

**ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

*Dedicated to  
reducing flood losses . . .*

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# NEWS & VIEWS

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## NEW IDEAS FLOOD CONFERENCE

The 32nd annual conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers again exceeded all expectations, with over 1,300 professionals gathering in Reno, Nevada, from May 18-23, 2008. Expertise from an astonishingly wide array of disciplines and perspectives contributed to a thorough examination of the holistic theme, “A Living River Approach to Floodplain Management.” Plenary sessions with distinguished speakers, small-group panels and subsequent discussions, training, technical field trips, exhibits, and networking filled the week.

The Mayor of Sparks, Nevada, Geno Martini, welcomed the crowd, expressing his pride in the local project to return their Truckee River to a more vital ecosystem while also protecting people from the damaging flooding that, he said, has occurred at least six times during his life. The opening plenary session carried through on that sentiment, looking ahead to the future and how we will need to be managing floods in the decades ahead. First, Doug Plasencia, Michael Baker, Inc., described the shifts in population and climate that have the potential to dramatically alter the future, emphasizing that we still have time to influence decisions and markets to favor sustainable approaches. Chet Koblinsky, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, explained some of the latest research and climate modeling of regional and localized shifts in climate and climate impacts, stressing that future surprises are inevitable and that they may be pleasant or grim. Then Howard Kunreuther, The Wharton School, unveiled some “principles for alternative insurance programs” that it would behoove decisionmakers to adopt in designing future indemnification schemes.

A Wednesday morning plenary session covered concepts of risk, especially residual risk, and ways of managing it to minimize losses. Don Riley, Corps of Engineers, introduced the idea of shifting the public paradigm about flood risk from “promised protection” to “shared responsibility for flood risk management,” a more sensible and balanced approach. Furthering that notion, David Maurstad, FEMA, concluded that today flood risk is managed pretty much along the lines of what communities decide to do, or not do. It is in the “town halls,” he said, that the truly effective decisions and action must take place, not at the federal or state levels. Margaret Davidson, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, emphasized the need to determine appropriate outcomes in our management of risk, such as that from climate change, so that we know what measures we need to take, even though they may be dramatic ones such as focusing our attention on our second-tier coastal cities in anticipation of the loss of the first tier.

“Levees: Can’t Live with Them, Can’t Live without Them” was the topic of the third plenary session. Doug Bellomo, FEMA, emphasized that there is no “silver bullet” when it comes to safety, not even a levee or dam, and that every community has to be engaged in determining what combination of approaches will generate an acceptable level of risk. Edward J. Hecker, Corps of Engineers, explained changes that that agency is making

*[continued on next page]*

## A Living River Approach—Conference Summary (cont.)

in how it treats levees, in the context of an envisioned, mature, national flood risk management program. He recapped the progress being made under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management committee. Jim Fiedler, Santa Clara Valley Water District and National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, shared the multi-faceted program his agency has in place for managing its regional levee system and flood risk, saying that they combine the approaches of “keeping water away from people” and “keeping people away from water.”



The speakers at the final plenary session on Thursday peered into the future and described some of the challenges that await floodplain managers there and the tools that will be appropriate for meeting them. Edward A. Thomas, Michael Baker, explained that using the principle of no adverse impact is a trend that will help localities of the future avoid legal liability. David Ford, David Ford Consulting, described a technology-based communications future in which information gathering and provision is shaped by what individual (or collective) users decide they need and want. Vilma Milmoie, Emergency Management Institute, presented plans for offering professional training and education in a wider variety of venues, including independent study courses, sessions held throughout the country instead of at one training site, and providing for the conduct of courses through state, local, and private organizations.

Intense small-group presentations and discussions punctuated the technical components of the conference. Among the dozens of topics covered were post-wildfire problems; wave modeling; mapping behind levees; living river initiatives; communicating risk; understanding flood insurance; dam failure modeling; natural and beneficial floodplain functions; consensus-building for flood projects; the Community Rating System; using the HAZUS model; linking water management, floodplain management, and floodplain restoration; defining risks, costs, and benefits; master planning; academic research in floodplain management; levee decertification; unsteady hydraulic modeling; compliance and enforcement; and community resilience.

The ASFPM annual membership and committee meetings were held, new officers members installed [see back panel of this issue], and the Certified Floodplain Managers examination administered. The exhibit halls provided a place to get acquainted both with other people and with new activities, products, and programs in all aspects of floodplain management. The ASFPM Foundation had a successful fundraiser in the silent auction. Regions, chapters, and state associations held breakfast gatherings to exchange news and ideas, and there were also early-bird roundtable discussions on climate change in the arid West, the future of the CFM program, and sharing knowledge about floodplain management. At the Thursday luncheon annual awards were presented [see articles on pages 9 and 16].

Before, during, and after the conference, a series of training workshops covered the basics of flood insurance; no adverse impact principles for total water resources management; flood response plans; foundation types of coastal high hazard areas; emergency management for floodplain managers; system modeling with XPSWMM; flood damage reduction and restoration in arid regions; no adverse impact and property rights; coastal inundation mapping; benefit/cost analysis; and the always-popular Floodplain Management 101, among others. Technical field trips explored restoration projects at Steamboat Creek and McCarran Ranch, erosion control near Lake Tahoe, and the Truckee River Watershed Management Project. The annual golf tournament and other chances to socialize and network rounded out the week.

