

# THE INSIDER

A Publication  
for Members

July  
2009

## The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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

The biggest news every day, no matter what else is going on, is how bad the U.S. economy is. The poor economy has taken its toll on many organizations' conferences and events this past year. However, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual ASFPM Conference in Orlando was able to weather the economy just fine with nearly 1,300 participants attending the conference this year. I believe this is a true testimony of the ASFPM membership as to the importance of this annual conference.

The theme of this year's conference, "Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses," provided conference participants a message that what we do today will have an impact on our future. From the opening plenary session to the closing plenary session, participants heard how we need to preserve and protect the environmentally sensitive and economic functions of water long term. The participants heard about levees, RISK Map, Federal programs, training opportunities, communicating risk effectively, and new data and tools. A conference of this size only runs as smoothly as it does due to the many volunteers who assist in so many ways with the concurrent sessions, networking events, guest tours, field trips, etc. I want to thank the members of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association for their hard work in making the conference a great success. I want to give special thanks to the ASFPM staff: Chad, Diane, Anita, Becky, Katie, Debbie, Kait, and Jason. These individuals make sure that all of the details and problems are taken care of so that everything runs smoothly for the participants.

Overall, many thanks to everyone who assisted with, participated in, and supported the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual ASFPM Conference!

I would also like to thank the tremendous efforts of your ASFPM leaders this past year. All of the Officers and Directors on our Board have provided leadership and support to make your Association a great success. I want to recognize and say thanks to the members who left the Board at this year's conference:

Chair: Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM  
Region 1 Director: Scott Choquette, CFM  
Region 2 Director: John Miller, P.E., CFM  
District 3 Chapter Director: Harold Holmes, CFM  
District 5 Chapter Director: Ken Leep, CFM

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All of these individuals did a tremendous job on the Board and will be missed as we welcome their successors. On this note, I would like to congratulate the new members of the Board of Directors! Please welcome the following new members of our Board this year:

Chair: Greg Main, CFM (formerly Vice- Chair)  
Vice-Chair: Sally McConkey, P.E., CFM  
Region 1 Director: Ed Thomas, Esq.  
Region 2 Director: Laura Tessieri, P.E., CFM  
District 3 Chapter Director: Diane Calhoun, CFM  
District 5 Chapter Director: Valerie Swick, CFM

We congratulate all of the Board members and look forward to working with all of you in the coming year!

### 2009-10 ASFPM Board of Directors



*Seated L-R:* **George Riedel**, CFM, Deputy Executive Director; **Bill Nechamen**, CFM, New York, Treasurer; **Judy Watanabe**, CFM, Utah, Secretary; **Sally McConkey**, PE, CFM, Illinois, Vice Chair; **Greg Main**, CFM, Indiana, Chair; **Larry Larson**, PE, CFM, Executive Director.

*Standing L-R:* **Edward Thomas**, Esq., Massachusetts, Region 2; **Michael Dopko**, CFM, New York, Chapters District 1; **Valerie Swick**, CFM, Arizona, Chapters District 5; **Dave Fowler**, CFM, Wisconsin, Region 5; **Jeff Sickles**, PE, CFM, Colorado, Region 8; **Heidi Carlin**, CFM, Texas, Region 6; **Gerald Robinson**, PE, CFM, Illinois, Chapters District 2; **Paul Woodward**, PE, CFM, Nebraska, Region 7; **Eugene Henry**, AICP, CFM, Florida, Region 4; **Alisa Sauvageot**, CFM, Arizona, Region 9; **Laura Tessieri**, PE, CFM, New Jersey, Region 2; **Brad Anderson**, PE, CFM, Colorado, Chapters District 4; **Diane Calhoun**, CFM, Texas, Chapters District 3; **Jeff Sparrow**, PE, CFM, Virginia, Region 3.  
*Not pictured:* **Bob Freitag**, CFM, Washington, Region 10.

**New ASFPM Website!** ASFPM will be launching our new website next week. Once it has been deployed we will send an email to all members with a link to the new site. We encourage all of you to check out the new website and provide us with any comments you may have, as we will be continuing to make changes/improvements over the next few months.

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## **National CFM® Certification Program and Exam Survey**

The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR), which oversees the National CFM® program and exam, is conducting an assessment to ensure continued quality, consistency, and credibility of our certification program. This three part process will evaluate the existing program and exam. The assessment is being done to ensure the program and exam are properly targeted to essential knowledge areas in current practice, constructed following best practices, and managed to ensure continued credibility and sustainability. It is important to note that this is the same process used by accredited certification programs to ensure quality in their programs and exams.

The first step in the assessment process is a meeting of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from a representative cross section of the floodplain management profession and CFMs. This group of 10-12 SMEs from all levels of government, private industry, diverse geographical locales, riverine and coastal areas will meet in July 2009 to compile a comprehensive list of tasks and duties currently in practice in the field. Following this meeting, the second step in the process takes place. A survey will be developed about these tasks and duties that will be distributed to all ASFPM members (both CFMs and non-CFMs).

