What has ASFPM done that benefits me as a member?

ASFPM hears this question a lot (especially in regards to our work on The Hill). We work for our members’ interests to secure federal funding for programs that are critical for floodplain managers to do their jobs (flood mapping, pre-disaster mitigation, floodplain management, streamgauges, LIDAR, Silver Jackets, Planning Assistance to states). We work with agencies to make sure the programs are being implemented to best serve state and local needs. And we offer tons of free tools for the local floodplain manager. Below is just a small sampling of how we’ve helped. For a full report on how ASFPM benefits communities and the local floodplain manager, click here.

Summary
- Secured funding for flood mapping from general revenue as well as flood policy fees.
- Making mutual aid work to fund help to communities in determining substantial damage and issuing floodplain permits following major disasters.
- Helped create a formula-driven post-disaster mitigation fund (HMGP).
• Increased HMGP funding formula and showed that buyouts were a viable mitigation option.

• Support pre-disaster mitigation funding for communities that want to mitigate, but do not experience a major disaster to qualify for HMGP.

• Urged Congress to create Increased Cost of Compliance as part of flood policy so the average homeowner can afford to mitigate, and communities can build safer after flooding.

• Worked with Congress to change ICC to recognize higher community thresholds for substantial damage determinations.

• Created a professional certification and training program for the local floodplain manager and others who work to manage flood risk (the CFM program).

• Work with FEMA to provide cost-share funding so states can provide assistance to the 22,000 communities in the nation that belong to and must administer their part of the NFIP.

• Developed tools for communities to use that gets away from allowing one property owner to adversely impact other property owners, known as the No Adverse Impact initiative.

• Urged FEMA to develop a program to reward communities that go beyond NFIP minimum standards (the Community Rating System).

• Promoted the value of natural systems and use of their benefits in mitigation using the Benefit Cost Analysis.

• Continually improving the NFIP to better manage flood risk at the community level.

• Support the provision that buyout land must remain in open space use so the taxpayer will never again have to pay disaster costs on that property.

• Support adequate funding of USGS streamgauges, which are critical for community use in mapping and managing flood risk.

• Created a charitable foundation that funds assistance to chapters and states in improving flood-risk management, as well as developing the CFM program and scholarships.

• Worked with the Corps of Engineers to provide more technical assistance to communities and states.

• Worked with HUD to implement an effective low-interest mitigation loan (Section 203 (k)) for property owners who live in high flood-risk areas.

• Testing and certifying flood barrier products, with USACE and FM Approvals, to make sure products work as advertised.

• Support the Technical Mapping Advisory Council to give NFIP community and state input on mapping need and processes.

• Helped federal agency post-disaster mitigation coordination to work better with communities and states following the 2004-2005 major hurricanes.

• Work with USACE to refine the process for determining adequate freeboard for levees.

• Worked with NFIP to recognize value of using local, regional and state partners to develop flood maps.

• Worked with NFIP to develop single map system, now called the MIP.
Flood Insurance Committee Work Plan Working for You

So, it’s near the end of year and we know you are asking yourself...what are the Flood Insurance Committee plans for 2019? Right?! Well, we are so glad you asked!

While everything is detailed in our Flood Insurance Committee Work Plan 2018-19, here are some highlights:

- Keeping you updated on topics like private flood insurance, FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0, the removal of CBRS boundaries, new guidance and policies around ag structures in the floodplain, ICC and more;
- Tracking NFIP reauthorization and reform legislation as bills come and soon go and the reauthorization can gets kicked down the road to 2019;
- Updates from meetings with other flood-related groups like FIPNC, IBHS and NFA; and
- Keeping members informed with committee calls, bi-monthly newsletter articles, our annual meeting and Early Bird Session (at the Cleveland annual conference in 2019).

But as always, whether it is a specific flood insurance-related question or a topic you’d like the Flood Insurance Committee to look into addressing, we want to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and if you aren’t a member and wish to join, let us know that too!

Elevation Certificate Expiration Update

The current version of the FEMA Elevation Certificate expires Nov. 30, 2018. However, we have received direction from FEMA that the current version should be used until further notice. FEMA is in the process of preparing an official bulletin conveying this information. The Flood Insurance Committee will send out a notification when the official bulletin is released.

Meanwhile, we would like to thank our committee members for their support this past year and wish all a successful new year!

Humbly yours,
Bruce Bender and Steve Samuelson
—Your Flood Insurance Committee Co-chairs

Job Corner

Looking for a job? Looking for someone to fill a position at your company or agency? Please check out available career opportunities on ASFPM’s website. It’s free, whether you’re looking at job postings, or an employer wanting to post an opening!

