

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

September
2009

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Deputy Executive Director's Report - George Riedel, CFM

The Association and the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) need the help of our members. The Association and CBOR have been working with Ohio State University on conducting an assessment of the National Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®) Program and exam to ensure continued quality, consistency, and credibility of our Certification Program. We recently sent an email to all of our members and Certified Floodplain Managers asking them to complete a survey. This survey will provide valuable and vital data and information regarding the CFM® Program and exam. This survey will help us ensure that we are providing the best Certification Program for Floodplain Managers. **The survey must be completed on-line no later than September 14, 2009.** I urge everyone to take the time to complete this important survey.

CFM® Validation Survey

ASFPM and the Certification Board of Regents are conducting an assessment of the National CFM® Program and Exam to ensure continued quality, consistency, and credibility of our certification. Your assistance in filling out the survey is critical to the National CFM® Program.

[Take the survey now!](#)

[More Information about the Survey](#)

Survey Responses - Keep it Up!

- ✓ Texas, Florida, Arizona lead in completions
- ✓ 70% Response rate (started)
- ✓ 17% Completion rate (finished)
- ✓ 90% of completers are CFMs

Thanks for Your Support!

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Recently, the Association held a Committee Retreat in Madison, WI. Representatives from each Policy Committee along with the Facilitators for each Committee POD, met to discuss the Committees' work plans for the coming year and how to best integrate the Association's Goals and Objectives in to the Committees' work plans. We also discussed the importance of the Committees to the Association.

The time and work of the Committee Co-Chairs and other volunteer Committee members who offer their time, energy, and expertise is the foundation of the Association. As ASFPM continues to grow in both membership and national

prominence, more individuals are needed to get involved with the committees to ensure that the Goals and Objectives of the Association are met.

If you have not been involved in any of the 13 policy committees, I encourage you to get involved. Go to the ASFPM web site at www.floods.org and check out the information on the committees to see which one would be of interest to you. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, contact the Committee's Co-Chairs to see how you can help.

The Association's web site has been revised and updated. The new web site is easier to use for members, local officials, the general public, and media in obtaining information. Please go to www.floods.org and check out the new web site. If you have any comments or recommendations, please send them to Jason Schneeberger at Jason@floods.org.

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ASFPM Conference: Call for Abstracts & Workshops – Due October 31st



The **CALL FOR PRESENTERS** is now online for the Association of State Floodplain Managers 34th Annual National Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, May 16-21, 2010. It can be downloaded from the conference page at www.floods.org. The conference page will also soon contain Speakers instructions, Sponsorship and Exhibitors information, and links to the conference hotels.

Our conference theme for 2010 is derived not only from the No Adverse Impact building blocks, but also plays on Bricktown - Oklahoma City's unique neighborhood and entertainment destination.

This conference will examine the challenges facing the nation as flood loss reduction experts share ideas and learn from one another. Oklahoma weather is well known for its diverse and sometimes brutal thunderstorms, tornadoes, and ice storms, often resulting in significant flooding. Their unique problems and solutions will be showcased for us through the cooperation of local citizens, interest groups, and professionals at all levels of government.

This Call for Abstracts seeks a broad range of professionals to address the many issues and problems associated with reducing flood damages and flood risk, making communities more sustainable, and managing floodplains and fragile natural resources.

In addition to the Concurrent Session Presentations, ASFPM is also accepting proposals for a limited number of half- and full-day **TRAINING WORKSHOPS**. There is a separate form for workshops posted on the conference website; please be sure you select the correct form when submitting. Workshops are coordinated by the ASFPM Executive Office rather than the Program Coordinator. Please direct any questions to Kait Laufenberg at kait@floods.org or 608-274-0123.

Please forward this message to all your peers and post it in your newsletters, list serves, websites and bulletin boards. This is an event you DON'T want to miss. We look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City!

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HOTTEST NEW TOPIC is Flood Risk Management Policy

It is increasingly thought that flood risk management may prove to be a better means of minimizing the detrimental impacts flooding continues to have on humans and floodplain resources than past strategies. Like other management strategies, it would provide a framework for balancing the multiple complementary and competing factors that affect risk. Use of a flood risk management strategy will mean moving away from existing focus on the boundaries of anticipated flooding and toward more meaningful measures of the potential for flood losses and benefits across a geographic area. Because of this, such an approach has broad implications for programs and policies at all levels and in activities ranging from mapping to planning to insurance to resource management to disaster response.