The survey will ask questions to validate the list of tasks and duties in order to determine essential competencies every CFM® should have and know. For this key step in the process to be a success, a certain percentage of survey responses are required. We urge all our members to consider completing this survey a vital and valuable contribution to the CFM® program and the floodplain management profession. As a measure of our appreciation for your time and contribution, survey respondents will be entered to win from a number of prizes – stay tuned for details! Keep your eyes open for an email coming soon with the list of available prizes. This online survey will be released to our members via email in August 2009. After survey responses have been compiled, a third step in the process will take place, an Exam Validation meeting.

The Exam Validation meeting will be held in November 2009 with 10-12 SMEs to review the existing CFM® exam relative to the survey findings. This process will review and suggest any recommended adjustments to the CFM® exam categories and percentage of questions, question structure, weight, and passing score. This process will be a way for our program to maintain its integrity and credibility in measuring essential knowledge required of CFMs and professionals in the field.

After the process is complete, CBOR will receive a report outlining the findings and recommendations for the National CFM® program and exam. These findings will be shared with our accredited state certification programs and our members.

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## **Pacific Northwest Cooperators' Roundtable**

*September 2-3, Tacoma, WA*

Members of the water community are invited to assess and provide input on the U.S. Geological Survey's Cooperative Water Program (CWP) in the Pacific Northwest (Idaho, Oregon and Washington). This Roundtable meeting has been designed to bring local, state and federal officials, water leaders and other stakeholders together with USGS representatives to discuss cooperative water-data and science programs. It has been organized by the Interstate Council on Water Policy, the Idaho Water Users Association, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Oregon Water Resources Congress, the River Network, the Washington Water Resources Association and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The USGS works with more than 120 non-federal cooperators (water agencies and others) in these three states. These partners contribute over \$7.7 million annually to support streamgaging, groundwater monitoring and water-science research carried out by the USGS.

The goals of the Cooperators' Roundtable are to discuss the capabilities of these USGS programs with CWP Cooperators and other stakeholders, and to elicit their ideas for improving and extending those capabilities. Particular emphasis will be given to USGS water data and interpretive studies carried out under the [CWP](#) and the National Streamflow Information Program ([NSIP](#)).

The meeting will begin on Wednesday afternoon, September 2, 2009, and conclude early on Thursday afternoon, September 3, at the Murano Hotel in Tacoma, WA with a reception on Wednesday evening. Registration will cost \$75 and is payable either online (with a credit card) or at the door (cash or check only); this fee will cover the Cooperators' Roundtable meeting, meeting materials, the reception and the luncheon.

Space for this workshop is limited to about 75 participants. The meeting registration and updated program information are available on the ICWP website (<http://www.icwp.org/>).

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## **“What I learned from seeing my house destroyed by floods”**

*By: David A. Collins, Orlando Sentinel*

This article is a well written story about flooding from the perspective of a flooded homeowner. The author is from DeBary, FL, and tells the story of his home, which flooded twice since 2004 and was eventually bought as part of a FEMA buyout program.

You can read the article online at:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orl-lid-twice-flooded-house-060709,0,2159386.story>

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## **EPA Video: “Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In”**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Botanic Garden produced this 9-minute on-line video, “Reduce Runoff: Slow It Down, Spread It Out, Soak It In,” that highlights green techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs and rain barrels to help manage stormwater runoff.

You can view the video on the EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/video.html>

Or on YouTube at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huO\\_NRn34GI&feature=channel\\_page](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huO_NRn34GI&feature=channel_page)

The film showcases green techniques that are being used in urban areas to reduce the effects of stormwater runoff on the quality of downstream receiving waters. The goal is to mimic the natural way water moves through an area before development by using design techniques that infiltrate, evaporate, and reuse runoff close to its source.

The techniques are innovative stormwater management practices that manage urban stormwater runoff at its source, and are very effective at reducing the volume of stormwater runoff and capturing harmful pollutants. Using vegetated areas that capture runoff also improves air quality, mitigates the effects of urban heat islands and reduces a community's overall carbon footprint.

The video highlights green techniques on display in 2008 at the U.S. Botanic Garden's "One Planet – Ours!" Exhibit" and at the U.S. EPA in Washington, D.C., including recently completed cisterns.

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### Invitation to contribute to *Viewpoints*

The *NRF*, *A United Nations Sustainable Development Journal* is inviting your views on the following question for the *Viewpoints* section of the November 2009 issue:

“What would be the three key preconditions for jumpstarting or scaling up the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for climate change to developing countries?”

The *Viewpoints* section offers a platform for academics, practitioners and experts to share their perspectives and to feature these perspectives alongside other thoughtful responses in the journal. Each entry should be **200 words or less** addressing the above question. Our Editorial team will select those contributions that address an important dimension of the debate.