- Orange County in Orlando, Florida is hiring a senior engineer.
- NV5 in San Diego, California is seeking a group director of water resources.
- EMH&T in Columbus, Ohio is currently looking for a project manager to join its water resources team.
“It’s not only about buildings.” That’s something I say regularly as I answer questions and work with communities to revise or update local floodplain management regulations. Sure, we might spend the vast majority of our time on buildings – and flooded buildings sure get a lot of media attention. But look at the NFIP definition for “development” (sidebar) and you find a list of non-building activities that change the land, and therefore can also affect the flow of floodwater. But also notice the key phrases “any manmade change” and “or other structures.”

Yes, I know, the NFIP regulations narrowly define “structure” to mean walled and roofed buildings. But if that’s the only sense of the term we use, does that mean we don’t regulate any other structures? Let’s keep in mind the fundamental premise of floodplain management: whatever we allow in flood zones should be resistant to the effects of flooding and shouldn’t cause increases in flood levels or velocities that could adversely affect others. My preference is to talk about buildings and structures other than buildings (I’ve also used “non-building structures”).

A list of structures other than buildings that are subject to floodplain management regulations would be one of those lists that could go on and on, which is likely why the NFIP definition doesn’t include a list. Some examples I’ve run into include communication towers, gazebos and music venue stages, outdoor sculptures, road bridges and culverts, pedestrian bridges, outdoor viewing bleachers, membrane structures over pools and tennis courts, playground equipment and picnic tables, domes for road salt, and solar panels for solar farms.

What requirements come into play when someone wants to build a structure other than a building in the special flood hazard area? Obviously the most defining requirement for buildings (elevation of lowest floor) doesn’t apply. In the absence of explicit requirements for non-building structures, we should look to the performance expectations in the NFIP regulations (44 CFR Sec. 60.3(a)(3)). The text box below shows how these requirements are written in the Florida model floodplain management ordinance.

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**Development** means any manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [44 CFR 59.1]

**Structure** means “that which is built or constructed.” [International Building Code]
Let’s go back to the list of non-building structures and take a closer look at solar panels for solar farms and domes for road salt.

Solar Panels for Solar Farms

After I got over my initial surprise at the question, I can see why some floodplains are attractive for solar development. Many floodplains are flat, many previously used for agricultural purposes don’t require removal of trees, and increasingly, the cost of flood-prone land is lower than parcels outside of flood zones.

OK, now what? I did what I expect many of us do when contemplating a new scenario – I turned to the Internet. My search quickly turned up guidance developed by Pima County (Arizona) Flood Control and similar guidance issued by Monterey County, California. With some variations to reflect conditions and local requirements, the guidance specifies:

1. The lowest edge of all photovoltaic panels at or above the 100-year water surface elevation when at full-tilt
2. Electric service equipment, bottom of the structural frame of construction trailers, and inverter skid platforms at least 1 foot above the 100-year water surface elevation
3. Column embedment sufficient to provide structural stability assuming full depth of scour during the 100-year event
4. Fencing to provide for flow-through of 100-year flood waters
5. Access drives constructed at grade

Florida Model Ordinance

General requirements for other development. All development, including manmade changes to improved or unimproved real estate for which specific provisions are not specified in this ordinance or the Florida Building Code, shall:

1. Be located and constructed to minimize flood damage;
2. Meet the encroachment limitations of this ordinance if located in a regulated floodway;
3. Be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement resulting from hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy, during conditions of the design flood;
4. Be constructed of flood damage-resistant materials; and
5. Have mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems above the design flood elevation or meet the requirements of ASCE 24, except that minimum electric service required to address life safety and electric code requirements is permitted below the design flood elevation provided it conforms to the provisions of the electrical part of building code for wet locations.
Now, consider solar installations serving individual buildings. What requirements apply? Well, solar panel roofs likely already are elevated above the BFE. Ground-mounted panels wired to provide power to buildings should be treated like other mechanical and electrical systems – elevated or designed to meet the requirements for location below the BFE (designed to “prevent water from accumulating with in the components”). I’m guessing elevation is the only feasible option.

**Domes for Road Salt**

My first experience with salt domes in floodplains was many years ago in Maryland, when several turned up as part of a comprehensive review of all state-owned structures in SFHAs.

I didn’t do a lengthy Internet search for the impacts of road salt stored in floodplains, but did see questions about impacts on streams. Salt spread on a road network is similar to a non-point source pollutant, while a salt dome in a floodplain could be a point-source if the contents are exposed to floodwater. Of course, sites not vulnerable to flooding would be much better alternatives. But some communities have expansive floodplains, which means sites on higher ground may be far away, outside the community’s boundaries, and may not meet the need.

