

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

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The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Deputy Executive Director's Report - George Riedel, CFM

In August, the Association held a Committee Retreat in Madison, Wisconsin. Representatives from each Policy Committee, along with the Facilitators for each Committee POD, met to get a better understanding of possible NFIP Reform and how the Committees may want to incorporate NFIP Reform into their work plans for the coming year. In addition, the participants discussed the Committees' FY-11 Work Plans and received tools and training for committee organization and recruiting.

Recently, there have been several changes to the Co-Chairs and Liaisons of the Policy Committees. Lisa Jones, South Carolina, is now Co-Chair of the Floodplain Regulations Committee, replacing Jonathan Sorg. Jessica Baker, Texas, is now Co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee replacing Debi Heiden. Pam Pogue, Rhode Island, is now Liaison for the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee, moving from Co-Chair of the Coastal Issues Committee. Maria Honeycutt, Maryland, is now Co-Chair of the Coastal Issues Committee. You can see the full listing of our Committee and Board leadership online: [View Board Sheet](#)

I want to thank Debi Heiden and Jonathan Sorg for their hard work and volunteer time given to ASFPM. I also want to thank all the Committee Co-Chairs, Liaisons, and volunteers who offer their time, energy, and expertise that makes ASFPM a strong and viable organization. As ASFPM continues to grow in both membership and stature, more individuals need to get involved to make sure their voices are heard on issues of concern to them. If you have not been involved in any of the ASFPM 13 Policy Committees, I encourage you to get involved. Go to the ASFPM website at www.floods.org and check out the information on the committees that interest you. If you would like to volunteer for one of the committees, contact that committee's Co-Chair to see how you can help.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers has a national program for certifying floodplain managers, the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program, administered by a 12-member Certification Board of Regents (CBOR). Appointments to CBOR are made by the ASFPM Board of Directors. Recently, the ASFPM Board appointed two new members to CBOR. Gene Henry, CFM, Florida, will replace Diane Calhoun, past President of CBOR, and Mike DePue, CFM, will replace Cleighton Smith. I want to take this opportunity to thank both Diane and Cleighton for their hard work and volunteer time that they have given CBOR and ASFPM.

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Membership renewals will be going out soon, so be sure to update your contact info if you have moved or changed jobs! Use your member login, or email changes to memberhelp@floods.org.

ASFPM Testimony on Map Modernization and Levee Issues

On July 28th, 2010, ASFPM's Policy and Partnerships Program Manager Sam Riley Medlock presented testimony on behalf of ASFPM at a hearing titled "Flood Preparedness & Mitigation: Map Modernization, Levee Inspections and Levee Repairs". The hearing was a joint effort of two subcommittees of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The purpose of the hearing was to evaluate preparedness and mitigation efforts among flood-prone communities and responsible federal agencies by evaluating the accuracy of the FEMA flood map modernization process, mechanisms for dispute resolution, and the impact of levee inspections and certifications on determinations of flood risk.

You can read a copy of ASFPM's full written testimony on our website at: [View Testimony](#)

You can also view the full record of testimony from the hearing and watch the taped webcast of the hearing on the Senate Committee website at: [View Hearing Info](#)



Above: Sam Riley Medlock pictured second from the left during Panel 2 of the hearing.

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Western Kentucky 2010 Stormwater Utility Survey

The 2010 Western Kentucky Stormwater Utility Survey is now available at www.wku.edu/swusurvey. A stormwater utility is one of the most popular and successful methods of funding stormwater and flood mitigation programs. It involves charging a fee to handle stormwater. The revenue from these is dedicated to flood or water quality issues. Most stormwater programs are funded from a community's general fund, that is, from taxes. Consequently, stormwater programs must compete with fixing potholes and putting more police on the streets. Unfortunately, stormwater is the invisible infrastructure that works well as long as it is not raining, and resources for it are often subject to political whim. A stormwater utility is not subject to these whims.

More communities enact stormwater utilities each year. This survey provides data on more than 1100 stormwater utilities in the U.S. It is intended to provide data useful to community leaders who wish to enact a utility. Sometimes stormwater utilities are challenged in court. The current survey provides some information that could help reduce legal exposure for utilities.

Questions regarding this survey should be addressed to Warren Campbell by email at warren.campbell@wku.edu or by phone at 270-745-8988.

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Stay Connected with USGS

USGS is using social media tools to share information and to increase the potential for better understanding how science is being used to address some of the Nation's most pressing issues including natural hazards, climate change, water availability, energy and mineral resources and ecosystems sustainability and resiliency. Our goals are to not only increase our ability to communicate important information to the public, but to encourage participation and conversation with the USGS. We invite you to stay connected with USGS through our various social media presences on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr and more. For more info visit: <http://usgs.gov/socialmedia/>



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NFIP's New Lower-Cost Insurance Option

Has your community recently been affected by flood map changes? Property owners may be eligible for a new flood insurance option that can provide temporary financial relief.

