

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

It is a very busy time around the Executive Office as staff are working on 2011 Membership Renewals and the 2011 National ASFPM Conference being held at the Galt House Hotel and Suites in Louisville, Kentucky. You can find the hotel's telephone number and other important conference information at: [View Conference Webpage](#).

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) 2011 Membership Renewal forms were sent in the mail last week. **Again, this year we are pleased to announce the availability of Online Membership Renewal as an alternative renewal process for Individual Members.** Individual Members can either fill out the 2011 Membership Renewal Form and return it with payment to the ASFPM Executive Office as you have done in the past, or you can log on to the Member Section of the ASFPM website and renew online with a credit card by going to www.floods.org and clicking on the "Member Login" link at the top of the page. If you have any questions about the renewal form or how to renew your membership online, please contact the ASFPM Executive Office at memberhelp@floods.org.

ASFPM continues to experience growth in membership and partners. The benefits of being a member or partner of ASFPM are many. Probably the most important benefit is the opportunity to provide input to national leaders on issues important to you, your community, State, agency, or company. You can find a complete listing of Member/Partner benefits on-line at: http://www.floods.org/pdf/members_services_summary.pdf.

Our members and partners are the foundation of the Association. The time and work our members put forth to the Boards, Committees, Work Groups, etc. makes the Association successful and strong. ASFPM sincerely appreciates your membership and hopes that you plan to renew in 2011. Thanks!

ASFPM recently hosted a Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) Workshop Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, on September 14-16, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how FEMA and the states can work together to continue to improve this program. Everyone acknowledged that assisting 21,000 plus communities understand and comply with the NFIP will require FEMA to actively enlist the states in this effort and to build state capability. The Workshop consisted of ten State Floodplain Managers, one representing each of FEMA's Regions, along with FEMA representatives from the FEMA Regions and FEMA National.

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Lastly, we are sad to report that Katie Matson has resigned as the Certification Program Assistant in order to go back to college and finish her degree. Many of you have worked with Katie concerning your Certification. We will miss Katie and we wish her the best. Please welcome our new CFM Program Assistant, Nancy Dunham, who will join us on November 9. Please continue to use the email address cfm@floods.org to conduct your certification business.

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ASFPM 2011 Conference Update

We would like to say a big “thank you” to all of you who submitted your presentation and workshop proposals in time for the October 31 deadline. We received over 300 submittals! Of course, with limited room in the program for presentations, the Program Team, led by Steve McMaster, is going to have a lot of work to do over the next couple of months. We will be informing selected presenters of their placement in the program no later than December 31.



We are also now accepting sponsorship commitments for the conference. This is an excellent opportunity for your agency or corporation to engage our nearly 1,300 conference participants and get your products and services showcased to decision makers from all levels of government. The sponsorship forms are available for download from the conference page at www.floods.org.

Have you made your hotel reservation yet? If not, we recommend you do so as soon as possible. There’s still plenty of availability at the Galt House, but we urge you to not delay. The direct link to make your reservations online, which is the best way to ensure you end up in the ASFPM room block, can be found on the conference web page.

Additionally, and new this year, a Collegiate Student Paper Competition will be part of the conference program. ASFPM hopes this competition will encourage college students to engage in floodplain management topics and to identify talented individuals with the potential to make a lasting contribution to the body of knowledge of floodplain management. Students are encouraged to submit abstracts by December 1, 2010, on subjects relating to floodplain or stormwater management. From the abstracts that are received, three will be selected and the students will present their papers at the conference. Scholarships will be awarded to the top three finalists. For more information and competition criteria, go to: www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=670.

If you have any questions, please contact conference planner Chad Ross at ross@floods.org.

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ASFPM Administrative Grandfathering White Paper

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) recently developed a white paper which was adopted by the ASFPM Board of Directors. This white paper is in regard to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) flood insurance rating method for properties affected by flood map changes – “Administrative Grandfathering.” This white paper summarizes several concerns with the current “Administrative Grandfathering” rating method and offers recommendations on how they might be addressed. The white paper is posted at: [View Paper](#)

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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 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 full time 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 four (4) signed copies of 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 must be mailed to: Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Review Committee, c/o Green International Affiliates, Inc., 239 Littleton Road, Suite 3, Westford, Massachusetts 01886, Attn: Peter A. Richardson, P.E., CFM.

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A Journey to a Better Water Future

USACE Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Future

Water, it is often said, is life itself. Yet we tend not to think about it until we have too much of it, or not enough. Farmers fret when droughts deplete the water to irrigate crops. Seamen worry about the increasing incidence of storms with 15-foot waves crashing against their vessels. Naturalists decry the harm done to species during fires and floods. City planners worry if enough water will be available for both city centers and new neighborhoods.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers became concerned enough about the future of water – its availability and quality both above and below ground – to facilitate a two-year effort to bring water resources stakeholders together to consider what are the water and its related infrastructure needs and what needs to be done to ensure that water is available for cities, states, and the nation as a whole to serve flood and storm damage reduction, navigation, water supply, recreation, and environmental needs.

The project, *Building Strong Collaborative Relationships for a Sustainable Water Future*, began in 2007 out of a desire to bring interested parties together to consider approaches to ensure that States and Tribes address their current and future needs. Federal water management agencies, Native American Tribes, interstate organizations dedicated to regional water resources management, and a variety of non-governmental organizations participated to identify water resources needs facing the Nation and potential means for meeting those needs.

