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ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, INC.

CONFERENCE SHINES AGAIN

“Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management,” this year’s conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, was held May 16–21, 2004, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Over 900 participants from across the United States and abroad enjoyed a week of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions, technical field trips, exhibits, and opportunities for socializing.

To open the meeting, the audience at the first plenary session was treated to a viewing of part of the classic film, “A Lady Called Camille,” produced shortly after Hurricane Camille roared through the Gulf Coast in 1969. Still regarded as one of the most impressive storms on record, Camille was a jolting wakeup call for storm and flood preparedness and mitigation for the entire region, the impacts of which can be felt to this day. The new and ongoing flood mitigation initiatives of three federal agencies were the subject of the first panel of speakers. Anthony Lowe, Federal Insurance Administration/FEMA; Major General Carl Strock, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Margaret A. Davidson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Services Center, each presented the outlook for the flood-related initiatives within their purview.

The keynote luncheon that day featured Roman Konieczny of Kracow, Poland, who explained the flood vulnerabilities and floodplain management opportunities of his country, and the approaches being taken to address them.

The Wednesday morning plenary session was devoted to a run-down and explanation of several new FEMA programs affecting floodprone communities nationwide and all the states. The repetitive loss strategy, map modernization, the competitive grants process, the new pre-disaster mitigation program, community assistance, and other critical developments were discussed by Anthony Lowe, Mike Howard, Deborah Ingram, and Cliff Oliver, all of FEMA (now the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security). They outlined some of the ways in which FEMA continues to work with its numerous partners to carry out flood-related activities, and described the agency’s plans for continuing that work in the future.

A second plenary panel that day shed additional light on the ASFPM’s No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management initiative. Pam Pogue, State of Rhode Island, described the new *NAI Toolkit*, a publication that sets out steps communities can take to move towards a standard of NAI in their programs. M. Krishnamurthy, Orange County, Florida, demonstrated some of the many on-the-ground activities being undertaken in his jurisdiction to alleviate the negative impacts sometimes posed by development. Mark Mauriello, State of New Jersey, showed how NAI floodplain management applies to coastal areas, delineating the challenges and benefits posed by the various natural coastal processes and environments.

The importance of “Measuring Success and Evaluating Program Effectiveness” was emphasized at the final plenary on Thursday morning. Rich Tobin, American Institutes for Research, gave an update on the progress of the multi-year evaluation of the National Flood Insurance Program and its impacts. Doug Plasencia, AMEC Earth & Environmental, reported on an evaluation of the Corps of Engineers’ planning processes, pointing out the unresolved conflict between the Corps’ new vision of its missions and methods and the Principles and Guidelines, which are still adhered to and operate to narrow the range of projects that can be judged cost-effective. An independent examination of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Project Impact, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and other efforts has been called for by Congress, and Tom Tobin, Tobin & Associates, told the group how that is being carried out for FEMA, with results expected by early 2005.

Small-group panels and discussions filled the breakfast hours and the rest of the week. A remarkably diverse set of break-out sessions covered topics such as the integration of floodplain, stormwater, and watershed management requirements; floodplain delineations with GIS; using HAZUS for flood assessments and policy; floodplain mapping in karst areas; innovative tools for public outreach and education; determining and delineating coastal hazard vulnerability; forming and

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from the Chair

Chad Berginnis, CFM

Whew! What a start to summer! The unofficial beginning of summer—Memorial Day weekend—was full of active weather. According to the Weather Channel, the three-day weekend saw over 1,200 reports of severe weather, and 25 states received some amount of flooding. Throw a large number of tornadoes into the mix and, unfortunately, you get widespread damage.

It seems that this is just the beginning of a stormy summer. Forecast experts are predicting up to 15 named tropical storms—an above-average year—and we can't forget the denuded mountainsides in the southwest that are the remnants massive forest fires over the past few years, which present an elevated risk of mudslides when the summer "monsoons" come.

Across America, we seem to be facing a summer of increased flood risk, and, I would argue, increased opportunity for flood mitigation. Of course, mitigation practitioners understand the window of opportunity that exists after a disaster, where property owners are receptive to the concept of mitigation. At the same time we understand how short-lived that window can be. Once disaster victims get their lives back to some sort of normalcy, the desire to mitigate is reduced. But even with given this short window, mitigation is happening everywhere! Elevation, acquisition, floodproofing, relocation, and other techniques are being applied. Here in Ohio, as well as many other areas of the country, all of these options have been part of the mitigation toolbox and have been used successfully. If you are new to mitigation or would like to learn more, check out the ASFPM website at <http://www.floods.org>, to download the ASFPM series of publications, *Mitigation Success Stories*. They have excellent illustrations of actual mitigation projects from communities across the United States.

From a program and policy standpoint, this may indeed be the Summer of Mitigation. The National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization / repetitive loss bill,

which has several new, promising mitigation provisions, is awaiting a Senate floor vote. A bill reauthorizing the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and also restoring the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to a 15% formula program has passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting action in the Senate. Also, we are hopeful that this summer FEMA will be actively disbursing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds, and be processing applications for a new round of PDM funds. However, we, as some of the nation's busiest mitigators, cannot idly sit by! The repetitive loss bill and the bill restoring HMGP funding need strong advocates. Similarly, mitigation and natural hazards programs need advocates, especially since the priority of the Department of Homeland Security (of which FEMA is a small part) is terrorism. We must be able to communicate the importance of mitigation to a diverse group of people from policy makers to property owners.

In closing, I can't resist telling a success story that happened just a few weeks ago here in Ohio. During the summer of 1998, when I worked as a county floodplain administrator, a village in the county was devastated by a record flood. Together, we worked to implement a mitigation project that eventually involved 37 properties. A combination of mitigation techniques was used including acquisition, elevation, and minor retrofitting. On May 18th, 2004, another flood hit Corning. Flood elevations were only about two feet lower than in 1998 (inundation suggests an over 100-year frequency event). Guess what? The mitigation worked beautifully! Elevated homes that would have had water in their basements and on the first floor were virtually undamaged, and in structures where furnaces and other utilities had been relocated from basements to a higher floor, these systems were undamaged. While other businesses in the small, two-block downtown area were flooded, the one structure where an interior retrofit had resulted in an elevated first floor, remained dry and open to customers after the flood. Early reports from our state Emergency Management Agency indicate that the mitigation project has resulted in avoided damage equal to 30% of the total cost of the mitigation project from this single event. Simply stated, mitigation works!

