

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

July
2010

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Deputy Executive Director's Report - George Riedel, CFM

Nearly 1,150 participants attended our 34th Annual Conference in Oklahoma City last month, proving once again that we were able to weather the down economy. I believe this shows the importance of the conference to our members, supporters, and partners.

The theme of this year's conference, "Building Blocks of Floodplain Management," provided participants with old and new ideas regarding floodplain management and how we need to use these ideas to reduce flood damages in the nation. Participants heard plenary sessions titled: Managing Flood Risk, National Flood Policy Initiatives, Federal Coordination on Flood Risk Management, and Floodplain Management in a Changing World. Participants also heard ideas concerning how to effectively communicate risk, No Adverse Impact (NAI), Risk MAP, Federal Programs, Levees, among others.

A conference of this size can only run as smoothly as it did because of the many volunteers who helped in so many ways – with concurrent sessions, workshops, networking events, sales, promotion, and hospitality. Our great appreciation goes out to the members of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OkFMA) for their hard work in making sure the participants had a good time and that the conference was a huge success. And I give special thanks to the ASFPM staff: Chad, Diane, Debbie, Anita, Katie, Kait, and Jason. These individuals make sure that the unimaginable myriad of details are taken care of so the conference participants can simply look, listen, learn, network, and enjoy.

Please join me in expressing great thanks for the outstanding efforts of your ASFPM leadership this past year. All of the Officers and Directors on our Board have provided leadership and support which makes the Association great. I want to recognize members who left the Board at this year's conference: Judy Watanabe, Secretary; Bill Nechamen, Treasurer; and Gene Henry, Region 4 Director. All of these individuals have done 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:

Secretary: Alan J. Giles, CFM – Georgia
Treasurer: John Crofts, CFM – Utah
Region 4 Director: Terri Turner, CFM – Georgia

Please see page 2 for a captioned photo of your 2010-11 ASFPM Board of Directors. We congratulate all of our Board members and look forward to working with all of you this coming year.

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Your 2010-11 ASFPM Board of Directors



Seated L to R: Larry Larson, PE, CFM, Executive Director; John Crofts, CFM, Treasurer; Sally McConkey, PE, CFM, Vice Chair; Greg Main, CFM, Chair; George Riedel, CFM, Deputy Executive Director. **Standing L to R:** Terri Turner, AICP, CFM, Region 4; Brad Anderson, PE, CFM, District 4; Edward Thomas, Esq., Region 1; Jeff Sickles, PE, CFM, Region 8; Paul Woodward, PE, CFM, Region 7; Alisa Sauvageot, CFM, Region 9; Heidi Carlin, CFM, Region 6; Laura Tessieri, PE, CFM, Region 2; Diane Calhoun, CFM, District 3; Jeff Sparrow, PE, CFM, Region 3; Dave Fowler, CFM, Region 5; Gerald Robinson, PE, CFM, District 2; Valerie Swick, CFM, District 5; Robert Freitag, CFM, Region 10. **Not Pictured:** Alan Giles, CFM, Secretary; Michael Dopko, CFM, District 1.

NFIP Extended Through September 30, 2010

On Friday, July 2, 2010, the President signed into law H.R.5569, the “National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2010”, which retroactively reauthorizes FEMA to enter into new contracts for flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2010. It also reduces by \$50 million FEMA’s authority to borrow under the Program to \$20,725 billion. See links to reports from FEMA, the White House, and the mortgage industry here.

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/National_Policy/7.2.10_NFIP_Extended_thru_Sept30.2010_w-10073.pdf

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-press-secretary-hr-5569-hr-5611-and-hr-562>

<http://www.housingwire.com/2010/07/02/president-signs-flood-insurance-program-extension>

On a related note, you may wish to again peruse ASFPM’s testimony on Legislative Proposals to Reform the NFIP which Larson presented before the House Committee on Financial services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity on April 21, 2010. www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=334&firstlevelmenuID=187&siteID=1

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Continuing Education Opportunity!

You are invited to participate in the E270 Train the Trainer course which has been specifically designed to help develop instructional delivery skills in floodplain management topics. In the future, there may be credentialing for instructors of floodplain management courses with training required. This course is proposed to be the primary course a person must take to obtain that credential. This course has been pre-approved for 12 Core Continuing Education Credits for CFMs.



This course is designed to train Floodplain Managers in how to deliver an effective and interesting course on floodplain management topics. E270 Train the Trainer is proven to be successful in helping participants overcome their issues with training delivery and helps participants get past their fears of presentation. Two days of the course are dedicated to the various factors that can make training exceptional and effective, with the remaining 2 days used for practice and evaluation.

What are people saying about Train the Trainer?

Here are some quotes from the course participants about the course:

"This is an awesome course. I learned a great deal about myself and acquired many new training techniques from Tom, Katie and Rhonda."

"I can't say enough good things about this course. The instructors were wonderful, engaging, and knowledgeable. Content was a well balanced mix of review and new. Course was well constructed and provided great opportunity for hands on experience and feedback. They did a great job of fitting so much information into a short timeframe seamlessly."

"This is one of the finest courses I have attended and I have been in school for over 20 years. The team was excellent."

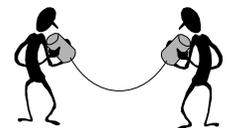
"It was a wonderful learning experience."

"Instructors really make learning FUN!"

"This class helped me tremendously to sharpen my presentation skills. It also reinforced material I learned in the past."

"I loved this class. I learned so much that I can take home to use not only when teaching but also in my everyday meetings."