The national report produced by this project, “Responding to National Water Resources Challenges,” was released in August 2010 (see www.building-collaboration-for-water.org). One of the conclusions reported is that water planning and management policies among the states reflect a potpourri of approaches, often arising from specific geographic, historical, and cultural factors. However, a common finding was the desire for more comprehensive water planning and the extent of integrated water resources management that is now going on. It also identified eight overarching themes that represent a wide spectrum of interests, needs, and opportunities for improved water management in America

It represents, however, only the first phase of a journey aimed at improving water management. Tackling these needs will require the collaboration of an even wider spectrum of interested stakeholders. Helping the States address their pressing and future water needs in a time of tight budgets will require collaboration, creative thinking and unified aims.

Mr. Steven Stockton, Director of Civil Works for the Corps, expressed the approach his agency intends to take with regard to water, “If you can do it we can help.” Such help will take the form of enhanced, more comprehensive, and more accessible information within the Federal sector, including baseline conditions about the state of water resources today; aligned authorities and programs to leverage Federal assets for the benefit of States, watershed-scale initiatives to pull resources together for regional impacts; and a tightened and dedicated network of water professionals to lend assistance, expertise, insights, and creativity to the task at hand: *securing a more reliable water future*. Most important, he said, a sustainable water resources future can only be realized through a true and transparent intergovernmental partnership.

If it is true that there is greater security in numbers, then the contribution of many committed and knowledgeable water resources managers and beneficiaries will illuminate a pathway to a more secure water future for America. One of the roles of the Federal government is that of providing access to information through a common data hub – the Federal Support Toolbox – that will go far toward building a knowledge base and a community of practice capable of spurring efforts, identifying creative approaches, breeding innovation, establishing watershed-based test beds for new and better ideas, and finding common ground stable enough to support joint projects and budgets to secure America’s water future.

The water challenges facing the Nation are compelling and the needs are great. Resolving water issues successfully will take time, funding and commitment by decision makers and stakeholders at all levels of government. To succeed, all involved parties must act with a sense of urgency to improve the management of critical water resources-especially in an era where population growth and shifts, climate change and other factors threaten the sustainability of all natural resources. The time to act is now.

The second phase of the initiative will bring participants together to work on an implementation plan that will move to action the many recommendations and actions presented in the report, and hopefully set a future direction that embraces water and its related infrastructure as a critical priority for the Nations’ welfare.

The journey that started in 2007 continues. It must continue. But the desired goal cannot be achieved alone. Based upon the inputs and momentum created through the initiative, the building blocks for a powerful collaboration are in place to propel the initiative forward to create a more secure water future for the States, Tribes, and the nation as a whole. The Corps offers its motto, “Essayons!” – “Let us try” -- in the spirit of pulling together people to craft a vision of a safe, secure, and sustainable water future.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Ms. Ada Benavides, project manager and lead for the initiative, at ada.benavides@usace.army.mil or (202) 461-0415.

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FEMA Updates

Mike Grimm Detailed as Senior Policy Advisor, Mitigation

On November 3, FEMA announced that Mike Grimm is being detailed (effective November 8) on special assignment as Senior Policy Advisor to the Office of the Deputy Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administrator, Mitigation. In this position, Mike will provide executive leadership and expert policy advice in the development and execution of high level policy initiatives. He will continue to lead the National Flood Insurance Program reform, provide senior leadership in national water policy initiatives, and provide programmatic policy guidance advancing sustainable and resilient communities.

New Scientific Resolution Process For Flood Mapping

On November 1, FEMA announced a new Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process to strengthen their commitment to using the most reliable science and data to determine flood hazards for communities across the nation. FEMA regularly updates Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in coordination with local communities to ensure they reflect the best available flood hazard data. FEMA works with communities to develop updated maps and allows communities to submit conflicting scientific or technical data during a regulatory appeal period. Routinely, FEMA and the community work together to come to a resolution. However, now when a resolution cannot be reached, an independent panel of experts may be convened to review the data and provide a recommendation to resolve the dispute.

As part of this, interested individuals can become pre-qualified to serve as an expert as the need arises. If you are interested in serving on one of these panels, go to <http://floodsrp.org/> and click on the Apply tab to view the necessary qualifications and to apply online.

For more information on this process and to view the full press release, go to:

http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=53147&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

FEMA Technical Bulletin 4

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently released Technical Bulletin #4 in July 2010 regarding “Elevator Installation for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program.” This Technical Bulletin provides information on the proper installation of elevators in SFHAs to reduce flood damages. The Technical Bulletin is posted at: [View Bulletin](#)

FEMA Develops Coastal Barrier Resources Act Fact Sheet

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed a fact sheet on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA). CBRA serves to protect coastal areas that act as barriers against wind and tidal forces caused by coastal storms and provide habitat for aquatic species. The fact sheet outlines the responsibilities and restrictions that various programs within FEMA have under CBRA. The fact sheet is available online at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3818>.

