

THE INSIDER



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CBOR Fall Retreat Held in New ASFPM Office

The [Certification Board of Regents \(CBOR\)](#) met in ASFPM's new permanent headquarters in Madison for their fall meeting. The ten regents make up representations from chapters, local government, state government, academia, private sector, at-large and ASFPM. With three Federal liaisons and the CBOR Program Coordinator, the group rounds out to 14 participants who manage the national program.

Everyone was pleased to welcome Janelle Massiatte, of the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, to participate in the week's meetings. EMI is FEMA's training arm and it was a



The Certification Board of Regents meeting in ASFPM headquarters new office space in Madison, Wisconsin in November.

pleasure to brainstorm and collaborate on more ways to make training accessible to the nation's floodplain managers and increase our mutual outreach!

Foremost on the list for the regents for the fall meeting was checking in on the four pillars of their 2023 Strategic Plan: Exam/Training, Marketing the CFM brand, Partnerships and Recruitment. Quite a bit of time was spent strategizing about ways to reward CFMs, overall, and also how to promote the certification at the [ASFPM Conference](#) coming up in Ft. Worth in June. The regents also accepted the Exam Workgroup Report, from their summer analysis with exam changes, and the new exam will roll out on January 1, 2020. If you are interested in becoming a CFM, the new [CFM Study Guide](#) is available online.

Texas Voters Support a New Approach to Flood Management in November 2019 Election

Written by Jessica Baker, PE, CFM, PMP, Executive Vice President, Halff Associates, Inc. and Wes Birdwell, PE, CFM, Deputy Executive Director, Texas Floodplain Management Association

A new era of flood management has begun in the Lone Star State. On November 5, 2019, Texas' voters approved Proposition 8 by a 75% majority, putting a public "stamp-of-approval" on landmark legislation recently passed by the Texas Legislature. The 86th state legislature designed and funded comprehensive flood mitigation planning to be managed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Senate Bill (SB) 7 established state funds to assist with the local cost share of Harvey recovery, floodplain management, and flood mitigation projects, including federal projects. Proposition 8 amended the Texas Constitution to establish a permanent Flood Infrastructure Fund. SB-7's twin bill, SB-8, will develop Texas' first statewide flood plan and add new technical and planning employees.

Texas' first State Flood Plan will be completed by 2024, then be subsequently updated every five years. TWDB's planning approach will be watershed based developing new mapping and new planning then an updated list of new mitigation projects, both structural and non-structural. Each of Texas' major river basins will begin a locally driven regional planning process next summer and develop their respective plan by September 2023. TWDB will then have a year to merge the regional watershed plans into the first comprehensive statewide Flood Plan and present it to the Texas Legislature in September 2024.

The Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) has worked closely with the Texas Legislature to strengthen and fund TWDB's flood programs. Recent major floods in Texas, beginning in 2013 and Hurricane Harvey in 2017 (\$125B flood damages), set the stage for the new approach to flood risk management in Texas. TFMA will work closely with each regional flood planning group and the TWDB to encourage the adoption of higher standards into each regional plan, and into the final statewide plan in 2024. There is a lot of work to do, but TWDB and TFMA understand that the plan will be updated and improved every 5 years and resolve to work together to build a flood resilient Texas over the next generation.

Essential Part of CBRS Overturned

Department of Interior Secretary Bernhardt announced that he is overturning a 25-year long policy that protected areas included in the Coastal Barrier Resources System from sand mining operations. The announcement, made in a letter to Rep. Van Drew (D-NJ), opens the door for coastal towns and cities to access CBRS areas for sand to use in beach renourishment operations.