There are still seats available for EMI's Fall E270 Train the Trainer course offering September 13-16, 2010 at the beautiful Emmitsburg, MD campus. If you are a state or local government employee you may attend the training for free with all expenses covered except meals. For more information, go to <http://www.training.fema.gov/> or contact the EMI Admissions Office at 301-447-1035.



FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers a diverse selection of more than 400 floodplain and emergency management courses available to Local, State, Tribal floodplain and emergency managers, Federal partners, volunteer organizations and first responders from across the country.

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Climate Change Resources for Coastal Communities

Coastal communities in a quandary about climate change are getting help from an informative NOAA resource, the Coastal Climate Adaptation website. Easy-to-understand climate change science information is provided, as well as examples of the various strategies communities are employing and plans and policies that have been developed to address climate change impacts. This site was recently updated to include new functionality for uploading and locating resources for your state and additional opportunities to engage in discussions about climate-related solutions. Visit <http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/climateadaptation/> to learn more. **Contact:** Stephanie Fauver at 843-740-1287 or Stephanie.Fauver@noaa.gov, or Jodie Sprayberry at 843-740-1168 or Jodie.Sprayberry@noaa.gov.

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Who's Watching You? Social Networking Privacy Concerns

If you are a mobile social networking user or access social networking sites from your mobile device, do you know who's keeping tabs on your location? Recently released research from Worcester Polytechnic Institute indicates that social networking sites may be sharing more about your physical location than you might be comfortable with. Read the article [here](#).

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FCC Proposes Streamgage Data Relocation

ASFPM and the New York and Georgia State Chapters were prompted to write letters to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in June over concerns about the potential loss of reliable radio frequency transmission for essential, real-time water-related data. It has been proposed to reallocate 1675-1710 MHz frequencies from their current public domain use, which could affect the critical need for reliable, real-time data from the nation's stream gages for warning systems and public safety. See the letters on our "Working with Congress" page.

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=334&firstlevelmenuID=187&siteID=1#streamgage>

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FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Update

Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning, prepared by the American Planning Association (APA) and supported through a contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), seeks to close the gap that often exists between hazard mitigation planning and other local planning and regulatory land-use processes. It introduces hazard mitigation as a vital area of practice for planners; provides guidance on how to integrate hazard mitigation strategies into comprehensive, area, and functional plans; and shows where hazard mitigation can fit into zoning and subdivision codes. Best practices and practical applications are provided. Download the report from the FEMA Library at <http://www.fema.gov/resource/lib/about.shtm>. It can also be linked from the Mitigation Planning resources page at

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/resources.shtm>.

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

Here's Something You Might Find Interesting . . .

In the September 2008 issue of the Insider I wrote about using mitigation grant funds to floodproof nonresidential buildings. At the time, more than 10% of the properties on FEMA's Repetitive Loss list were nonresidential properties – and collectively they had received nearly 25% of the claims dollars paid to all rep loss properties.

In this column I want to cover some aspects of floodproofing – whether the techniques are used (1) for new construction; (2) to achieve compliance when nonresidential buildings are substantially improved or substantially damaged; or (3) simply because owners of existing buildings elect to implement retrofit measures. Of course, when used to achieve compliance, floodproofing measures may be used only on nonresidential buildings that are located in special flood hazard areas that are designated as Zones A (including A, AE, A1-30, AO and AH). For easy reference as you read this column, I've copied certain pertinent NFIP regulations at the end of the column.

Building Codes & ASCE 24

Floodplain managers identify buildings as either residential or nonresidential. Building code officials think of buildings as residential (1- and 2-family homes and townhomes) and “commercial,” which refers to all other buildings (e.g., mercantile, industrial, educational, institutional, etc.). The building code that applies to nonresidential buildings is often called the “commercial” building code. Most states and communities that adopt a building code adopt one that is based on the International Building Code.

In my May 2010 column I explained that the flood provisions for nonresidential buildings are found in Section 1612 of building codes, and that they rely largely on reference to ASCE 24, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*. A summary of ASCE 24 is available on ASFPM's webpage at www.floods.org/PDF/ASCE24_Highlights_1008.pdf.

ASCE 24 has some specific requirements for floodproofing that are not spelled out in the NFIP regulations:

- Definitions for “dry floodproofing” and “substantially impermeable.”
- Dry floodproofing is allowed for nonresidential structures and nonresidential areas of mixed use structures located in A Zones, but is not allowed in coastal flood hazard areas where breaking waves are between 1.5 and 3 ft high (called Coastal A Zones).
- Dry floodproofing is allowed only where flood velocities are less than or equal to 5 ft per second, which should prompt designers to look for available information (e.g., floodway data tables) or to have an engineer develop velocity estimates.
- Limitations are imposed if the designer specifies measures that require human intervention (next section).
- Ingress and egress for emergency access is specified (also below).

Limits on Human Intervention

ASCE 24 specifies that dry floodproofing measures that require human intervention to activate or implement prior to or during a flood shall be permitted only when certain conditions are satisfied, including:

1. The flood warning time (to alert potential flood victims of pending floods) shall be a minimum of 12 hours, unless the community operates a flood warning system and implements an emergency plan to ensure safe evacuation of flood hazard areas, in which case human intervention is allowed only if the community can provide a minimum flood warning time equal to or longer than the cumulative:
 - a) time to notify person(s) responsible for installation of floodproofing measures, plus
 - b) time for responsible persons to travel to structure to be floodproofed, plus
 - c) time to install, activate, or implement floodproofing measures, plus
 - d) time to evacuate all occupants out of the flood hazard area.
2. All removable shields or covers for openings such as windows, doors and other openings in walls shall be designed to resist flood loads.
3. Where removable shields are to be used, a flood emergency plan shall be approved by the authority having jurisdiction and shall specify, at a minimum, the following information: storage location(s) of the shields; the method of installation; conditions activating installation; maintenance of shields and attachment devices; periodic practice of installing

shields; testing sump pumps and other drainage measures; and inspecting necessary material and equipment to activate or implement floodproofing. The flood emergency plan shall be permanently posted in at least two conspicuous locations within the structure.

