

# THE INSIDER

A Publication  
for Members

March  
2010

## The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Floodplain Management Authorities Conference

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Australia to attend and speak at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Floodplain Management Authorities Conference held at the Mingara Centre, Central Coast in New South Wales. The theme of the conference was "2060 – What Will Your Flood Legacy Be?". I attended representing the ASFPM and Doug Plasencia also attended representing the ASFPM Foundation.

My presentation at the conference included a discussion of the ASFPM, the CFM Program, the ASFPM Foundation, and most importantly, the Floodplain Management 2050 Forum. The attendees at the conference from Australia, and Robert Runcie (Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management for the Environment Agency) from the United Kingdom were very interested in the CFM Program. It was apparent through discussions with the conference attendees from Australia and the UK that we share common interests, concerns, and problems. For example: flood mapping, communicating flood risk, and on-going development in high risk flood areas.

Doug and I participated in a field trip that allowed us to visit various sites of the Gosford area stretching from Lisarow to Umina Beach and back along the coast via the area's pristine beaches. We also viewed numerous creeks, rivers, lagoons, beaches, and other waterways that have made Gosford one of the most topical Councils with respect to the diversity of flooding problems. The tour also took in a variety of flood mitigation works which have alleviated flooding problems including rock lined, revegetated and widened channels; and also creeks choked with vegetation which have been returned to semi-natural open riparian corridors through the application of environmentally friendly methods.

**REMINDER:** The Early Bird Deadline for registration for the ASFPM Annual Conference is **April 3, 2010**. Get your registration in now to take advantage of the reduced rates!

ASFPM presented a proclamation to the Floodplain Management Authorities offering our congratulations to FMA on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the

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Floodplain Management Authorities and the significant role they have played in shaping floodplain management in Australia and beyond. Also, in the proclamation, we extended an invitation to enter into discussions with ASFPM to determine how we might jointly, formally and informally, partner on future efforts of common concern to our nations and jointly be an influence on the evolving international venue of floodplain management.

The conference was a huge success and I look forward to our continued partnership with the Floodplain Management Authorities.

## **ASFPM Elections**

It is once again time to elect ASFPM Officers and Regional Directors! Nominations are closed for Officers and Regional Directors (even-numbered regions). Current ASFPM members for 2010 will be receiving election information and ballots at the end of March.

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 of ASFPM must be state employees 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 is in good standing from the region and accepts the nomination, can be elected as a Regional Director.

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

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## **Annual National Conference Update - Oklahoma City, May 16-21, 2010**



Have you secured your hotel rooms for the conference yet? If you haven't, we urge you to act NOW if you hope to take advantage of our great negotiated hotel rates! Government rate room availability is all but gone, but the Sheraton and the Courtyard may have a few remaining. The hotels' contact information can be found on the conference web page.

The Conference Brochure, including registration materials for participants and exhibitors, is also now available on the conference page at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org). Individual Members can also take advantage of online registration through the Members portal. **The Early Bird Registration Discount deadline is April 3** and the supplementary training opportunities are filling fast. Please keep an eye on the website for continuing program updates as they are made available.

Also, if your organization is interested in increasing its national exposure, there are still a few sponsorship opportunities remaining. Remember: the "hot spots" in the exhibit hall are given to sponsors first! Contact Conference Planner Chad Ross at [chad@floods.org](mailto:chad@floods.org) for more information.

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## **ASFPM Comments on National Disaster Recovery Framework**

ASFPM recently provided comments to FEMA on their draft National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). The NDRF is intended to work alongside the National Response Framework to provide organizing constructs and principles solely focused on disaster recovery. Recognizing the continuum between preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, the NDRF transitions with and continues beyond the scope of the National Response Framework.

Overall, the ASFPM commended the National Disaster Recovery Framework Working Group on putting together a good and comprehensive Draft National Recovery Framework. In particular, the ASFPM was pleased to see the role of mitigation mentioned. However, we urged that the connections between recovery and local and State mitigation planning, long term resilience and sustainability be strengthened in the NDRF.

You can view a copy of the full comments submitted by ASFPM on our website at:

[www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/National\\_Policy/NDRF\\_ASFPM\\_comments\\_3\\_1\\_10.pdf](http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/National_Policy/NDRF_ASFPM_comments_3_1_10.pdf)

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## **ASFPM Testifies Before House Committee**

On March 4th, Chad Berginnis presented testimony on behalf of ASFPM before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the report released by the US Conference of Mayors regarding their proposals on changes to the Stafford Act as well as related programs, policies and regulations. The hearing also focused on issues related to disasters in cities.

You can view a copy of ASFPM's full written testimony on our website under 'ASFPM Testimony':

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

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## **Upcoming Changes to the Flood Insurance Program**

Now that we have a Program back, at least until March 28th, the following is a quick summary of upcoming changes to the flood insurance program.

