

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

March
2008

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Madison, WI 53713 www.floods.org
608-274-0123 Fax: 608-274-0696 memberhelp@floods.org

Deputy Executive Director's Report George Riedel, CFM

It is a very busy time at the Executive Office. This month, I would like to cover some of the activities that have taken place and some of the upcoming activities.

In order to meet the demands and needs of the ASFPM membership, the Executive Office has recently hired a Computer/IT Manager and a Training/Chapter Coordinator.

Jason Schneeberger was hired to fill the Computer/IT Manager position for the Association. Jason will be responsible for the analysis, design, administration, and configuration of the Association's computer hardware and software. He will also support the Association's needs in web based applications and network administration.

Jason has over 15 years of progressive experience in strategic and operational design and implementation of technology solutions in a variety of business sectors. Jason has received Technical Certification in several programming and software applications.

Kait Laufenberg was hired to fill the Training/Chapter Coordinator position for the Association. Kait will be responsible for developing and implementing training for the Association members and Chapters and will work with ASFPM's Chapters, Certified Floodplain Managers, and members regarding the National Floodplain Management Certification Program.

Kait has over seven years of human resources and training experience in change management, organizational development, train the trainer, and project management in both corporate and non-profit settings. She is a proven curriculum developer and a logistics manager with experience overseeing and implementing training projects and workshops. Kait has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, along with several Certifications dealing with training and human resources.

In This Issue

Click on any of the following links, or simply scroll down for entire newsletter.

[Deputy Executive Director's Report](#)
[Mary Fran Myers Scholarship](#)
[Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship](#)
[Will the 2009 International Residential Code Include Freeboard?](#)
[American Rivers-NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Partnership](#)
[National Flood Risk Management Program](#)
[2007 Disasters by the Numbers](#)
[2007 NFIP Compliance Actions](#)
[FEMA Library Resources](#)
[Floodplain Manager's Notebook](#)
[Washington Legislative Report](#)
[CFM Corner](#)
[Floodplain Management Training Calendar](#)
[Job Corner](#)

REMINDER: The Early Bird Deadline for registration for the ASFPM Annual Conference is **April 1, 2008**. Get your registration in now to take advantage of the reduced rates!

Please join all of us in welcoming Jason and Kait to the Association.

ASFPM and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) with cooperating parties of FEMA and the USACE

conducted the National Flood Risk Management – **Levee Safety Summit** in St. Louis, Missouri, February 25-27, 2008. Over 530 participants attended this event. The participants heard from the Federal agencies on flood risk management polices that are under review and consideration. During break out sessions, participants provided feedback on levee related issues such as residual flood risk, certification and decertification, operations and maintenance, flood insurance, floodplain mapping, and the National Levee Safety Program. The Summit provided an opportunity for people to hear about current issues concerning levees and to provide input on the issues affecting them. The Summit was a huge success!

Staff are now preparing for the 2008 National ASFPM Conference to be held May 18-23, 2008, in Reno-Sparks, Nevada, at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel. The program has been finalized and the conference registrations have started arriving. You can view the conference brochure on the ASFPM web site. If you have not made a hotel reservation, you need to do it as soon as possible. The conference brochure and hotel contact information can be found at www.floods.org/reno-sparks.

It is time for current ASFPM members to submit nominations for the election of Officers and Regional Directors (even-numbered regions this year) for the July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 term. Nominations must be received no later than **March 14, 2008**. If you did not receive a letter and nomination form for Officers and Regional Directors, please contact the ASFPM Member Services Coordinator, Becky Head, at (608) 274-0123 or memberhelp@floods.org. Remember, you must be a current member of ASFPM in order to submit a nomination.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship - Request for 2008 Applications

Each summer, the Natural Hazards Center hosts an invitational Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Colorado. The workshop brings together more than 400 members of the hazards community who are working to alleviate the pain and loss inflicted by disasters.

One of Mary Fran's primary concerns was ensuring that representatives of all ages, professions, and communities be represented at the workshop. Mary Fran recognized that many people and organizations who could greatly benefit from and contribute to workshop activities—including, in particular, local practitioners, students, and international professionals—were among the least likely to be able to afford the meeting.

In 2003, members of the hazards community established the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship to fulfill Mary Fran's explicit request that qualified and talented individuals receive support to attend the workshop. The intent of the scholarship is to bring new and fresh perspectives—and otherwise unheard voices—to the workshop.

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship provides financial support to recipients so that they can attend and participate in the workshop and further their research or community work and careers. This scholarship covers part or all of the costs of transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, and workshop registration fees.

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship is awarded annually to at least one potential workshop participant, who is then formally invited to the workshop. Each year, the recipient or recipients are recognized at the workshop and may be asked to serve as panel discussants, where they can highlight their research or practical experiences in the hazards and disasters field.

Eligibility and Application Procedure

All hazards researchers, students, and practitioners are eligible for the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship. However, preference is given to individuals with demonstrated financial need and those who have not previously attended the Annual Hazards Workshop.