As many recall, federal funds cannot be spent on areas included in the Coastal Barrier Resources System. By preventing federal expenditures, the System protects undeveloped beaches, islands, wetlands and coastal waters from federal taxpayer-funded development. A March 2019 report found that CBRS has saved more than \$10 billion in avoided federal expenditures. Without federal development dollars, most of the areas included in the System have remained undeveloped, providing important habitat for birds and other wildlife and fisheries. The undeveloped areas also helped buffer storm impacts for upland communities. Barrier islands are mother nature's way of protecting mainland shore areas from the direct impact of devastating coastal storms.

Sec. Bernhardt just overturned an essential part of the CBRS. In 1994, the Department of Interior's Assistant Solicitor issued an opinion that said CBRS units for cannot be dredged for sand to be used outside of the System, and since that 1994 opinion, that's the position that DOI has consistently taken, even when challenged by the Army Corps of Engineers, beach towns, and Members of Congress. DOI didn't budge from that opinion. However, Sec. Bernhardt announced this week that he is nullifying the long-held solicitor's opinion and opening up the CBRS to sand mining for sand to be used outside of the System. It places islands, beaches and inlets included in the CBRS at direct risk to sand mining operations for use in nearby developed communities.

ASFPM is concerned with this decision and will be discussing this matter with our partner organizations. If our members have comments on this issue, we would like to hear from you.

IF SMA Lunch & Learn Webinar

The Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management Association, the 31st Chapter of ASFPM, hosted a Lunch & Learn Webinar on Wednesday, November 13. ASFPM policy team members, David Conrad and Meg Galloway provided information on the key legislative and policy work of the current, 116th Congressional session. After touching on the progress, or lack of progress on the federal budget, the focus turned to congressional activity associated with the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program which has had numerous short term extensions since 2017. Both the House and Senate currently have bills under consideration (HR 3167, HR 3111 and S 2187) with many similarities but some key differences, especially in the area of funding authorizations for floodplain mapping and CAP-SSSE, flood insurance program debt forgiveness, the programmatic treatment of agricultural buildings and changes to mapping requirements. Activity related to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill, which authorizes Corps of Engineers projects and programs, included ASFPM providing information on the

importance of promoting resiliency concepts and reduce program barriers and bias towards nonstructural, natural infrastructure and nature based approaches.

Other key pieces of legislation of importance to many floodplain professionals touched on during the webinar included the implementation of the Disaster Reform and Recovery Act (DRRA) which positively impacts floodplain management and hazard mitigation programs and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). BRIC is the replacement for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program which will now be a formula funded program. FEMA is working on draft guidance and plans to start an application process next year. Legislation related to climate change, disaster recovery and mitigation were also noted. The talk also touched on some non-legislative Association efforts of interest to IFSMA members including the National Flood Barrier Testing & Certification Program, the joint effort with the American Planning Association to update PAS 584 which recommends over 60 standards for subdivisions that can be used to maximize flood loss reduction, and the availability of No Adverse Impact How-To Guides.

ASFPM was pleased to be able to participate in the IFSMA webinar series. ASFPM members can also receive monthly updates on current legislative and policy issues at the monthly National Policy Briefing webinar.

David Conrad serves as a senior water resources advisor for ASFPM in Washington DC. Meg Galloway is the newest member of the ASFMP policy team, recently starting as a senior policy advisor.

CFM Corner—Where your Career and Practice Meet

Your CFM is the cornerstone of your success

What is your answer when people ask “What is a floodplain manager”? If your elevator speech includes your CFM as part of your explanation, count yourself among an elite cadre of professionals. This month, grab one colleague and see if you can coach them to become a CFM. It will not only help your career, but also theirs!



It's easier than ever to maintain your CFM. We have changed the CEC policy, [see guidance](#), including online learning, and eliminated some of the confusing rules. While we accept more CECs than before, we still need you to justify why something you turn in is floodplain management related. Remember you need 16 CECs over two years will assure that you have fulfilled your requirements. Contact us at cfm@floods.org with any questions or to work with you.

CFM Renewal 1/31/2020

ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM renewal January 31, 2020 will receive a letter and renewal form via “snail” mail this month. If you do not receive your information in the mail by December 1, 2019, please contact cfm@floods.org to ensure your CFM does not lapse. Please note that your address of record is your principal home address.