In 2003, more than 70 percent of the flood maps (known as Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs) in the United States were at least 10 years old and many no longer reflect current flood hazards. Congress passed a law and appropriated funds that directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to create the five-year Flood Map Modernization Program—a program dedicated to using current data and technology to update flood maps nationwide. Since then, communities across the country have been experiencing flood map changes.

With the Flood Map Modernization Program— and now Risk MAP¹ – providing updated FIRMs, communities are gaining a better understanding of their real flood risk. In some cases, this means areas in a community previously thought to be at a moderate-to-low-risk for flooding are now being accurately identified as high-risk and designated as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). This increased risk of flooding is real and many property owners now find themselves required by lenders to purchase flood insurance.

To help reduce costs, property owners can now purchase the low-cost Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) during the two years following a map revision. However, at the end of the two year eligibility period, the PRP would have to be rewritten as a higher premium standard-rated policy at each subsequent renewal. While the PRP premiums are not permanently available, policies converted from a PRP to a standard-rated policy will be eligible for grandfathering using the lower risk zone reflected on a previous map. FEMA recognizes the financial hardship that a SFHA may place on property owners; therefore, they are extending the eligibility period for PRPs starting January 1, 2011.

Who's Eligible? Owners of buildings that were mapped into an SFHA due to a FIRM revision effective *on or after October 1, 2008, and before January 1, 2011*, are eligible to receive a reduced premium for up to two years beginning January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012. Additionally, owners of buildings that will be newly mapped into an SFHA due to a map revision *on or after January 1, 2011*, will also be able to receive up to two years of reduced premiums. The property must still meet PRP eligibility requirements related to claims and disaster aid. In addition, insurance agents will need to provide previous and current flood zone documentation (e.g., previous and current effective FIRM²) to validate PRP extension eligibility. Property owners should be reminded to talk to their insurance agent about other available rating options offered through the National Flood Insurance Program that may provide them with additional savings (e.g., grandfathering, elevation rating, and higher deductibles).

For More Information. The PRP extension provides affected property owners with temporary financial relief in order to adjust to the new flood risk designation. To learn more about this cost-savings option, visit www.Floodsmart.gov/PRPExtension.

¹ Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, Planning) is FEMA's current five-year mapping initiative that builds on the successes of Flood Map Modernization. While Flood Map Modernization was focused on generating new county-wide FIRMs, Risk MAP will be focusing more on a watershed level as well as remapping all coastal areas. For more information about Risk MAP, go to: http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtm.

² One source is FEMA's online Map Service Center at www.msc.fema.gov.

Significant Savings

Beginning January 1, 2011, a property owner who has a home without a basement will pay \$343 for \$200,000 in building and \$80,000 in contents coverage for a PRP versus more than \$1,400 for a standard-rated policy in an X zone, and even more if rated in a high-risk flood zone (i.e., A zone)...a savings of more than \$1,000+ a year.

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Study on Payments for Watershed Services (PWS)

EcoAgriculture Partners is conducting a study on payments for watershed services (PWS) projects and programs in the United States. Funded by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the USDA Office of Environmental Markets, the study will document schemes that compensate farm, ranch, and forest landowners for water-friendly land management practices. By developing the first-ever broad compendium of experience with PWS in the United States, the study seeks to provide accessible information to landowners, water managers, policy-makers, and other stakeholders to be able to use PWS mechanisms more widely and more effectively to foster environmental stewardship. The focus will be on schemes that involve local and municipal water users or the private sector as buyers of watershed services. The database will include information on the geographic location, scale, and features of current, proposed, and past schemes. We are eager to hear from you if you have knowledge of PWS schemes or have participated as a seller, buyer, or intermediary. Please contact Terhi Majanen at tmajanen@ecoagriculture.org or (202) 393-5315.

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Committee Corner

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

The Coastal Issues Committee has been hard at work on initiatives relating to coastal mapping, sustainable communities, coastal inundation, and coastal resilience. Two projects of interest are the Digital Coast project and a new coastal training consortium.

The Digital Coast is a web portal for coastal managers of all levels – local floodplain managers, state coastal zone managers, marine spatial planners, and regional contractors all will find items to help improve decision making and improve coastal resilience. The site is divided into data, tools, training, and case studies (called “In Action”). Several data sets are available to help coastal managers create maps – LIDAR, benthic, and bathymetric sets are available, complete with FGDC-compliant metadata. To help managers deal with and better understand the data, there are analysis tools like the LIDAR data handler or the impervious surface analysis tool. Training is available, online and in person, for many of the tools and programs. All data, tools, and templates on the site are free of charge. You can view the many options via www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast.