### May 1, 2010 Changes

The Federal Policy Fee (FPF) is going up to \$40 (\$20 for Preferred Risk Policies, PRPs) but some rates are coming down to balance the overall increase to stay under the 10% maximum annual increase that is allowed. Note that PRP rates are changing too, except for the first level of coverage (i.e., the \$119 for \$20,000 building/\$8,000 contents for residential is NOT changing). The FPF increase is to fund Program administrative costs, per FEMA. Also, an updated Lowest Floor Guide with better pictures (no stick diagrams) will come out. Some condo issues will be clarified and of course the CRS listing will be updated.

### October 1, 2010 Proposed Changes

These changes have not been released as of yet, but per FEMA, they will be out by April 1. There will be rate increases, but not as high as last years, though a few classes will see a 10% increase. The Increased

Cost of Compliance (ICC) premium may actually be reduced. The PRP rates may also increase (probably \$10 per each level of limits) as FEMA is looking into the possibility of adding an additional year eligibility to continue with a PRP after a map change before having to rewrite it as a standard-rated X zone policy.

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## ASFPM 2010 Legislative Priorities

The ASFPM Board recently approved our Legislative and Policy priorities for 2010. This list encompasses ASFPM's positions on many current national policy issues, and acts as a sort of 'action plan' for the upcoming year in terms of our national policy priorities.

You can view a copy of this document on our website under 'ASFPM Legislative and Policy Priorities': <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=334&firstlevelmenuID=187&siteID=1>

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## Mary Fran Myers Scholarship – Now Accepting Applications

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for the 2010 scholarship. Scholarship recipients will receive financial support enabling them to attend the 2010 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Broomfield, Colorado, July 10-13. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals, and workshop registration costs.

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship is awarded annually to at least one potential workshop participant. Recipients are recognized at the workshop and may be asked to serve as panelists on one of the many workshop concurrent sessions, where they can highlight their research or practical experience 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.

Regrettably, those who have attended the Hazards Workshop previously are not eligible for the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship. For the 2010 competition, applicants must reside in North America or the Caribbean. (They do not have to be citizens of those regions.) Applicants from other regions of the world will be eligible for the scholarship in 2011. Preference will be given to those who can demonstrate financial need as well as a strong commitment to disaster management and mitigation. For more information on past scholarship winners and how to apply, visit the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship page at the Natural Hazards Center Web site: <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/awards/myers-scholarship.html>. **Applications must be received by Monday, March 29, 2010.**

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## **Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**Award Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students Deadline: May 29, 2010**

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 Scholarship Application Form which can be downloaded from ASFPM's website at [www.asfpmfoundation.org/winters.htm](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 four (4) signed copies of the 2010-2011 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to May 29, 2010.

Selection will be made prior to July 31, 2010. 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, Westford, MA 01886, Attn: Peter A. Richardson, P.E., CFM

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## **Mitigate Future Flood Damages**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is again offering their 4-day resident course in floodproofing (retrofitting) at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, May 10-13, 2010. This course provides participants the opportunity to learn current engineering principles and practices for retrofitting flood prone residential buildings. Participants will complete a design exercise based on a real-life case study. The course also has a written examination and covers: Introduction to Retrofitting; Regulatory Framework; Parameters of Retrofitting; Determination of Hazards; Benefit/Cost Analysis; and General Design Practices addressing Elevation in Place, Relocation, Dry Floodproofing, Wet Floodproofing, Floodwalls and Levees.

The course is intended for those with engineering, architectural or building science knowledge. Applicants from state or local agencies are eligible for the student stipend program which reimburses the students transportation to the facility and provides a room on site. All other costs must be borne by the student including meals (at \$19.35 each day in the dining hall). Costs for Federal employees must be borne by their agencies (please note there is no fee for the course itself).

For more information, please contact: Joseph "Joe" K. Bills at 301-447-1356 or [joseph.bills@dhs.gov](mailto:joseph.bills@dhs.gov)

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## Model for Levee Removal & Floodplain Restoration

The spring edition of Nature Conservancy Magazine published an article by Dan Ferber, “Into the Breach: Can busting a levee restore a critical floodplain in Louisiana?”. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) has been acquiring land behind a levee in Louisiana and converting it to refuge with the goal of restoring the floodplain to its original state. FWS has collaborated with The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality, Caterpillar, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the \$4.5 million project to breach the failing levee and to restore the floodplain. The location at Mollicy Farms in Louisiana has become a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) field laboratory for modeling new ways to manage levees. The article can be found at: <http://www.nature.org/magazine/spring2010/features/?src=m1>

