Our community of ASFPM members helped make all of our 2018 accomplishments possible! We truly gain strength from each other!

Membership

By far, one of our biggest milestones in 2018 was finally topping 7,000 ASFPM national members! As of Nov. 1, the official number of people who belong to the national ASFPM is 7,010. Combined with what our 37 state and regional chapters reported (12,243, which does include some overlap with ASFPM members), we have a total of...

19,253 members, connections that stretch across the globe!

This number includes flood-risk professionals from Australia, Canada, France, India, Philippines and United Kingdom. ASFPM also has 27 student members, 47 corporate partners and 30 agency partners.

There’s something incredibly satisfying to have more than 19,000 members all connected and working toward keeping people safe from floods and out of harm’s way.

There are so many worthy organizations you could belong to, so we are grateful you’ve chosen us. We are a community because of you, and we gain our strength from each other.

THANK YOU!!!
Starting this month, ASFPM will be welcoming all of its new members (from the previous month) in each newsletter. So, a hearty welcome to everyone who joined us in December 2018!

Kyle M. Albert, HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC, Anchorage, AK –
Murray A. Authement, Jr., City of Orange Beach, AL
John Blake, Palm Beach County, FL
Douglas R. Brugger, Montana DNR&C
Tatiana Childress, USF, Oldsmar, FL
Todd B. Christensen, Gresham Smith & Partners, Alpharetta, GA
Shantell A. Collins, Brazos County, TX Road & Bridge
Shayne L. Cumbie, City of Mobile, AL
Samantha D. Daniell, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc., Birmingham, AL
Pamela A. DeAndrea, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Alan Dewey, City of St. Joseph, MO
Cheyenne Diegnan, Palm Beach County, FL
Annelise K. Dodd, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc., Montgomery, AL
Katherine L. Francesconi, Jacobs, Marietta, GA
Erik Fritzberg, J.S. Held, Pittsburgh, PA
Justin W. Garland, Suwannee River Water Management Dist., Live Oak, FL
Jacob Garling, White County Government-Bldg. Dept., IN
Donald G. Gadowski, City of Schuyler, NE
Darla J. Guerrero, Greeley and Hansen, LLC, Las Vegas, NV
Bryan M. Gurney, City of Tuscaloosa, AL
Brian J. Hawkins, Union County, NC Planning Division
Robert Hemp, Palm Beach County, FL
Lawrence J. Higgins, Roatan Aviation LLC, Lebanon, NJ
Armond P. Jenkins, AECOM, Covington, GA
Grace Joyce, Palm Beach County, FL
Kelly Keefe, AECOM, Suwanee, GA
Nicole Koeninger, Jacobi, Toombs & Lanz, Louisville, KY
Cao Dang Le, City of Atlanta, GA
Teresa A. Lehman, Missouri EMA
Rebecca D. Mazzolla, Louis Berger Group, Ringoes, NJ
John G. McCandless, Jefferson Parish, LA
Tara A. McKeefry, Jefferson Parish, LA
Brittany McMullen, City of Treasure Island, FL
Bradley J. Mercer, Licking County, OH
Robert Nicholls, Palm Beach County, FL
William David Porter, III, City of Mobile, AL
Joshua A. Reed, Lithonia, GA
Cameron M. Royer, City of Auburn, AL
Sylvia M. Schmidt, Michael Baker International, Brooklyn, NY
Paul Semenec, Sarasota County Stormwater Dept., FL
Raymond D. Shipley, Jr., City of Atlanta, GA
Amanda J. Sievers, Orangeburg County, SC
Elizabeth R. Sillasen, Keith County, NE
Svetlana N. Sindler, Walnut Creek, CA
Mary L. Smith, Missouri EMA
Devin M. Stoker, Jacobs Engineering Group, Meridian, ID
Julian S. Stone, FEMA, Jacksonville, FL
Jennifer D. Storey, Missouri EMA
Vinod N. Thanki, Globetrotters Engineering Corp., Darien, IL
Brandon Michael Thompson, AECOM, Lilburn, GA
Carter Thompson, City of St. Marys, GA
Grace P. Toledo, City of Mobile, AL
Nicholas Tufaro, Middlesex County, NJ
MaryLouise Upshaw, City of Atlanta, GA
Kevin P. Urban, Saline County, KS
Bryan VanderGheynst, NVS, Parsippany, NJ
Jacqueline Wilbern, Township of East Hanover, PA
Christopher L. Willis, City of Anniston, AL
Sara A. Zybell, Suwannee River Water Management District, FL

Information provided by Jim Dunham, ASFPM’s member coordinator. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact: memberhelp@floods.org
Congress has kicked the NFIP Reauthorization can on reform 10 times since September 2017. The NFIP expires May 31, 2019, and ASFPM will continue to work with Congress to push wise NFIP reforms.

For decades we have promoted mitigation funding, and in 2018, disaster supplemental appropriations and the Disaster Recovery Reform Act provided billions for mitigation, mostly through HUD and FEMA funding.

ASFPM continues to support funding for updated flood maps. 2018 was a stellar year as we saw a $262.5 million allocation, an increase of $85 million compared to flood map funding in 2017. This issue is so important that we worked with the National Association of Realtors to reinstitute the Flood Map Coalition. This group is made up of members from ASFPM, as well as real estate, land surveyors, home builders and other industries with a stake in accurate and timely flood maps. A total of 25 organizations signed a letter to the Office of Management and Budget, urging the Administration to maintain flood map funding at FY18 numbers.
We were successful in changing the law to cover mutual aid for communities to help other communities assess substantial damage and issue floodplain permits after major disasters. This is a major accomplishment for local governments that struggled trying to complete SDs and permits by themselves after a disaster.

