

# THE INSIDER

A Publication  
for Members

January  
2008

## The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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### Deputy Executive Director's Report George Riedel, CFM

Another year has passed and 2007 was a very busy one for the Association, both on national policy and internally. I hope your 2007 was successful and that 2008 will be a safe, happy, and healthy year for all of you.

It is now approaching three years since the catastrophic events of Hurricane Katrina. The federal government has worked hard to assist communities and states in their recovery from this major event. Huge amounts of federal tax dollars have been provided to affected areas to aid in recovery. However, almost no change has been made in the national flood risk and water resources policies—reform of the National Flood Insurance program, for example—that contribute to the recurrence of such events and that also affect all of our members in their daily jobs.

There were some national policy victories last year, particularly in the passage of the Water Resources Development Act. This legislation covers Corps of Engineers programs, and the 2008 version created a National Levee Safety Program. This is an important step in dealing with levee safety, maintenance, and construction; management of residual risk areas; risk communication; and the Corps' flood policies.

ASFPM will continue to work with decision makers in Washington, D.C., in 2008 to promote improvements to national policies and programs to make them more effective at reducing the catastrophic consequences of the next major flood or hurricane.

The Association had a busy and productive 2007 internally as well, undertaking two key activities. The first was the second Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum, held in Washington, D.C., in November. This event brought together 90 experts in various aspects of floodplain management, economics, water resources, and other related fields to discuss the ways in which humans will need to be adjusting to floods in the year 2050. A final report of the Forum's discussion, including research and policy needs and an action agenda, is under development and will be released this spring.

#### **DON'T FORGET: IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2008 ASFPM MEMBERSHIP!!**

Don't risk losing your valuable member benefits – send your renewal form and payment to the ASFPM office as soon as possible so you don't risk getting dropped from the mailing list!

#### **In This Issue**

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The second project was the publication of ASFPM's *National Flood Programs and Policies in Review – 2007*. This document analyzes national policies that relate to floodplain management and makes over 300 specific

recommendations to improve the effectiveness of our techniques for managing floodplains and watersheds, both for risk reduction and for the protection of their natural and beneficial functions, now and in the future. This report is a “road map” that the ASFPM and all of its members can use to guide them as they work to minimize flood losses and spread the word about how to use floodplain resources sensibly.

ASFPM developed a number of white papers this past year that describe in detail our positions on major floodplain-related issues. In 2007, the ASFPM Board adopted two white papers: *Levees: the Double-edged Sword* and *Use of Benefit/ Cost Analysis for FEMA Programs*. In 2008, ASFPM will produce white papers on Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) and long-term flood hazard map maintenance; the protection of critical use facilities; floodway regulations; actuarial flood insurance rates and grandfathered rates; higher standards for flood risk reduction; and protection of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.

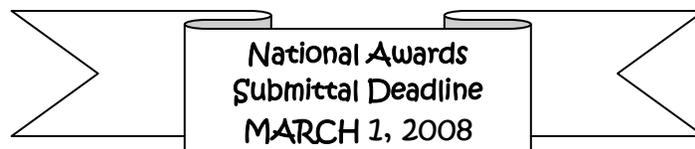
The Certified Floodplain Manager Program (CFM<sup>®</sup>) continued to grow in 2007. As of December 31, 2007, we had certified approximately 4,800 professionals. One of the biggest needs of the CFM Program is training. In 2007, ASFPM contracted for the development of three training workshops with instructor guides: Floodplain Management 101, No Adverse Impact, and Building Public Support for Floodplain Management. All three will be completed in 2008 and be made available to the members. The ASFPM goal for 2008 is to identify and develop more training opportunities for CFMs.

As you can see, 2007 was a productive year. However, I believe this new year will be even busier and provide more opportunities for ASFPM to reduce flood damage.

Your Association represents its members’ needs and concerns at all levels. We seek your input and involvement in all of our activities. Please contact the ASFPM Executive Office and/or the ASFPM Board if you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or concerns.

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The national awards for excellence in flood loss reduction are conferred at the annual floodplain managers’ conference each spring, and you are invited to feature YOUR outstanding local or state program or person! The 2008 ceremony will occur during the annual ASFPM Awards luncheon on Thursday, May 22, in Reno-Sparks, Nevada. Please see the Award categories and submittal instructions at [www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp](http://www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp), make sure you complete this online submission by the deadline of March 1. You may direct any questions to Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org) or call 608-274-0123. Winners will be notified in early April to allow time to make their travel arrangements. We appreciate your help in showcasing what works, as we commemorate those who reduce flood damages in the nation and make flood risk management an achievable reality. Congratulations to those who received national awards in 2007, you can see the winners on our website at [www.floods.org/Awards/Recipients.asp](http://www.floods.org/Awards/Recipients.asp).