Photographs showing many of the week’s activities, an updated participant list, and other information about the Reno conference are being posted at <http://www.floods.org>. The technical papers presented at the conference will be released as proceedings this fall. ■

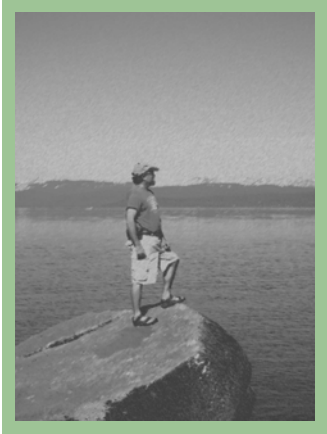
*The ASFPM extends a well-deserved thanks to all the volunteers who contributed to the success of the annual meeting in Reno. Appreciation goes to the Local Host, the Floodplain Management Association (of California, Nevada, and Hawaii, led by Peggy Bowker and including Shawn Gooch, Paul Urban, Mimi Fujii, Mark Gookin, Jeanne Ruefer, Pal Hegedus, Kevin Eubanks, Shelley Read, Jay Aldean, Mike Parker, David Westhoff, Mark Forest and many others); Program Coordinator Steve McMaster; Standing Conference Committee members Dan Accurti, Rod Emmer, Mike Parker, and Dan Sherwood; and the ASFPM Executive Office staff.*

# Musings from the Chair

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM

## So Al, What's Our Heading?

As I stood on a rock on the southeastern shore of Lake Tahoe, I pondered the pending week's activities in Sparks, Nevada, and thought ahead of a seemingly distant conference in Orlando in



June 2009. *[From past experience, I knew that events would occur to speed the calendar.]* The past eleven months had been reminiscent of a summer-time thunderstorm; quickly building, deep rolling thunder, flashing lightning, whipping winds, pure exhilaration, the confusion of a deluge, and then—it was gone.

Perhaps it was the planet's rotational speed (about 770 miles per hour) at Lake Tahoe's latitude, combined with the earth's careening around the sun (67,000 miles per hour) that was making my head spin that Sunday morning. But no, I think now that it was the realization of your confidence in me to lead the Association for one more year that served as the accelerator. I felt honored and grateful for the opportunity. *[I know what you are thinking . . . but I was only drinking a tall Starbuck's coffee.]*

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Now, it is eight days later. I am sitting under my backyard portico on a Memorial Day afternoon, sweating, eating boiled peanuts, and reflecting back on that instant in time depicted in the photograph above, when I claimed Lake Tahoe for the State of Mississippi. *[Already looked at my photo albums of my army days and watched a couple of John Wayne films on the TV, a bittersweet morning.]* So, the 2008 conference saw our largest attendance ever, just over a total of 1,300 people. The great workshops, the technical tours, and 219 concurrent sessions educated and informed the attendees of the latest thinking in floodplain management. It was a resounding success. The volunteers were great; we can never do a conference without them. I can't thank the people enough who were involved (too many to name), but they set the bar high for 2009.

Did you notice that a subtle changing of the guard occurred? Three new people joined the Board (after the Thursday announcement of election results), along with three new Policy Committee Co-chairs earlier in the week. Outstanding volunteers, both those leaving and those joining the ranks. I am content. *[So Al, what are our goals for the 2008–2009 year? Stop gathering wool and get on with it.]*

What will be the Association's "heading" for the 2008–2009 year? On May 17th, your Board adopted Goals and Objectives for the coming year. They are now posted on the Association's website. While you are there, take a look around and send our new IT manager (Jason Schneeberger at [Jason@floods.org](mailto:Jason@floods.org)) any comments or suggestions you might have concerning updating the site. *[After all, that is one of our objectives, under paragraph 3.0.]* Our site contains an abundance of information about our policies and ideas, so please familiarize yourselves with them.

As your Chair, my primary focus will stay on our 27 state chapters (Alabama joined this year), supporting and encouraging them to take an active part in shaping their state and national floodplain/mitigation management policies. *[Like a stone's splash generates ripples in a pond.]* Our chosen field is truly a mosaic of ideas and programs, weaving their way towards a common goal. YOU are that common thread, a line of steel used to pull against policies that often do not consider the overall local and national ramifications beyond a narrow scope of interest. Bad national policy is simply not an option.

Think positively, get active. It is too easy to stand on the sidelines by convincing yourself that there isn't enough time, you are too busy, it is too frustrating to deal with the governmental bureaucracy, etc. Rest assured we can do this together. Our first effort, post conference, is to write to this year's presidential candidates, to inform them of the necessity to secure this nation's future floodplains, explain risk management, and bring this national issue to their radar screens. So, while there is no "Rosetta Stone" for translating mitigation/risk management, we will attempt to educate our national and state leadership. As one pundit put it, "Let's claim back some control in an increasingly globalized society." *[Sounds good, I wonder what it really means?]* As a team, we can make a difference. Enough said. ■

# PLANNING PERSPECTIVES: BAD HABITS

by JoAnn Duman, Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

*[Editor's Note: The "Perspectives From Planners" column is an occasional feature of the Corps' newsletter Planning Ahead, in which senior planners are invited to share their opinions on topics of interest to the Planning Community of Practice. This column is reprinted from the April issue.]*

Flood insurance is an area where the Corps of Engineers has bad habits and we need to mend our ways. People in flood plains should buy flood insurance. If they are protected by a levee or a dam that is certified as providing 100-year protection, the insurance is available at the same low rates as for property outside a mapped flood plain.

While levees and dams reduce the risk of flooding, failure of these flood control structures likely means total loss for flooded houses. New Orleans homeowners located in areas that experienced shallow flooding every 2 or 3 years (due to what we call interior drainage) had flood insurance and were able to rebuild after Katrina covered their homes several feet deep. But most homes that had never flooded before were not required to be insured, and they have yet to be replaced.

Bad habit number 1 is Corps guidance that states there are economic benefits for removing the flood insurance requirement for homes behind certified levees. For reasons of economic theory, the benefits are estimated as the savings in flood insurance agency administration costs per policy, a number published every year in the economic guidance memorandum. Since administrative costs are equal for every policy, regardless of premium levels, there will be no savings if homeowners buy flood insurance. The Corps should not encourage what we now know is the wrong-headed idea that flood protection eliminates the need for insurance. We must eliminate the guidance on benefits from reducing the number of floodplain homes that are insured.