Applicants must complete the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship 2008 Application Form, available from the Natural Hazards Center's Web site at: www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/myers-scholarship.html

An application form can also be requested by calling the Natural Hazards Center at (303) 492-6818 or by e-mailing Lori Peek at lori.peek@colostate.edu. Four typed copies of the completed application should be mailed to: *Mary Fran Myers Scholarship*, c/o Lori Peek, Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado, 482 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0482.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by **Friday, April 4, 2008**.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund Award Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Deadline: May 30, 2008

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation, will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year to a full-time college junior or senior currently enrolled in an undergraduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management, or a student enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to floodplain/stormwater management.

Eligible applicants include current undergraduates in a four-year college program, applicants to a graduate program, or current graduate students. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and be a citizen of the United States. Eligible fields of discipline include civil or environmental engineering, planning, emergency management, environmental sciences or other disciplines with a demonstrable link to floodplain and stormwater management.

Applicants must complete a 2008-2009 Scholarship Application Form which can be downloaded from ASFPM's website at <http://www.floods.org/Foundation/ScholarOps.asp>. Selection preference will be given to those applicants who demonstrate a history of civic or volunteer service, as well as a financial need (i.e. full-time students responsible for their own tuition), in addition to meeting the basic qualifications. In order to be considered, the Scholarship Review Committee must receive four (4) signed copies of the 2008-2009 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to May 30, 2008.

Selection will be made prior to July 31, 2008. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university.

Applications and reference letter must be mailed to:

Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship, Review Committee, c/o Green International Affiliates, Inc., 407 Rear Mystic Avenue, Unit 25, Medford, MA 02155, Attn: Peter A. Richardson, P.E., CFM

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Will the 2009 International Residential Code Include Freeboard?

By Rebecca C. Quinn, CFM, consultant to FEMA's Building Science Branch, Mitigation Directorate

There's a chance the answer to that question could be "yes" – but it's still up in the air and your support is still needed.

In the December issue of *The Insider* FEMA reported that it had proposed a modification to the International Residential Code (IRC) to include one-foot of freeboard. Based on ASFPM's updated information from NFIP state coordinators, more than 60% of the NFIP's communities that have mapped floodplains already require freeboard.

The total number of communities that require at least 1-foot of freeboard is even higher, because only a few states estimated the number of communities that voluntarily adopt this added factor of safety. Clearly, there is wide-spread recognition that a minimum requirement that was established by the NFIP more than 30 years ago no longer provides adequate protection to homes and businesses built in floodplains.

Last month the International Code Council held hearings to deliberate proposals to change the I-Codes. The committee handling the IRC proposals has 12 members, including four code officials (local or state), four builders representing the National Association of Home Builders, and four others (engineers, architects, code consultants, or the insurance industry).

FEMA presented testimony on the benefits of freeboard, summarizing the concrete evidence in the NFIP Evaluation Reports in terms of damages avoided as well as annual insurances savings. Anticipating NAHB's opposition, FEMA suggested that those who are concerned about housing affordability should also be concerned about whether homeowners can afford flood insurance. Adding one-foot of freeboard lowers the cost 20-40% – savings that owners will enjoy year after year, for the life of the home.

FEMA highlighted the ASFPM's support and that of state chapters across the country, and the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management testified in support. Of particular importance, the New Jersey chapter asked for and received a unanimous vote of support from the board of the Building Officials Association of New Jersey.

One committee member, noting that 26 counties in his state were affected by a recent flood disaster, reported that his community has freeboard and has seen the benefits.

Only the National Association of Home Builders spoke in opposition, continuing to base its position largely on concerns about added costs, despite the evidence of benefits. In particular, NAHB expressed concern about how costly it is to truck in large quantities of fill in order to elevate homes. FEMA countered by noting that there are other, less expensive, ways to elevate homes.

One committee member (an NAHB representative) suggested that a better way to get freeboard is to add it to the maps. FEMA noted that it is charged by Congress to delineate the flood hazard area, and adding to the base flood elevation wouldn't represent the hazard.

NAHB also contended that it is best left to individual communities to decide whether an added factor of safety is appropriate. FEMA pointed out that NAHB has a published policy to oppose local code amendments that increase the cost of housing. Thus, it was using a rationale that conflicts with its own policies.

After the debate, the committee initially voted to disapprove the proposal to add freeboard to the IRC. A motion was made for floor action, which allows any eligible attendee to vote. Based on a majority vote, the floor action was to approve the proposal.

While this is good news, there is one more important step in order to get freeboard into the IRC. Both the committee's action (to disapprove) and the floor action (to approve) will be debated again at the final action hearing in September, to be held in Minneapolis, MN. Two-thirds of the governmental members in attendance must vote to overturn the committee's action and to sustain the action to approve freeboard.

Contact me to learn how you and your state chapter can support the proposal (rcquinn@earthlink.net).

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

American Rivers-NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Partnership Now Accepting Proposals For River Restoration Grants

www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants

American Rivers seeks proposals for river restoration project grants as part of its partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program. Program funding is provided through NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative, which seeks to enable environmental and economic renewal in local communities through the removal of stream barriers.