Let's make the summer of 2004 the Summer of Mitigation. □

Towards Better Media Coverage of Floods

News coverage during and after a flood is notoriously inadequate, often inaccurate, and rarely serves the public. To help remedy this situation, the ASFPM Public Education Committee is putting together a Flood Coverage Media Packet that will provide basic information, story ideas, and contacts and in general help the media recognize how they can educate the public, provide a public service, and effect change through their news reporting.

You can help by providing story ideas, resource materials, names of experts, and sources willing to be quoted or discuss background information with reporters. What stories are not being told? What stories should be told throughout the year, not just during flood season? What coverage would help you in your job as a floodplain manager?

>>> Send your ideas to Mona Shoup, Committee Chair, at P.O. Box 580206, Nassau Bay, TX 77258; (281) 335-7194 or MonaShoup@houston.rr.com.

USGS CELEBRATES 125TH YEAR

“ . . . the USGS’s scientific endeavors have evolved over 125 years from gathering information with picks, pack mules, and wagon trains to having remote sensors with real-time data access, using satellite-transmitted measurements, and mounting instrumentation on Mars rovers . . . ”

—Charles C. Groat, Director, U.S. Geological Survey

On March 3, 1879, the 45th Congress passed the Organic Act, which established the U.S. Geological Survey, an agency that now has spent 125 years providing the United States with the scientific information needed to make important individual and public decisions and to safeguard society. In 1879, the federal government held title to more than 1.2 billion acres of land, nearly all of it west of the Mississippi River and only a small fraction of it surveyed. Since then, the USGS has produced 55,000 topographic maps that cover the nation—perhaps the agency’s best-known accomplishment. But in this anniversary year the USGS’s innumerable contributions to the scientific underpinnings of public policy and daily life are being noted. Many of these are of special—if not critical—interest to floodplain managers.

- The USGS now has available on-line more than 181 million individual daily streamflow values, measured at more than 21,000 locations nationwide.
- Partnerships with state and local governments and the private sector are key to the USGS’s work toward a common set of current, accurate, and consistent basic geospatial data nationwide. For example, USGS imagery is used to support the geographic data needs of North Carolina communities, and localities such as metropolitan Mecklenburg and Wake counties and rural Henderson County are providing data and matching resources.
- Last year the USGS worked with the National Weather Service and local agencies in Washington State to combine detailed digital elevation models that define the topography of downstream floodplains (produced by LIDAR mapping) with a two-dimensional flow model to predict the extent of forecasted floods before the floods began. This technique enables residents and emergency officials to determine what areas need to be evacuated and when.
- The USGS operates more than 7,000 stream gages nationwide. Funding to keep these crucial gages in operation has been at issue for the last several years [see *News & Views*, August 2002, p. 7-8; April 2003, p. 4, and p. 10 of this issue].
- Two days before (and after) Hurricane Isabel’s landfall last year, the beaches and dunes of Virginia and North Carolina were surveyed by USGS and NASA scientists with NASA’s Experimental Advanced Airborne Research Lidar. Detailed measurements captured the changes along the coast, including a major breach that severed Hatteras Island and North Carolina Highway 12. These data are being used to

quantify the changes and to test models that predict the impact of extreme storms on other hurricane-threatened coasts.

- The deployment of acoustic Doppler current profilers have improved streamflow measurement techniques. For example, the USGS Indiana office’s field crews made 55 measurements over seven days of record flooding last summer—two to three times more than could be made with older technology.
 - The extensive fires and severe rainfall in southern California in 2003 resulted in massive and deadly debris flows. In the weeks after the fires, the USGS analyzed the hydrologic hazards they created and installed a network of 20 rapid deployment-recording rain gages and six discharge-gaging stations in burned basins [see *News & Views*, February 2004, p. 13]. These stations and about 60 existing streamgages are providing data to the counties’ ALERT systems.
- > > > For more about the USGS anniversary, activities, and programs, see <http://www.usgs.gov>.

Floodplain Managers in Support of the USGS

- The ASFPM has given written and oral support to USGS programs, including letters to appropriations committees explaining the significance of the stream gaging program [see *News & Views*, April 2003, p. 4]. The ASFPM considers the long-term stream gaging to be the foundation of hydrologic analysis for floodplain and stormwater management at all levels of government and the private sector.
- Margaret Davidson, Director of NOAA’s Coastal Services Center, received a spontaneous burst of applause from floodplain managers during her presentation at the ASFPM’s annual meeting in May when she noted the absolute criticality of the USGS’s streamgaging program, which not only provides information needed for warnings of high water, but also accumulates long-term data that helps build a historical picture of watersheds—a picture sorely needed now and in the future.
- A resolution saluting the USGS on its 125th anniversary, commending its accomplishments, and pledging future support was passed by the ASFPM Board of Directors in April. The resolution calls the USGS “the premiere earth and biological science agency and a widely respected source of key objective science [for] states, locals, and all federal agencies.”
- Floodplain managers are represented by the ASFPM on the USGS Coalition, an alliance of 57 organizations committed to the continued vitality of the unique combination of biological, geological, hydrological, and mapping programs of the USGS.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

At its annual meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi, the ASFPM recognized these outstanding individuals, projects, and programs in floodplain management.

The Goddard-White Award

John R. “Jack” Sheaffer, of Sheaffer International, Ltd., received the Goddard-White Award for decades of contributions to different aspects of floodplain management, from floodproofing to urban drainage to the links between water quality, stormwater, and floodplains.

A student of Gilbert F. White, Sheaffer received his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Chicago in 1966. His *Introduction to Floodproofing*, which was published the following year, introduced the idea of using specific floodproofing measures as elements in an overall flood damage reduction program.