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## **ASFPM TRAINING SCHEDULE**

Please see our website for more information about all these important upcoming events designed to better help YOU do your job.

### **National Flood Risk Management – LEVEE SAFETY SUMMIT, February 25-27, 2008 St. Louis, Missouri, Adams Mark Hotel across from The Arch**



Conducted by ASFPM and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), with cooperating parties FEMA and the USACE. Have you seen the program yet for this critical and timely update? First we'll hear an overview on the flood risk management policies that are under review and consideration by the Federal agencies and their state, regional, and local government partners. Then breakout sessions will solicit feedback from participants

on levee-related issues such as residual flood risk, certification and decertification, operations and maintenance, vegetation management, flood insurance, floodplain mapping, and the National Levee Safety Program. Please go to [www.floods.org/leveesafety](http://www.floods.org/leveesafety) for the program agenda, exhibits information, and registration form. Register by February 8th to enjoy the EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT.

### **2008 National ASFPM Conference, May 18-23, 2008 Reno-Sparks, Nevada, John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel**



A Living River Approach  
to Floodplain Management

*"A Living River Approach to Floodplain Management"* is the theme, Steve McMaster of Nebraska is the Program Coordinator. The CA/NV/HI Floodplain Management Association (FMA) is serving as Local Host Team, led by Peggy Bowker. The program has been finalized and you can view the concurrent session topics and presenters on the conference web page now! ASFPM staff is hard at work compiling the conference brochure and gearing up to commence registration. All of the contacts in our data base will receive an email notification when the brochure is posted to the Conference web page at the end of January. In the meantime, you will find the hotel phone number and other important information at [www.floods.org/reno-sparks](http://www.floods.org/reno-sparks).

### **4<sup>th</sup> Triennial National Floodproofing Conference (NFPC-IV), November 16-19, 2008 New Orleans, Louisiana, Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel in the French Quarter**



Conducted by ASFPM and our national policy Floodproofing and Retrofitting Committee; cooperating parties are the USACE National Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee (NNFPC) and FEMA. Look for the Call for Presenters and hotel reservation information in March.

### **2009 National ASFPM Conference, June 7-12, 2009 Orlando, Florida, Rosen Centre Hotel**



Local Host Chapter is the Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA), led by "Krishna" M. Krishnamurthy. The hotel will begin taking reservations during the 2008 national conference in Reno-Sparks this May. Look for exciting promotional detail at the FFMA Conference Team display booth in Reno-Sparks.

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## Public Support Success Stories Requested

Floodplain managers have a tough job – ensuring that what people want to do with their property does not create new flood problems. Working in a government environment, we must be careful of how we do our job and how we deal with residents, builders, developers, and public officials. The more they understand the need for floodplain management, the more they will support our work and the more effective we will be.

Accordingly, ASFPM and its Training and Outreach Committee will be developing a catalog of good practices on how to build public support for local floodplain management. The catalog will be the basis for a training module to be field deployed by the end of the summer.

Many of our members have seen good examples of getting the public (elected officials, residents, builders, etc.) behind our work. Do you have an experience or success story where your job was made easier because of actions taken to build public support for it?

If so, we'd like to hear about them. Please contact the project's Principal Investigator, French Wetmore at (253) 302-5846 or [FrenchAsoc@aol.com](mailto:FrenchAsoc@aol.com). You don't need to write an essay (although they're invited), just let French pick your brains about your experience.

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## ASFPM Position Available: Training & Chapter Coordinator

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has reopened the search for a Training and Chapter Coordinator. This position will assess the floodplain management training needs of the association; develop and implement training for ASFPM members, Chapters, and Certified Floodplain Managers; and work closely with the ASFPM Chapters' needs. Please view the full job posting on our website at: [http://www.floods.org/Files/ASFPM\\_Training\\_Chapter\\_Coord\\_Announcement\\_0108.pdf](http://www.floods.org/Files/ASFPM_Training_Chapter_Coord_Announcement_0108.pdf).

This is a full time position which will be located in the Executive Office in Madison, Wisconsin. Application closing date is Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

Please feel free to pass this information on to others you know who may have an interest in this position.