We also saw a new law in 2018 requiring stronger federal building standards for all Department of Defense rebuilding after a disaster.

2019 Policy Actions that will be on ASFPM’s Plate

NFIP Reauthorization and Reform—which we will push to provide incentives for local and state mitigation actions and disclosure of flood risk on properties. Here is ASFPM’s Detailed Priorities for 2018 NFIP Reauthorization and Reform we created last April.

We will continue to push investment in fixing existing and new infrastructure to ensure it is designed and constructed to withstand future extreme flooding.

ASFPM will urge FEMA not to devolve the requirement to verify compliance with Endangered Species Act on all floodplain permits and actions to 22,000+ NFIP communities, and to work with other federal agencies to develop a better plan for ESA compliance.

We will continue to urge passage of the Digital Coast Act to help build resilience in coastal communities; work with USACE in implementing nonstructural flood proofing programs; and work with FEMA on rules or guidance to implement the newly enacted provision allowing a set-aside of up to 6% of declared disaster costs for Pre-Disaster Mitigation.
The Flood Science Center continued to grow throughout 2018, which was evident by the increase and diversity of active projects, clients and staff members. FSC strives to apply, develop and analyze social, policy and economic aspects of flood science to be used for education, training, policies and publications. We, of course, do not work alone and depend on and work with every other person within ASFPM to support membership, certification, chapters, policy, training and conferences.

FSC looks forward to 2019, but before that happens, let us look back at the year that was 2018 “By the Numbers”:

- **40+** - The number of active projects that were under management by FSC in 2018

There was no slowdown in 2018 for the FSC crew. Projects big and small kept us busy and covered every possible area of flood science, research and development. We continued to work with NOAA and the American Planning Association on our largest funded, multi-year project, “Building Coastal Resilience through Capital Improvements Planning” that will be ending in 2019. During the past year, the ASFPM Mentoring Program website was formally released, while the “Strengthening Coastal Counties’ Resilience” project lead by the National Association of Counties with NOAA, and the Coastal States Organization, was kicked off about mid-year. Significant work was also accomplished toward the development of an updated “Addressing Your Community’s Flood Problems – A Guide for Elected Officials,” due out in 2019 and funded by the ASFPM Foundation and Westfield Insurance Foundation. We can’t list everything here, so stay tuned and read ASFPM’s newsletters and visit the FSC website for updates.

- **10+** - The number of clients FSC worked for in 2018

With so many projects, it’s good to have more than one client and avoid the whole too-many-eggs-in-one-basket thing. So, we’re lucky (if you believe in luck) to have attracted a diversity of clients across federal, state and private organizations. We continue our long-term relationship with FEMA while also starting work with DHS Science & Technology. We also continue our relationships with NOAA and the ASFPM Foundation, while starting a new project with the Westfield Insurance Foundation.

- **30+** - The number of partners and collaborators FSC worked with over the past year

Along with a large and diverse number of clients, we are very fortunate and proactive in developing long-term partnerships and collaborations. The NOAA Digital Coast Partnership is one such group, which just
celebrated 10 years and ASFPM was a founding partner. From the Digital Coast Partnership alone, FSC has led or been part of at least 13 projects over the past decade. Two of the projects in partnership with the Coastal States Organization brought us talented NOAA Coastal Fellows – Jake Thickman, who completed his two-year fellowship in July and Alexis Cunningham, selected for her two-year fellowship in September. We continue to maintain and/or develop partnerships with academic institutions like the Natural Hazard Center at UC Boulder or the Texas Community Watershed Partners at Texas A&M, just to name two. We’re sure this list will grow even more in 2019.

- **2,213 - The number of publications or resources cataloged in the FSC Library**

The Flood Science Center Library continued to grow in 2018 as well, with a large number of publications and resources added during the past year. There are now four Special Library Collections (donated physical books and publications that include the latest FEMA Collection). Additionally, the library contains Curated Collections of digital resources such as the K-12 Flood Education Resources or the more recent Floodplain Manager’s Notebook Series written by Rebecca Quinn.

- **9 - The number of FSC staff at the end of 2018**

How do we work on more than 40 active projects for all of our clients and partners? We have passionate and talented people with expertise in engineering, mapping, planning, GIS, risk communication, research methods, project management and so much more. At the end of 2018, FSC reached its highest level of full-time staff in its history.

**Committees**

First, we would like to thank David Fowler for serving as the Watershed Pod facilitator for years. After joining ASFPM staff in 2018, Fowler had to step down. But now we get to thank long-time ASFPM member Dave Carlton for stepping in. Carlton, who is also our Region 10 director, has just been appointed as the new Watershed Pod facilitator!

The Risk Communication and Outreach Committee gave a webinar in partnership with the NAI Committee on “Using Risk-informed Decision Making to Understand, Communicate and Manage Risk.” Members also reviewed abstracts for the annual national conference in Cleveland, and drafted an outline for an upcoming discussion paper on the infamous “100 year, or 1% flood.”

A goal of the Floodplain Regulations Committee co-chairs in 2018 was to bring in subject matter experts to speak on issues during conference calls and participate in discussions afterwards. A great example was its December call, which included Rebecca Quinn, who spoke about building code issues. Larry
Larson provided updates on federal policy issues, Ceil Strauss addressed agricultural structures in flood-plains, and Adrienne Sheldon from FEMA spoke about a Florida proposal to adjust V zone standards for public restrooms on beaches. The latter topic was followed by a lively discussion, according to co-chair Bill Nechamen.

The Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee is continuing to “elevate” its game (pun intended)! Its committee conference calls typically include a guest speaker presenting on a nonstructural topic. Members provided review and comments on the Draft FM Approval Standard 2510: Flood Abatement Equipment document, and are developing an information paper on “Alternative Flood Proofing Measures for Protecting a Flood-Prone House on a Crawlspace.”

The International Committee has implemented bi-monthly coordination calls, with monthly email updates. Also in 2018, it developed regional sub-committees to coordinate the communication of flood-risk management information to ASFPM and to promote ASFPM back to these regions. Currently, there are five regional sub-committees:

- Australia (Lead: Joe Chapman, AECOM, Charlotte)
- Asia (Lead: Yanan Ma, AECOM, Kansas City)
- Europe (Lead: Jessica Ludy, ESA, San Francisco)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (Lead: Vacant)
- Canada (Lead: Vacant)

If you would like to get involved in any of these regional sub-committees, please reach out to the co-chairs.

The Flood Insurance Committee, a regular contributor of articles in “The Insider,” researched and updated members and the ASFPM executive office on the removal of Coastal Barrier Resources System and Other Protected Areas boundaries from flood maps. Also in 2018, the committee:

- Informed members of FEMA’s policy release on agriculture and accessory structures. Assisted in setting up an internal group (which included the Regulations Committee) to receive comments and provide a collective response to FEMA.
- Continued to check in with FEMA for an update on the release of the new Elevation Certificate as it expired in November. As a background, an ASFPM subcommittee was formed in late 2017 and provided recommendations and comments to FEMA in 2018.
- With Risk Rating 2.0 on the horizon, including the April 2019 release of proposed rates for specific coastal states, the committee is keeping its ear to the FEMA-ground for any updates and keeping members informed.
- With more private flood insurance being written, the committee is responding to inquiries and keeping committee members informed.
- With the continual kicking of the NFIP reauthorization can down the road, co-chairs continue to work with ASFPM HQ to stay abreast of pending legislation, as well as lapses, and sharing with members the impact of lapses and government shutdown.

Using feedback from the coastal meeting at ASFPM’s 2018 annual national conference, which indicted a strong desire to have forums that help coastal members build their understanding and skills around a number of technical issues, the Coastal Issues Committee co-chairs established a quarterly lunch and learn series. In August, Alex Trahan, P.E., ESA, presented the first webinar called “Coastal Hazards from Fjords to Lagoons.” The next webinar was held in conjunction with National Geodetic Survey crew on the
upcoming changes to geodetic control and how it will impact floodplain managers. Additionally over the summer, committee members also provided input to ASFPM’s letter to FEMA expressing disapproval in FEMA’s action of removing the CBRA zone from FIRMs.

The committee is seeking to strengthen partnership/networks and will cultivate external opportunities to work with other coastal groups through the Digital Coast Partnership and federal agencies such as EPA and DOT, but also internal opportunities with other communities such as the Natural and Beneficial Floodplain Committee. Members from this committee have also been asked to provide feedback on the updating the regulations for the coastal aspects of the Community Rating System. If you would like to learn more about the coastal committee or present at a future lunch and learn, please contact the co-chairs.

The No Adverse Impact Committee just completed the draft of its final NAI how-to guide, this one on emergency services. The guide was recently sent to the designer and will be unveiled sometime in 2019. The committee continues its bi-monthly “Lunch & Learn Webinars,” which are hosted by Michael Baker International and jointly sponsored by the NAI Committee and GAFM NAI Committee. Following are last year’s webinar topics: Using Storytelling to Assess Long-Term Fire Risks; No Adverse Impact Regulations; CRS: A Reward for Communities on the Path to NAI; NAI How-to Guide Mapping; and Using Risk-Informed Decision Making to Understand, Communicate and Manage Flood Risk.

The Arid Regions Committee brought in a guest speaker from the city of Scottsdale during its committee meeting during ASFPM’s annual national conference in Phoenix, which really sparked interest at the meeting. Also during the conference, Building and Science staff from FEMA HQ participated in a site visit with Patricia Rippe of FEMA Region IX, to better understand the Elevation Certificate issues associated with large structures with multiple adjacent grade elevations. The idea being that this might be something that could result in recommendations for changes to the EC.

This committee regularly participates on the Riverine Erosion Hazard Zone Committee (a group of experts from around the country, including ASFPM’s Natural & Beneficial Functions Committee); and put out a call for contributions from other arid regions communities to share stormwater Best Management Practices that have been successful in their locales. The hope was to provide links to these community BMPs.

The Flood Mitigation Committee began work on a Local Mitigation Funding Guide and are still working on it. It held a successful policy session at the 2018 ASFPM conference where they focused on use and monitoring of mitigation properties, AW-501 form reporting and other topics that attendees brought up. The committee also led an early bird session at the 2018 ASFPM conference with Kayed Lakhia about a controversial FEMA-direct buyout program.

Cfm Program
As of Nov. 1, there were 10,386 Certified Floodplain Managers. Congratulations to everyone with this professional designation! The Certification Board of Regents was busy in 2018. They completed their 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and completely revamped the CFM® Exam Study Guide.
Annual National Conference in Phoenix

We were just two attendees short of hitting 1,000 at #ASFPM2018! And while a majority of flood-risk professionals hailed from the U.S., we had quite a few attendees from Australia, Canada, France and the United Kingdom! The biggest news regarding conferences is that we’ve hired a new events planner, Sarah Waller, who has jumped in feet first to work on Coastal GeoTools (taking place in February, regardless of the federal government shutdown), and of course, #ASFPM2019 in Cleveland. Need to get in touch with her about exhibitor information and sponsoring opportunities? Email her at sarah@floods.org.