FEMA News You Can Use

FEMA Defers the Implementation of Risk Rating 2.0

Earlier this year, FEMA announced Risk Rating 2.0 as an initiative to deliver flood insurance rates that people trust, value, and are less complex to navigate. While the agency initially announced that new rates for all single-family homes would go into effect nationwide on October 1, 2020, implementation has been delayed. [Read more here.](#)

Other News You Can Use

U.S. announces \$30 million to bolster coasts from flooding, rising seas

The U.S. government's oceans and waterways agency will provide \$30 million to improve coastal resilience, officials said, aiming to reduce the impacts of worsening storms, flooding and rising seas in nearly half of U.S. states. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that grants through the program are designed to restore or expand coastal wetlands, dunes, reefs, mangroves and barrier islands that are key to coastal protection. [Read the full article by Reuters.](#)

Mitigation Matters: Policy Solutions to Reduce Local Flood Risk

Devastating floods are on the rise. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have cost the United States more than \$845 billion in damage to homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The expense of adapting to more frequent and severe storms is projected to increase over the next several decades, placing a premium on the need to take action now to reduce flood impacts in the future.

Research from the National Institute of Building Sciences shows that every dollar spent on risk reduction measures—such as creating green space to help absorb floodwaters, buying out residents in at-risk areas who want to move out of harm's way, and adopting the most up-to-date building codes and standards—saves an average of \$6 in disaster costs. Efforts to take advantage of this return on investment are beginning to gain traction at all levels of government.

At the national level, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act enacted in 2018 dedicated a significant percentage of disaster-related spending toward helping communities prepare before storms strike. Congress is considering going further, with proposals that would provide communities with funds or incentives to reduce their risk of flooding. And the Federal Emergency Management Agency recently launched the Mitigation Investment Moonshot, which has a goal of quadrupling mitigation spending by federal, state, local, and tribal governments; corporations; nonprofits; and private foundations by 2022.

Many states and localities are also being proactive. Governors from South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, among others, have recently tasked officials in their administrations with improving natural disaster planning with local governments and recommending actions to minimize future flood impacts. Elected officials in other states are exploring effective ways to fund flood mitigation measures.

Noting the recent increase in such efforts, The Pew Charitable Trusts—in partnership with Dewberry—examined policies across the country and identified 13 states or cities that have adopted measures resulting in effective flood mitigation activities. Detailed in this set of 13 briefs, the policies fall into three categories: 1) using existing funds for mitigation by redirecting revenue and spending, 2) creating revenue sources for mitigation, and 3) establishing smarter regulations to reduce flood risk.

[Read the full report](#) from Pew Trusts.

Winter Outlook: Warmer than average for many, wetter in the North

Warmer-than-average temperatures are forecast for much of the U.S. this winter according to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Although below-average temperatures are not favored, cold weather is anticipated and some areas could still experience a colder-than-average winter. Wetter-than-average weather is most likely across the Northern Tier of the U.S. during winter, which extends from December through February. [Read more here.](#)

Job Corner

Looking for a job? Looking for someone to fill a position at your company or agency? Please check out available career opportunities on ASFPM's website. **It's free**, whether you're looking at [job postings](#), or an employer wanting to [post an opening](#)!

ASFPM Upcoming Webinar Opportunities

[Check the ASFPM Webinars Schedule Regularly for Upcoming Events.](#)

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a nationwide listing of floodplain management-related training opportunities, visit [ASFPM Online Event Calendar](#).

Looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? Check out our event calendar with LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2019! Search the calendar by state, or use the category drop-down menu to search by event category. The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses, which are listed with their FEMA course number and are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

Washington Legislative Report

Meredith R. Inderfurth, ASFPM Washington Liaison and David Conrad, ASFPM Water Resources Senior Advisor



Lots Going On as Congressional Session Is Ending

There are many balls in the air as the Congress moves toward adjournment of the first session of the 116th Congress next month.