Emergency Access

No one should ever imply that it is acceptable for people to remain in a building that is floodproofed. We have plenty of evidence that floodwaters rise higher than the predicted base flood elevation – and often even higher than the BFE plus 1 or 2 feet. Consider the consequences if floodwaters rise higher than floodproofing measures – walls may fail catastrophically or, at a minimum, water would rapidly fill up the building. This would be a very dangerous situation that could threaten the safety of anyone still inside.

To minimize that risk, ASCE 24 requires the designer to develop an emergency plan and also specifies that dry floodproofed buildings shall have at least one door satisfying code requirements for an exit door or primary means of escape, and the door must be situated above the elevation of the floodproofing and be capable of providing human ingress and egress during conditions of flooding.

One question that may come up is whether the door provided to satisfy this requirement has to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act. My answer is no, because this door is not intended to be used on a daily basis. Its primary use would be to evacuate personnel assigned to deploy floodproofing measures if they are unable to evacuate before the onset of flooding. Thus, having steps up to the door would not conflict with ADA requirements.

Certification of Floodproofing Designs

Both the NFIP regulations (§ 60.3(c)(4)) and the building code (Sec. 1612.5) require that designers certify that “designs and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the applicable provisions” that are specified. Neither the NFIP regulations nor the codes identify a specific form to be used for certification, but most design professionals probably use FEMA Form 81-65. If this form isn’t used, the community official should verify that a similar statement is included in the construction documents – and ensure that a copy is retained in the community’s permanent records. Note, however, that FEMA’s form must be used to obtain NFIP flood insurance (next section). FEMA Form 81-65 is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1600>.

NFIP Flood Insurance and Floodproofing

A building that is floodproofed only to the BFE is compliant with the NFIP’s floodplain management regulations, but the protection measures will not be recognized by NFIP flood insurance policies. In order to be rated as protecting the building, floodproofing must extend to at least the BFE plus one foot. Buildings that are designed to comply with the building code and ASCE 24 will be recognized as floodproofed because of the requirement to floodproof to a minimum of BFE + one foot (or to BFE + 2 ft for essential and critical facilities).

Although a designer may certify the design of floodproofing without using FEMA Form 81-65, the form is required to obtain NFIP flood insurance.

Designing Floodproofed Buildings for Flood Loads – How High?

The design requirement in § 60.3(c)(3)(ii) specifies that “below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy.” To meet the minimum, the designer only has to compute loads assuming the floodwaters rise to the BFE. Note however, that the building code refers to ASCE 24, which requires floodproofing to be at BFE plus one or two feet of freeboard, depending on the occupancy category of the building. The question then is this: what elevation does the designer use to compute the loads and develop the floodproofing measures? Is it the BFE, or the BFE plus freeboard?

A building that is floodproofed is one to which “floodproofing” has been applied or incorporated into the structural design. In order to be called floodproofed, the floodproofing measures must resist loads to the required height/elevation. If the requirement calls for floodproofing above the BFE (or if the owner/designer elects to extend floodproofing above the BFE), then the floodproofing design must account for loads associated with the elevation (or height) that will be certified by the registered design professional. Freeboard is a factor of safety and the only way to provide the intended additional level of protection is to design the floodproofing to resist water all the way up to the required elevation.

Materials Below the BFE – Inside Floodproofed Buildings?

This was one of the stranger questions I’ve been asked, but a close read of the NFIP regulations (and the building codes) reveals why a cautious designer would ask it. Section 60.3(a)(ii) requires new construction and substantial improvements to “be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage.” FEMA’s guidance, Technical Bulletin 3, clearly calls for flood damage-

resistant materials to be used below the base flood elevation. Obviously, all structural materials and finishes that are on the outside of a building and below the BFE will be exposed to floodwater and must meet the requirement.

But the question was this: what about materials used in areas below the BFE that are inside the floodproofed building? My answer was no – flood damage-resistant materials are not required to be used inside, even if below the BFE. I did note that FEMA’s Technical Bulletin #3 refers to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ guidance related to anticipated seepage. While dry floodproofed buildings should be designed such that the building will be water-tight, seepage may be anticipated under some conditions (such as long durations), in which case use of flood damage-resistant materials could be recommended. Download TB-3, *Non-Residential Floodproofing – Requirements and Certification*, at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/techbul.shtm>.

