

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

March
2009

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Economic Stimulus Update

The biggest news every day, no matter what else is going on, is still the U.S. economy. ASFPM will be tracking the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Package)” and how this affects the various Federal Agencies we coordinate with. We plan to post and monitor a matrix on our website that shows which agencies received funds and whether those funds can be applied to projects and actions related to flood loss reduction, flood risk management, and natural and beneficial functions.

We are pleased to note that ASFPM, along with the Association of Dam Safety Officials and National Watershed Coalition, has been asked by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for advisory assistance to set priorities and involve state and local governments as they prepare to implement stimulus funding directed at protection of watersheds in the nation. Any questions about this can be directed to the ASFPM office at memberhelp@floods.org. And, remember to check our web page next week for that matrix.

Fugate Nominated to FEMA Administrator

Last week President Obama nominated CRAIG FUGATE, Florida Emergency Management Director, as the next Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Several organizations who work to protect citizens from emergencies and disasters have voiced their support of Fugate for this position. It is heartening to finally again see the selection of an emergency management professional to lead the agency. Some of our leaders have had the opportunity to relate with him, and their observations follow.

ASFPM NATIONAL AWARDS Nomination Deadline EXTENDED

~ March 31, 2009 ~

To Submit, go to:

www.floods.org/Awards/Nomination.asp

Contact diane@floods.org with ?s

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“I am optimistic that Craig can return FEMA to an agency that serves the basic premises of emergency management and wise floodplain management, as it was charged to do in the beginning. He won't need a briefing from us in the basic recovery and mitigation

Stafford Act programs. I am hopeful that we'll see an era of reform and appropriate responsiveness from FEMA. This was a very wise selection!" *Deborah Mills, CFM, ASFPM Flood Mitigation Committee Co-Chair, Virginia*

"Craig worked extensively with Mississippi since 2004, facilitating massive EMAC deployments to help us after Katrina. It will be refreshing to have a professional EMA type at the helm again. He has the basic knowledge and we need to help keep the big picture in front – that mitigation is the cornerstone." *Al Goodman, CFM, ASFPM Chair, Mississippi*

"Representing the first state to get EMAP accredited (Florida), Fugate certainly believes in professionalization of the industry. And coming from a coastal state, he will likely be in tune with a big issue facing the nation . . . climate change". *Chad Berginnis, CFM, ASFPM Mitigation Policy Coordinator, Ohio*

"Mr. Fugate has a good handle on mitigation as well as the NFIP. He strongly supported reestablishing Florida's floodplain management office that is designated as the NFIP State Coordinating Agency. He also appreciates the importance of including resistance to natural hazards in building codes, including high winds and floods." *Rebecca C. Quinn, CFM, ASFPM Legislative Officer, Virginia*

"Fugate is an excellent choice in my opinion, due to his experience with major disasters and running a good mitigation program. Lots of PDM money flows to Florida, and the applications I've reviewed have all been top-notch. I would like to hear of his commitment to local activities like FPM and mitigation, along with developing and maintaining strong local EM programs to act as a conduit. If he is the good manager he appears to be, he will surround himself with the people who know the other hazards and programs he does not have direct experience with." *Steve McMaster, CFM, ASFPM Flood Mitigation Committee Co-Chair, Nebraska*

"The only other state EM director to head FEMA was James Lee Witt, and his understanding and utilization of the federal, state, and local partnerships is considered a key element of his successful tenure. Craig Fugate's background gives him that same ability to fully develop, strengthen, and utilize these partnerships. Now that our nation is embarking on major infrastructure expenditures, it will be important for the new FEMA Administrator to elevate our national commitment to hazard mitigation as a front-burner issue. Disaster policy and programs are challenged and complicated by climate change, sea level rise, crumbling infrastructure, etc. Fugate has the experience with these issues to guide us creatively in a forward-thinking direction." *Meredith Inderfurth, ASFPM Washington Liaison, Virginia*

"It is absolutely critical that FEMA is led by a professional emergency manager. Mitigation is a cornerstone and the Administration needs to continue to look for strong leaders in FEMA with both mitigation and insurance backgrounds. I am confident that high-level policies as well as working relationships in the Administration will better reflect and incorporate natural hazards by having a former State Director as Administrator and a former Governor as DHS Secretary." *Doug Plasencia, P.E., CFM, ASFPM Watershed Policy Coordinator, Arizona*

Please feel free to add your comments and reflections to ASFPM Communications and Events Manager, Diane Brown, at diane@floods.org or 608-441-3003.

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Deputy Executive Director's Report - George Riedel, CFM

We are pleased to announce the new Membership Maintenance page on our website. This option is currently only available for Individual Members of ASFPM. This will allow an Individual Member to update contact information, view and change committee interests, view membership history, and register for our annual conference. All current Individual Members have been sent an email with more information on this option. If you are an Individual Member and didn't receive that email, or if you have any questions please contact: memberhelp@floods.org.

It is once again time for elections of ASFPM Officers and Regional Directors! At this time, nominations are being requested for the election of Officers and Regional Directors (odd-numbered regions and Region 2) for the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 ASFPM fiscal year. You must be a current member of ASFPM in order to submit a nomination.

The four national Officers are elected annually and serve a one-year term. A person may serve two consecutive terms in the same office. Officers of ASFPM must be state employed and an Individual ASFPM member. Regional Directors serve a two-year term and may serve up to three consecutive terms. Any ASFPM Individual member, except Federal employees, in good standing from the region accepting nominations may be nominated for Regional Director.