The deadline for submission to the *Viewpoints* for the November 2009 issue is: **30 July 2009**.

We look forward to receiving many contributions at [nrforum@un.org](mailto:nrforum@un.org). When submitting a contribution, please provide your name, title, affiliation and contact details.

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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 . . .

In December 2007, FEMA issued final regulations regarding local mitigation planning requirements (44 CFR §201). A new requirement states that the mitigation strategy “must also address the jurisdiction’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate” (§201.6(c)(3)(ii)). Thousands of communities have adopted mitigation

plans and many of them have started work on their required 5-year updates. So the question is – how do they satisfy this new requirement?

The “Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance,” published last July by FEMA, clearly states that it is unacceptable to simply state that “[t]he community will continue to comply with the NFIP” (see page 61). Other than that, there’s little to go on. A little more guidance is captured in the “Plan Review Crosswalk for Review of Local Mitigation Plans” (July 2008) which suggests answering two questions:

1. Does the new or updated plan describe the jurisdiction(s) participation in the NFIP?
2. Does the mitigation strategy identify, analyze and prioritize actions related to continued compliance with the NFIP?

Given the scant guidance, recently I was asked to offer my thoughts about how communities can satisfy the requirement. My answer is founded on the “do it right the first time” philosophy. I have always believed that state and local mitigation plans should clearly describe how hazards are addressed in planning and development review processes. What better mitigation action is there than to identify and implement improvements (including those we typically call ‘higher standards’) that do a better job of guiding development away from high-hazard areas and assuring that buildings are even more resistant to hazards?

Here’s what I suggest communities include in their local mitigation plans to satisfy the requirement by answering the two questions posed in the crosswalk.

**“Does the new or updated plan describe the jurisdiction(s) participation in the NFIP?”**

1. Identify when the community joined the NFIP, the date of current effective maps, and description of any floodplain studies the community has undertaken.

Summarize NFIP data, including number of policies and number and amount of claims paid (see instructions below), and whether the NFIP identifies any properties as repetitive loss or severe repetitive loss (request data from states). Note that a map showing location of RL/SRL properties should be included in the risk assessment section of the plan to address the requirement in §201.6(c)(2)(ii). [Note that use of NFIP policy and claims data is protected under the federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552(a); data may be used for planning purposes only.]

2. Summarize the administrative components of the local program:
  - a. The official designated as the Floodplain Administrator.
  - b. List the regulations that were adopted to meet the NFIP minimums, including date and section number (may include floodplain management ordinance, building codes, subdivision ordinance, etc.).
  - c. Describe any “higher standards” that exceed NFIP minimums.
  - d. Describe any floodplain management provisions that are integrated into other plans that the community uses to guide development (zoning ordinance, comprehensive plan, resource protection regulations, etc.).
  - e. The date the last Community Assistance Visit was conducted, the issues that were identified, and how they were resolved.
  - f. If community participates in the CRS, the CRS class and a summary of activities for which the community gets credit.

**“Does the mitigation strategy identify actions related to participation in and continued compliance with the NFIP?”** Communities that are already performing well (e.g., based on recent Community Assistance Visit) may determine that they do not want to modify how they operate, in which case a description of key elements that contribute to their effective programs should be acceptable. This should be a narrative of permit intake procedures, plan review to check for compliance, field inspections, collection of elevation data, and permanent retention of records.

Other communities may elect to identify some actions to improve their programs. Their plans should also include the above-described narrative to describe their programs, as well as specific actions that they decide are appropriate. Note that because these actions are related to “continued compliance,” they should focus on administration of local rules (i.e., to avoid creating new at-risk development), and not on mitigating existing problems. Communities should see this as an opportunity to identify one or more actions to be pursued over the next 5 years, such as:

1. Evaluate improvements to administration – some suggestions:
  - a. Evaluate permit application forms to determine whether modifications should be made to require identification of FIRM, date, zone and BFE; develop a checklist for review of building/development permit plans and for inspection of development in floodplains (a model is available).
  - b. Set a goal to have each plan reviewer and inspector attend a related training periodically (e.g., every three years). If the local official is a Certified Floodplain Manager, continuing education is required.
  - c. Sponsor a periodic workshop for surveyors and builders.
  - d. Encourage (or require) certain staff positions to obtain and maintain Certified Floodplain Manager certification.
  - e. Maintain a map of areas that flood frequently (e.g., areas where repetitive loss properties are located) and prioritize those areas for inspection immediately after the next flood.
  - f. Hold work session for newly elected officials and new appointees to planning commissions and appeals/variance boards, to provide an overview of floodplain management, the importance of participating in the NFIP, and the implications of failing to enforce the requirements or failing to properly handle variance requests.
  - g. Communities that have experienced multiple flood disasters can evaluate FEMA’s new Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference (FEMA P-758, due out early Fall) for suggestions related to being prepared to handle post-disaster damage inspections.
  - h. Obtain FEMA’s Substantial Damage Estimator and attend training to be prepared to use it when damage occurs; develop agreements to augment local inspection personnel after major disasters.
  - i. Review other local regulatory programs and planning tools, such as the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, and report on opportunities to improve consistency with the objectives of floodplain management.
2. Improve public information related to floodplain regulations and reducing future damage, for example:
  - a. Maintain supplies of FEMA/NFIP materials to help homeowners evaluate measures to reduce damage.