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## Grants Available to Help Coastal Counties

NACo in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP), is pleased to announce the second year of funding for the Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI). The initiative provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to innovative, high quality county-led or supported projects. In 2008, CCRI will provide \$500,000 in grants to improve stream, river, estuarine and other important marine habitats. A priority area for CCRI is the removal of fish passage barriers in coastal streams and rivers. Grants will range from \$50,000-\$100,000, based upon need. **The deadline for applications is March 24, 2008.** For more information and to access the full RFP and application instructions, visit [www.naco.org/ccri](http://www.naco.org/ccri). For questions call 202-942-4246 or email [ccri@naco.org](mailto:ccri@naco.org).

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## Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute - 2008 Land Use Conference

The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute will be hosting their 17<sup>th</sup> annual Land Use Conference on March 6-7, 2008 at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. This conference will draw professionals from all across the United States for the region's largest and most comprehensive land use planning and law event. This annual conference brings together a diverse group of professionals and faculty from across the Rocky Mountain West and the country for discussion and debate of critical regulatory, environmental and land development issues.

For more information on this important conference or to register, please see the RMLUI website at: <http://www.law.du.edu/rmlui/>.

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## Dam Safety Association Presents Annual Awards

At each annual conference, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of dam safety. This year's award winners were recognized on September 11<sup>th</sup>, at the 2007 ASDSO Awards Banquet in Austin, Texas. This year the winners were:

**2007 National Rehabilitation Project of the Year:** Cobble Mountain Dam Outlet Works Rehabilitation Project; Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, Springfield, Massachusetts

**2007 National Award of Merit:** Former Representative Sue W. Kelly (R-NY)

**Northeast Region Award of Merit:** Mount Mansfield Company/Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe, VT

**Southeast Region Award of Merit:** Spartanburg Water System, Spartanburg, SC

**Midwest Region Award of Merit:** James R. Hegarty, P.E., Prein & Newhof, Grand Rapids, MI

**West Region Award of Merit:** Upper Brushy Creek Water Control and Improvement District, Round Rock, TX

**Honorary Member:** George E. Mills, Pickering, OH

**Hampton Award:** Dr. Art Miller, retired as a Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Pennsylvania State University. He is now with Watershed Concepts in State College, PA.

**President's Award:** Ken Smith, Assistant Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Water

For more information on the winners of each award, and a full description of the merits of each award winner, please see the following press release from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials: [www.damsafety.org/media/documents/press/2007awards.pdf](http://www.damsafety.org/media/documents/press/2007awards.pdf)

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Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at [rcquinn@earthlink.net](mailto:rcquinn@earthlink.net). Comments welcomed!

**Here’s Something You Might Find Interesting . . .**

If it’s so hard to convince people with homes that are in mapped special flood hazard areas to buy flood insurance – why is that about 26 percent of all NFIP’s policies are Preferred Risk Policies” (PRPs)? An item in the October issue of News & Views cited that number: *Looking for Policy & Claims Data on the NFIP?* A check of recent data, available at <http://bsa.nfipstat.com/> (under Reports), tells another surprising part of the story – for the 12 month period ending October 31, 2007, a whopping 69 percent of the total increase in NFIP policies is PRPs.

It isn’t surprising that the states with large number of policies also have a lot of PRPs. The top five states listed below together account for nearly 80 percent of all policies, and over 70 percent of all PRPs. A closer look at the numbers for those states doesn’t shed any light: only 9% of New Jersey’s policies are PRPs; California, Louisiana and Florida each have about 33% PRPs; and TX leads the pack with PRPs accounting for 67% of all of its policies.

	<b>NFIP policies</b>	<b># PRPs</b>
NJ	222,434	19,1999
CA	266,845	87,109
LA	501,558	158,832
TX	663,584	443,421
FL	2,205,283	372,497
	4,391,033 (78.9% of all policies)	1,081,058 (72.6% of all PRPs)

I can only speculate about the factors that are behind the national PRP picture, an exercise made all the more difficult when I consider the states with the greatest growth in PRPs since October 2006. Led by Tennessee with a nearly 92% increase, the states with more than 25% PRP growth are: Kansas (44%); South Dakota (40%); Oklahoma (39%); New York (26%); and New Mexico (25.6%). Most of these states have few PRPs to begin with, so adding just a few more can show up as significant growth (together they account for only about 4% of all PRPs). Still, it’s interesting to think about what has prompted that growth.

Factors that contribute to the growth in PRPs likely are interrelated – which do you think are in play?

- The occurrence of more floods that affect areas outside of mapped SFHAs, including levee failures
- General public awareness increased because of Map Mod and state, local and FloodSmart activities
- Homeowners understanding the benefits of getting “grandfathered” rates before map revisions increase SFHAs
- Publicity about risk behind levees that won’t be certified on revised maps
- Growing concern about increased flooding caused by global warming

- Informed insurance agents helping homeowners understand low risks
- Others?