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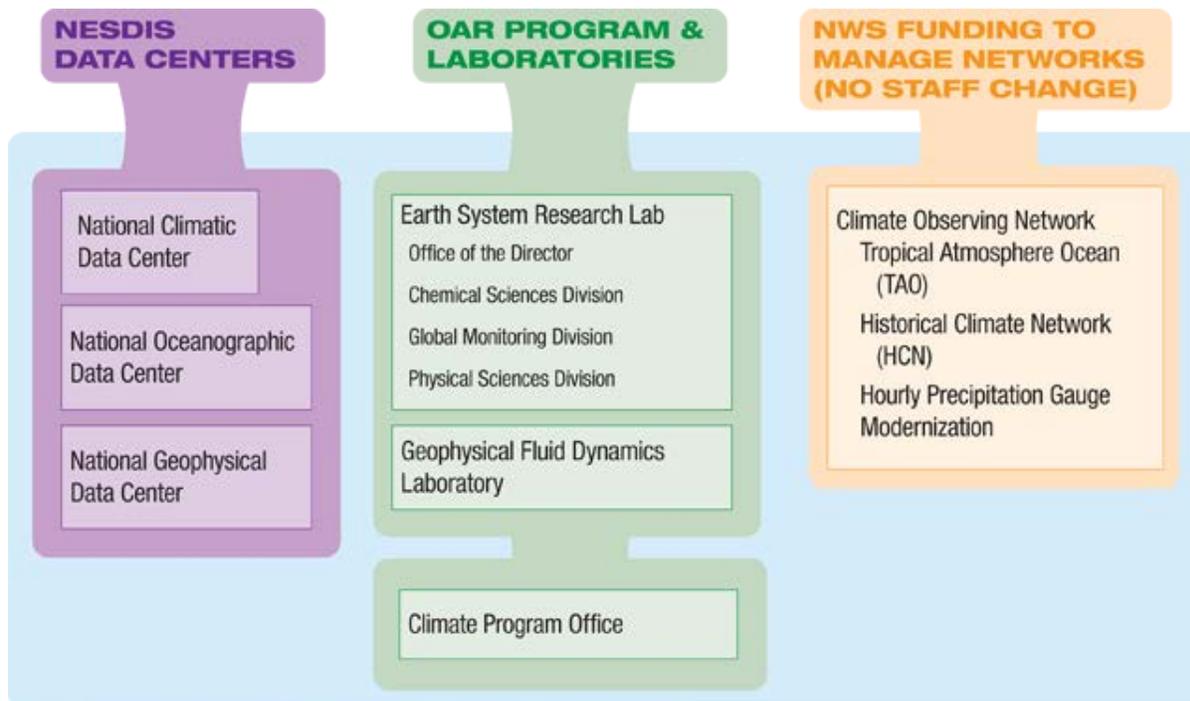
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## NOAA Climate Service

In an announcement on Feb. 8, 2010, the Department of Commerce and NOAA proposed establishing a NOAA Climate Service.

Individuals and decision-makers across widely diverse sectors – from agriculture to energy to transportation – are increasingly asking NOAA for information about climate change in order to make the best choices for their families, communities and businesses. To meet the rising tide of these requests, this newly proposed line office would be dedicated to bringing together the agency’s strong climate science and service delivery capabilities.

Proposed NOAA Climate Service Organization:



*The physical location of these facilities will not change*

The NOAA Climate Service will encompass a core set of longstanding NOAA capabilities with proven success. The climate research, observations, modeling, predictions and assessments generated by NOAA's top scientists – including Nobel Peace Prize award-winners – will continue to provide the scientific foundation for extensive on-the-ground climate services that respond to several requests each day for data and other critical information.

The Climate Service website offers background materials relating to NOAA's plans as well as background materials that will help explain the internal and external input that led to the Climate Service's creation. You can view the website at: <http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html>.

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## **New USGS Findings on Contaminant Transport to Public-Supply Wells**

New USGS groundwater studies explain what, when, and how contaminants may reach public-supply wells. All wells are not equally vulnerable to contamination because of differences in three factors: the general chemistry of the aquifer, groundwater age, and direct paths within aquifer systems that allow water and contaminants to reach a well. The USGS tracked the movement of contaminants in groundwater and in public-supply wells in four aquifers in California, Connecticut, Nebraska and Florida. The importance of each factor differs among the various aquifer settings, depending upon natural geology and local aquifer conditions, as well as human activities related to land use and well construction and operation. Findings in the four different aquifer systems can be applied to similar aquifer settings and wells throughout the Nation.

Learn more about public-supply well vulnerability from USGS fact sheets and video podcast on our website: <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/tanc/NAWQATANC.htm>

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## **University of Washington Certificate in Urban Green Infrastructure**

**Discover** how strengthening a city's green infrastructure network increases community health and ecological resilience. **Learn** to recognize, measure, and apply ecosystem services in an urban environment. **Explore** humanity's evolving relationship to nature via emerging theories of landscape performance. **Develop** integrated and elegant solutions to the complex infrastructural challenges of contemporary cities.

The University of Washington's new Certificate Program in Urban Green Infrastructure is a partnership of the College of Built Environment's Landscape Architecture Department and UW Extension. It will be offered online starting in the spring quarter of 2010 and is made up of two 5-credit lecture/studio hybrid courses:

**L ARCH 481/581: Planning Urban Green Infrastructure Networks**

**L ARCH 482/582: Designing High Performance Landscapes**

Interested? Please visit [www.extension.washington.edu/ext/certificates/ugi/ugi\\_crs.asp](http://www.extension.washington.edu/ext/certificates/ugi/ugi_crs.asp) to learn more and apply online.