Selected NFIP Regulations Pertinent to Floodproofing:

[Obtain Elevation] 60.3(c)(5) Where base flood elevation data are utilized, within Zone A on the community’s FHBM or FIRM: (ii) Obtain, if the structure has been floodproofed in accordance with paragraph (c)(3)(ii) of this section, the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure was floodproofed,

[Design Requirement] 60.3(c)(3) Require that all new construction and substantial improvements of non-residential structures within Zones A1-30, AE and AH zones on the community’s firm (i) have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood level or, (ii) together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be designed so that below the base flood level the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water and with structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy;

[Design Certification] 60.3(c)(4) Provide that where a non-residential structure is intended to be made watertight below the base flood level, (i) a registered professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for the construction, and shall certify that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the applicable provisions of paragraph (c)(3)(ii) or (c)(8)(ii) of this section, and (ii) a record of such certificates which includes the specific elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which such structures are floodproofed shall be maintained with the official designated by the community under Sec. 59.22(a)(9)(iii);

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Washington Legislative Report

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



Hectic Schedule Before 4th of July Recess

During the week leading up to the week-long 4th of July Congressional recess, the pace was hectic as both Houses of Congress tried to finish work on a number of pieces of legislation in the works. Efforts on some were successful; others were not and will require attention to finalize them when the Congress returns the week of July 12th. Further, Appropriations subcommittees in the House of Representatives finally began to mark-up their bills to fund the government for Fiscal Year 2011.

Among the items that did get completed was a further temporary extension of authority for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through September 30, 2010, retroactive to May 31st when the program most recently lapsed. The Congress also completed action on an extension of the tax credit for first-time home-buyers. Interestingly, the need to assure flood insurance availability for real estate closings in that 90 day tax credit extension window provided some incentive to pass the NFIP extension. Conversely, the need to pass flood insurance reauthorization had been seen as an incentive to pass the extension of unemployment insurance benefits, both of which were tied up in the larger tax extender bill and associated complexities concerning offsets to the costs of the tax extender measure. A short-term stand-alone bill (H.R. 5569) to extend the program had been introduced and quickly passed in the House the previous week. That measure was taken up on the Senate floor late on June 30th and passed by voice vote. The President signed it into law on Friday, July 2nd.

Legislation that did not get finalized was the supplemental appropriations bill to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). Until that is passed, most disaster assistance and hazard mitigation programs are on “hold”. The DRF is precariously low as the hurricane season begins. The replenishment is caught up in many other political issues.

Another measure that came very close to seeing final action, but did not, is legislation reauthorizing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program (PDM). The bill passed the Senate on June 29th, but there was no time to resolve differences between it and an earlier House passed-version.

What to Expect in Mid-July

When Congress returns mid-July, the House will be in session for only 3 weeks (and the Senate for only 4 weeks) before the month-long August Congressional Recess. A number of bills of interest could come to the House floor during that short period: (1) H.R. 5114, Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act; (2) H.R. 3377 Stafford Act Revisions; (3) H.R. 2555, Homeowners' Defense Act; (4) H.R. 1264 Multi-Peril Insurance Act; and (5) S. 3249 Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Act.

The on-going high level of Congressional interest in the issues associated with areas newly mapped as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), levee de-accreditation, and flood insurance affordability may lead to amendments being offered to pending legislation. Numerous bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to delay issuance of flood maps, delay the mandatory purchase requirement, fund levee repairs, require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake levee certification activities at the request of a community, phase-in flood insurance premium rates, establish a new arbitration appeal process for maps and encourage consideration of economic factors in flood map issuance.

Appropriations mark-ups at the subcommittee level will continue in the House and will begin in the Senate. The Senate Appropriations committee had planned to begin mark-ups the week of June 28th, but did not due to the death of Senator Byrd, a prominent member of the Appropriations Committee and its former Chairman. The full Appropriations Committee in the House may consider bills reported out of subcommittees. The House leadership would like to pass all regular appropriations bills in September. The general expectation, however, is that final action on appropriations for FY 2011 will have to take place in a Lame Duck Session following the November elections.

Development of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) can be expected to continue at the committee level in both the House and Senate. It is possible, but not at all assured, that WRDA bills could include provisions for a levee safety program. The Senate Banking Committee could begin work on a flood insurance reform bill. A substantial bill on Stafford Act reforms could be introduced in the Senate and active consideration could begin.

NFIP Reauthorization and Reform

The President has signed H.R. 5569 and the NFIP has been reauthorized through September 30, 2010, but then what? Options at the moment would appear to include: (1) pass yet another short term authorization; (2) include authorization for all of FY 2011 in an appropriations bill; (3) take action on the House Financial Services Committee's bill (H.R. 5114) extending the NFIP for five years and including other "reform priorities" primarily drawn from the reform bill passed by the House several years ago but never enacted; and (4) movement by the Senate Banking Committee to draft and consider its own version of a reform bill. In short, the path forward is not at all clear just now. Details about the contents of H.R. 5114 were provided in the May, 2010 "Insider".

Disaster Relief Fund Replenishment

The Supplemental Appropriations bill, which would provide \$5.1 billion to replenish the DRF and cover costs of disasters that have already occurred, has become a political football, being kicked back and forth from House to Senate to House and now back again to the Senate. Just before adjournment for the 4th of July Recess, the House passed the Supplemental, but with amendments adding funds for domestic emergency needs. Predictions are that the Senate will have trouble accepting the House amendments. The most recent House-passed version will likely be considered in the Senate during the week of July 12th.

The bill, H.R. 4899, is known as the War/Disaster Relief Supplemental. It has been amended to include funds for other domestic programs such as assistance to states to avoid teacher lay-offs and funds to assist with the impact of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. It also includes \$100 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development program for "necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization" for areas declared major disaster areas from March 2010 through May 2010. Also included is an appropriation of \$49 million for the Department of Commerce,

Economic Development Administration for expenses associated with the major disasters declared March 2010 through May 2010.