The PRP is a policy that offers fixed combinations of building/contents coverage or contents-only coverage at modest, fixed premiums for 1-4 family residential buildings and non-residential buildings. The PRP is available B, C, and X Zones in Regular Program communities, except that flood claim history is taken into account to determine if a specific building is eligible for a PRP. As always, you should check official documents for a precise definition and limitations. Access the current edition of the *Flood Insurance Manual* at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/manual.shtm>.

### **In My Opinion . . .**

There's growing evidence that communities and builders are elevating lowest floors correctly. For example, see the results in the NFIP Evaluation report, *An Evaluation of Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program Part B: Are Minimum Building Requirements Being Met?*. Also, FEMA reports that 78% of post-FIRM, elevation-rated buildings insured by the NFIP are rated as being one foot or higher above the BFE – over one million!

Unfortunately, the same rate of compliance doesn't apply to enclosures under many of those elevated buildings. In line with the findings in the NFIP Evaluation, in my experience (echoed by others), the most common aspects of noncompliant enclosures are flood openings (vents) that don't meet all of the requirements, equipment that isn't elevated, and walls and floors that are finished with materials that aren't flood-resistant materials. Add to those the fact that owners tend to convert enclosures to uses other than allowed uses (parking, storage, building access).

Owners pay higher flood insurance premiums if enclosures are not compliant. I'm told that a growing number of owners are being advised by their insurance agents to retrofit noncompliant enclosures, even when homes are fairly new.

In my opinion, local officials need to better understand the enclosure requirements and pay more attention to them during construction inspections. As with any discovered noncompliance, it is much easier to correct problems before the builder hands the keys to the owner. Although perhaps a little late in the process, one way code officials can catch noncompliant enclosures is to review the as-built Elevation Certificate before signing off on the certificate of occupancy. And when owners come calling because their enclosures don't measure up, local officials can be prepared to offer retrofitting suggestions. [RCQ]

### **Feedback from Last Issue . . .**

In the November 2007 Insider, I wrote about flood openings and whether to use the interior or exterior grade to determine the proper position to meet the installation requirement that the bottom of opening be no more than one-foot above grade (the answer is the higher grade). Two readers followed up with a question about a related issue: supposed the depth of flooding is one-foot or less?

Researching this question with a number of State Coordinators generated some interesting perspectives. One suggested it would be easy to avoid the issue altogether by putting the top of slab at the BFE, either by placing a thicker slab or using fill to raise it. One colleague argued that the NFIP regulations and Technical Bulletin #1 clearly state that all enclosures below BFE must have openings – making the question moot (<http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/techbul.shtm>). Another pointed out that even if one could justify no openings, it would have to be explained on the Elevation Certificate and then, who knows how an insurance agent would handle it? And lastly, one commented that ensuring that all of

the required “open area” of the vent must be below the BFE would be difficult if the flood depth is less than one foot.

Although FEMA’s guidance materials do not contain a statement that explicitly addresses the question about whether flood openings are required if the base flood depth is less than one foot, let’s consider the reason openings are required: openings are intended to prevent a difference of more than one foot in water levels on different sides of walls during the base flood. Now, let’s look at two possible answers:

1. The easiest answer all around is that openings are required. However, care should be taken to ensure that all of the open area is below the BFE (otherwise they wouldn’t function as intended). This means either the vents must be installed with the bottom of the opening at the floor level (rather than 12” above) or narrow horizontal slits must be made in the walls near the enclosure floor. An added benefit is that the walls won’t be subject to differential hydrostatic pressure when floodwaters rise higher than the predicted 1%-annual chance flood.
2. Considering performance, a logical answer might be that openings are not required because depth of water below the BFE already is one-foot or less, thus the desired performance is achieved. However, as pointed out above, this would likely cause confusion for insurance agents and possibly questions about compliance when FEMA or the state comes to town for the next Community Assistance Visit! [RCQ]

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## Washington Legislative Report

Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison  
Rebecca C. Quinn, Legislative Officer



### Congressional Session Wrapped Up

By the time the Congress wrapped up its most pressing business for the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, it was just a few days before Christmas.

The Senate did not finally adjourn until December 31<sup>st</sup> to make certain that the President could not make “recess appointments” to federal positions. Both the House and Senate will officially convene for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. All legislation introduced in the 1<sup>st</sup> Session will remain active.

