

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

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The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Deputy Executive Director's Report - George Riedel, CFM

President's FY-12 Budget Reduces Funding for RiskMAP

The FY-2012 President's Budget is proposing to reduce funding for FEMA's RiskMAP by \$117 million. The President's Budget is proposing approximately \$103 million compared to \$220 million in FY-11 for RiskMAP. A funding decrease will decelerate the timeframe for meeting FEMA's program target of 80% of stream miles in FEMA's inventory as New, Valid, or Updated from 2014 to at least 2020. These proposed funding decreases will have minimal impact on RiskMAP projects initiated in 2011 or prior fiscal years. ASFPM will monitor and work closely with our members/chapters/partners to educate Congress on the importance of funding for RiskMAP.

2011 ASFPM Conference

Staff are now preparing for the 2011 National ASFPM Conference to be held May 15-20, 2011 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel and Suites. The conference program has been finalized and the conference registrations have started arriving. **Early Discount for 2011 Conference Registrations ends April 2, 2011.** You can view the conference brochure on the ASFPM website. If you have not made a hotel reservation, you need to do so as soon as possible. The conference brochure and hotel contact information can be found at: [ASFPM 2011 Conference](#).

2011 ASFPM Elections

It is once again time to elect ASFPM Officers and Regional Directors! Current ASFPM members for 2011 will be receiving election information and ballots at the end of March for the election of Officers and Regional Directors (odd-numbered regions this year) for the next year. The four National Officers are elected annually and serve a one-year term. A person may serve two consecutive terms in the same position. Officers must be employed by a State 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, who are in good standing from the region and accept the nomination, can be elected as a Regional Director.

Nominations for Chapter Directors (odd-numbered regions) to serve for the next term will be sent out early in March. In order to nominate an individual for Chapter Director, you must be an ASFPM member in good standing, as well as a member of your ASFPM State Chapter. Eligible nominees must be an ASFPM individual member in good standing **and a member in good standing of their State Chapter.**

Remember, this is your chance to participate in the Association. Please take advantage of this opportunity and participate in electing the leaders of ASFPM.

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2011 ASFPM Board Retreat

The ASFPM Board of Directors, along with staff from the Executive Office in Madison, held a retreat on February 7-9, 2011 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Galt House Hotel and Suites. One of the primary objectives of this retreat was for the ASFPM Board of Directors to review and discuss ASFPM's paper on NFIP Reform – "Rethinking the NFIP." In addition, the ASFPM Board of Directors approved ASFPM's 2011 Legislative Priorities which are on our website. The Board also discussed several Discussion Papers, reviewed and discussed the 2011 ASFPM Goals and Objectives, reviewed and approved ASFPM's Financial Report from the Treasurer, and discussed the 2011 ASFPM Annual Conference.



ASFPM Board Members at the Board Retreat held on February 7-9, 2011 in Louisville, Kentucky

From left: Terri Turner, Ed Thomas, Bob Freitag, Gerald Robinson, Mike Dopko, Greg Main, Valerie Swick, Sally McConkey, Laura Tessieri, Jeff Sparrow, Siavash Beik, Dave Fowler, Paul Woodward, Heidi Carlin, Brad Anderson, Jeff Sickles, Tim Trautman, Alisa Sauvageot, Alan Giles, George Riedel, Diane Calhoun, John Crofts, Chad Berginnis, Larry Larson.

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ASFPM 2011 Conference Update

May 15 – 20, Louisville Kentucky

Conference registration is now available for both general participants and exhibitors. Please visit the registration website at [View Conference Information](#) to get signed up! Don't delay – the **Early Discount Registration period closes April 2!**

IMPORTANT information for government employees looking to make hotel reservations at the Galt House! Per Diem rates ARE available; however, guests wishing to book a Government Rate as part of the Association of State Floodplain Managers conference should visit the direct link to our hotel block at [Make Hotel Reservation](#) and select a "Deluxe Room" @ \$145/night when choosing your room type. When you present your Government I.D. upon check-in, your rate will then be lowered to the prevailing Government Rate.

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ASFPM Legislative Priorities for 2011

At the ASFPM Board Retreat in February, the Board approved a new list of Legislative priorities for 2011. This list acts of a running narrative of the current issues and legislation that ASFPM is actively tracking. It includes a number of high profile items such as NFIP Reform and WRDA, as well as other items including tracking possible legislation that has been discussed but not yet formally introduced.

You can view a copy of this list on our website at: [View Legislative Priorities](#)

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GAO Report on NFIP Shortcomings

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report last month on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which labeled the program as ‘High Risk’ and called on Congress to restructure the program. In the report GAO states that “The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a key component of the federal government’s efforts to limit the damage and financial impact of floods; however it likely will not generate sufficient revenues to repay the billions of dollars borrowed from the Treasury Department to cover claims from the 2005 hurricanes or future catastrophic losses.”

The report also states that “FEMA faces a number of ongoing challenges in managing and administering NFIP that, if not addressed, will continue to work against improving the program’s long-term financial condition. Improving NFIP’s financial condition involves a set of highly complex, interrelated issues that are likely to involve many trade-offs and have no easy solutions, particularly when the solutions to problems involve balancing the goals of charging rates that reflect the full risk of flooding and encouraging broad participation in the program. In addition, addressing NFIP’s current challenges will require the cooperation and participation of many stakeholders.”

You can view a copy of the full report online at:

http://www.gao.gov/highrisk/risks/insurance/national_flood_insurance.php

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FEMA and NOAA Partner to Encourage Flood Safety Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 14-18, 2011

Washington, D.C. – As one of the snowiest winter seasons in recent years turns to warmer weather, the promise of rain and snowmelt is a major concern across the United States.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announce that they are partnering again to promote Flood Safety Awareness Week (March 14-18) in order to raise awareness of the dangers associated with flooding. They will encourage Americans to take steps to protect life and property as year in and year out, floods are the most common, costly and deadly weather related disasters in the U.S.

NOAA will announce this year’s official spring flood outlook on **March 17, 2011**, and an unusually wet and snowy winter in many communities increases the risk of spring flooding events. Both agencies urge families and communities to take action now to ensure safety and financial security, including obtaining flood insurance. “It’s important that families protect themselves and their homes against a potential flood,” said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. “These steps include developing a family communications plan, putting an emergency kit together, keeping important papers and valuables in a safe place, and investing in flood insurance. Most flood insurance policies take 30 days to become effective, so the time to take action is now.”

