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## PROCEDURES FOR DFIRMS ARE REVISED

New procedures are in place that affect all Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) produced using funding from the Flood Map Modernization initiative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In October, FEMA issued revised Procedure Memorandum No. 38, "Implementation of Floodplain Boundary Standard (section 7 of MHIP v 1.0)." It updates the Floodplain Boundary Standard and the implementation guidelines that were first issued in 2005.

The original Procedure Memorandum 38 was issued to provide guidance for the implementation of the Floodplain Boundary Standard, which was introduced in Section 7 of FEMA's November 2004 *Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan* (MHIP Version 1.0). According to the original Procedure Memorandum 38, the Floodplain Boundary Standard had to be met in order for a map to have reliable floodplain delineations (i.e., the computed flood elevation and the ground elevation at the mapped floodplain boundary would match within a tolerance set for a given class of flood risk).

Because of developments since the issuance of the original memo, such as the issuance of the *Mid-Course Adjustment* [see *News & Views*, October 2006, p. 1] and results obtained from the first round of audits, FEMA has revised the Floodplain Boundary Standard and further clarified the guidance for its implementation.

Procedure Memorandum 38, as revised,

- Rescinds the requirement that a map must meet the Floodplain Boundary Standard in order to be counted toward Key Performance Indicator 1 (the percentage of population with digital geographic information system (GIS) flood data available);
- Incorporates revised guidance for the implementation of the Floodplain Boundary Standard as a result of the *Mid-Course Adjustment*;
- Updates the Floodplain Boundary Standard criteria (shown in the table, next page); and
- Releases an updated version of the Floodplain Boundary Standard Audit Procedures to reflect the changes outlined in the revised Procedure Memorandum 38 and clarifies the self-certification process.

*[continued on next page]*

## New DFIRM Procedures (cont.)

| Risk Class | Characteristics   | Delineation Reliability of the floodplain per study methodology <sup>1</sup> |                          |
|------------|---|--|--------------------------|
|            |   | Detailed   | Approximate <sup>2</sup> |
| A          | High population and densities within the floodplain, and/or high anticipated growth     | +/- 1.0 foot/ 95%  | +/- 1/2 contour 95%      |
| B          | Medium population and densities within the floodplain, and/or modest anticipated growth | +/- 1.0 foot/ 90%  | +/- 1/2 contour 90%      |
| C          | Low population and densities within the floodplain, small or no anticipated growth      | +/- 1.0 foot/ 85%  | +/- 1/2 contour 85%      |
| D          | Undetermined Risk, likely subject to flooding   | NA   | NA                       |
| E          | Minimal risk of flooding; area not studied  | NA   | NA                       |

<sup>1</sup>The difference between the ground elevation (defined from topographic data) and the computed flood elevation.

<sup>2</sup> For Approximate studies the vertical tolerance should be +/- 1/2 contour or 1.0 ft which ever is greater.

Vertical accuracy requirements specified in Table 1 can be achieved within a horizontal accuracy of +/- 38 feet for each risk class. The horizontal tolerance addresses varying floodplain delineation techniques (automated versus non-automated) and map scale limitations.

To support the self-certification process, the Map Modernization team conducted two training sessions in January 2008 with the FEMA Regional Offices, Regional Management Centers, and Mapping Partners. The sessions focused on facilitating successful implementation of the revised Procedure Memorandum 38 and ensuring that all the Mapping Partners understand FEMA's requirements.

To view the revised procedure memo and version 2.0 of the Floodplain Boundary Standard Audit Procedures, which reflects updates to the standard and audit procedures since the issuance of the 2005 version of Procedure Memorandum 38, see

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2369>.

>>> For more information, contact Turgay Dabak at(703) 317-6286.

## GALLOWAY RECEIVES OPAL AWARD

The American Society of Civil Engineers will present Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., with its Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) award, in the Government category, at a ceremony April 30 in Washington, D.C.. Galloway is being honored as an "outstanding civil engineering leader whose lifetime accomplishments and achievements have made significant differences."

Galloway may be best known among floodplain managers as a tireless advocate for comprehensive, permanent, cost-effective approaches to water resources and flooding and as an outspoken and knowledgeable proponent of simple common sense in such matters. He is a long-time ASFPM member and received the Goddard-White Award in 1998, and was the driving force behind the legendary Sharing the Challenge analyses that followed the 1993 Midwest floods (the main report of which is still known as "the Galloway report").

However, Galloway's professional achievements go well beyond those. A civil engineer, public administrator, soldier, educator, consultant, author, and geographer, he has led the way in a range of national and international programs in government, academia, science, and the military. The ASFPM congratulates Galloway on this latest in a series of well-deserved honors.

>>> Read more about Galloway's lifetime contributions and the OPAL Award at <http://content.asce.org/handa/opal.html>.

# Musings from the Chair

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM

## Notes from my Surrealist Sojourns

Since my last column, I have flown over 18,000 miles and driven 300 miles in attending a Board retreat, making a visit to Capitol Hill, and participating in a foreign floodplain management conference. *[My wife now insists on viewing a picture ID before I enter our home.]* Have the trips been worth it? Absolutely!

I am pleased to report that the January ASFPM Board retreat in Biloxi was a resounding success. This group of intense floodplain managers is dedicated and wholly devoted to the membership. I would say that the ASFPM Ark is “nicely making way” through the waters of 2008.

An “ASFPM Mitigation Strike Team” consisting of the usual suspects from the Executive Office, officers, our Washington Liaison, pod facilitators, and our national policy liaison, visited Washington, D.C., during the first week of February. There we met with various federal agencies and congressional staffs. Partnerships were developed in some cases and renewed in others. *[If your chapter has never visited your members of Congress, I would recommend that you do so. These conversations with their youthful staff members are what produce our national policies and programs. You are the best source of information that they can obtain. I can’t stress this enough.]*

We recently received an invitation from the Floodplain Management Authorities (FMA) of New South Wales, Australia, for a keynote speaker for their 48th annual conference in Wollongong. Therefore, I spent nine days in travel and in “croc on the ground” in NSW from February 23rd to March 2nd. There were a few comical complications, such as arriving (after a 32-hour journey) on a Monday morning, receiving my luggage on Saturday and flying back to the USA on Sunday. I learned that all you need are two sets of clothes. Just wash one set in the sink each night and let the breeze from the Tasman Sea dry them out the next day. There is nothing like camping in a hotel. *[At times, I felt just like a wandering mystic, who was simply on the wrong side of the equator and the International Date Line. My first e-mail back home only stated, “Send lawyers, guns, and money . . . Qantas has my stuff.”\*]* Oh yeah, the electrical power in the hotel switched off in the middle of my keynote presentation for almost ten minutes. There is nothing like a pitch-black room to really spice up a plenary. You can, in a leisurely sort of way, wander around by the light of a cell phone, just to amuse yourself and meet new people.

My hosts were fantastic. We spent many hours struggling to translate each other’s manner of speech and exchanging program and policy information. *[Luckily, I have a good ear for foreign languages. I’m proud to report that many Aussies now say “y’all” and I have picked up “yaaaaah.”]* My daily FMA hosts were Pas Silveri and Lance Hazell. These mates went the extra mile (or kilometer) for me during my sojourn in the shire. I experienced the alarming differences in national driving rules and signage while in Lance’s car. *[After my cries of alarm died down, we even discussed floodplain management.]* It seems that Australia has the “local-to-federal” inverted pyramid of floodplain management that ASFPM is advocating for our nation. They also use the 100-year flood level concept and have the same public comprehension problems with it that we have. The four following paragraphs

*[continued on next page]*



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\* In homage to the late great Warren Zevon.