Social Media Community

1,726 Followers | 4,067 Followers | 3,417 Followers | 80 Subscribers | 360 Photos

ASFPM’s social media pages continue to grow. The biggest milestone this past year is that Twitter overtook LinkedIn as our most popular social media page! But one thing remains consistent. You are the ones who make our social media sites feel like a community. We’re always amazed at the comradery, conversations, insights, knowledge sharing and even constructive criticism taking place on these sites. It’s all welcome! So if you’re not following our pages yet, you’re really missing out on some great information that will help you become better flood-risk professionals.

Below are just a handful of news articles ASFPM was quoted in during 2018

Washington Examiner: Despite post-Hurricane Harvey promise, Trump has not replaced flood building standards; Bloomberg: Charlotte shows how to beat Florence; Larry Larson wrote an OpEd piece in ASCE journal (P.E. Magazine) called “Public Policy and Managing Disaster Risk (Sept/Oct) issue (no link provided as it’s a members-only publication); ProPublica and Reveal investigation called “Flood they neighbor: Who stays dry and who decides.” Houston Chronicle: In Houston’s flooded neighborhoods, real estate investors see an opportunity; Houston Chronicle: City Council unanimously backs plan to build homes in floodplain; Bloomberg: FEMA Proposes Letting People Rebuild Homes After Taxpayer Buyouts; Houston Chronicle: New FEMA program could lead to repeat flooding under an obscure paperwork change; Houston Chronicle: Development tactic questioned in post-Harvey era; E&E News: 4 climate questions for Trump on infrastructure; Houston Chronicle: Corps pitches unprecedented watershed study after Harvey; Houston Chronicle: After Harvey’s floods, Friendswood will allow residents to rebuild at ground level; Houston Matters: SSPEED Center Conference on Harvey: Lessons Learned Pivotal in Shaping New Flood Policies; NPR: A Fight over Flood Preparedness in Virginia
Special Thanks to Two of Our Biggest Flickr Contributors!

Anyone who snaps original pictures that have ANYTHING to do with flood risk or floodplain management, and wants to share them on our Flickr page just needs to shoot me the art with a description (michele@floods.org). But in 2018, our biggest contributors by far were Eric Johnson (my uncle) and Steve Samuelson (ASFPM’s Region 7 director and Flood Insurance Committee co-chair).

Johnson takes photos when flying around the country in his 2006 Cessna T182T, or while his feet are planted safely on the ground with his DJI Phantom 4 Pro drone. Samuelson has a great understanding of pictures you might need when putting together an outreach campaign, report or a PowerPoint presentation. Check out his staged photo (bottom left) on what NOT to do.

All of the pictures on our Flickr page are for YOUR use. Seeing a picture you like on the Internet and just “stealing” it is not good—not good at all. And depending on the photo you stole, you might find yourself receiving a “cease and desist” letter (or worse, a lawsuit).

So, feel free to use our pictures, with proper attribution (shown on both of the photos at left). And please share with your ASFPM family. We KNOW you are taking pictures (either for your job or just during your leisure time), that our members could use.

Again, thank you Eric Johnson & Steve Samuelson!

Training

The big news in 2018 was hiring Kevin Currie as our training coordinator. Currie, who used to be ASFPM’s membership coordinator, brought in a lot of fresh webinar offerings, such as *How to Conduct a Substantial Damage Assessment; After the Disaster: Mitigating Infrastructure against Flooding Using 406 Mitigation Assistance; Nonstructural Flood Proofing for Managing Flood Risk: Techniques to Reduce Flood Risk, Expedite Recovery, and Provide Resilience;* and *Adopting Higher Regulatory Standards.*

If you’d like to suggest a webinar topic, we’d love to hear from you. Contact kevin@floods.org.
Chapters

We had two really big bits of chapter news last year. First, we hired Gigi Trebatoski as our chapter and ASFPM Foundation coordinator. And in June, ASFPM approved its 37th chapter, the Pennsylvania Association of Floodplain Managers.

Massachusetts floodies have also formed the Massachusetts Association of Floodplain Managers with the goal of becoming a future ASFPM chapter.

The Connecticut Association of Flood Managers co-hosted a state flood risk symposium with the support of ASFPM Foundation and the Connecticut Institute for Resiliency and Climate Adaptation. The participants in this symposium examined Connecticut’s challenge with flood buyouts due to high property values, as well as how sea level rise may affect public trust lands.

The Texas Floodplain Management Association, one of ASFPM’s accredited chapters, celebrated its 30th anniversary as an association.

And the Floodplain Management Association hosted the ASFPM Foundation’s Larry Larson Speaker Series as a plenary at its annual convention in Reno, Nevada last September. The event, “Big Data = Big Future + Big Challenges” was attended by more than 350 people!

Well done everyone! Be sure and let us know what your chapter has been up to by emailing gigi@floods.org.

Last Call. Time to Renew Your ASFPM Membership!