In August, representatives from both the Coastal Issues and Training & Outreach committees attended an inaugural meeting of a group of coastal educators, tentatively titled the Coastal Training Consortium. Over 30 people from across the country gathered for three days to discuss coastal training needs, availabilities, and opportunities to share training materials and resources. Federal, state, and local organizations were represented, as well as NGOs, non-profits, and educational institutions. The group will be conducting a coastal training needs assessment in the coming months; if you have questions, comments, or thoughts on coastal training, please contact Allison Hardin, Coastal Issues Co-Chair or Kait Laufenburg, ASFPM Chapter & Training Coordinator.

Finally, the Coastal Issues Committee is currently revisiting the goals for 2010-2011, which include increased participation in RISKMap via liaison with the Mapping & Engineering Committee and the Great Lakes coastal methodology; expanded application of coastal NAI principles; continued work with NOAA’s Digital Coast and the Nature Conservancy’s Coastal Resilience projects; and participation in coastal initiatives and coalitions.

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Meet Your Board

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

This month we are going to introduce the four Officers of the Association - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The four Officers are elected annually and serve a one-year term from the end of one annual conference to the end of the next annual conference, except the Treasurer who's term follows our fiscal year, July 1 – June 30. Officers of ASFPM must be state-employed, individual ASFPM members, and a person may serve up to two consecutive terms in the same office.

Chair – Greg Main, CFM



Greg Main was raised in rural eastern Indiana in the small town of Farmland. For the past 24 years he has worked for the State of Indiana, and is the State Floodplain Manager in the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Greg is currently serving his second term as Chair, after previously serving as Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Greg says he enjoys his time serving on the ASFPM Board because it has given him many opportunities to learn and provide input on a variety of issues. It has also allowed him to see different parts of the country and establish many good friendships over the years. During his time as Chair, Greg hopes to help the Association continue to promote sound floodplain management practices throughout the nation.

In his free time Greg enjoys spending time outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He also loves to cook and spend time with his family.

Vice-Chair – Sally McConkey, P.E., CFM



Sally Ann McConkey is a life long Illinois resident. She was born in East Saint Louis, attended Belleville West High School in Belleville, and graduated from the University of Illinois. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in LAS Math, a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering, and a Master's degree in Engineering. She has worked at the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) for most of her professional career. She lives in Champaign, Illinois. Sally is active in the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) and recently served as Chair. The ISWS became involved with Map Modernization products for Illinois and Sally heads the Coordinated Hazard Assessment and Mapping Program at the ISWS, overseeing engineering studies and DFIRM mapping. The ISWS is a Cooperating Technical Partner

with FEMA. Before being elected ASFPM's Vice Chair, Sally served as Co-Chair of our Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee. She has increased her volunteer work for ASFPM because she believes that professionals need to be involved beyond their day to day work, and should help to shape programs and policies by providing input. The people in both the Illinois chapter and ASFPM are dedicated professionals who really care about stewardship in their area of expertise, and that makes the experience even more rewarding. While in office Sally hopes to increase practitioners' awareness of issues and how their input makes a difference, in particular, providing input to help shape policy at the state and federal level. But it is not all work and no play, Sally also enjoys her three adult children, minimal gardening, snow skiing, and basking on a beach.

Secretary – Alan J. Giles, CFM

Alan Giles grew up in post WWII District of Columbia, raised by an architect Dad and a teacher/artist Mom. They lived about 1 mile east of RFK Stadium, in the watershed of the Anacostia River, a tributary of the Potomac River. Frequent visits to the Smithsonian Museum and childhood gifts of a telescope and a microscope sparked an early interest in nature and reinforced the discipline of looking at situations from multiple perspectives. Although his experience in floodplain management is relatively brief (about 5 years), it has been nurtured on a fertile field of more than a quarter century of mapping the earth's framework, investigating dynamic processes, and promoting greater awareness/respect of the natural world. Alan's service as ASFPM Board Secretary is his small way of saying thanks to the organization that has helped him to hit the beach running in this field.

Treasurer – John Crofts, CFM

John Crofts was born and raised in the greater Salt Lake City area in Utah. He currently lives in Layton, UT and works at the Utah State Emergency Operations Center in Salt Lake City. John was elected to his first term as Treasurer at the conference this year in Oklahoma City. He is interested in serving on the Board because he wants to help contribute to the Association's long term success. He feels he could do this as Treasurer by providing important financial analysis and feedback on the Association's activities. Outside of work John enjoys spending time with his children, family, and friends. He occasionally volunteers to assist the elderly and handicapped with home improvement projects, including bathroom remodels and other vital home repairs.

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Watershed University Training

FEMA Offers 2-Day Training in Redding, California - September 15 – 16, 2010

On September 15 and 16, 2010, approximately seventy-five community officials from Northern California counties will gather at the City of Redding's City Hall to participate in 'Watershed University.' Watershed University is a 2-day course of information designed to benefit city engineers, and planning, Geographic Information System (GIS), and emergency services staff who are interested in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) flood mapping efforts and flood risk management. Working in concert with FEMA, California Department of Water Resources (CA DWR) staff will also attend and present on FloodSAFE, the State's strategic initiative to improve flood protection and public safety.