- b. Develop handouts for permit applicants on specific issues (which may vary by community), such as installation of manufactured homes in FHAs according to HUD's installation standards (examples available), or guidance on improving/repairing existing buildings.
3. Evaluate possible program changes. In my opinion, every community should be able to commit to this because the act of evaluating changes, and documenting the process of evaluation, is an acceptable action even if the evaluation determines that no changes will be pursued. A plan cannot state that changes such as adopting a new higher standard will be adopted because it cannot forecast the outcome of the deliberative process:
  - a. Evaluate 'higher standards' that are proven to reduce flood damage, especially freeboard, setbacks, limitations on enclosure size, and prohibition on use of fill.
  - b. CRS communities should, at least every 5 years, examine CRS-eligible activities to determine if it is feasible to augment an existing activity or undertake a new activity.
  - c. Communities not in the CRS can request assistance to determine current activities that yield points and whether to apply (some states may provide summaries of the dollar savings that would accrue to policyholders as a function of possible CRS class).

Instructions: Recent data on the number of NFIP flood insurance policies in-force in every NFIP-participating community, and the number of claims/losses paid in those communities, are accessible online at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/statistics/pcstat.shtm>

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## **Washington Legislative Report**

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



### **Legislative Process in Full Swing**

When the Congress returns from its 4<sup>th</sup> of July Recess on July 6<sup>th</sup>, an exceptionally busy legislative agenda awaits. Both the House and Senate are on track to move the appropriations bills individually and on time this year and many of those bills have already been marked up in Committee or will be in July. Many are ready for House and Senate floor consideration. Climate change and health care legislation can be expected to share the stage with appropriations in dominating Congressional activity. Other interesting legislation is in various stages of development at the committee level, including legislation to extend the authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and legislation to establish a system for sustainable watershed planning. As is often the case, there are also some legislative proposals that raise some concerns and there are some that have been introduced, notably with regard to mitigation proposals and floodplain mapping.

This next Congressional work period is expected to be particularly intense because of the pressure to act on legislation and appropriations before the month-long August recess.

### **NFIP Reauthorization**

It appears that the House Financial Services Committee, rather than re-introducing the flood insurance reform legislation passed during the last Congress, will instead introduce a bill to simply reauthorize the NFIP through March 2010. The bill would also reauthorize the Severe Repetitive Loss program through 2010. This action would give the committee the time needed to more thoroughly consider issues and recommendations that have emerged since the earlier legislation was passed.



ASFPM is supportive of this approach. The kinds of issues that have changed or emerged are, for example, the relationship of the NFIP (and the Senate reform bill from the last Congress which included a catastrophe reserve fund) to the various natural catastrophe bills that have been introduced, the flood map issues associated with decertification of levees and expiring Provisionally Accredited Levees (PALs), affordability of flood insurance and the relationship to political acceptance of sound mitigation and levee safety policies.

In general, it now seems appropriate to consider the overall intent of the NFIP and whether new directions are warranted, such as re-adjusting the program and rates to accommodate the truly catastrophic storms, as many Members of Congress seem to suggest. Addressing such questions could help to establish the context in which the NFIP is expected to function. Another question could be whether the emphasis on the 100-year flood standard should be modified and reflected in the premium rate structure. It is apparent to the officers and staff of ASFPM that the five year reauthorization included in both the House and Senate versions of flood insurance reform legislation in the last Congress would delay consideration of such issues for too long.

At this point, it is still assumed that the Senate Banking Committee will want to reintroduce the bill passed in the last Congress. A different approach by the House counterpart committee could result in a changed Senate approach, but there has been no indication of that as yet.

A number of bills dealing with aspects of the NFIP have been introduced. They could be considered on their own or as part of a reform bill. Some of these are:

- H.R. 1264, to make available under the NFIP multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms or floods (Rep. Gene Taylor, D-MS)
- H.R. 777, to prohibit any updating of flood maps until FEMA submits to Congress a community outreach plan (Rep. Frank Pallone, D-NJ)
- H.R. 1316, to provide for appropriate notification of communities and homeowners of establishment of flood elevations for purposes of the NFIP (Rep. Tom Rooney, R-FL)
- H.R. 1525, to require FEMA to consider reconstruction and improvement of flood protection systems when establishing flood insurance rates (Rep. Doris Matsui, D-CA)

### **Climate Change**

The House passed its major energy and climate change bill, America's Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454) just before breaking for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Recess. A significant portion of the bill deals with climate adaptation. Climate adaptation includes much that is considered "mitigation" by the floodplain management community. ASFPM staff are currently reviewing those provisions. It now appears that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, rather than drafting its own new energy and climate bill, will consider the House bill and mark-up changes to it during the week of July 13<sup>th</sup>. The bill then will be referred to a number of committees, but the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has asked them all to complete their work on the bill by mid-September.