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## FMAC Merges to form FMIX

As of March 1, 2010, the Map Service Center (MSC) call center and the FEMA Map Assistance Center (FMAC) consolidated to increase efficiency as it will provide a one-stop shop for a variety of information, products, services and tools that support the NFIP. In parallel the now joined center has been given a new name - FEMA Map Information eXchange, or FMIX.

The toll-free number currently used by FMAC, 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627), should be used instead of the MSC call center number (1-800-358-9616). The MSC call center number is currently active, but will be discontinued later this year.

Effective immediately, new Post-Preliminary correspondences should be prepared to refer to the FMAC as FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) and replace any reference to the MSC call center or toll-free number (1-800-358-9616). Please note, there is no requirement to change any letters already generated and in process.

These changes do affect but are not limited to the following documents that reference contact information for either the FMAC or the MSC call center:

- FIRM panel (including Index)
- FIS report
- Preliminary letter
- Preliminary fact sheet
- Revised preliminary letter
- 116 letter
- 90-day start letter
- Web newspaper notice
- Appeals/protests letter
- LFD letter (including rescissions)
- 179 letters
- Revalidation letters 1 and 2

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

### Here's Something You Might Find Interesting . . .

For many years FEMA has stated that the flood-resistant provisions of the International Code Series (I-Codes) that deal with building and structures are consistent with the NFIP\*. That's a significant statement because the majority of communities enforce these codes, which often are adopted at the State level.

Having the flood provisions in the codes is advantageous, but also presents some challenges. Perhaps the biggest challenge is coordinating with local floodplain management ordinances that more than 21,000

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\* FEMA makes the same statement about the *Building Construction and Safety Code* (NFPA 5000) published by the National Fire Protection Association.

communities have adopted in order to participate in the NFIP. Most of those communities have what is sometimes called a “stand-alone” ordinance or regulation – it includes every single NFIP provision. But the reality is the codes have flood provisions (unless those provisions have been deleted at the State level). So it makes sense that floodplain managers better understand the scope of the codes, limitations of the codes, and how best to coordinate the codes with local ordinances. This is particularly important if the floodplain management ordinance is administered in an office other than the building department.

When we say “building code,” we’re really referring to a family of codes that includes the building code that applies to what floodplain managers call non-residential buildings (sometimes call the commercial code), the residential code (1- and 2-family homes and townhomes), the existing building code, codes that specifically address mechanical, plumbing, and fuel gas systems, and the fire code. Some States and communities adopt all of those codes, while some adopt some of them.

Not surprisingly, the building codes apply only to buildings and structures within the scopes of the codes. Of course, the NFIP requires communities to regulate all development, including activities that do not involve buildings. This means enforcing just the building codes does not fully satisfy the NFIP requirements. If IBC Appendix G is adopted, then all NFIP requirements are addressed because it picks up administrative provisions and non-building development. Some States have adopted Appendix G or make it available for local adoption.

There are a number of advantages to having flood provisions in the codes:

- All hazard-related requirements are in one place – all loads are considered when engineers and architects prepare designs.
- Multiple inspections strengthens enforcement (many planning offices don’t regularly perform field inspections). The codes require submission of elevation data upon placement of the lowest floor and prior to further vertical construction.
- Codes require permits for work on existing buildings (planning offices rarely get involved when work is proposed on existing buildings).
- Damaged buildings – code officials are best qualified to deal with damaged buildings, whether conducting the initial safety inspection (red tag, green tag, yellow tag) or looking at permit applications for repairs and making substantial damage determinations.

Having the flood provisions in the codes also presents a few challenges:

- Dealing with differences – potential for conflict between your floodplain management ordinance and the codes – although the most restrictive prevails always applies.
- Codes only apply to buildings and structures – thus an ordinance is necessary to capture some NFIP-required administrative provisions and requirement that apply to all other development (unless IBC Appendix G, mentioned above, is enforced).
- Codes exempt certain activities – an ordinance is necessary to recapture those activities.
- Some States allow local amendments to the codes, while others do not. This can make it harder to adopt higher floodplain management standards that apply to buildings, such as freeboard. Some states have modified the codes to include freeboard and some states specifically allow communities to add freeboard.

Building codes come into play after decisions have been made about what to build and where to build it. Thus, codes are not the mechanism that helps communities to guide development to less hazard prone

areas. That objective is best accomplished with various planning and zoning tools. But once the decision to build in a flood hazard area has been made, then the codes govern.