Domes for material storage are non-building structures, so let’s look again at the general requirements shown above in the Florida ordinance language and decide which apply. I checked the webpages of some companies that provide dome structures for bulk solids, such as salt, sand and fertilizer. The industry has changed over the years since I looked at road salt domes in Maryland. Some designs might be adaptable to flood-prone locations if alternative sites aren’t available. To protect contents, the concept of dry flood proofing might work. Impenetrable pads, reinforced and sealed concrete retaining walls, and water-tight barriers across doors might work, with sufficient sealing to make the portion below the BFE watertight.

If dry flood proofing isn’t feasible, anchoring the structure to resist flood loads would at least protect the structure while also keeping it from becoming debris that could damage nearby buildings or block bridges and culverts. The typical materials used for storage domes appear to already be resistant to damage by inundation. What about electrical and mechanical systems? I’d require those to be elevated to at least the BFE.

Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at rcquinn@earthlink.net. Comments welcomed! Explore back issues of the [Floodplain Manager’s Notebook](#).
Have you ever wondered how your community might think about flood-risk management, land use planning and future conditions if everyone involved better understood the community’s legal liabilities and opportunities? Would we develop our communities differently? And what would that look like today and 50 years from now? Two No Adverse Impact legal workshops held last month in Florida focused on these questions.

The first objective was to provide a deep dive into understanding community liability and responsibility in areas like public safety as sea levels rise. The second objective, once you take away the potential barriers or concerns related to that liability, was to let a room full of people re-imagine what their community might look like in the future.

The first objective was accomplished by looking at long-term resilience planning through the legal, policy and practical approaches outlined in ASFPM’s No Adverse Impact common sense strategy for floodplain management. The second objective was tackled using CHARM, a mapping application and hands-on workshop tool that gives local officials, stakeholders and citizens the power to map, understand and analyze their community’s growth and disaster risks with real-time feedback.

ASFPM’s Flood Science Center worked with many, many people (we will get back to them shortly) to coordinate and host the “Coastal Community Flood Resilience Planning Workshops” in St. Augustine, Florida Oct. 10 and New Smyrna Beach, Florida Oct. 12. Both communities deal with the risk of hurricanes, anticipate flooding due to sea level rise and increased heavy rainfall events, while they plan for population growth because of their desired locations as coastal communities. In addition, they both have limited expansion opportunities and limited areas to develop.

Because of these challenges, the workshops focused on inviting city and county staff from key departments including planning, public works, zoning, emergency management and historic preservation as well as elected officials and the city manager’s offices. Each workshop saw over 35 people attend, representing key local and county departments and beyond, including regional planners, academics, GIS specialists and engineers.
For both workshops, **Jerry Murphy** and **Thomas Ruppert** covered the legal issues surrounding coastal community development, community safety and local government responsibilities under the law. Murphy, JD, AICP, CFM from the University of Florida’s Resilient Communities Initiative, provided an overview of NAI’s legal underpinnings and established case law, highlighted coastal management and sea level rise elements in Florida’s Peril of Flood Act, and shared additional legal and policy insight into Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plans. Ruppert, esquire from the University of Florida’s Sea Grant Program, gave a presentation titled, “The Law’s the Limit: Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Local Government.” His presentation focused on community liability and requirements under the law related to infrastructure, takings and future impacts, and future legal challenges surrounding vacated and abandoned properties.

For example, who will be responsible for cleaning up septic systems that could affect local water quality associated with abandoned buildings? The city, county, state or federal government – all of which points to taxpayers?

The St. Augustine workshop was hosted by the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve just north of the city. **Todd Grant**, P.G., the deputy director for Public Works, welcomed the group and framed the challenges and opportunities for the city as it deals with growth and sea level rise. **Kaitlyn Dietz**, the coastal training program coordinator at the GTM Research Reserve, provided an overview of their recent research project titled, “Planning for Sea Level Rise in the Matanzas Basin” and ways the city and county can be supported by the reserve. The final speaker in the morning was **Dr. Angela Schedel**, Ph.D., P.E., the director of community resilience at Taylor Engineering. Schedel’s presentation, “Adaptation Planning – Ideas from Annapolis,” shared her experiences and knowledge as a naval officer working on the U.S. Naval Academy Sea Level Rise Adaption Plan. The academy’s historic buildings and challenges with sea level rise adaption were very relevant examples for the St. Augustine attendees.

The New Smyrna Beach workshop was hosted by the city at the Brannon Center. **Amye King**, AICP, New Smyrna Beach’s planning director, welcomed everyone to the workshop and also framed the challenges and opportunities the city is facing with regards to growth and sea level rise. **Tara McCue**, AICP, the director of planning and community development at the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, provided an overview of the Regional Resilience Action Plan and their extensive stakeholder engagement in the region that includes working with New Smyrna Beach to support their community-based resiliency.

