

An old biblical proverb: If I am not for myself who will be for me. If I am only for myself, what am I.

If our interest is only to get out of the recovery what we can for ourselves - we will go down to defeat. Of what value is restoration of our home, if the rest of the community lies devastat ed -- factories, libraries, stores, churches and other homes...

Biloxi — The revisit -

THE GREAT OBSTACLE -- THE FRAGMENTED COMMUNITIES

(a) The duplication of Government
(b) The Taj Mahals
(c) The needless administrative expenses, etc.

WHAT MUST WE DO:

(a) Retroactive Disaster Insurance - if possible.

(b) Interim assistance -Governmental program

Inadequate funds. We need 20 million more. We must receive this from state.

(c) Bridges and Expressway --

We must press for completion of these projects.

(d) Fair dealing with the Government, the state and with each other.

(e) SBA loans

(f) - Flood Control

(g) Wise use of redevelopment funds - $500,000,000 Taj Mahals -- careless and reckless spending.

We must play a strong role in local government.

THE FUTURE

Our greatest problem now is to manage the recovery. Communities will now receive $500,000,000 in redevelopment funds, in addition to SBA loans and other grants. Will this money be used wisely and properly in the best interests of its people, or will it be used carelessly and recklessly? There are already signs of extravagance and callousness on the part of local Governments. Will we be so concerned with our personal problems that we will ignore those infinitely more important, problems affecting not only ourselves but everyone else? If this occurs, we will feel rejected and we will be defeated. We will fill our valley with hate and despair. If we are driven to truly help each other, to act intelligently, and deal fairly with each other, if we will look after the aged, the widows, and children, and demonstrate qualities of dependability, cooperativeness and integrity, we can reach new heights. We can find renewed life and happiness. The challenge is for all of us. It is for each of us -- for every man and woman in the valley. For as Walter Lippman once said:

> "Man is no mere automaton in his routine, but that in the dust of which he is made there is also fire, lighted now and then by great winds from the sky."

WHITE HOUSE	202	456-1414
Dan Flood		457-3544
Justine Cohen		782-3770
Mackin School (Roy Ogborn)		571-3261 (FTS)
George Sailus		825-5655
Harold Rose		823-0131
Elmer Klimchak		825-7311
Col Mauger	717	787-7210
Senator Murray		823-7109
Naval Reserve		457-6095
Mackin School		829-1341
Norman Lourie		457-7815 o r(2561/3544)
Senator Scott	202	225-6324 (Wash.)
	215	568-7911 (Phila. law off.)
	215	925-8181 Phila. Courths.)
Tom Kiley		825-4551
Bill Pak		823-7101
Senator Schweiker	202	225-4254
Gov. Scranton		343-1115
Gov. Shapp		787-2500

Flood Victim's
Action Council
Miss Mattheson
Chairman

655-6144

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, many flood victim families have incurred heavy indebtedness to pay for home rehabilitation which, combined with prior mortgages, approach and sometimes exceed the value of the homes, and

WHEREAS, Federal statutes prohibit loan forgiveness by SBA above the $5,000 amount, even in cases of extreme distress or death, and

WHEREAS, this situation, in comparison with homes destroyed by the flood which may receive pre-flood value, constitutes an injustice;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that this Council recommends and supports immediate Federal legislation which would authorize loan forgiveness by SBA in excess of $5,000 in cases of death, illness, instances of family distress, or where the refinanced SBA mortgage exceeds the value of the home, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council urges the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, failing Federal legislation, to provide an additional forgiveness grant above the $5,000 to borrowers when flood damage exceeds $5,000, and exclusive of personal property

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council supports, as a total solution to the problem, Federal Comprehensive Catastrophic Insurance retroactive to Agnes and directs that this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Frank Carlucci, President Nixon's personal representative, to Secretary William H. Wilcox, Chairman of the Governor's Council of State Agencies for Flood Recovery in the Wyoming Valley and to other appropriate Federal and State officials, including the area's representatives in Congress and the General Assembly.

Wyoming Valley Flood Victims Action Council
SHOWCASE THEATRE BUILDING
39 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
(Near Market Street)
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701

The regular weekly meeting of the Wyoming Valley Flood Victims Action Council will be held in the Dorian Room, Host Motel at 7:00 P.M. Thursday, November 9, 1972.