Particularly in the House of Representatives, committees are churning out bills they'd like to get to the Floor for a vote.

The Senate continues to push through as many nominations and judgeships as possible.

The current Continuing Resolution (CR) funding the entire government will expire on December 20, so some further action on appropriations will have to happen by then. A number of hearings are being held to tee up further activity in the second session during 2020. The House and Senate Appropriations Chairs have just reached agreement on allocations to subcommittees for their appropriations ceilings so work has begun in earnest to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of the twelve regular appropriations bills.

During the week of November 18, ASFPM was requested to testify at two hearings in House committees. One was gathering ideas and issues for the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and the other was to provide ideas and recommendations to the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. That same week, the House passed legislation to codify (permanently authorize) the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief program at HUD (CDBG-DR).

During December, the dominant focus will be on appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020 - both at the committee level and on the House and Senate floors. Additionally, much of the attention will be on the hearings to be held by the House Judiciary Committee to explore whether or not to develop articles of impeachment. The first Judiciary hearing is now scheduled for December 4 and the Committee apparently intends to wrap up its work before the Congress adjourns. Adjournment is now set for December 20.

Appropriations

Of the twelve regular annual appropriations bills, the House has passed ten of its bills and the Senate has passed four of its bills. None of the bills, however, have passed both the House and Senate.

It has not been possible to move those bills because the House and Senate committees were operating under different budget ceiling assumptions. This made it impossible to negotiate agreed upon numbers for final versions of the bills. Over the weekend of November 23-24, the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees were able to come to agreement on the budget ceiling allocations for all twelve subcommittees. As of Monday, November 25, committee members and staff have jumped into negotiations on the final details of individual appropriations bills. Committee leadership has expressed the intention and hope that many of the bills can see final passage before December 20. It's likely that bills will either be folded into an omnibus bill or several "mini-busses."

The Homeland Security bill, which provides funds for FEMA, will continue to be a problem because of differences over funding for the Wall between the US and Mexico. The Senate HS bill provides the \$5 billion requested by the White House and the House bill does not. Prospects are much brighter for the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, which funds the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, and the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill, which funds EPA, USGS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NFIP Reauthorization and Reform?

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is now operating under its 14th short-term authorization extension in a row. It appears very likely that a 15th short-term extension will be necessary to keep the program authorized past its current expiration date of December 20.

The House Financial Services Committee unanimously reported out its reauthorization and reform bills early this past summer (H.R. 3167 and H.R. 3111). [H.R. 3167](#) is the primary bill and H.R. 3111 focuses on claims and appeals. The Senate Banking Committee has taken no action to move a bill forward. A comprehensive Senate NFIP reauthorization and reform bill, S.2187, has been introduced by a bipartisan group of Senators led by Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and John N. Kennedy (R-LA), and a nearly identical bill was introduced in the House, H.R. 3872, led by Reps. Frank Pallone, D-NJ. Some negotiations are now underway regarding these bills within the House Financial Services Committee to develop amendments in order to possibly bring a bill with support to the House Floor in December. The Senate Banking Committee has taken no action to develop an official Committee bill or to consider the Menendez-Kennedy bill.

When the Congress reconvenes for the second session in January, bills from the first session can continue to be worked on. It is highly likely that efforts to develop a full reauthorization and reform bill will continue in 2020. Among the provisions in S. 2187 and H.R. 3872 is a 9% cap on annual premium increases. This was included as a result of Congressional concerns about possible dramatic premium increases for some under FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 initiative. That rollout has now been delayed for another year. It is unclear at this point what, if any, effect that will have on pressure to move a reform bill.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Hearing

On Tuesday, November 19, the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee held a hearing titled, "Concepts for the Next Water Resources Development Act – Promoting Resiliency of our Nation's Water Resources Infrastructure." Interestingly, the hearing was aimed at considering the role of resiliency in assessing and managing the Army Corps of Engineers' infrastructure.