The afternoon for both workshops was dedicated to hands-on, interactive scenario planning exercises using CHARM or the Community Health and Resource Management tool. CHARM uses a participatory mapping approach that allows workshop attendees, who do not need to be professional planners or mapping experts, to create their own maps and include their values and vision for their community into the mapping process. The CHARM “weTable” setup supports this public collaboration using a live table-
top map of a community, allowing participants to interact with and explore reference layers like aerial photography, wetlands, flood hazard areas, storm surge, critical facilities and existing land use, among many others.

Steven Mikulencak, AICP, the planning team leader for CHARM from the Texas Community Watershed Partners at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, started each afternoon by describing how CHARM works and how it has been used. He then laid out the overall challenge that each breakout group would deal with – given your population growth over the next 20 years, where will these people live and how will you keep them, their property and your first responders safe from flooding, sea level rise and hurricane storm surge?

The workshop participants were divided into smaller groups and initially shown all the local and national map layers available for helping them make informed choices about future development. Layers such as FEMA flood hazard areas, storm surge zones and wetlands helped everyone understand the flood risks and areas to avoid development. There were also zoning boundaries, current land use, infrastructure, critical facilities, historic preservation districts and building footprints that helped show the extent and nature of the built environment.

The groups were then allowed to start testing the larger questions about population growth and safety by trying out alternative realities in CHARM. This is done by digitally drawing or “painting” different growth, development or redevelopment scenarios (e.g. town center mixed use, low-rise residential or conservation areas) on a map of their community. CHARM then provides, in real time, the potential impacts these scenarios will have for increasing or decreasing disaster risk. For example, real-time charts and graphs are available, at any time during an exercise, showing “Existing Homes by Flood Zone” or “Total Future Homes by Flood Zone.”
Each workshop wrapped up by displaying the final maps from each table. They then talked about what future development or redevelopment choices they made and why. Groups shared thoughts about downzoning or buyouts in some areas and increased density in other areas. Overall, the biggest benefit of the table exercises seemed to be the simple fact that everyone’s ideas were being heard and included in the discussion. While no definitive answers on the issue were generated, the participants did feel they had specific ideas to take back to their offices.

ASFPM wants to thank all the presenters and participants who attended and made the workshops a great success. A special thanks to Kaitlyn Dietz and the GTM Research Reserve for helping host and coordinate the St. Augustine workshop and Michael Salisbury for helping host and coordinate in New Smyrna Beach. We also very much appreciate the help from Heidi Stiller at NOAA Office for Coastal Management, Chris Zambito with the Florida Floodplain Management Association, Michael DelCharco with Taylor Engineering and Tara McCue, ECFRPC for helping plan the workshops and identifying the communities. Finally, we wish to thank FEMA for funding these workshops.

All the workshop materials – agendas, participant lists, presentations and NAI resources for the Coastal Community Flood Resilience Planning Workshops can be found using the link for each workshop: St. Augustine, FL on Oct. 10 and New Smyrna Beach, FL on Oct. 12.

Your Generosity this #GivingTuesday was Amazing!

The ASFPM Foundation set an ambitious goal—to raise $5,000 on #GivingTuesday—with all proceeds going to its Future Leaders Scholarship fund. And to up the ante a bit, George Riedel, the foundation’s donor coordinator, said he’d match the $5,000 goal with a $1,000 donation.

As of Nov. 28, $3,490 was raised, which is an amazing number! But George decided that he would go ahead and donate his matching gift, bringing the total to $4,490! Seriously, you are ALL AMAZING! Thank you!

Donations are still coming in, so that number could change. If you’d still like to donate to the ASFPM Foundation, go to:

http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/give-now.
What's ASFPM been up to?

Lots of new (and familiar) faces walking the halls of ASFPM HQ

**David Fowler**, CFM, Senior Project Manager

Dave Fowler has more than 40 years of experience in flood management, stormwater issues, water resources and water quality management. He spent 36 years with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District as the environmental policy coordinator and senior project manager where he worked on flood management policy, and planning, design and construction projects ranging from $50,000 to $120 million. After retirement, Fowler spent two years working for Stantec as a senior project manager. He currently works for ASFPM’s Flood Science Center as a senior project manager. Fowler served as conference chair for the 2005 ASFPM annual national conference, taught the CFM refresher course six times, participated as an attendee and trainer in three coastal workshops, and was a co-instructor for three channel geomorphic training workshops. He also served as ASFPM’s Watershed Pod facilitator from 2010-2018. He was awarded the 2005 River Network’s National River Hero; the Sweet Water Coalition Individual Watershed Champion in 2016, and the ASFPM Louthain Distinguished Service Award in 2016.