You can find a copy of the nomination form posted on the ASFPM website via the following link : www.floods.org/docs/board/ASFPM_2009_nomination_form_officers_regdir.doc. If you are uncertain if your nominee meets the eligibility requirements, please contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123 or memberhelp@floods.org.

Nominations must be received no later than **Friday, March 20, 2009**. Send nomination form to ASFPM Nominations at sfuchs@buildevansville.com or fax (812) 436-7869. Remember, this is your chance to participate in the Association. Take advantage of this opportunity and help select the leaders of ASFPM!

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ASFPM 33rd Annual National Conference

Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses

ASFPM 33rd Annual National Conference

June 7 – 12, 2009 – Rosen Centre, Orlando, Florida

The full Conference Brochure, including the program and registration materials, is now available for download from the conference website at www.floods.org/orlando. Please remember that the brochure is being distributed primarily electronically this year, in keeping with our "green" theme. If you require a hard copy, please request one by calling (608) 274-0123 or emailing memberhelp@floods.org. Also, don't delay in making your hotel reservation as our negotiated room block is filling quickly. Call the Rosen Centre now at (800) 204-7234 and be sure to mention "ASFPM" or "Flood Conference" to receive the discounted rate. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando this June!

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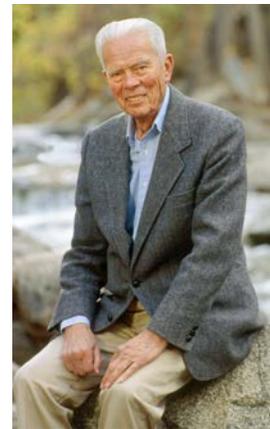
Many Support Move to Get FEMA Out of DHS

A number of organizations that work to protect lives and property from the adverse impacts of floods and storms have urged President Obama to restore FEMA to independent status, including the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the National Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), as well as ASFPM. Our full letter to the President's Administration, also sent to House and Senate leadership, is posted on our website at www.floods.org. ASFPM Chair Al Goodman stated, "an independent FEMA is essential to the disaster resilience of our nation and its communities". The letter further noted that while natural disaster preparedness and response are getting more attention since the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, the other two crucial elements of sound disaster policy – mitigation and recovery – have remained lost in the priorities of DHS, despite a documented 4-to-1 benefit-to-cost ratio for investment in mitigation. Comments on this and any of our positions are welcome and may be directed to ASFPM Communications and Events Manager Diane Brown at diane@floods.org.

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Gilbert White Flood Marker Memorial Progress Report

The Gilbert F. White Memorial Committee was established after his death at age 94 in October 2006 in order to create a suitable memorial to honor his incredible life's work. Gilbert was unquestionably one of the most highly regarded geographers of the 20th century, and is considered the Father of Floodplain Management. A flood marker along Boulder Creek will be erected near his home, in keeping with his penchant for all things utilitarian and educational. Approvals and permits have been obtained, and construction will commence this summer – God willing and the creek doesn't rise! The project is currently about 60% funded, and the Committee is now asking for your help. Any amount is welcome, and is of course tax deductible. Please visit www.commfund.org/giving/GilbertWhiteFund.html to see the remarkable design by Gilbert's daughter Mary, an internationally known glass artist, and stone sculptor Christian Muller. You may give online there or simply mail a check to The Community Foundation, 1123 Spruce St., Boulder, CO, 80302. Thank you for your consideration. This monument will stand for decades as a testament to one man's enduring faith in humankind.



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Minimal Changes to Flood Insurance Program Seen with May Updates

The May 1st changes to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual were released this month and as announced previously by FEMA, most rate and rule changes will be deferred until the October 1st changes. FEMA is still in transition between systems used by the Bureau and Statistical Agent and they wish to ensure a successful implementation before turning off the old legacy system.

Some of the minor changes of interest to members may include:

- Clarifies the "Without Obstruction" and "With Obstruction" rating criteria for elevated Post-FIRM V Zone risks.

- Expands the discussion of requirements for proper flood openings in enclosures beneath elevated building in A Zones; provides a discussion of certain “engineered openings” as alternatives to standard required openings.
- Specifies information that should be checked before processing endorsements in areas with recent map revisions
- Updates the Community Rating System Eligible Communities list

To see all of the changes, visit the Insurance Committee section of ASFPM’s website:
<http://www.floods.org/Committees/insur.asp>.

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FEMA Flood Insurance Training Contractor

By: Rich Slevin, H2O Partners

“It isn’t what we don’t know that kills us, it’s everything we know that ain’t so.”
 - Mark Twain

Twain’s folksy wisdom not only applies to his role as 19th century author and Mississippi River steamboat pilot, but to the 21st century challenges facing FEMA’s newly appointed flood insurance training contractor.

FEMA recently awarded a 5-year contract to GEOLearning and its subcontractor H2O Partners to conduct training for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) aimed at insurance agents, lenders and claims adjusters. Their mission is to turn more of what these key stakeholders do know into what “is so”. Erasing the myths that surround flood insurance is a key to making the NFIP effective for as many citizens as possible as they are impacted each year by flooding. Those floods and flash floods happen in all 50 states. Flooding represents the nation’s #1 natural disaster. It can and does flood anywhere and everywhere.