If you need a reminder of what ASFPM membership brings to you and your career, read what other members are saying about the value of an ASFPM membership. Ready to renew? Click here.
“Flood of Information Series” from Clackamas County, Oregon: Using flood study findings to raise flood risk awareness

Reprinted with permission from Region X’s Strategic Alliance for Risk Reduction January 2019 newsletter

In a recent study focused on flood event history in Clackamas County, Oregon, researchers identified a need for an educational resource supporting at-risk river basin communities. The “Flood of Information Series” aims to provide relevant information relating to future flood events in the Sandy River Basin, and how residents can reduce their hazard risk.

Produced by Clackamas County, this four-video series leveraged the support of state and federal partners through the Oregon Silver Jackets Team, to provide a powerful public engagement tool. Funding was provided by FEMA for the flood study in the Sandy River Basin, where the videos were shot.

The University of Oregon’s Community Service Center utilized survey findings to begin a discussion focused around historical evidence, preparation for and prevention of future flooding. This four-part video series offers short videos on flood history, channel migration, habitat preservation and flood insurance. These clips provide resident experiences in navigating property protection following “pineapple express” events and channel migration due to the effects of climate change and glacial retreat.

“Some of the most destructive flood events in Clackamas County have been due to erosion where rivers migrate across their floodplain and carve new channels,” said Jay Wilson of Clackamas County Disaster Management. With three presidential declarations in the last nine years for flood disasters, this county recognizes a need for flood awareness and development reform along the Upper Sandy River Basin.

STARR/FEMA Regional Service Center X publishes a monthly newsletter with news, events & training opportunities related to hazard mitigation and floodplain management in FEMA Region X. Click here for information and to subscribe.
New National Institute of Building Sciences study on mitigation finds that modern, regularly updated building codes save lives and protect property

The National Institute of Building Sciences released the [Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2018 Interim Report](https://www.nibs.org/) at its annual conference, “Building Innovation 2019.” The study found that adopting the 2018 International Codes *generates a national benefit of $11 for every $1 invested*. The I-Codes are the most widely used and adopted set of building safety codes in the world.

This report follows a multi-year study on natural hazard mitigation and comes more than a decade after NIBS’ original report on mitigation. The project team studied flood risk, hurricane wind hazards and earthquake risk. They found that the **national mitigation benefit-cost ratio associated with code adoption is $6 to $1 for floods, $10 to $1 for hurricanes, and $12 to $1 for earthquakes**, with benefits coming through avoided casualties, post-traumatic stress, property damage, business interruptions and insurance premiums. The results show that all building stakeholders benefit from regularly updated codes—from developers, lenders, tenants and communities. Communities that consistently meet the latest editions of the I-Codes, culminating in the 2018 editions, have added 30,000 new jobs to the construction-materials industry. Last year’s interim report also found that adoption of the 2015 International Wildland Urban Interface Code provided a $4 to $1 mitigation benefit against wildfire risk.

These findings demonstrate the importance of regular updates to the building codes and strong code enforcement in order to mitigate damage from natural disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding.

**Deadline for Resilient Communities Program Pre-proposal is Feb. 19**

In 2017, Wells Fargo and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation launched the [Resilient Communities Program](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/resilient-communities-program/), designed to prepare for future environmental challenges by enhancing community capacity to plan and implement resiliency projects and improve the protections afforded by natural ecosystems by investing in green infrastructure and other measures. The program will focus on water quality and quantity declines, forest health concerns and sea level rise. The program will emphasize community inclusion and assistance to traditionally underserved populations in vulnerable areas.

This four-year initiative is supported through a $10 million contribution from Wells Fargo that will be used to leverage other private and public funds with an expected total investment of more than $20 million. Learn more about this [opportunity for local governments and non-profits here](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/resilient-communities-program/).
What’s Happening around the World?

A collection of the most viewed stories on our Facebook page

**Australia**—Whoa! Ecological evidence shows the Barwon-Darling River is not meant to dry out – even during drought conditions. Water diversions have disrupted the natural balance of wetlands that support massive ecosystems. Unless we allow flows to resume, we’re in danger of seeing one of the worst environmental catastrophes in Australia. Read the article here.

**United States**—Leave it to beavers. Across North America, many scientists and land managers are discovering that, far from being forces of destruction, beavers can serve as agents of water conservation, habitat creation and stream restoration. Read “The Re-beavering of the American West.”

When the responsibility falls to federal agencies, or even when people look to the president during disasters, Roberts says there’s no accountability in the localities where response and preparation efforts take place.” Read “FEMA isn’t the cavalry.”

Thank you QuickenLoans for this awesome message about flood insurance! Read “Should you keep your flood insurance (even if it’s not required)?”

In February, following a string of severe natural disasters in 2017, Congress provided a record $16 billion for disaster mitigation -- building better defenses against hurricanes, floods and other catastrophes. Eleven months later, the administration has yet to issue rules telling states how to apply for the money. Read the article here.

**New Jersey**—OK this is kind of amazing. Tidal Flooding Talk is a live podcast from a pub in Atlantic City. They talk floodplain management, mitigation, storm preparation, land surveying, flood insurance and more. Awesome discovery! Check out the podcast here.

**Virginia**—Virginia Beach is releasing results of a multi-year study of how to combat rising sea levels and future flooding impacts. Read “Virginia Beach unveils study, new concepts to fight impact of sea level rise.”

**Texas**—Senate Bill 339 would change a provision of the state’s property code to force sellers to tell buyers whether properties are in a 100- or 500-year floodplain or partly inside a reservoir or reservoir “flood pool.” The bill also would require sellers to disclose whether the property has flooded before, whether it might flood under “catastrophic circumstances,” and if it’s located within 5 miles downstream of a reservoir. Read article here.
FEMA’s New NFIP Flood Insurance Manual, Training & More

In October 2018, FEMA released a totally reformatted, easier-to-use Flood Insurance Manual. And we mean totally reformatted. By now, we are sure many of you have had to use the manual and for some, have experienced the awkwardness of trying to figure out where everything is now.