## Musings from the Chair (cont.)

are Mr. Silveri's explanation of Australian floodplain management and flood insurance. Pay particular attention to his last two paragraphs. *[Now, let us gain knowledge.]*

The NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy is the overriding document which dictates the direction and purpose for floodplain management within our state. The primary objective of this policy is to reduce the impact of flooding and flood liability on individual owners and occupiers of flood liable property and to reduce private and public losses resulting from flooding. Our *Floodplain Development Manual* was prepared in accordance with this policy. This manual guides our councils in the development and implementation of detailed local floodplain risk management plans to produce robust and effective floodplain risk management outcomes. *[Notice the word "risk" between floodplain and management. Another thing that I noticed was the requirement of a floodplain risk management plan to consider the full range of flood sizes up to and including the probable maximum flood (PMF) when developing the plan. The PMF is the largest flood that could conceivably occur at a particular location, estimated from probable maximum precipitation, coupled with the worst flood-producing catchment conditions.]*

Councils apply for financial assistance from both federal and state governments to undertake their floodplain management studies (FPRMS) and the implementation of works. Funding is typically provided in the ratio of 1:1:1 (federal:state:council). In recent times, the Floodplain Management Authorities (FMA) has been finding it difficult for federal funding to be increased. This has been placing pressure on local government to start, and in some cases, complete existing works. It is an ongoing battle for the FMA to secure appropriate levels of funding from the federal government.

Typical floodplain measures which are recommended in the FPRMS include detention basins, culvert amplifications, channel improvements for conveyance, voluntary purchase schemes, house raising, planning controls, flood education, and emergency management. In regard to development within the floodplain, the level of protection is the 1-in-100-year flood, but consideration must also be given to how people remain safe up to the PMF. In the Wollongong region, this can be achieved by either "shelter in place," if the building is structurally designed to withstand a PMF, or evacuation to alternative shelter on higher ground. *[Australian emergency response consists primarily of volunteers called the State Emergency Service. Go to <http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au> for more information. Another great Aussie idea we should emulate.]*

With regard to flood insurance, this is not provided by government or by insurance companies. Insurance companies will only cover instances where water comes from a manmade structure such as an underground pipe or drainage pit. However, in recent times, after a few large floods which caused quite a bit of damage and uproar from communities due to claims not being paid, *some* companies are starting to include *some* coverage for water from flash flooding. Flash flooding is defined as flooding which is caused by rainfall which occurred not greater than six hours before the flood.

Hmm, we could be considered "ahead" in some areas and "behind" in others. I believe that the USA is very much on the cusp of a monumental opportunity to rework its current floodplain management programs and policies, for the better. *[Unfortunately, we are already behind the eight ball in reference to flood insurance and mitigation, just read what our national and state legislative branches are up to these days.]* I must emphasize that both ASFPM and FMA are fighting rear-guard actions against increased flood losses in their respective nations, with diminishing federal assistance. The national programs are different, the funding paths are different, but the results are close . . . with one

*[continued on next page]*

## Musings from the Chair (cont.)

difference: there, the local governments are fully engaged with mitigation initiatives and the federal agencies are just bystanders.

As a result of my visit to New South Wales, the local officials now have been introduced to our *National Flood Programs and Policies in Review 2007*. I was in return given a copy of their *Floodplain Development Manual: The Management of Flood Liabile Land 2005*. This publication contains a wealth of information and can be found at <http://www.iqqm.com/floodplains/manual.shtml>. I hope that, after study, the best of both documents will percolate to the top and brew into new ideas that we can all utilize. [Now, time to fly to South Carolina. Hope my luggage arrives.] ■



## No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management

### Updated NAI Handout

A useful two-page summary of No Adverse Impact floodplain management was updated and approved by the ASFPM Board this spring. In a short, easy-to-understand form, the document explains the rationale (and necessity) for NAI floodplain management; sets out the principle and its legal context; describes how the NAI approach can fit within state and local planning; and lists some benefits that can be expected from its widespread application.

>>> Read the new “NAI two-pager” at <http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/whitepaper.asp> or download it as a pdf file at [http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAI\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAI_White_Paper.pdf).

### Coastal NAI Workshops on East Coast

Using No Adverse Impact principles to address the special resources, hazards, and related concerns of the coastal areas of the United States is the topic of two training sessions coming up this spring. The one-day sessions, “Innovative Floodplain Strategies for Coastal Areas: Application of Coastal No Adverse Impact Principles,” will help participants understand the basics of NAI floodplain management and how they relate to coastal zoning and development standards, the identification and mapping of coastal hazards and environmentally sensitive areas, and the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program. The legal basis for NAI standards will also be explored. The workshops are intended for planning board attorneys, regulators, planners, building groups, floodplain managers, environmental groups, and local officials. Each workshop’s content will be tailored to the local and state circumstances. Pre-registration is required, and must be done by April 23, 2008.

■ On April 30, 2008, the Coastal NAI Workshop will be held from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at Stony Brook University’s Wang Center, in Stony Brook, New York. It will be sponsored by the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association. For registration information, contact Bill Nechamen at (518) 402-8146 or [wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

■ On May 1, 2008, the Coastal NAI Workshop will be held from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Urban Coast Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey. It will be co-sponsored by the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management and the Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University. For registration information, contact Laura Tessieri at (609) 883-9500 x304, [Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us](mailto:Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us).

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# Professional Opportunities

## Huntsville, Alabama, wants Civil Engineer

Huntsville, Alabama, has an opening for a Civil Engineer I, a journey-level professional position with an emphasis on hydrology and hydraulics as they relate to flood studies. The work involves ensuring that various public works construction and improvement projects are designed, constructed and inspected according to applicable laws, regulations, and standards, and within project budget.

Requirements include possession of a bachelor's degree in civil or structural engineering and some civil engineering experience; along with training and experience that demonstrates knowledge and ability in a range of practices, including the location, design, construction, and maintenance of all types of roadways, drainage systems and other types of municipal infrastructure; drafting principles; GIS system design and operation; reading and interpreting plans and specifications, blue prints, and maps; effective communication; and use of computers and drafting and surveying instruments.

The salary range is \$45,760–\$69,908; a full benefits package is included. The application period closes April 9, 2008.

>>> For more information, contact the Huntsville Human Resources Department at (256) 427-5240 or see <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/huntsville/default.cfm>.

## Technical Director for Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management–AMEC Earth & Environmental

AMEC Earth & Environmental is a multi-national North American corporation specializing in emergency management, environmental services, geotechnical engineering, materials testing, and engineering and water resource services. A staff of more than 3,200 professionals operates from more than 120 offices. AMEC's nationwide Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management (HM&EM) program, based in Lakewood, Colorado, is built upon the multi-disciplinary, multi-hazard expertise of management and staff that have extensive direct experience with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and with state and local emergency management agencies .

AMEC is seeking a technical lead for its successful and growing HM&EM program, and manager of the HM&EM staff in the Lakewood, Colorado, office. The ideal candidate will be widely recognized as a leader in the field and will publish, train, or make presentations at national conferences; and be well networked in order to provide early identification of upcoming project opportunities and future market trends. S/he will have program/project/business/staff development and management experience in a P&L environment, and have a record of successful project wins and very satisfied clients. S/he will be responsible for staying up-to-date technically in the HM&EM arena, providing internal training and mentoring, and providing quality assurance/quality control of HM&EM deliverables.