The ASFPM Foundation has taken up Flood Risk as the cause for the 3rd Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum. In fact, when the Events Planning Committee began to ponder the program plans, they found it to be such a comprehensive and complex subject that they are breaking it into three segments in order to properly tackle the topic. Symposium 1 in September will address quantification through the theme, “Defining and Measuring Flood Risks and Benefits”. Symposium 2 in November will deal more with communicating, via the theme, “Fostering Appropriate Behaviors to Manage Flood Risks and Benefits”. The background information and common understandings garnered will focus the 2010 Forum in March on “Flood Risk Management”. This series will be invitation only like the previous Foundation Forums – the first in 2004 on the 1% chance flood standard and the second in 2007 on Floodplain Management in 2050.

ASFPM and the National Association for Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) hosted a two-day, invitation-only Summit on “The Challenge of Quantifying, Communicating, and Managing Flood Risk” for 80 of the nation’s flood risk experts on July 13-14 in Cambridge, Maryland. This was the third in an ongoing series of events to increase national awareness on FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY. Representatives of local, state, regional, and federal government and the private sector gathered to discuss vital national policies currently under consideration at the Federal level. Keynote talks by Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator, and Jon Carson, Council on Environmental Quality Chief of Staff, addressed the Obama Administration’s strategies and role in opportunities for coordinated mitigation efforts. Productive small group discussions elicited recommendations for future actions. The agenda, participants list, presentations, and discussion summaries are available on the ASFPM website under *Conferences and Events > Past ASFPM Events*.

The July Summit was follow-on to the Wye River Summit in December 2006 in Maryland and the February 2008 Levee Safety Summit in St. Louis. These are all an outgrowth of the Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee (IFRMC), consisting of ASFPM, NAFSMA, FEMA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who have been meeting quarterly the past four years to advance national approaches on flood risk management policy. Under the new Administration, FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate and USACE Deputy Commanding General Merdith “Bo” Temple now follow in the footsteps of David Maurstad and Major General Don Riley to bring high level federal agency participation in the consideration of recommendations on national policy issues, while NAFSMA and ASFPM help solicit input from state and local entities for the improvement of public safety.

For additional information on the Association’s activity with respect to flood risk management, please contact ASFPM Communications and Events Manager Diane Brown at diane@floods.org or 608-441-3003.

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ASFPM Letter to FEMA Regarding Flood Insurance Training

In August, ASFPM sent a letter to Edward Connor, Acting Assistant Administrator, FEMA Mitigation Directorate, regarding the changes to the way the old Bureau & Statistical Agent's responsibilities have been changed since the new contracts were awarded. ASFPM expressed concern that the new contracts don't provide training opportunities for those other than agents, adjusters and lenders, so flood insurance training is no longer available to most floodplain managers. ASFPM recommended FEMA expand the contractor's responsibilities to include the training of floodplain managers and also expand the amount of training classes offered.

You can view a copy of the full letter on our website at: http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/Coorepondence/ASFPM_Letter_to_FEMA_on_BSA%20Responsibilities.pdf

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National Flood Insurance Program – Reform

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) expires September 30, 2009. This means Congress will need to reauthorize the program before it expires. The House of Representatives has a bill to extend the NFIP until March 2010. It is expected the Senate will probably do the same thing.

Congress may hold hearings this fall on changes to the NFIP that Congress will then consider in legislation next year. ASFPM may be asked to testify to Congress regarding changes to the NFIP. We are collecting suggestions from our members concerning changes to the NFIP to consider in our testimony. If you have suggestions or recommendations for changes to the NFIP, please send them to the ASFPM Executive Office at memberhelp@floods.org.

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Call for Presenters – 2010 Delaware Wetlands Conference Wetlands of Delaware: Status, Trends and Future Outlook

The 2010 Delaware Wetlands Conference will be held on January 20, 2010 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dover, Delaware. The goal of this conference is to bring together managers, scientists, and decision makers to share ideas and formulate pathways for restoring and protecting wetland resources in Delaware through integration of existing programs, development and implementation of conservation strategies, and focused education and outreach efforts.

The plenary speaker at this conference will be Dave Fowler of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and ASFPM Region 5 Board Director.