Floods can do even worse than damage property; they can also threaten lives if safety precautions are not followed. “Floods occur somewhere in the United States or its territories nearly every day of the year, killing nearly 100 people on average annually and causing damage in the billions of dollars,” said Jack Hayes, Director of the National Weather Service. “Awareness, preparedness and action are the key ingredients to

protecting lives and property when floods threaten. One essential safety tip is to never cross a road that is covered by water. Remember, Turn Around, Don't Drown."

To help community leaders and residents understand their risk, monitor threatening situations and take action when warranted, NOAA produces river and flood forecasts and warnings. Flood forecasts are available at www.water.weather.gov, and are also broadcast over [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards](#).

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Announcing the new Digital Coast Webinar Series

The Digital Coast Webinar Series will officially launch in April, and will feature monthly presentations focused on tools, data, and information from Digital Coast. Please see below for the first few dates and titles. More information on the series can be found under the "Featured Resources" link on the Digital Coast home page. Upcoming webinars are also listed on the Digital Coast Training page under "Upcoming Training Opportunities." To see a full list of webinars as the series develops, bookmark <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/webinar.html>

The Digital Coast Webinar Series

- April 28, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EDT) "Using Geospatial Techniques to Plan for Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Habitats"
- May 26, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EDT) "Using ENOW Data to Monitor Economic Health in Coastal Counties"
- June 30, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EDT) "How Has Your County Changed?"

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Aligning USGS Senior Leadership Structure with the USGS Science Strategy

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is realigning its management and budget structure to further enhance the work of its science programs and their interdisciplinary focus areas related to the USGS Science Strategy as outlined in "Facing Tomorrow's Challenges-U.S. Geological Survey Science in the Decade 2007-2017" (U.S. Geological Survey, 2007). In 2007, the USGS developed this science strategy outlining major natural-science issues facing the Nation and focusing on areas where natural science can make a substantial contribution to the well-being of the Nation and the world. These areas include global climate change, water resources, natural hazards, energy and minerals, ecosystems, and data integration. For more information go to:

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2010/3066/support/FS2010-3066.pdf>.

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U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Strategy for Ecosystem Science

Ecosystems worldwide are undergoing unprecedented change because of climate variability, changing land uses, and increasing demands for water, food, energy, infrastructure, and commodities. To better understand these trends, forecast future conditions, and inform management decisions, a team of USGS scientists is developing a 10-year science strategy for the new USGS Ecosystems Mission Area. This is part of an effort to create strategies for all of the new USGS Mission Areas.

USGS has begun to gather input from colleagues, partners, and collaborators at listening sessions and meetings, and now would like your help in taking the next step. **You can visit the [USGS Science Strategy site](#) to answer several questions posed to stimulate thought and inform the creation of the Ecosystems strategy.** The site also includes background material on this plan and the strategic science planning process for all of the USGS Mission Areas.

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FEMA Map Information eXchange Introduces New Live Chat Service

The FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) is pleased to announce a new service called Live Chat. Live Chat provides the opportunity to interact with Map Specialists in real-time via an online portal. Map Specialists can provide assistance on a variety of topics including Letters of Map Change (LOMCs), Elevation Certificates and the release of new flood maps.

Map Specialists are available for online chat Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time. To use Live Chat, visit the FMIX Web site at https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/fmx_main.html. You can also reach the FMIX by telephone at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627) or by e-mail at FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcds.com.

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PERI Holding Online Symposium, "Community Recovery From Disaster"

The Public Entity Risk Institute will present its first 2011 online symposium, [Community Recovery from Disaster, March 21-25, 2011](#). The symposium will bring to practitioners and public officials practical information about the latest research and lessons learned about the economic, social, physical, institutional and interdisciplinary dimensions of disaster recovery. These dimensions were explored in depth by top researchers in the field at the recent Theory of Recovery Workshop sponsored by PERI and funded by the National Science Foundation. This online symposium will investigate how these dimensions of disaster recovery could affect your community, and offer lessons that will help you prepare.

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An Analysis of End User Preferences for Climate Change Related Info & Data

Summary of Key Findings

1. Greater than 70% of respondents were “very” or “extremely” concerned for the impacts of sea level rise. Greater than 90% of respondents indicated that they had a “moderate” or greater level of awareness for the impacts of sea level rise.
2. Respondents were most concerned about the impacts that sea level rise will have on flooding, erosion of the shoreline/coast, habitat loss, infrastructure damage or loss, saltwater intrusion, changes in water quality and changes in extreme weather events.
3. Most of the respondents would be ready to take action on sea level rise if there were not barriers to doing so. These barriers include not having compelling information about risks, not having available funding and not hearing a local sense of urgency.
4. There are gaps between respondents’ needs for assistance and what resources they have available. The largest gaps exist with financial assistance and incentives for adapting to sea level rise and information on how a community can adapt.
5. The topics that had the highest level of importance to respondents, but where they had the least amount of information, were the effects of sea level rise on existing shoreline protective structures, the effects on community infrastructure and location specific effects of climate change.
6. Respondents indicated that they would be comfortable with an internet based mapping service like Google Maps/Google Earth. They had no strong preference for the way sea level rise is illustrated (i.e. in terms of years from now, height of predicted increase and/or risk scenarios).
7. Respondents clearly wanted sea level rise to be mapped in feet instead of meters and greater than 99% of respondents felt that illustrating storm surge was also important or very important.
8. Respondents liked the idea of having the option of a website-derived mapping product with a vast majority of respondents preferring this option to be at a municipal scale.
9. The most important data layers to be included were flood zones, high hazard zones, roads and bridges, contaminated sites, wastewater treatment facilities, elevations, shoreline exposure to wave energy, population density by

square mile, evacuation routes, housing units per square mile, marsh migration impediments (hardened shorelines, road, etc.), parcel data, power plants, evacuation centers and marsh migration retreat zones.

Read the full report online at:

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/CTP_Needs_Assessment_Final_report.pdf

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Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Award Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Deadline: March 31, 2011

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year to a full-time college junior or senior currently enrolled in an undergraduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management, or a full time 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 2011-2012 Scholarship Application Form which can be downloaded from ASFPM's website at: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/winters.htm>. 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 the 2011-2012 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to March 31, 2011.

Selection will be made prior to May 1, 2011. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university. **Applications and reference letter should be sent electronically to ASFPM@floods.org. For further information, please contact Debbie Pond at 608-274-0123.**

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Committee Corner

In this column we will highlight the ongoing work of our thirteen policy committees. This month we are focusing on the Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee. To find more information on all of our policy committees, please see the committee pages on our website.