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Overcoming Myopia: Lessons from Catastrophic Disasters

By: Howard C. Kunreuther and Erwann O. Michel-Kerjan

The 2010 oil spill on the Gulf Coast is just the latest disaster that highlights a general problem: Decision makers often regard catastrophic events as below their threshold of concern until they occur. This seems to be true for all decision makers – business professionals, homeowners and public officials in charge of minimizing disaster damage. Read the questions below, and ask yourself if you would really, truly answer them differently:

Q: Could my company be responsible for a mishap that would have major enduring social, economic and environmental impact?

A: *It's not going to happen to us!*

Q: Would I have the financial resources to rebuild my house after a hurricane?

A: *The government would bail me out.*

Q: Could a cyberattack paralyze our infrastructure for several days?

A: *Science fiction!*

Accordingly, oil companies underinvest in measures to decrease the likelihood of a major spill as well as in ways to limit the damage if one does occur. Many property owners decide to buy flood insurance only after their houses are under water – and then cancel them a few years later if they haven't experienced further damage. Public officials won't burn political capital by imposing costly, but economically justifiable, regulations on bank exposure to financial risk in advance of a crisis because they don't see how it would help them get re-elected. Yet as the economy becomes larger, more complex and arguably more vulnerable to a wide variety of catastrophes, the potential consequences of such myopic behavior grow. Not addressing them will simply make the impact of future events more devastating.

Keep reading the full article at:

http://opim.wharton.upenn.edu/risk/library/J2010Milken_OvercomingMyopia.pdf

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Members Provide Feedback About Our Services

ASFPM conducted an online survey this fall, asking members to answer a few questions about our services and delivery methods. The only way we can meet your needs is to know what they are! We were very pleased with the response to our request for feedback; in fact, we more than doubled the usual national percentage for such efforts! A full report will appear in the January Insider after we can make a more thorough analysis, but in the meantime here are the highlights.

- 60% of the respondents were local and state gov't officials
- 85% are CFMs
- 95% like our current delivery methods for newsletters and member bulletins
- 90% scored our service administration as very good>excellent for information and education in FPM
- 50% have logged into their Member Profile to access member benefits
- Flood Risk Management is Chair Greg Main's priority for his term of office, and this was deemed the most important issue of importance to members, at 78.7%.

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Lake Mead Reaches Historically Low Level

The drought has sent Lake Mead to a low not seen in a lifetime. *The Las Vegas Review – Journal* says the reservoir on the Colorado River has not been down so low since 1937 when it was being filled for the first time behind the newly completed Hoover Dam. Since the drought began on the Colorado River and its tributaries in 1999, the surface of the lake has plunged almost 130 feet. To read the complete article, go to:

http://www.usatoday.com/weather/drought/2010-10-19-lake-mead-drought_n.htm.

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National Wetlands Awards – Call for Nominations

The 2011 National Wetlands Awards nomination process is now open. Since 1989, the National Wetlands Awards have honored more than 150 individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary effort, innovation, and excellence in wetland conservation, research, and education. Recipients are chosen by a selection committee of wetland experts from across the country and honored at a ceremony on Capitol Hill each May. Awards are given in the following six categories: Conservation and Restoration; Education and Outreach; Landowner Stewardship; Science Research; State, Tribal, and Local Program Development; and Wetlands Community Leader. Nomination forms and all supporting materials must be submitted via email to wetlandsawards@eli.org by December 15, 2010. For more information and to download the nomination form, visit the website at <http://www.nationalwetlandsawards.org/>.

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Outreach & Floodplain Education

“What is a Floodplain” course for Grades 7-12

PBS has a new course for 7-12th graders, “What is a Floodplain.” Course materials are available to anyone who wants to teach it. Lesson plans can be found at:

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/science/july-dec10/floodplain_09-24.html

School Bus Driver Flood Safety Training

The Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association (OFMA) has recently released a new training video they developed for School Bus Driver Continuing Education on Flood Safety. You can download the video here on the [OFMA Website](#). The OFMA bus driver education video and other Turn Around Don't Drown (TADD) public service announcements developed by the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) can also be found on the National Weather Service [website](#).

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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 Natural & Beneficial Functions Committee. To find more information on all of our policy committees, please see the committee pages on our website.

The Natural and Beneficial Functions (NBF) Committee has been very busy helping plan a workshop to be conducted by the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) next March in Washington D.C. NBF Committee leadership Dave Carlton and Dave Fowler are very involved in the NFFA, which ASFPM took the lead in establishing about this time last year. It is an affiliation of professional organizations, federal agencies, non-profit groups, and individuals who are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions and resources of floodplains. The invitation-only workshop will gather experts in the field to share information and develop techniques, to include: document how state and federal agencies monitor and assess the natural functions and resources of floodplains, examine the strengths and weaknesses of existing approaches, suggest future directions for new models and protocols, identify priority research needs, and further build an alliance of interested entities. See the NBF Committee page under “Features” for an information statement about NFFA and the ongoing activities of the NBF Committee. And of course you can always contact Co-Chairs Dave Carlton (dkcarlton@pbsj.com), Kimberly Bitters (kimberly.bitters@dnr.state.oh.us) or Liaison Dave Fowler (dfowler@mmsd.com).

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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 three of the ten Regional Directors, starting with Regions 2, 4 and 6. Regional 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. Regional Directors of ASFPM must be individual ASFPM members, must reside in the Region in which they are serving, and cannot be federal employees. A person may serve up to three consecutive terms as a Regional Director.