If you are interested in giving a presentation or displaying a poster at this conference, please provide a title and brief abstract (no more than 250 words) to:

Rebecca Rothweiler at Rebecca.Rothweiler@state.de.us by September 30, 2009.

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FEMA Updates Info on NFIP Grandfather Rules

FEMA recently released a new Fact Sheet for Insurance agents regarding the NFIP Grandfather rules. This fact sheet provides information on what the Grandfather rule is and examples of how it would be correctly applied to current situations.

You can view a copy of this document on the FEMA website at:
<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3745>

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ASFPM Letter to Illinois Governor Regarding Senate Bill 1909

ASFPM sent a letter to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn urging the Governor not to sign Illinois Senate Bill 1909 as currently written. This bill would encourage development in the floodplains of Illinois by targeting areas of high flood risk for STAR bonds. ASFPM feels that this bill would only serve to exacerbate problems with flooding in Illinois.

You can view a copy of the letter sent on our website at:
www.floods.org/PDF/Letters/ASFPM_Comment_IL_Senate_Bill_1909.pdf

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Wetlands Restoration Questions?

Ask the Natural Resources Conservation Service!

Posted by Jeanne Christie, ASWM, August 10, 2009

Over the years much of the public discussion about keeping wetlands on the landscape has been around wetlands regulation. Since the 1990 Mitigation Memorandum of Agreement (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/regs/mitigate.html>) required mitigation of wetlands under the Section 404 program, there has been considerable discussion about replacing wetlands either on site or through some other mechanism such as wetland mitigation banks or in lieu fee. This has also required the science of wetlands restoration to receive an enormous amount of attention and as a result, government, consultants, scientists and even the general public are much more knowledgeable about wetland restoration now than 30 years ago.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS

What is less well known is that during roughly the same period another federal agency was becoming the nation's leading expert in successful wetlands restoration. By 2008 the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) had restored two million acres of wetlands through the Wetland Reserve Program alone. In addition NRCS also provided funding and/or technical expertise to wetland restoration in other NRCS and USDA programs including the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality

Incentives Program and Emergency Watershed Program. In the process NRCS learned a lot and they have excellent information to share.

In the late 1990s I worked for NRCS in the same national office that implemented the Wetlands Reserve Program. It was apparent that NRCS' experience in restoring bottomland hardwoods—probably the bulk of WRP acres—was extensive and they were providing detailed information to their staff on correct storage of acorns and seedlings, planting timing, flooding or water requirements, etc. This knowledge had not come easily. Initially there had been consensus that simply leaving these floodplain landscapes alone and allowing them to heal themselves would be enough. But eventually NRCS staff came to understand that 200 years of clearing, draining, building dams and levees, and other alterations had changed the hydrology of North America's farmland. Restoring wetlands—even a restoration project of 1,000-3,000 acre—was a mere postage stamp on a much larger altered landscape. Wetlands would not return on their own. They needed help—sometimes a little and sometimes a lot.

In general, the more altered the landscape, the more wetlands restoration would cost. This is why wetland mitigation is so expensive. Replacing wetlands in urban landscapes with all the roads, parking lots, buildings and other structures that change hydrology requires a lot more resources than rural landscapes and even rural landscapes require work.

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U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Bulletin 17B

Recently, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) received a thank you letter from USGS for the Association's correspondence expressing concerns regarding the status of Bulletin 17B, "Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency" and encouraging the USGS to commit resources to update the document. Bulletin 17B is the technical underpinning of Federal planning for extreme floods and the basis for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood maps, as well as the design of major dams, bridges, and other water-related infrastructure throughout the nation. To view this correspondence go to:

www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/Coorepondence/ASFPM_Reply_from_USGS_on_Bulletin17B.pdf

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2009 Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Awarded



Each year the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation grant a \$2,000 scholarship for one academic year to a full-time college junior or senior who is currently enrolled in an undergraduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management, or to a student enrolled in a graduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management.

We are pleased to announce that the Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Application Review Committee selected Colin C. Smalley who is a student at Creighton University as the recipient of the Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year. We congratulate Mr. Smalley on this award and wish him all the best in his studies.