The successful applicant will have the following:

- Bachelor's degree in planning or other relevant field; advanced degree preferred
- Registration/Certification a plus (CFM, CEM, AICP, PE, etc.)
- 10+ years of progressively responsible experience in HM&EM, disaster assistance, floodplain management, and/or related areas
- Thorough knowledge of and working experience with FEMA programs and understanding of other federal agency HM&EM programs.
- Understanding of multi-objective funding sources for HM&EM.

>>> More details, minimum requirements, and application procedures can be obtained by contacting Bonny Griffith, Human Resources Manager, AMEC E&E, Lakewood, CO, at (303) 975-2193 or [bonny.griffith@amec.com](mailto:bonny.griffith@amec.com). The closing date is April 25, 2008.

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## DRAFT PUBLICATION NEEDS REVIEWERS

If you are a public official, the “public” can be your customer, client, boss, or adversary. No matter how you look at it, your work will be more effective if you have the public’s support. The Association of State Floodplain Managers has drafted *Building Public Support for Floodplain Management—A Catalog of Good Practices* to show some ways you can win the public over to support your efforts.

The Catalog builds on its Top Ten General Principles:

1. Know your public.
2. Explain the problem.
3. Explain the solutions.
4. Empower them to act.
5. Communicate to the audience.
6. Be positive.
7. Use multiple methods.
8. Use the networks.
9. Remember the big picture.
10. Take advantage of opportunities.

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*... A symbol, slogan or logo can help people identify with your program. Think of the effectiveness of Smokey the Bear. Slogans work because they are clear, concise, and catchy ...*

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The Catalog explains how to use these principles in a variety of situations, including face-to-face meetings, preparing outreach projects, dealing with the media and elected officials, handling stakeholders, starting new initiatives, and working during and after a flood. Many local examples are used that were provided by members from around the country.

>>> The draft is available for review and comment until May 9, 2008 at [http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM\\_Public\\_Support\\_Good\\_Practices\\_Catalog\\_Draft\\_0408.pdf](http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_Public_Support_Good_Practices_Catalog_Draft_0408.pdf). If you have comments, suggestions, new stories, examples, or lessons learned, please send them to the Principal Investigator, French Wetmore, at [FrenchAsoc@aol.com](mailto:FrenchAsoc@aol.com) by May 9.

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## CARLTON TO REPRESENT ASFPM ON FEDERAL WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dave Carlton, P.E., has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to serve a four-year term on the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI). He will represent the Association of State Floodplain Managers and the interests of state and local entities. Carlton is the Director of Water Resources for Adolphson Associates, in Seattle, Washington, and the current co-chair of the ASFPM’s Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee. He has nearly 30 years of accumulated expertise in different aspects of flood hazard mitigation and water resources management.

The ACWI works to identify the nation’s changing water information needs, evaluate the effectiveness of water information programs, and recommend improvements. Water information programs encompass data collection and interpretation, investigations, standards setting, quality assurance, and laboratory analyses related to surface and ground water quality and quantity, sediment, erosion, transport, water chemistry, and precipitation information. ACWI members represent all levels of government, tribal interests, and the private sector. It is chaired by the Department of Interior’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

The ACWI is part of the Water Information Coordination Program, established in 1992 through OMB Memorandum M-92-01, to assure coordination among dozens of federal organizations, state and local agencies, private stakeholders, tribal leaders, scientists, and others involved in the information aspects of water resources management.

>>> For more on the ACWI, see <http://www.acwi.gov>.



**Larry A. Larson**  
Executive Director, ASFPM

Let's talk about the probability of flooding. I bring that up this month because of the continuous debate about the 100-year flood standard for floodplain mapping and regulation, as well as the debate about what level of protection levees should provide, especially in highly urbanized areas with lots of property value, critical facilities, and people at risk.

We've all heard the claim "I've lived here for 50 years and it has never flooded," or "never flooded to that level," or a thousand variations of that form of denial. Some people deny the flood risk because they tend to gain economically if areas are not known to be flood-prone. Some fear that calling their property "floodplain" will reduce its value (even though research indicates that the major factor in reducing property value is actual flooding!).

In some instances people actually forget about flooding, probably because it was traumatic and the human psyche protects us from remembering everything bad that happens to us. A number of us in the profession have shown property owners a photo of their house or business flooded—from an actual flooding event in the past, during which that property owner lived in the house. I am surprised when sometimes the person honestly does not remember it.

This winter in the Midwest was a lesson in probability for those who think a hundred years is a long time. Where I live, in Madison, Wisconsin, the average annual snowfall is 49 inches, or about 4 feet. Our record snowfall in a period of about 150 years of record keeping was 76 inches (a little over 6 feet). Global warming has reduced the amount of snow in most recent years, and it is a rare year anymore when snow stays on the ground the entire winter.

With all that as background, how much snow would you have predicted would fall in Madison this past winter? Perhaps 35, or 50 inches? 60 inches? Or if you thought it would be a heavy snow year, near a record 75 inches? How about 100.4 inches? That was the actual amount.

My point is that people see probability in the frame of reference of their experience, no matter how "relatively" short that period of record. In order to accurately predict 100-year storms, we need hundreds of years of records. But there is an added kicker—even this approach only works if everything is stable, or stationary. Storms have become more volatile, with greater intensity, during recent decades, with predictions of even greater variation and intensification in the future. So past is not necessarily prologue.

Levee failure and the attitude that any levee provides those behind it with absolute protection from flooding relates to this. I won't discuss that in detail, but protecting urban areas only to the 100-year flood level is folly. As Hurricane Katrina illustrated, critical facilities like water supply and wastewater facilities, hospitals, police and fire stations, and evacuation centers must be operational and accessible during very large flooding events. That is when we need them the most, and when the economic and social costs of not having them are the highest. Protecting critical facilities with 100-year levees simply invites those costs.

The following nuggets were provided by some of our members recently, to help convey the chances of flooding in terms that people are more likely to understand.

**"The longer you occupy the floodplain, the greater your chance of being flooded."**

This message is conveyed on a fact sheet about flooding produced by the Floodplain Management Program of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Water. "Understanding your Flood Risk," also uses color, graphics, examples, and photographs to convey the message. See it at <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/7/pubs/pdfs/fctsht66.pdf> or at [http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/fs\\_div/fctsht66/tabid/19792/Default.aspx](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/water/pubs/fs_div/fctsht66/tabid/19792/Default.aspx).

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## Director's Desk (cont.)

### What are the odds of a flood?

The term "100-year flood" has caused much confusion for people not familiar with statistics. Another way of looking at it is to think of the odds that a base flood will happen sometime during the life of a 30-year mortgage (26% chance) or similar time frame.

| Chance of Flooding over a Period of Years |            |         |         |          |
|---|------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Time Period                               | Flood Size |         |         |          |
|   | 10-year    | 25-year | 50-year | 100-year |
| 1 year                                    | 10%        | 4%      | 2%      | 1%       |
| 10 years                                  | 65%        | 34%     | 18%     | 10%      |
| 20 years                                  | 88%        | 56%     | 33%     | 18%      |
| 30 years                                  | 96%        | 71%     | 45%     | 26%      |
| 50 years                                  | 99%        | 87%     | 64%     | 39%      |

A 100-year event flood has a 39% chance of being equaled or exceeded within 50 years.