As a result, the NFIP does more than make flood insurance available; it also supports local communities in their efforts to reduce the risk and consequences of serious flooding. In order to participate in the NFIP, a community must agree to adopt and enforce sound floodplain management regulations and ordinances. In exchange for these practices, FEMA makes flood insurance available to homeowners, business owners and renters in these communities. Since standard homeowners insurance doesn’t cover flooding, it’s important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S.

Imparting this basic brand of knowledge as well as many of the federal flood insurance program’s more sophisticated components is what the NFIP training contractor is charged with accomplishing throughout the insurance and lending communities. In this effort, it expects to train 60,000 or more stakeholders nationwide each year through a combination of instructor-led and web-based training initiatives.

Spearheading this training effort is an experienced NFIP field training staff led by National Training Manager, Edie Lohmann. Edie is a 15-year veteran of flood insurance training. She is joined on her staff by Territory Training Managers Dorothy Martinez, Walt McGuckin, Cathy Meek, Leslie Melville, Rich Slevin and Sonja Wood. This group combines to possess nearly 75 years of flood insurance training experience.

Under FEMA’s new training contract, the field training staff is no longer aligned with specific FEMA regional offices. However, each territory training manager has been assigned a primary geographic area

in which to work with the contract's targeted stakeholders. The following list outlines each territory training manager's assignment and contact information:

Dorothy Martinez	281-299-2222	(AL, GA, LA, MS, NC PR, SC, TX & VI)
Walt McGuckin	215-266-8003	(CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA & VT)
Cathy Meek	512-661-9515	(AR, CO, NM, OK, TN, UT & WY)
Leslie Melville	425-577-0589	(AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, OR, NV & WA)
Rich Slevin	708-910-8458	(IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, OH & WI)
Sonja Wood	785-766-8645	(FL, KS, MO, ND, NE, SD & WV)

For more information on the program's schedule of agent, lender and claims adjuster seminars and its web-based training initiatives, be sure to visit www.nfipbureau.fema.gov/training.

Registration instructions are also provided on the training website. Enhancements to the training system include user-friendly navigation and a personal page allowing students to track their training progress. The NFIP Basic Agent Tutorial qualifies for continuing education credits in most States.

A listing of training requirements by State is located online at:
http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/state_actions.shtm.

On the NFIP training webpage, insurance agents, lenders, and claims adjusters can also find a schedule of instructor-led workshops offered in locations across the country. They can register online for these workshops through the training webpage.

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Scholarship Opportunities Available

Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Award Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Deadline: May 29, 2009

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2009-2010 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/stormwater management.

Applicants must complete a 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to May 29, 2009.

Selection will be made prior to July 31, 2009. 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.
239 Littleton Road, Suite 3, Medford, MA 02155, Attn: Peter A. Richardson, P.E., CFM

REMINDER: Mary Fran Myers Scholarship – Deadline March 30th

The deadline for the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship is quickly approaching. Scholarship recipients will receive financial support allowing them to attend the 2009 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Broomfield, Colorado, July 15-18. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals, and Workshop registration costs. For more information on how to apply, visit the Natural Hazards website at: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/myers-scholarship.html>.

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Flood Safety Awareness Week

Floods are consistently the most common, costly and deadly natural disaster Americans face each year. This year FloodSmart is partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) during Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 16-20) to educate Americans about how floods occur nationwide and what residents can do to safeguard their lives and property.

We ask you to assist in this effort by reaching out to your customers and/or community members now to communicate their increased flood risk and encourage them to protect themselves with flood insurance, which will reduce their chances of financial losses should flooding occur.

To better help you communicate the flood risk to your customers and/or community members, access the Flood Safety Awareness Week landing page FloodSmart.gov/noaafloodweek to obtain important information about the week's announcements and events, download tools for consumers and follow links to other related sites. The cornerstone of the landing page will be an interactive map showing the scope and magnitude of U.S. flooding, including flood events that may have occurred in your community or nearby. The map will highlight these events and their numerous causes – from hurricanes and mudflows, to spring snow melt and flash floods.

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Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Floodplain Easements

NRCS just announced that \$145 million dollars will be available for floodplain easements under the floodplain easement authority in NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The sign-up period will begin March 9th and run until March 27th. This funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). For more information, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

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Streamgage Support for USGS Programs in FY-2010

Recently, letters were sent to Congress signed by 53 organizations (including ASFPM) supporting the US Geological Survey's **Cooperative Water Program (CWP)** and **National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP)**. The letters urged Congress to support allowing USGS to fully implement their design for the NSIP beginning in FY-2009 and to restore the capacity for USGS to match non-federal cost-share investments in the CWP on a 50:50 basis. Members of the organizations who signed the letters rely extensively on the trustworthy data and science that these two programs produce. Our need for a well-informed understanding of streamflow, groundwater, tidal surge, precipitation, and other water resource attributes continues to increase every year in relation to our growing population, economic development, changing land uses, and ecological awareness. Unfortunately, the USGS capacity has not kept up.

You can view these letters on our website at:

<http://www.floods.org/PDF/Letters/StreamgageLtr2Senate3Mar2009.pdf>

http://www.floods.org/PDF/Letters/Streamgage_Support_Ltr_Mar_2009.pdf

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National Weather Service Hydrology Survey

In the September 2008 edition of the Insider we posted a link to a survey by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS). The purpose of the survey was for NWS to get feedback from users in order to improve its flood and water forecast information service. NWS flood and water forecast information services encompasses flash flood and river flood warnings, watches and statements; recreational and water supply forecasts; precipitation analysis information as well as general river level information including historical records of high flows and impacts of these water levels.