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A Plea to Floodplain Managers:

Reprinted with revisions from NYSFMSA News, Newsletter of the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Summer 2009

Please, stop talking about “flood maps!” They are not maps of floods! The so-called “flood maps” cannot possibly depict the limits of any future flood, but the term somehow implies that they do. And when a real-world event behaves differently, people conclude that “the maps are wrong.” If they aren’t “flood maps,” what should we call them? The proper name is “Flood Insurance Rate Maps,” but insurance rating is only one of many uses. “Floodplain maps” is better. But the name I prefer is **“flood hazard maps.”**

And what about areas delineated on flood hazard maps? People generally recognize that if they are in “the flood zone,” they might flood (or if they’re in denial they claim that the map is wrong). But they also tend to conclude that areas on the other side of that line will remain high and dry. We, of course, know that the real world consists of many flood zones with varying risks. But how can we help the public increase their understanding of this? “Special Flood Hazard Area” doesn’t exactly roll off the tongue. “Regulated floodplain” is better. I propose that we start calling the various zones depicted on the maps **“flood hazard zones.”**

That brings me to a more difficult question: What should we call the model flood on which our regulations and insurance requirements are based? The term “100-year flood” is widely used and widely misunderstood. Any time part of the “100-year floodplain” gets flooded, some people conclude that it must have been a “100-year flood.” And if they think they’ve already had three “100-year floods” this year, they figure that the chances of another flood are really low (so they do nothing, when they should be acknowledging that they’re in a very high hazard zone). But what can we call it? I’ve tried the “1% probability flood,” but the public doesn’t grasp that. “Base flood” also fails to convey the message. Terms I sometimes use are **“regulatory flood”** and **“regulated floodplain.”** Do you have better suggestions?

As floodplain managers, we often bemoan the fact that the public has a poor understanding of flood risks. But maybe we share the blame by using inaccurate terminology. Let’s pay more attention to words we use and what those terms imply to people who don’t understand the complex issues associated with flood hazards. A shift in terminology is a small step, but it may provide a better foundation for other efforts to improve the public’s understanding of flood risks.

Thank you,
Janet Thigpen, CFM

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

Here’s Something You Might Find Interesting . . .

In 2000, Congress passed – and the President signed – an act that more and more state and local floodplain managers are realizing will impact their jobs. But in a good way!

The Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 was passed to modernize federal requirements applicable to manufactured housing. At the time, more than 19 million Americans lived in approximately 9 million units and manufactured housing had become one of the fastest-growing segments of the housing industry. That rate has slowed considerably, dropping from an all-time high of 373,000 units shipped in 1998 to just over 81,900 units in 2009 (<http://www.census.gov/const/www/mhsindex.html>). Still, many NFIP communities regularly process applications for permits to place and replace units in mapped special flood hazard areas.

The Manufactured Housing Improvement Act does two key things that have bearing on floodplain management. One, it requires HUD to develop standards for the installation of new MFH units, and two, it requires HUD to develop standards for state installation programs. More details on these two elements are explained below.

HUD's Manufactured Home Installation Standards. The Act required HUD to use a balanced consensus committee process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes, including "model" installation standards. The final rule for the installation standard was published on October 19, 2007 at 24 CFR Part 3285 *Model Manufactured Home Installation Standard*. It is notable that the regulations apply only the initial installation of new units.

Download the standards from ASFPM's webpage at: http://www.floods.org/PDF/HUD_MFH_InstallationStandards_FinalRule_101907.pdf and look up other information from HUD here <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/ramh/mhs/csp.cfm>. It's worth running a word search of the standards (search "flood") to see how it captures some but not all NFIP requirements.

With respect to flood hazard areas, the installation standard requires manufacturers to do one of two things. They must either clearly specify if the foundation specifications have been designed for flood-resistant considerations or if they have not been designed to address flood loads. If the specifications are designed for flood-resistance, the conditions of applicability are to be listed (velocities, depths, or wave action) and the design must be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect. If flood loads are not addressed, the instructions are to direct the installer to "obtain an alternate design prepared and certified by a registered professional engineer or registered architect for the support and anchorage."

The installation standard specifies that in flood hazard areas, homes "must be installed on foundations engineered to incorporate methods and practices that minimize flood damage during the base flood, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority Having Jurisdiction, 44 CFR 60.3(a) through (e), and other provisions of 44 CFR referenced by those paragraphs."

In addition, the standard requires outside appliances to be anchored and elevated to or above the same elevation as the lowest elevation of the lowest floor of MFHs, also requires appliance air inlets and exhausts to be elevated to or above the same elevation; and states that oil storage tanks should be anchored and elevated to or above the design flood elevation, or anchored and designed to prevent flotation, collapse, or permanent lateral movement during the design flood.