**Drew Whitehair**, Program Manager

A native Ohioan, Drew Whitehair moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 2012 and rejoined ASFPM in 2018. Prior to ASFPM, he spent time with Ohio EMA, Michael Baker International and American Family Insurance. He has an education in emergency management, holds a green belt in lean six sigma, and has a background loaded with program management and charismatic/participative leadership. Having built and managed countless projects and initiatives, Whitehair’s experience demonstrates his ability to improve process and inspire the people around him through innovation, teamwork and passion. He provides support to our Flood Science Center by managing the National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program. When he isn’t working, you’ll find him losing balls on the golf course, hunting for cool vinyls and spending time around a fire pit with family and friends.

**Beth Klusinske**, Library Assistant

Beth Klusinske catalogs physical and digital items for ASFPM’s Flood Library and occasionally assists in other Flood Science Center projects. She has a master’s degree in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences and a certificate in Air Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Outside of ASFPM, Klusinske is a freelance science writer and editor.

The NFIP Reauthorization Deadline is upon Us!

ASFPM Approved

NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management recently launched version 1 of the “Adapting Stormwater Management for Coastal Floods” during the Annual NOAA Water Meeting at the National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. ASFPM’s Flood Science Center Director Bill Brown, and ASFPM Stormwater Management Committee Co-chairs Jeff Sickles and Jamelynn Austin Trucks, served as peer contributors who reviewed and tested the website. A companion Digital Coast page will be launched soon.

Communities can use this website to determine how the flooding of today and tomorrow can affect their stormwater systems, and generate a report that can be used to:

- Educate community stakeholders on implications of coastal flooding
- Display local information about the current and future flooding impacts
- Inform planning efforts and make the case for funding

Former ASFPM employee Robyn Wiseman was back in the house (temporarily)

Robyn Wiseman, former research scientist for ASFPM’s Flood Science Center and now Wisconsin’s State Hazard Mitigation Officer, presented an ASFPM webinar Nov. 27 called, “After the Disaster: Mitigating Infrastructure Against Flooding Using 406 Mitigation Assistance.” We have several webinars coming up. Check them out here. Photo by Larry Larson.
Yep, it’s that time of year again. Time to renew your ASFPM membership!

Perhaps discounts to ASFPM’s annual national conference and CFM exam was the initial reason you became an ASFPM member. But we just wanted to remind you of all the other benefits your membership includes.

ASFPM is an organization that helps you broaden your knowledge base through discounted webinars and specialty workshops, as well develop professionally by working on and exploring problems with fellow professionals.

Membership helps you build confidence in your ability to do your job effectively, train other professionals, and share knowledge with elected officials and your community.

Not all members are floodplain managers. Many were exposed to ASFPM through their work at universities, federal agencies and the private sector, which brings a unique perspective to our 14 policy committees. Members provide direct input to federal programs and agencies, write white papers and develop tools for locals. This work can advance the floodplain management profession, and even change national flood policy.

Membership means belonging to a community of more than 7,000 fellow “floodies,” passionate experts who are always ready to mentor and lend advice on navigating the sometimes tricky waters of floodplain management.

And if you know a full-time college student wanting to get a jump start on professional development in this ever-growing field, ASFPM offers $30 student memberships.

If you need a reminder of what ASFPM membership brings to you and your career, read what other members are saying about the value of an ASFPM membership. Ready to renew? Click here.

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Grant Opps…

Just a reminder to bookmark the Florida Climate Institute’s website for a comprehensive list of funding opportunities. It’s a fabulous resource.
Wow! We received 327 abstract submittals this year for the approximately 201 presentation spots. Well done! ASFPM will begin sending out acceptance notifications after Jan. 1, so keep an eye out. We want to thank volunteer **Steve McMaster** and ASFPM Training Coordinator **Kevin Currie** for reviewing all of those submittals.

Our [conference website](#) is constantly being updated, so please check it often! Registration opens in February, but in the meantime, get your fingers in social media posting shape for #ASFPM2019 by liking and following our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

**ALSO, please keep in mind that it’s NEVER too early to nominate someone for ASFPM’s 2019 awards season! You can do it [online RIGHT NOW](#)!**

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**The early registration discount ends Dec. 14!**

The Coastal GeoTools conference, Feb. 11-14, 2019 in Myrtle Beach, focuses on geospatial data, tools, technology and information for coastal resource management professionals. Coastal professionals from many different sectors find the networking opportunities of the conference unique and important for furthering the goals of their organizations. Anyone interested in the development and application of geospatial technology for management of coastal resources will benefit from this conference. [Learn more about the conference here](#).
CFM® Corner—Where your Career and Practice Meet
Written by Ingrid Wadsworth, CFM, ASFPM Deputy Director and CBOR Regent

Congratulations on your CFM if you recently earned yours and good for you if you have been a long-time CFM. We hope you use it daily in your professional life and it increases credibility with your clients and the public. We have multiple webinar training offerings every month—many free—to keep your CECs up to date. Members receive announcement emails from us and steep discounts to fee webinars. And if you are a member of one of our 37 state chapters, there is also a discount code that you can get from your chapter leadership. Members and nonmembers can get to the CFM Maintenance Login Portal here. There is a “forgot password” link on the login screen if you don’t remember your password. There are links behind the portal to upload CECs electronically and update your contact information. To see what qualifies for CECs, refer to the Guidance for Continuing Education Credit.