The ASFPM Nonstructural/Flood Proofing Committee vision is to promote the use of all nonstructural/floodproofing measures and, by using these measures, enable the nation to move towards a no flood risk environment. Nonstructural/floodproofing measures can be defined as those measures that reduce flood risk by modifying the characteristics of structures and/or by modifying the behavior of people in regard to flood risk. Nonstructural measures do not modify the characteristics of the flood whereas structural measures such as large dams, levees, channels, diversions, etc., modify the characteristics of the flood. Within the basic flood risk equation of "flood risk is equal to flood frequency times the flood consequences", nonstructural/floodproofing measures focus on reducing the consequences part of the equation where structural measures focus on the reducing the flood frequency part of the equation. This committee focuses on providing information and expertise to enable people to use basically 6 measures--elevation of structures; placing nonstructural walls, levees, or berms around structures; dry floodproofing structures; wet floodproofing structures; buyout and demolition of structures; and relocation of structures. An overall objective of this committee is to help the nation shift from primarily focusing on structural measures to reduce flood risk to primarily focusing on nonstructural/floodproofing measures to reduce flood risk.

In addition to promoting the use of nonstructural/floodproofing measures, the committee works toward enabling change in policy and legislation that will make nonstructural/floodproofing measure implementation a standard practice.

The committee has eleven work items for the 2010-2011 ASFPM year, a major one of which is to host another successful national conference devoted to implementing nonstructural/floodproofing measures. This conference is called "The National Flood Proofing Conference V" and will be held in Sacramento, California, November 28 - December 1, 2011. The conference will consist of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, exhibits, and a field trip to view nonstructural/floodproofing measures. The conference will be a continuance of our triennial series, with the last conference "National Flood Proofing Conference IV" having been conducted in New Orleans, Louisiana, in November 2008. A "Call for Presenters" will be issued at the ASFPM National Conference in Louisville, KY, this May, where a booth in the Exhibit Hall will provide information about the National Floodproofing Conference and the Sacramento location.

Co-Chair Larry Buss
l-buss@iowatelecom.net

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Meet Your Board

In this column we will introduce the members of our [Board of Directors](#). The intent of this column is for you to get to know the people serving on our Board and better understand how the Board is structured.

This month we are going to introduce two of the five Chapter Directors, starting with Chapter Districts 2 & 4. Each Chapter District consists of two Regions, so District 2 contains Regions 3 and 5 and District 4 contains regions 7 and 8. Chapter Directors are elected in alternating years, with elections for even number regions held in even numbered years and odd numbered regions held in odd numbered years. Once elected they serve a two-year term from the end of one annual conference to the end of the annual conference in two years. Chapter Directors of ASFPM must be an individual ASFPM member **and** a member of their State Chapter. They must reside in the District in which they are serving, and cannot be federal employees. A person may serve up to three consecutive terms as a Chapter Director.

Gerald Robinson, P.E., CFM – Chapter District 2 Director (Regions 3 & 5)



Jerry Robinson is a lifelong resident of Illinois. He grew up on a farm located partially within the floodplain of the Edwards River in northwestern Illinois. His house was located high on a bluff, but the most productive acreage was flooded about once every 10 years. The Mississippi River was also located about 7 miles away, so flooding (both big and small) was part of growing up for him. Jerry attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and graduated with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He has been employed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. for 24 years and has worked almost exclusively on developing flood control projects in the 6 county Chicago Metropolitan region. He has seen firsthand the devastation that occurs during a flood event and has been proud to help design and permit projects that help alleviate flooding.

Jerry has been the treasurer, vice-chair and chair of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM). Once he completed his term of service with IAFSM, he was interested in staying involved with floodplain management, so he decided to run for the Chapter Director position of ASFPM. He has truly enjoyed his time spent on the board of directors and hopes to continue to support the important mission of ASFPM once his term expires next year as Chapter Director of District 2.

Jerry currently lives in the western suburbs of Chicago, in La Grange Park and in the summer months enjoys sailing on Lake Michigan. He is also an avid scuba diver and actually composed this write-up at one of his favorite dive locations on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Brad Anderson, P.E., CFM – Chapter District 4 Director (Regions 7 & 8)



Brad Anderson grew up on a farm in rural North Dakota. The farm was located in close proximity to two well-known flooding sources; Devils Lake and the Red River. After graduating from North Dakota State University and following a 4-year commitment in the Army, Brad attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins to obtain his Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis on water resources, river mechanics and sediment transport. Since that time, he has worked solely as a consulting engineer, the last 25 years as the principal engineer of a water resources firm in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Brad is serving his last term as the District 4 Chapter Director for ASFPM. He enjoys the opportunity to serve the members of the floodplain management community located in each state within the district. It is especially rewarding to assist the state associations as they transition to state chapters within ASFPM. Serving on the ASFPM board has allowed him an opportunity to be involved in discussions regarding floodplain management issues at a national level. In particular, he has noted that the enthusiasm and commitment provided by the staff and volunteers within ASFPM is truly contagious, and their dedication culminates in benefits to all members of the community.

Brad lives in Fort Collins with his wife, two daughters, and son. He enjoys spending time with his family and continues to participate in many of the outdoor activities provided along the Front Range of Colorado.

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Washington Legislative Report

By: Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Off and Running.....

Among the items on the Congressional agenda for the next two weeks are: dealing with ongoing appropriations for the current fiscal year, plunging into consideration of the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2012 and launching the process of reauthorizing (again) and reforming the National Flood Insurance Program. After a very slow beginning, the pace has picked up dramatically.



Budget for FY 2011

The Congress did pass, and the President has signed, a short term Continuing Resolution (CR) which will keep the government functioning through March 18. The measure does include about \$4 billion in budget cuts – largely reflective of cuts already proposed by the Administration. Included in those cuts is a reduction of \$25 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation and about \$500 million for the US Army Corps of Engineers. The CR which had been keeping the federal government functioning mostly at FY 2010 spending levels would have expired on March 4. A shut-down of most federal operations was averted temporarily, but could still occur if the Congress does not take further action before March 18. Major differences as to the depth and nature of budget cuts between the House and Senate remain. The House did pass a CR providing funds for the rest of this fiscal year on February 19 (H.R. 1) which provided for cuts of more than \$60 billion below the FY '10 level. Senate Democrats have been developing a long-term CR which would include the cuts proposed in the Administration's FY 2012 budget request and eliminate \$8.5 billion for previously approved earmarks. There is some speculation that because of continuing major differences over the size and nature of budget cuts for the remainder of the fiscal year, there could be another short term extension of the CR with some further cuts added.