Offered by FEMA Region IX for the first time, course content will focus on National Flood Insurance Program-related information and programs relevant to city staff responsible for floodplain management. Topics such as the Community Rating System, FEMA's digital tools, mitigation plans and risk reduction, Letters of Map Change, Elevation Certificates, legal issues, and flood risk management will be covered.

Given the challenges of state and local budgets, FEMA is delighted to offer this course at no cost to attendees. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and lodging. Additionally, 12 Continuing Education Credits (CECs) will be granted by the Association of State Floodplain Managers for Certified Floodplain Managers for full attendance, and Continued Maintenance credits from the American Planning Association will also be granted.

If you are interested in attending Watershed University in the City of Redding or wish to learn more, the course flyer (with the full agenda), registration form, information on CECs, and hotel accommodations can be found here: www.r9map.org/professional-development.

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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 . . .

It started out as a simple question from a local building official: "What code provisions can be used to require demolition of unsafe buildings and structures?"

Most communities have some sort of regulation regarding safe and sanitary housing, sometimes called a property management code or an unsafe building and abatement code. States and communities that enforce codes based on the International Code Series® (and if they retained the administrative provisions) have authority to address unsafe,

insanitary, or deficient buildings. Code officials can require that such buildings “be taken down and removed or made safe.”

Of course, when asked that seemingly simple question, those of us who deal with floodplain management regulations will immediately think about the substantial improvement/substantial damage requirements. While SI/SD might not give a community the authority to require that unsafe buildings be demolished, understanding SI/SD might help owners consider demolition as a viable option, once they realize extensive work necessary to resolve the unsafe conditions could trigger the requirement to bring the buildings into compliance with the FPM rules.

I’ve been known to advocate for demolition rather than elevation by asking this question: what do you get when you elevate a 40-year old house? The answer is obvious – an elevated 40-year old house. In contrast, by starting over the owner gets a fully code-compliant, energy efficient home that is designed not only to resist flood loads, but applicable wind, snow load, and seismic conditions. Yes, I know it costs more to build an all-new home than to elevate, but that shouldn’t stop us at least encouraging owners to think about the benefits of starting over, rather than fixing unsafe, insanitary conditions, along with bringing the building into compliance with flood requirements.

We know the basic concept of SI/SD – if a building is going to be improved (repaired, rehabbed, upgraded, added on to, etc.), and if the cost of all of the work equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land), then the entire building has to be brought into full compliance with the requirements for flood hazard areas. The primary requirement we all think about is elevation; but “full compliance” means just that, so careful attention is necessary to ensure that a substantially-improved building meets all of the requirements based on flood zone.

Now, if you look at the definition of “substantial improvement,” you’ll see what might appear to be a big “out” for anyone who has to rehab an unsafe or insanitary building. The definition states that it excludes “Any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.”

So now the question is this – how should a local official handle a situation where the owner of a building that has been declared unsafe now claims that virtually all of the costs of rehab fall under that exclusion?

The complete answer to that question is found in the FEMA’s recently published "Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference" (FEMA P-758). Section 4.4.8 explains each of the key phrases “correct existing violations . . . which have been identified . . . the minimum necessary to correct.” Order FEMA P-758 by calling 800-480-2520 or download at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4160>.

I’m not going to repeat the text from the SI/SD Desk Reference – you should read it all (in fact, I urge you to read the entire document – and check out the sample Notice to Property Owners and SI/SD Worksheet that are in Appendix D). But the short answer is that simply because a building is deemed "unsafe" does not automatically qualify the unsafe conditions as an "existing violation." And certainly, you can’t assume that all costs to resolve all aspects of the unsafe conditions can be backed out of the total cost of improvement. In addition, that exception should not prompt the code official to seek out and cite violations in order to facilitate circumventing the substantial improvement requirement.

Here are a few of the comments local officials made when considering this question on an online discussion:

- To apply the exception in the SI definition, the project has to be implemented to cure the unsafe structure. The owner can’t invite an inspector over to do a deficiency inspection and then deduct the work required to resolve those deficiencies.
- You can’t let them make a case that every repair project is needed to resolve some kind of code violation, which would be a convenient – but illegal – way to skirt the rules. But if FEMA were to audit your community and you can’t show that you applied the rule right, that could be a problem.
- There has to be coordination. You don’t want the code official telling people to rehab unsafe structures, and then later have the floodplain manager find that the work is substantial improvement. It’d be a good idea for the floodplain manager to get a list of unsafe buildings and check to see if any are in the SFHA.

Washington Legislative Report

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

Congress in Recess, but Some Legislative Work Continues

The Congress will remain in recess this year until mid-September. During the unusually long recess, work continues to prepare for legislative activity during the short three week session beginning September 13, and for an expected lame duck session following the November elections. Some Congressional committees have held field hearings during the recess. The Congress is expected to recess again on October 8th to provide time for members of the House and Senate to return home to campaign before the November elections.