The results of that survey is now available and can be found online at:

[www.weather.gov/os/water/resources/NWS Hydrologic Services CSI2008 FINAL 2-2-09.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/os/water/resources/NWS_Hydrologic_Services_CSI2008_FINAL_2-2-09.pdf)

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Transition Period for Revised Elevation Certificate

The current NFIP Elevation Certificate form and instructions (FEMA Form 81-31) were scheduled to expire on February 28, 2009. FEMA issued a memorandum to clarify the continued use of this form. In addition, the memorandum highlights changes to the Elevation Certificate. To view this memorandum go to: http://www.floods.org/PDF/Committees/Insurance/TP_revised_Elev_Cert.pdf

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Top Ten Reasons to Buy Flood Insurance Now

Most homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage. If you live in a community that participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you are eligible to purchase flood insurance regardless of whether or not you live in a flood zone. Flood insurance compensates a person for all covered flood-related losses to a person's home or business after the deductible is met.

To see the "Top Ten Reasons to Buy Flood Insurance," go to:

[http://www.floods.org/PDF/Top%20Ten Reasons To Buy Flood Insurance Now.pdf](http://www.floods.org/PDF/Top%20Ten%20Reasons%20To%20Buy%20Flood%20Insurance%20Now.pdf)

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"A Comparative Look at Public Liability for Flood Hazard Mitigation"

The final version of a legal document titled "A Comparative Look at Public Liability for Flood Hazard Mitigation" is now posted on the ASFPM website. This legal document was prepared by Dr. Jon A. Kusler, Esq., with funds provided by the ASFPM Foundation.

This legal paper takes a comparative look at government liability for flood hazard "mitigation" measures. One very important finding in this paper is that based on the legal review, a majority of courts now hold governments liable for flood damages which resulted from permits issued by a community. This document is now final and is posted on the ASFPM website at:

http://www.floods.org/PDF/Mitigation/ASFPM_CLPub_liability_Haz_09.pdf

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Senate Appropriations Committee Announces Subcommittees Membership

On March 5, the Senate Appropriations Committee announced its subcommittee membership for the 111th Congress. The Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee consists of: Democratic members Senators Barbara Mikulski (Chairwoman, MD), Daniel Inouye (HI), Patrick Leahy (VT), Herb Kohl (WI), Byron Dorgan (ND), Dianne Feinstein (CA), Jack Reed (RI), Frank Lautenberg (NJ), Ben Nelson (NE), Mark Pryor (AR); Republican members Senators Richard Shelby (Ranking, AL), Judd Gregg (NH), Mitch McConnell (KY), Kay Bailey Hutchinson (TX), Sam Brownback (KS), Lamar Alexander (TN), George Voinovich (OH), Lisa Murkowski (AK).

The Energy and Water Development Subcommittee consists of: Democratic members Senators Byron Dorgan (Chairman), Robert Byrd (WV), Patty Murray (WA), Dianne Feinstein (CA), Tim Johnson (SD), Mary Landrieu (LA), Jack Reed (RI), Frank Lautenberg (NJ), Tom Harkin (IA), and Jon Tester (MT); Republican members Senators Bob Bennett (Ranking), Thad Cochran (MS), Mitch McConnell (KY), Kit Bond (MO), Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX), Richard Shelby (AL), Lamar Alexander (TN), and George Voinovich (OH).

The Interior, Environment Subcommittee consists of: Democratic members Senators Dianne Feinstein (Chairwoman, CA), Robert Byrd (WV), Patrick Leahy (VT), Byron Dorgan (ND), Barbara Mikulski (MD), Herb Kohl (WI), Tim Johnson (SD), Jack Reed (RI), Ben Nelson (NE), Jon Tester (MT); Republican members Senators Lamar Alexander (Ranking, TN), Thad Cochran (MS), Bob Bennett (UT),

Judd Gregg (NH), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Susan Collins (ME), and George Voinovich (OH). For a complete list of all subcommittee memberships: <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>.

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In Memorium...

Philip Keillor - John Philip "Phil" Keillor, Jr., age 71, passed away on Friday, Feb. 27, 2009.

After earning a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota, Phil moved to Madison, WI in 1972. He earned a master's degree in Ocean Engineering in 1973 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, making him the first coastal engineer in the state. Phil worked as a coastal engineer for the UW Sea Grant Program for 29+ years before retiring in 2003. He continued to work as a consultant in his field up until his death and was particularly interested in climate change issues.

Danny Lee Fread - Danny Lee Fread; talented Engineer, noted researcher, public servant, teacher and friend died peacefully early Thursday morning, February 5th, 2009 at his home in Huntingdon, PA, at age 70.

After working as an Engineer for Texaco, Dr. Fread returned to the University of Missouri-Rolla where he received his PhD in Civil Engineering in 1971. Upon receiving his degree, Dr. Fread joined the Office of Hydrology at the U.S. National Weather Service in Silver Spring Maryland as a research hydrologist. Inspired by the tragedy of the failure of the Teton Dam, Dr. Fread's research focused on developing computer models that more accurately forecasted the flows of flooding rivers and the effects of dam failures. Dr. Fread's computer models have been used around the globe. He is the author of over seventy reports and journal articles, as well as three book contributions on various aspects of flow routing. He ended his career as Director of the Office of Hydrology at the U.S. National Weather Service in 2000.

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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 . . .