ASFPM was asked to testify and ASFPM's Chair **Ricardo Pineda** presented wide ranging testimony on behalf of the Association, with a raft of flood policy-related ideas for consideration in the next WRDA legislation. Congressional public works committees – the House T&I and Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committees continue to try to produce a Corps of Engineers program authorization and projects bill in each two-year Congress, which they've recently accomplished in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

It remains to be seen whether this can actually be completed in the midst of such a difficult national political maelstrom given the upcoming election year, but it may have as good or maybe even a better chance of coming together in 2020 than some other infrastructure areas like surface transportation.

The Senate EPW committee seems to be moving on a slightly faster track, having called for project nominations and policy ideas from Senators in early November, but House Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) observed we've had and continue to experience an awful lot of extreme weather events across the nation requiring new focus and attention, and the integrity of our current water infrastructure continues to be of much concern, but we also need to consider greater use of nature-based, non-structural type solutions to address problems.

In the hearing, ASFPM Chair Pineda emphasized four broad areas especially in his oral and written testimony: (1) strategic direction of the Corps' program to place a much greater emphasis on providing technical assistance to states, communities, and tribes to assess and address flood and other water resource problems and to encourage collaborative approaches such as through the Corps' FPMS, PAS, Silver Jackets and/or potentially a new such expanded authority. He urged these authorities should be active elements of Corps water resources assistance in every Corps district, not just a few, and the authorities should each be funded at least at \$50 million annually. He added cost-sharing and other reforms should better incentivize the use of non-structural and natural infrastructure solutions in flood risk management plans. (2) Ricardo emphasized improvements in levee and dam risk management, including full implementation of the National Levee Safety program and making publicly available the identification of dam and levee-failure inundation and residual-risk areas. (3) He emphasized reforms of the Corps' P.L. 84-99 levee and hurricane and storm damage disaster assistance programs, especially to give greater authority to the Corps to identify and consider system-wide modifications or levee realignments and setbacks,



From L-R: Dr. Gerry E. Galloway, University of Maryland; Rear Admiral Ann Phillips, Special Assistant on Coastal Adaptation and Protection to VA Governor Ralph Northam; Ricardo Pineda, ASFPM Board Chair; Dr. Louis Gritz, FM Global Research; Melissa Samet, National Wildlife Federation; Julie Ufner, National Waterways Conference.

where needed, and to consider where natural infrastructure and nature-based designs could improve public safety and provide other public and environmental benefits, and where levee damages, bridge restrictions, and flood project repairs show histories of repetitive repair costs that can be alleviated through approaches such as "making room for rivers." Ricardo specifically iterated the need for such comprehensive project review and study authority for the Missouri River comprehensive flood management system in the wake of massive 2019 flooding. (4) Ricardo emphasized the continuing need to implement an updated Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines, which more accurately values environmental and other benefits of floodplain management and non-structural approaches to flood risk management, reduction, and avoidance.

Other key testimony was provided by engineering professor **Dr. Gerry E. Galloway** of the University of Maryland, **Rear Admiral Ann Philips**, Special Assistant on Coastal Adaptation and Protection to VA Governor Ralph Northam, **Dr. Louis Gritz** of FM Global Research, **Melissa Samet** of the National Wildlife Federation, and **Julie Ufner**, of the National Waterways Conference.

A [video of the hearing](#) can be viewed at the House T&I Committee [website](#). Pineda's testimony begins around minute 41.

Climate Crisis hearing

On Wednesday, November 20, the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, held a hearing entitled: "Creating a Climate Resilient America: Reducing Risks and Costs". ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis testified along with former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and former Obama Administration National Security Council staff for natural hazards, Alice Hill.