A major focus during December was completion of appropriations for the federal government in Fiscal Year 2008. Since the fiscal year began on October 1, the government has operated on a series of four Continuing Resolutions. After much negotiation and many veto threats, the budgets for all of the federal government except the Department of Defense were combined in an omnibus appropriations bill compiled in House Report 110-497. The final document reflects the results of negotiations to resolve differences between versions of the various regular appropriations bills acted on by the House and Senate. Instead of the usual House-Senate Conference process, these final numbers were arrived at through behind the scenes discussions among Appropriations Committee members and officials and House and Senate leadership. A Senate amendment on December 18<sup>th</sup> added approximately \$70 billion for continuing needs associated with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The report can be reviewed by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in H.Rept. 110-497. The measure was signed by the President on December 26, 2007.

Overall funds for Disaster Relief are: \$1.4 billion and language provides for many additional requirements for DHS/FEMA to report to the Congress.

In the budget for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there are several items of interest:

Emergency Management Preparedness Grants	\$300,000,000
Flood Map Modernization	\$220,000,000
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants	\$114,000,000
Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants	\$ 34,000,000
Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Claims	\$ 90,000,000

Despite the intended competitive nature of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, for the first time Congress has directed earmarks. The report identifies 95 communities (not specific projects) totaling \$51 million, leaving just \$63 million for competitive grants and administrative costs. Report language requires the earmarked projects to comply with the criteria for award set forth in the Sec. 203(g) of the Stafford Act.

## **On to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress**

The President's Budget Request for FY 2009 will be released in early February. This will kick off the next cycle of appropriations hearings. House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees will hear from officials of the Federal departments and agencies in defense of their budget justifications. Generally, this process begins in February and continues through March and well into April.

While the 1<sup>st</sup> Session did succeed in completing action on the Water Resources Development Act and on the Energy bill, there is much legislation in the midst of the legislative process. Following is a partial list of expected legislative activity in coming months.

Flood insurance reform legislation (H.R. 3121 and S. 2284) is nearing completion, but has encountered some delays in the Senate. A full report is available in the December issue of "News and Views".

Catastrophe insurance bills are active and will remain so in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session (H.R. 3355 and S. 2310). Other bills to create a commission on natural catastrophe risk management and insurance are under consideration, notably S. 2286.

Climate change is an active subject during this Congress and a number of bills are in active status, notably S. 2191 the Climate Security Act, S. 2307 the Global Climate Change Research Improvement Act and S. 2355 the Climate Change Adaptation Act.

The Farm bill (H.R. 2419 and S.2302) has yet to be finalized even though the previous Farm Bill expired on October 1<sup>st</sup>. A compromise agreement reached in December should allow the bill to move forward.

Dam safety bills are also in active status. H.R. 3224, the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act passed the House and a similar bill, S. 2238 is awaiting committee consideration in the Senate. H.R. 1662 to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act has passed the House and a similar bill, S. 1258, has been introduced in the Senate.

A bill supporting adoption of state building codes and the use of Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant funds for the purpose has been introduced: H.R. 3926.

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## **CFM<sup>®</sup> Corner**

Email for certification questions is [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org). This section will appear in each issue of the Insider. For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please send an email to Anita at this address in the ASFPM Office.

### **Certification Information**

Happy New Year! Here is some interesting information regarding the growth of the National Certification Program.

<b>ASFPM CFM Exam History</b>				12/31/2007	
<b>Year</b>	<b># of Sites</b>	<b># of Examinees</b>	<b># of Passing</b>	<b>Average Score</b>	<b># Decertified of all Renewals</b>
1999	4	55	46/ 83%	75.25	
2000	20	162	103/ 64%	74	
2001	29	219	179/ 82%	76.69	
2002	47	253	213/ 84%	75.13	
2003	49	386	300/ 77%	75.53	34/ 121 (28%)
2004	61	443	360/ 81%	75.7	52/ 289 (18%)
2005	81	524	403/ 77%	75.1	80/ 511 (16%)
2006	99	831	624/ 76%	75.4	92/ 527 (17%)
2007	120	1003	774/ 77%	74.5	116/ 841 (14%)
		<b>3876</b>		<b>75.3</b>	

Currently there are 2,740 CFMs nationally, not including the CFMs in the 6 accredited states, AR, IL, OK, NC, NM, and TX.

You can tell this is a fast growing and important program to our members and to the floodplain management profession.

**Keeping us updated** - Please remember to notify Anita at [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) when you move. CFM renewals and other certification related mailed material is sent to your **HOME ADDRESS**. Also, make sure we always have your current employment information and correct email address.

**CFM Renewal 1/31/2008** - ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM<sup>®</sup> certification renewal January 31, 2008 have been sent a letter and renewal form via snail mail. If you have not received yours in the mail, please contact Anita Larson at [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) or (608) 274-0123 so your CFM does not lapse.