As described in the June “News & Views”, the bill has accompanying Report language directing FEMA to form a task force to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) “to track, address, and where possible, resolve concerns stemming from FEMA mapping efforts in communities with issues related to flood control infrastructure protection, such as levees, drainage or dams.” There are significant reporting requirements related to expressions of concern registered by communities, individuals and other entities.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation

All three possible versions of PDM reauthorization would codify the program as a competitive program. Two are stand-alone bills and the third is the Stafford Act Revisions bill (H.R. 3377), expected to be brought to the House floor in July. In April, 2009, the House passed a stand-alone bill, H.R. 1746. The Senate passed its stand-alone bill, S. 3249, on June 28th. That bill was amended by Sen. Tom Coburn, R-OK, to specify that there may be no earmarks for PDM. For the past several years, appropriations bills have included earmarked projects for about 25% of the available funds. The FEMA Appropriations bill just marked-up in the Appropriations subcommittee on Homeland Security includes fewer earmarks than last year, but still would earmark \$17 million of a \$100 million program.

Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) offered and then withdrew an amendment to make levee certification and repair eligible activities under PDM. In withdrawing his amendment, he made clear his concern that the cost of levee certification, repair and improvement associated with updated flood maps is a serious, unresolved problem.

Appropriations

Several House Appropriations Subcommittees have marked-up their FY 2011 bills, beginning with the Homeland Security Appropriations bill on June 24th. That bill includes funds for FEMA. The Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which includes funds for the USACE, was scheduled for mark-up on June 24th, but was postponed.

Homeland Security

The overall subcommittee approved bill provides \$43.9 billion in discretionary funds for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in FY 2011 which is \$1.1 billion above FY 2010 and \$300 million above the President’s request. DHS agencies receiving most of the increase were the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA), Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection. The bill provides \$7.5 billion for FEMA, an increase of \$437.9 million over FY 2010 and \$257 million over the President’s request.

The bill provides \$194 million for floodplain mapping which is the same as the budget request but \$26 million less than FY 2010. It provides \$100 million for PDM, the same as last year and the same as the budget request. For Disaster Relief, the bill includes \$1.95 billion which is \$350 million more than FY 2010, but the same as the budget request. For Emergency Management Preparedness Grants, \$345 million is provided which is \$5 million over FY 2010 and the same as the budget request. Additional details will have to await the release of the bill and report after full committee consideration.

Commerce, Justice, Science

This appropriations bill was marked up on June 29th and includes funds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The measure provides \$5.5 billion for NOAA which is \$805 million above FY 2010 and the same as the budget request.

Other Bills and Mitigation Opportunities

There are a number of bills moving through the Congress which are not specific to hazards, emergency management or the flood insurance program, but which could be improved by adding hazard mitigation considerations. Some of those measures are: (1) energy legislation where the HomeStar program could be expanded to include energy efficient retrofitting which also has hazard mitigation attributes; (2) climate change legislation which, while including climate adaptation, focuses on natural resource adaptation and could be expanded to include built envi-

ronment adaptation; and (3) green housing legislation which has a strong focus on sustainability and could be expanded to include hazard mitigation and resilience.

Other Legislation This Summer

For additional information about many of the bills that could come to the floor or see further action this summer, please see the June issue of “News & Views”. That issue includes descriptions of:

- H.R. 2555 Homeowners’ Defense Act
- H.R. 1264 Multi-Peril Insurance Act
- WRDA status

Full details about the H.R. 5114, the Flood Insurance Reform Priorities Act, can be found in the May “Insider”.

COALITIONS

Stafford Act Coalition

The coalition will next meet in mid-July to share information on development of Stafford Act reform legislation.

Flood Map Coalition

When more details are available about the appropriations actions regarding mapping, the coalition will consider actions to take in support of FEMA’s mapping activities.

Streamgage Coalition

A representative group of coalition members led by Peter Evans of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP), met with USGS Deputy Director Suzette Kimball on June 16th to discuss the FY 2011 Administration budget request for the National Streamflow Information System (NSIP) and the cooperative streamgage program. Plans are being made for a meeting on this subject at OMB.

Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance

The group sponsored briefings on Capitol Hill on drought and hurricane issues June 29th and 30th.

All legislation mentioned can be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov>, then type in the bill number or name.

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WWW.FLOODS.ORG Corner

Over the course of the year, ASFPM will be “showcasing” new features and options available on the ASFPM website. If you have something you’d like us to share, please contact Kait Laufenberg at Kait@floods.org or Diane Brown at diane@floods.org.

Hot Topics Box

Next time you are on the ASFPM website home page, scroll down just a little and look to the lower left corner. You will see a feature designed to help get you critical information fast – the “Hot Topics” box, with its flaming little chili pepper to catch your eye. It will highlight 2-4 timely issues that we deem of importance to the floodplain management community. As always, we welcome your suggestions, input, and comments on our site content and structure.

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CFM® Corner

Email for certification questions is 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.

National CFM® Certification Program

The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR), who oversees the National CFM® Program and Exam, recently received a final report and recommendations from Ohio State University regarding the evaluation of the National CFM® Program and Exam concerning reliability and validity (R&V). This project came about three years ago for the primary reason that CBOR wanted to know if the CFM Exam questions were written correctly and not leading people to choose a specific answer. Also, CBOR wanted to know if the CFM Exam assessed the correct capabilities and competencies of floodplain managers.

The evaluation and report were reviewed in two areas: Governance of the CFM program and the National CFM Exam. The report indicated that current CFM® Program and Exam administration processes are good, but could be improved.