Importantly, the burden is on the installer to determine whether a home site is wholly or partly in a flood hazard area. The standard also specifies that the flood hazard zone and BFE are to be determined before an installation method is agreed upon.

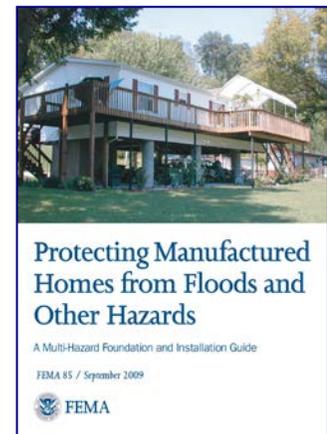
State MFH Installation Programs. The Act gave the states five years to adopt an installation program that includes three key elements: (1) adoption of an installation standard (which must meet or exceed the protection provided by HUD's model standard); (2) training and licensing of installers; and (3) an

appropriate level of inspection of installed homes. The final rule for the installation program was published on June 20, 2008 at 24 CFR Part 3286 *Manufactured Home Installation Program*. Download the regulations from ASFPM's webpage at: http://www.floods.org/PDF/HUD_MFH_InstallationPgmRule_FinalRule_06-20-08.pdf and look up other information from HUD here: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/ramh/mhs/mhip.cfm>.

HUD sets prerequisites for installation licenses. Individuals must satisfy minimum experience levels related to installing, constructing, or inspecting manufactured homes, completion of a year of a college program in a construction-related field, or a combination of those experiences. License applicants must complete an initial 12-hour training requirement and must pass an examination. To qualify for renewal, required every three years, licensed installers must complete 8 hours of continuing education. Training instructors must meet certain requirements.

What this Means for Floodplain Managers. The benefits of HUD's requirements are obvious. When installed in flood hazard areas, more manufactured homes will be installed on foundations that are specifically designed for flood conditions. And more installers will have to learn about NFIP and community requirements for flood hazard areas in order to determine appropriate foundation designs.

I think our next step is obvious: state coordinating agencies and state floodplain management associations should look into opportunities to develop training in cooperation with the state agencies that are responsible for installation programs. Doing this will get easier later this year, when FEMA anticipates releasing the updated **FEMA 85, *Protecting Manufactured Homes from Floods and Other Hazards: A Multi-Hazard Foundation and Installation Guide***. The revised guidance will include some pre-engineered foundation designs that can be used within certain limitations, such as within a range of flood depths and velocities.



[RCQ]

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Washington Legislative Report

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



Congress Set to Return to Packed Agenda

After a month-long hiatus, the Congress will resume its legislative business on September 8th. Among the many major issues on the platter this fall, such as health care policy, climate change legislation, the economy and foreign policy, are also National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization, Stafford Act revisions, and sustainable watershed planning legislation. Importantly, all of the appropriations bills for FY 2010, which begins October 1, 2009, have yet to be finalized and are in various states of progress.

Following is a list of expected upcoming activity and status. Please see the August News & Views for more detailed information on these issues.

National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization

This is the most urgently-needed legislative activity, as the NFIP authorization expires on September 30, 2009 unless Congress acts to extend it. The House passed H.R. 3139 providing for a 6-month extension through March, 2010, but the Senate has not yet taken it up. There are two ways action could be taken in September. One would be for the Senate to pass an extension too, but indications are that they would write their own bill, eliminating the provision in the House bill that expands A99 zone eligibility. If this route is taken, a House-Senate Conference or other negotiated agreement would be necessary. The other possibility would be to add a one-year extension to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Both the House and Senate have passed their versions of this measure and it is expected to go to Conference in September.

Hearings on NFIP reform are likely this fall. ASFPM has compiled a list of issues that are suggested for such hearings and has shared it with committee staff. Detailed policy recommendations were not included at this time. Should ASFPM be asked to testify at a hearing, comments and suggestions from ASFPM policy committees and interested members will be sought.

Appropriations

The House has passed all 12 regular appropriations bills and the Senate has passed several. Both the Energy and Water (Army Corps of Engineers) and Department of Homeland Security (FEMA) bills are ready for House-Senate Conferences which are expected to take place in September so that these bills can be signed into law before the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Otherwise, the Senate will be focused on passage of its remaining bills as the leadership of both House and Senate would like to avoid an omnibus appropriations bill.