All members are asked to be present and to invite other flood victims to accompany them to this important meeting.

Federal Judge Max Rosenn, Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force, will be present and will speak on the grave problems facing the flood victims and the community as winter approaches.

Min Matheson, Chairman
Claire Hoggarth, Secretary

11-7-72
Trailer 213
Lakewood Gardens
655-6144

Dear Mat-

This resolution met with Mr. Connors favor. I gave him a copy for Mr. Carlucci.

Bill Wilcox thought our proposals had real merit.

I am hopeful that we can find a formula for an additional grant to homeowners and small business people who do need help to rebuild.

We are working on a citizens Lobby for the Catastrophe Bill.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASS'N OF WILKES-BARRE

1971

JANUARY

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Flood

IRS —
Grants are treated as are
insurance proceeds.
It offsets loss —
If received in another
yr, it is income."
If grant is

Sister Miriam Ruth ⟷ Mercy

JUDGE MAX ROSENN, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Progressive ~~pp~~ "exemption". —

Sen. Schweitz

— o —

$5000 x $10,000,

$ for ea. $1000 —

floor of $1000

— % ←

4% for each 1000

but in no case shall such per cent be less than

20%. —

House bill = $2500 + 1%

Senate = $5000 —

Income feature —

Personal favors —

Society —

Helene Wilcox
418 Madison Av.

Meyer Greenwald!—

Gerald Moore — Life Magazine

~~Will not attend. Mr~~

Miss Walbeck called. He will not attend. He was up last week. Received good attention

Waiver of NEPAs: –

Connella – Reg'l Engineer for F.H.A.A.

Secy ~~Volk~~ Volpe's:

Secy.
County Court House
Aug 31st –
meeting re: Transp.
Dr. Constantine
Washington

Sept 7th
Jack Conway

Bill Ruckelhaus – NEPA.
Andy Harrigan

Dr. ~~Jas.~~ Constantine: –
822-7113

Betty Schectz: –

30 day waiting period after delivery of statement to NEPA.
Eliminate 30 day waiting period.
D.O.T. supports it.
(1) Get to Ruckelshaus – urgency NEPA.

(2) EIS – on both ~~Bun~~ North St Bridge
& Cross Valley

Orrin Le Page, NEPA – 8/25/72
755-0770 Waiver of North St bridge –
755-7631 (Conway)
Waiver
Request exemption
56 FHWA –
Constantine

Steven D. Jellinek,
Senior Staff
Council of Environmental Control (A202)382-6854

Permanent — use its judg — if has significant,
go thru' regular process

North Valley Expressway —
Park land — Sec 4(f) —
requirement that public
parkland shall be taken —
Volpe's —

Frank Carlucci: —

Mine subsidence stabilized): —

1^{00} — Student Lounge, Kings College
(O.J.)

1^{45}_{pm} Press Conference – Mine subsidence.

Biloxi trip –

Joe [illegible]

Ed. Berger
Concord Mfg Co.
[illegible] Wayne Parkway
Camden, Ohio. 45311
(513) 452-1211

Kleppe:

S.B.A policy changed after flood
Re: escrow agt

Bank will escrow agts & make
disbursements. Now ~~they~~ S B A
is acting as escrow agts —
2 addtl forms —
much delay & extra work.
Banks will accelerate disbursing
hundreds of thousand documents —
50% disbursements.

Wilcox: -

Frank McGlynn

Positive

1) Cooperation w/FRTF by Governor et al
1) Prompt action on bridge & Expressway.

2) Leadership & direction by Secy/Wilcox as to: a) Consolidation of flood Victim problems.

3) Flood Recovery Fair Idea

4) Natl Guard.

5) Food Inspection Services.

6) designation of one pl & D. agcy (EDC).

7) Public relations & counseling to the people.

8) Short Term Business loans less red tape.

9) Secretary's Wilcox Office in WB.

10) Funds for Planning —

11) Mobile Home Sites & Rentals —

12) Personal visits by Governor, Lt Governor etc.

13) Medical Health Services —

Negative

Speed Cleanup Crews

No disaster plan or Coord

Little ~~no~~ money — for IAP or otherwise.