Laura Tessieri, P.E., CFM – Region 2 Director (NJ, NY, PR, VI)



Laura Tessieri grew up on a small family farm in central New Jersey; her father an engineer, her mother a planner. She graduated from Rutgers University with a dual bachelor's degree in Bioresource Engineering. She works at the Delaware River Basin Commission, a federal-interstate agency, as a Water Resource Engineer. Laura enjoys serving as Region 2 Director for ASFPM, representing New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. She is active in the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) and serves as a Past Chair. She is a licensed professional engineer in the State of New Jersey and is a Certified Floodplain Manager. Laura enjoys the outdoors; including hiking, backpacking, canoeing/kayaking and gardening.

Terri Turner, AICP, CFM – Region 4 Director (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)



Although born in Alexandria, VA, the daughter of a career army man, Terri Turner has spent most of her life in or around the Augusta, GA/North Augusta, SC/Aiken, SC area and currently lives in North Augusta, SC, while working in Augusta, GA. Terri has been in planning and floodplain management for the past 16+ years, after coming from a 16 year civil engineering design background. Terri will readily admit to anyone that floodplain management is “her passion”, not just her career and she definitely lives what she preaches. Terri is serving her first term on the Board as Region 4 Director and hopes to further the cause of sound floodplain management in Region 4 during her term. Terri is also the NAI Committee Co-Chair and states that there are a lot of exciting things happening in the field of No Adverse Impact, both now and in the near future! Up until a couple of weeks ago, Terri would have told you that her “loves” were spending time outdoors, especially in her yard, and hitting the road for speaking engagements on NAI. She admits she really has gotten over her shyness as a public speaker and has enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. Last month (10/4/2010), Terri's son and daughter-by-marriage blessed her with a beautiful baby girl, and her very first grandchild. Terri's priorities have changed just a bit..... Terri now adds “spoiling the grandbaby” to her list of “loves” and says she will hopefully be seen often traveling up and down the highways between SC and Baton Rouge, LA!!

Heidi Carlin, CFM – Region 6 Director (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)



After growing up in Vienna, Austria, Heidi Carlin moved to the states and now lives and works in Austin, Texas. She is currently serving her second term as Region 6 Director, and also serves as Co-Chair of ASFPM's Training and Outreach Committee. Heidi was interested in serving on the Board because she wanted to be involved on the front end of important floodplain management decision making processes. Her overarching goal is to educate people on the importance of floodplains, their natural functions, and why you need flood insurance if you choose to build in a high hazard area. She would also like everyone to be aware that it can flood anywhere. Her goal while in office is to serve the members to be best of her abilities and enable everyone to stay informed on new developments in the floodplain management business. We are currently working in a very important time for the NFIP and we need to stay vigilant and active to ensure the next NFIP Reform is a positive experience for all involved. In her free time Heidi enjoys hiking, watching football with her husband, and reading with her kitties on her lap.

Washington Legislative Report

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

Awaiting the Lame-Duck Session and Election Results

The Congress has been in recess since the beginning of October and is set to re-convene for a lame-duck session on November 15th. How much legislative business is conducted during the session and what kind of business is conducted will be largely shaped by the outcome of the November 2nd elections. Estimates of the length of the lame-duck session vary from less than one week to one month. Again, this will significantly relate to election results and associated political calculations.

The primary business of the session will be to deal with appropriations for the federal departments and agencies. Assumptions at present seem to be that if the majority party changes after the election in the House or Senate or both, there may be a push by current leadership to provide appropriations for all of FY 2011 through an omnibus appropriations bill in the lame-duck session. At the same time, Republicans may push to pass another Continuing Resolution until sometime in the spring when Republicans would be in the leadership positions. If there is no change in leadership, either another Continuing Resolution or an omnibus bill could be moved.

Additionally, if the majority party changes, there may be a push on the part of Democrats to act on many pieces of legislation that are near completion. Some of those are: Stafford Act Amendments (H.R. 3377), Liveable Communities Act (S. 1619 and H.R. 4690), reauthorization of Pre-Disaster Mitigation (H.R. 1746, H.R. 3377, S. 3249), Water Resources Development Act (reported out of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on July 29), Multi-Peril Insurance Act (H.R. 1264) and federal reinsurance backstop for state catastrophe funds (H.R. 2555).

For the most recent status of this legislation, please see the October issue of "News & Views" on the ASFPM website. For review of legislation, please go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov>, type in the bill number or name or go to the committee website.

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

Here's Something You Might Find Interesting . . .

It's always interesting to see how some federal programs reinforce each other. Yes, I know, there are plenty of examples that show the opposite, but I'm going to focus on one specific way that three of FEMA's programs actually do reinforce each other in a good way.

The three programs are the National Flood Insurance Program, Mitigation Planning (Sec. 322), and Public Assistance (Sec. 406). The thread I'll use to tie them together is buildings that are eligible for post-disaster assistance for repair, restoration and replacement. The Stafford Act includes a definition of "facilities," a broad term that includes buildings and non-building structures. For the purpose of this article, I'm referring to buildings that are owned by a government ("public facilities") or a nonprofit entity ("private nonprofit facilities").