This Partnership funds stream barrier removal projects that help restore riverine ecosystems, enhance public safety and community resilience, and have clear and identifiable benefits to diadromous fish populations. "Diadromous" fish migrate between freshwater and saltwater during their life cycle. Examples include alewife, American eel, American shad, blueback herring, salmon, steelhead, shortnose sturgeon and striped bass. Projects in the Northeast (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI), Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA, MD, DC), Northwest (WA, OR, ID), and California are eligible to apply. Projects located within the St. Lawrence/Great Lakes Basin are not eligible for funding in the April 2008 grant round.

Eligible applications will be evaluated based upon four priority criteria: (1) ecological merits of the project, (2) technical feasibility of the project, (3) benefits provided to the local community, and (4) financial clarity and strength of the application. Grants are provided for three distinct project phases: Feasibility Analysis, Engineering Design and Construction. Average grants are \$25,000 - \$50,000. Successful applicants for one project phase will not be eligible to receive additional funding for that same project phase in future grant rounds. See the Funding Guidelines for additional details.

Applications are currently being accepted for the second cycle of fiscal year 2008 with a deadline of April 1, 2008. Applications for projects must be postmarked by the deadline for consideration in this funding cycle. Potential applicants should contact American Rivers to discuss potential projects prior to submitting an application. Applicants can expect notification about funding decisions in early June 2008.

NOTE: Our eligibility requirements and application content have changed. Obtain the Application for Financial Assistance and Funding Guidelines on the American Rivers web site www.americanrivers.org/NOAAGrants or contact us at the addresses below.

Contact: Serena S. McClain, American Rivers, 1101 14th Street, NW Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005, Email: rivergrants@americanrivers.org

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

National Flood Risk Management Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) established the National Flood Risk Management Program in 2006 for the purpose of integrating and synchronizing USACE flood risk management programs and activities, both internally and with counterpart activities of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), other Federal agencies, state organizations, and regional and local agencies.

Some of the specific goals of the National Flood Risk Management Program include:

- Providing current and accurate floodplain information to the public and decision makers,
- Identifying and assessing flood hazards posed by aging flood damage reduction infrastructure,
- Improving public awareness and comprehension of flood hazards and risk,
- Integrating flood damage and flood hazard reduction programs across local, state, and Federal agencies, and
- Improving capabilities to collaboratively deliver and sustain flood damage reduction and flood hazard mitigation services to the nation.

The Flood Risk Management Program is administered under the direction of USACE Director of Civil Works. However, fulfilling the mission of the Program requires continuous communication with representatives of other Federal and non-Federal government organizations. To date, key players in these discussions have included FEMA and members of organizations representing state and local government, including the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the National Association of Storm and Floodwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA).

For more information go to: <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/nfrmp>.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

2007 Disasters by the Numbers

The Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) has released its report on 2007 disasters.

Notable findings include:

- * The world saw an increase in the number of floods, compared with the average of the last seven years.
- * Eight of the ten countries with the highest disaster deaths were in Asia.
- * 4,234 people were killed in Bangladesh by Cyclone Sidr, making it the most deadly disaster of 2007.
- * The United States saw the highest number of reported natural disasters in 2007, with 22.

To view the entire report, visit:

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/facts-sheets/2007-disasters-in-numbers-ISDR-CRED.pdf>.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

2007 NFIP Compliance Actions – The Cycle of Probation, Remediation, and Reinstatement

The following article was submitted to ASFPM by the FEMA Mitigation Directorate

The enforcement action of probation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) can be an effective way to gain community compliance with the minimum requirements of the NFIP when all other technical assistance measures have been unsuccessful. Since 1986, 114 communities have been sent a formal notice that they will be placed on probation if they do not address the program deficiencies or violations identified. Out of the 114 communities, 63 have actually been placed on probation. The remaining communities satisfactorily resolved their program deficiencies and violations before being placed on probation.

In 2007, three communities were placed on probation: City of Malvern, Arkansas, the City of Shady Cove, Oregon, and Alexander County, Illinois. For the communities placed on probation, probationary status will either be renewed after one year, rescinded, or suspension proceedings will be initiated. Property owners may purchase and renew flood insurance coverage during the probationary period, however, a \$50 surcharge is added to each policy sold or renewed in the community.

The City of Malvern, Arkansas was placed on probation on March 6, 2007. A Community Assistance Visit (CAV) was conducted with the City in 2005. During this visit, the FEMA Region VI Office found program deficiencies and multiple violations. The deficiencies cited in the Malvern, Arkansas CAV follow-up letter included failure to manage floodplain management development in accordance with the city's floodplain program, lack of adequate record keeping, and failure to notify FEMA of changes that would require flood map revisions. Direct violations of the community's flood-damage prevention ordinances included regulatory floodway violations, allowing non-residential construction without proper permitting, and failure to maintain elevation data. FEMA Region VI provided a detailed list to city officials of the items to be addressed and a timeline in which to complete them. The community did not meet the established timeframes and was placed on probation.

The City of Shady Cove, Oregon, was placed on probation on November 1, 2007. A CAV was conducted with the City in 2002. The FEMA Region X Office found program deficiencies and multiple floodplain and floodway development violations. On September 19, 2006, the FEMA Region X Office notified the city that they were proceeding with the probationary process. In that letter, the city was provided an overview of the financial implications of probation as well as a detailed timeline of specific events and proposed corrective actions that the city could take to remediate the violations. The city did not implement corrective measures within the established timeframes and was also placed on probation.