So, what should you do with this information? The first step might be to get together all community staff members who are involved in regulating development and administering building codes. Then do a side-by-side comparison of your ordinance, the NFIP regulations, and the codes to determine who is responsible for what. A worksheet to help do this, and a crosswalk of the NFIP provisions and the code sections, is included in *Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes®: Meeting the Requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program* (order hardcopy from the International Code Council, [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org) or download from FEMA's webpage).

FEMA has been spreading the word about the flood provisions in I-Codes through a series of workshops that are being delivered in all 10 FEMA Regions and have been attended by many State NFIP Coordinators. For more information about these workshops, contact John Ingargiola with FEMA's Building Science Branch ([john.ingargiola@dhs.gov](mailto:john.ingargiola@dhs.gov)).

I'll leave it for another column to highlight some of the differences between the NFIP requirements and the codes and ASCE 24, a standard that is referenced by the codes. (You can find "Highlights of ASCE 24" at [www.floods.org/PDF/ASCE24\\_Highlights\\_1008.pdf](http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASCE24_Highlights_1008.pdf).)

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## Washington Legislative Report

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



### A Three-Ring Circus in Washington D.C. and on Capitol Hill

Activity on the Hill involving issues of interest to floodplain managers has been proceeding in many arenas, seemingly all at once. The continued authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was caught up in much bigger picture political maneuvering and its authorization beyond March 28 continues to require attention. Hearings on Fiscal Year 2011 budget requests for the various departments and agencies are proceeding rapidly in both appropriations and authorizing committees and in both the House and Senate – often overlapping. Hearings on disaster policy, needed changes to the Stafford Act, implementation of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA '07), and federal insurance for catastrophic losses are moving forward in preparation for legislation. ASFPM presented testimony on the Conference of Mayors Report on the Stafford Act and related recommendations for Stafford Act revisions.

The ASFPM has been actively engaged in discussions on Capitol Hill, in federal agencies and with partner organizations on the new Principles and Standards (P & S) for water resources programs, on extending the comment period for the P & S, on the work of the National Committee on Levee Safety (NCLS) and its legislative recommendations, and on the problems and opportunities associated with the levee status/flood map issues – to name a number of the issues requiring attention.

Much of this was taking place in the midst of major snow accumulations which delayed action on some matters and forced multiple postponements and rescheduling of hearings and meetings. With the federal

government actually closed for four days, and many other days with delayed start times and early closings, the subsequent catching up contributed to the atmosphere of a three-ring circus.

### **NFIP Status**

First and foremost in terms of immediacy has been the need for legislative action to reauthorize the NFIP. At present, after actually expiring for two days (March 1 and 2), the program has been reauthorized until March 28<sup>th</sup>. Legislation is under consideration on the Senate floor which would retroactively cover the two day hiatus and extend NFIP authorization to December 31, 2010.

The Senate finally passed a package of extensions of programs expiring on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the NFIP among them, H.R. 4691. The package also included unemployment insurance and highway programs among others and had been held up on the Senate floor by Senator Bunning (R-KY) who wanted to assure a budgetary offset for the cost of the extensions. Although the Senate leadership had offered to allow him to offer an amendment to accomplish this, he said this was a “phony” offer because he was certain his amendment would fail. Eventually he agreed to a new version of this offer which would permit him to offer other such amendments in the future. His amendment failed and the bill was passed on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, ending the two day hiatus in program authorities.

#### New extension of authority to December 31

An amendment restoring NFIP authority for the two lapsed days was accepted on a bill currently under consideration on the Senate floor which would extend a number of tax provisions (H.R. 4213). That bill also includes a further NFIP extension to December 31, 2010. The bill was on the floor March 4 and 5 and is scheduled for continued consideration during the week of March 8. Although the base form of the bill already passed the House, Senate changes would have to be accepted by the House.

### **NFIP Reform**

It seems unlikely that serious Congressional action will be taken on NFIP reform legislation this year. Signals from the Senate Banking Committee indicate that the committee’s full platter will not permit taking up flood insurance reform during this session, which is likely to be shorter due to November elections. The House Financial Services Committee, however, is likely to schedule a hearing in May which could consider some aspects of flood insurance reform.

Particularly problematic issues for the Congress are those associated with issuance of updated flood maps, de-accreditation of levees, expiring Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) agreements, and associated requirements for purchase of flood insurance. The issue is raised in a variety of hearings and discussions on Capitol Hill, including hearings on Corps of Engineers for example. A number of bills have been introduced to delay issuance of maps. A Levee Caucus to focus on both levee and mapping issues has been formed in the House of Representatives, co-chaired by Rep. Jerry Costello (D-IL) and Rep. Rodney Alexander (R-LA).

### **Catastrophe Insurance**

H.R. 2555, the Homeowners Defense Act, introduced by Rep. Ron Klein (D-FL) would provide a federal back-up for state catastrophe funds. This is a revised version of similar legislation considered in the last Congress. The House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing on the bill March 10<sup>th</sup>. Testimony will be heard from James Lee Witt, the National Association of Realtors, and Taxpayers for Common Sense among others. A coalition of groups largely made up of reinsurance interests and environmental interests, the SmarterSafer.org Coalition, is strongly opposed to this legislation. ASFPM

will submit a letter to the committee expressing that the measure needs to include sufficient provisions to encourage hazard mitigation.