National Flood Insurance Program. Federal flood insurance policies can be written on any walled and roofed building that is located in a community that participates in the NFIP. The NFIP considers government-owned

buildings and private nonprofit buildings to be nonresidential buildings. This means that the maximum flood insurance coverage available is \$500,000 for the structure and \$500,000 for contents. These are important numbers to keep in mind as we look at how the other two FEMA programs treat these buildings.

Mitigation Planning (Sec. 322). This section of the Stafford Act outlines the mitigation planning requirement. Federal regulations at 44 CFR Part 201 expand considerably on what the law specifies for both state and local mitigation plans. States must have plans to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, and local jurisdictions must have plans to be eligible for HMGP grants to undertake specific projects. Here's how this program is part of what I'm tying together:

- State Mitigation Plans – 44 CFR 201.4(c)(2)(ii) requires, among other things, that “State owned or operated critical facilities located in the identified hazard areas shall also be addressed”. The state plans I've looked at have attempted to identify state-owned facilities that are located in special flood hazard areas. Of course, the quality of the identification depends on having digital flood maps and a good database of geocoding for the actual, physical location of individual buildings.
- Local Mitigation Plans – 44 CFR 201.6(c)(2)(ii)(A) specifies that local plans should describe vulnerability in terms of “The types and numbers of existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities located in the identified hazard areas.” Again, the level of detail for this determination depends on the data, but the communities I've worked with to develop mitigation plans have all been able to do at least an SFHA “in/out” determination for their own buildings.

Public Assistance (Sec. 406). Here's where things get interesting. First, it's a given that post-disaster recovery funds are available for public facilities and private nonprofit facilities that are damaged by an event that is declared a major disaster. However, what's less well-known is that – stay with me here – if those facilities are buildings, if they're located in a mapped special flood hazard area, if they are damaged by flooding, and if those buildings are not insured for flood damage, then there's a significant consequence. How significant is the consequence? I like to describe it as equivalent to having a \$1 million deductible. This is because if one of these buildings is damaged by flooding, FEMA is required to reduce the amount of public assistance that would otherwise be available, by the amount of insurance that would have been payable if it was insured by the NFIP. And because the maximum amount of coverage is \$500,000 structure/\$500,000 contents, this means up to \$1 million of public assistance could be withheld – per building! Below I've copied the specific provision, Sec. 406(d).

Isn't it nice how these three programs tie together? First, we know that public buildings in SFHAs can be insured by the NFIP (some municipal insurance pools may also offer coverage). Second, as part of mitigation planning we should find out whether any public buildings are, in fact, in the SFHA. And third, although not phrased this way, I think we should interpret the Public Assistance provision as an encouragement to do a building-by-building risk assessment. But just because a building is “in” the SFHA isn't sufficient basis for deciding that flood insurance should be purchased for a specific building.

I know that it's easy to simply say that every flood-prone public building should have flood insurance. But especially in these days of tight budgets, it's appropriate that communities first undertake a risk assessment. It is only with this added dimension that an informed decision can be made regarding whether insurance coverage for flood damage should be obtained.

This type of risk assessment is different than what is done for mitigation plans – it is done not by floodplain managers and community planners, although floodplain managers play a key role by providing information. It is done by people who pay attention to municipal insurance and liability. These are the people who decide whether a community's insurance coverage is adequate given risks, and whether purchasing additional coverage is a worthwhile investment.

In this context, a risk assessment looks at the probability of occurrence and the consequences for specific buildings. Thus, once you know buildings are “in” the SFHA, the next step is to examine the situation more closely to estimate the potential damage and likely costs to repair. A building that may experience only a few inches of

water against its foundation during the base flood doesn't have the same vulnerability as one that is exposed to frequent flooding because it is situated closer to the water and several feet below the base flood elevation. And, of course, we all know that buildings with basements are more vulnerable than those without below-grade areas – especially if there's an easy path for the water to actually get inside.

What can floodplain managers do? First, if not already done for your mitigation plan (or if it needs to be refined), pull out your Flood Insurance Rate Maps, get a list of all public buildings, and make that in/out determination. Then, for the buildings that are in the SFHA, determine the Base Flood Elevation and while you're at it, check to see if the Flood Insurance Study has information for the 500-year flood. Next, use the best available information to estimate the ground elevation, which, combined with the BFE gives you an estimate of the depth of water at each building's location. Then go visit your community's risk manager and offer to help with the rest of the risk assessment by estimating the consequences of flooding and the cost to repair if damage were to occur.

And for bonus points, keep in mind that FEMA's mitigation grant program funds can be used to retrofit flood-proof at-risk public buildings. Learn more by calling your State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

Sec. 406 Repair, Restoration, and Replacement of Damaged Facilities (42 U.S.C. 5172)

(d) Flood insurance -

(1) Reduction of Federal assistance - If a public facility or private nonprofit facility located in a special flood hazard area identified for more than 1 year by the Director pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is damaged or destroyed, after the 180th day following November 23, 1988, by flooding in a major disaster and such facility is not covered on the date of such flooding by flood insurance, the Federal assistance which would otherwise be available under this section with respect to repair, restoration, reconstruction, and replacement of such facility and associated expenses shall be reduced in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) Amount of reduction - The amount of a reduction in Federal assistance under this section with respect to a facility shall be the lesser of -

(A) the value of such facility on the date of the flood damage or destruction, or

(B) the maximum amount of insurance proceeds which would have been payable with respect to such facility if such facility had been covered by flood insurance under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 on such date.