Well, help is here! Recently, the NFIP Training Contractor (H2O Partners) presented a webinar called “Navigating the Restyled NFIP Flood Insurance Manual.” The presenters showed how to get around the new manual in order to ease the transition to it. If you missed the webinar, you can see a recording of it here: https://tinyurl.com/ycyzzmxq. They used a great crosswalk tool that shows exactly where the information from the April 2018 version is in the new manual and provides quick links to the content. It is available for download, and if you use the manual at all, go get yourself a copy of the crosswalk now at www.h2opartnersusa.com/agent/crosswalk.pdf.

Speaking of training, the NFIP provides many online courses that can be found at www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-manual. And if you haven’t signed up to receive notices about training opportunities (and other notices from FEMA), visit https://tinyurl.com/ya5z69mr.

And here’s the “More”: We’ve mentioned it before, but wanted to one more time. The new and improved FloodSmart Cost of Flooding Tool is now available and can be embedded on YOUR community’s (or company’s) website to help property owners better understand the financial impact just a few inches of flood waters can have. And you can easily access the tool from the home page of www.Agents.FloodSmart.gov.

As always, whether it is a specific flood insurance-related question or a topic you’d like the Flood Insurance Committee to look into addressing, we want to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and if you aren’t a committee member and wish to join, let us know that too!

Humbly yours,
Bruce Bender and Steve Samuelson
— Your Flood Insurance Committee Co-chairs

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!

- Department of Ecology in Lacey, Washington is hiring a regional floodplain management planner.
- Flood Control District of Maricopa County in Phoenix is seeking a senior planner.
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines, Iowa is currently looking for an environmental engineer.
By Leigh Chapman, CFM, and Rebecca Quinn, CFM

For this month’s column I invited my friend and colleague Leigh Chapman to share her observations about disclosure of flood hazards. Leigh and I have worked together since...well, since a long time ago when I was the Maryland state coordinator. I hired her out of college and helped her “catch the bug” about floodplain management. Take it away, Leigh!

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As floodplain managers, we wear so many hats. One such chapeau—that I have rarely had to don, but sympathize with those who do— involves enforcement of all the provisions that our elected officials put into floodplain ordinances. In fact, I think enforcement might just be the hardest part of administering regulations! It certainly helps to have ordinance requirements that are well thought out, written in clear, concise and enforceable language, and backed up by statutory authority and legislative findings that express the relevant need and intent.

Having worked with Rebecca for a really long time, she and I tend to think alike on a few things. We recently talked about a disclosure provision we’ve seen in a couple of local ordinances and practically hollered at each other on the phone: “How in the world is that even enforced?”

What had us asking the question? These local ordinances require contracts for sales of properties with buildings in the SFHA to contain very specific disclosure language about flood hazards and past flooding history. Full disclosure of my own here: neither of us are attorneys. But we’ve reviewed and helped write, amend and interpret a LOT of ordinances over the years.

The scope of ordinances covers any development that takes place in a community’s SFHA. And yes, the NFIP definition of “development” is very broad. But we were hard pressed to see how that definition could be interpreted to include a real estate transaction as a “man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate.”

No one selling property is required to get a permit, so what action on the part of the property owner (past or future) could trigger compliance with a disclosure requirement adopted in a floodplain management ordinance? How would the floodplain manager ever know if the requirement was in the contract? How would real estate agents know the requirement exists? How could implementation be enforced?

Please don’t get me wrong: I believe effective disclosure provisions are valuable for buyers, especially in expansive, low-lying flood prone areas and heavily developed floodplains, where the source of flooding is nowhere to be seen. I’m a huge proponent of any measure that informs buyers up front what they’re getting into. But inserting unenforceable disclosure requirements in a land use regulation could be misleading or confusing. I, for one, dislike unenforceable provisions because they appear as excessive regulation and, dare I say, overreach—that’s rarely a good thing!
I decided to look into this some more by first checking the Community Rating System Coordinator’s Manual to see what sorts of disclosure requirements are creditable in that program. The activity “disclosure of the flood hazard” (DFH) looked promising, but it provides credit when real estate agents inform potential purchasers whether a property is in the SFHA. The manual states “a statutory or other legal mandate that real estate agents disclose the hazard is not needed to obtain credit for DFH.”

Then I looked into “other disclosure requirements” (ODR). As of October 2018, ISO reports that 1,185 out of 1,502 CRS communities receive ODR credit. As the millennials say, “Mind blown!” That’s 79% of all CRS communities getting an average of 12 out of the maximum 25 points available.

I decided to look at the ODR examples of creditable activities and who is supposed to take the described action (see text box below). Notably, how does a community impose requirements on the identified (or implied) person or entity that must take the action? They include sellers, real estate agents, landlords, surveyors, title companies and attorneys.

Not to completely punt the question, but in my limited experience, the authority to regulate most of those entities and actions typically rests at the state level and many states do not permit communities to impose additional requirements. The exception? I think most communities have the authority to specify what is shown on subdivision plats. And they may be able to require subdivision developers to post flood hazard warning signs and specify the requirement conveys to neighborhood associations.