Alexander County, Illinois joined the NFIP in 1974. In the 1980's, the county allowed numerous floodplain development violations to occur which jeopardized its status in the NFIP. On July 15, 1988, rather than face enforcement actions for failing to enforce its ordinance, the County allowed itself to be suspended for failure to adopt a compliant floodplain management ordinance referencing an updated Flood Insurance Rate Map. During the time that the County was suspended from the NFIP, it had allowed development to occur in the floodplain without meeting any flood management requirements.

Over the years, Alexander County expressed interest in joining the NFIP after major flood events. However, the NFIP State Coordinator and the FEMA Region V Office asked the community to submit evidence that it has taken action to remedy program deficiencies and violations. In 2000, the County began making strides to address the program deficiencies and violations by adopting a compliant ordinance. The State NFIP Coordinator, and the FEMA Region V Office, worked diligently in assisting the County in correcting the violations to the maximum extent possible. In January 2007, Alexander County was reinstated in the NFIP on probation. By reinstating the community on probation, FEMA

acknowledged the community's initial work, while concurrently providing an incentive, through the removal of probation, to complete the remediation plan. Since 2007, the county has made great strides and shown good faith in implementing a sound floodplain management program. One important first step was the county hiring a full-time floodplain administrator. As part of the remediation plan, the community has demolished several structures, manufactured homes have been elevated or moved out of the floodplain, and regulatory floodways have been cleared of debris and refuse.

On January 4, 2008, Alexander County was reinstated in the NFIP in good standing for successfully demonstrating remedial actions to correct a sample of their floodplain violations and fully corrected their administrative deficiencies. Terry Reuss Fell, Chief, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch in FEMA's Region V Office said, "We are really pleased that the County has corrected their prior administrative deficiencies and has really solid floodplain management review procedures in place."

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

FEMA Library Resources

FEMA recently posted several fact sheets in the FEMA Library regarding the different grant programs available that may be of interest to floodplain managers. A few of the most important ones are:

- ◇ FY 2008 RFC Guidance
- ◇ FY 2008 FMA Guidance
- ◇ SRL Pilot Program Guidance
- ◇ FMA Fact Sheet
- ◇ HMGP Fact Sheet

You can find the documents by searching the FEMA Library either by keywords or by category. You can find the FEMA Library online at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/index.jsp>.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



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 . . .

Have you ever had to issue a permit for a building that is positioned to be in more than one flood zone? This could happen if the building straddles the line between the AE Zone and the VE Zone, if it straddles the line between the floodway and the flood fringe, or if it is partly in the SFHA and partly in the X Zone (shaded or unshaded). If you've run up against one of these situations, I'm curious about how you handled it. Here's what I think.

When looking into questions like this, I always start with the NFIP regulations at 44 CFR §60.3 (and definitions in §59.1). The regulations are silent on this specific issue – you won't find exact language that addresses a building in more than one zone.

But let's keep in mind that the regulations do more than give us the specifics. The regulations also contain a performance statement for how buildings should perform when exposed to flooding (look at §60.3(a)(3), copied below). What this suggests is that without specifics, we have to interpret how to make sure that a building in more than one zone will perform as expected. It seems to me that gives us a pretty clear answer – the building has to meet the more restrictive requirements in order to perform adequately. But we should do a bit more research.

The Elevation Certificate anticipates this situation; it requires users to complete Item B8 with “Flood Zone(s)” and Item B9 with “Base Flood Elevation(s).” The instruction for Item B9 is very specific that all appropriate BFEs are to be listed “[i]f the building is located in more than one flood zone”. Elevation Certificates are used by insurance agents to issue flood insurance policies. Why collect data on multiple zones if it isn't used? This tells me that I probably should dig into the *Flood Insurance Manual*. Sometimes that's a daunting prospect; however, this time I quickly found the following in General Rules X Special Rating Situations:

“D. Buildings in More Than One Flood Zone. Buildings, not the land, located in more than one flood zone must be rated using the more hazardous zone. This condition applies even though the portion of the building located in the more hazardous zone may not be covered under the Standard Flood Insurance Policy, such as a deck.”

Okay, now we're getting somewhere. Now we know that if we want the permit applicant to get the best flood insurance rates, we need to require that the building comply with the requirements of “the more hazardous zone.” If it straddles the A/V line – it must comply with the V zone requirements. If it is part in the floodway, then a floodway analysis is required. And if it is part in the SFHA and part in Zone X, it must be built to SFHA requirements. This reinforces and is consistent with the interpretation we got from considering the performance statement in §60.3(a)(3).