Bad habit number 2 is "magical thinking" about "100-year protection." David Maurstad, FEMA Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, has explained that the 100-year standard was an actuarial decision for insurance risk. Yet we have adopted an insurance basis for likely payment of repeated claims as an engineering parameter and goal. We encourage backward thinking among public officials, homeowners, and ourselves that there is something magic about "100-year" (or 200-year as the State of California has recently enacted). We act as if the 100-year mark is a fixed limit below which there is no safety from flooding, and beyond which there is no need to worry about flood loss. We strain to justify at least 100-year protection, believing that in doing so we have achieved our goal in serving the public. You disagree that our thought process is backward? There are countless reports that state "the project removes xxx number of houses from the 100-year flood plain" when not a single residence will be moved from the ground upon which it sits. Worse yet, numerous reports reject nonstructural measures "because they don't provide 100-year protection," although houses relocated outside the flood plain (and their occupants) would have complete protection from future flood loss. Before we can improve our communication of risk to the public, we must stop denying this bad habit exists and get our thinking straight.

Bad habit number 3 is trying to save time and money by limiting hydraulic modeling to the cross sections that define the top of flow in the channel (stream or river to other people), not in the overbank, and never modeling at all the with-project condition outside the channel—especially not inside a proposed levee or below an upstream dam analyzing the effects of a breach. Our guidance says that feasibility reports will depict the without-project and with-project 100-year and 500-year flood plains, but we let that requirement go because we claim the effort would not be "valued added." We must work with project sponsors to determine what modeling is needed to demonstrate failure potentials and evacuate or otherwise protect public safety.

Further, we can no longer reserve hydrologic and hydraulic expertise for problem areas where years of incremental land use and other decisions have created the need for major flood control works. It would be better to work with FEMA in advance of problems, supporting their mitigation programs, to enable coalitions of mayors, municipal officials, and others to know the future infrastructure costs they can avoid by choosing different standards for the developments they approve. FEMA saw a need for this

*[continued on next page]*

## Bad Habits (cont.)

20 years ago and partnered with the Corps in expanded flood plain information studies (XFPI). The technology was crude (no GIS, GUI, or even personal computers) and local officials did not show interest in anything beyond meeting the minimum restrictions needed to be eligible for the flood insurance program. Post-Katrina, today's city governments are likely to want such information. By providing Corps expertise to prevent flood problems we'd be substituting a good habit for a bad one. ■

*[reprinted from Planning Ahead, April 2006, p. 13]*

## FEMA AND THE CORPS WORK ON DAMAGE FUNCTIONS

The Corps of Engineers are working in a partnership with FEMA to develop nonresidential typical content values and multifamily damage functions. The two agencies conducted a 3-day expert elicitation workshop in Arlington, Virginia, March 25-27, 2008. The effort was funded by FEMA for communities to use in their mitigation grant application. It is anticipated that the Corps will use these damage functions for estimating expected annual damage in feasibility studies. Stuart Davis of the Institute for Water Resources and Brian Maestri of the New Orleans District worked with URS Corporation in organizing and managing the workshop. A team of eight experts with national experience in flood damage estimation and restoration and cost estimation worked together to estimate typical square foot values and depth-damage functions for nonresidential building types and typical per square foot content values and depth-damage functions for approximately 20 categories of nonresidential use. Damage functions were also estimated for apartment buildings.

URS planned, organized, and facilitated the workshop. A draft report with content-to-structure value ratios and structure and content depth-damage functions was expected to be completed in time for the Corps's Planning Community of Practice Conference.

Structure depth-damage functions were estimated for engineered and pre-engineered structures; and content depth-damage functions were estimated for commercial offices, furniture stores, electronic stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, fast food and table service restaurants, medical offices, hospitals, auto repair shops, warehouses, schools, motels, religious facilities, apartments, fire stations, and correctional facilities. ■

*[reprinted from Planning Ahead, April 2008, p. 12]*

*[Editor's Note: Planning Ahead is published by the Planning Community of Practice, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Washington, D.C. To subscribe or read past issues, visit [http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/news/pa\\_newsletter/pa\\_news.html](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/news/pa_newsletter/pa_news.html)]*

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## Professional Opportunities

### Florida to Hire NFIP State Coordinator and Staff

In the next few weeks, the Florida Department of Community Affairs expects to post an announcement to fill the position of the NFIP State Coordinator. The Florida State Coordinator, who will have supervisory responsibilities, will advise, assist, and monitor local government administration of floodplain management ordinances and related activities. Staff positions will be advertised later in the year. If you would like to receive notice of the formal announcements, send an email, with subject line "NFIP position," to [miles.anderson@em.myflorida.com](mailto:miles.anderson@em.myflorida.com).

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# Professional Opportunities (cont.)

## National Wildlife Federation Seeks Senior Water Resources Manager

The National Wildlife Federation is accepting applications for a Senior Manager for National Water Resources Campaigns, who will work to advance reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program and other federal and state programs in an effort to discourage building and re-building in environmentally sensitive and increasingly vulnerable areas. This position will lead NWF efforts to protect people and wildlife in coastal areas and floodplains from the impacts of global warming. The Senior Manager also will lead NWF's Coastal Protection and Floodplains Campaign by developing grassroots, media, and other outreach strategies. In addition, s/he will focus on coastal advocacy work, strengthening the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, and integrating the campaign with current water programs, especially those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A major focus will be building strong alliances with associations, taxpayer and consumer groups, first responders, and other organizations and agencies.

Minimum qualifications include

- Bachelor's degree required, graduate degree preferred;
- Environmental or economic background preferred;
- Exceptional oral, written, and interpersonal communications skills;
- Experience and skill in developing and implementing advocacy and media strategies, along with skill at translating technical information into commonly understood terms and language;
- Leadership skills to build and work cooperatively in a team environment; and
- Minimum 7 years policy, advocacy, or other related experience.

This is a full-time position with benefits, based in the Conservation Programs Department of NWF's Washington, D.C., office. Salary will be based on qualifications.

> > > Get more details and application instructions at

<https://secure.nwf.org/careergateway/index.cfm?fuseAction=view&positionID=10445>.