(3) Exception - Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to a private nonprofit facility which is not covered by flood insurance solely because of the local government's failure to participate in the flood insurance program established by the National Flood Insurance Act.

(4) Dissemination of information - The President shall disseminate information regarding the reduction in Federal assistance provided for by this subsection to State and local governments and the owners and operators of private nonprofit facilities who may be affected by such a reduction.

The complete Stafford Act is online at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/stafford_act.pdf.

- 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.



Katie Matson, Certification Program Assistant, recently submitted her resignation in order to finish her college education. We will miss Katie and wish her the best! Please join us in welcoming our new CFM Assistant, Nancy Dunham, who will start November 9.

CFM Renewal 1/31/2011

ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM renewal January 31, 2011 will receive a letter and renewal form via “snail” mail this month. If you do not receive your information in the mail by November 22, 2010, please contact Anita Larson at cfm@floods.org or (608) 274-0123 to ensure your CFM does not lapse.

Strategic Planning

The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) is in the process of revising and updating their Strategic Plan. This revision and update is coming at a very appropriate time with the recently received final report and recommendations from the Ohio State University regarding the reliability and validity evaluation of the National CFM® Program and Exam. CBOR is reviewing and analyzing the recommendations in the report in order to revise and update the Strategic Plan to incorporate the recommendations that will be implemented. The revised Strategic Plan will provide a road map for CBOR for the Certification Program in the upcoming years.

Please use CFM without periods!

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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.

Chapter Renewals

2011 is nearly here - don't let your Chapter Membership benefits lapse! 2011 Chapter Renewals have been sent to each Chapter's Contact 1 and 2. Please let Kait know if you have questions about your membership benefits or renewal. To avoid a lapse in chapter services, submit your renewal and payment no later than January 31, 2011 to Kait Laufenberg, ASFPM, 2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713, Phone: 608-274-0123.

Next “All Chapter’s” Call

Save the date! The next “All Chapter’s” call is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 1pm Central Time (2pm Eastern, 11am Pacific). All chapter board members and committee chairs are welcome to participate. Send your agenda items and RSVP's to Kait@floods.org. Call-in number and code will be sent out one week prior to the call.

How to Hire a Great Accountant for Your Nonprofit by Steve Zimmerman

Blue Avocado



This article offers great tips on where to look, how to recruit, interview, and assess technical expertise to find an experienced nonprofit accountant from [Blue Avocado](#), a nonprofit online magazine sponsored by CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, Alliance of Nonprofits for Insurance, Risk Retention Group (ANI), and Nonprofits' Insurance Alliance of Cal-



ifornia (NIAC). Subscribe to the [RSS feed](#) for Blue Avocado for great nonprofit management and administration articles.

Revised IRS Publication 557 Now Available

The IRS recently released an updated Publication 557, [Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization](#). This publication details Filing Requirements & Disclosures for existing tax-exempt organizations, as well as how to apply for Federal Tax-Exempt Status. If you have a specific question about exempt organizations, call EO Customer Account Services at 1-877-829-5500.



Workshops for Small and Mid-Size Federal Tax-Exempt Organizations (December 7- 9)

Don't miss out on the last Exempt Organizations workshops of 2010! On December 7-9, the IRS will present their popular workshops for Small and Mid-Sized 501(c)(3) Organizations in Phoenix, AZ in collaboration with the Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation at Arizona State University. Each one-day workshop, presented by experienced Exempt Organizations specialists, will explain what 501(c)(3) organizations must do to keep their tax-exempt status and comply with tax obligations. The workshop is designed for administrators or volunteers who are responsible for an organization's tax compliance as well as those interested in careers in the nonprofit sector. Go to the IRS' [Calendar of Events](#) for additional information and to [register](#).

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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.

Member Login Site

Did you know that the ASFPM website has a member login section for Individual Members? If you are currently an Individual Member you can login to the website to update your contact information, renew your membership, view your CEC history, access the directory, and register for our annual conference!

You can access the members site via the following link <https://www.securefloods.org/Membership/> or by going to www.floods.org and clicking on 'Member Login' at the top of the page. If you don't know your password, just enter your member ID or email address and hit the 'Forgot Your Password' link to have your password sent to you automatically.

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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?>

Continuing Education Opportunities on ASFPM's Event Calendar

Did you know that ASFPM posts Local, State, and Federal training opportunities, conferences, chapter conferences, webcasts/webinars, and other floodplain related events on our online [Event Calendar](#)? To search for events scheduled in your state, click on the magnifying glass icon above the calendar and type our state's initials in parenthesis in the search field. This will pull all the events currently on the schedule for your state. Any events with a course number starting with the letter "E" (e.g. E273, E270, E278) are held at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD.