Budget and Appropriations for FY 2012

Hearings in House Appropriations Subcommittees on department and agency budget requests will begin with a big wave of hearings during the week of February 28. About 20 hearings are scheduled for that week and many more

are planned for the next several weeks. Traditionally, appropriations bills originate in the House of Representatives, so House subcommittees are usually the first to move in the process.

The President's budget request for FY 2012 was released on February 14. Because the Appropriations Committees were absorbed with the FY 2011 budget, hearings did not get started on budget requests for FY '12. House leadership would like to move the process along so that the House could pass its versions of appropriations bills by early summer.

Some planned appropriations hearing dates:

- EPA - March 3
- Army Corps of Engineers - March 9
- Agriculture – NRCS - March 9
- Fish & Wildlife Service - March 16
- USGS - March 17
- FEMA - April 6

Some federal agency budget request information follows.

USACE

The overall Civil Works budget request is for \$5.657 billion. Of that amount, \$1.942 billion is allocated for Flood Risk Management, which includes dams and levees, \$34 million for Emergency Management and \$984 million for Environmental functions. The budget request for Planning Assistance to States (PAS) and Flood Plain Management Services is the lowest it has been in some time - \$5 million and \$6 million respectively. (More detail on the Corps budget request will be provided in the April News & Views)

FEMA

FEMA's overall budget request for FY '12 is \$10.063 billion which is down \$284 million from FY '11, assuming the FY '10 level will continue for the remainder of the fiscal year. Reduction in Management and Administration funds assume reductions in travel, equipment and professional service contracts. Travel reductions will be seen in participation of fewer FEMA personnel at conferences and regional meetings.

Mapping (RiskMAP)

Flood mapping appropriations would be reduced by \$117.3 million from the FY '11 (assumed) level of \$220 million. Requested appropriations are \$102.7 million which would be supplemented by \$117.7 million in fees associated with flood insurance policies. FEMA states that this will slow down the timeframe for designating 80% of stream miles in FEMA's inventory as New, Valid or Updated Engineering from 2014 to 2020. Budget materials state that there would be minimal impact on RiskMAP products initiated in 2011 or before.

The FY '12 RiskMAP program would include:

- reviewing, updating flood hazard data and maps for accuracy
- addressing data gaps
- addressing data update needs for coastal and riverine flood hazard areas
- expanding and improving utility and accessibility of flood hazard and risk data
- monitoring validity of published flood hazard information
- implementing Watershed Validation Evaluation Strategy for reviewing engineering data and map update needs

Funding would be used to produce improved flood hazard mapping by:

- increasing the percentage of flood hazard data that meets new, valid or updated engineering standards to 55% (involving elevation data, innovative modeling and coastal mapping)
- maintaining local officials' flood risk awareness at 70%
- initiating additional RiskMAP projects to increase the population in watersheds where RiskMAP has begun to 44% of the population.

The National Flood Insurance Fund is expected to receive an additional \$37.2 million based on estimated premium collections from policy rate increases and increases in numbers of policies in force. \$10 million would be allocated from the NFIF for the Repetitive Flood Claims program, \$40 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance and \$0 for the Severe Repetitive Loss Program due to “program under subscription”. An increase in operating costs is provided to cover the costs of transitioning 810,000 policies from State Farm to the Direct Servicing Agent Program because State Farm ended its WYO agreement with FEMA.

Requested appropriation for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program is \$84.9 million, down \$15 million from the FY '11 CR level. Requested appropriation for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) is \$1.8 billion which is an increase of \$321.6 million over the FY '11 CR level.

NOAA

The NOAA budget request overall is \$5.497 billion which is an increase of \$749 million over the FY '10 enacted budget. Budget documents note that the agency's efficiency initiative has reduced administrative costs by \$67.7 million. The request includes an \$8 million increase to create a National Working Waterfronts grant program. An additional \$2.9 million is provided for oil spill research and response and \$5 million for mapping surface current measurements. A \$20 million increase will support a competitive grant program related to regional ocean partnerships. New funds of \$6.8 million will support comprehensive Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. An additional \$1 million will support Integrated Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IOCM).

The budget request includes support for improvements to the Climate Services activities. While the overall request for this function is \$7.1 million below the previous enacted level, it does include some increases. Water Resources Research is increased by \$7.7 million; Earth System Modeling: Urgent Climate Issues is increased by \$7 million; Regional Climate Services is increased by \$3 million and the Global Ocean Observing System is increased by \$1.4 million.

USGS

The overall budget request for FY '12 is \$1.1 billion which is an increase of \$6.1 million from the FY '11 CR level. Many program areas were reduced in order to fund several areas that were increased as well as to preserve staff. It was explained by Director Marcia McNutt at a budget briefing that the USGS budget is large staff salaries, yet it actually costs more to terminate staff than to keep them, which necessitates program cuts. Areas of reduction include: regional assessments of groundwater quantity and quality, grant supporting resilience to natural hazards, the Water Resources Research Act program, the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation program, the Geological Mapping program and the climate effects network. Cooperative stream gage funding is reduced in order to maintain funding for the National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP), the fully federally funded network of stream gages.

Areas of increase are:

- National Land Imaging (Landsat missions) is increased by \$48 million
- Ecosystem Restoration involves a new Presidential conservation initiative, America's Great Outdoors, the various elements of which include increased funding of \$12 million.
- Department of Interior Climate Science Centers are increased by \$11 million.
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning is increased by \$4.5 million.

National Flood Insurance Program: Reauthorization and Reform

On Capitol Hill

The NFIP will once again expire on September 30, 2011 unless the Congress acts to reauthorize the program. The House Financial Services Committee is planning to develop a draft reauthorization and reform bill very soon with the hope of moving a bill through subcommittee and full committee and to the House floor by late spring or early summer. Kicking off this process, the Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee has scheduled a hearing on reauthorization and reform for March 9 at 2:00 PM Eastern. ASFPM has been asked to testify.