And then I remembered that there's a clear answer in the *International Building Code* and the *International Residential Code*. Most states base their codes on these model codes – which means you probably have flood provisions in both the building code and your floodplain management ordinance. Sure enough, the answer quickly becomes clear:

- **IBC 1612.1 (reads in part):** For buildings that are located in more than one flood hazard area, the provisions associated with the most restrictive flood hazard area shall apply.
- **IRC 324.1** Buildings and structures constructed in whole or in part in flood hazard areas (including A or V Zones) as established in Table R301.2(1) shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions contained in this section. **Exception:** Buildings and structures located in whole or in part in identified floodways shall be designed and constructed in accordance with ASCE 24. [and] **324.1.1** As an alternative to the requirements in Section R324.3 for buildings and structures located in whole or in part in coastal high hazard areas (V Zones), ASCE 24 is permitted subject to the limitations of this code and the limitations therein.

Normally, when researching questions and interpretations, the next step I'd take would be to check FEMA's guidance documents, of which there are many (and I'm sure everyone will agree that having them in searchable electronic format makes it easier to do our jobs!). Between the NFIP Technical Bulletins, several reference manuals, and many documents that address specific issues, there is plenty of material.

While there is no single compilation of FEMA interpretations, FEMA 480 does address many, but not all, of the questions that people ask me, making it a valuable resource. However, for the question about multiple zones, I did several word searches and didn't discover any specific guidance. Not surprising, given how many questions I still have to research despite quite a few years in this business!

A variation of the above situation is a large building proposed in an SFHA where the site is affected by more than one BFE (as opposed to more than one zone). This situation can easily occur in coastal areas where the BFEs change over a short distance. Or it could occur along riverine waterways where the topography is steep and the water surface elevations drop several feet in a short distance. I ran into this many years ago in Western Maryland, when a developer wanted to put a long, narrow building parallel to the stream, and the BFE at the downstream end of the site was 4 or 5 feet lower than the BFE at the upper end. He tried to convince me that the solution was to have a “stepped” building, with each stepped part above the BFE. I’d like to hear how you would handle this situation, and I’ll report on it in the next issue of *The Insider*. [RCQ]

§60.3(a)(3) Review all permit applications to determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding. If a proposed building site is in a flood-prone area, all new construction and substantial improvements shall (i) be designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy, (ii) be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage, (iii) be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages, and (iv) be constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Washington Legislative Report

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



Busy Times on Capitol Hill

The atmosphere on Capitol Hill this month is energized. Seemingly every committee is holding hearings – on the budget for fiscal year '09 and on authorizing issues. The expectation of a shortened Congressional session due to the November elections is causing a normally busy legislative season to be even busier.

On the budget for FY '09, the House Budget Committee reported out a Budget Resolution on March 5th. A Senate Budget Resolution was reported out of committee on March 6th. For an orderly process of considering appropriations bills, the plan calls for a Budget Resolution to be in place, hopefully a version agreed upon by both the House and Senate. These resolutions do not become law. Budget ceilings (or 302B allocations) can then be derived from it for each appropriations subcommittee. Although this orderly process does not always occur, it does provide a useful framework for the budget process when it works. At times, House and Senate Appropriations subcommittee allocations have been based on separate House and Senate Budget Resolutions. The Appropriations Committees hold most of their hearings on federal department and agency budget requests in March and April, so that mark-ups of the appropriations bills can begin as soon after May 15th as possible. During the week of March 3rd, the various House Appropriations subcommittees held 26 hearings.

Appropriations FY '09

DHS/FEMA

The Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee held a hearing with Secretary Chertoff on March 4th and will probably not hold a specific hearing on the FEMA budget. The House Appropriations Subcommittee will hold two hearings on FEMA's budget request – one focusing largely on the Homeland Security grants and Emergency Management Preparedness grants on March 11th and another hearing on March 13th. In keeping with last year's break with the tradition of only hearing from agency witnesses, the subcommittee will also hear from NEMA and IAEM (local emergency managers).

Mapping

The budget request includes \$150 million in appropriated funds for on-going mapping activities, plus an added amount derived from fees associated with NFIP policies, for a total mapping budget of approximately \$248 million. Additional fee monies are available for FY '09 because of the increased number of policies in effect, a \$5 fee increase per policy which will be effective in May, 2008, plus a move to fund FMA and the other two severe repetitive loss programs from premium income to the National Flood Insurance Fund rather than from fee income. FY '08 was the final year of funding for the 5 year Map Modernization Presidential Initiative. FY '09 is being seen as a "bridge year" to the ongoing map program called RiskMAP (Integrating Mapping, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning – Draft Strategy). A description of preliminary plans for RiskMAP can be seen at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ffmm.shtm>. FEMA is accepting comments on the draft plan at: FEMA-FloodMapFY09Concepts@dhs.gov.

NFIP-Funded Grant Programs

The three combined repetitive loss grant programs are funded at a total of \$90 million. Approximately \$35 million of that amount is for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), a slight increase from the approximately \$34 million provided in FY '08. In FY '09, these programs will be funded from NFIP premium income rather than from fee income, as had been the case for FMA, freeing up fee income to support the mapping budget.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation

The request for PDM is \$75 million, a substantial reduction from the FY '08 appropriated level of \$114 million and previous amounts that were as much as \$150 million. For the first time, a substantial portion of PDM funds were "earmarked" in the FY '08 Omnibus Appropriations bill, amounting to about \$51 million of the \$114 million appropriated. Ninety five Congressional Directives (earmarks) were included, but the bill does require that all projects funded comply with the criteria in Section 203(g) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Pursuant to an ASFPM Board Resolution, ASFPM sent a letter to FEMA Administrator Paulison expressing concern about the earmarks and noting the importance of the language requiring compliance with PDM program criteria.