Below are a few CFMs up for renewal that we don't have current contact information on. If you know any of these people or how to reach them, please let us know or contact them to contact us.

**Oscar Bermudez- FL**

**Seward Meintsma- MO**

**Javier Pena- Lawrenceville, GA**

### **RedVector**

Don't forget, if you can't travel, RedVector is a good way to earn CECs from your home or office. We have recently added new courses, Check this link for more information to see what courses ASFPM has pre-approved for CECs: <http://www.floods.org/Certification/redvec.asp>

## **CFM In the News**

The following is an article reprinted with permission from *The Beacon* in Lambertville, NJ, and was originally printed December 5, 2007.

### **“City Hires Floodplain Manager”**

By Linda Seida

LAMBERTVILLE — The city’s construction official recently has been named a certified floodplain manager. Ken Rogers earned the credential in November, becoming one of only 55 certified floodplain managers in the state. Three years ago, there were only three. To become certified, he completed hours of study on his own time and had to pass a three-hour exam.

Lambertville, a city that has had three floods in recent years, can benefit from having an official with the certification, according to John Miller of the Planning Board. “The town is in much better shape if this person has this training,” Mr. Miller said. “What this gives Ken is an additional breadth of knowledge. It is really something someone should have in a municipality when they’re reviewing permits.” Mr. Miller also is a certified floodplain manager, but he said he is not in the position Mr. Rogers is to review construction permits and enforce codes. “There’s so much that I don’t see and can’t see, and I’m not authorized to see,” he said. That’s why Mr. Rogers’ certification is such a “big deal,” Mr. Miller added.

In addition to serving as Lambertville’s construction official, Mr. Rogers also is the city’s building subcode official and a mechanical inspector. He also plans to test for a fire inspector’s license. The floodplain manager certification will allow him to advise property owners if the property changes or new construction they propose meets guidelines set forth by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the national flood insurance program.

Lambertville “got lucky this year” when it did not experience a flood, Mr. Miller said. “But we’re going to get it again,” he said. “The more we can do as a city to minimize our exposure is extremely beneficial.”

In special flood hazard areas, such as areas that flooded several times like Ferry and Swan streets, his rulings are enforceable. If property owners do not comply, their flood insurance premiums would be “so astronomically high, they would pay for it,” Mr. Rogers said. For example, the rate could rise from about \$1,000 a year to \$10,000. Outside the special flood hazard areas, Mr. Rogers’ determinations are simply recommendations. “But somebody smart and intelligent building next door to a house that flooded would be wise” to accept his recommendations, Mr. Rogers said.

“The role of the nation’s floodplain managers is expanding due to increases in disaster losses, the emphasis being placed upon mitigation to alleviate the cycle of damage-rebuild-damage and a recognized need for professionals to adequately address these issues,” according to the Association of State Floodplain Managers. “This certification program will lay the foundation for ensuring that highly qualified individuals are available to meet the challenge of breaking the damage cycle and stopping its negative drain on the nation’s human, financial and natural resources.”

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## News from Chapters

Chapter Chairs or Chapter newsletter editors are encouraged to email Anita at [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) with articles or information happening in your Chapter.

### **Maryland Association Conference Write-up**

The Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM) held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. This year's conference was themed *Stormwater and Floodplain Management in Maryland - The Local Perspective* and was attended by 120 people.

This year's event featured two pre-conference activities—a coastal plains outfalls tour in Anne Arundel County and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) training. These activities were followed by a full-day conference with 14 breakout sessions on a wide array of local floodplain and stormwater issues, exhibits, and a social hour. A CFM exam was also held in conjunction with the conference on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The field tour, attended by 15 people, began at the Arlington Echo Nature Preserve. Attendees were then bussed to a series of engineered ponds with stone weirs that were placed to help restore deeply eroded streams and their floodplains to a more natural condition, while providing infiltration of runoff for stormwater management and preventing erosion in the receiving stream. Each site illustrated different sized projects and conditions, from steep narrow outfall areas to fairly flat and wide stream valleys.

The CFM training covered topics such as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations, community participation in the NFIP, reading and using Flood Insurance Rate Maps, insurance, mitigation, and other topics. It was an excellent supplement for those studying for the CFM exam as well as a great refresher course for CFMs. Twenty-seven people attended the training and it received universal positive evaluations.

The conference was kicked off by keynote speaker, General Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., P.E., Ph.D., noted civil engineer, public administrator, soldier, educator, and geographer. We are privileged to have had him open our conference. Mr. Galloway's address was followed by concurrent sessions that included *Activities of the Maryland Hydrology Panel*, *Patterns of Headwater Stream Burial Due to Urbanizations in the Gunpowder-Patapsco Watershed*, and more.