In related news, your Certification Board of Regents just met this month for their annual retreat. It was the first meeting since the adoption of the new five-year CFM Program Strategic Plan (link to 1-page summary), and regents are excited and passionate about the new directions and initiatives.

Some of the issues under discussion are more promotion of the CFM Study Guide via videos, creating training materials for the new Ethics Training Course developed by CBOR and ASFPM’s Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee, discussion papers on paper-to-digital exams, and the Exam Workgroup Report (exam questions and analysis are a separate workgroup that meets independently of CBOR). The good news is that the exam pass rate has increased these past few months. We gather that this is due to a new exam release Sept. 1 and the promotion of the CFM Study Guide.

Please also note that nominations are open for recognizing those who promote professional certification. The **John Ivey Award** is voted on by CBOR and made as a recommendation from CBOR to the ASFPM Board of Directors, and the award is presented at ASFPM’s annual national conference:

“This award was established by the ASFPM Board of Directors in 2001 to recognize exceptional efforts to promote the professional certification of floodplain managers. Any individual, agency or organization is eligible. The award was named after John Ivey because he was serving as our Professional Development Committee chair in the mid-1990s and was instrumental in the CFM exam development and roll out. Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association was the first John Ivey Award recipient in 2001.”

Nominations are accepted via the nominations form on the ASFPM website or by email to awards@floods.org.

Please remember to notify us when you move. CFM renewals and other certification-related material are mailed to your **HOME ADDRESS**. Also, make sure we always have your current employment information with correct email address. If you have any questions, please email cfm@floods.org.

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**Interested in professional development for flood-risk professionals?**
Do you have ideas that could help enhance and strengthen the floodplain management profession? Get involved by joining **ASFPM’s Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee**. The mission of the PDCEC is to provide vision, leadership and direction to ASFPM members regarding issues affecting the floodplain management profession.

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**FEMA News You Can Use**

**FEMA Releases Draft Policy on Ag Structures in the Floodplain**
FEMA’s draft policy on agricultural and accessory structures is available here. The public comment period opened Nov. 21 and will close Dec. 21, 2018. Provide comments on the draft policy by emailing FEMA at FEMA-Floodplain-Management-Division@fema.dhs.gov.

**October 2018 National Flood Insurance Program Changes Video Series Released**
Some of the changes are aimed at providing a better customer experience for policyholders, while other changes continue the implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act and Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. This new series of three short videos explains the key elements of changes to the NFIP that were effective Oct. 1, 2018.

**Recent FEMA Senior Leadership Announcements**
**Nick Shufro**, who served as the assistant administrator for risk management with Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, will now serve as chief learning officer and director of strategic alliances, Office
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of Chief Component Human Capital Officer. Shufro has leveraged partnerships across the public and private sector to empower communities to take ownership of their developing risk. Through his leadership, the Risk Management Directorate analyzed threats, managed risks and proactively engaged with strategic partnerships to communicate hazards.

**Michael Grimm**, who served as assistant administrator for mitigation, Risk Reduction Division, will now serve as the assistant administrator for the Risk Management Directorate. Grimm began his FEMA career in 1997 as part of FIMA’s Flood Hazard Mapping Program. Since then he has held the position of director of individual assistance from 2011-2014, and most recently served as assistant administrator for mitigation, where he directed FEMA’s pre- and post-disaster mitigation programs and FIMA’s disaster operations.

**Katherine Fox**, who served as the director for the National Preparedness Assessment Division, National Preparedness Directorate, will now serve as the assistant administrator for the Mitigation Directorate, FIMA. During her time as director, Fox oversaw the 2017 Hurricane Season After-Action Report and annual National Preparedness Report, and implemented new methodologies to better evaluate national, state and jurisdictional risk and capabilities, as well as preparedness grant effectiveness.

**Shalini Benson** departed from federal service July 13, 2018 after 17 years in the budget and finance field. For the past two years, Benson served as assistant administrator for the Fund Management Directorate, FIMA. During her service, she provided leadership and oversight of FIMA’s budget, human resources and operational support functions—including fiscal stewardship of more than $6 billion in annual funds.