Reliability and Validity testing involves looking at how well the CFM Exam is constructed to include:

- Individual test questions and answer choices are well written based on best testing practices and design.
- Questions perform both individually and collectively as a well designed exam.
- The exam measures what floodplain managers really need to know (and is current).
- Topics are represented correctly on the exam comparable to representation in the field.
- Passing score is properly placed.
- Exam is legally defensible-properly researched, designed, and documented.
- Follows established criteria for best practices.
- Proper and consistent procedures are followed for question pool, question design, exam design, scoring, grading, and protection of test and results.

The benefits of implementing the report's recommendations either in whole or in part:

- Provides a better certification program.
- Provides a greater defense against liability, if sued.
- Ensures consistency and transparency in the application of best certification practices and standards.
- Establishes a schedule and standard for long term program/exam maintenance and practices to ensure continued best practices.

The next step for CBOR is to review and analyze each recommendation from the report. CBOR will develop a plan to implement those recommendations that should be done. These advisory recommendations will take time to interpret and implement.

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News from Chapters

Chapter Chairs or Chapter newsletter editors are encouraged to email Kait Laufenberg at kait@floods.org with articles or information happening in your Chapter.

New Jersey Chapter Receives the John Ivey Award

Please join us in congratulating the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) as the newest recipient of the John Ivey Award for Certification. The John Ivey Award recognizes exceptional efforts to promote the professional certification of floodplain managers. Any individual, agency or organization is eligible. NJAFM Chair Joseph Ruggeri and NJAFM Training Committee Chair Cleighton Smith proudly accepted the award on behalf of the Chapter.



John Ivey presents to Cleighton Smith and Joe Ruggeri from NJAFM.

Since its founding in 2006, NJAFM has focused on reducing the loss of life and property damage resulting from floods, while encouraging sound floodplain management at all levels of government. To help accomplish this goal, NJAFM has conducted CFM training sessions throughout the state. In addition, NJAFM recently awarded scholarships to 11 community officials to cover CFM training and exam costs, including a one year ASFPM and NJAFM membership. Additionally, one recipient attended the ASFPM National Conference this year for the first time.

NJAFM's efforts have generated impressive results. In 2005, there were only five CFMs in New Jersey. In the past five years since NJAFM formed, CFM certifications have dramatically increased. Currently there are 119 CFMs in the state, largely due to the active role NJAFM has played in promoting training and certification. During this same time period, the adjacent states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware have also made use of the training courses held by NJAFM, and expanded their CFM enrollments in the process. For more on NJAFM, please visit the Association's website: www.njafm.org.

Chapter's Work with League of Municipalities Shows Promise in Adding SHMO Office Capability

The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) worked with the New Jersey State League of Municipalities (League) on a letter to the New Jersey Congressional Delegation expressing a need for additional staffing capacity in the State Hazard Mitigation Officer's (SHMO's) office. NJAFM outlined for the League the existing staff capacities and detailed the challenges faced in responding to the high number of presidentially declared disasters in the state. NJAFM indicated concern that the SHMO office did not have adequate staffing to meet the needs of affected residents to respond timely and appropriately without additional support. The letter outlined positive outcomes resulting from additional staff: greater resources to apply for FEMA mitigation grant funding, positive impacts on staff retention, and preserving institutional expertise resulting in better ability to compete with other states for grant funding.

This letter resulted in six members of the US House of Representatives writing a letter to the New Jersey Governor expressing a shared concern. In response to Congressional letter, the chapter heard that the state plans to add four additional staff: an Engineer with an H&H background, two Planners, and a Management Assistant. Congratulations to New Jersey's SHMO office! Thank you NJAFM for demonstrating a great way for chapters to support their citizens and state government to ensure support for risk mitigation. Read the letter the Members of Congress sent [here](#).

**The next all Chapters conference call is July 15, 2010, 1:00 p.m. Central Time.
All Chapter Board members are invited to participate.
Please contact Kait at kait@floods.org to RSVP.**

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Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

USDOT and HUD Grants to Create Sustainable, Livable Communities

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have initiated a collaborative effort to provide up to \$75 million in awards that will help foster planning for more livable, sustainable communities. These are places where transportation, housing and commercial development investments are coordinated to better serve the people living in those communities.

This new effort builds on the Partnership for Sustainable Communities program that was launched by President Obama in June 2009 between the DOT, HUD, and EPA. It combines \$35 million from DOT's TIGER II (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Planning Grants with \$40 million from HUD's Sustainable Community Challenge Grants to fund localized planning activities that ultimately lead to projects that integrate transportation, housing, and economic development.

DOT and HUD will make joint awards, where appropriate, as well as individual TIGER II planning grant awards and HUD Sustainable Community Challenge Grant awards. This program provides one point of entry to these Federal resources. Different types of projects with both DOT TIGER II and HUD Sustainable Community components could include the following:

- Planning activities that support the development of affordable housing near transportation.
- Preparing or amending local codes and ordinances that prevent the private sector from developing neighborhoods more sustainably and inclusively, with housing located near transportation and retail.
- Planning activities related to the development of a particular transportation corridor or regional transportation system that promotes mixed-use or transit-oriented development with an affordable housing component.
- Planning activities related to the development of a freight corridor that seeks to reduce conflicts with residential areas and with passenger and non-motorized traffic.
- Developing expanded public transportation options, including accessible public transportation and para-transit services for individuals with disabilities, to allow individuals to live in diverse, high opportunity communities and to commute to areas with employment and educational opportunities.

Pre-applications are due 30 days from the publication of the Notice of Funding Availability in the Federal Register. **Full applications are due on August 23rd.** State and local governments, including U.S. territories, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities and others, are eligible to apply for funding. For more information on how to apply, please review the notice of funding availability (NOFA) by [clicking here](#). For more information about HUD and its programs, visit the web site at www.hud.gov.