It is unclear at this point how extensive the reform aspects will be as well as what the suggested period of reauthorization will be. ASFPM will suggest that the program be reauthorized for a 2 – 3 year period, providing relief from the frequent program expirations and short-term extensions, but facilitating a return to consideration of the more extensive reform proposals expected from FEMA. This is based on the assumption that there will not be sufficient time to fully study and evaluate major reforms before September 30, but that it will be possible to undertake some elements of program improvement. The hearing will include testimony from FEMA (Administrator Fugate), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and a representative of Write Your Own (WYO) companies in addition to ASFPM. Indications are that the Senate Banking Committee is also planning to take action on reauthorization and reform, but that will likely not occur until later in the spring.

A number of bills have already been introduced dealing with the NFIP, flood maps and the treatment of levees on flood maps. H.R. 435, introduced by Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI) would, according to her press release “end the NFIP by December 31, 2013, allow states to form regional insurance compacts to spread risk, and continue to allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist their efforts by producing high quality flood maps to allow states and the private sector to insure against flood loss.” H.R. 700, introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) would provide for a moratorium on the issuance of flood insurance rate maps to “assist property owners in adapting to flood insurance rate map changes”. H.R. 764, introduced by Rep. Rodney Alexander (R-LA) would “ensure fair treatment of existing levees and flood control structures under the national flood insurance program” by prohibiting FEMA from mapping behind inadequate levees assuming the levee does not exist. All of these bills have been referred to the House Committee on Financial Services for consideration.

Issues associated with accuracy of flood maps, treatment of levees and non-levee features on flood maps and affordability of flood insurance continue to capture the attention of many Members of Congress and Senators. Twenty seven Senators signed a letter to FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate asking that FEMA discontinue its practice of showing no levee on a flood map if it cannot be accredited as providing 100 year flood protection. Two additional Senators sent related letters. Forty nine Members of the House have sent the same letter to Administrator Fugate. FEMA officials are actively working to develop options to address the concerns of these Congressmen and Senators.

At FEMA

Meanwhile, at FEMA, the major “Re-Thinking the NFIP” project launched by Administrator Craig Fugate at a Listening Session in November, 2009 is progressing rapidly toward delivery of analysis and recommendations to Capitol Hill by early summer. The process is being deliberately accelerated to allow for Congressional consideration of FEMA’s analysis and recommendations during the process of again reauthorizing the program.

Phase I involved capturing stakeholder concerns and recommendations. That included the Listening Session in Washington D.C. and an open comment period from November to January, 2010. An analysis of the comments was published in a final report entitled “NFIP Stakeholder Listening Session: Findings and Next Steps”.

Phase II involved development of a policy analysis framework, evaluation criteria and guiding principles. It also involved analysis of stakeholder input.

Phase III involves identification of several policy options, collection of stakeholder comments, analysis of comments and development of more refined policy options and recommendations. The four policy options identified thus far are:

1. Improvements to the existing NFIP (Program Upgrade or Program Optimization)
2. Privatization (consideration of degrees and types of increased private sector role in flood insurance)
3. Community Policies (community-wide flood policies to better link land use and construction decisions with the cost of flood insurance)
4. Federal Assistance Options (creating a relationship between community mitigation measures and disaster assistance and other federal programs using either a Community Rating Model or a Total Federal Responsibility Model)

ASFPM submitted observations about general principles that should be reflected in any program recommendations. The ASFPM comments are on the ASFPM website at [Rethinking the NFIP Comments](#).

Other Hearings

Hearings and activity have not yet been scheduled on water resources legislation or Stafford Act revisions, although both are anticipated. ASFPM will be monitoring the situation. A number of hearings have been scheduled on oversight of EPA activities, regulatory actions and programs, both in authorizing and appropriations committees.

Coalitions

ASFPM continues to participate in the following coalitions:

Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance

The Alliance met on February 3 to discuss briefings to develop and sponsor for Congressional staff this year. Early attention has focused on earthquake hazards.

Flood Map Coalition

This group will meet soon to discuss the status of map issues and the budget for FY 2012.

Stafford Coalition

Plans are for a meeting of this group soon to discuss the status of efforts to revise the Stafford Act during this new Congress.

Mitigation Alliance

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) is leading the establishment of a Mitigation Alliance to collaborate, share information and enhance the ability of member groups to encourage hazard mitigation. This is pursuant to a Mitigation White Paper produced last year under NEMA's leadership through an agreement with FEMA. At a meeting on January 13 in which Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Associate Director, Deborah Mills, ASFPM Mitigation Policy Committee Co-Chair and Merrie Inderfurth, ASFPM Washington Liaison, participated, it was decided that there would be three Chairs (tri-chairs?) of the Alliance. One will be NEMA and the other two are elected by the membership organizations. ASFPM will be serving in one of those tri-chair positions.

USGS Coalition

A meeting was held on January 25 to discuss budget and program issues for the current and upcoming fiscal years. Meetings with Interior Department and USGS officials will be scheduled soon as well as meetings with Congressional committee staff.

Stream Gage Coalition

The coalition sent letters to appropriate Congressional committee leaders expressing the importance of stream gage data collection and its funding. The letters were signed by a large number of organizations. Meetings with Congressional staff will be scheduled soon. Early attempts to do so were not successful due to the intense focus on continuing appropriations for FY 2011.

Referenced legislation can be viewed by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number. Information about the "Re-Thinking the NFIP" project at FEMA can be found through the FEMA website: www.FEMA.gov. Type "Re-Thinking the NFIP" in the search box.

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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 . . .

How does your community handle applications to do work on historic structures? Did you know there's more than one answer to that question?

Let's review the two options and I think you'll quickly see which option I think is best. The best guidance is found in "Substantial Improvement / Substantial Damage Desk Reference" (FEMA P-758).

But first, let's be sure everyone understands that when it comes to regulating flood hazard areas, "historic structure" has a very specific definition that is in NFIP regulations. Buildings that are merely old, those that residents refer to as historic, and those that happen to be located in a historic district are not "historic structures" unless they are also individually listed. To receive the special consideration allowed by the NFIP regulations, historic structures must meet the definition in 44 CFR § 59.1 (see below).

But there's one more important test – proposed work must not preclude the structure's continued listing as a historic structure. This means that no matter which of the two options for handling historic structures your community uses, the local official must first require evidence that the building is, indeed, a historic structure under the NFIP definition.