**Annemarie Juhlin** has accepted a 120-day detail assignment to take the helm of the Fund Management Directorate, after serving in the role of the acting assistant administrator for budget within the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

**Matthew Payne**, who served as the policy division director in the Office of Policy and Program Analysis, will now serve a 120-day detail assignment as acting deputy associate administrator, OPPA. As director of OPPA’s Policy Division, he led and coordinated the development of policies that support effective and efficient delivery of agency programs across the full spectrum of preparedness and emergency management functions. In this role he worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the federal interagency community and the White House National Security Council staff to represent FEMA’s interests in national policies and strategies. Payne recently completed a detail with the department as an acting counselor to the secretary of Homeland Security.

**Thomas Balint**, who served as the associate chief counsel for resilience, preparedness and continuity, will serve a 120-day detail as acting deputy assistant administrator for the Grant Programs Directorate to complete his DHS SES Candidacy Program. Balint was previously detailed to the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security during the Administration transition where he supported FEMA issues and other matters to the outgoing and incoming secretaries. Prior to joining FEMA in 2010, Balint served as deputy attorney general for the state of New Jersey on emergency management and homeland security issues.

**Robert “Robby” Wehagen III** is now the advisor, Legislative Affairs, Office of External Affairs. Wehagen joins FEBA from the Small Business Administration where he served as the Office of Advocacy’s Congressional and Legislative Affairs manager. In this role at the SBA, Wehagen directed communication with Capitol Hill, particularly to reduce small business regulatory burdens. He has robust experience in the
public and private sector, in which he was director of government relations for a trade association repre-
senting 11,000 small businesses and has served in three House of Representative offices, and the Com-
mittee on House Administration and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Jo Linda Johnson serves as director of the Office of Equal Rights. Johnson has 18 years of experience
practicing labor and employment law and most recently served as director of the Civil Rights Division at
the Transportation Security Administration. She has served as a member of the Section of Labor and Em-
ployment Law with the American Bar Association for 15 years and is regarded as an expert on civil rights
laws, the Equal Employment Opportunity process, affirmative employment, affirmative action and diver-
sity. Johnson earned her Juris Doctor from the George Washington University School of Law.

Fourth National Climate Assessment’s Volume II just Released
Focus is on Impacts, Risks and Adaptation in the United States

Global warming may push millions of Americans away from the coast, and the U.S. isn’t prepared
for the consequences of such a mass migration, scientists from across the federal government
warned Nov. 23. Bloomberg reporter Christopher Flavelle wrote this excellent piece titled,
“Climate May Force Millions to Move and U.S. Isn’t Ready, Report Says.” We also encourage
you to read this important report at: https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/.

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a nationwide listing of floodplain management-related training oppor-
tunities, visit ASFPM Online Event Calendar. Looking for training opportuni-
ties to earn CECs for your CFM? Check out our event calendar with LOTS of
training opportunities listed for 2018! Search the calendar by state, or use
the category drop down menu to search by event category. The only
events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses, which are
listed with their FEMA course number and are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.
The Lame Duck Congressional Session is Underway

After the Nov. 6 elections, Congress returned Nov. 13 for its lame duck session. There is a lot of unfinished business to be wrapped up before the 115th Congress adjourns. This includes extension of the authority for the National Flood Insurance Program and action, in some form, on the budget for the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2019.

Dynamics will largely remain the same, since the make-up of the Congress won’t change until the 116th Congress convenes in early January. However, knowledge that the majority in the House of Representatives will shift from Republican to Democratic and the intent of some retiring and defeated members to have last minute accomplishments will be factors in the coming few weeks. The shift is already visible in the House. Retiring and defeated members are already required to move out of their offices and they are reduced to functioning from cubicles installed in one of the House cafeterias. Newly elected members are already in town for new member orientation and participation in the drawing for office space. Hallways are filling up with furniture and boxes, so an atmosphere of change is in the air.

By the end of November, Democrats and Republicans will have elected their choices for key leadership posts. After that, decisions will begin about committee leadership positions and committee assignments. Many changes in committee leadership and committee assignments can be expected even among returning members of the House and Senate.

Action in the lame duck session is likely to include the Farm Bill, budgets for the remaining seven appropriations bills, extensions of authority for expiring programs and an assortment of bills already teed up for floor consideration. The NFIP’s authority expires Nov. 30. The current Continuing Resolution, funding the remaining seven appropriations bills at FY18 levels, expires Dec. 7.

NFIP Extension of Authority

ASFPM representatives met with staff of the House Financial Services Committee and Senate Banking Committee during the week of Nov. 12. The primary topic was extension of the NFIP’s authority beyond its Nov. 30 expiration date. With the House and Senate in recess for the entire Thanksgiving week, only a few legislative days remain before the deadline.