I've written this column for more than a year and haven't received much feedback. Thanks, however, to the few readers who have asked for additional clarification or challenged me, and to the two readers who have suggested topics.

This time I'm going to pose questions to you. Which of these have occurred to you? Which would you like to see answered in this column? If your #1 question isn't listed, please send it to me. And remember, I encourage ASFPM members to submit their own write ups.

Additions that are Substantial Improvements: What are differences between when an addition has to be elevated and when both the addition and the base building have to be elevated? I've read that what happens to the "common wall" influences the outcome.

Fences: Really? Some communities regulate fences in SFHAs? Why should I be concerned about fences in floodplains? What criteria are used to issue permits?

Manufactured Homes: We all know MFH units are vulnerable to flood damage. Given that, what's the rationale behind the NFIP regulation that allows homes in certain locations to be elevated only 36" above grade? What can my community do if we think that's not providing adequate protection to our citizens?

Below-Grade Crawlspace: The way I read FEMA's Technical Bulletin #11, we can approve below-grade crawlspaces if we modify our ordinance. But it also lists limitations that such crawlspaces can be approved only in very limited circumstances (less than 2' below grade, and total wall height of no more than 4'). What's the justification for that? Doesn't it mean below-grade crawlspaces can be used only in shallow floodplains?

Pre-FIRM Buildings that are Elevated: Homes in my part of the country have always been built on crawlspaces, and it looks like many might have their lowest floors above the BFE. I've heard that owners will pay less for insurance if their pre-FIRM buildings are eligible for post-FIRM rates. What should we tell owners who are interested in this?

Onsite Septic Systems: My community is starting to pay attention to sea level rise and we've noticed that more and more septic systems are failing. The NFIP regulations have requirements that these systems be "located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding." How do we do that when we know it'll get worse over time?

Conditioned Enclosures: As humid as it is around here, we get a lot of requests to allow enclosures to be air conditioned. I hear northern communities get similar requests to allow conditioned crawlspaces, so this question is about enclosures in V Zones and A Zones. What are the limitations and complications of allowing conditioned enclosures?

Unusual Enclosures: Along our coast the BFEs are as high as 16 or more feet above grade – and they're mapped as V Zones. We've allowed "hanging" enclosures (typically two or three feet above grade so they're not flooded by every small storm) and "mezzanine" enclosures (small storage areas that are built on a deck below the elevated building). Someone has suggested these unusual enclosures aren't compliant and homeowners tell us their flood insurance policies are being re-rated as though the enclosure is the lowest floor. What's the rationale behind that?

Historic Structures and Additions: When is an addition really a new building? We have a historic structure that is on the National Register. The local historical society wants to build an "addition" that we think really is a separate building. It is considerably larger, has its own independent structural support and its own HVAC. The common wall will be modified by a doorway, but most of the wall won't be affected. Does the addition have to comply? Or is it excluded from the substantial improvement determination because it's an "alteration" of a historic structure?

Old Flood Maps: I just discovered a post-FIRM home in a V Zone that was permitted more than 20 years ago – and it's on a slab foundation, not elevated at all. The owner has submitted a permit application for work that we've determined is substantial improvement and we're concerned about liability if a mistake was made when the original permit was issued. The maps have been revised a couple of times, but we no longer have the map that was in effect at the time. What can we do? And does the home have to be brought into compliance with the effective zone and BFE?

Elevation on Fill: We'd like to encourage builders to avoid using fill. Between drainage problems, loss of trees, and concerns about use of poor soils, we feel we have a lot of evidence to justify our position. But using fill is the way it's always been done. What other reasons can we offer to bring about change?

Buildings over Water: I'm confused. I know buildings over water can be allowed in A Zones, but they have to be landward of the reach of mean high tide in V Zones. Flood insurance isn't available for a building that is over water, even in A zones. Why the difference?

Storm Shelters: Between FEMA funding safe rooms and public interest after big tornadoes, we see applications to put safe rooms in pre-FIRM buildings. How should we handle them? We understand the 2009 International Codes will reference a storm shelter standard. Does the standard deal with putting safe rooms in floodplains?

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Washington Legislative Report

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



Gearing Up

While February was a busy month Congressionally speaking, it was also a month of setting the stage for future legislative action. March is already shaping up to be an extraordinarily busy month on the Hill, with some 60 plus hearings scheduled. There has been much focus on passage of the Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY 2009, essentially unfinished business from last year. That bill, which was finally passed and signed by the President on March 11th, includes some budget changes for FY '09 as well as earmarks. Most of those earmarks were "leftover" from the last Congress, but they caused problems for passage of the Omnibus because of President Obama's expressions of opposition to earmarks. After consideration of many amendments on the Senate floor, the need to clear the decks for action on the FY 2010 budget prevailed and the Omnibus was passed.

The Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY '09 extends authority for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) until September 30, 2009.

The new Administration has released its 2010 budget, but in overview format. The "real" budget, complete with the detailed budget requests, will be released in mid-April. Many committees have initiated budget hearings, but the serious process of hearings on specific department and agency budget requests cannot begin until the detailed budget is released in April.

Much attention has been given in the Senate to the confirmation process for Presidential nominees. Those committee hearings and votes will continue for a number of months as the new Administration continues to announce new nominees. The arrival of new appointees enables the federal departments and agencies to develop their priorities and plans, so there is some sense of frustration and urgency about moving that process along.

During February and early March, many appointments to Congressional committees were still taking place and committees were holding their organizational meetings to consider their own agendas and priorities. That process seems to be essentially complete now.