Then, with that evidence in hand, the next question is whether the proposed work to improve or repair the structure will preclude its continued listing. How does a local official answer that question? Well, most local floodplain administrators aren't qualified to make this call and shouldn't even attempt it. The only entities that are qualified are those that can put buildings on the list in the first place. This means that for any work other than the most minor work, the applicant must provide evidence from an appropriate entity that clearly states that the proposed work will not adversely affect the historic integrity of the structure that would otherwise cause it to lose its designation as a historic structure. Importantly, in order to demonstrate proper enforcement of the regulations, the community must retain this evidence of continued listing in its permanent records (see SI/SD Desk Reference, Sec. 5.6.14).

Now, let's look at the two options: (1) granting variances and (2) excluding historic structures from the substantial improvement and substantial damage requirements. Based on all the local floodplain management regulations I've looked at over the years, most actually have provisions that allow either option. That's not necessarily a good thing. Communities must decide which approach to use and then use the same approach every time improvements or repairs are proposed for historic structures. So, if you haven't already done so, take the time now to figure out which option is best for your community.

Granting Variances. This option is found in the variance criteria which come from NFIP regulations (44 CFR § 60.6). It states that: "*Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of historic structures upon a determination that the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure and the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.*"

For my money, the key phrase is "the minimum necessary." Applying this criterion allows communities to evaluate individual proposed renovations, restorations, improvements and additions and place protective conditions on the variance that will minimize future damage to important historic resources (isn't preserving these valuable structures part of the objective?). Examples of such conditions include installing new HVAC equipment on a raised platform, requiring an addition to be elevated, moving service equipment out of flood-prone basements, using flood damage-resistant materials below the BFE, and making modifications to "wet floodproof" the building to minimize possible structural damage. But don't stop there – there are plenty of cases where historic buildings have been elevated-in-place or retrofit floodproofed, achieving a high degree of flood mitigation while also preserving historic character. For examples, see "Floodplain Management Bulletin: Historic Structures (FEMA P-467-2).

Excluding historic structures from the SI/SD requirements, by definition. The NFIP definition for “substantial improvement” includes the following exclusion for historic structures: “Any alteration of a ‘historic structure,’ provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as an ‘historic structure.’” Because the definition of substantial improvement includes substantial damage, this exclusion also applies to historic structures that have been substantially damaged.

So, what does the exclusion really mean? Well, on the face of it, it looks like owners of these structures simply don’t have to get permits – after all, their structures are “excluded” from the definition of “substantial improvement.” But hold on – should that assertion be taken on faith? No. An application for a permit must still be submitted and evidence of the structure’s listing or eligibility for listing as a historic structure must be provided.

Then what about assuring that the structure will continue to be listed? Again, the local official must have in-hand the evidence from a qualified historic preservation program or professional before deciding that the structure – and the proposed work – will not preclude the structure from continued listing and is therefore justifiably “excluded” from having to meet flood protection requirements. Only then can the local official make a decision about whether a permit is required or if the work is excluded from the SI/SD requirements, by definition.

From 44 CFR §59.1: Historic structure means any structure that is:
(a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
(b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;
(c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
(d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either: (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

On another matter, I’ve recently been surprised and quite puzzled by something I’d never given a thought to before. The NFIP regulations specifically state that participating communities must require permits for all proposed construction and other development [§ 60.3(a)(1)] and obtain the elevation of the lowest floors of all new and substantially improved structures [§ 60.3(b)(5)(i)]. But the regulations do not have an explicit requirement that communities perform inspections. What do you think – are inspections required to fulfill the commitment to the NFIP? I’ll report on readers’ responses in the next column. [RCQ]

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CFM[®] Corner

This section will appear in each issue of the Insider. Email for certification questions is cfm@floods.org. For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please send an email to Anita at this address in the ASFPM Office.

Recently some members of the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) rotated off CBOR and new individuals were appointed to these CBOR positions.

Effective January 1, 2011, the following changes took place:

- Mike DePue, CFM, replaces Cleighton Smith, CFM as the CBOR Private Sector representative. Mr. DePue also sits on the ASFPM Foundation Board of Trustees and is employed by PBS&J.



- Gene Henry, CFM replaces Diane Calhoun, CFM as the CBOR At-Large representative. Mr. Henry is a founding Board Member of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association and has served on the ASFPM Board of Directors. He is employed by Hillsborough County, FL.

CBOR welcomes Gene and Mike and says farewell to Diane and Cleighton. ASFPM thanks Cleighton and Diane for their hard work on CBOR during their appointment.

ASFPM would like to thank Diane for serving as President of CBOR for eight years. Under Diane's guidance, CBOR initiated a joint venture with Ohio State University to conduct a detailed assessment for Reliability and Validity (R&V) of ASFPM's Certification Program. The recommendations from this project are being incorporated into the Certification Program and CBOR's five-year Strategic Plan.

Diane is considered to be one of the ASFPM treasures, where her contributions to State Chapters, ASFPM Board and Committees, ASFPM's membership, and NFIP communities have been beyond measure. Many do not know that Diane served on the original ASFPM CFM Task Force and has been a member of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) Exam Review Committee since the pilot CFM exam in 1998.

Thank you Diane for your 30+ years of service to the floodplain management community.

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Chapter Corner

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

What's In It for Me? How to "Sell" the Benefits of Membership

Do you feel you have to pester your members to get their membership renewals in on time? Have your member numbers stayed relatively the same year to year? If the answer is yes, it begs the question, "What are members getting for their money?" Can most of your members describe the tangible and intangible benefits of chapter membership? Are you reaching out to promote joining the chapter and the benefits members receive? If not, here are some ways to enhance and draw attention to what your chapter offers its members. Examples of chapters providing these benefits are also indicated below. You can find [chapter contact information here](#) on our website.

- **Create a membership committee** devoted to recruiting and developing members and member benefits. (AZ, CO, GA, LA, MD, NJ, OH, OK, RI, TX, and WI Chapters)
- **Design a membership page on your website** detailing the Who? What? How? Why? of membership. Don't forget to include your membership application and fee structure. (NJ, OH, and TX Chapters)
- **Organize your membership data.** How do you track current and former members (are ex-members still getting member benefits)? Can it interface with your email communications to give members the option to "opt out" of mailings or indicate interest in participating in chapter activities?
- **Survey your members** about what services they value and what they want to see.
- **Build member incentives into everything you do.** Members should get preferential treatment for fee-for-service benefits such as conferences, workshops, and other training (member and nonmember rates). Members get first (or only) access to valuable industry, program, and policy information (member directory, emails, blogs, newsletters, etc.).
- **Spell out the intangibles as well as the tangible benefits.** Be sure to talk about less "seen" benefits to members such as incorporation status, insurance, tax-exempt status, professional services (lawyers, accountants, etc.) which support the long term health and sustainability of the chapter and reduce member liability.
- **Employ a communication strategy.** Commit to regular newsletters, Listserv, a blog, RSS feed, or email alerts (or all three) to keep your members current on chapter activities, leadership, administration, and policy. (*News*: AR, FMA, GA, IL, LA, MO, MT, NE, NM, OH, OK, RI, TX, VA Chapters, *Listserv*: NC Chapter, *Blog*: NE Chapter, *RSS Feed*: VA Chapter)
- **Develop a membership login on your website** to access personalized information and "members only" benefits (member directory, newsletters, etc.). (AR, AZ, CO, NJ, NM, and TX Chapters)