Sheaffer worked closely with Congress in the development of the Clean Water Act during the 1970s. He was an advisor to the Federal Insurance Administration and had a definite impact on the direction of the National Flood Insurance Program during its early years, including strong support for closer involvement of the states and development of state-level floodplain management capability.

His early studies on the effects of urbanization of floodplains matured into a long-standing interest in problems of stormwater and the finite nature of the planet’s water resources. While at the University of Chicago’s Center for Urban Studies he conceived of a circular system for management of wastewater and in 1982 published another book, *Urban Storm Drainage Management*. Over the last three decades he has designed and built scores of no-discharge systems for municipalities and others needing a cost-effective and non-polluting way to reclaim and re-use wastewater.

Sheaffer has remained a thorough and innovative thinker in floodplain management circles. In 2002, he co-authored the *Environment* article “Encouraging Wise Use of Floodplains with Market Based Incentives,” which explored how existing programs and land use authorities could be used to create public-private partnerships. His many articles, papers, and reports include ideas for financial compensation for agricultural use of floodplains, quantification of the natural values of floodplain land, and benefits of stormwater conservation and re-use. He serves on the ASFPM Foundation Board of Trustees, is working on a sequel to his 1983 book, *Future Water*, and manages his company’s international work on water reclamation systems.

The James Lee Witt Award for Local Excellence in Floodplain Management

Two James Lee Witt Awards were given this year.

The Stormwater Management Division of Dupage County, Illinois, was honored for its 20-year-long effort to address floodplain issues on a watershed basis. The

county is considered the leader in Region 5 for mapping initiatives, having developed new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps and regulatory flood maps for the county. The Stormwater Management Division also converted 187 map panels from 39 municipalities and unincorporated parts of the county into its geographic information system (GIS).

The Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission (Virginia) was honored for excellence in the provision of technical services to the entities within its region, which include five counties and five cities. The region was named a Project Impact community in 2000, and leveraged its funds to extend the initiative to 18 months and undertake more activities than originally conceived. Its two major efforts were an all-hazards mitigation plan and the development of a community emergency response team.

The Tom Lee State Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management

This year’s award went to the California Floodplain Management Task Force, established pursuant to an assembly bill passed in 2000 and charged with examining specific state and local floodplain management issues with an eye toward more effective statewide policies. Composed of 40 representatives of state, local, and federal agencies as well as the private sector, environmental groups, and the California-based Floodplain Management Association, the Task Force concluded its effort with a report including over 40 policy and action recommendations, such as updating of state statutes and executive orders, designation of a state-level coordinator for the Community Rating System, review of the state building code, maximizing opportunities for agricultural conservation and ecosystem restoration, and convening an alluvial fan flooding task force.

The Media Award

This year’s Media Award went to the *News Sentinel* of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, for its intensive and prolonged coverage of the July 2003 flooding in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. *Sentinel* reporters played key roles in delivering important information to hundreds of affected residents and businesses, including notices of public meetings, damage assessments, the availability of disaster assistance, and others. The newspaper has continued to inform its readers about post-flood cleanup (including how to get rid of all those sandbags), the availability of grants, the benefits of mitigation measures, flood insurance, the efforts of volunteers, and the ICC program.

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Floodplain Management Achievements (cont.)

The Larry R. Johnston Local Floodplain Manager Award

Dave Clark of King County, Washington, was named the Local Floodplain Manager of the Year for his leadership in one of the largest counties in the United States that also has complex water management challenges with saltwater coastlines, lowland plateaus, mountains, lakes, streams, and rivers. Clark led development of the King County Flood Hazard Reduction Plan, which integrates the protection of endangered species habitat with flood hazard measures. He has orchestrated progressive mitigation projects, established a successful flood warning program, leveraged \$16 million in post-disaster mitigation funding, started channel migration studies, and got King County involved in the Cooperative Technical Partners program and map modernization with FEMA. During Clark's tenure, the County has reduced its number of repetitive loss properties by 30%, and became the first community to reach Class 4 in the NFIP Community Rating System.

The John R. Sheaffer Award for Excellence in Floodproofing

This year's Sheaffer Floodproofing Award was presented to Patricia M. Skinner, Disaster Programs Coordinator at the LSU Agricultural Center Extension Service, for her ongoing role in the science and practice of floodproofing at both state and national levels. Not only has she been instrumental in producing numerous user-friendly guides, publications, and videos on various floodproofing and retrofitting techniques, but she has energetically pursued avenues to distribute that information to people who need it. Skinner spearheaded the nation's first "virtual mall" on floodproofing, a comprehensive and easy-to-navigate resource hosted at the AgCenter's website; she chaired the ASFPM's floodproofing/retrofitting committee for several years; and was the local host of the first national floodproofing conference. She also promoted and documented some of first elevation projects in Louisiana, using FEMA funds.

NEW UPPER MISSISSIPPI FLOOD PROFILES FROM THE CORPS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' *Upper Mississippi, Lower Missouri, and Illinois Rivers System Flow Frequency Study Final Report* updates the 100-year flood profiles for these river systems. The study area included the Upper Mississippi from just below St. Paul, Minnesota, to Cairo, Illinois; the Illinois River from its confluence with the Mississippi at Grafton, Illinois, to Lockport Lock and Dam at Lockport, Illinois; and the Missouri River from its confluence with the Mississippi at St. Louis, Missouri, to Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, South Dakota.

These profiles will help communities prepare for floods and advance the understanding of local, regional, and systemic hydrology and hydraulics of the river system.

The approximate rate of change from the of old and new 100-year (1% chance) flood profiles was as follows:

- For the upper portion of the upper Mississippi, flood levels were lowered by one foot or remained the same.
- For the lower portion of the Upper Mississippi, flood levels varied in range from lowering 1.5 feet to raising nearly two feet.
- On the Illinois River, flood level changes varied from lowering by one foot to raising two feet.

Flood profiles for the Upper Mississippi River were first developed in 1966. In 1971, impacts of tributary reservoirs were incorporated into the 1966 profiles. In 1979 a new set of flood profiles was published. To date,

these profiles have been the official flood profiles for management of the floodplains and design of flood control projects along the Upper Mississippi River.