## **Mitigation**

### Stafford Act and Conference of Mayors Report

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing on the recently released Conference of Mayors Report on the Stafford Act and recommended revisions to the Stafford Act. Chad Berginnis, former ASFPM Chair and current ASFPM Mitigation POD leader, testified for the Association on a panel with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). Another panel included Mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans, co-author of the report, Mayor Franklin Cownie of Des Moines, Iowa and Mayor Robert J. Duffy of Rochester, New York.

ASFPM's testimony complimented the Mayors Report for a number of points made including recognition of the importance of integrating mitigation early in the response-recovery time frame. The testimony did question two points in particular – a recommendation to bypass states to deal directly with FEMA in order to streamline assistance and a recommendation to allow 100% federal funding in certain situation. The ASFPM testimony offered several recommendations previously submitted to Congressional committees which supported and built upon recommendations of the Mayors Report. Of note were recommendations to provide for reimbursement through Public Assistance of inspectors and permitting officials from other jurisdictions and the recommendation that FEMA act on its authority to delegate authority to manage Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance to capable states. The ASFPM testimony is available on our website at: [www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=334&firstlevelmenuID=187&siteID=1#Testimony](http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=334&firstlevelmenuID=187&siteID=1#Testimony) under the 'ASFPM Testimony' section. Testimony of others testifying can be found by going to <http://thomas.loc.gov>, clicking on House of Representatives, then on Committees, then on Transportation and Infrastructure and then on March 4 hearings.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reported out a bill, H.R. 3377, last year which makes revisions to the Stafford Act. Subcommittee Chairman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) indicated that the Subcommittee wanted to consider other recommendations before taking the bill to the House floor. It is likely that a Chairman's amendment will be offered when the bill is taken up on the floor soon.

### Amendment to Tax bill – Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Households

Senator George LeMieux (R-FL) will offer an amendment to H.R. 4213, the tax provision extender currently under consideration on the Senate floor, to increase assistance for pre-disaster mitigation home improvements for low income households to \$8,500 from \$6,500.

### Mitigation and Home Star Energy legislation

The Administration has proposed energy efficiency legislation known as "Home Star", but the SmarterSafer.org Coalition is calling attention to the need to include more disaster resilience (mitigation) measures. While reinsurance interests, environmental groups and others have complimented the Administration for its weatherization and energy efficiency efforts, they stress the need to include not only energy retrofits, but hazard mitigation. Hearing on the Home Star proposals will be held in House and Senate energy committees during the week of March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Other Mitigation bills

Other mitigation bills mentioned in recent issues of "News & Views" and "Insider" are still pending consideration with no action scheduled at the present time.

## **Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations**

Subcommittees of both the House and Senate Appropriations committees are in the midst of a packed schedule of hearings to consider department and agency budget requests for FY '11.

In the past two weeks, hearings have been held in House Appropriations subcommittees on the Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency and U. S. Forest Service budget requests. A hearing on the Department of Homeland Security request has been held in the Senate Appropriations subcommittee.

In the coming week (week of March 8<sup>th</sup>), the House Appropriations Interior and Environment Subcommittee will hold hearings on budget requests for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Both the USGS and Fish and Wildlife Services requests include increased funding for climate change adaptation. The USGS request also includes an increase for improved water management, assessment of availability and use of water and consideration of effects of infrastructure aging, population changes, groundwater issues and climate variation. The Homeland Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's budget request. The Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing with Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano, but does not intend to hold a hearing specifically on the FEMA budget request. The Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee will hold its hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers budget request.

All legislation referenced can be found by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

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## **WWW.FLOODS.ORG Corner**

*Over the course of the year, ASFPM will be “showcasing” new features and options available on the ASFPM website. If you have something you'd like us to share, please contact Kait Laufenberg at [Kait@floods.org](mailto:Kait@floods.org).*

### **Event Calendar**

The ASFPM website now has a new event calendar that is more comprehensive and useful than the previous event listings appearing in our newsletters and online. To access the calendar, go to [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) scroll down the main page just below the menu on the left side of the page. You'll see an Upcoming Events button showing the most current events posted for the current week or month. If you click on the title of the button “Upcoming Events” it will take you to a calendar you can flip through by month to see upcoming training, conferences, and ASFPM events. All events, except EMI courses have the location's state initials listed in parenthesis in the title of the event for easy reading.