Stafford Act Revision

A bill to revise aspects of the Stafford Act (H.R. 3377) was introduced at the end of July by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Much of the bill is an updated version of legislation from the previous Congresses (last year's H.R. 6658). With input from the Mitigation Policy Committee Co-Chairs, Mitigation Policy Coordinator and Legislative Officer, ASFPM is finalizing comments on the bill. ASFPM representatives will meet with House committee staff in mid-September to discuss the recommendations. It is anticipated that this bill will be acted on quickly and will be reported out of committee by the end of September.

Sustainable Watershed Planning

As reported in "News and Views," a subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is engaged in drafting legislation to provide a mechanism to encourage and support sustainable and coordinated watershed planning. It is likely that a bill will be introduced in the fall, and it is possible that a hearing could be held.

Nelson-Martinez Legislative Package

A number of bills were introduced in the Senate in late July by Senators Nelson and Martinez of Florida. The bills are listed in "News & Views". The first one that is likely to be acted upon will be the National Hurricane Research Initiative Act (S. 1485). A hearing was held on that bill July 28th and a mark-up is expected in September or October.

Thompson Mitigation Bills

Chairman Bennie Thompson of the House Homeland Security Committee introduced a package of three bills (listed in "News & Views"). A group of reinsurance, insurance and other interested organizations are part of one called www.smartersafer.org/ which is encouraging Congressional support for these bills, but it is not yet clear whether there will be legislative action. None of the bills fall within the jurisdiction of the Homeland Security Committee.

Climate and Energy

After House passage on June 26 of the major climate and energy bill (H.R. 2454), the Senate will be working on this measure in the fall. ASFPM has developed some comments on the “adaptation” aspects of the legislation.

Also of Interest

Congressional Mitigation Briefing

The Congressional Hazards Caucus, in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and FEMA, will sponsor a briefing on September 10th for Congressional staff. The briefing will focus on the Mitigation White Paper developed by NEMA under contract for FEMA. NEMA engaged many others in the development of a consensus document, including ASFPM.

Speakers will include Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator, NEMA’s Mitigation Committee Chair, a representative of the Institute for Building and Home Safety, and Mike Armstrong, former Associate FEMA Director for Mitigation. Deborah Mills, ASFPM Mitigation Committee Co-Chair and Chad Berginnis, Mitigation Policy coordinator, will be in attendance and available to answer questions.

Revision of Principles and Guidelines

The Council on Environmental Quality (Office of the President) is leading the effort to revise the P & G used by some federal agencies to plan and evaluate water resources projects. ASFPM has been asked for recommendations and comments and will continue to respond to such requests and to monitor progress.

Development of New Executive Order on Floodplain Management

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is also leading the effort to revise, but mostly update and consolidate the Executive Order on floodplain management for the President’s issuance– which would supersede EO 11988 which was issued in 1977. On this subject as well, ASFPM has been asked for recommendations and comments. More information on this can be found in the August “News & Views.”

All legislation referenced can be reviewed by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number.

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CFM[®] Corner

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

Certification Board of Regents

The members of CBOR will have a meeting this month in Madison, WI. During the two days of meetings the CBOR will be working on new certification policies as well as discussing the results of the Reliability & Validity CFM Program survey.

Continuing Education

ASFPM recently went through a certification renewal for about 850 CFMs. One of the main things we heard about was how hard it is to get training for CECs. Most people we talked to were surprised to hear that there are two online training options. One being RedVector (costs money) and the other is training offered by FEMA’s EMI (free). These independent study courses can be a way to get your CECs without traveling.

Here is the link for RedVector CEC approved courses:

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=325&firstlevelmenuID=180&siteID=1>

Here is a partial list of FEMA online CEC approved courses, some may no longer be available:

Website link: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

Course	Type	CECs approved
IS-007 A Citizen's Guide to Disaster Assistance	Parallel	6
IS-012 Property Acquisition for Local Communities	Parallel	6
IS-022 Are you Ready? An In Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness	Parallel	6
IS-208 State Disaster Management	Parallel	6
IS-235 Emergency Planning	Parallel	6
IS-241 Decision Making and Problem Solving	Core	8
IS-242 Effective Communication	Core	8
IS-263 Dam Break Analysis using HEC/HMS and HEC/RAS	Core	12
IS-271 Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk	Core	6
IS-279 Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Buildings	Core	10
IS-292 Disaster Basics	Parallel	6
IS-386 Introduction to Residential Coastal Construction	Core	12
IS-393.A Introduction to Hazard Mitigation	Core	10
IS-394.A Protecting your Home or Small Business	Core	10
IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) 4 hours	Parallel	3