In 1997, the Corps began a study to review, update, and revise, as appropriate, the existing flood frequency data for the study area. To conduct the study, the Corps teamed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Bureau of Reclamation; the National Weather Service; the U.S. Geological Survey; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Tennessee Valley Authority; the states of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin; and interested private individuals who formed a public involvement group with direct access to the study team. In addition, technical advisory groups consisting of world-renowned experts were formed to help address some of the complex issues surrounding the study.

Study findings will also be used by FEMA to update the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

To view a comparison of old and new 100-year flood profiles at specific locations on the rivers, visit the Flow Frequency website at <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/pdw/pdf/FlowFrequency/flowfreq.htm> and view pages 19-23 of the main report.

>>> For more information, contact Jerry Skalak at (309) 794-5605 or Jerry.A.Skalak@usace.army.mil or call the Public Affairs Office at (309) 794-5900.

—*excerpted from IAFSM News, Spring 2004, p. 13*

TOP TEN THINGS A FLOODPLAIN PROPERTY ACQUISITION COORDINATOR SHOULD KNOW

Sara Agahi, P.E., CFM
Watershed Planner

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Lake County is one of the six collar counties of Chicago in northeastern Illinois. It is a fast-growing county, with a population of about 650,000 that is expected to increase 31% by 2020. Lake County is also rich in natural resources: high-quality wetlands, rivers, and lakes. Receding glaciers at the end of the last ice age formed many of these depressional features, so it is not surprising that 40% of our flood problem areas are from depressional flooding rather than from riverine flooding.

In addition to our regulatory and hazard mitigation planning activities, the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) manages two floodplain property acquisition programs. The first is localized in one neighborhood, Williams Park, and is funded 75% by FEMA and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The second is funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) to acquire the worst repetitive loss properties scattered throughout the county. Since 1998, the SMC has acquired 48 structures and their lots, as well as 53 adjacent vacant lots in Williams Park and four repetitively flooded properties and their four adjacent vacant lots throughout the county.

The benefits of floodplain property acquisition programs are well known: they prevent future liabilities and costs to the homeowner and to the local unit of government (from evacuation, rescue, and flood fighting). The demolition of these flood-prone structures also creates additional floodplain storage to benefit neighbors and downstream residents. However, there are some potential pitfalls associated with the management of the acquisition programs. Learn from our mistakes so you don't repeat them with your own acquisition programs. Here are Lake County's top ten lessons learned in flood-prone property acquisition.

10. **Clarify the definition of open space with the neighbors.** After we demolish the structures, the SMC restores the lots to naturalized environments by seeding them with native and wetland species. The true benefit is realized when these plants are allowed to grow to a naturalized height. However, the remaining neighbors often believe the best use of open space is an extension of their lawns, and end up mowing the vacant lots. Simply putting up a sign to explain the environmental and flood control benefits of native grasses can help to stop the mowing. Putting up a fence can be a last resort if education does not work.
9. **Be aware of changes in state tax exemption policy.** [In Illinois] the next step after the structures are demolished and the sites are restored is to apply for tax exemption for the property. In the past, a local unit of government was able to apply for tax exemption on behalf of the funding agency, which may still hold the title. There have been two cases recently (one involving Lake County) where the Illinois Department of Revenue denied tax exemption because a local unit of government applied on behalf of the state funding agency. In our case, our lawyer had to appeal the decision in a long and cumbersome process. It appears the Department of Revenue is going to grant us the exemption, but this was after numerous, expensive legal hours of appeal. Now we send the supporting documentation to the state funding agency and have them submit the exemption request to the Department of Revenue.
8. **Sellers must move out of the house by the time of closing.** Some counties allow buy-out participants to remain in their houses after closing, and to rent for short periods of time. Lake County once allowed a participant to stay over a weekend after the closing occurred. It took a call to the Sheriff's department and a police escort to get this person out. Since that experience, we never allow a participant to stay after the closing—although we will allow them to reschedule a closing to accommodate a conflict.
7. **Buying expensive houses is politically challenging.** In this time of reduced state and local budgets, buying expensive houses is politically difficult. Even if the benefit/cost ratio is extremely high, you will encounter controversy. In our case, the buy-out of an expensive repetitively flooded house was 100% funded by IDNR. The Lake County board had a lengthy debate about whether or not to accept the grant to acquire this house. Ultimately, the board accepted the grant although several members voted against it.
6. **Buy adjacent vacant lots—otherwise developers will.** Most grants will not pay for vacant lots unless they are adjacent to a structure you have acquired. The rationale is that vacant lots cannot sustain damage in a flood. However, we have seen developers purchase vacant lots (in flood-prone areas) next to properties that we have acquired. The future homeowners will probably contact us in the future for a buy-out. It would be much more

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Top Ten Things (cont.)

efficient, and cheaper, in the long run to just buy the vacant lot to prevent the flooding damage from occurring.

5. **Traditional benefit/cost analyses are not acceptable for depressional storage areas.** Nearly 40% of Lake County's flood problem areas are located in depressional rather than riverine areas. FEMA's and IDNR's accepted methods for comparing benefits to costs are approved only for riverine flooded properties. There is a need in the floodplain management field to design an acceptable method for assessing the risks of depressional flooded properties.
4. **Properties will be trashed once people know they have been bought.** People will dump trash and appliances on a property once they know it has been bought. If feasible, put up a fence. Otherwise expect to have to pay for trash removal from time to time.
3. **A vacant house will be vandalized, trespassed, and looted.** Take necessary precautions. Signs and boards will not stop trespassers. Someone broke into one house we acquired and stole the fireplace, which was no easy task. The perpetrator was planning to come back to the house and take the flooring material, so he left his tools and work light. I took his tools back to my office and left him a note explaining how to reclaim them. He eventually paid for the materials that he "salvaged" and he got his tools back. Check your non-occupied structures often.
2. **Don't think of local match just in terms of cash—coordinate with everyone.** Coordinate closely with other organizations to get the most benefit from the structures you buy. For instance,

we work with Habitat for Humanity to salvage non-flood-damaged materials. This benefits their constituency and saves us money in landfill costs. We also coordinate with a local fire department to do burn training on some acquired structures. The firefighters practice room burns throughout the house for typically three weeks. On the fourth week, they burn the structure to the ground. The benefit to our agency is reduced landfill costs, and the benefits to society for well-trained firefighters are immeasurable. In addition, municipalities that cannot contribute cash can contribute in-kind services that save your program money. One of our communities contributes the demolition of the structure and site restoration as their part of the local match. Keep an open mind and involve as many partners as possible.