During this short work session, it will be necessary to deal in some form with reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) again. Otherwise, the program will lapse again on September 30. Action can be expected on many appropriations bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported out 9 of the 12 regular appropriations bills, so they are ready for Senate floor action. The House Appropriations Committee has only reported out 2 of the 12, so most action will be at the committee level. The Water Resources Development Act, which was reported out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in July, could be taken up on the House floor. The Multi-Peril Insurance Act, H.R. 1264, to add wind coverage to the NFIP, could come up on the House floor. The House Rules Committee did issue a rule for the bill's floor consideration, but scheduled floor time was delayed twice in July. It is also possible that the Homeowners' Defense Act (H.R. 2555), providing a federal catastrophic loss backstop for state reinsurance fund, could come to the House floor. A subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee could take up a dam safety bill, H.R. 1770, introduced last year.

Because the Congress has been in recess, the status and other information provided in the Washington Report in the August issue of "News & Views" remains current.

NFIP Reauthorization

Congressional action in June reauthorized the NFIP until September 30th. With the Congress returning so late from its recess (House- September 13th; Senate – September 14th), there is little time for further reauthorizing legislation. The Senate Appropriations Committee's Homeland Security Appropriations bill for FY 2011 does include a one year reauthorization of the NFIP. That bill has not yet been considered on the Senate floor. The House version has been reported out of subcommittee, but still has to go through full committee mark-up and House floor consideration. Beyond that, there would still need to be a House-Senate conference of some sort to resolve differences between the two versions. It is possible, but a real challenge, to produce a final Homeland Security Appropriations bill before September 30th. It is possible that another short term reauthorization could be passed to cover the period until a lame duck session could act on longer term reauthorization. Additionally, reauthorization could be attached to some other legislative vehicle. While the House has passed a flood insurance reform priorities bill reauthorizing the program for five years (H.R. 5114), the Senate has not produced its own version as yet. So the future path to NFIP reauthorization is unclear, but will require careful monitoring in September and early October.

WRDA

It is very likely that the House version of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA, H.R. 5892) will be considered by the full House in the next few weeks. The Senate, however, has not yet introduced its version of a WRDA 2010. It seems increasingly unlikely, therefore, that a WRDA bill could be completed and signed into law this year.

Nevertheless, the House is likely to continue to act on the measure. As reported out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on July 29th, the bill did not include a national levee program provision. According to committee staff, the elements of a levee program title were not ready for inclusion. On the House floor, it is very likely that a Chairman's amendment would include a levee program component. The ASFPM has been asked for comments and recommendations.

Stafford Act Reform

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has not yet introduced the Stafford Act Reform legislation she has been developing. Her Disaster Recovery Subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, held a field hearing in Chalmette, LA on August 26th entitled, “Five Years Later: Lessons Learned, Progress Made and Work Remaining from Hurricane Katrina”. Testimony was received from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan; FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate; Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Jr., Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and many local officials.

H.R. 1770 Dam Repair Funding

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management is considering marking up a bill, H.R. 1770, the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act. The bill was introduced last year by Rep. John Salazar (D-CO) and a similar bill, S. 732, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI). Comparable legislation passed the House in the last Congress. The measure would establish a grant program in FEMA for states to assist in rehabilitation, repair, or removal of publicly-owned dams. In response to a request for comments, ASFPM commented that assisted areas should be required to participate in the NFIP, that there should be evidence of plans for future non-federal funding of operation and maintenance, that alternatives to rehabilitation be considered, that downstream inundation mapping be done, and downstream zoning be developed and adopted in order to prevent dams from moving to the high hazard class.

Appropriations

During the coming short work period, it is likely that at least some of the 9 regular appropriations bills reported out of the Senate Appropriations will come to the floor, but that will not become clear until after the Senate returns the week of September 13th. In the House, it is also not yet clear how many bills reported out of subcommittees will be considered in full committee and on the House floor during the work period. With the beginning of the new fiscal year fast approaching, it is a virtual certainty that there will have to be a Continuing Resolution to fund the government until regular bills or an omnibus bill can be passed. The only question is how many of the federal departments and agencies will fall under the Continuing Resolution.

Steps Toward Establishment of Task Force on FEMA/USACE Nexus Issues

The Senate report language accompanying the 2010 Supplemental Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Appropriations bill required that a Task Force be established, to include FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (USACE) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) “to track, address, and where possible, resolve concerns stemming from FEMA mapping in communities with issues related to flood control infrastructure protection, such as levees, drainage or dams.” The agencies have already begun to develop a draft proposal for the Task Force. That bill was signed by the President on July 29th.

Other Legislation and Hearings

The Liveable Communities Act (S. 1619), to promote sustainable housing and communities, was reported out of the Senate Banking Committee on August 3rd. Senate Banking Chairman, Christopher Dodd (D-CT) has announced his commitment to action on this legislation, so it is quite possible it could come to the Senate floor in the next several weeks. At this point, it does not contain a hazard mitigation component. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) and it is possible that a hearing could be held in the House Financial Services Committee at the end of September.