Army Corps of Engineers

The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee held its hearing on the Corps Budget Request for FY '09 on March 6th. The Senate Subcommittee will hold its hearing on April 10th.

The Corps budget request for FY '09 includes an increase for Planning Assistance to States and a slight decrease for Flood Plain Management Services. These two small programs can have significant impact in assisting state capabilities and in providing technical assistance to localities. The PAS request is \$7 million, up from the FY '08 level of \$6.4 million. (Some \$3 million of that FY '08 amount was for named projects.) The FPMS request is for \$8 million, a decrease from the FY '08 appropriated level of \$8.8 million. (About \$6 million of that FY '08 amount was for named projects.) The budget request also includes \$10 million for the levee inventory which is an important corollary to the FEMA mapping effort.

Of that amount, approximately \$2 million would be designated for expenses of the 16 member National Levee Safety Committee established by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to make recommendations for a governance structure for an effective national levee safety program.

Flood Insurance Reform

Flood insurance reform legislation remains stalled in the Senate. An effort was made to bring the measure to the Senate floor for action under Unanimous Consent, but 8 objections were filed, which prevented floor action. Those “holds” were primarily from the Gulf Coast Senators who wanted to see additional provisions come to a floor vote. Senator Landrieu (D-LA), for example, listed several items she would like to have considered on the floor including: increased maximum insurance amounts; additional, optional coverages such as business interruption insurance; more gradual movement toward actuarial rates for the categories of policies so designated in the bill; elimination of the requirement for insurance in residual risk areas behind levees; and the optional “wind and flood” policy. Most of the objections filed called for a Senate floor vote on adding the “wind and flood” policy to the NFIP.

Other issues continue to surface as possible amendments to the Senate bill. Senator Durbin (D-IL) has indicated his interest in offering an amendment comparable to the amendment to the House bill offered by Rep. Costello (D-IL) stipulating that no new flood maps could become effective until all maps in a given Corps district are “completed”. There are indications of interest in an amendment relating to the note on flood maps pertaining to the risk in areas behind levees.

In a related matter, Senator Landrieu is preparing to introduce a bill which would provide for an ombudsman within the NFIP with broad investigative powers to examine the handling of wind/water issues in claims adjustment.

Catastrophe Insurance/Reinsurance

Legislation (S. 2310) to address the availability of homeowners’ insurance in coastal areas has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Clinton (D-NY) and Bill Nelson (D-FL). A similar bill, H.R. 3355, was passed by the House in the last session. Action has not been scheduled on the Senate bill yet, but the issue is a live one and is somewhat associated with the calls for adding wind coverage to the NFIP. There is significant interest in developing other legislative responses to the insurance availability and catastrophe insurance issue. Senator Bill Nelson has also sponsored a bill (S. 2286) to create a Blue Ribbon Commission to study the issues and to make recommendations for addressing the concerns - the Commission on Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Insurance Act. That bill was reported out of the Senate Banking Committee on November 1st and is awaiting Senate floor consideration.

PDM Reauthorization

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program requires reauthorization this year as it is set to expire on September 30, 2008. For the first time, an extensive list of “Congressional Directives” was associated with the program in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY ’08. Many members of ASFPM have expressed concern about the unfortunate effect of such earmarks on their efforts to work with localities to develop competitive grant applications within the framework of local hazard mitigation plans. There have been some indications that the Congressional committees with jurisdiction over PDM could hold hearings on mitigation programs in conjunction with their consideration of PDM reauthorization.

Levee Certification and FEMA Flood Maps

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Public Buildings, Economic Development and Emergency Management had called a hearing in February to focus on the areas of coordination between FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers dealing with levee certification matters and mapping issues associated with levee status. The hearing was also to explore possibilities for funding

levee repairs. ASFPM had been asked to testify. Unfortunately the hearing had to be postponed due to a memorial service for a Member of Congress and has not yet been rescheduled.

Coastal Issues

Legislation (H.R. 5451) to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act could be considered during this Congressional session. The House Natural Resources Committee (Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans) held a hearing February 28th on the bill and on other bills to amend CZMA which have also been introduced. One, H.R. 5452, would authorize grants to coastal states to support initiation and completion of coastal waters surveys associated with renewable energy projects. Another, H.R. 5453, would provide assistance to coastal states for development of climate change adaptation plans. H.R. 3223 would establish a grant program to ensure coastal access for water-dependent coastal businesses.

Other Action of Interest

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Water Resources Subcommittee) will hold a hearing March 11th on “Comprehensive Watershed Management and Planning – Drought Related Issues in the Southeastern U.S.”. The full committee will hold a hearing on the Clean Water Restoration Act on April 16th.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on March 11th on the Army Corps of Engineers budget request for FY '09 and implementation of WRDA 2007.

The House Natural Resources Committee (Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands) held an oversight hearing February 27th on the National Park Service’s budget request for FY '09.