## AMEC Earth & Environmental wants Technical Director

AMEC Earth & Environmental is still looking for the perfect technical lead for its growing nationwide Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management (HM&EM) program, based in Lakewood, Colorado. The ideal candidate will be recognized as a leader in the field; manage the HM&EM staff in the Lakewood office; publish, train, or make presentations at national conferences; and be well networked to identify 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, and providing quality assurance/quality control of HM&EM deliverables.

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. More than 3,200 professionals operates from more than 120 offices. It 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 .

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; and
- Understanding of multi-objective funding sources for HM&EM.

> > > Get more information from Bonny Griffith at (303) 975-2193; [bonny.griffith@amec.com](mailto:bonny.griffith@amec.com).

# GEOLOGIST DECRIES FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS UNLEARNED FROM THE 1993 FLOOD

**Tony Fitzpatrick**  
**Senior Science Editor**  
**Washington University, St. Louis**

*[Editor's Note: This article was written early in April, before the onset of the spring flooding season, but its message is always timely. It is reprinted by permission of the author.]*

Midwesterners have to be wondering: Will April be the cruelest month?

Patterns in the Midwest this spring are eerily reminiscent of 1993 and 1994, back-to-back years of serious flooding. The great flood of 1993 caused nearly \$20 billion of economic damage, damaging or destroying more than 50,000 homes and killing at least 38 people.

Parallels this year include abnormally high levels of precipitation in late winter and early spring, and early flooding in various regions. In March, Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois and the Ohio River experienced flooding. A still-unknown factor is the effect of the snow melt from upstream states on river systems this spring and summer. Wisconsin, for example, had record amounts of snow this winter.

Despite the similarity in conditions and periods of flooding nearly every year after those flood years more than a decade ago, one thing Midwesterners have not learned is “geologic reality,” says Robert E. Criss, Ph.D., professor of earth and planetary sciences in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis.

“When people build commercial or residential real estate in flood plains, when they build on sink holes, when they build on fault lines, when they build on the hillsides in L.A. that are going to burn and burn, over and over again, they’re ignoring geologic reality,” Criss says. “They’re asking for chronic problems.”

Many homes in the St. Louis region along the Meramec River have suffered damage, and some are still not habitable, even as spring comes to the area.

“Yes, the loss of and damage to homes is heartbreaking, and tragic, but it wasn’t that long ago, in 1994, that a flood of equal impact hit the region to inundate homes in the floodplain. And, there was even more severe flooding than that in 1982,” Criss says. “Flooding is what a river does on its geomorphic flood plain. It’s an obvious geologic mistake to build on a floodplain.”

How about putting up more levees, such as the 500-year levee in the St. Louis suburbs of Valley Park and Chesterfield, constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers?

“Building a levee for a community simply ‘certifies’ that this is a great place to build more things,” Criss says. “The Corps of Engineers will come in and claim it’s a 500-year levee, which is a claim they cannot make, yet routinely do. That just encourages more infrastructure to move into these areas, when we should take the Times Beach and Valmeyer approach.”

Criss refers to the Missouri community of Times Beach, which was abandoned following the flood of the Meramec River in 1982, and Valmeyer, Illinois, which moved off the Mississippi floodplain and was rebuilt up on the river bluff after the flood of 1993.

“An additional problem is that this is a starving world with comparatively little arable crop land,” he says. “I object, from an environmental and geological point of view, to converting some of the best crop land in the world to strip malls and commercial real estate. This is a bad swap and it’s using the land for the wrong reasons.”

*[continued on next page]*

## Geologist Decries Floodplain Development (cont.)

Criss says that levees cause water to rise instead of spread out, and that the cumulative effect of levees and wing dykes on the large rivers north of St. Louis is beginning to manifest itself in flooding.

Criss says the claim that a levee will withstand floods for 500 years is “an absurd exaggeration. If some private company were making claims that they’ll sell you a car that will run for 500 years, they’d be in jail. Somehow, the government feels justified making absurd claims that have no basis.”

Criss says better zoning laws that encourage appropriate kinds of development for areas could be the solution to extreme flooding.

“Everyone screams for more levees, which only encourage more development,” he says. “These structures are not infallible, and when the levees fail—and they will, carefully though they are built—we just have more infrastructure in harm’s way. It’s not a very thoughtful approach.

“We ignore the natural system in what we do. These are floodplains. What do we expect of floodplains? They’re great places to farm or construct a park. Losing crops that most likely are insured is different than losing millions of dollars per acre of buildings and infrastructure and, in some cases, lives.”

> > > For more, see <http://news-info.wustl.edu/tips/page/normal/11395.html>.

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### from the Director’s Desk



Larry A. Larson

Executive Director, ASFPM

“WHO PAYS?” That is a question we should all be prepared to address as we work with communities and citizens who want to develop in high-risk flood hazard areas. During the recent times I have testified in Congress, I continued to be dismayed that some members of Congress see mapping and management of flood risk areas and protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems as antithetical to economic development. They often cite the “tough economic times” as a further justification for not imposing maps, regulations, or flood insurance on struggling property owners. Many of them honestly believe that those factors delay or stop development!

That same thing is true at the local level, where decisions to allow development in high-risk flood areas (coastal surge zones and deep floodplains) are made, as well as the cry to exempt those building or living in those high-risk areas from being “subjected” to paying for any of those “costs.” What is seldom brought up is the issue of who DOES pay for development in high-risk areas. Those who pay, of course, are mainly those NOT living at risk and the taxpayers, who will pay either now or in the future. Ignoring the cost now of developing in risky areas simply means someone will pay those costs in the future—whether it be the rest of us in the community, state, or nation, or our children and grandchildren. If we wonder why legislators who do not hail from high-risk regions support these current approaches, we need to recognize the importance and responsibility all of us have to help them understand the long-term impacts of those policies, especially on their own constituents who do not live at risk.