Don't see your event on the calendar or know about an event happening that's not there? Our event listings are only as good as what people tell us about. Posting your event listing is FREE! To request that your event posting be added to the Event Calendar, email Kait@floods.org the following details:

- Title of the Event
- Description
- Date
- How to Register
- Start & End Times (with time zone)
- Contact information for questions
- Hosting Agency
- Any attached documents / links to agenda or detailed information
- Address of event - please send complete address

Kait will post it to the online calendar. *Please allow two weeks for posting (most are usually posted within 1-3 days).*

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Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

[American Rivers-NOAA Community-Based Restoration Partnership](#)

Deadline: December 8, 2010

American Rivers is seeking proposals for river restoration project grants as part of its partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program. Program funding is provided through NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative, which seeks to enable environmental and economic renewal in local communities through the removal of stream barriers. This Partnership funds stream barrier removal projects that help restore riverine ecosystems, enhance public safety and community resilience, and have clear and identifiable benefits to diadromous fish populations. Projects in the Northeast (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI), Mid-Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA, DE, VA, MD, DC), Northwest (WA, OR, ID), and California are eligible to apply. We are also excited to announce that, for the first time, projects located in the South-Atlantic (NC, SC, GA, FL) are eligible to receive partnership funds from American Rivers. Projects located within the St. Lawrence/Great Lakes Basin are not eligible for funding at this time.

[2011 NOAA Open Rivers Initiative](#)

Deadline: November 17, 2010

The NOAA Open Rivers Initiative (ORI) provides funding and technical assistance to catalyze the implementation of locally-driven projects to remove dams and other river barriers, in order to benefit living marine and coastal resources, particularly diadromous fish. Projects funded through the Open Rivers Initiative must feature strong on-the-ground *habitat restoration components that foster economic, educational, and social benefits* for citizens and their communities in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources. Proposals selected for funding through this solicitation will be implemented through a cooperative agreement. The NOAA Restoration Center within the Office of Habitat Conservation will administer this grant initiative, and anticipates that typical awards will range from \$200,000 to \$750,000. Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education, non-profits, industry and commercial (for profit) organizations, organizations under the jurisdiction of foreign governments, international organizations, and state, local and Indian tribal governments whose projects have the potential to benefit NOAA trust resources.

[Marine Protected Areas \(MPA\) Partnership Fund](#)

Deadline: November 19, 2010

The NOAA MPA Center and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have established an MPA Partnership Fund to foster collaborative conservation among MPA agencies through joint stewardship, science and outreach projects. Non-federal MPA agencies and partners can apply for funds. Pre-proposals are due November 19, 2010, and grant recipients will be announced in Spring 2011. All projects are funded for one year, and funds must be

spent by May 2012. For more information, and to download an electronic copy of the Request for Proposals, visit the website.

Hope VI Revitalization Grant: Demolition and Revitalization of Severely Distressed Public Housing

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Deadline: November 22, 2010

The purpose of HOPE VI Revitalization grants is to assist Public Housing Authorities to: 1. *Improve the living environment for public housing residents of severely distressed public housing projects through the demolition, rehabilitation, reconfiguration, or replacement of obsolete public housing projects* (or portions thereof); 2. Revitalize sites (including remaining public housing dwelling units) on which such public housing projects are located and contribute to the improvement of the surrounding neighborhood; 3. Provide housing that will avoid or decrease the concentration of very low-income families; and 4. *Build sustainable communities*. This opportunity is only open to organizations, applicants who are submitting grant applications on behalf of a company, state, local or tribal government, academia, or other type of organization. This NOFA announces the availability of approximately \$124 million in FY 2010 funds for HOPE VI Revitalization Program grants. The maximum amount of each grant award is \$22 million. It is anticipated that five or six grant awards will be made. A match of at least 5 percent is required.

AgStar Fund for Rural America

Rural Communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin Supported

Deadline: November 30, 2010

The AgStar Fund for Rural America is committed to enhancing the quality of life and future opportunities for rural residents and their communities. The Fund supports nonprofit organizations in the [69-county service area](#) where AgStar has a significant business presence in Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. The Fund focuses its giving program in four major areas: education, *environment*, technology, and *quality of life*. Grants of up to \$10,000 are provided. Online applications will be accepted from October 1 through November 30, 2010. Visit the AgStar [website](#) to review the funding guidelines and application instructions.



Working Watersheds: Buffers and Beyond

Trees Forever & Green Farmstead Partner

Deadline: November 30, 2010

The purpose of Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond™ is: to improve water quality by using trees, shrubs and prairie plantings near streams, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas; to improve water quality in urban areas by installing rain gardens, bioswales and storm water retention areas, and to promote the use of perennial plants, trees, shrubs and other forestry specialty crops to not only improve water and soil quality but also provide an alternative source of income to farmers. Farmers, rural landowners, beginning farmers, cities, counties, non-profit groups, educational entities (schools and colleges), and homeowner groups working in association with public entities are eligible to participate. The goals of Working Watersheds: Buffers & Beyond include: improved water quality, wildlife habitat, decreased storm water run-off, and increased income from agroforestry plantings. Participants receive up to a maximum of \$2,000 in cost-share funds, technical assistance and referrals, signage, and assistance with field days.

USDA Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

Deadline: December 22, 2010

These grants will be made to qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to *housing, community facilities, or community and economic development*. The RCDI grant program also includes an initiative called “Great Regions.” The Intermediary will be required to provide matching funds in an amount at least equal to the RCDI grant. The respective minimum and maximum grant amount per Intermediary is \$50,000.00 and \$300,000.00. The Recipient, but not the Intermediary, must be located in a city or town that has a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants. The deadline for receipt of an application is 4 p.m. local time, December 22, 2010.