### **Mitigation**

A variety of bills designed to promote hazard mitigation have been introduced. They utilize various means such as tax credits, loans and grants. Some are more likely to be taken up than others and the path forward is not clear. Of particular importance is reauthorization of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program which will expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants (PDM)**

Movement toward reauthorization and appropriation of funds for PDM is proceeding in a somewhat haphazard manner. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1746 in late April which would

reauthorize the program for three years, increase its authorized funding to \$250 million/year and its allocations for each state to \$575,000 while also codifying the program as a competitive grant program. Shortly thereafter, the Administration's budget request for FEMA was released. The budget request for PDM included a shift from a competitive program to a risk-based formula allocation program, which would add to the base allocations for states. The House passed Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 2892) specifically does not approve the change to a risk-based program because FEMA was not able to provide sufficient information on how the program would operate. That bill includes a one year reauthorization of the current program. The Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee bill also does not approve the Administration's proposed change, nor does it include a reauthorization.

### Other Mitigation Bills

Three bills were introduced on June 24<sup>th</sup> by House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS). However, none of the bills fall under the jurisdiction of the Homeland Security Committee. The ASFPM Mitigation Policy Committee Co-Chairs and Mitigation POD leader have expressed reservations about the three bills:

1. H.R. 3026, the Hazard Mitigation for All Act, which would provide grants through the Department of Housing and Urban Development for retrofitting public housing, Section 8 and assisted housing residences. (Referred to the Financial Services Committee)
2. H.R. 3027, the Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Enhancement Act, would add a new competitive grant program for projects directly affecting residents of low to moderate income homes, apartment residents and small business owners. (Referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee)
3. H.R. 3028, the First Responder Innovation and Support Act, would provide funding support for first responder programs which focus on particular populations or on particular types of community needs. (Referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee)

Another bill introduced by Chairman Thompson earlier in the session is:

- H.R. 1239, the Property Mitigation Assistance Act, which would establish a homeowner mitigation loan program within FEMA.

Some other bills introduced are:

- S. 1088, a bill to authorized use of Stafford Act funds for certain construction in coastal high hazard areas (Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-LA)
- H.R. 2592, to encourage states to adopt and actively enforce state building code (Rep. Mario Diaz- Balart, R-FL)
- H.R. 308, to provide a tax credit for hurricane and tornado mitigation expenditures (Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-FL)
- S. 1364, to provide a tax credit for hurricane and tornado mitigation expenditures (Sen. Mel Martinez, R-FL)

### Other Legislation

Other bills and legislative action of interest are:

S. 787, the Clean Water Restoration Act which clarifies the application of the Clean Water Act to "waters of the U.S." as opposed to "navigable waters of the U.S." The bill passed the Senate in June.

H.R. 327, the Hurricane Research Initiative to improve hurricane preparedness, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative. This bill has passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Surface Transportation Assistance Act A Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up this draft bill on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The measure is a major overhaul of federal transportation programs in a six year reauthorization measure. The Obama Administration had asked that legislative action be delayed for 18 months to facilitate a more thorough development of policies and funding sources. In the Senate, Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has agreed to the delay. As this legislation is developed, ASFPM will monitor and urge inclusion of hazard mitigation considerations.

Sustainable Watershed Planning Act The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Water Resources Subcommittee is developing draft legislation to establish a system of councils at the federal, regional and state levels to facilitate comprehensive water resources planning. ASFPM representatives have been asked to make recommendations and to comment on drafts.

FEMA Authorization The House Homeland Security Committee is drafting legislation which would be a first-ever FEMA authorization bill. At present, the House Homeland Security Committee has jurisdiction only over FEMA's terrorism preparedness activities. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over the Stafford Act and the House Financial Services Committee has jurisdiction over the NFIP and related mapping and mitigation activities. On the Senate side, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee does have Stafford Act jurisdiction.

For pending legislation relating to coastal issues and natural hazards catastrophe insurance issues, please see News and Views, June 2009 and Insider, May 2009.

### **Appropriations Progress**

As of June 26 when the Congress recessed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the House had passed 4 of the 12 regular appropriations bills and another 3 bills had been reported out of the House Appropriations Committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported out 4 bills which are now ready for Senate floor consideration. The bills passed by the House, reported out of the Senate committee and ready for the Senate floor are: Commerce, Justice and Science; Homeland Security; Interior & Environment; and Legislative Branch.