- *Tip #1:* If you go to the month to month calendar and click on the drop down menu at the top of the calendar, you view All Categories or you can sort the events by type: ASFPM Conferences, ASFPM Events, Chapter Conferences, CFM Exam, Conferences, Training.
- *Tip #2:* If you use the Keyword Search field at the top of the page and type in a state's initials in parenthesis, for example, “(WI)” into the keyword search field and click on box next to Calendar to limit results, it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) on the current calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

- *Tip #3:* Chapters, States, Regions, and Agency Partners may send upcoming event listings to ASFPM and we will post them on our Event Calendar at no cost. All postings subject to ASFPM approval.
- *Tip #4:* Chapters lacking the time and resources to maintain a calendar on their websites, can link directly the ASFPM Event Calendar page from their website for members to search for scheduled events.

If you know of an event that is not listed, but should be on our Event Calendar page, please send it to [Kait@floods.org](mailto:Kait@floods.org) to have it posted. Please allow 2-3 weeks lead time for posting prior to the event.

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## **CFM® Corner**

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

### **CFMs- View your submitted CECs online**

ASFPM is continuing to add enhancements for our ASFPM members who are CFMs. CFMs who are current individual members can log on to the members website and view their certification file for continuing education credits (CECs). This site shows how many CECs the person has earned, in what year the CECs were earned, and the type of CECs (Core or Parallel). If you have problems logging on or have questions about your CECs, contact Anita at [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org)

### **Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) meeting**

This month CBOR is coming to Madison for their spring 2 day meeting. The major topic for this meeting will be the preliminary results of the Reliability and Validity Testing conducted on the ASFPM Certification Program. More information about this testing will be shared at a later date.

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*The following article was submitted by a CFM for your information:*

### **Training On-line for CFM Continuing Education Credits (CECs)**

It is that time of year that most folks start to budget for their re-certification training. Most find that attending the annual conference is the best way to meet their yearly ASFPM CFM training. For those on restricted time and dollars, on-line training might be the perfect solution. Since 2007, I have completed 11 on-line courses for a total of 34 credit hours. The makeup has been five 2 hour courses; two 3-hour courses; and one each of the 1-hour, 4-hour, 5-hour, and 8-hour type. The cost for the 2-hour type and the 4 or 5-hour types are very affordable options compared to attending the annual conference. Downloading the material and reading takes about two hours and exam questions take about one to three hours, depending on the material. The materials for the courses I took were set up to be able to do it in increments (I did most in 30-60 minute sessions).

Again, for those that have limits, on-line training can be completed with allocation of \$400-600 per year and 8-12 hours of time per year at your computer. If you haven't checked out ASFPM's new website, I strongly encourage you to log on and check out all the training opportunities that are there. Just go to <http://www.floods.org>. If you have any questions on the acceptance of a course, Anita Larson at

[cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) has been a great source for all of my questions. If you have any additional questions on my training experiences, please feel free to contact me.

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For more information on approved online training for CECs, go to the following links:

[FEMA Online Training Courses](#)  
[RedVector Online Training Courses](#)

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## News from Chapters

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

### New ASFPM Chapter!

Please join us in welcoming Nebraska as the 29th ASFPM Chapter! The ASFPM Board approved the addition of the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NeFSMA) as the 29th ASFPM Chapter at their board retreat in February. NeFSMA is the second ASFPM chapter in Region VII. Visit NeFSMA at their [website](#) and on their [blog](#).

### Chapter Conferences

Conference season has arrived! Chapters are holding their spring conferences and workshops – check the [ASFPM Event Calendar](#) to see what’s coming soon near you. Chapter conferences and workshops provide excellent opportunities for continuing education, networking, and professional development. Don’t miss out! You do not have to be a chapter member to attend, but registration is usually discounted for chapter members.

### Chapter Meeting at 2010 ASFPM National Conference

The 2010 Chapter Meeting held at the ASFPM National Conference in Oklahoma City, OK has been scheduled. The Chapter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19th from 1:00pm – 3:30pm, at the Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City. All chapter members are welcome to attend the meeting. Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs are strongly encouraged to attend. Please send your agenda items to your chapter board; chapter board members can submit agenda items to [Kait Laufenberg](#), Training & Chapter Coordinator. Hope to see you in Oklahoma City!

### “All Chapters” Call

At the 2009 Chapter Meeting in Orlando, we received requests to create a forum for chapters to share operations and administration resources, practices, and information amongst each other. ASFPM offered to facilitate an “All Chapters” Call with agenda items submitted by the chapters. The first “All Chapters” Call in January was a success. The call had nearly 60 participants from 17 of the ASFPM Chapters. Due to the nature of the agenda and limit to available call-in lines, the “All Chapters” call is limited to Chapter Board Members and Committee Chairs. The next “All Chapters” Call is scheduled for March 18th, at 1pm Central Time. If you are on your Chapter Board or are a Chapter Committee Chair and have not received your notice, contact [Kait Laufenberg](#), Training & Chapter Coordinator.

## **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 a third of our chapters are not Federal Tax-Exempt organizations, and two-thirds 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 sales / use 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](#)

[To find out about applying for State Tax-Exempt Status](#)

The 2008 tax year brought about a new Federal Income Tax requirement. Previously, organizations with Federal Income Tax-Exempt 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 Federal Tax-Exempt organizations must file a Form 990 (or if they qualify, a 990 e-postcard). To find out more about these new rules click [here](#).