1. **Get an environmental inspection before acquiring a property.** Because the grants do not cover the cost of an environmental assessment, it had been our agency's policy not to have them performed. We were pretty lucky for the first five years of our program. But last year, within the span of about four months, we discovered leaking underground storage tanks on two of our floodplain acquisition properties. We had to pay tens of thousands of dollars of county funds to remove the tanks and to remediate the soils. At the same time we discovered that the Residential Real Property Disclosure Act does not apply to transfers to or from government entities. Our lawyer has since drafted personalized disclosure forms that state the seller will be responsible for removal of any underground storage tanks and remediation of the soils before we acquire their property.

—*excerpted from IAFSM News, Spring 2004, p. 6-8*

Henderson, Nevada seeks Project Engineer

The City of Henderson is hiring a Project Engineer II for the Hydrology Section of the Land Development Division of its Public Works Department. This position involves supervision of entry-level engineers in reviewing hydrology studies and plans. It will include other aspects of flood control and floodplain management, including maintenance of flood control facilities, administering floodplain regulations, stormwater quality, emergency response, and complaint resolution. Annual salary is \$59,008 – \$92,953.

A bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely related field is required along with three years of responsible, diversified experience in a civil engineering environment; or an equivalent combination of closely related education, training, and work experience. The best candidate will have work experience with residential, commercial, and industrial improvement drawings; and experience with improvement districts, flood control, streets, and utility systems. Must possess (or obtain through reciprocity) registration as a Professional Engineer with the State of Nevada.

Candidates must be in Henderson, Nevada, on Monday and Tuesday, July 12-13, 2004 for oral examinations and interviews.

>>> Application must be made on a city employment application (do not send resumes alone) and received by the Human Resources Department, 85 Ocean Avenue, Henderson, NV 89015, by June 30, 2004. Applications and more details may be downloaded from <http://www.cityofhenderson.com/hr>.

Washington Report

INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE SET FOR GREAT LAKES

On May 18, 2004 President Bush signed an Executive Order creating the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, which brings together 10 federal agency and cabinet officers to provide strategic direction on federal Great Lakes policy, priorities, and programs. The 10 agencies together administer more than 140 different federal programs that help fund and implement environmental restoration and management activities in the Great Lakes basin. The Task Force, under the lead of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will not only work towards federal coordination but also is instructed by the Executive Order to establish a system for regional collaboration among the eight U.S. states; half dozen major metropolitan areas; numerous county, local and Tribal governments; and the Canadian government—all of whom share management of the Great Lakes system. The Task Force is expected to plan and oversee long-term, comprehensive, collaborative approaches to resolve the Great Lake's many problems, from invasive species to degraded wetlands to contaminated sediment.

> > > For more information, see <http://www.epa.gov/greatlakes/taskforce/index.html>.

HURRICANE ISABEL CLAIMS REVIEWED

At the request of members of Congress, the Federal Insurance Administration agreed to review the National Flood Insurance Program policy claims paid for damage from Hurricane Isabel in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina [see *News & Views*, April 2004, p. 1]. So far, 948 policyholders have requested that their claims be reviewed to ensure that settlements were equitable. The NFIP's general adjusters have reviewed 273 of those claims to date.

- For 33 claims, an adjustment to the claim total may be allowed; these were referred to the respective insurance company for supplemental funding.
- \$450,829 has been approved in new funding for Hurricane Isabel policy settlements.
- 240 claims were determined to have no additional items eligible for payment based on the terms and conditions of the individual insurance policies and that no further reimbursement is due.
- 675 claims reviews are still pending, including 35 claims where a re-inspection was requested.

> > > More information about the claims review process, the findings, and instructions for requesting a review can be found at http://www.fema.gov/isabel/isabel_claims.shtm.

LOWE LEAVES FEMA

Word was released on June 4 that Anthony Lowe has resigned his position as Director of Mitigation at FEMA/DHA for personal reasons. Trey Reid has been named Acting Director for the transition period.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Since early February, this second session of the 108th Congress has been working on the FY 2005 budget, both to set broad guidance and by holding hearings on the specific agency requests in the appropriations subcommittees. An impasse on the Budget Resolution between the House, Senate, and White House has delayed action on any of the 13 regular appropriations bills. No markups have been held.

The Repetitive Flood Loss bill, S. 2238, is ready to be brought up on the Senate floor, but most other bills are in various stages of development.

In this election year, legislation not nearing readiness for floor consideration may not get considered since appropriations activity is likely to dominate as the August recess and September session approach.

Repetitive Flood Loss and NFIP Reauthorization

The Senate Banking Committee has favorably reported its bill, S. 2238, to address the problem of repetitive flood loss claims. A Committee report has been filed, but the number is not yet available. The ASFPM testimony, presented by Chair Chad Berginnis at the March 25th hearing, is posted on the ASFPM website and the testimony of all of those who appeared before the committee can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov> (go to Senate Banking Committee, then to Hearings, then to the March 25 hearing). The Banking Committee would like to bring the bill to the Senate floor under Unanimous Consent procedures. Some last-minute negotiations are still taking place, but it is anticipated that the bill will be taken up in the Senate very shortly. House-Senate conference-type discussions are already being conducted at the staff level to facilitate expeditious final passage.

The Senate bill would provide a 90/10 cost share for repetitive loss properties in states that satisfy certain requirements to demonstrate their commitment to addressing floodplain management issues. Further, the Senate bill would permit the use of Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) funds in conjunction with offers of mitigation assistance to repetitive loss properties. Taken together, repetitive loss property owners could receive mitigation offers that would pay 100% of the cost of mitigation. The ASFPM has stated that this is a

[continued on page 9]

worthwhile investment since repetitive losses now account for an average annual drain on the Flood Insurance Fund of about \$200 million. The ASFPM's more detailed summary of the bill is posted at <http://www.floods.org> and will be updated as soon as the Senate report on S. 2238 becomes available. The bill would also reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), due to expire on June 30, for five years. The House had passed its version of the bill, H.R. 253, during the last Congressional session.