**Agriculture:** The Agriculture Appropriations bill was considered and then reported out of the House Appropriations Committee on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The bill number is H.R. 2997 and the accompanying committee report is H. Rept. 111-181. Expectations are that the bill will be considered on the House floor during the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the bill provides \$79 million less than the Administration request in discretionary spending, but \$2.3 billion more than FY '09 funding levels. The bill rejects the \$267 million cuts to conservation programs.

**Commerce, Justice, Science:** The House passed the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the Senate Appropriations Committee reported the bill out on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The Senate bill includes \$4.7 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The House bill provided \$4.6 billion and the Administration had requested \$4.5 billion. Coastal Zone Management grants are funded at \$67.5 million in the House passed bill and \$66.5 million in the Senate committee bill. The budget request has been \$66.15 million. Sea Grant program would receive \$59 million in the House bill, and \$63.1 million in the Senate committee bill – both exceed the budget request of \$55 million, which is the same as FY'09 appropriated funds. The Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act is funded at \$21.5 million in the House bill and \$20 million in the Senate committee bill. The request had been \$15 million.

**Energy and Water:** The bill was marked up in the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee on June 25<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled for full Committee mark-up on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Until then, the results of the Subcommittee mark-up are embargoed. The Senate has not yet marked-up its bill.

**Homeland Security:** The House passed its Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 2892 and H. Rept. 111-157) on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its version (S. 1298 and S. Rept. 111-31) on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The bill is scheduled for consideration on the Senate floor during the week of July 6<sup>th</sup>.

For PDM, the House bill provides \$100 million. The Senate bill provides \$120 million. The Administration's budget request had been \$150 million. The House bill included about \$25 million for some 58 earmarked projects while the Senate bill had no earmarks.

For floodplain mapping, the House bill provides \$220 million as does the Senate committee bill. The Administration request was for \$220 million.

For Disaster Relief, the House provided \$ 2 billion which is the same as the budget request. The Senate committee bill provides \$1.457 billion.

Under the National Flood Insurance Fund, both bills provide \$70 million for the Severe Repetitive Loss program which is less than the \$80 million provided in FY '09, \$10 million for the repetitive insurance claims (Section 1323) and \$40 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance grants.

**Interior and Environment:** The House passed the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill (H.R. 2996 and H. Rept. 111-180) on June 26<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 254-173. Overall, the Department of the Interior was funded at about \$800 million more than FY '09 and the Environmental Protection Agency was funded at a substantial increase over FY '09. The Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its bill, (same bill number) on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The North American Wetlands Conservation Fund was funded at \$53 million in the House bill, which equaled the budget request and exceeded the FY '09 funding level of \$43 million. The Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program was funded in the House bill at \$16.1 million which exceeded the budget request of \$14.9 million and the FY '09 level of \$14.7 million. The House bill provides \$10.6 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an increase of \$2.9 billion over FY '09. The Senate Committee approved bill provides \$10.2 billion for EPA.

All legislation referenced may be viewed at: <http://thomas.loc.gov> by typing in the bill or report number.

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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.

**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 with correct email address.

**CFM<sup>®</sup> Renewal 7/31/2009** - ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM<sup>®</sup> certification renewal July 31, 2009 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 for. If you know any of these people or how to reach them, please let us know or contact them to contact us.

Richard Comstock, Denver, CO  
Karl Kerr, Baltimore, MD

**Orlando** - We had great attendance of CFMs at our Conference. Total CFMs at the June 2009 Conference were 710. We held two exam offerings that week and had 50 people pass the ASFPM exam. Congratulations! There are now over 5,900 CFMs nationwide.

**Orlando CECs** - All CFMs that fully registered and attended our annual conference will earn 12 core continuing education credits (CECs). You don't even have to submit the paperwork to earn them, ASFPM will automatically credit your file.

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### **CFM Success Story**

*From NJ Chapter members, John Miller and Cleighton Smith*

#### **CFMs acknowledged by River Basin Commission for knowledge of floodplain management:**

The Delaware River is an interstate waterway that has experienced three (3) major main stem floods in recent years. At the request of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the Flood Advisory Committee of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) recently formed a subcommittee to review and evaluate the similarities and differences in floodplain regulations throughout the watershed, and to develop and present recommendations on the potential for more effective floodplain regulations throughout the basin.

The Floodplain Regulation Evaluation Subcommittee is composed of 20 representatives who represent the interests of the basin states, federal government, environment, citizens, builders, agriculture, commerce, floodplain mapping and local officials. **Of the 20 representatives on the subcommittee, eight (8) are CFMs!** The work of this subcommittee can be followed online at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net).