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News from Chapters

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

Flood Safety Question Added to Oklahoma Driver's Exam

Over the course of the next year, ASFPM will be "showcasing" activities that model creative ideas and solutions being demonstrated by our Chapters. If your Chapter has something you'd like us to share, please contact Kait Laufenberg at Kait@floods.org.

Recently we were notified of some promising outreach activities going on in our Oklahoma Chapter. The Oklahoma Chapter has just succeeded in getting a flood safety question added to the Oklahoma Driver's Licensing Exam and flood safety information added to the Oklahoma Driver's Manual. They have also partnered with the Oklahoma Association for Pupil Transportation (OAPT) to provide continuing education to school bus drivers on the dangers of driving through flood waters.

How they Did It

Following the death on May 3, 2009 of a woman in Pryor, OK, who drove around barricades and into floodwaters, the Oklahoma Chapter seized the moment to approach the State Department of Public

Safety, the state's driver licensing authority. Their letter included educational information about flood safety and a potential question for the driver's licensing exam.

The Department of Public Safety agreed to add the question to the driver's exam, to add flood safety information to the Oklahoma Driver's Manual, and to share educational outreach materials with key stakeholders. The new version of the Oklahoma Drivers Manual is scheduled to be printed in August / September 2009. As a result, driver's education classes throughout the state are now incorporating flood safety into their curriculum and the Oklahoma Drivers Licensing Exam will include a flood safety question.

Sample Question for Written Drivers Exam

Question: **You can lose control of your car in just SIX inches of flowing water, but how many inches of flowing water would be enough to float MOST vehicles?**

- a. 10 inches
- b. 12 inches
- c. 24 inches
- d. 36 inches

Answer: c. 24 inches

Networking with Partners

The driver's licensing exam question was borrowed and used with permission from material posted on the NOAA website. In feedback the Chapter received later, the state Department of Public Safety mentioned that, "...we knew we needed to do something [about flood safety and driving], but we weren't sure where to go. Giving us the materials and the question made it easy for us to take action." Upon release of the new exam, the Oklahoma Chapter will join the Department of Public Safety in a press release to promote safety in driving during flood conditions.

The Oklahoma Chapter has also developed a partnership with the state's Department of Education, which has led to additional networking opportunities with the Oklahoma Association for Pupil Transportation (OAPT). The Oklahoma Department of Education – specifically the Director of Transportation/Student Transfers at the Oklahoma State Department of Education — requires school bus drivers to have 4 hours of continuing education per year. The Oklahoma Chapter is developing material on flood safety for school bus drivers. OAPT asked to partner with the Oklahoma Chapter to develop material for their drivers' continuing education requirement on flood safety. The relationship with the local OAPT contact led to a connection with the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), and discussions are now forming about using the material for school bus driver continuing education nationwide.

References & Resources

[Letter Oklahoma sent to the Department of Public Safety \(including the exam question\)](#)

[NOAA webpage where the question was found](#)

[Arizona's Stupid Motorist Law \(law against driving through flood waters\)](#)

[NOAA flood safety outreach materials](#)

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Floodplain Management Training Calendar

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

September 14, 2009	Closing date for CFM® Validation Survey	Link to Survey
September 14 – 16, 2009	NORFMA Conference Yakima, WA	Northwest Regional Floodplain Managers Association
September 15 – 18, 2009	INAFSM Conference, Angola, IN	Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management
September 15 – 18, 2009	CASFM Fall Meeting, Crested Butte, CO	Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers
September 16, 2009 and September 17, 2009	Tools of Floodplain Management, Jefferson City, MO	Missouri SEMA, MFSMA, FEMA
September 16 – 17, 2008	GAFM Conference “Tools for Success” Atlanta, GA	Georgia Association of Floodplain Management
September 20 – 23	OKFPM Annual Conference, Stillwater, OK	Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association
September 27 – October 1, 2009	Dam Safety ‘09 Hollywood, FL	Association of State Dam Safety Officials
September 28 – 30, 2009	AFMA Fall Conference, Springdale, AR	Arkansas Floodplain Management Association
October 7 – 9, 2009	Floods Know No Boundaries, Superior, WI	Joint Wisconsin & Minnesota ASFPM Chapters Contact: Dave Fowler or Jeremy Walgrave
May 16 – 21, 2010	ASFPM 34 th Annual National Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Job Corner

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

Director, Flood Policy

American Rivers, Inc.