A 2,500-year flood has a 2% chance of being equaled or exceeded within 50 years.

Even these numbers do not convey the true flood risk because they focus on the larger, less frequent, floods. If a house is low enough, it may be subject to the 10- or 25-year flood. During the proverbial 30-year mortgage, it has a 26% chance of being hit by the 100-year flood, but the odds are 96% (nearly guaranteed) that a 10-year flood will occur during mortgaged period. Compare those odds to the only 5% chance that the house will catch fire during the same 30-year mortgage.

The bottom line is that all of us have a lot of work to do to help property owners and community officials understand flood risk and probability. Please share your success stories in this respect with the ASFPM Executive Office. We will print some of the best approaches. ■

### A Living River Approach to Floodplain Management May 18–23, 2008 • Reno-Sparks, Nevada

The Association of State Floodplain Managers  
32nd Annual Conference



Featuring presentations, exhibits, discussions, networking, technical field tours, social events, training, the CFM® exam, and more

Registration forms and other info at

<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/Reno-Sparks.asp>

Sign up for the Sunday Golf Scramble

<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/golf08.asp>

Contribute a special item to the Silent Auction to benefit the ASFPM Foundation

<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/silentauction2008.asp>

# State and Local Report

## HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT RECEIVES CONSERVATION AWARD

Harris County, Texas, was one of five counties to receive a 2008 County Leadership in Conservation Award from the Trust for Public Land and the National Association of Counties this spring. In addition to the national recognition, each award-winning county receives a travel scholarship to help it promote countywide land conservation programs

Situated near Galveston Bay and the Texas Gulf Coast, Harris County is home to nearly 3,000 miles of bayous, streams and creeks. Water is a resource for habitat and recreation as well as a threat to the flat, flood-prone area that is highly urbanized, with Houston at its center.

Severe floods prompted the creation of the Harris County Flood Control District in 1937. For more than 70 years, the District has amassed thousands of acres of natural lands to widen bayous and excavate stormwater storage basins. When dry, these lands serve as parks, trails, community gardens, wetlands and wildlife refuges. Unique programs allow public agencies to use acres of flood control land for parks and citizens to create community gardens where homes in the floodplain once stood.

The District operates in partnership with communities, non-profit groups, local governments, and federal entities including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A dedicated ad valorem property tax and substantial federal funding are the primary sources of revenue, allowing the District to spend an average \$150 million annually on capital projects.

To date Harris County has benefitted from the acquisition of more than 20,000 acres of land, including 3,200 acres of parks, 3,200 acres of flooding easements, and 100 miles of trails.

> > > For more on the award, see [http://www.tpl.org/tier2\\_rp2.cfm?folder\\_id=2867](http://www.tpl.org/tier2_rp2.cfm?folder_id=2867).

## DELAWARE LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO MAINTAIN BAY

A public awareness campaign to showcase the benefits provided by the Delaware Bay commenced this spring through a partnership of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. The slogan of the campaign, “The Delaware Bay Takes Care of Us. Let’s Return the Favor,” sets the tone of the initiative, which aims to instill a personal connection between people and the bay and encourage the public to actively protect it.

The website for the campaign highlights, with separate areas and links, the attributes for which residents and visitors should “thank” Delaware Bay—among them protection from floods, hurricanes, and nor’easters; habitat; food; jobs; and recreation. It states, “The bay is an irreplaceable gift of nature that provides food, jobs, recreational opportunities, and the natural resources that make our region unique.” People are being encouraged to learn about the benefits the bay provides, and how to help keep it healthy, by visiting its wildlife refuges, nature centers, museums, and cultural sites.

> > > See the Thank You, Delaware Bay website at <http://www.tydb.org>.

## FLORIDA CONSIDERS STRONGER BUILDING STANDARDS

The Florida Building Commission has recommended to the state legislature that new buildings along the coast that will be insured by the state-run Citizens Property Insurance Corporation be built to stronger standards than current building codes require. The recommendations, which incorporate Code-Plus standards, come in response to the Legislature’s charge to the

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## State & Local Report (cont.)

Commission to examine the hurricane risks to structures built within a half-mile of the state's coast. The proposed requirements would apply to structures built beginning in January 2009.

Buildings this close to the coast are exposed to the strongest winds and pounding surf of oncoming hurricanes, and the risk of building damage and insurance claims to the state-backed insurance provider is enormous. According to its chairman, the Commission considered the risks and the latest science and concluded that state-insured buildings should be required to withstand a stronger hurricane than mandated by the state code.

The recommended Code-Plus standard is based on a 500-year event, which can carry winds approximating the worst storms on record, such as Hurricane Andrew. Citizens-insured coastal buildings would be built to withstand winds 5 to 25 mph stronger than the code requires, depending on where the building is located along the coast.

In addition to wind speed, the recommendations call for new buildings within 2,500 feet of the coast to be elevated 1 to 6 feet higher than current requirements. The new elevations are equivalent to the National Flood Insurance Program's 500-year storm elevations for coasts, with adjustment factors for the landward side of bays. Although Citizens does not insure buildings for flood damage, it recognizes that the moving water characteristic of what occurs in the 2,500-foot coastal zone can weaken buildings, thereby reducing their resistance to wind forces and to the intrusion of wind-driven rain.

> > Read the Commission's full report at [http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fbc/publications/2008\\_FBC\\_Report\\_to\\_Legislature.pdf](http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fbc/publications/2008_FBC_Report_to_Legislature.pdf).

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# Washington Report

## FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO COORDINATE WATERSHED PROTECTION

A dedicated liaison position has been established within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water pursuant to an agreement between the Federal Highway Administration and EPA. The liaison will be the central point of contact to coordinate activities between the Office of Water and FHWA towards advancing common goals and protecting watersheds. Under the agreement, the two agencies will focus on integrating transportation and watershed planning and incorporating green infrastructure practices for managing stormwater. The formalization of the partnership is expected to foster innovation and related research on water regulations, programs, and planning with respect to the highway program.

## COMMENTS SOUGHT ON WATER STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on a draft strategy that describes the potential effects of climate change on clean water, drinking water, and ocean protection programs and outlines EPA actions to respond to these effects. The "National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change" focuses on actions designed to help managers adapt their water programs to better respond to a changing climate. The draft strategy outlines steps to strengthen links between climate research and water programs, and to improve education

*[continued on next page]*

## Washington Report (cont.)

for water program professionals on the potential impacts of climate change. It also identifies contributions that water programs can make to mitigate the accumulation of greenhouse gases.

>>> Comment are due May 27, 2008. Get the draft and instructions on submitting comments at <http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

### LEGISLATIVE REPORT—POISED FOR ACTION, BUT NOT YET

Amidst dramatic Congressional action on housing finance issues and regulation of financial services, undercurrents are swirling on flood insurance, catastrophe insurance mitigation, and mapping. No clear plan has emerged for a way forward for the bills and probable amendments awaiting action. Even Capitol Hill staff close to the situation hesitate to make predictions.

The Appropriations Committees are in full swing. Many hearings are held every week on federal agency budget requests for Fiscal Year 2009. In the normal course of events, mark-ups of appropriations bills would begin in May with the objective of finalizing action on the 12 regular appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. But this is a presidential election year and there is considerable speculation about how the FY '09 appropriations process will proceed. This is likely to be a short Congressional session due to the election, so will all or most of the bills be folded into a huge omnibus bill again? Will the Congress pass a months-long Continuing Resolution to give a new Administration more influence over the budget?

