

Strategies for Successful Nonstructural Planning  
8 September 2022  
Q&A Session

*During this webinar, presenters Rachel Williams (Omaha District planner and project manager) and Danielle Tommaso (New York District plan formulator) of the National Nonstructural Committee (NNC) shared strategies to help teams succeed in nonstructural planning. The presenters shared an overview of the latest nonstructural hot topics, important guidance, and best practices for planning success.*



*Additional Resources:*

- *More information on nonstructural resources, including a Q&A forum, guidance, Best Practice Guides, and example study products can be found on the [Nonstructural Working Group \(NWG\) SharePoint](#).*
- *The [Nonstructural Matrix](#) referenced during this presentation can also be found on the NWG SharePoint.*
- *For those who would like to join the Nonstructural Working Group, please contact Rachel Williams at (Rachel C Williams in Outlook)*

*This summary of the Question / Answer session of the webinar is not a transcription; questions and responses have been edited and reordered for clarity.*

### **Nonstructural Plan Formulation Requirements**

**Is a non-federal sponsor's unwillingness to use eminent domain a reason to avoid looking into relocations and buyouts? Are nonstructural plans still considered implementable if the non-federal sponsor is unwilling to use eminent domain?**

A non-federal sponsor's willingness to enforce eminent domain does not limit the formulation of alternative plans or the selection of the National Economic Development (NED) plan. Study teams need to consider all available options for flood risk management (FRM) and CSR, including acquisition. Acquisition may be considered and screened out if not economically feasible or if acquisition does not have as high net benefits as another measure (e.g., elevation, floodproofing, structural approaches).

A non-federal sponsor's unwillingness to use eminent domain could indicate a need to recommend a locally preferred plan (LPP), but it does not eliminate a plan that includes a requirement to use eminent domain from consideration as the NED plan.

**Does the nonstructural plan required in the final array of alternatives have to consist entirely of nonstructural measures?**

According to the [Comprehensive Benefits FAQs issues by Headquarters in July 2022](#), alternatives may consist of combinations of nonstructural and structural measures. Per [Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100 \(Planning Guidance Notebook\)](#), nonstructural measures must be given equal consideration as structural measures. If the study team believes that a plan consisting of structural and nonstructural alternatives should be recommended instead of an entirely nonstructural only plan, the recommendation and supporting analysis must be discussed with the Vertical Team on a case-by-case basis.

**How does the NNC fit with Headquarters policy? Are NNC products reviewed by Office of Counsel, Senior Policy Advisors, the Office of Water Project Review, or the Planning Centers of Expertise before being uploaded to the NNC SharePoint? Do study teams need approval from Headquarters to utilize the tools and resources available on NNC's SharePoint?**

The NNC does not publish policy. However, the NNC does have Headquarters review and vet question and answer documents published by the NNC to ensure accurate and helpful information that is supported by leadership. It is recommended that study teams verify NNC document use with their Vertical Team during vertical teaming meetings to ensure that everyone is in alignment and there are no concerns about the use of any particular tool or resource pulled from the NNC SharePoint page.

### **Nonstructural Resources**

**Does the NNC ever connect with the Silver Jackets (either in person or through webinars) to help them understand nonstructural better?**

Yes. The NNC can give presentations, workshops, and provide project support. There are [recorded trainings](#) on the NWG SharePoint site, if you need further assistance please reach out to anyone on the NNC or email [nnc@usace.army.mil](mailto:nnc@usace.army.mil).

**Does the NNC anticipate populating the Nonstructural Project Catalog on the NWG SharePoint site? Specifically, will there be any examples of FRM projects using nonstructural measures or examples where the flood risk is coming from alluvial fan flooding in an urban area?**

Rachel is planning to take on the Nonstructural Project Catalog as the next NWG project. If study teams have any nonstructural projects that have completed feasibility or are in the design/construction phase, please reach out to her with details at (Rachel C Williams in Outlook).