Budget

The budget overview released by the new Administration is an overview likened by some to reading the Cliff Notes of the budget. In an important departure, this budget does include elements that had been off-budget because they were funded through supplemental appropriations bills – notably the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and disaster costs. The \$3 trillion budget for FY 2010 includes significant management initiatives designed to assist in reducing the deficit. In general, most agencies will see an increase in their budgets:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY '09</u>	<u>FY '10 request</u>
Agriculture	\$23.9 b	\$ 26.0b
Homeland Security	42.2b	42.7 b
Interior	11.3b	12.0b
Corps of Engineers	5.3b	5.1b
EPA	7.8b	10.5b
NSF	6.9b	7.0b

Interestingly, the Homeland Security budget included no reference to the FEMA budget.

Stimulus Package

Many federal agencies also received funds through the stimulus package and are now consumed with getting the funds out the door quickly, but responsibly and with transparency. This is a major challenge to fund “shovel ready” projects as well as to account fully for associated decision processes and job creation. OMB has issued guidance for the process. ASFPM has expressed concern and interest - throughout the development of the stimulus package and now during its implementation - in incorporating consideration of hazard mitigation as fully as possible.

Upcoming Congressional Agenda

In addition to the many issues associated with budget amounts and priorities, there are indications that significant climate change legislation can be expected during this session. Further, action on flood insurance reform can be expected this summer. Consideration will be given to levee safety issues although it is unclear whether or not legislation will result during this Congressional session.

Climate

There have already been a number of climate related hearings held in both the House and Senate and clear indications given of expected legislative action. Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has indicated he would like to report out a climate change bill by Memorial Day. His Senate counterpart, Senator Barbara Boxer, (D-CA) has said she would like to have a bill out of the Environment and Public Works Committee by the end of the year. Both Houses expect to write their own bills, but both would like to have a U.S. legislative proposal to present to the international climate talks in Copenhagen in December.

Flood Insurance

No new flood insurance reform legislation has yet been introduced in either the House or Senate this session. Both are expected to introduce bills and to consider them this summer. Indications from the House Financial Services Committee are that a bill very much like the version previously passed by the House will be introduced later in the spring. Some adjustments and changes are likely. The Senate Banking Committee has not signaled expectations yet, largely because new staff handling this issue for the Majority has just arrived.

Representative Gene Taylor (D-MS) has reintroduced his bill which would add wind coverage to the NFIP. The Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2009, H.R. 1264, was introduced on March 3.

In both the House and Senate, timing of consideration of flood insurance reform will be very much associated with consideration of the urgent housing finance assistance legislation. Other financial regulatory issues are associated as well.

Levee Issues

Now that the Levee Safety Committee's report, pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, has been completed, there will be Congressional interest in reviewing and considering those recommendations. At present, the Office of Management and Budget is reviewing them before release of the report. The Water Resources Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing as soon as the report is officially released, presumably in April. ASFPM has already been asked to present testimony.

FEMA In or Out of DHS

It is unclear at this point how much attention this question will generate at this point, given so many other pressing issues. Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (the committee with jurisdiction over the Stafford Act programs), has introduced a bill (H.R. 1174) to re-establish FEMA as an independent, cabinet level agency. The Committee's Ranking Minority Member, Rep. John Mica (R-FL) co-sponsored the bill. ASFPM is on record supporting this proposal. Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) of the House Homeland Security Committee, opposes independent status for FEMA as do both Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Susan Collins (R-ME) of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. DHS Secretary Napolitano has not yet indicated her views on this question.

Announced nominee for FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, has not commented on the issue publicly at this point. (Since his nomination has not been officially received by the Senate, a nomination hearing has not been scheduled.)

Hearings of interest

“21st Century Water Planning: The Importance of a Coordinated Federal Approach”

House Science and Technology Committee on March 4

“Disaster Response: Is FEMA Up to the Challenge”

House DHS Appropriations on February 26

“FEMA Disaster Response Performance”

House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on February 25

“FEMA Gulf Coast Rebuilding: The Path Forward”

House Homeland Security on March 3

“Report on Federal Response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita”

released by Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 26

“DHS: The Path Forward”

with Secretary Napolitano, House Homeland Security on February 25

“Role of Federal Lands in Combating Climate Change”

House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on March 3

For text of written testimony presented at these hearings, go to the committee website at:

www.thomas.loc.gov and look for the relevant hearing. Also, text and summary information on any legislation can be found at the same site.

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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.

10 year Anniversary of the ASFPM CFM Program

The chart below shows the program growth of the national Certification Program. These numbers are a bit above the projections the Professional Development Committee charted out for the first 10 years. We're excited to see our profession getting more recognition and that the message for importance of good floodplain management is getting out there. Thanks to all of you and what you do daily for flood loss reduction!

ASFPM CFM Exam History				1/8/2009	
Year	# of Sites	# of Examinees	# of Passing	Average Score	# Decertified of renewable
1999	4	55	46/ 83%	75.25	
2000	20	162	103/ 64%	74	
2001	29	219	179/ 82%	76.69	
2002	47	253	213/ 84%	75.13	12/ ?
2003	49	386	300/ 77%	75.53	34/ 121 (28%)
2004	61	443	360/ 81%	75.7	52/ 289 (18%)
2005	81	524	403/ 77%	75.1	80/ 511 (16%)
2006	99	831	624/ 76%	75.4	92/ 527 (17%)
2007	120	1003	774/ 77%	74.5	116/ 841 (14%)
2008	133	1226	942/ 76%	74	147/ 894 (16%)
		5102	3944	75.13	

CFM Success- South Carolina

Recently ASFPM was informed that the Richland County Planning Department in South Carolina offers a salary bonus of \$1,000, when an employee becomes a Certified Floodplain Manager(CFM®). This type of incentive is very appealing to individuals to become a CFM, and on the same note shows that employers do believe it is worthwhile to have CFMs on staff. Richland County believes their citizens will be better protected and floodplain management will be greatly enhanced if more of their staff are CFMs.