In such an atmosphere, legislative action can become stalled or it can move very quickly. Numerous factors come into play. Some are related to the issues associated with the legislation while others have nothing to do with it at all.

It should be noted that some programs important to floodplain managers, notably the National Flood Insurance Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, will expire at the end of the fiscal year unless legislation is passed to extend them. Here again, projections are difficult to make. If there are too many problems involved with the flood insurance reform legislation, will there be an attempt to pass a “clean” reauthorization? If so, would it be for five years or a shorter period? Could the program be extended in an appropriations bill? What if no appropriations bill has passed by the end of the fiscal year? Would the Congress pass a “clean” reauthorization of Pre-Disaster Mitigation? Might hearings be held to consider implementation and effectiveness of the program? These are just some of the considerations in the air.

### Flood Insurance Reform

The Senate's Flood Insurance Reform bill (S. 2284) is stalled at present. It was reported out of the Senate Banking Committee last fall. The House passed its version of the bill (H.R. 3121) last fall. An attempt in February to bring the bill to the Senate floor under “unanimous consent” rules (meaning no amendments) failed when several senators placed “holds” on the bill, most because they would like committee support for their particular amendments or assurances that their amendments will be brought up for a floor vote. Reasons given for the holds at present include wanting provisions for

- An optional, actuarially based “wind and flood” policy;
- Increased maximum insurance amounts;
- Additional, optional coverages such as business interruption insurance;
- More gradual movement toward actuarial rates for the designated policy categories; and
- Elimination of the bill's requirement for insurance in residual risk areas behind levees.

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## Washington Report (cont.)

Other holds could be placed on the bill by the Illinois Senators (Dick Durbin, D-IL and Barack Obama, D-IL) because they want inclusion of language (already added to the House bill by Jerry Costello, D-IL) that would prohibit newly issued flood maps from becoming effective until all maps for a given Corps of Engineers District are “completed.”

There could be interest in including the text of legislation soon to be introduced in the Senate by Mary Landrieu (D-LA) providing for an ombudsman within the NFIP who would have broad investigative powers to examine claims issues, including wind and water claims adjustment. The House and Senate bills each already have provisions for an Office of the Advocate to assist policy holders with claims issues, one much more extensive than the other.

Interest in adding the provision for an optional, actuarial wind and flood policy has grown in the Senate. Although neither Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd (D-CT) nor Ranking Minority Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) support the provision, staff note that consideration of a floor amendment is increasingly likely. A diverse coalition of organizations and associations has formed to oppose addition of such a new policy.

ASFPM’s House testimony in July 2007, which raised many concerns about adding “wind and flood” coverage, can be found on the website at <http://www.floods.org>.

### Natural Hazard Catastrophe Insurance

Although the House passed H.R. 3355 last fall to provide state and federal backstops to homeowners insurance in catastrophic loss situations, the Senate Banking Committee has not yet acted on comparable legislation introduced in the Senate (S. 2310) by Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Bill Nelson (D-FL). Widespread concern about availability in coastal areas of not only wind coverage but also homeowners insurance in general, led to the unusually quick consideration and passage of this bill in the House. The overall issues associated with insurance availability along the coast are receiving attention by the staff of the Senate Banking Committee, but no course of action has emerged. The Senate Banking Committee did report out a bill in November (S. 2286) sponsored by Bill Nelson (D-FL) to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to study insurance availability and make recommendations. That bill has not been taken up on the Senate floor.

### Pre-disaster Mitigation

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, originally authorized in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, will expire at the end of this fiscal year. The Administration has not yet sent an official request for reauthorization to the Congress. Staff of the relevant committees are aware of the situation and there are indications that PDM reauthorization could be considered in the context of more general hearings on mitigation.

### Coastal Zone Management Act

The CZMA is another piece of legislation in need of reauthorization. Legislation to accomplish this has been introduced (H.R. 5451) and the House Natural Resources Committee (Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans) held a hearing on February 28th on the bill and on other bills to amend CZMA. A new coalition of groups interested in promoting reinvigoration and reauthorization of the Act is forming, led by the Coastal States Organization.

### Other Legislation

**The National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 2008 (H.R. 5171 and S. 240)**—The bill reauthorizes and amends the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 and authorizes \$64 million annually through FY 2017. *[continued on next page]*

## Washington Report (cont.)

**Secure Water Act (S. 2156)**—The bill authorizes improvements in water management by the Bureau of Reclamation and requires the Secretaries of Interior and Energy to increase acquisition and analysis of water resources for irrigation, hydroelectric power, and municipal and environmental uses. It was introduced by Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources last October. A hearing was held in December 2007.

**The Clean Water Restoration Act (H.R. 2421 and S. 1870)**—The bill clarifies federal jurisdiction over waters of the United States. The House bill was introduced in May 2007 by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) with 175 cosponsors and two hearings were held by the committee in July 2007. The Senate bill was introduced in July by Russ Feingold (D-WI) with 20 cosponsors. A hearing on the measure will be held in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on April 9th.

### Hearing on Mapping and Levees

Issues surrounding issuance of new flood maps continue to percolate on Capitol Hill. Most recently, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management (House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) held a hearing on April 2nd entitled “National Flood Plain Remapping: The Practical Impact.” Larry Larson, ASFPM Executive Director, provided testimony at the hearing.

The first panel consisted of five Members of Congress (Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), John Boozman (R-AR), Candice Miller (R-MI), Doris Matsui (D-CA), and John Hall (D-NY)). All had concerns about constituents who will be required to purchase flood insurance for the first time, the associated financial burden for individuals, and the negative effects on businesses and economic development. Many of the concerns related to reflection on the maps of decertified levees. Ehlers noted that he is a strong supporter of the NFIP but said, “We need to meet the needs of the floodplain without breaking the backs of the community.” Miller said she is contemplating suggesting to the governor that Michigan communities cease participation in the NFIP.

The second panel consisted of David Maurstad, Assistant FEMA Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, and Steven Stockton, Deputy Director of Civil Works, Army Corps of Engineers. Discussion included risk awareness, levee safety and maps, as well as the adequacy of the 1% annual chance flood standard.

The third panel consisted of Larry Larson for ASFPM and Les Sterman, Executive Director of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, St. Louis. Sterman’s testimony focused on the detrimental effect on business and development in the American Bottom area of East St. Louis due to decertification of levees and consequent reflection of the area as floodplain on the flood maps. He said local efforts were underway to raise funds for levee repair, but that it cannot be accomplished overnight and, in the interim, effects on the local economy will be devastating. He expressed support for Costello’s amendment to the House Flood Insurance Reform bill, which would prohibit maps from becoming effective until all maps in a given Corps District are “complete.” Larry Larson spoke of the importance of accurately reflecting levees and their associated risk on the flood maps. He explained that the 1% annual chance of flooding is not a public safety standard, but rather a standard to run the flood insurance program. He urged consideration of variable standards for areas of differing risk and impact. He spoke about shared federal, state, and local responsibility for levees and their repair and maintenance and offered some suggestions for further exploration on developing funds for levee repairs. His full, written testimony will be posted on the ASFPM website, and a video of the hearing can be viewed on the Committee’s website at <http://transportation.edgeboss.net/wmedia/transportation/ed20080402.wvx>.