But of the nine examples listed, which are the ones most likely to actually make a difference in terms of educating the public? Numbers 4, 5, 6 and 8 deal with plats, lot surveys, deeds and titles—but who actually reads those details when shopping for a home? Numbers 1, 2 and 9 are about informing buyers and I think hold the most promise. [FYI, I live in Tidewater, Virginia, “ground zero” for sea level rise and monthly flooding by high-high tides, and I know more and more homebuyers are paying attention to flood risk. Indeed, I’m starting to see sales ads using come-ons like no flood insurance required, never flooded or elevated above flood level.]

According to a 2014 memo from the Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic at the William & Mary Law School, some states have passed statutes that supersede the common-law “buyer beware” doctrine and burden the seller with disclosure of flood hazard information. At the time, the following states were identified: California, Illinois, Iowa, New York, Maryland, Delaware and Florida. Since then, we’ve learned Texas requires disclosure as to whether property is in the 100-year floodplain, and just the other day the ASFPM Facebook page shared an article that Texas is considering an even more detailed flood disclosure requirement in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. And this year, the Virginia General Assembly is considering a disclosure bill. Rebecca wrote about Maryland’s flood disclosure notice in the January 2018 Insider (p. 10).

I’ll end by using one of Rebecca’s sign-offs—and invite you to share your thoughts about how communities in your neck of the woods implement or enforce disclosure requirements to broaden public awareness of flood hazards. I look forward to hearing from you!
Other Disclosure Requirements (ODR) Examples [identifying who, stated or implied, is supposed to take action]:

1. Requiring all sellers to disclose the flood hazard in those cases where a real estate agent is not involved.
2. Requiring real estate agents and sellers to advise potential purchasers whether “to the best of their knowledge and belief” the property has ever been flooded.
3. Requiring landlords to advise potential renters about the flood hazard.
4. Requiring final recorded subdivision plats [prepared by surveyors] to display the flood hazard area.
5. Requiring that the flood hazard area be shown on individual lot surveys prepared [by surveyors] for deed records, property transactions, or mortgages.
6. Requiring titles or deed records [prepared by title companies/attorneys] to show zoning or building permit conditions related to floodplain or drainage regulations, such as a notice about the substantial improvement or substantial damage requirement for floodplain properties.
7. Requiring signs posted in subdivisions [by communities or neighborhood associations] to advise visitors of the flood hazard.
8. Requiring that deeds [prepared by title companies/attorneys] show the lot or building elevation in relation to sea level and the base or historical flood elevation.
9. Requiring all sellers to disclose whether the property is subject to a special flood-related hazard.

Respond to Leigh’s invitation by contacting her at leigh.morgan2@verizon.net. Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at rcquinn@earthlink.net. Comments welcomed! Explore back issues of the Floodplain Manager’s Notebook.

Grant Opportunities…

Just a reminder to bookmark the Florida Climate Institute’s website for a comprehensive list of funding opportunities. It’s a fabulous resource.
We’re just four months away from the year’s most comprehensive floodplain management training and networking opportunity! Make your plans now to attend “Flood Fest 2019: The Mitigation Resilience Tour” at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland. Registration will open on the conference website in February. Need a hotel room? No need to wait—the room blocks are currently open and accepting reservations.

Did you submit an abstract or workshop proposal for consideration in the program? Selection notifications have been sent. A preliminary program is posted on the conference website.

Registration opens in February. If your firm or organization is interested in high-level exposure at this conference, be sure to check out sponsorship and exhibits opportunities. The ASFPM annual national conference is THE place to engage your stakeholders and clients. Contact Sarah Waller at sarah@floods.org for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Cleveland!

Our conference website is constantly being updated, so please check it often! And get your fingers in social media posting shape for #ASFPM2019 by liking and following our Facebook and Twitter pages!

ALSO, please keep in mind that it’s time to submit a nomination for ASFPM’s 2019 awards season! You can do it online RIGHT NOW!

FYI: The Coastal GeoTools show will go on, regardless of the government shutdown!

The Coastal GeoTools conference, Feb. 11-14, 2019 in Myrtle Beach, focuses on geospatial data, tools, technology and information for coastal resource management professionals. Coastal professionals from many different sectors find the networking opportunities of the conference unique and important for furthering the goals of their organizations. Anyone interested in the development and application of geospatial technology for management of coastal resources will benefit from this conference. Learn more about the conference here.

For Coastal GeoTools attendees not ready to leave Myrtle Beach and curious about the coastal job market, The Coastal Society is offering a workshop following our conference. Speakers will share insights on the coastal job market, provide skills to succeed and offer the opportunity to network with speakers and potential mentors. For more information or to register, visit the TCS Workshop Event Page. Please register by Feb. 6 to help TCS ensure adequate refreshments and space for the event.
FEMA News You Can Use

FEMA recently released, "Map Changes and Flood Insurance: What Property Owners Need to Know"
Two-page fact sheet helps explain what flood maps are, why they change, how flood maps show flood risks, and how flood maps are used by community officials, mortgage lenders, insurance professionals, developers, and home and business owners.

Webinar Recording Now Available for “Navigating the Restyled NFIP Flood Insurance Manual”
If you were not able to attend “Navigating the Restyled NFIP Flood Insurance Manual” webinar in December, a recording is now available. To view the recording, click on the link below.
View the Pre-Recorded Webinar Presentation - Navigating the Restyled NFIP Flood Insurance Manual

Just a quick reminder. The HMA grant application period closes JAN. 31!!! Get those applications in!