Student and Fellowship Opportunities

Harvard University's Center for International Development

Deadline: December 1, 2010

The Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University's Center for International Development invites applications for resident fellowships in sustainability science for the University's academic year beginning in September 2011. The fellowship competition is open to advanced doctoral and post-doctoral students, and to mid-career professionals engaged in research or practice to facilitate the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective interventions that promote sustainable development. Applicants should describe how their work would contribute to "sustainability science," the emerging field of use-inspired research seeking understanding of the interactions between human and environmental systems as well as the application of such knowledge to sustainability challenges relating to advancing development of agriculture, habitation, energy and materials, health and water while conserving the earth's life support systems. This year we will give some preference to applicants whose work addresses challenges of innovation for sustainable development, with special attention to innovation in the energy, health and agricultural sectors.

East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes

National Science Foundation

Deadline: November 10, 2010

The National Science Foundation is accepting applications for students interested in attending one of seven East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes from June to August 2011. Awardees will receive a \$5,000 stipend, airfare to the host country, living expenses, and other support. Masters and Ph.D. students studying in a variety of fields, including the social sciences, environmental science, geoscience, and engineering, are invited to apply.

Asia Pacific Leadership Program

Deadline: December 2010

The East-West Center is pleased to announce the new fellowships for the Asia Pacific Leadership Program. The APLP is a graduate certificate program combining the development of regional expertise with the enhancement of individual leadership capacity. Based at the East-West Center in Honolulu, HI, the program has created a network of dynamic leaders in 48 countries who are helping to build a peaceful, prosperous and just Asia Pacific community. All participants receive an APLP Entrance Fellowship valued at approximately \$15,000. The Asia Pacific Leadership Program seeks outstanding individuals with proven leadership experience or high leadership potential from across the Asia Pacific region, North America and beyond. All participants have at least a Bachelors degree with the majority having graduate degrees as well. At least 20 countries are represented in each cohort. APLP Fellows come together from all walks of life, including areas as diverse as government, business, NGOs, health sciences, media, monastic orders, and education.

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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>.

Environmental Specialist 1

Ohio DNR – Floodplain Management Program

Position Description

Assists in developing, coordinating, planning and implementing statewide water resource management programs for the Floodplain Management Program (FMP); performs various floodplain management duties to support the coordination of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in the State of Ohio; tracks status and completion of NFIP related activities including specific follow-up actions; composes reports of findings, conclusions and recommendations on local floodplain management programs; assists and coordinates community officials in preparing,

adopting and implementing local floodplain management regulations; reviews and evaluates floodplain management and flood damage reduction/mitigation programs for compliance with local, state and federal floodplain management criteria; provides information and guidance on state floodplain management requirements to other state agencies and program clients.

Participates in the development, planning and presentation of statewide workshops for floodplain management training and other related water resource issues; may represent floodplain management program at related meetings, seminars and workshops; collects, researches, prepares and reviews floodplain management and related water resources data; promotes wise-use development standards for floodplains/riparian areas and provides education on the natural benefit/function of the floodplain and related water resources; assists in the development and maintenance of tracking logs and water resource database management system; initiates and responds to inquiries concerning regulations and requests for information on floodplain management and water resources; provides technical assistance and works cooperatively with local floodplain administrators and the general public; provides oral and written technical assistance to local, state, federal agencies, private sector concerns and legislators seeking flood hazard and related water resource information, including NFIP maps and studies.

For more information or to apply go to: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/ohio/default.cfm>

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### **NFIP Regional Manager – Region VII**

URS Corporation

#### Position Description

The successful candidate will support the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Regional office in Kansas City, Missouri. FEMA Region VII encompasses Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The successful candidate will conduct outreach to NFIP stakeholders in support of the insurance and floodplain management objectives of the NFIP and provide support to the FEMA Regional Office. Stakeholders include state and local Government officials, community organizations, insurance agents, lending institutions, and the general public. Specifically, candidate will:

1. Receive inquiries, directly or via transfer from the FEMA regional office and directly respond to such inquiries or, as necessary, refer them to iService's Bureau and Statistical Agent (BSA) Headquarters, or to another appropriate location.
2. Support pre- and post-flood activities for the FEMA Regional office, including Town Hall meetings, and other events.
3. Support the Community Rating System (CRS) committee and FEMA regional CRS activities.
4. Work with state floodplain coordinators in presenting information on the NFIP at the annual CRS meetings for local floodplain managers and flood coordinators.
5. Coordinate insurance-related inquiry processing.
6. Provide assistance to stakeholders in the use of NFIP modernized systems.
7. Coordinate with and provide outreach support to FEMA Region VII NFIP staff.

The successful candidate will report to the URS Gaithersburg, MD office, but will work out of the URS office in Overland Park, KS or from their own home office.

#### Qualifications

BS/BA in Communications, Public Relations or related field. Minimum of 5 years experience in the National Flood Insurance Program. Proven ability to work independently. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Demonstrated ability to interact with local, State and Federal Gov't officials, members of industry associations, and the public.

For more information or to apply go to:

<https://www.urs.apply2jobs.com/ProfExt/index.cfm?fuseaction=mExternal.showJob&RID=49948&CurrentPage=1>

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