DMA 2000 Reauthorization

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has not yet considered the House-passed bill (H.R. 3181), which was passed at the end of the last Congressional session. The measure extends the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 for three years, authorizes the pre-disaster mitigation program, and restores the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to 15% of the cost of a Presidentially declared disaster. The formula had been changed in the FY '03 VA-HUD Appropriations bill to 7.5%, thereby cutting in half the mitigation funds available in the crucial post-disaster period.

WRDA Development for Senate Bill

Staff-level background work on a Senate Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) has begun and a hearing was held on March 31st. As is usually the case with WRDA bills, no legislation is introduced until a bill is marked up by the Committee. The bills are usually made up of a long list of Corps of Engineers projects or studies to be authorized and often some policy direction. The Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman, James Inhofe (R-OK) and Ranking Minority Member James Jeffords (I-VT) have indicated they would like to see some policy matters included in this WRDA. The ASFPM has discussed with Committee staff including of some sliding-scale cost-share or point system incentive to encourage local flood mitigation.

Chairman Inhofe was interested in reporting a bill by the end of May in order to have some chance of completing floor action and conferencing with the House. The House passed its WRDA bill (H.R. 2557) during the last session.

Highway Bill

Both the House and Senate have passed their long-awaited legislation to reauthorize highway programs for six years but the House-Senate Conference Committee to resolve differences between the two versions is at somewhat of a stalemate. There are substantial differences in funding levels in the two bills and both exceed what the White House has said it will support. The House bill is H.R. 3550 (referred to as TEALU); the Senate bill is S. 1072 or SAFETEA.

The Senate bill includes a Highway Stormwater Discharge Mitigation Program as Section 1620. It would dedicate 2% of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the six years authorized to address water quality problems from flooding and sewer overflows resulting from construction of federally aided highways.

Since the House bill has no similar provision, this issue will be part of conference negotiations.

DHS and FEMA

The House Committee on Government Reform held a hearing at the end of March on the establishment of regional offices for the Department of Homeland Security. The Committee was specifically exploring collocation of DHS regional offices with FEMA or other federal regional offices already established.

Former FEMA Director James Lee Witt testified to his concern about FEMA's natural disaster programs being overshadowed at the regional level by the DHS focus on terrorism. Because he is also very concerned about this development at the national level, he recommended to the Committee that FEMA be removed from DHS. His and other testimony can be seen at the Committee website through <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

HR. 3266 First Responders Act

This bill would establish a State and Regional First Responder Grant Program that would make grants to states and regional entities based on threat as determined by the Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. It also creates an Advisory Council on First Responders that would report to the Secretary through the Office of State and Local Government Coordination.

It was unanimously reported out of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, but has been jointly referred to three other committees, with a deadline of June 7th to complete consideration. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Stafford Act, may restate commitment to the all-hazards approach and stipulate that terrorism be added to the list of declarable disasters.

This bill further scatters responsibilities that would have come under FEMA. The FY '05 budget request for DHS includes a number of elements that also distribute previous FEMA activities elsewhere in DHS or diminish support for the state and local network of officials working on natural disaster issues.

Committee Jurisdictions for DHS

The House Select Committee has been holding hearings on how Congress should be organized to deal with the new DHS. They have examined whether to establish a permanent standing committee and whether such a committee should assume legislative responsibility for all programs in DHS—items that have serious implications for authority over the NFIP (now under the Banking committees) and the Disaster Relief programs (now under the committees for public works.)

Although appropriations for all programs in DHS have been consolidated under the Appropriations Subcommittees on Homeland Security in the House and Senate, it has been helpful to have authorizing responsibility for FEMA programs remain under committees that continue to pay particular attention to these natural disaster programs.

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Summary of Presidential Budget Requests for FY 2005 Appropriations

Homeland Security

- Flood Map Modernization would be funded at \$200 million.
- HMGP would continue at 7.5%.
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) would receive \$20 million.
- Would combine Flood Mitigation Assistance with Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant funds in a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund.
- Emergency Management Preparedness Grants (EMPG) and Fire Grants would be transferred from FEMA to the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP). Some 77 FEMA staff would also be moved to support this change. EMPG would be reduced by \$9 million and the previous cap of 50% of the funds that could be used by states for personnel would be lowered to 25%.

The ASFPM has submitted outside witness testimony on this budget request, available on the ASFPM website.

Energy and Water (Corps of Engineers)

- Includes a reduction in funds for non-structural programs under Floodplain Management Services and level funding for the Section 22 Planning Assistance to States program.
- Funding for Corps support of the stream gage network is reduced.

U.S. Geological Survey (Interior)

- The budget request is \$18 million less than FY 2004, or a 1.9% reduction.
- The National Map and geography funding levels are the same as FY 2004.
- Water Resources, including funding for the stream gage network, is reduced by \$9 million or 7.2%.

Park Service (Interior)

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program is flat funded, but earmarks and inflation continue to reduce the available funds.

Environmental Protection Agency (VA-HUD-Independent Agencies)

- Request is 7.2% less than the amount provided by the Congress for FY '04, but it does exceed last year's budget request by \$133 million.
- Removes some \$350 million worth of water infrastructure project earmarks.
- Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source grants are reduced to \$210 million from last year's funding of \$238 million. TMDL monitoring (CWA Section 106) was increased by \$22 million over last year.

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

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

Annual Conference (cont.)

maintaining state floodplain management associations; using incentives in floodplain management; flood warning systems; comprehensive watershed management; tribal hazard mitigation planning; public and private coalitions for flood loss reduction; uses of real-time coastal observations and streamflow; wetland restoration and protection techniques; stormwater management facilities; levee systems; production of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps; hydrologic models for special situations; floodproofing successes; working with the Endangered Species Act; meeting water quality goals; changes to the insurance aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program; and many others. Several sessions addressed new applications of NAI floodplain management and there were numerous presentations about the individual floodplain management accomplishments of towns, cities, and states across the nation.