The National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act was introduced in the House on January 29th (H.R. 5171) and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill reauthorizes several programmatic components of U.S. Geological Survey – led mapping efforts, including the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program and its STATEMAP, FEDMAP and EDMAP elements. A similar bill (S. 240) was reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee a year ago and is awaiting Senate floor action.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

The following are several articles that may be of particular interest to CFMs. Please see below for more information....

ASFPM Body of Knowledge

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has prepared a “Body of Knowledge” that will help define the field of floodplain management and guide floodplain managers training and education. Our “Body of Knowledge” builds on the NFIP and includes the understanding of:

1. The physical processes operating on the stream channel, shoreline, floodplain, and watershed
2. The biological processes active in the floodplain
3. Human interactions with floodplains and drainage basins
4. Risk assessment models
5. Policy, guidance, and plans

This guidance was the result of extensive dialog with our membership and that of over 50 organizations involved with our nation's floodplains. However, our Body of Knowledge is far from static and we encourage you to apply it to guide training, policy, and offer suggested changes as we better our approach to floodplain management. The complete document can be found at:

http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_Body_of_Knowledge.pdf

NEW – FEMA's GovDelivery System

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) recently launched a new e-mail subscription management system, **GovDelivery**, which operates in conjunction with the Institute's Web site - <http://training.fema.gov/>. The service transmits instant e-mail alerts to our wide range of users, students and alumni when new and important information is posted on EMI's home page, and distributes copies of "EMI Training Opportunities and Announcements."

The latest EMI news, updates, training, workshop and conference information is delivered directly to PCs, laptops or wireless devices to ensure that it's received by the emergency management community, its partners and the general public in as timely, effective and convenient way as possible.

Signing up is easy. Users can simply click on the "envelope icons" found throughout the EMI Web site (a subscription link can be found right on the homepage, highlighted in a green box above the "Latest News" section). No personal information is required - just an e-mail address where the alerts can be sent.

 [Sign up via our free e-mail subscription service](#) to receive notifications when new information is available from the EMI.

Subscribers select the topics on which they want updates - such as "EMI News," "EMI Grams" announcing course offerings or workshops, "Independent Study Programs," "The Higher Education Activity Reports," as well as other featured programs. The alerts are sent as soon as updates are posted on the EMI Web site or in daily, weekly or monthly digests.

In concert with FEMA, EMI's implementation of **GovDelivery** is a significant step in enhancing communications with our Nation's emergency managers. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), and other professional association members are encouraged to register for the service and receive updates on their particular areas of interest.

Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II - E282

A Focus Group will be held at FEMA/EMI in April to develop an Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II course. Topics to be developed will include: Insurance for the Floodplain Administrator, H & H for Floodplain Administrator, Higher Regulatory Standards, and Manufactured and Mobile Home regulations. This course will be developed and coordinated at EMI as a resident course, then released to be delivered in the field as four modules that can be conducted as one four-day course or four separate one-day courses.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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>.

March 12 – 13, 2008	IAFSM Annual Conference, Tinley Park, IL	Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management
March 12 – 14, 2008	SCAHM Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC	South Carolina Association for Hazard Mitigation
March 17 – 20, 2008	Association of Montana Floodplain Managers Annual Conference, Missoula, MT	Association of Montana Floodplain Managers
March 18 -21, 2008	MSFA 2008 Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI	Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association
March 31 – April 2, 2008	Urban Water Management, Louisville, KY	Urban Water Management
April 3, 2008	OFMA Spring Workshop, Ardmore, OK	Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association
April 7 – 9, 2008	MfSMA 2008 Annual Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake Ozark, MO	Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association
April 7 – 11, 2008	KAMM Annual Conference, General Butler State Park, KY	Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers
April 8 – 11, 2008	NMFMA Spring Conference, Santa Fe, NM	New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association
April 13 – 16, 2008	Solutions to Coastal Disasters Conference 2008, Turtle Bay Resort, Oahu, Hawaii	The Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI) of ASCE
April 16 – 18, 2008	AFMA Spring Conference, Tucson, AZ	Arizona Floodplain Management Association
April 17 – 18, 2008	AFMA Spring Workshop, Jacksonville, AR	Arkansas Floodplain Management Association
April 27 – 30, 2008	NCAFPM 2008 Annual Conference, Wrightsville Beach, NC	North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers
April 28 – May 1, 2008	TFMA Spring Conference, League City, TX	Texas Floodplain Management Association
April 29, 2008	RIFMA Annual Conference, Warwick, RI	Wayne Barnes
April 29 – May 3, 2008	FFMA 5 th Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL	Florida Floodplain Managers Association
May 18 – 23, 2008	ASFPM 32 nd National Conference, Reno, NV	www.floods.org memberhelp@floods.org

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Job Corner

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

University of Colorado at Boulder – Natural Hazards Center Program Associate

The Natural Hazards Center invites applications for the position of Program Associate located at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The position will be responsible to the Director and Program Manager for the effective management of the Natural Hazard Center's Web site, electronic and special publications, and Quick Response research program.