Reclamation Announces Three WaterSMART Grant Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) announces the availability of three WaterSMART funding opportunities: 1) System Optimization Review Grants; 2) Advanced Water Treatment Pilot and Demonstration Project Grants; and 3) Research Grants to Develop Climate Analysis Tools. The first two of these WaterSMART grants are available to State or Territory agencies or departments (including state drinking water programs) and Federally recognized Indian tribes with water or power delivery authority for funding amounts of up to \$300,000. The research grants are available to U.S. Universities and organizations for up to \$200,000.

The WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) program is a wide-ranging Interior Department project that includes the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National Water Census currently under development. WaterSMART is intended to address the most significant challenges facing our water supplies in the 21st century, including population growth, climate change, rising energy demands, environmental needs, and aging infrastructure.

For more information about the Funding Opportunities, log on to: <http://www.grants.gov> and type "WaterSMART" into the search engine. For more information about WaterSMART and the National Water Census, visit the web sites at <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/> and <http://water.usgs.gov/wsi/>.

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3: Potomac Highlands Implementation Grant

This program provides support for on-the-ground implementation projects to restore and protect the Potomac Highland's ecosystem. In FY 2010, \$1.8 million dollars have been authorized to support on-the-ground projects relating to the protection and restoration of ecological resources and services to improve the Potomac Highlands ecosystem. The Potomac Highlands, for the purposes of this funding, is considered to be the Potomac Watershed west of and above the fall line, plus the eight counties in the east central portion of West Virginia defined as the Potomac Highlands by the West Virginia Department of Commerce: Mineral, Hampshire, Grant, Tucker, Randolph, Pendleton, Pocahontas, and Hardy. Application deadline: July 30, 2010. <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/highlands-grants.html>

Competition Identifies Innovative Community Projects in U.S. and Canada

Changemakers, an Ashoka initiative, is a global organization that models and supports community-based social change philanthropy. Through online collaborations and competitions, Changemakers helps advance blossoming social innovations. The Strong Communities: Engaging Citizens, Strengthening Place, Inspiring Change competition will identify innovative projects that engage citizens to steer change and build strong communities across the United States and Canada. Solutions from a variety of disciplines are encouraged, including conservation, planning, economics, politics, education, deliberative democracy, and the arts. The competition is open to all individuals and organizations (nonprofit organizations, private companies, and public entities). A panel of independent judges will select eight finalists from all of the entries submitted in the competition. From among these finalists, the Changemakers' online community will vote for three winners, who will each receive a \$5,000 grant. Competition submissions will be accepted until August 11, 2010. Visit the Changemakers website to review the eligibility, guidelines, and criteria for the competition. [Changemakers: Strong Communities: Engaging Citizens, Strengthening Place, Inspiring Change](#)

Emergency Grants for Gulf Coast Communities Affected by Oil Spill

The Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health is dedicated to supporting progressive movement building in the Gulf Coast region. Through the BP Oil Drilling Disaster Emergency Response Fund, the Gulf Coast Fund is working with great urgency to identify resources and provide emergency grants to coastal communities affected by the BP Oil Drilling Disaster. Special priority is given to organizations engaged in community-led responses focused on: building community capacity, independent monitoring and documentation, providing impacted communities with access to key information and decision-makers, and organizing and advocacy for communities most impacted by the disaster. Joint collaborations across the region are encouraged. The Fund will continue to distribute emergency grants approximately every two weeks for the next few months. Visit the Gulf Coast Fund's website for application details. [Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health: BP Oil Drilling Disaster Emergency Respond Fund](#)

Community Programs in Bank Communities Supported

The mission of the Cathay Bank Foundation is to enhance the growth and success of communities the bank serves in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Washington. The Foundation's ultimate objective is to create opportunities in the areas of affordable housing, community and economic development, and education. The Foundation will also consider supporting cultural and arts, health and welfare, environmental and human services programs that benefit the bank's communities. Grants generally range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. The Foundation does not accept unsolicited proposals; however, initial letters of inquiry may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website [Cathay Bank Foundation](#) to learn more about the Foundation's focus areas and the application process.

Emergency Countermeasure Dispensing Staffing Plan

The purpose of the program is to fund a nationally recognized community volunteer and support organization to develop plans to recruit, train, and maintain volunteers. These volunteers would support the state and local public health agencies during a dispensing campaign. The awarded organization should develop an exportable model with transferrable plans and toolkits that can be disseminated to other community organizations for their consideration and use. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2010" focus area(s) of: Education and Community-Based Programs; and Public Health Infrastructure. Measurable outcomes of the program will be in alignment with the following goal from the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA): Strategic Goal 2, Public Health. Eligible

applicants: Nonprofit with 501C3 IRS status (other than institution of higher education) Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS status (other than institution of higher education) Universities Colleges Research institutions Hospitals Community-based organizations Faith-based organizations Federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments American Indian/Alaska native tribally designated organizations Alaska Native health corporations Urban Indian health organizations Tribal epidemiology centers State and local governments or their Bona Fide Agents (this includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau) Political subdivisions of States (in consultation with States) A Bona Fide Agent is an agency/organization identified by the state as eligible to submit an application under the state eligibility in lieu of a state application. If applying as a bona fide agent of a state or local government, a letter from the state or local government as documentation of the status is required. Award ceiling: \$300,000. **Application deadline: July 12, 2010.** Click here to get application information. <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=4YY4Mf1NvJHQRwpTkKMK5VMbvnkygjn6WOC93hyZSITB1pJrOTm!1250550866?oppId=55246&mode=VIEW>