A hearing titled “Where We Are and What We Have Learned for Future Disasters Five Years After Hurricane Katrina” will be held by a subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T & I) Committee on September 22nd.

A hearing entitled “Impact of Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development on the Nation’s Water Quality” will be held by another subcommittee of the House T & I Committee on September 30th.

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

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WWW.FLOODS.ORG Tips

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

Need a Job? Need to Advertise a Job Vacancy? Check ASFPM's Job Corner!

The ASFPM website has a page for job postings. Check out the Job Corner to view floodplain management positions available throughout the country or post your vacancy. There is no charge to view or post jobs. To view available job openings click on the **Job Corner** tab on our website menu. To advertise a vacancy within your organization or state, click the link at the top of the Job Corner page or go to <http://www.floods.org/n-jobpost/post.asp>. You fill in all the relevant details about your job opportunity, ASFPM reviews and posts live after approval. Advertising your job posting is free of charge!

Federal Agency Resources

Have you ever been frustrated trying to find something on federal programs? Did you know we host a comprehensive list of Federal Agency resources?? [Look here](#) for some interesting and useful shortcuts to important information to help you better do your job.

Keyword Search Feature

Can't find something you want on our website? Use the keyword search feature in the top righthand corner!

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CFM[®] Corner

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



Certification Board of Regents (CBOR)

The members of CBOR will meet this month in Madison, Wisconsin. During this two-day meeting, the CBOR will work on writing a new five-year Strategic Plan and will discuss implementation of recommendations regarding the Ohio State University report pertaining to the Reliability and Validity of the ASFPM's Certification Program.

Continuing Education Credits (CECs)

ASFPM's Certification staff recently completed certification renewal for about 850 CFMs. One of the main issues with the certification renewals was submittal of proper documentation for CECs. A CFM must submit verification of attendance for training they have taken during the previous two years. A copy of a Certificate of Attendance is great, but please plan ahead when attending training. If no certificates are given out, have a CEC verification form with you to have signed by the entity providing the training. Submit the verification along with a copy of the agenda with dates of training, location, and timelines to ASFPM when submitting your CEC documentation. For more information go to: <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=217&firstlevelmenuID=180&siteID=1>

Model Job Description

ASFPM has received requests for a standard job description for a Floodplain Manager. CBOR recently developed a job description that communities can use as a model and revise to meet the community's needs. This document can be found on the ASFPM website at:

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=426&firstlevelmenuid=180&siteid=1>

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Chapter Corner

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

Two ASFPM Chapters Obtain Federal Tax-Exempt Status!

Please join us in congratulating the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM) and the Alabama Association of Floodplain Managers (AAFM) who recently were approved (individually) for IRS Federal Income Tax-Exempt Status! This is a great win for these chapters. Federal Tax-Exempt status saves the organization from income tax liability and it simplifies their annual federal income tax filing process. For more on GAFM, please visit the Association's website: www.gafloods.org. For more information on AAFM, please contact [Buster Smith](mailto:Buster.Smith).

Chapter's Efforts to Secure Pre-Approved PDHs & CEUs Boost Workshop Attendance

The Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) has been working to obtain pre-approval from other licensing and certification programs for Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and Continuing Education Units (CEUs), in addition to CECs for CFMs, for Engineers, Surveyors, and Building Officials who attend the chapter's workshops.

According to the FFMA, these efforts have helped to attract non-CFMs and non-Chapter members to their trainings and have boosted attendance. The result has been knowledge sharing and improved dialogue between FFMA members, CFMs, and other parallel industry stakeholders. Providing incentive for a diverse audience of attendees has increased understanding of the various professional perspectives and good floodplain management practices. One recent attendee commented, "Now I understand why the floodplain manager is requiring the Elevation Certificate." Attendance to FFMA's workshops range between 15 and 80 attendees per class often filling to capacity and requiring the chapter close registration. An added benefit has been that the chapter is also receiving requests from non-members to be added to their training and education mailing lists offering new membership recruiting opportunities to the chapter. For more on FFMA, please contact Dr. M. (Krishna) Krishnamurthy, PE, CFM, Executive Director, FFMA at ffmadrk@gmail.com.

Chapter Renewals are Coming Soon

As we enter into the early fall season, it's again that time of year when ASFPM is preparing to send ASFPM chapter membership renewals out to our chapters. This process may be old hat for some chapters, but with elections and leadership changes, the process might be new to some of our chapter leaders. ASFPM chapter membership renewals are sent in November to the two primary chapter contacts on file for the chapter. Renewals to maintain your ASFPM chapter membership status are due back by Jan. 31, 2010 along with your chapter membership fee of \$200.