- **Offer continuing education, networking, and professional development opportunities.** Develop short, affordable, and regularly scheduled training opportunities combined with networking like “lunch and learns”. Recruit members to be “lead organizer” or develop a committee to do so. (CO, FMA, GA, and IL Chapters)
- **Promote policy, activity, or issue-specific committee development.** Committee leadership and engagement provides a valuable service to chapter members, a voice in policy, and professional development opportunities to become leaders. (AZ, CO, IL, IN, MN, and OK Chapters)
- **Coordinate continuing education credit approvals with other industries.** Many members are CFMs *and* are certified or licensed through other parallel professions. Request pre-approval of continuing education credits from ASFPM and other certifying agencies (ASCE, APA, etc.) at the same time to add value for your members. (FL, OH Chapters)
- **Start a chapter [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#) page** to advertise, promote chapter activities, network, and information share. You can restrict access to the pages or “approve” people who want to join the chapter’s group page so most information available is for members only. The best thing about this is that it’s FREE – it only costs volunteer time and participation. (**LinkedIn:** GA, IL, MD, MI, NC, and TX Chapters; **Facebook:** FMA, GA, KY, MS, NC, and OK Chapters)

This is only a partial list to get you started and includes example chapter activities ASFPM has been notified about. If your chapter has a member recruitment or benefit idea we haven’t discussed here, please email it to Kait@floods.org and we’ll highlight it in a future *Newsletter for Chapters*. Here are some additional sources for ideas from association websites listing member benefits: [ICC](#), [APA](#), [ASDSO](#), [ASCE](#), [IAEM](#), [NEMA](#).

Have You Outgrown Your Membership Database?

The [WildApricot Blog](#) recently posted an article titled, “*Have You Outgrown Your Membership Database?*” The article provides great information from their recent association survey on association membership growth/acquisition. It provides insight into how to assess your association’s membership database, whether it meets your needs, is it scalable to accommodate growth and resources for finding a better solution if needed. [Click here](#) to find out what software or service providers fellow chapters are using.

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WWW.FLOODS.ORG Tips

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

ASFPM Membership Maintenance Website

If you are an ASFPM Individual member, you can now login to the members section of the website to view your membership information and access your member benefits. Once logged in to the site you can:

- ◆ Update your contact information
- ◆ Renew your membership online
- ◆ View your CFM history and CECs that we currently have on file for you
- ◆ Register for our annual conference
- ◆ Access the ASFPM Directory of Floodplain Managers
- ◆ Access our member’s only newsletter, *The Insider*

To access the site visit: <https://www.securefloods.org/Membership/> If you don’t know your password, you can click the “Forgot Your Password?” link and your password will be sent to the email address we currently have on file for you. If you have any questions about how to login to the site, please contact the ASFPM office at 608-274-0123 or memberhelp@floods.org.

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Floodplain Management Training Calendar

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

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2011! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.

<http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp>



Go to the calendar and click on the search feature icon at the top of the calendar. Type your state's initials in parenthesis (for example "(WI)") into the search field and it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

Upcoming ASFPM Events – Mark your Calendar!

- March 17, 2011, 2pm Eastern – ASFPM Chapters Conference Call (invitees only)
- March 31, 2011, 2pm Eastern – Levee Project Funding Webinar, [more information](#)
- April 2, 2011 – Early Bird Registration Deadline for ASFPM National Conference
- May 15-20, 2011 – ASFPM 35th Annual National Conference – Louisville, KY
- Nov. 28 – Dec. 1, 2011 – National Floodproofing Conference V – Sacramento, CA
- May 20-25, 2012 – ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference – San Antonio, TX
- June 9-14, 2013 – ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT
- June 1-6, 2014 – ASFPM 38th Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA
- May 31 – June 5, 2015 – ASFPM 39th Annual National Conference – Atlanta, GA

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Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

2011 Mary Fran Myers Scholarship

Deadline: March 28, 2011

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship recognizes outstanding individuals committed to disaster research and practice and have the potential to make a lasting contribution to reducing disaster vulnerability.

At least one scholarship recipient will receive financial support allowing them to attend the **Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop**. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals, and Workshop registration costs. Recipients are recognized at the Workshop and may be asked to serve as panelists, where they can highlight their research or practical experiences with hazards and disasters.

As the longtime co-director of the Natural Hazards Center, Myers recognized that many of the people and organizations that could benefit from and contribute to the workshop—including local practitioners, students, and international professionals—were among those least likely to afford it. The scholarship was established in 2003 to fulfill Myers' request that qualified and talented individuals receive support to attend, ensuring that representatives of all ages, professions, and communities be represented at the workshop. Myers served as co-director of the Natural Hazards Center for 16 years until her death in 2004. Reducing disaster loss was her life's work.

Hazards practitioners, students, and researchers with a strong commitment to disaster management and mitigation and who **reside outside** North America and the Caribbean are eligible to enter. Eligibility is based on current resi-

dence, not citizenship. Applicants from North America and the Caribbean will be eligible for the scholarship in 2012.

Previous attendees of the Natural Hazards Workshop are *not* eligible for the 2011 Mary Fran Myers Scholarship. Preference is given to those who can demonstrate financial need. The deadline for submissions is **March 28, 2011**. For more information and application, go to:

<http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/myers-scholarship/application.html>

American Society of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) 2011-2012

Dam Safety Scholarships - Deadline: April 1, 2011

ASDSO Undergraduate Scholarship: ASDSO awards up to \$10,000 annually. Students who will graduate in May 2012 will be eligible for 2011-2012 scholarships. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2011. Applications for are now available at www.damsafety.org. The deadline for applying is April 1, 2011.