All of us spend lots of time debating exactly where the 1% chance flood is, or how to construct one building, or build and maintain a levee, or whether that one building is in or out of the floodplain (meaning, the area where flood insurance is mandatory), or how to protect a certain natural resource. But in the end, all the issues we struggle with each day come down to

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## Director's Desk (cont.)

how the economics are viewed by those making the decisions. Arguments about the flood level, the mapping notes, or how the natural resources contribute to the community become just so much noise if the only people involved—thus the only people decisionmakers hear from—are those who gain economically, and if the reality of who will pay, now or in the future, is not part of the discussion.

The nation's current flood risk management model relies heavily on federal-level approaches, which in turn rely on state and local partners to implement land use, building code, and mitigation programs, which are the tools that can reduce future risk. However, the 500-pound gorilla in this mix is federal disaster assistance, which rumbles in when flood disasters occur. These federal disaster dollars too often reward those communities and states who are doing little or nothing to reduce their flood risk. Furthermore, there are no incentives in the current approaches to encourage state or local partners to go beyond minimum national standards so that they can actually reduce total damage, let alone foster innovation and the integration of programs to achieve multiple objectives, such as improving water quality or providing local recreational opportunities while simultaneously reducing flood damage. We encourage all ASFPM members to get involved in this dialogue. The effort to incorporate mitigation in all aspects of building and rebuilding is important not only to those living and working at risk along our rivers and coasts, but to all of us who contribute to rebuilding after disasters. ■

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## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AWARDS

*These outstanding individuals, projects, and programs in floodplain management were honored at the ASFPM's annual conference in Reno, Nevada.*

### The Goddard –White Award

The ASFPM presented its most prestigious award to **Margaret Davidson**, Director of the Coastal Services Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in tribute to her energetic and visionary attitude and work towards holistic, efficient, and sustainable management of water-based resources and regions. Davidson holds a J.D. in natural resources law from Louisiana State University and a master's in marine policy and resource economics from the University of Rhode Island. She was a Fulbright Scholar in coastal resource management at Prince of Songkhla University, Thailand, in 1992-93.

After law school, Davidson served as special counsel and assistant attorney general for the Louisiana Department of Justice, then intensified her work on coastal resources issues with a 16-year stint at the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium—13 of those years as Executive Director. She was named Director of NOAA's Coastal Services Center in 1996 and in that post has worked tirelessly to accelerate access to the science and technology capabilities of NOAA and its partners in order to enhance coastal and ocean resource management as practiced at the state and local levels. With her tremendous breadth of knowledge, grasp of political realities, craving for fiscal sanity, and bright wit, she is in much demand as a speaker at professional and civic organizations. Davidson regularly teaches a multi-disciplinary graduate course on coastal issues at the University of Charleston and serves on the adjunct faculties of Clemson University and the University of South Carolina. Her recent professional work has focused on environmentally sustainable aquaculture, mitigation of coastal hazards, and impacts of climate variability on coastal resources.

The type of leadership Davidson provides will help move this nation to the point of respecting and protecting its coastal areas and ecosystems while also making allowance for the hazards they bring. This award is made in tribute to Davidson's past contributions in that direction and in anticipation of future related achievements.

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## Floodplain Management Awards (cont.)

### The Tom Lee Award for Excellence in State Floodplain Management

This year's recipient was the **Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative**, for its production of more than 650 Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and mapping of almost 6000 miles of stream since 2003. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Emergency Management Agency began the initiative upon becoming Cooperating Technical Partners with FEMA. At the outset the task was challenging because of limited resources and high-risk coastal counties that needed to be remapped using updated topographic data but without updated flood elevations. The occurrence of Hurricane Katrina complicated the situation and made updated flood elevations critical to rebuilding safely. The agencies engaged in an aggressive, open process of communicating with the public and other involved parties, distributing preliminary materials on disks and establishing an FTP site from which the new maps could be downloaded. They hosted several open houses with attendance of over 1,500 coastal residents, explaining the procedures and providing each attendee with a custom mini-flood map of their property.

Honorable Mention went to the **North Carolina Map Modernization Program**. North Carolina is the first state to complete the modernization of all of its flood maps, with the last preliminary maps being issued in July. The state won the Tom Lee award in 2001 and since then its program has matured. It was the first state to manage on a watershed basis, was a pioneer in using online data and a statewide terrain dataset, adopted future conditions for its fastest-growing basins, and is the largest of FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners. It has adopted new coastal surge modeling based on lessons from Hurricane Katrina.

### The James Lee Witt Award for Local Excellence in Floodplain Management

The **Kenai River Center** and the **Kenai Watershed Forum** received this year's local award for their outstanding outreach work promoting sound comprehensive floodplain resource protection and management in Alaska. The River Center is a partnership among the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Department, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources State Parks and Office of Habitat Management and Permitting, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Kenai Watershed Forum. Besides standing as an example for coordinated action, this group has produced an 87-page book, compact disk, and DVD entitled "On the River—A Guide to Owning and Managing Waterfront Property on the Kenai Peninsula." The project incorporates management techniques for erosion, sedimentation, floodplain management, protection and restoration of natural and beneficial functions, and tax credits for habitat protection for those who own land along and manage the Kenai River.

### The Larry R. Johnston Local Floodplain Manager Award

**John E. Hays**, CFM, of the Santa Cruz County, Arizona, Flood Control District, was named Floodplain Manager of the Year in tribute to his personal dedication, perseverance, and commitment to both to his county and to the careful management of flood hazards. Santa Cruz County is subject to the impacts of upstream population growth and urbanization yet is a small community in itself and faces perennial budget constraints. Realizing that the floodplain risk was not accurately depicted, Hays managed to receive over \$1 million in map modernization funds for the County in 2006, and convinced the County to contribute another \$500,000 for countywide LiDAR mapping. He obtained Cooperating Technical Partner status for the County so that it directly administers the map modernization project. He personally mapped over 1000 miles of approximate studies, of which 625 will be delineated on D-FIRMS. Hays coordinated with a local developer and a non-profit organization to obtain a grant for an exhibit that demonstrates river flows, and takes this exhibit to schools and public forums throughout the County. He championed the County's entry into the Community Rating System as a class 7. Hays became a Certified Floodplain Manager in 2003, and also has served in two positions on the Board of the Arizona Floodplain Management Association.