Access the MT eGrants Reference Tools: https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160596
Reach the eGrants support team at: MTeGrants@fema.dhs.gov

Interested in professional development for flood-risk professionals? Do you have ideas that could help enhance and strengthen the floodplain management profession? Get involved by joining ASFPM’s Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee. The mission of the PDCEC is to provide vision, leadership and direction to ASFPM members regarding issues affecting the floodplain management profession.

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.
Off to a Rocky Start

The 116th Congress convened Jan. 3. Initially the House and Senate focused on electing their leadership for the new Congress. Then the process of anointing committee chairs and ranking minority members took place, followed by appointment of subcommittee chairs and ranking minority members. The latter appointments are still being slowly announced. Finally, House and Senate leadership will finalize committee memberships.

On the House side, this was a seismic shift since Democrats are now the majority party—meaning they assume chairmanships of committees and subcommittees and increase the numbers from their party assigned to each committee and subcommittee. At the same time, Republican numbers decrease. Democratic staff sizes increase while Republican staffs decrease.

On the Senate side, many assignments have remained the same although departures of some senators and shifts in committee leadership based on seniority result in a number of changes. Newly elected senators get their assignments.

Once committee memberships have been finalized, the various committees will have organizational meetings and develop their intended agendas for this first session of the 116th Congress. None of that has happened yet, although a few committees have scheduled hearings.

The impasse over the president’s request for funding a border wall has stalled action on appropriations for many federal departments and agencies, resulting in the longest government shutdown in history. This has dramatically affected legislative activity. While Senate leadership has decided not to take up any appropriations measures unless the White House has indicated the president will sign the bills, the House has moved to pass several of the remaining seven Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bills, individually. Also, the House passed a Disaster Supplemental Appropriations bill (H.R. 268) Jan. 16.

Border Wall Funding Status and Shutdown Effects

When the White House released its Budget Request for FY19 last February, it included a request for $1.6 billion for a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. Later, the president announced that he had changed his request to $5 billion. More recently, he said his request is $5.6 billion and very recently, he said his request is $5.7 billion. Meanwhile, the Senate version of Homeland Security appropriations for FY19 included the initially requested $1.6 billion. The House version included the $5 billion. Now it appears that Democrats are offering $1.3 billion and the president is insisting on $5.7 billion. Where this standoff will end is hard, if not impossible, to predict.

Meanwhile, the effects of the shutdown and the many furloughed federal employees are being felt throughout the economy. At FEMA, for example, many staff are furloughed while others are working but
not being paid. A few, such as those handling floodplain management for the NFIP, are working and being paid because their salaries are funded by the NFIP policy fee income, not appropriations. Almost all of the flood insurance and mitigation staff are furloughed. Work on Risk Rating 2.0, planned for initial rollout in April, is completely stalled. Work on guidance or rules for implementation of the many provisions of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act passed toward the end of the last Congress, has been halted. Even those who are working have explained that they are able to accomplish very little since many others with whom they need to collaborate, such as legal counsel, have been furloughed and many supporting contractors are unfunded.

The Stafford Coalition, in which ASFPM participates, met Jan 18. The focus of the discussion was on impacts of the shutdown. Some 16 or so associations participated, including the National Emergency Management Association, International Association of Emergency Managers, National Association of Counties, Conference of Mayors, International Code Council and American Public Works Association. All of those represented elaborated on the many ripple effects for their members and missions.

ASFPM and the National Association of Realtors had scheduled the next meeting of the Flood Map Coalition for Jan. 29. That meeting was to focus on Risk Rating 2.0. Planned guest speakers were Andy Neal, the FEMA NFIP actuary leading the project, and Tony Hake, who is leading plans for the initial rollout. Both are furloughed, so it is very likely that meeting will need to be postponed.

Disaster Supplemental Appropriations

The Disaster Supplemental H.R. 268 would provide $12.1 billion for recovery from recent wildfires, hurricanes, volcanos, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Funds would go to 17 different federal departments and agencies.

A number of amendments were accepted. Among them are two by Reps. Garret Graves (R-LA) and Cedric Richmond (D-LA). One amendment appears to permit use of HUD CDBG-DR funds for Army Corps of Engineers projects. Floor debate revealed that the language lacks clarity as to what the amendment would actually do. The other amendment appears to reiterate language in the DRRA, which clarifies that SBA Disaster Loans should not be considered a duplication of benefits when used in conjunction with grant funds.

At this point, this bill is unlikely to move quickly due to the shutdown politics. Once the shutdown is over, the Senate could take up the bill.

Some Anticipated Action for this Congress

- **Reauthorization of the NFIP.** The current authorization will expire May 31. With Democrats in the majority in the House, we can expect movement on a very different bill than the one passed by the House in the last Congress.
- **Select Committee on Climate.** The speaker has already moved to establish this select committee to restore congressional ability to examine issues and science associated with climate change.
- **Some action on appropriations for the remainder of FY19.** Once the partial government shutdown is over, there will be some resolution of funding levels for the remaining seven appropriations bills. The other five bills were previously passed and signed into law.
The upcoming FY20 White House Budget Request, planned for release in early February, will be delayed. Once it is released, the Appropriations Subcommittees will begin their hearings to examine the budget justifications.

Infrastructure legislation. There is increased expectation of some forward movement on legislation to promote and fund infrastructure investment.

Digital Coast Act. ASFPM will continue to support education of Congress about the benefits of NOAA’s Digital Coast initiative and the importance of codifying it as a federal program. The measure has passed the Senate twice. With different leadership in the House, prospects for House passage may improve.

All bills referenced can be found by going to www.Congress.gov and typing in the bill number or title.

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