### **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. ASFPM recommends that chapters consult an experienced nonprofit accountant or tax-professional in their state about their chapter's specific tax situation. If you have questions or are in need of assistance, please contact [Kait Laufenberg](#), Training & Chapter Coordinator.

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## Floodplain Management Training Calendar

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

<b>March 23 – 25, 2010</b>	GAFM Annual Conference, Lake Lanier Islands, GA	<a href="#">Georgia Association of Floodplain Managers</a>
<b>April 7 – 9, 2010</b>	MFSMA Annual Conference, Osage Beach, MO	<a href="#">Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association</a>
<b>April 11 – 14, 2010</b>	NCAFFM Annual Conference, Wrightsville Beach, NC	<a href="#">North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers</a>
<b>April 11 – 14, 2010</b>	National Flood Conference, San Diego, CA	<a href="#">View Conference Website</a>
<b>April 19 – 22, 2010</b>	KAMM Annual Conference, Lake Barkley, KY	<a href="#">Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers</a>
<b>April 27, 2010</b>	RIFMA Annual Conference, Warwick, RI	<a href="#">Rhode Island Floodplain Management Association</a>
<b>April 28 - 30, 2010</b>	AFMM Annual Conference, Gulfport, MS	<a href="#">Association of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi</a>
<b>April 28 -30, 2010</b>	LFMA Annual Conference, Shreveport, LA	<a href="#">Louisiana Floodplain Management Association</a>
<b>April 29 – 30, 2010</b>	AFMA Spring Workshop, Jacksonville, AR	<a href="#">Arkansas Floodplain Management Association</a>
<b>May 5 – 7, 2010</b>	AZFMA Conference, Wickenburg, AZ	<a href="#">Arizona Floodplain Management Association</a>
<b>May 16 – 21, 2010</b>	ASFPM 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	<a href="#">Association of State Floodplain Managers</a>

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## **Job Corner**

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

### **Water Resources Engineer**

ESP Associates, P.A.

This position is located in our Raleigh NC office. BS in Civil Engineering or related engineering degree and PE eligibility are required; 3-6 years experience in water resources. Demonstrated knowledge of hydrologic and hydraulics analysis, stormwater management, and water quality modeling is required. FEMA flood studies, floodplain analysis and hazards analysis experience preferred. Experience in performing surface water analysis using HEC-1, HEC-2, HEC-HMS, HEC-RAS, Geo-RAS, Geo-HMS and experience with ESRI ArcGIS 9.x software is highly preferred. Strong written and verbal communication skills needed. Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications Word and Excel required and experience with Access, PowerPoint, Project and Visio preferred.

To apply for this position, please go to our website at <http://www.espassociates.com/> and click on "Join the Team"

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### **Louisiana Water Resources Manager**

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Job Description: Individual will lead water related programs in Louisiana and be primary interface for COE projects with the COE-New Orleans, LA DNR and with other teaming alliance partners. Individual will serve as Project Manager on various projects and serve as Baker liaison with COE-New Orleans and teaming partners from technical standpoint.

Qualifications: Requirements include a BSCE from ABET accredited university (specialization in Water Resources or Coastal Engineering helpful), PE license, and a minimum of 10 years of design engineering experience with COE Civil Works Programs. Emphasis on hydraulic structures, pumping stations and other Civil Engineering and Water Resources Projects in Louisiana and Gulf Coast. MS Office Suite and Scheduling experience desired. Coastal Engineering, Marine Waterfront, Water Resources, and H&H skills desired.

This position will be located in Baton Rouge, LA. To apply visit <http://www.mbakercorp.com/>; or e-mail Anne Wilkinson at [awilkinson@mbakercorp.com](mailto:awilkinson@mbakercorp.com).

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### **Chief Building Official / Floodplain Administrator**

City of Baytown, Texas

Job Description: This is an exciting and rewarding public service position with excellent benefits and retirement plan. We are looking for someone who will take pride in having a positive impact on the community we serve, its citizens, businesses and visitors. This is your opportunity to be part of a great team.

Leads the Building Services Division and is an integral team player in community building. Administers the City's floodplain program. Supervises subordinate inspectors. Provides outstanding customer service

while protecting the health, safety and welfare of the community. Provides outstanding and creative leadership to the substandard buildings programs. Reports to Department Director.

Required Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in construction management, business administration or related field from an accredited college or university.
2. Five years progressive experience as the professional responsible for the work (as an architect, engineer, inspector, building contractor, or plans reviewer).
3. Supervisory and management experience as a director, assistant director or equivalent in the private sector.
4. Valid Texas driver's license with acceptable driving record.
5. Certified Building Official through ICC.
6. Working knowledge of the International Building Codes, National Electric Codes, etc.
7. Certified Floodplain Administrator.

For more information or to apply for this position visit <http://www.baytown.org>.