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## Floodplain Management Awards (cont.)

### The John R. Sheaffer Award for Excellence in Floodproofing

The Sheaffer Floodproofing Award was presented to the **University of New Orleans, Center for Hazard Assessment, Response and Technology (UNO-CHART)** and **FEMA Region VI's Repetitive Loss Project** for their significant contribution to the science and practice of floodproofing. Working together, the two entities initially focused their efforts on the New Orleans area, which has 13% of the nation's repetitively flooded properties. The project entailed (1) the acquisition of detailed data on repetitive loss structures; (2) detailed analysis of flood damage reduction options; and (3) outreach to area residents. A key component of the initiative is presentation of the data in a GIS, accessible by local government officials, showing characteristics of the properties in relation to floodproofing projects that are planned or already in progress, so that communities can then direct their mitigation funds effectively. There is also a public website to help property owners follow a step-by-step approach to selecting best way to protect their property. Participants are guided to appropriate solutions they can pursue. Through these combined techniques, communities and individuals are encouraged not to rely solely on federally funded alternatives.

### Award for Meritorious Achievement in Floodplain Management

One Award for Meritorious Achievement went to **John W. (Jack) Eldridge, Jr.**, of Michael Baker. Eldridge has enjoyed a long career in disaster and hazard management, beginning with the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency and continuing when that agency was merged with others to form FEMA, and finally in the private sector. He has served as coach and mentor for scores of people in the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance, coastal studies, and map modernization. Throughout his career he has demonstrated exemplary service with his leadership and attention to detail, constantly exceeding the needs of those he serves, including federal agencies, state and local partners, stakeholders, disaster field office and regional staff. His work with the NFIP has forged positive and productive results on challenging policy changes affecting several large, populated counties in California.

Another Award for Meritorious Achievement was made to **Cynthia J. Crecelius**, CFM, Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Crecelius began her career in the late 1970s with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, holding a variety of planning positions in floodplain management since 1984. Today she manages the state's program, covering community compliance with regulations, flood damage reduction, and technical assistance on land use and planning. She represents her agency on the intergovernmental flood hazard mitigation team. She served as the program chair for the 2003 ASFPM conference and has been on the national awards selection committee. Crecelius also is a member of the Certification Board of Regents, and sits on the board of the Ohio Floodplain Management Association.

### Honorary Lifetime Membership in the ASFPM

Honorary Lifetime Membership was bestowed on **Clancy Philipsborn**, CFM, now retiring from AMEC Earth & Environmental, in appreciation for more than two decades of contributions to floodplain management and to the ASFPM. Philipsborn received his master's degree in geography after studying and working with Gilbert F. White at the University of Colorado, and subsequently received on-the-ground experience in hazards management as a Disaster Assistance Employee at FEMA. He formed his own company, The Mitigation Assistance Corporation, from which he shepherded uncounted communities and counties in their attempts to recover from past disasters and minimize the impacts of future ones. He served as the Chair of the ASFPM's Mitigation Committee, has been a long-time corporate member, and is a fixture in the annual Golf Scramble. Philipsborn combines the unusual ability to "tell it like it is" with a scholar's mind, a professional's attitude, and a down-to-earth practicality. These qualities make him indispensable to floodplain management, especially in reaching community staff, officials, and residents, but also in helping professionals keep their eyes on the proper target.

# Washington Report

## NEW RULE ON COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR WETLANDS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have released a new rule to clarify how to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the nation's wetlands and streams. The rule will enable the agencies to promote greater consistency, predictability, and ecological success of mitigation projects under the Clean Water Act.

Each year thousands of property owners undertake projects that affect the nation's aquatic resources. Proposed projects that are determined to impact jurisdictional waters are first subject to review under the Clean Water Act. The Corps of Engineers reviews these projects to ensure environmental impacts to aquatic resources are avoided or minimized as much as possible. A Corps permit may require a property owner to restore, establish, enhance, or preserve other aquatic resources in order to replace those affected by the proposed project.

Under the new rule, property owners required to complete mitigation are encouraged to use a watershed approach and watershed planning information. The new rule establishes performance standards, sets time frames for decision making, and to the extent possible, establishes equivalent requirements and standards for the three sources of compensatory mitigation: permittee-responsible mitigation, mitigation banks, and in-lieu-fee programs. The new rule changes where and how mitigation is to be completed, but maintains existing requirements on when mitigation is required. The rule also preserves the requirement for applicants to avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic resources before proposing compensatory mitigation projects to offset permitted impacts.

For more information on the compensatory mitigation rule, see <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/citizen.htm>.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT—

### A MOMENTARY PAUSE BETWEEN BURSTS OF ACTIVITY

After May saw Senate passage of the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act and House committee action to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program, Congress paused for its week-long Memorial Day recess. Although Members of Congress themselves dispersed, Congressional staff continue to write committee reports and prepare for upcoming actions.

The month of June could see House passage of the PDM reauthorization, House subcommittee action to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act, efforts to resolve House and Senate differences on the flood insurance bill, further action on the Supplemental Appropriations bill for FY '08, and possible subcommittee mark-up of some regular appropriations bills for FY '09.

### Appropriations

The House Appropriations subcommittees may begin to mark up appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2009 in June. The process will be facilitated by final House and Senate adoption of a Budget Resolution that will frame assumptions to guide the various subcommittee appropriations bills. Both House and Senate are set to take up the House-Senate conference agreement shortly.

There is considerable speculation, however, about how appropriations for FY '09 will proceed. There could be an omnibus appropriations bill, perhaps during a lame duck session after the November elections, but it seems more likely that Congress will forego completion of the usual appropriations process and pass a long-term continuing resolution that would fund government programs at FY '08 levels probably through February 2009, when a new Administration and a new Congress will be in place.