Even before the conference was officially underway, the ASFPM held its annual membership and committee meetings and began electing new Board members [*see back panel of this issue*]. There was a record number of exhibits displayed during the week on many aspects of floodplain management. Each region, some chapters, and some state associations held breakfast gatherings to exchange news and ideas, and there were also early-bird roundtables centered on legal aspects of floodplain management, repetitive loss legislation, coastal regions, the new testing program for flood protection products, and flood issues in arid regions. Thursday brought the annual luncheon at which awards were presented [*see pages 4-5*].

Training workshops before and after the conference focused on GIS for managers; map amendments and revisions; hydrology and hydraulics for floodplain managers; floodplain management compliance; elevation certificates; the revised *Coastal Construction Manual*; HAZUS; and the Residential Substantial Damage Estimator, among other topics. The ASFPM's Certified Floodplain Manager examination was administered. The ASFPM Foundation held another successful silent auction. Technical field trips were made to examine the massive levee and pumping system in the New Orleans region and the barrier islands that provide natural protection to the Gulf Coast. The annual golf tournament was supplemented by a tennis tournament, and other chances to socialize and network rounded out the gathering.

The technical papers presented at the conference will be released as proceedings by the ASFPM this fall. □

The ASFPM appreciates the extraordinary efforts of all who contributed to the success of the Biloxi meeting, especially the Conference Hosts Harold Holmes, CFM, and Rodney E. Emmer; Program Chair Steve McMaster, CFM; and Exhibits Coordinator Dan Accurti.

State and Local Report

CALIFORNIA RESPONDS TO SWANCC

California is considering several steps to address the 2001 Supreme Court decision in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 531 U.S. 159 (2001), which overturned the Corps of Engineers' long-standing assertion of federal jurisdiction over certain "isolated" wetlands based solely on the presence of migratory birds. Considerable debate has ensued over how broadly to read the Court's decision, and both the EPA and the Corps have instructed their field offices to stop protecting isolated wetlands. The governor's Action Plan for California's Environment directs "all relevant state agencies to fill any gaps in wetlands protection." The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has reported to the state legislature on waters not subject to the Clean Water Act, compiled data on California waters affected by SWANCC, reviewed the legal and technical issues relating to protecting such waters, and identified administrative, regulatory, and legislative steps the state could take to protect them.

Meanwhile, two SWANCC-related bills have been introduced in the California Senate: one (SB 1447) would declare it state policy to regulate the dredging or filling of wetlands not regulated under the Clean Water Act; the other (SB 1477) would direct the SWRCB to implement a number of the administrative and regulatory measures identified in the SWRCB's legislative report, and would amend state law to require the SWRCB to regulate activities that could adversely affect wetlands.

>>> The legislative report is posted at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/cwa401/index.html>; pending bills can be tracked at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

WISCONSIN DOES, TOO

The Western Federal District Court of Wisconsin recently ruled that wetlands adjacent to a drainage ditch that eventually flowed into the Mississippi River were covered under the Clean Water Act, *United States v. Peter Thorson, et al.*, No. 03-C-0074-C (W.D. Wisc., April 6, 2004). The court held that the landowner's filling in of the wetland was illegal because he did not obtain a permit from the Corps of Engineers. Before the SWANCC decision, the previous landowners had been denied a permit by the Corps after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources refused to issue a water quality certification. The current owners then purchased the parcel, intending to fill wetlands on the site and build a retail complex. After SWANCC, a Corps official reportedly told the new owner that a permit was likely still necessary, but not if the wetlands on the site were isolated. Believing them to be isolated, the owner instructed a contractor to proceed with the fill, and the Corps subsequently issued a cease and desist order.

VIRGINIA DAM REMOVED

This spring the Corps of Engineers demolished the 22-foot-high concrete Embrey Dam, which had stretched across more than 1,000 feet of the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, Virginia. With the dam removed, the Rappahannock will be free of obstacles from its source at Chester Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains, to its mouth on the Chesapeake Bay, a distance of 184 miles, for the first time in 95 years. Constructed in 1909 to supply hydroelectric power to Fredericksburg, the dam was abandoned as a power source in the late 1960s. It developed cracks in its concrete and significant leaks and had long been viewed as a maintenance and safety liability by Fredericksburg officials. Further, it blocked fish such as American shad and striped bass from reaching their historic spawning and rearing grounds. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, and Virginia Commonwealth University have supported the Corps in its planning, environmental assessment, and implementation of the demolition, and will continue to help with riparian restoration and with other work to reduce erosion and maintain stable channel banks as the water is drawn down.

WISCONSIN WATER POLICIES ONLINE

The Wisconsin Water Policies Inventory (WPPI) was launched on Earth Day, offering residents a web-based tool for navigating the state's major policies on any aspect of water including floodplain management, wetlands protection, water-based recreation, natural resources, flood control, scenic waterways, land drainage, agricultural uses, water quality, and other topics. Users can find and learn about state policies using key words and browser features.

>>> See <http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterpolicy/>.

UPDATE ON OKLAHOMA CERTIFICATION

On April 15, the Oklahoma legislation requiring that local floodplain administrators be accredited in floodplain management was signed into law by Governor Brad Henry [see *News & Views*, April 2004, p. 10]. Accreditation would include passing an examination, completing training, or being certified by a nationally recognized floodplain management organization.

>>> See the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association's website at <http://www.okflood.org/>.

Publications, Software, AV & the Web

Living with Florida's Atlantic Beaches: Coastal Hazards from Amelia Island to Key West argues that Floridians need to learn to live with, rather than at, the shore. The book provides an introduction to coastal processes and geology along with a brief history of coastal hazards and short-sighted human responses. The long-term impact of dredge-and-fill beach construction on the living marine resources of the coastal area is discussed. Most importantly, guidance is provided for longer term risk reduction in the form of tips on storm-resistant construction and site evaluation, including maps for evaluating relative vulnerability to hazards. To help property owners understand and navigate the various permit requirements for developing coastal property, the authors give a brief review of coastal regulations in the area. David M. Bush, William J. Neal, Norma J. Longo, Kenyon C. Lindeman, Deborah F. Pilkey, Luciana Slomp Esteves, John D. Congleton, and Orrin H. Pilkey. 2004. 360 pp. ISBN 0-8223-3289-2. Duke University Press. \$22.95 from <http://www.dukeupress.edu>.