The two primary chapter contacts are determined by the Chapter's Chair upon election, or by the previous year primary contacts at the renewal period. The two contacts must be chapter board officers or directors and should be persons who can respond to ASFPM requests and communications in a timely manner as well as have the authority to answer questions on behalf of the chapter. These two contacts receive all ASFPM member newsletters as well as any ASFPM Chapter Alerts and communications that are sent out to chapters.

What comes with your renewal paperwork? ASFPM will ask you some basic information about your chapter board and key members (directors, committee chairs, and webmaster), statistical information about your chapter membership (number of members, membership fees, # of newsletters & conferences, etc.), administration information (tax-exempt status, insurance coverage, incorporation status, election cycle and officer/director terms). A "Chapter Recap Sheet" will provide a list of data and documents ASFPM has on file for your chapter to aid you in assessing what updated information should be shared with ASFPM. We will also include CFM status updates, a list of ASFPM Chapter Membership benefits, and occasionally a survey to collect frequently requested chapter information from other chapters.

We want to make this process as seamless and painless for chapters as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact Kait Laufenberg, ASFPM Training & Chapter Coordinator at Kait@floods.org or 608-274-0123 with questions or concerns. I'm here to help!

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Chapters

August kicked off the first Bi-Monthly ASFPM Newsletter for Chapters. The newsletter will be offered in even-numbered months as forum to “catch up” with chapters on key information between chapter calls. This is our newest effort to keep chapters up to date on current events in the months between our calls and the Insider, and to reduce the growing number of ASFPM Chapter emails. Chapter Alert emails will continue, but we will try to limit them to pressing topics and action-alerts where time is of the essence.

Current content categories for the newsletter include: ASFPM Chapter Calendar, Participation Opportunities, Request for Comments, Grant Opportunities, Fellowships, Call for Nominations, and In the News. These categories may change as the newsletter develops and content is available. So long as we have information to share, we'll send a newsletter every other month to the two primary chapter contacts. They are welcome to share the information with their chapter board members, committee chairs, and State Floodplain Managers and State Hazard Mitigation Officers as they so choose. We ask chapters not to forward this newsletter to your general chapter membership. Contact Kait with questions at Kait@floods.org or 608-274-0123.

Chapter Committees - Legislative & Policy Committee Formation / Development

ASFPM is considering hosting a topical call on forming and administering legislative / policy committees at the chapter level. Some chapters already have Legislative Committees while others do not. If your chapter has a Legislative Committee or wants to form one, we want to hear from you! ASFPM is willing to host and facilitate a chapter conference call to brainstorm, share project / ideas, and network across chapters who want to get more involved with policy activities within their state. Contact Kait if your chapter has an interest in participating in a call at Kait@floods.org or 608-274-0123.

Website Development Grant for Nonprofits

ASFPM recently heard about this special discount on website development for nonprofits (Cozality) through the GrantStation *Insider*. While we can't provide a recommendation either way for Cozality, we thought chapters might find it worth checking out:

- [Special Offer for GrantStation Insider Readers](#) Want to get a face lift for your organization's website? Cozality, a web design company for nonprofits, is offering GrantStation Insider readers a 50% subsidy for a complete website makeover, including full standard integration with their industry-leading Effect Engine CMS (Content Management System) for nonprofit websites. This powerful CMS, which can help you increase traffic and donations for your organization, boasts over 30 standard modules, including a number of social media marketing modules. Nonprofits established at least one year prior to the date of application that have raised less than \$250,000 in private donations over the past year and can issue tax receipts in the U.S. and/or Canada are welcome to apply.

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Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program

The ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program, a partnership between ConocoPhillips and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, provides [grants for migratory bird habitat conservation projects](#) in areas where ConocoPhillips has an operating presence. For the current funding cycle, priority will be given to projects that focus on specific species in the following regions: 1) coastal Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas; 2) coastal Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; 3) San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles Harbor area in California; 4) western Colorado and northwestern New Mexico; and 5) coastal northwestern Washington State. International projects will also be considered in selected geographic areas. Grants generally range from \$25,000 to \$200,000. **Application deadline:** October 1, 2010 (Preproposals), December 3 2010 (Full Proposals) Nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and local and state units of governments are eligible to apply. Visit the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website](#) to submit the preproposal form online.

Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program

The Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program supports nonprofit organizations in local Walgreens communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Walgreens provides grants to organizations that focus on: access to health and wellness in their communities, pharmacy education programs and mentoring initiatives, civic and community outreach, and emergency and disaster relief. Health is the company's major area of focus, with priority given to programs that address the health needs of community residents. The company also accepts sponsorship or promotional marketing requests. Online applications may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the company's website for application procedure information.