Subcommittee and Committee action on the regular appropriations bills for FY '09 has been delayed not only by lack of an agreed-on a Budget Resolution, but also by lengthy consideration of Supplemental Appropriations for FY '08. That bill was originally intended to include funds for the wars

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## Washington Report (cont.)

in Iraq and Afghanistan, but many other appropriations have been added, including substantial additional benefits for veterans.

The measure also now includes various funds for levee repairs and funds for the Department of Agriculture's Emergency Conservation Program for recovery from floods, storms, and other natural disasters, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.

### Flood Insurance Reform

The Senate passed its version of the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act, S. 2284, by a vote of 92-6, and sent it back to the House as an amendment in the form of a substitute to the House-passed bill, H.R. 3121 EAS. The House version is H.R. 3121 RFS. A number of amendments were adopted as part of a "Managers Amendment." Differences between the House-passed and Senate-passed versions will have to be resolved, probably by a conference committee. Search "H.R. 3121" at <http://thomas.loc.gov> to find both versions.

During Senate floor consideration of S. 2284 on May 7 and 8, a number of amendments were offered and accepted, rejected, or withdrawn. Notably, a substitute bill was offered by the Chairman Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT) and Ranking Minority Member Richard C. Shelby (R-AL), which included the original S. 2284 plus the text of S. 2286, a bill to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to study and make recommendations to the Congress on availability and affordability of homeowners' insurance, including wind coverage.

The amendment to add the "wind and flood" optional, actuarial policy to the National Flood Insurance Program was defeated by a large margin, 74-19. The amendment was offered by Roger Wicker (R-MS) and was similar to the provision in the House bill (HR 3121) added by Gene Taylor (D-MS), except that it would have removed the cap on Treasury borrowing. The ASFPM and a number of its State Chapters expressed great concern about the threat to the viability of the NFIP associated with adding such an unknown new exposure. The ASFPM's July 2007 testimony on Taylor's bill (HR 920), is posted on the ASFPM website, as are letters to Senators from a number of State Chapters. A major concern is that the Congressional Budget Office scored the amendment as "revenue neutral," saying it doesn't count as an expense because the NFIP is already in debt. This allows proponents to imply that the proposal is an answer to perceived insurance availability problems in coastal areas without costs to the federal government. The White House has threatened to veto a flood insurance reform bill that includes a provision to add wind and flood coverage.

This wind and flood coverage (in the House bill but not the Senate's) and the provision to forgive the NFIP debt of \$17.3 billion (in Senate bill but not House's) will be key issues to be resolved in a House-Senate Conference Committee.

A complete list of amendments in the Senate version of H.R. 3121 EAS that were agreed to as part of the Manager's Amendment include provisions to

- (1) Study alternative approaches to ensure the future of the NFIP by requiring greater efficiency and financial accountability;
- (2) Deny premium subsidies to homeowners who refuse to accept an offer of federal assistance to alter or relocate property in order to minimize future flood damage and costs;
- (3) Impose a civil penalty for noncompliance with certain reporting requirements;
- (4) Require clear and comprehensible disclosure of conditions, exclusions and other limitations pertaining to flood insurance coverage;
- (5) Provide for two additional members of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council;
- (6) Require the FEMA Director to enhance communication and outreach to states, communities, and property owners about the effects of changes to flood risk maps and flood insurance purchase requirements and to engage with communities to enhance communication and outreach to their residents on such matters;
- (7) Modify the Big Sioux River and Skunk Creek flood control project in Sioux Falls, South Dakota;
- (8) Ensure that the purchase price of flood insurance policies required to be purchased in areas of residual risk accurately reflects the level of flood protection provided by any levee, dam, or other man-made structure in such area;

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## Washington Report (cont.)

- (9) Require the Director to study the impact, effectiveness, and feasibility of amending Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to include widely used and nationally recognized building codes as part of the floodplain management criteria developed under such section;
- (10) Improve the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate; and
- (11) Provide that no changes in flood insurance status for any areas in the St. Louis District of the Corps can go into effect until the remapping process is completed for that entire District.

### Pre-disaster Mitigation

On May 22nd, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported out H.R. 6109, a bill to reauthorize the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. PDM will expire on September 30th if the Congress does not act. The bill reauthorizes the program for three years at \$250 million annually and increases the minimum allocation per state for eligible applications to \$575,000 from \$500,000. For the first time, it codifies PDM as a competitive grant program.

The House Committee's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing on April 30th to consider re-authorization of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. While the program was funded at \$114 million in FY '08, some 94 projects or communities were earmarked to receive PDM monies, some of which apparently would not meet PDM program criteria.

Although the ASFPM did not testify at the hearing, it did submit written testimony supporting reauthorization of the program but objecting to this first-time earmarking. The ASFPM pointed out that this practice undermines the corollary benefits of the PDM program, which engage communities in development of hazard mitigation plans and mitigation activities. The ASFPM suggested that states be given the option of using a portion of the minimum funds allocated to states for eligible applications for technical assistance to localities in development of mitigation plans and PDM applications. ASFPM's written testimony is posted on the ASFPM website.

### Water Resources Development Act

A hearing on ideas for a WRDA 2008 was held on April 30th by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources. Former Chair Chad Berginnis (State of Ohio) testified on behalf of the ASFPM. The Subcommittee Chairman indicated her intent not only to develop and take action on a WRDA 2008, but also to push for final action on such a measure this year.

The ASFPM's testimony spoke to the importance of developing an effective levee safety program through activation of the Levee Safety Committee created in WRDA 2007. The testimony also stressed the importance of utilizing a sliding cost share for Corps projects to promote state and local mitigation activities. The ASFPM urged increased authorization of funds for the Corps programs (Flood Plain Management Services and Planning Assistance to States) that supply technical support to localities in developing floodplain management options and small floodplain management projects. The ASFPM testimony is posted on the ASFPM website. The Committee also heard from a Member of Congress, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Woodley, the Lake Carriers' Association, The Nature Conservancy, the Waterways Council, and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies. All testimony can be found on the Committee website at <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings>.