Conservation Education Programs Supported

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: The Nature of Learning Grant Program - Deadline: April 1, 2011

The Nature of Learning Grant Program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/National Wildlife Refuge System in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supports costs associated with implementing *The Nature of Learning*, a conservation education program that uses National Wildlife Refuges as outdoor classrooms in order to promote a greater understanding of local conservation issues. Central to each *The Nature of Learning* site is a partnership among learning institutions, i.e., neighborhood schools, nature clubs, youth groups, natural resource professionals, and community members. Start-up grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to support initial expenses associated with new programs. Follow-up grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to provide continued support to existing *The Nature of Learning* programs. Online applications must be submitted by April 1, 2011. Visit the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's website for application guidelines and examples of programs eligible for funding.

EPA Invites Ideas on Improving Grant Competition Process - Deadline: March 11, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is trying to make it easier for grants applicants to access and understand EPA grants opportunities and the grants process itself. To develop an approach that best meets the needs of the grants community, EPA is asking for your voluntary feedback about EPA's competitive grants process. EPA has developed a short questionnaire designed to solicit your feedback.

We hope your feedback will help highlight any perceived or actual obstacles or issues that grants applicants may be experiencing when they compete for EPA grants. EPA will evaluate the feedback received and, if necessary, develop tools to help increase awareness of and participation in EPA's competitive grants process. [Click here to provide feedback](#). To have your feedback considered, please submit your suggestions by March 11, 2011.

NOAA Climate Program Office Announces Grant Opportunity - Deadline: March 11, 2011

The NOAA Climate Program Office invites applications for a collaborator to partner in the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the ocean, atmosphere, and related ecosystems; and the communication of data, information, and knowledge. The collaborator will focus on the following themes: (1) Climate Adaptation and Mitigation; (2) Improved Scientific Understanding of the Changing Climate system and its Impacts; and (3) Assessments of Current and Future States of the Climate System. The recipient will coordinate of resources among all partners including government, non-government, academia, and international. The estimated total program funding is \$80 million. For more information about the grant opportunity, view the full announcement at:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=71393>.

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Award Nominations

National Award for Smart Growth Achievement – Accepting Applications

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - **Deadline: April 6, 2011**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce that the application period for the 10th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement is now open. Through this award, EPA recognizes and supports communities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. Open to public- and private-sector entities (although all applications must include a public-sector partner), winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in December 2011.

Applications are due April 6, 2011. Awards will be given in the categories of Programs, Policies, and Regulations; Smart Growth and Green Building; Civic Places; and Rural Smart Growth. An “Overall Excellence” winner will be chosen from the four categories by the review panels. To view the application and complete entry guidelines, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/awards.htm#2011app>.

EPA Awards Targeted Watershed Grant to River Network - **Deadline: March 14, 2011**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$600,000 to River Network to engage communities and increase citizen connection, understanding, and stewardship of urban waterways. This award was made through the Targeted Watershed Grants Program and is an Urban Waters Capacity Building Grant. Under the grant, [River Network](#) will form a partnership with [Groundwork USA](#) to establish and manage a competitive urban watershed subaward program.

River Network will select five to seven subawardees competitively to receive funding (ranging from \$30,000 to \$70,000) and up to 400 hours of technical assistance for projects designed to strengthen their organization. As part of the grant, River Network will also provide a wider peer-learning network for other organizations working on urban water issues. The goal is to support a new urban waters movement by building highly capable organizations that are self-sustaining and can carry out programs to protect human health and the environment. The urban waterways in many communities are compromised landscapes, impacted by various sources of pollution and often neglected and ignored. These capacity-building subgrants will provide local organizations, tribal and local governments with skills and techniques to protect their urban waterways and promote more vibrant, economically sustainable communities. All subawardees will attend the [National River Rally in North Charleston, South Carolina on June 3-6, 2011](#).

For additional information on applying to River Network for funding, please contact Diana Toledo at dtoledo@rivernetwork.org or visit the [River Network Urban Waters Capacity Building Grants Request for Proposals](#).

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Job Corner

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

Program Manager – Watershed Services

W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc.

Position Description

W.K. Dickson and Co., Inc., a top 500 ENR Engineering firm, seeks a Watershed Services Program Manager for its Atlanta, GA office. The ideal candidate will have 12-15 years of progressive experience with at least the last 5 years of experience in the Atlanta Metro area. Direct experience in the planning, design, and permitting of public and private infrastructure projects dealing with the conveyance, treatment and discharge of stormwater is a must

with demonstrated ability to successfully develop and maintain a public sector client base. The primary responsibilities include business development, project management, and supervision of staff. PE in GA is required.

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

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### **Water Resources & Water/ Waste Water Engineers**

Ulteig Engineers, Inc.

#### Position Description

Ulteig is seeking qualified candidates for multiple positions in their Water Resources & Water/Waste Water markets. These positions are responsible for planning, scheduling, conducting and/or coordinating detailed phases of assigned project work. They will make design recommendations, adaptations and modifications as well as perform calculations using engineering formulas and skills.

We are people driven. Join us in our vision of advancing the business of energy, water, and the built-environment. Please visit our website for additional information on the specific positions available. For consideration, apply online at [www.ulteig.com](http://www.ulteig.com).

#### Qualifications

Qualified candidates will possess a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. P.E. registration and 5 plus years of industry experience with excellent verbal and written communication skills are required. Specific related job experience is dependent upon the position. Proven experience in Microsoft Software Applications (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access) is required and an understanding of AutoCAD or MicroStation is preferred.

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Water Resources Technical Manager

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Michael Baker Jr. Inc., an engineering unit of Michael Baker Corporation, seeks a Technical Manager II for our Sacramento, California office.

Michael Baker Corporation (www.mbakercorp.com) provides architecture, engineering and construction services for its clients' most complex challenges worldwide. The firm's primary business areas are aviation, defense, environmental, facilities, geospatial, homeland security, municipal & civil, pipelines & utilities, transportation and water.

Qualifications

4-year degree; minimum of 10 years of related experience, with a proven track record of winning and managing water resource projects or general civil public sector projects in the Sacramento CA area; California P.E.; Microsoft Office Suite.

Preferences:

Knowledge of and history of winning and managing services for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or FEMA and/or Bureau of Reclamation and /or California DWR, and other local flood protection or water resource agencies. Knowledge of levees, levee systems, levee accreditation/certification process. Familiarity with H&H models, 1-D and 2-D, steady versions. Familiarity with Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and their use in H&H modeling

To apply for this position, please log on to www.mbakercorp.com/careers and reference IRC43047.

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