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# Washington Report (cont.)

## Appropriations

**FEMA**—The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security held two hearings in March on the FEMA budget request for FY '09. The first hearing focused primarily on the Homeland Security Grants and Emergency Management Preparedness Grants. The second was more general, but covered the full range of FEMA's activities. FEMA Administrator Paulison testified. The ASFPM submitted Outside Witness Testimony. In commenting on the budget request, the ASFPM expressed support for the mapping request of \$150 million in appropriated funds (for a program level of \$248 million including income from the federal policy fee). Support was also expressed for the requested funding levels for the Flood Mitigation Assistance and Severe Repetitive Loss grant programs. Concern was expressed about the significant cut proposed for PDM and also about the unprecedented use of many Congressional Directives (earmarks) in the FY'08 omnibus appropriations bill.

**Corps of Engineers**—The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water held its hearing on the Corps budget request in March and the Senate Subcommittee's hearing is April 10th. The request for Planning Assistance to States (PAS) is up slightly from FY '08 at \$7 million and the Flood Plain Management Services request is \$8 million, down somewhat from the FY '08 appropriated level.

**Environmental Protection Agency**—Within the EPA budget, \$555 million is requested to meet the Administration's commitment to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Overall funds for State and Tribal Assistance Grants are down from \$2.9 billion in FY '08 to a request of \$2.6 billion for FY '09. Healthy Communities and Ecosystems were funded at \$214 million in FY '08 and the new request is \$200 million. Compliance and Environmental Stewardship was funded at \$100 million in FY '08 and the FY '09 request is \$86 million.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (Department of Agriculture)**—NRCS programs are all reduced in the FY '09 budget request with the exception of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which is up from \$1 billion to \$1.05 billion and the Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program, which holds steady at \$60 million. The Wetlands Reserve Program request is for \$181 million, down from \$455 million in FY '08, but the budget indicated this amount will allow WRP to meet its acreage enrollment cap in FY '09. No funds are requested for the Grasslands Reserve Program and none were requested or provided in FY '08. The FY '09 budget requests no funding for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, which includes P.L. 534 Watershed Operations, Emergency Watershed Protection Operations, and P.L. 566 Small Watershed Operations. The programs had been funded at \$242 million for FY '08. No funds are requested for the Resource Conservation and Development program, which was funded at \$52 million in FY '08. The Watershed Rehabilitation Program request is \$5.9 million, a significant reduction from \$20 million in FY '08.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**—Overall funding for NOAA is down from the FY '08 level of \$3.37 billion to \$3.190 billion requested for FY '09. Within that budget, funds for the National Weather Service are down from \$77 million in FY '08 to \$57 million for FY '09.

**Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (NPS/Interior)**—The RTCA program budget request is \$8.1 million, a 17% reduction from the FY '08 enacted level of \$8.5 million. The program is primarily a technical assistance program and its budget primarily funds staff. Projections are that the program would lose 4 to 6 positions.

**U.S. Geological Survey**—The FY '09 budget request of \$969 million represents a 4% reduction from the FY '08 level of \$1.006 billion. The budget request includes a new initiative called "Water for America," which is essentially a water census. According to the USGS, "In the next decade, the Nation will have a new appraisal for water availability that tracks changing flow, use, and storage of water as well as models and predictive tools to guide its decisions." Funding for the initiative is \$9.75 million and is distributed primarily to (or taken from) the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, the Ground-Water Resources Program, and the National Streamflow Information Program.

**National Streamflow Information Program**—NSIP is the fully federally funded "backbone" of the nation's streamgauge network, intended to ensure availability of long-term data. It is only partially funded and developed, however. NSIP was funded at \$20 million in FY '08 and the FY '09

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## Washington Report (cont.)

request is for \$23.8. Full implementation of NSIP would require \$110 million. The Cooperative Water Program (CWP) funding in FY '08 is \$62.8 million and the FY '09 request is \$62.3 million.

### Coalitions

**Coastal Zone Management**—A new coalition to focus on coastal zone management issues is being formed under the leadership of the Coastal States Organization. Its first meeting will be April 16.

**Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance**—The Congressional Hazards Caucus itself is made up of Members of Congress and Senators while the Alliance is the large group of organizations that supports the Caucus. It primarily conducts briefings on Capitol Hill on disaster-related topics. The briefings do not deal with legislation. Upcoming briefings include one April 10th on FEMA's flood maps, mapping challenges for the future, and flood maps at the local level. Sally McConkey, Co-Chair of ASFPM's Mapping and Engineering Committee, will conduct the local-level section of the briefing. Another briefing in late May or June will focus on levee issues.

**Flood Map Coalition**—The Flood Map Coalition will meet on April 17th for a briefing on the current status of Map Modernization and plans for the future.

**Stafford Coalition**—The Stafford Coalition met on March 31st for a briefing by Mike Grimm of FEMA on implementation and status of mitigation programs. Letters have been drafted to the President supporting reauthorization of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program and to House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs and Ranking Members supporting reauthorization of PDM and also urging them to hold hearings on the nation's mitigation programs.

**USGS Coalition**—The Coalition submitted Outside Witness Testimony urging appropriations of \$1.3 billion for the USGS, rather than the \$969 million requested.

**Streamgage Coalition**—The Coalition submitted letters to House and Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Minority Members seeking additional funds for both NSIP and CWA, but expressing support for the small increase in funds for NSIP (National Streamflow Information Program) in the budget request. The letters urge full implementation of NSIP in FY '09 at \$110 million, rather than the \$23.8 million requested. They also seek funding of \$70 million for the CWP (Cooperative Water Program), rather than the \$62.3 million requested.

**Rivers and Trails Coalition**—The Rivers and Trails Coalition has sent letters to the leadership of the Appropriations Interior Subcommittees urging restoration of the significant budget cut to the RTCA program of the National Park Service.

—*Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison*  
*Rebecca Quinn, CFM, Legislative Officer*

✧ All referenced legislation and committee reports can be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. ✧

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## Publications, Software, AV & the Web

■ *Imperiled Treasures: How Recent Supreme Court Decisions and Agency Actions Have Endangered Southwest Waters and Wildlife* criticizes federal agency actions that affect geographically isolated waters and wetlands in the southwestern United States. The new report contends that Clean Water Act protections for isolated water sources have been reduced by two U.S. Supreme Court rulings and subsequent decisions by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Specifically, the report focuses on isolated water sources such as playa lakes in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Southern California. It warns that because of water scarcity in the southwestern United States, significant water sources in the Southwest are at risk of losing federal protection because they do not flow year round. The National Wildlife Foundation. 2008. 29 pp. To read the report, see [http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/SW\\_WATER\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/nwfwebadmin/binaryVault/SW_WATER_REPORT.pdf).

■ Everything a person would want to know about HAZUS software, user groups, projects, training, and events can be found at a new website, USEHAZUS, according to its developer, Jamie Caplan Consulting. HAZUS is the software developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Institute of Building Sciences as a standardized, GIS-based method to map and display estimated damage and economic losses for buildings and infrastructure as a result of hazardous events, such as floods. Intended to respond to the needs of the entire HAZUS user community, the new website encourages participation and includes links to supply content or feedback on nearly every page. Contributions and notices of projects, conferences, or training events are welcome. Check it out at <http://www.usehazus.com/>.