Postdoctoral Positions in Catastrophic Risk Research at the Wharton School

The Center for Risk Management and Decision Processes at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania is seeking applicants for one or two postdoctoral fellowship positions in the area of catastrophic risk, with a particular focus on natural hazards and environmental risks. Fellows would work on NSF and foundation-funded projects covering a range of topics related to catastrophic risk, including psychological studies of risk perception, adaptation to natural hazards, and the economic management of disasters. Researchers from a broad range of disciplines are encouraged to apply, including experimental psychology, economics, geography, and environmental science. Fellows will work at the Wharton School under the supervision of the Center's co-directors Howard Kunreuther and Robert Meyer and managing director Erwann Michel-Kerjan. Positions will begin Fall of 2010 or sooner. Please email your C.V. and 1-2 representative publications to the attention of Chioma Fitzgerald ccf@wharton.upenn.edu.

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Floodplain Management Training Calendar

Below are the ASFPM upcoming conferences & training opportunities. For a full nationwide listing of Chapter, State, and Partner opportunities, please visit our online calendar at <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

May 15 – 20, 2011	ASFPM 35 th Annual National Conference, Louisville, KY	Association of State Floodplain Managers
May 20 – 25, 2012	ASFPM 36 th Annual National Conference, San Antonio, TX	Association of State Floodplain Managers
June 9 – 14, 2013	ASFPM 37 th Annual National Conference, Hartford, CT	Association of State Floodplain Managers
June 1 – 6, 2014	ASFPM 38 th Annual National Conference, Seattle, WA	Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Job Corner

Below are just a few of the job openings currently posted on our website. For a complete list, visit our online job corner at <http://www.floods.org/n-jobpost/index.asp>.

Water Resource Project Manager II

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

The Project Manager II will manage water resource projects and be heavily involved in obtaining new work for the Sacramento Office. Job location is Sacramento, CA. Salary is dependent on experience. Michael Baker Jr., Inc., is an engineering unit of Michael Baker Corporation. We offer 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, more. Baker is an EEO/AAP (M/F/V/H) e-Verify Employer.

To apply for this position, please log on to www.mbakercorp.com/careers and reference IRC41900. Nela Faddis is the contact person. Closes 9/7/2010.

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### **NFIP Trainer**

ESource Corp

As a contract flood insurance program trainer, duties will include:

- deliver training on flood insurance program curricula virtually and face-to-face
- work in assigned areas/regions
- participate in and conduct train-the-trainer sessions
- handle pre-training and post-training activities (logistics, space procurement, reports)
- escalate issues as appropriate
- assist in curriculum development
- serve as content Subject Matter Expert (SME) internally and externally
- assist as needed with state filings
- create presentations and co-present with other trainers

Qualifications:

- NFIP certification and 5+ years experience as a trainer
- Bachelor's degree in Adult Education or similar field
- 5 years public speaking experience, preferably related to the flood insurance program
- Property and casualty insurance background
- Strong understanding of the NFIP as it relates to flood insurance
- Excellent communication, presentation and facilitation skills
- Experience training virtually (ViLT) and developing courseware
- SME in flood insurance program (preferred)

Job is temporary at 30 hours per week with a flexible work schedule. Location is regional, travel is up to 50%. Salary is dependent on experience. To apply, send resume to Mike Giambra at [mgiambra@esourcecorp.com](mailto:mgiambra@esourcecorp.com), 973-829-0010. Closes 8/25/2010.

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Technical Coordinator - Community Hazard Mitigation

ISO – Insurance Services Office

Excellent opportunity for a Technical Coordinator Community Hazard Mitigation Programs, with the location to be determined later. Your major responsibilities will involve:

- Coordinated activities associated with Community Rating System (Flood) Program with other community mitigation programs (Building Code Evaluation and Public Protection)

- Coordinated Flood Program with other ISO programs and services
- Provide technical support for the Flood Program
- Coordinate flood publications distribution with ISO Vendors and ISO Customer Service
- Provide program support to Information Technology staff for software development and testing
- Provide technical support to Corporate Communications for marketing and advertising flood program products and services (brochures, displays/booths, etc.)
- May assist with corporate policy support for the Building Code Evaluation and Public Protection Programs

Skills, and/or experience:

- College Degree with a minimum of 4-6 years work related experience in floodplain management, emergency management, evaluation of community building code, and/or municipal fire protection analysis
- Undergraduate/graduate degree in fire protection, occupational/industrial safety, risk management, homeland security, engineering, or insurance-related program
- Thorough understanding of municipal fire department administration, building construction, hazards associated with building occupancies, and loss mitigation techniques
- Working knowledge of computers including Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and Power Point
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, public speaking and good math skills
- Working knowledge and/or understanding of hydrology and hydraulics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), topographic mapping and map reading skills, surveying, planning, construction plan review, storm water regulations, etc.
- Good customer service skills, self motivated, detail oriented, good organizational skills
- Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certificate required (or attain within one year of employment)

ISO is a leading source of information about risk, supplying data, analytics, and decision-support services for professionals in many fields, including insurance, finance, real estate, health services, government, and human resources. Our products help customers measure, manage, and reduce risk. We offer a competitive salary, a solid benefits package with medical, dental, and a 401(k).

If you would like to apply for this position, please visit our website: www.jobs-isofamily.icims.com, keyword search; 20193. ISO is an equal opportunity employer.

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