Nothing effective as to police services despite LEAA funds.

Reduction of Unemployment

Curbing labor & wage abuses.

No tax relief from income tax.

More adequate funds for IAP.

No imagination relief program.

{ Al Heineman — Dept of Com. Affairs
Reports of Advisory Commission
Rod Terry — D/Com. Affairs.

Positive   Negative

14) Consumer protection –

15) Education

16) Evacuation from Nursing homes & Hospitals

Flood

Bernard Gallagher
Ed Hoyne, City Inspector
Ed Corbett, City Mgr.
Con Sowodske, Mayor.
Major Cook
George Grace

1) B 103 contractors will not bid

2) Permits for each home.

3) 1 Fed inspects

(4) New standards in bldg material.

Gallagher:

a) Waiving licenses –
b) We cannot waive permits. It must be a Council matter.
c) Xerox copy of all award & scopes to City.
d) City inspection required before Electric power is only Substituted.

Col McElhenny: – Working in Pa, other states & WB City is the only locale where we have trouble.

Contractors fired?
Citations issued?

Gallagher:- Will not advise waiver of inspections.
Col. McElhenny: We do not pay until Corps inspects.

Corbett: Only City Council can waive.

① Licensing –
(2) Permit costs –
(3) Permits –
Mini-Repr Sign:–

Council mtg @ 10^{00} AM.
9^{00} AM – mtg w/Council –

Flood Victims Action Council

1936 Flood — and no assistance.

Mary Jo Sternberger - 3 times rebuilt

Re-examine bldg codes -

Sanitary Water Authority

Urban Renewal - Key to Recovery -
Don't overlook + let everything slip by
while you fight for insurance.

Cal Carlucci   Ed.   Flood

(1) P 90-10 problem w/Carlucci, most of funding for flood services comes out SRS funding.

90% of people receiving public assistance must be currently receiving assistance. If this be literally followed, the aging program, homemaker, juvenile delinquents would be severely limited.

of universal eligibility

on 6/30/72, ~~Aging~~ & Leg. & Prog. Counties were given waivers of 90-10. We need extension of the waivers from Carlucci. Elements in HEW go along and see the need.

(2) Also approval for construction dollars. Get federal approval for pkg so as to force Governor to move along.

1) Served 5000 children during flood w/o regard to eligibility. Based on social situation at the moment.

2) Aging program — limited incomes.
3) Day Care — limited needs.

4) & people lacking General assistance program down —

5) 3 yr. demonstration project — Based on sound administration

Flood

John Walker,
123 Phila av
Tunkhannock—

Tel # 836-2304 - H.
829-3641 - Of
(~~[illegible]~~) - 825-6404 FTS.
ext. 404

Wharton School — 1932
age — 60
20 yrs Senior auditor for Bendix Aviation
~~References~~;
W/SBA — since July 7/72..
acting Ass't Branch Mgr.

Recommended by Keith Caudle,
Present Branch Mgr.

References:—
Albert Slocum —
Roy Gardner —

Talked to Jos McDade =
" Don Flood =

Talk to Kleppe !—

William Connor
Executive Assistant
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Room 1014, Holy Cross Hall
Kings College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701
Tel: (717) 823-5192

Francis X. Carney
Federal Coordinating Officer
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Room 911, Holy Cross Hall
Kings College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701
Tel: (717) 825-6811 x541

Howard Grossman
Executive Director
Economic Development Council of
Northeastern Pennsylvania
P. O. Box 777
Avoca, Pennsylvania 18641
Tel: (717) 457-7456

Leon Case
Executive Director
Redevelopment Authority of the
City of Wilkes-Barre
1000 First National Bank Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701
Tel: (717) 822-2133

Raymond Lowery
Borough Administrator
Kingston Borough Hall
500 Wyoming Avenue
Kingston, Pennsylvania 18704
Tel: (717) 288-4576

Honorable Max Rosenn
Chairman
Flood Recovery Task Force
Room 229, Federal Building
197 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701
Tel: (717) 825-6811

Mrs. Min Matheson, Chairman
Flood Victim's Action Council
Lakewood Gardens Mobile Home Site
Inkerman, Pennsylvania 18640
Tel: (717) 655-6144