■ Over 275 stormwater best management practices (BMPs) have been compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency into a new web-based tool. The studies cover a variety of traditional and low-impact BMPs, including retention and detention ponds, biofilters, grassed filter strips, wetlands, and others. Users will also find a series of essays on BMP performance and the importance of volume reduction/infiltration in these assessments. EPA plans to add more studies over the coming year, focusing on expanding the collection of studies of low impact development and green infrastructure BMPs. Access the Urban BMP Performance Tool at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/urbanbmptool>.

■ “Normalized Hurricane Damage in the United States, 1900–2005” uses two different methods to standardize the economic losses from hurricanes over the past century. Both techniques revealed a general trend of doubled losses every decade, primarily because of societal factors—such as population growth, migration, and denser and more expensive development in coastal areas—that are operating to increase vulnerability. The authors conclude that potential damage from storms is growing at a rate that may place severe burdens on society. Unless action is taken to address the growing concentration of people and properties in coastal areas where hurricanes strike, construction practices are greatly improved, or other mitigation undertaken, damage will increase, and by a great deal, as more and wealthier people increasingly inhabit these coastal locations. Roger A. Pielke Jr., Joel Gratz, Christopher W. Landsea, Douglas Collins, Mark A. Saunders, and Rade Musulin. 2008. *Natural Hazards Review*, February, pp. 29–42. Available at [http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/admin/publication\\_files/resource-2476-2008.02.pdf?loc=interstitialskip](http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/admin/publication_files/resource-2476-2008.02.pdf?loc=interstitialskip).

■ *Climate Change Will Have a Significant Impact on Transportation Infrastructure and Operations* is the report of the National Research Council’s Transportation Research Board, exploring the threat to transportation networks due to climate change and sea level rise. According to the report, tens of thousands of miles of highway and rail corridor will become vulnerable to erosion, chronic flooding, and other stresses over the next century as a warming climate causes an increase in extreme weather conditions. The report predicts that some of the nation’s busiest airports could see increased service interruptions and runway closures because of sea level rise and storm surges. The report expects an increase in very hot days and heat waves, increases in Arctic temperatures, increases in hurricane activity, increases in intense precipitation events, and rising sea levels. Those factors, coupled with an expected population growth in coastal zones, will create a greater demand on the transportation infrastructure. The report notes there is a need for innovative and collaborative thinking and planning on the part of planners, engineers, and managers to address this growing problem. The Transportation Research Board and the Division on Earth and Life Studies. 2008. National Academies Press. 234 pp. Available for online reading at <http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20080311.html>.

■ The Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), a nonprofit research institute focused on risk management, has launched a new and improved website to provide quicker access to its extensive collection of risk management publications, programs, and tools. The expanded Resource Library is organized by topic, audience, and type of resource for more user-friendly research. An E-Training Center includes numerous free and low-cost online training courses on risk management and emergency management topics. At the Symposium Center, PERI will periodically host online forums to explore solutions to current risk management issues. Additional segments of the site include publications, news, an online bookstore, and more. See <http://www.riskinstitute.org>.

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■ disaster\_law is a listserv that developed from a conference held at the University of California at Berkeley last year to consider ways of developing disaster law as a field of study. The listserv is intended to create a more active community of scholars in the area of disasters and the law. Many of the initial subscribers were law professors, but government officials, practicing attorneys, and academics in other disciplines have signed on as well. See what it is about at [https://calmail.berkeley.edu/manage/list/listinfo/disaster\\_law@lists.berkeley.edu](https://calmail.berkeley.edu/manage/list/listinfo/disaster_law@lists.berkeley.edu).

■ *Urban Stream Repair Practices*, Manual 4 of the Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series, is now available for free download, along with the other three manuals in the series. This manual, first released in 2004, focuses on practices used to enhance the appearance, stability, structure, and function of urban streams. It includes guidance on setting appropriate restoration goals for a stream and how to choose the best combination of stream repair practices to meet them. Center for Watershed Protection. Available at <http://www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/USRM.htm>

■ “The Next Generation of Stormwater Wetlands” is the latest and final release from the six-part Wetlands & Watersheds Article Series from the Center for Watershed Protection. This article provides information about a new generation of stormwater wetlands with improved performance and community acceptance, in the hopes of rejuvenating their use as a stormwater treatment practice. Two new stormwater wetland designs are presented: an emergent wetland/pond system and a wooded wetland. The authors recommend their use in place of the classic shallow marsh and pond/wetland system designs, and discuss some ways to further develop and test these new prototypes. Available at <http://cwp.org/master.com/taxis/master/search/+form/wetlands.html> Visit the website at <http://www.cwp.org/wetlands/index.htm> to learn how communities can integrate wetlands into larger watershed protection efforts. Also available are Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the series.

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# Calendar

*See more flood-related meetings, conferences, and training at*  
<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/calendar.asp>.

**April 7–9, 2008:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE MISSOURI FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Osage Beach, Missouri. See <http://www.mfsma.com/>.

**April 7–11, 2008:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF MITIGATION MANAGERS, General Butler State Park, Kentucky. See <http://www.kymitigation.org/>.

**April 7–11, 2008:** BASIC HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS (E313), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.

**April 8–11, 2008:** SPRING CONFERENCE OF THE NEW MEXICO FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Contact Wendy Blackwell at (505) 955-6127 or [wblackwell@santafenm.gov](mailto:wblackwell@santafenm.gov) or see <http://www.nmfma.org/>.

**April 13–16, 2008:** SOLUTIONS TO COASTAL DISASTERS, Oahu, Hawaii. Sponsored by the Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute, American Society of Civil Engineers. See <http://content.asce.org/conferences/cd2008/>.

**April 16–18, 2008:** SPRING CONFERENCE OF THE ARIZONA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, Tucson, Arizona. See <http://www.azfma.org/>.

- April 17–18, 2008:** SPRING WORKSHOP OF THE ARKANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, Jacksonville, Arkansas. Contact Conrad Battreal at (501) 225-7779 or see <http://www.arkansasfloods.org/afma/>.
- April 27–30, 2008:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. See <http://www.ncafpm.org/>.
- April 27—May 1, 2008:** SPRING CONFERENCE OF THE TEXAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, League City, Texas. See <http://www.tfma.org/displayconvention.cfm>.
- April 29, 2008:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE RHODE ISLAND FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Warwick, Rhode Island. Contact Wayne Barnes at [wbarnes@cityofeastprov.com](mailto:wbarnes@cityofeastprov.com).
- April 29—May 3, 2008:** FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Tampa, Florida. See <http://www.ffma.net/>.
- April 30—May 2, 2008:** BUILDING RESILIENCE: ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION: FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, Christchurch, New Zealand. Sponsored by i-Rec (International Group for Information on Post-Disaster Reconstruction). See <http://www.resorgs.org.nz/irec2008/>.
- April 30, 2008:** INNOVATIVE FLOODPLAIN STRATEGIES FOR COASTAL AREAS: APPLICATION OF COASTAL NO ADVERSE IMPACT PRINCIPLES, Stony Brook, New York. Sponsored by the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association. Registration deadline is April 23. Contact Bill Nechamen at (518) 402-8146 or [wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us).
- May 1, 2008:** INNOVATIVE FLOODPLAIN STRATEGIES FOR COASTAL AREAS: APPLICATION OF COASTAL NO ADVERSE IMPACT PRINCIPLES, West Long Branch, New Jersey. Sponsored by the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management and The Urban Coast Institute of Monmouth University. Registration deadline is April 23. Contact Laura Tessieri at (609) 883-9500 x304 or [Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us](mailto:Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us).
- May 2–5, 2008:** RIVER RALLY 2008, Huron, Ohio. Sponsored by the River Network. See <http://www.rivernetwork.org/news.php?NewsID=39>.
- May 4–9, 2008:** SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD IN A CHANGING EARTH SYSTEM, Cape Town, South Africa. Fourth International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme Congress. See <http://www.igbp.net>.
- May 7–10, 2008:** NFIP—IT WORKS: 2008 NATIONAL FLOOD CONFERENCE, Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by the National Flood Insurance Program. See <http://www.nfipstat.com>.
- May 12–16, 2008:** WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES CONGRESS 2008, Honolulu, Hawaii. Organized by the Environmental & Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. See <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2008/index.html>.
- May 14–16, 2008:** FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FLOOD DEFENSE, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Sponsored by the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and many others. See <http://www.flood2008.org/flood/>.
- May 18–23, 2008:** A LIVING RIVER APPROACH TO FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT: 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Reno, Nevada. 12 core CECs. See <http://www.floods.org>.
- June 2-5, 2008:** MIDWEST LEVEE CONFERENCE, St. Louis, Missouri. Sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. See <http://www.midwestleveeconference.com/>.