Lunch included a Business meeting, an update by ASFPM's Region III Director, Jeff Sparrow on ASFPM activities, and a talk from Vince DiCamillo on the ASFPM Foundation. Following lunch, attendees had time to network in the exhibit hall before the afternoon concurrent sessions began. These sessions included *Overview of Low Impact Development, Dorchester County, MD: Sea Level Rise Inundation Study*, and others. The conference was closed by Ken Pensyl, noted stormwater professional from the Maryland Department of the Environment. An hour-long networking social concluded the evening.

This year was MAFSM's first at including sponsors and exhibitors. Twelve exhibits lined the conference hallways representing, State, Federal, and local agencies, vendors, and engineering firms. Six sponsors greatly increased our resources to keep conference registration costs low and provide many of our conference activities. The Sponsors included Greenhorne and O'Mara, URS, Watershed Concepts/HSMM AECOM, Baker, PBS&J, and Smartvent. We are very appreciative of their contributions.

Overall feedback about the conference was positive and we feel the conference was hugely successful. For conference pictures and presentations please visit our website at [www.mafsm.org](http://www.mafsm.org).

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## Floodplain Management Training Calendar

Below are just several of the upcoming conferences & training opportunities, for a full listing, visit our online calendar at <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/calendar.asp>.

<b>January 31, 2008</b>	Floodplain Management Essentials, Charleston, WV	<a href="#">Email to Register</a>
<b>February 21 – 22, 2008</b>	International Lidar Mapping Forum, 2008 Technical Conference & Exhibition, Denver, CO	<a href="#">Lidar 08</a>
<b>February 26 - 29, 2008</b>	48 <sup>th</sup> Floodplain Management Authorities Conference, Wollongong, Australia	<a href="#">View Website</a>
<b>February 27, 2008</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Gilbert FI White Lecture in the Geographical Sciences, Washington, DC	<a href="#">The Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Academy of Sciences</a> RSVP to <a href="#">Jared Eno</a>
<b>March 4 – 6, 2008</b>	Integrating Science into the Ecology and Management of Floodplain Ecosystems of the Southeast, Little Rock, AR	<a href="#">View Website</a>
<b>March 5 – 7, 2008</b>	GAFM 2008 Technical Conference, Decatur, GA	<a href="#">Georgia Association of Floodplain Management</a>
<b>March 6 – 7, 2008</b>	The Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, Land Use Conference, Denver, CO	<a href="#">Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute</a>
<b>March 12 – 13, 2008</b>	IAFSM Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL	<a href="#">Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management</a>
<b>March 12 – 14, 2008</b>	SCAHM Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC	<a href="#">South Carolina Association for Hazard Mitigation</a>
<b>March 17 – 20, 2008</b>	Association of Montana Floodplain Managers Annual Conference, Missoula, MT	<a href="#">Association of Montana Floodplain Managers</a>
<b>March 18 -21, 2008</b>	MSFA 2008 Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI	<a href="#">Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association</a>
<b>March 31 – April 2, 2008</b>	Urban Water Management, Louisville, KY	<a href="#">Urban Water Management</a>
<b>April 3, 2008</b>	OFMA Spring Workshop, Ardmore, OK	<a href="#">Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association</a>
<b>May 18 – 23, 2008</b>	ASFPM 32 <sup>nd</sup> National Conference, Reno, NV	<a href="http://www.floods.org">www.floods.org</a> <a href="mailto:memberhelp@floods.org">memberhelp@floods.org</a>

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## Job Corner

Below are just a few of job openings currently posted on our website. To view all of the listings, visit our online job corner at <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/jobs.asp>.

### American Rivers

#### Fellowship

American Rivers has launched the Anthony A. Lapham River Conservation Fellowship program. It provides an excellent professional development opportunity for talented post-graduates pursuing careers as leaders in the field of conservation advocacy. The Fellowship will be supported by a team of conservation staff and members of our Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, which includes some of the nation's foremost experts on freshwater and other conservation science and policy.

Highlights include:

- 12-month fellowship beginning in the summer of 2008 (July - Sept; month negotiable)
- Based in DC
- Focus on an applied research project that in one of the following: (1) sustainably managing our freshwater resources; (2) restoring rivers (through approaches such as dam removal) and achieving natural flood protection by restoring the natural functions of rivers, wetlands and floodplains; (3) conserving America's heritage by protecting our remaining free-flowing rivers and connecting communities to their rivers; and (4) achieving resiliency in natural and human communities in the face of global warming.
- Open to individuals with graduate or terminal degrees in stream ecology, hydrology, geomorphology, public health, public policy, law, economics, engineering or related fields.
- Stipend of \$35k plus vacation benefits.
- Application deadline February 15, 2008.