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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.

It's That Time Again.....Tax Season! Is Your Chapter Prepared?

Tax season is quickly approaching. Is your chapter ready? Many of us are not aware that even nonprofit organizations are required to file State and Federal Corporate Income Taxes. If your chapter does not have Tax-Exempt status, the corporate income tax filing requirements are the same as any business. This means that your chapter may be required to pay State and Federal income taxes. Worse, if your chapter has not been filing State and Federal income taxes annually, the chapter could be subject to fines, back taxes, and interest. The sooner a chapter gets "clean" with the IRS, the less risk and tax exposure they have.

According to the records currently on file at ASFPM received from chapters, nearly half are not Federal Tax-Exempt organizations, and almost three quarters are not State Tax-Exempt organizations. Tax-Exempt status has its benefits: 1) Tax filing is simplified, 2) Exemption from paying corporate income tax, 3) Donations and “in-kind” contributions may be tax-deductible for the donor, and 4) Exemption from reporting and paying sales tax within your state if you have state tax-exempt status. This means the tax filing process is easier for exempt organizations. It also means that exempt chapters have another selling point to use in soliciting corporate donations and gifts for their annual events and conferences.

To find out about applying for Federal Tax-Exempt Status go to:

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=96109,00.html>

For State Tax-Exempt information go to:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=99021,00.html>

The 2008 tax year brings a new Federal Income Tax requirement

Previously, organizations *with* Federal Income Tax-Exempt status (or 501(c)(3) status) which had less than \$25,000 annually in gross receipts were not required to file Federal income taxes. Starting for tax year 2008, all 501(c)(3) organizations must file a Form 990 (or if they qualify, a 990 e-postcard). For more information about these new rules, please see:

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=169250,00.html>.

Other Tax Concerns

If a Tax-Exempt organization earns money not related to its purpose (as outlined in the chapter Constitution, Charter, or Articles of Incorporation language), it is required to pay income tax on the unrelated-business income. If an organization earns more from unrelated activities than from business-related activities it may also jeopardize its tax-exempt status. For example, a chapter sells clothing at their conference with the chapter acronym on it. The chapter charges more than the cost of the clothing and makes a profit from these sales. In this case, the chapter is required to charge sales tax on the sale, *AND* they must pay State and Federal corporate income tax on these profits because this exchange is not tied to their organizational purpose. If the chapter makes more from these sales than they earn from business-related activities (like membership dues), the chapter’s tax-exempt status could be revoked. In the same example, if a chapter were to sell clothing that had “Turn Around Don’t Drown” on it (educational component rather than just the chapter name) and their organizational purpose included education, this exchange is likely business-related income and is therefore probably not subject to income tax.

ASFPM is Here to Help

ASFPM is here to assist chapters with questions and concerns they may have. While we are not tax professionals, ASFPM can assist in directing chapters to available resources and help chapters to benefit from our past experience. If you have questions or are in need of assistance, please contact your Chapter Coordinator: Kait Laufenberg at phone: 608-441-3007 or email: Kait@floods.org.

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Floodplain Management Training Calendar

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

April 5 – 7, 2009	NFDA Annual Retreat, Scottsdale, AZ	National Flood Determination Association
April 15 – 17, 2009	MfSMA Annual Conference, Osage Beach, MO	Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association
April 16 – 17, 2009	AFMA Spring Workshop, Jacksonville, AR	Arkansas Floodplain Management Association
April 19 – 22, 2009	2009 National Flood Conference, Boston, MA	View Event Website
April 21, 2009	WV Floodplain Managers Seminar & Organizational Meeting, S. Charleston ,WV	Call for Information: Jerry Gilbert, 304-932-4146
April 22 – 24, 2009	LFMA Spring Conference, Covington, LA	Louisiana Floodplain Management Association
April 28, 2009	RIFMA Annual Conference, Warwick, RI	Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association
May 3 – 6, 2009	NCAFPM Annual Conference, Atlantic Beach, NC	North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers
May 6 – 8, 2009	AFMA Spring Meeting, Sierra Vista, AZ	Arizona Floodplain Management Association
June 7 – 12, 2009	ASFPM 33 rd Annual National Conference, Orlando, FL	Association of State Floodplain Managers
May 16 – 21, 2010	ASFPM 34 th Annual National Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	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. To view all of the listings, visit our online job corner at <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/jobs.asp>.

Accenture/DHI

Risk MAP Program

The Accenture/DHI team is performing the national program management for the Risk MAP Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). One of the requirements is the staffing of one or more persons in each of the ten federal regions to perform program management functions, technical support, technical methodology review, coordination, teambuilding and stakeholder outreach efforts. Accenture is seeking expressions of interest from qualified personnel who would be interested in joining the team to fulfill regional liaison roles in the following locations:

- Atlanta, GA
- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Denton, TX
- Denver, CO
- Kansas City, MO
- Oakland, CA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Seattle, WA

GENERAL CANDIDATE CAPABILITIES

The position requires a combination of program management skills, technical knowledge of the National Flood Insurance Program's mapping program, and strong communication and relationship building skills. The candidate should be experienced with program management processes and skill domains, including Earned Value Management (EVM), program planning and scheduling, change control, risk and quality management. The candidate must also be technically qualified, in one or more fields: hydrology and hydraulics, coastal hydrodynamics, hazard mitigation, GIS and a thorough understanding of flood mapping processes.