Crossroads: Congress, The Corps of Engineers and the Future of America's Water Resources is the culmination of two years of research by the National Wildlife Federation and Taxpayers for Common Sense. The report documents and chronicles significant problems throughout the Corps' civil works program and the toll taken in economic and environmental costs, and illustrates how these problems prevent the Corps and its thousands of dedicated public servants from meeting the nation's true water infrastructure needs. In addition, *Crossroads* identifies the 29 most threatening and wasteful Corps projects in the country in terms of their cost to federal taxpayers, harm to natural resources, and imminent critical junctures in planning, construction, or operation. *Crossroads* advocates a new path for the Corps towards economically responsible and environmentally sustainable water resource decisions that includes enhanced public accountability through independent project reviews, use of more comprehensive decisionmaking processes that incorporate environmental benefits and costs, revisions to cost-sharing formulas and Congressional enforcement of them, and closer adherence by the Corps to its primary missions (flood control, navigation, environmental restoration) in project selection and implementation. 2004. 92 pp. \$10 from National Wildlife Federation, 1400 Sixteenth St., N.W., Ste. 501, Washington, D.C. 20036 or download from <http://www.nwf.org/greeningcorps>.

Calendar

The Association of State Floodplain Managers maintains a list of flood-related meetings, conferences, and training at <http://www.floods.org/calendar.htm>.

June 14–17, 2004: MANAGING FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (E273), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact EMI at (800) 238-3358; <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.

June 14–18, 2004: RESIDENTIAL COASTAL CONSTRUCTION (E386), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact EMI at (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.

June 20–23, 2004: THE CHANGING FACE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT: ARE WE REALLY PREPARED? FOURTEENTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, Toronto, Canada. Sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness. See <http://www.wcdm.org>.

June 28–30, 2004: RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS AND BUFFERS: MULTI-SCALE STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, AND MANAGEMENT, Olympic Valley, California. Sponsored by the American Water Resources Association. See <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Olympic2004/summer2004.doc>.

July 11–13, 2004: BLUE VISION: TOWARD A NEW COAST AND OCEAN POLICY, Washington, D.C.. Sponsored by the Coast Alliance, Blue Frontier Campaign, Clean Ocean Action, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Ocean Conservancy, and others. Contact David Helvarg at (202) 387-8030 or Helvarg@bluefront.org or Dawn Hamilton at (202) 546-9554 or dhamilton@coastalliance.org.

July 11–14, 2004: WATERSHED 2004, Dearborn, Michigan. Sponsored by the Water Environment Federation. See <http://www.wef.org/Conferences/>.

- July 13–15, 2004:** HEC HYDROLOGIC MODELING SYSTEM, Auburn, California. Sponsored by the Floodplain Management Association. See <http://www.floodplain.org>.
- July 19–23, 2004:** MULTI-HAZARD DESIGN SUMMER INSTITUTE: FLOOD, (E329), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.
- July 26–29, 2004:** THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.
- July 26–29, 2004:** STORMCON 2004: THE NORTH AMERICAN SURFACE WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION, Palm Desert, California. Sponsored by Forester Communications and *Stormwater* magazine. See <http://www.StormCon.com> or http://www.forester.net/sc_call.html.
- August 16–19, 2004:** MANAGING FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358; <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.
- August 29—September 1, 2004:** GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE FOR PEOPLE & NATURE: WHAT ROLES FOR LAW, INSTITUTIONS & FINANCE? Dundee, Scotland. Sponsored by the American Water Resources Association. See <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Dundee2004/index.html>.
- September 9–10, 2004:** DAM SAFETY AND REHABILITATION, Charlotte, North Carolina. Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers Continuing Education. Contact ASCE at (800) 548-2723 or conted@asce.org or see <http://www.asce.org/conted/distancelearning/>.
- September 12–15, 2004:** SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COASTAL AND ESTUARINE HABITAT RESTORATION, Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by Restore America's Estuaries. Contact Nicole Maylett, Conference Coordinator, (703) 524-0248; nmaylett@estuaries.org or Steve Emmett-Mattox, Vice President and Program Director, (703) 524-0248; sem@estuaries.org or see <http://www.estuaries.org>.
- September 20–23, 2004:** THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.
- September 26–29, 2004:** GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME: DAM SAFETY 2004, Phoenix, Arizona. Sponsored by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. Contact ASDSO at (859) 257-5140 or info@damsafety.org.
- September 27–30, 2004:** DIGITAL HAZARD DATA (E234), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.fema.gov/emi/>.
- October 19–20, 2004:** PROTECTING WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE, Kansas City, Missouri. Sponsored by the Association of State Wetland Managers. Contact Sharon Weaver at (518) 872-1804 or sharon.weaver@aswm.org or see <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2004/agenda2004.htm>.
- November 1–4, 2004:** ANNUAL WATER RESOURCE CONFERENCE, Orlando, Florida. Sponsored by the American Water Resources Association. See <http://www.awra.org>.
- November 6–10, 2004:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS, Dallas, Texas. Contact IAEM, 111 Park Place, Falls Church, VA 22046; (703) 538-1795; fax: (703) 241-5603; info@iaem.com or see <http://www.iaem.com>.
- November 16–19, 2004:** RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ARID WATERCOURSES: ARID REGIONS 10TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, Mesa, Arizona. Sponsored by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Arizona Floodplain Management Association, the Floodplain Management Association, and the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association. Abstracts are due June 25, 2004. Contact Tom Loomis at (602) 506-4767 or trl@mail.maricopa.gov.
- May 8–11, 2005:** SOLUTIONS TO COASTAL DISASTERS 2005, Charleston, South Carolina. Sponsored by the Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. See <http://www.asce.org/conferences/cd05/>.
- June 12–17, 2005:** TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; asfpm@floods.org or see <http://www.floods.org>.



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