House committee staff were not clear yet about the path forward, noting that the members had only just returned from their several week recess leading up to and including the elections. There was some indication retiring Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX) would like to see some reforms attached to an extension. The amount of time for an extension and likelihood of including reforms was, as yet, unsettled. Staff also indicated there is no interest in seeing a lapse, but noted it’s always important to educate members about the difficulties that would create.
ASFPM joined with a wide array of associations and groups in a letter to House and Senate leadership, urging action by Nov. 30 to extend the program.

Senate staff are also unable to predict the path forward. Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA) has introduced a bill, S. 3628, to extend the NFIP for six months. Joining him in co-sponsoring the bill are Senators Cassidy (R-LA), Menendez (D-NJ) and Rubio (R-FL). It seems likely that Sen. Kennedy will try to bring the bill to the Senate floor under “unanimous consent,” a fast track procedure. However, it also seems likely that a small group of Republican senators will put a “hold” on the bill because they want to attach some reforms. If the NFIP’s authority were to lapse, it would probably get included in whatever appropriations legislation emerges when the current Continuing Resolution expires Dec. 7.

The only clear prediction is that passage of a multi-year flood insurance reform bill will have to wait until the next Congress. The bill passed by the House last summer is not popular in the Senate. The Senate Banking Committee has yet to report out a bill.

**Appropriations**

For FY19, Congress did succeed in passing bills to fund three quarters of government spending. That amount was included in five of the 12 regular appropriations bills, so seven bills remain to be acted on. All of those have been passed by the House and have at least been reported out of committee in the Senate. The programs funded by those seven bills would shut down if not extended beyond Dec. 7. One of those bills is the Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Some of the seven remaining bills could be passed before Dec. 7, but the Homeland Security bill is particularly problematic. The next few weeks could see passage of some individual bills, passage of an omnibus bill including some or all of the seven, or some could be included in yet another CR.

The Homeland Security bill includes funding for the president’s wall between the U.S. and Mexico. The Administration’s official budget request was originally $1.6 billion. The president then increased his request to $5 billion. So far, the House has passed its bill, which includes the $5 billion. The Senate committee reported out its bill, which includes the $1.6 billion. The issue has been the subject of discussion between the White House and House and Senate leadership. After a very recent meeting at the White House, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Ryan announced they felt assured they had an agreement.

House and Senate versions of the FY19 appropriations bill include $262 million for flood risk mapping and $249 million for Pre-disaster Mitigation. Those are the same levels appropriated for FY18. Since FEMA has been operating under a CR so far, those levels have remained the same.

**Re-constitution of the Flood Map Coalition**

On Oct. 18, ASFPM and the National Association of Realtors brought together a group of more than 20 organizations interested in FEMA’s flood risk mapping program. Many of them had been members of the earlier Flood Map Coalition, which was in existence from about 2002-2013. That coalition was instrumental in calling attention to the need for substantial and sustained funding to update the nation’s very old flood maps and to complete mapping for the nation. The five-year commitment to funding Map Modernization at $200 million/year took effect in 2003.
Map funding has been up and down since then. A two-year budget agreement reached by Congress made it possible to fund mapping at the highest level ever, $262 million, for FY18 and likely for FY19. These funding levels reflect an understanding of the need for accurate and up-to-date flood maps within Congress. The Administration’s budget request for mapping in FY18 was $0 and in FY10 it was $39 million.

Unless another budget agreement can be developed, it will be difficult for Congress to continue that level of funding if the Administration again requests a very low amount. Largely due to that concern, ASFPM and NAR decided to gather groups interested in the mapping program. At the first meeting, a number of issues were discussed in addition to funding, such as FEMA's mapping priorities, the recommendations of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council, implementation of the mapping program elements authorized in the 2012 Biggert-Waters flood insurance reform legislation, 3DEP elevation data collection effort at USGS and possible implications of FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0 project for flood maps.

At a second meeting Nov. 14, 12 members of the group had a briefing and discussion with FEMA staff, including Mike Grimm, associate administrator for Risk Management, Angie Gladwell, deputy associate administrator, Luis Rodriguez, risk assessment branch chief and Andy Neal, chief actuary and lead for FEMA’s Risk Rating 2.0 project.

Many members of the Flood Map Coalition have signed on to a letter to the director of the Office of Management and Budget, urging map funding for FY20 at the FY18 funding level of $262 million. Once that letter was sent Nov. 19, copies were sent to the House and Senate authorizing and appropriations committees responsible for FEMA’s mapping program and its funding. Note the large number of groups and mapping interests that signed this letter.

**Next Steps**

Once the new Congress convenes in January, there will be many new members of the committees with jurisdiction over programs of interest to ASFPM. These include committees that oversee programs and budgets for FEMA, USGS, Department of Agriculture, Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA, HUD and others. There will be many new congressional staff to help educate about these programs and about overall flood risk management.

*All bills referenced can be found by going to [www.Congress.gov](http://www.Congress.gov) and typing in the bill number or title.*

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