In particular, the Program Associate will perform the following duties:

- * Research, write, and distribute the Center's Disaster Research e-newsletter
- * Manage, maintain, and update the Center's Web site
- * Develop plans for new Web content, including the implementation of Web 2.0 and social networking strategies
- * Oversee the Quick Response research program, soliciting proposals, coordinating deployments, and editing and distributing reports
- * Edit Center special publications (both print and electronic forms) to improve clarity, consistency, and accuracy and to ensure publications meet the needs of targeted audiences
- * Assist the Program Manager in the planning and implementation of outreach initiatives for the Center and its programs

To apply, a resume, writing sample, and cover letter should be sent to Ezekiel Peters, Program Manager, at ezekiel.peters@colorado.edu. Review of materials will begin on March 10, 2008, and continue until the position is filled.

The complete job description is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/ProgramAssociate.pdf>

WV Floodplain Management Program Floodplain Management Specialist

Job Title: Emergency Services Specialist

Salary: \$1,616.00 - \$2,991.00 monthly; \$19,392.00 - \$35,892.00 annually

Job Type: Full-Time

Location: Kanawha County, West Virginia

Deadline for applications: 4/11/08

Job Description

This position requires the ability to coordinate and supervise all aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Duties include but are not limited to; Assisting communities in the development and implementation of model regulations and administrative procedures used by communities to regulate floodplain development, provision of technical and general program coordination including implementation and monitoring of the program's objectives.

Duties also include review, comment and dissemination of information to program participants and stakeholders concerning Federal and state laws, policies, regulations and procedures as each relates to floodplain management and flood insurance coverage. Collect, analyze and maintain program data, write comprehensive program status reports for federal and state executive and managerial superiors. Develop

and maintain collaborative floodplain management efforts among federal, state and local entities. Ensure effective service delivery to program participants and other stakeholders.

The incumbent will communicate program effectiveness to supervisors, staff, public officials, and others as appropriate, perform research and analysis of program activities and effectiveness, legislation, policy, and procedure recommendations, and other relevant issues. A primary responsibility is to plan and implement programs for training of individuals from state, county or local governmental entities involved in floodplain management throughout the state and other related duties as assigned.

This position requires ability to travel on short notice and will involve extended stays on occasion as such applicants must possess a valid drivers license. This position will also require the ability to work irregular hours in excess of normal workday or workweek and may involve disaster related activity beyond the normal scope of the position. Designation as a "Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM)" through the Association of State Floodplain Managers is a plus. Incumbent is expected to obtain and maintain CFM certification within a reasonable period of time.

Greenhorne & O'Mara

Water Resource Service Director/Division Manager (Job ID #1212)

Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc. is a national, full-service engineering consulting firm that has provided solutions in the areas of general civil, transportation, environmental, water resources, and hazard mitigations and security, for more than 56 years. With 17 offices and over 650 employees located in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, G&O provides a broad range of services to private industry as well as federal, state and local clients.

The ideal candidate must have these absolute and basic qualifications/requirements:

- 15 years experience in water resources, with at least 5 years in a supervisory/management role
- Strong business acumen along with the proven experience on understanding how to run a profitable engineering based consulting practice
- Proven expertise in Marketing, Business Development, and client relations
- Bachelor of Science in Civil or Environmental Engineering, with a water resources concentration
- Studies, design, project management, and marketing experience with state and local government watershed/storm water management projects
- Knowledge of GIS applications in water resources
- Active participation in Professional Societies associated with water resources activities

Preferred skills that will assist the candidate in succeeding in the role are:

- Master's degree in Civil Engineering or Water Resources Management
- Professional Engineers license but not required

Job duties include:

- Strategic development of clients and services
- Providing technical leadership and ensuring adequate staff development through hands on training, guidance, and mentoring
- Direct client development, marketing, business development, and proposal writing across all G&O geographic regions
- Direct NPDES permit related projects, water quality modeling and studies, storm water management engineering, and stream restoration assessment and design, supervising GIS, CAD, and engineering staff

Resumes must include job ID number (Job ID #). Apply online at www.G-and-O.com, or fax to 301-220-1897, or mail to Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc. Attn: Recruitment Services, 6110 Frost Place, Laurel, MD 20707.

G & O offers competitive salaries and benefits including medical, dental, vision, paid vacation, sick leave, holidays and a 401K profit sharing. We conduct pre-employment background and drug tests.
eoe/aa/m/f/h/v.

Opening Date: January 29, 2008

Closing Date: April 29, 2008

New York State DEC

Environmental Engineers (continuous recruitment)

Many people in the private sector, students about to or recently graduated from college, or people from outside of New York do not realize that it is relatively easy for qualified people to get onto the New York State civil service list for environmental engineering.

In particular, the Floodplain Management section will likely soon be hiring one or two environmental engineers to work in the floodplain mapping program. The job description for environmental engineer would make you think that it excludes jobs that involve hydrologic and hydraulic engineering. In fact, those are exactly the skills that would fit.

The EE1 position requires an EIT certificate. Salary begins at \$49,992.

If you or someone you know is interested in working in our floodplain mapping program, and lives in or are willing to relocate to the sunny Albany, NY area, please refer to http://www.cs.state.ny.us/announ/cr_announcements/20-313.htm for application information. This also applies for people interested in other environmental engineer positions in the Department.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)