The Director focuses on implementing the goals and objectives of the River Restoration Program as they pertain to increasing natural and human resilience against flood disasters with a special focus on the Mississippi River basin. The Director is responsible for the development, analysis, and implementation of strategies to improve national flood management policies and practices. The Director represents the Restoration Program in interactions with Members of Congress, relevant government agencies and other decision-makers, as well as serving as a principle liaison in relationships with other organizations engaged in national flood policy work. The Director is also responsible for organizing workshops and meetings about progressive flood management, focusing in the Mississippi River basin and coordinating with American Rivers' field efforts in California, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Pacific Northwest.

Qualifications:

1. Advanced degree in policy, law, natural or physical science, or other related disciplines.
2. Minimum of six years experience working in the area of natural resource policy or management at a state, regional, or federal level.
3. Experience in flood management, river and wetland restoration, or water and land conservation preferred.
4. Effective advocate with strong oral and written communications skills.
5. Strong analytical skills.
6. Strong political judgment.
7. Proven program leadership skills.
8. Proven budget management and fundraising skills.
9. Strategic thinker; highly organized and able to meet deadlines.
10. Team player and demonstrated ability to work effectively with colleagues to advance an organization's broader goals and meet deadlines.
11. High energy level, self-motivated.

You can find a complete job description online at:

<http://www.americanrivers.org/about-us/jobs/director-restoring-rivers.html>

How to Apply:

Submit a resume and cover letter to: Fanette Jones, Director of Administration, fjones@amrivers.org,
Subject: "Director, Flood Policy".

No phone calls please.

Water Resources Professional Engineer

Albuquerque, NM

At URS, we're working on a lot of incredible projects. But our most impressive attribute is our total business success. We're a recognized leader in the engineering, architectural, planning and construction management services. As the scope of our projects expands and diversifies, the opportunity for you to develop and be challenged will also continue to grow. If you'd like to work at the top of the industry, consider our opening for Professional Water Resources Engineer at our Albuquerque, New Mexico office.

The Albuquerque office has worked on exciting projects for FEMA providing floodplain mapping, hazard analysis, mitigation & planning, and disaster support in New Mexico, Texas, California, Nevada, Colorado and Louisiana.

In addition to this exciting job opportunity, Albuquerque enjoys at least 310 days of sunshine per year, a full four seasons, outdoor activities for people of all ages, and a relatively low cost of living. Additionally, Albuquerque has recently been awarded #1 on the "Best Places to Live 2009" list by US News & World Report and #2 for "2009 Best Cities" by Kiplinger.

The chosen candidate will become part of the Risk Assessment Planning and Production (RAPP) Department which is comprised of successful, team-oriented, enthusiastic individuals. They will have the opportunity to manage task orders on our FEMA floodplain mapping projects. The candidate will perform and oversee hydrology and hydraulics calculations and computer modeling in a team environment. Plus, provide technical guidance to junior staff in the group. This position reports directly to the RAPP Engineering Team Leader.

Education:

Bachelor of Science degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering.

Requirements:

- 5+ years experience performing hydrology, hydraulics and floodplain delineation.
- Ideal candidate has a strong work ethic, takes ownership of tasks, follows tasks through to completion, and has a high attention to serving clients, providing quality work products, staying within budgets and meeting schedules.
- Software Experience: Must have knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite, Microsoft Project (or equivalent scheduling software), HEC-RAS, AutoCAD or Microstation, HEC-HMS, and ArcGIS.
- Experience a plus in the following: WISE, Additional ESRI Software, FLO-2D, FlowMaster, CulvertMaster, StormCAD, NFF, PeakFQ, CheckRAS, GeoRAS, GeoHMS, and PondPack.

License/Registration:

PE or able to obtain TX and NM PEs within one year of hire date. Certified Floodplain Manager is also required within the first year of employment.

To Apply: Please visit our website at <http://www.urscorp.jobs/> and submit your resume to requisition URS38405.

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