Chad's testimony included some forty ideas and recommendations for the committee's consideration. He focused on three major areas needing improvement: (1) data analysis and information, (2) Federal agency programs and policies and (3) Adaptation and hazard mitigation.

He documented the dramatically increasing costs of flood losses – due especially to sea level rise and more intense storms. He suggested areas for improved data collection and urged adequate funding for FEMA's flood mapping program as well as the USGS 3DEP elevation data collection. His testimony urged public availability of flood risk data including dam and levee inundation maps as well as including future conditions projections. The testimony suggested placing priority on buyouts and relocation and pairing that with provision of affordable housing for low and moderate income persons. Incentivizing mitigation through a tax credit and developing national hazard resilience standards to serve as a condition for federal funding and establishing a national flood risk disclosure law were among the many recommendations.

He also suggested codifying permanent authority for the CDBG-DR program, updating the Unified National Program for Flood Risk Management. For the Army Corps of Engineers, he urged development of federal planning principles for a National Economic Resilience and Sustainability standard instead of the current National Economic Development standard (NED).



Chad Berginnis, Exec. Director, ASFPM, testifying before House Select Committee on Climate Crisis along with Hon. Alice C. Hill, Senior Fellow for Climate Change Policy, Council on Foreign Relations, and former Sp. Asst. to President Obama / Sr. Dir. for Resilience Policy on National Security Council staff; and Hon. W. Craig Fugate, former FEMA Administrator FEMA, currently providing senior-level advice and consulting on disaster management and resilience policy.

Chad's testimony is [available on YouTube](#). It incorporated many of the ideas submitted by ASFPM members in response to the Request for Information (RFI) from the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Written transcripts of the testimony can be found on the [committee's website](#).

Other Active Legislation

H.R. 3702 and S. 2301

Legislation to codify the CDBG-DR program at HUD. H.R. 3702 passed in the House on 10/10/19. A slightly different version has been introduced in the Senate. Indications are that the Senate Banking Committee will take up the bills early in the next session.

H.R. 2189 and S. 1069

Legislation to codify NOAA's Digital Coast project. ASFPM is an active member of the Digital Coast Partnership. The bills have both been favorably reported out of committee and are ready for House and Senate floor consideration.

H.R. 4347

Known as the PREPARE Act, this is legislation to establish a new interagency body to promote consideration of extreme weather in all federal programs.

H.R. 3779

The Resilience Revolving Loan Fund Act would establish an option of state revolving loan fund for hazard mitigation projects.

H.R. 3462 and S. 1958

The Shelter Act would authorize a tax credit for 25% of qualifying mitigation expenses up to an annual limit of \$5,000.

Other Actions

CBRA Area Sand Mining

Interior Secretary Bernhardt announced on November 4 that he was overturning a 25-year-long policy that protected undeveloped coastal areas in the Coastal Barrier Resources System from federally-funded sand mining operations. ASFPM is joining with many other organizations in signing on to a letter objecting to this policy change.

FEMA Flood Map funding

ASFPM and the National Association of Realtors are collecting organization sign-ons from the informal Flood Map Coalition urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund FEMA flood mapping at the same \$263 million level as FY19 and at the same level as in the FY20 House Appropriations bill.

All bills referenced [can be found here](#) and typing in the bill number or title.

Have a story you'd like to share with ASFPM newsletter readers? Email ASFPM Communications at editor@floods.org.

ASFPM Editorial Guidelines: ASFPM accepts and welcomes articles from our members and partners. "The Insider" and "News & Views" have a style format, and if necessary, we reserve the right to edit submitted articles for space, grammar, punctuation, spelling, potential libel and clarity. If we make substantive changes, we will email the article back to you for your approval before using. We encourage you to include art with your article in the form of photos, illustrations, charts and graphs. Please include a description of the art, along with the full name of who created the art. If the art is not yours originally, you must include expressed, written consent granting ASFPM permission to use the art in our publications.



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