WORK FACTORS

Successful hires will be working in or near the FEMA Mitigation Branch regional offices. They must be able to work well on their own with little day to day direction, although national oversight and management is implied. They will report to a national director of the regional liaisons. Travel will be about 20% of their time.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Basic Qualifications:

- Minimum 10 years of experience with a combination of program or project management experience; engineering experience (hydrology and hydraulics); coastal hydrodynamics, hazard mitigation, or geospatial information systems and flood mapping
- Minimum 7 years work experience in engineering
- Must be a U.S. Citizen and be able to hold a Public Trust position
- Bachelor's Degree or 4 additional years of program management and engineering work experience in lieu of a Degree

Preferred Skills and Qualifications:

- Program Management skills and some technical knowledge of the National Flood Insurance Program's mapping program
- Technical field knowledge of hydrology and hydraulics, coastal hydrodynamics, hazard mitigation, or geospatial information systems and flood mapping
- Knowledge of the Map Modernization Program or Mitigation programs

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work with senior level management of the Client

Candidates who are currently employed by a client of Accenture or an affiliated Accenture business may not be eligible for consideration. Applicants for employment in the U.S. must possess work authorization which does not require sponsorship by the employer for a visa. Accenture is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

If interested in being considered for one of these positions, please send an e-mail, including resume to Jessica.ODonnell@accenture.com

I.M. Systems Group, Inc. (IMSG)

Fisheries Habitat Restoration Specialist

Overview:

I.M. Systems Group, Inc. (IMSG) is seeking to hire a Fisheries Habitat Restoration Specialist to work with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center (RC) to provide technical and project management support for habitat restoration projects in Alabama and Mississippi. This position will be based in Mobile and/or Dauphin Island, Alabama. For more information about the Restoration Center, please visit the web site at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/>

Duties:

- Provide technical assistance and oversight expertise to support NOAA's restoration activities funded through CRP, DARRP and other Congressional appropriations.
- Provide technical assistance to current and potential funding recipients in the design and implementation of individual projects including field investigations (including site evaluation and baseline assessments), technical evaluation of restoration feasibility studies, modeling reports and engineering plans, development of project scopes of work, evaluation of design and construction proposals, construction oversight, and scientific monitoring.
- Coordinate and encourage habitat restoration planning activities that benefit living marine resources; Coordinate with regional habitat restoration experts to identify priorities (projects or habitat types) for AL and MS; Projects will include tidal wetlands, anadromous fish passage (dam removals and fish ladders), riparian/riverine habitats, shellfish and seagrass.
- Provide information on NOAA funding opportunities and assistance to potential funding applicants.
- Complete Federal regulatory compliance (e.g. NEPA, and ESA compliance) and assist funding recipients with Federal, state, and local regulatory compliance.
- Conduct public outreach regarding NOAA funding opportunities and the progress and outcomes of funded projects; Assist with development of outreach materials.
- Review and evaluate proposals submitted for NOAA funding consideration.
- Review project progress reports and maintain communication with project managers;
- Conduct site visits to potential habitat restoration projects and sites selected for NOAA habitat restoration funding.
- Provide periodic reports on priorities and/or funded projects.
- Update database and other reporting tools with information from progress reports and site visits.
- Develop and maintain close interaction with various components of NOAA, other federal, state and local government agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations.
- Geographic responsibilities will be as follows: Coastal Mississippi and Alabama, potentially western Florida to Pensacola.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Gulf of Mexico coastal and riverine ecosystems and life histories and habitat requirements of fish and shellfish.
- Strong background in wetland, oyster, shoreline and/or river/anadromous fish restoration and resource management.
- Technical skills in wetland ecology, fisheries biology, geomorphology, hydrology/hydraulics, wetland ecology, or fisheries biology
- Experience with state and federal regulatory processes.
- Familiarity with AL and MS natural resource management agencies and non-profits, etc.
- Experience working on interdisciplinary teams.
- Willingness to frequently travel within area of responsibility (AL, MS and FL) and occasionally beyond for meetings and training.
- Strong project management skills including project scheduling, budgeting, contract and/or grants management, and ability to handle multiple, concurrent, and competing projects and responsibilities.
- Strong oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate clearly with non-scientists.
- Ability to work independently, reliable, self-starter, self-motivated and strong attention to detail are essential in completing the duties of this position satisfactorily
- All applicants must be U.S. Citizens or permanent resident aliens from U.S. colleges or universities.

Education Requirements:

- Candidates must possess a Masters degree (preferred) or a Bachelor's degree and equivalent experience in one of the marine sciences, fishery biology, ecology, hydrology, water resources, earth science, engineering or a related field.

In addition to your resume, please include a cover letter describing how your qualifications meet the needs of this requirement, salary requirements, and contact information for three references. Salary is negotiable based on experience. IMMSG is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants should email their resume and salary requirements to jobs@imsg.com with the following subject line: NOA09011 - Fisheries Habitat Restoration Specialist.

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