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### **News from Chapters**

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

### **Developing a Toolbox for Chapters**

The ASFPM Chapter Meeting in Orlando was a success! Thanks to all who attended. During and since the Chapter Meeting in Orlando, ASFPM has been approached by a number of chapters who shared some great information, requests for support and resources, and innovative ideas! I'd like to share some of what was discussed with our chapters and members.

#### ***Success Stories from Chapters***

ASFPM shared success stories from many of our chapters at the Annual Chapter Meeting. Many chapters are involved in new and exciting ventures, including training successes and developments from Missouri, Georgia, and Oklahoma. Missouri has compiled a comprehensive list of training being offered at the state and local level throughout the state and has published the list of upcoming opportunities in a brochure for their members. Georgia has begun a Luncheon Lecture series that presents low-cost, 1-to-2 hour training workshops on a variety of CEC-eligible topics offered to their members. Oklahoma has begun to develop

and partner with the local and national school bus driver's professional association to provide flood education as required continuing education for bus drivers, and to include a flood safety question on the driver's licensing exam.

### ***Difficulties Many Chapters and Associations Face***

Many chapters were concerned about the challenges of moving to the next level as a professional association. Some of these are growing pains, and some are the natural cycles that volunteer-based associations go through. Chapters shared the struggles with finding resources (time, money, person-power) to maintain and keep their websites current with good information. Others shared that they are looking for ideas on ways to streamline their conference registration, enrollment, and tracking as well as offering the option for online registration. Many expressed interest in support and resources for volunteer recruitment and training, conference planning, finding and making training available for local officials, developing "local" instructors, association recordkeeping and reporting, and reducing professional liability. Attendees of the Chapter Meeting also included ASFPM members from non-chapter states who were seeking information about and resources related to the formation of associations and chapter status. ASFPM and the District Chapter Directors have proposed the following to address the needs identified at the Chapter Meeting:

- ***Quarterly Chapter Conference Calls***

District Chapter Directors will be facilitating a quarterly Chapter Conference Call to discuss topics of interest to Chapters and associations. This will be an opportunity to dialog with fellow ASFPM chapter and association peers and share stumbling blocks, resources, ideas, and solutions. ASFPM Board and Executive Office representatives will also be on the call to help provide connections to existing resources, to receive Chapter feedback, and investigate new ways to support Chapters. Agenda and scheduling for these quarterly calls will be determined by interest and requests received from Chapters. If you have a topic of interest you'd like to see covered, please send an email to Kait Laufenberg at [Kait@floods.org](mailto:Kait@floods.org).

- ***Chapters Page on the ASFPM Website***

ASFPM has a link on our website with information shared at the Chapter Meeting as well as resources and support information for chapters: [www.floods.org/Chapters/Chapters.asp](http://www.floods.org/Chapters/Chapters.asp). The new ASFPM website, scheduled to roll out in late July, will have a Chapters menu from the ASFPM home page that will include this growing repository of chapter information. If you see something that is missing you would like to see there, please contact Kait Laufenberg at [Kait@floods.org](mailto:Kait@floods.org). We also want to hear about your successes, news, and happenings around your chapter! Please let Kait know about any developments you'd like to share and "lessons learned" that could save a fellow chapter some headaches!

- ***Training Topic Development & Webinars***

ASFPM is currently surveying members and chapters about new training topics for development. To participate in this quick survey to help guide new training to be developed, go to: [ASFPM 2009 Training Survey](#). We are also looking into developing and offering webinars to our chapters and members on a variety of topics. To test-run this initiative we are starting with Chapter-specific topics. To give us your feedback and submit your requests for topics, please go to the [Chapter Webinar Questionnaire](#) to complete this short, 7-item questionnaire.

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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>July 15 – 18, 2009</b>	2009 Natural Hazards Research & Applications Workshop, Broomfield, CO	<a href="#">University of Colorado at Boulder, Natural Hazards Center</a>
<b>July 19 – 23, 2009</b>	Coastal Zone '09, Boston, MA	<a href="#">NOAA Coastal Services Center</a>
<b>August 5 – 7, 2009</b>	Texas, Day at the Districts, Multi-Objective Flood Risk Mgmt., Fort Worth, TX	<a href="#">Susan Gilson, NAFSMA</a>
<b>August 10 – 13, 2009</b>	Visions of a Sustainable Mississippi River Collinsville, IL	<a href="#">View Conference Website</a>
<b>September 7 – 11, 2009</b>	FMA Annual Conference, San Jose, CA	<a href="#">Floodplain Management Association</a>
<b>September 13 – 18, 2009</b>	Strategic Conservation Planning for Green Infrastructure, Shepherdstown, WV	<a href="#">The Conservation Fund</a>
<b>September 16, 2009 and September 17, 2009</b>	Tools of Floodplain Management, Jefferson City, MO	<a href="#">Missouri SEMA, MFSMA, FEMA</a>
<b>September 27 – October 1, 2009</b>	Dam Safety '09 Hollywood, FL	<a href="#">Association of State Dam Safety Officials</a>
<b>September 28 – 30, 2009</b>	AFMA Fall Conference, Springdale, AR	<a href="#">Arkansas Floodplain Management Association</a>
<b>October 7 – 9, 2009</b>	Floods Know No Boundaries, Superior, WI	Joint Wisconsin & Minnesota ASFPM Chapters Contact: <a href="#">Dave Fowler</a> or <a href="#">Jeremy Walgrave</a>
<b>May 16 – 21, 2010</b>	ASFPM 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	<a href="#">Association of State Floodplain Managers</a>

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## **Job Corner**

Below are just a few of the 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>.