EPA: National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program

This program provides support to develop the information technology and information management capabilities needed to actively participate in the Exchange Network. Support is also provided for the exchange of environmental data and collaborative work within the Exchange Network and may also be used to fund the standardization and integration of geospatial information to address environmental, natural resource, and human health challenges. Visit the Exchange Network website for more information. **Application deadline: November 5, 2010**

National Science Foundation: Small Business Technology Transfer Program

This program provides support for efforts of university-based researchers working in conjunction with small companies in order to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector by strengthening the role of small business concerns in meeting federal research and development needs and increasing the commercial application of federally supported research results. Priority will be given to efforts that foster and encourage participation by socially and economically disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses. More information about the Small Business Technology Transfer Program on the National Science Foundation website.

Application deadline: November 17, 2010

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Floodplain Management Training Calendar

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

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

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



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

Upcoming ASFPM National Conferences – Mark your Calendar!

- May 15-20, 2011 – ASFPM 35th Annual National Conference – Louisville, KY
- May 20-25, 2012 – ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference – San Antonio, TX
- June 9-14, 2013 – ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT
- June 1-6, 2014 – ASFPM 38th Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA

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Job Corner

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

Assistant Administrator

NOAA's Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research

NOAA is looking for a strong, innovative and collaborative leader to serve as the Assistant Administrator (AA) of NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). The OAR AA promotes preeminent research that strengthens NOAA's science and services and its value to the public. Successful candidates will demonstrate a unique combination of strong scientific credentials, strategic vision and skillful leadership in scientific programs. Please help us spread the word about this exciting leadership opportunity at a unique time in NOAA's history.

The OAR AA is an integral member of the NOAA senior leadership team as the director of one of NOAA's Line Organizations. Additionally, the position has the new responsibility to review research and development (R&D) activities across all of NOAA and to advise the Office of the Under Secretary on the need for, and efficacy of, NOAA research and technology development efforts. The OAR AA, along with the AAs of each corresponding NOAA Line Office, will maintain portfolio management and co-management responsibilities for the R&D programs executed across NOAA to ensure they meet the current and future requirements of NOAA's service components including the National Weather Service, National Ocean Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.

The OAR AA will help strengthen science within OAR and across the agency, and promote the transfer of research results and new technology to NOAA's service components from scientific organizations within and outside of NOAA. In addition, the OAR AA will have the opportunity to shape the future of research in NOAA and to strengthen OAR's partnerships within NOAA and across the federal government and the extramural research community.

The full position description and application information are available on the [USA Jobs website](#). The OAR AA position is open on USA Jobs under announcement number [NOAA#10-06.NJH](#) through October 18. Please direct questions about this job to Norma Hughes (norma.j.hughes@noaa.gov, 301-713-6307).

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### **Planner III / Hazard Mitigation Planner**

Maryland Emergency Management Agency

Description: This position is responsible for leading the State level mitigation planning effort for the development and maintenance of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. This position will also be responsible for coordinating, seeking funding, and reviewing updates to local hazard mitigation plans. Management of hazard mitigation project grants funded under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) will also be assigned as necessary.

Education: Possession of a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Planning.

Experience: Two years of experience in planning.

1. Candidates may substitute a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Architecture, Public Admin., Engineering, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Economics, Public Finance, Political Science, Sociology, Regional Science, or Urban Affairs and one add'l year of experience in planning for the degree in Planning.

2. Candidates may substitute a Master's degree from an accredited college or university in Planning for the required experience.

3. Candidates may substitute a Master's degree from an accredited college or university in Architecture, Public Administration, Engineering, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Economics, Public Finance, Political Science, Sociology, Regional Science, or Urban Affairs and one additional year of experience in planning for the required degree in Planning.

4. Candidates may substitute an additional Master's degree from an accredited college or university in Architecture, Public Administration, Engineering, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Economics, Public Finance, Political Science, Sociology, Regional Science, or Urban Affairs for one year of the required experience.

5. Candidates may substitute a Ph.D. from an accredited college or university in Architecture, Public Administration, Engineering, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Economics, Public Finance, Political Science, Sociology, Regional Science, or Urban Affairs for the required education and one year of the required experience.

6. Applicant may substitute a Ph.D. degree from an accredited college or university in Planning for the required education and experience.

To Apply: Complete MS-100 form, and send to Maryland Emergency Management Agency, 5401 Rue St. Lo Drive, Riesterstown, MD 21136.

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GIS Specialist

Wetland Services, Inc.

Description: We currently have a position open for an individual with 2+ years of experience using ArcGIS 9.X to produce maps and 3D stream & wetland design.

This job periodically requires overnight travel or long day trips into remote areas, and requires the physical ability and skills to traverse difficult terrain on foot, boat, ATV, 4X4, etc. Cross-country navigation is typically by aerial photos & quad maps.

Other services we provide include remote sensing, aquatic bioassessment, T&E surveys, floristic surveys, habitat assessment, planning and large-scale restoration, as well as periodic presentations at symposiums & conferences.

Electronically, please combine your cover letter as the first page of your resume so as to produce a single file. Please title your electronic resume attachment with your last name, first initial and date as follows: SandefurT15JUL10, and email to Tim Sandefur at tsandefur@wetlandservices.net.

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