- June 16–19, 2008:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- June 16–19, 2008:** ADVANCED HAZUS FOR FLOODS (E724), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- June 22–25, 2008:** SUSTAINABILITY 2008: GREEN PRACTICES FOR THE WATER ENVIRONMENT, National Harbor, Maryland. Sponsored by the Water Environment Federation. See <http://www.wef.org/Sustainability/>.
- June 23–26, 2008:** MANAGING FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (E273), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact EMI at (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- June 29–July 2, 2008:** COASTAL FOOTPRINTS: MINIMIZING HUMAN IMPACTS, MAXIMIZING STEWARDSHIP, Los Angeles, California. 21st Biennial International Conference of The Coastal Society. See <http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs21/call.html>.
- June 30–July 2, 2008:** RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS AND BUFFERS: WORKING AT THE WATER'S EDGE, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Summer Specialty Conference sponsored by the American Water Resources Association. See [http://www.awra.org/meetings/Virginia\\_Beach2008/](http://www.awra.org/meetings/Virginia_Beach2008/).
- July 7–10, 2008:** RESIDENTIAL COASTAL CONSTRUCTION (E386), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact EMI at (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 7–10, 2008:** RETROFITTING FLOOD-PRONE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (E279), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 14–17, 2008:** BASIC HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS (E313), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 26–30, 2008:** SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING, Tucson, Arizona. See [http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008\\_annual\\_conference/](http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/).
- August 3–7, 2008:** STORMCON, THE NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION, Orlando, Florida. See <http://www.stormcon.com/sc.html>.
- August 11–14, 2008:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 17–23, 2008:** WORLD WATER WEEK IN STOCKHOLM, Stockholm, Sweden. Sponsored by the Stockholm International Water Institute. See <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>.
- August 18–21, 2008:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 27–28, 2008:** OHIO STATEWIDE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, Columbus, Ohio. Sponsored by the Ohio Floodplain Management Association. Contact Alicia Silverio at (614) 265-1006, [Alicia.Silverio@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Alicia.Silverio@dnr.state.oh.us) or <http://www.ofma.org/education/conference.html>.

- September 2–5, 2008:** FLOODPLAIN SUSTAINABILITY: INTEGRATING FLOOD RISK, LAND USE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Floodplain Management Association. Contact Iovanka Todt, (619) 204-4380 or see <http://www.floodplain.org>.
- September 7–11, 2008:** DAM SAFETY 2008, Indian Wells, California. Sponsored by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. Contact (859) 257-5140; [info@damsafety.org](mailto:info@damsafety.org) or see <http://www.damsafety.org>.
- September 15–18, 2008:** WETLANDS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, Portland, Oregon. Sponsored by the Association of State Wetland Managers. Abstracts are due April 11. See <http://www.aswm.org>.
- September 15–18, 2008:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- September 21–23, 2008:** MANY WATERS, MANY LANDS: 2008 SYMPOSIUM ON RIVER MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, Chicago, Illinois. Sponsored by the: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Contact Michelle Chappell at (217) 333-2880 or [conferences@uiuc.edu](mailto:conferences@uiuc.edu) or see <http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=423>.
- September 21–24, 2008:** HOW PREPARED CAN WE BE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE? Midwest City, Oklahoma. Fall conference of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. 12 CECs. Information will be posted at <http://www.okflood.org/aspx/default.aspx>.
- October 7–9, 2008:** FLOW 2008: INTERDISCIPLINARY SOLUTIONS TO INSTREAM FLOW PROBLEMS, San Antonio, Texas. Sponsored by the Instream Flow Council, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and others. See <http://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/flow2008/index.htm>.
- October 11–15, 2008:** CREATING SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: FOURTH ANNUAL COASTAL AND ESTUARINE HABITAT RESTORATION CONFERENCE, Providence, Rhode Island. Sponsored by Restore America's Estuaries. See <http://www.estuaries.org/?id=4>.
- November 16–19, 2008:** FOURTH TRIENNIAL NATIONAL FLOODPROOFING CONFERENCE, New Orleans, Louisiana. Sponsored by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others. Program information will be available in April at <http://www.floods.org>.
- November 16–19, 2008:** LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT, Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers. See <http://www.asce.org/conferences/>.
- June 7–12, 2009:** THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Orlando, Florida. 12 core CECs. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>.
- July 19–23, 2009:** COASTAL ZONE '09, Boston, Massachusetts. Hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center, with numerous sponsors. See <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>.
- June 13–19, 2010:** THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office, (608) 274-0123.
- May 15–20, 2011:** THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123.



**ASSOCIATION of STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Suite 204

Madison, WI 53713

(608) 274-0123 fax: (608) 274-0696

[asfpm@floods.org](mailto:asfpm@floods.org) <http://www.floods.org>

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Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to:

Jacquelyn L. Monday

Editor, *News & Views*

1026 So. Johnson St.

Lakewood, CO 80226

(303) 985-3141 fax: 303-985-5181

[jacki.JLM@comcast.net](mailto:jacki.JLM@comcast.net)

Deadline is the 18th day of odd-numbered months.

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**ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**CHAIR**

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM  
State Floodplain Manager  
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
P.O. Box 5644  
Pearl, MS 39208  
(601) 933-6884 fax: 601-933-6805  
[agoodman@mema.ms.gov](mailto:agoodman@mema.ms.gov)

**VICE CHAIR**

Greg Main, CFM  
State Floodplain Manager  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W264  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 234-1107 fax: 317-233-4579  
[gmain@dnr.in.gov](mailto:gmain@dnr.in.gov)

**SECRETARY**

Collis O. Brown, CFM  
State Floodplain Manager  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
7 Martin Luther King Dr., Ste. 440  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
(404) 656-6382 fax: 404-656-6383  
[collis\\_brown@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:collis_brown@dnr.state.ga.us)

**TREASURER**

William Nechamen, CFM  
New York Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
625 Broadway, 4th Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-3507  
(518) 402-8146 fax: 518-402-9029  
[wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:wsnecham@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Larry Larson, CFM  
ASFPM Executive Office  
[larry@floods.org](mailto:larry@floods.org)