The fellowship honors the memory of Anthony A. Lapham who served for many years on the board of American Rivers, including as its Chairman. He left an indelible mark not only on American Rivers and many other conservation organizations, but on conservation efforts across this land. The program reflects his integrity, intellect, concern for humanity and commitment to excellence. We are seeking candidates who possess these qualities.

More complete information about the fellowship can be found on our website at: [www.americanrivers.org/fellowship](http://www.americanrivers.org/fellowship).

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### National Weather Service, NOAA

Hydrologic Science and Modeling Branch  
Office of Hydrologic Development  
Hydraulic Modeler

We are looking for a special person to join a team dedicated to saving lives and property. He/she will contribute to applied research by evaluating and enhancing hydraulic models, infusing new hydraulic modeling techniques into National Weather Service (NWS) operational software by working with a team of software engineers, and providing technical support and training to NWS forecasters.

Current key areas of investigation include real time inundation mapping for dynamic flow, linking riverine hydraulics with ocean hydraulics in coastal estuary zone, and developing tools for rapid data preparation and operation of dam break models.

We need a person who can work individually and as a member of a team, someone who can collaborate with others from Government, private industry and academia, as well as working closely with members of other groups within the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, NWS, Office of Hydrologic Development, and Hydrologic Science and Modeling Branch.

We will consider applicants with a wide range of experience levels, including recent graduates with Master's or PhD degrees, and professionals with several years of experience. Applications should be submitted through the USAJobs website. Government employees should apply to announcement NWS-HD-2008-0001. Non-government (public) must apply to announcement NWS-HD-2008-0003 (<http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov>).

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### **New Orleans Office of Recovery Management**

Sr. Hazard Mitigation Planner

**Funding Source:** FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

**Salary range:** \$55,000 - \$67,000/year (depending on qualifications)

**Department/Division:** Office of Recovery Management/Infrastructure and Environmental Planning

#### **Job Overview**

This is a professional staff position. Serve as lead coordinator of the citywide hazard mitigation planning effort. Conduct and/or review a wide variety of technical analyses and planning tasks; communicate across City government departments, outside agencies, and the public; coordinate the work of hazard mitigation and community outreach consultants.

#### **Required Qualifications**

B.S degree in civil engineering, infrastructure planning, environmental science, environmental policy, or related field. More than 3 years of progressively responsible professional work experience with emphasis in hazard mitigation, recovery management, risk assessment, disaster response, flood plain management, infrastructure planning, emergency preparedness, or a related field. Demonstrated knowledge in the areas of hazard mitigation, infrastructure management, and/or flood plain management.

#### **Desired Qualifications**

Advanced degree in a relevant field. Professional engineer (PE), certified floodplain manager (CFM), or other relevant professional credential.

#### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

The Office of Recovery Management agrees not to discriminate on the bias, whether in fact or perception, of a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, physical or mental disability or AIDS or HIV status against any applicant for employment.

Send cover letter, resume and references to:

Mayor's Office of Recovery Management  
Infrastructure and Environmental Planning Division  
ATTN: Sr. Hazard Mitigation Planner Position  
1300 Perdido Street, Suite 8W03  
New Orleans, LA 70112

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## **New Orleans Office of Recovery Management**

Jr. Hazard Mitigation Planner

**Funding Source:** FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

**Salary range:** \$40,000 - \$55,000/year (depending on qualifications)

**Department/Division:** Office of Recovery Management/Infrastructure and Environmental Planning

### **Job Overview**

This is a professional staff position. Serve as technical assistant for the citywide hazard mitigation planning effort. Conduct and/or review a wide variety of technical analyses and planning tasks; communicate across City government departments, outside agencies, and the public; coordinate the work of hazard mitigation and community outreach consultants.

### **Required Qualifications**

B.S degree in civil engineering, infrastructure planning, environmental science, environmental policy, or related field. 1-3 years of progressively responsible professional work experience with emphasis in hazard mitigation, recovery management, risk assessment, disaster response, flood plain management, infrastructure planning, emergency preparedness, or a related field. Ability/interest in becoming professionally licensed.

### **Desired Qualifications**

Advanced degree in a relevant field. Professional engineer (PE), certified floodplain manager (CFM), or other relevant professional credential.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

The Office of Recovery Management agrees not to discriminate on the basis, whether in fact or perception, of a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, physical or mental disability or AIDS or HIV status against any applicant for employment.

Send resume, cover letter and list of references to:  
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