### **Program Manager – Watershed Services**

Columbia, SC

W.K. Dickson and Co., Inc., a top 500 ENR Engineering firm, seeks a Watershed Services Program Manager for its Columbia, SC office. The ideal candidate will have 10-15 years of progressive experience in the planning, design, and permitting of public and private infrastructure projects dealing with the conveyance, treatment and discharge of stormwater. Primary responsibilities include project management, marketing, and supervision of staff. South Carolina experience preferred. The WK Dickson Watershed Services program includes a combination of engineers and scientists providing sustainable watershed solutions to assist state, municipal, and private clients throughout the southeast.

BS in environmental science, engineering, or a related field is required. PE in SC or ability to obtain is preferred but not required.

Company offers a very competitive salary and other excellent benefits in a progressive, career oriented work environment. Interested candidates may respond in confidence with resume to:

[hrdept@wkdickson.com](mailto:hrdept@wkdickson.com).

[www.wkdickson.com](http://www.wkdickson.com)

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### **Water Resources Business Developer**

Denver, CO

Michael Baker Jr., Inc. seeks to fill a newly established Water Resources Business Development Lead position in our Denver, Colorado (Lakewood) office.

Michael Baker Corporation (<http://www.mbakercorp.com>) provides engineering and operations and maintenance services for its clients' most complex challenges worldwide. The firm's primary business areas are aviation, environmental, facilities, geospatial information technologies, pipelines and utilities, transportation, water/wastewater, and oil and gas. With more than 4,000 employees in over 50 offices across the United States and internationally, Baker is focused on delivering innovative and sustainable solutions for infrastructure and the environment. Michael Baker Corporation is ranked among the top 50 national design firms (ENR 2008).

The Water Resources Business Development Lead will be a self-starter who is responsible for expanding business opportunities by generating and developing new business relationships in the Rocky Mountain Region (primary focus on Federal, State and Municipal clients). In addition, this key individual will help to direct and focus the business development activities of existing seller/doers and project managers. Project management experience is required. The role of the Business Developer will entail supporting development and implementation of sales action plans by others. It will also involve identifying sales prospects and establishing/maintaining client relationships. This individual will present and sell company services to current and potential clients and will coordinate the efforts of technical managers and staff as necessary to close sales. Additionally, the Business Developer will support preparation of proposals and cost estimates. This individual will participate in marketing events such as seminars, conventions, trade shows and professional organizations. The support development and maintenance of sales materials will be a part of this position. It will be necessary to remain current with regulatory developments and service needs in the Water Resources field and to be able to identify and exploit emerging market trends.



Requirements:

- BS in Civil Engineering or similar
- Minimum of 15 years, with 10 years experience in Water Resources
- Project management experience
- Demonstrable record of servicing, maintaining, and expanding client relationships and achieving sales and revenue goals.
- Technical knowledge of water resources projects and practices.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to create and edit written materials.
- Ability to work as a team member in cooperation within and across technical disciplines.
- Microsoft Office

Preferences:

- PE
- MS Project

Michael Baker Corporation has a long-standing commitment to the principles of equal employment opportunity. In keeping with this commitment, we will continue recruitment, employment, compensation, terms, conditions, and privileges of employment of qualified persons without regard to gender, race, age, sex, religion, ethnicity, national origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other category protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. Individuals shall be judged solely on their job-related aptitude, training, skills, and performance.

We strive to instill a set of Core Values that include Integrity, Quality, People and Teamwork, Safety, Communication and Commitment.

Baker offers an excellent benefits package that includes: Medical, Dental, Vision, Disability Insurance, Life Insurance, Flexible Spending Accounts, Additional Paid Time Off, Flex-Time, 401-K Retirement Plan, Tuition Reimbursement, Employee Credit Union, and Savings Bond Purchase Program.

To apply for this position, please log on to [www.mbakercorp.com/careers](http://www.mbakercorp.com/careers) and reference IRC36009

Baker is an EEO/AAP (M/F/V/H) e-Verify Employer

(Note: If you have difficulty applying online, please contact our Systems Administrator at [BAKERHRMS@mbakercorp.com](mailto:BAKERHRMS@mbakercorp.com))

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