### Floodplain Mapping, Levees, and the Corps of Engineers

On April 2nd, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing to explore the connections between the Corps of Engineers, levee certification issues, and FEMA's flood map modernization. Larry Larson presented the ASFPM's testimony, which is posted on the ASFPM website. Others testifying included several Members of Congress, Deputy Director of Army Civil Works Steven Stockton, FEMA Assistant

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## Washington Report (cont.)

Administrator for the Mitigation Directorate David Maurstad, and the Executive Director of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, Les Sterman. Much of the testimony from Members of Congress discussed economic development impacts of remapping and of levee decertification. The ASFPM testimony emphasized

- The importance for public safety of mapping the true flood hazard;
- The need for a national levee safety program;
- The need for an integrated, unified federal/state/local approach to managing flood losses including levees;
- Including adequate operation and maintenance of levees as a requirement of certification;
- That a false sense of security behind levees impedes personal responsibility;
- The need for mechanisms to systematically identify options when levees are shown on maps as inadequate;
- The need for local technical assistance through the Corps' FPMS and PAS programs;
- The need for a robust toolbox of flood mitigation options; and
- The need to identify funding options for levee repair, improvement, and mitigation.

### Other Pending Issues and Hearings

**Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**—The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee reported out H.R. 3247 after amending the House version to include substitute language.

**Farm Bill**—A House-Senate Conference Committee resolved differences between the House and Senate-passed versions of the Farm Bill, H.R. 2419. After the full House and Senate voted to accept the Conference Agreement, the President vetoed it. The House voted to override the veto on May 21st.

**OCEANS-21**—The House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans reported out OCEANS-21, The Ocean Conservation, Education and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 21) on April 23.

**CZMA Reauthorization**—The House Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a June 4th markup of four bills dealing with the Coastal Zone Management Act. It is likely that these four bills will be combined into one:

- H.R. 5451, which would reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and increase the portion of amounts for carrying out provisions relating to administration of a state's CZM program and resource management improvement to be retained for use in implementing coastal zone enhancement grant provisions;
- H.R. 5452, which would authorize grants to coastal states for surveys of coastal waters to identify areas suitable or unsuitable for exploration, development, and production of renewable energy;
- H.R. 5453, which would authorize assistance to coastal states for development of coastal climate change adaptation plans; and
- H.R. 3223, which would establish a grant program to ensure coastal access for commercial and recreational fishermen and other water-dependent, coastal-related businesses.

Although marking up CZMA legislation is a very positive development and one long sought by coastal states, the legislation thus far does not reflect findings of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Visioning process. The Coastal States Organization has taken the lead in organizing a new coalition to urge CZMA reauthorization. The ASFPM is participating in this coalition.

**NOAA Oversight Hearing**—The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard held a hearing May 6 on NOAA budget issues and oversight. The Full Committee held a hearing on May 8 on "Improving the Capacity of U.S. Climate Modeling for Decision-makers and End-users."

**Financing Infrastructure Investment Hearing**—A joint hearing of the House Budget Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held on May 8 considered ways to finance investment in infrastructure.

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## Washington Report (cont.)

**Department of Homeland Security Transition Hearing**—The House Homeland Security Committee held a hearing to consider DHS preparation for transition to a new Administration after the November elections. Deputy Secretary Paul A. Schneider testified. While refusing Congressional requests for detailed plans, he expressed confidence in the preparations for transition. He acknowledged that FEMA will face particular challenges during that time since its leadership is largely political appointees.

—*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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## ASFPM AWARDS

*At the 2008 Annual Conference, the ASFPM recognized several people for their work in furthering professionalism in floodplain management and for contributions to the ASFPM.*

■ The John Ivey Award for Superior Effort in Certification was presented to **Jennifer Marcy**, CFM, and **PBS&J**. Marcy was the principal author and instructor for the CFM examination preparatory course that is offered at the ASFPM conferences. Largely through her efforts, the course is being adapted to an exam preparation workshop that will be offered nationwide. Together, Marcy and PBS&J were instrumental in certifying over 100 floodplain managers from among PBS&J's personnel—more than from any other consulting firm in the nation. Beyond that, their support and example have led to the significant expansion of floodplain management professionalism throughout the country.

■ The Jerry Louthain Service to Members Award was presented to **Mark A. Riebau**, P.E., CFM, of Michael Baker. Riebau was involved in the formation of the ASFPM and was among its first members. He helped produce the first newsletters, served as the first exhibits coordinator for the annual conferences, was the chair of the Mapping Committee, and later served as the first Projects Director when the Executive Office began expanding in the 1990s. When he first moved from government service to the private sector, he contributed to the ASFPM by fostering corporate membership and partners. Through all that he has been a devoted member and generous volunteer on innumerable tasks, large and small.

■ Special Recognition was given to **David I. Maurstad**, Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, FEMA, and to **Major General Don T. Riley**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for their exemplary commitment and initiative in forming a high-level interagency group to address issues of national flood risk.

■ Special Recognition was given to **Lawrence W. Olinger**, P.E., of Dewberry, for his remarkable leadership of the ASFPM Foundation, including the establishment and conduct of two National Flood Policy Forums and also raising the stature of the Foundation over the past several years.

■ Special Recognition was given to **Edward A. Thomas**, Esq., of Michael Baker, for his relentless advocacy of No Adverse Impact floodplain management, including furthering understanding of this approach as a legal principle through writing and conducting workshops for attorneys and others.

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# Publications, Software, AV & the Web

■ A new website from the StormSmart Coasts initiative of the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Program offers help for people who work in coastal communities to address the challenges arising from storms, floods, sea level rise, and climate change. Featuring the building blocks of the no adverse impact approach (hazard identification and mapping, planning, regulations, mitigation and shore protection, infrastructure, emergency services, and education) the site links users to useful advice and additional sources of information about each technique. There is a section describing no adverse impact floodplain management and explaining why it is a legally defensible management approach for localities. Short “fact sheets” are available for download that capsule key topics on coastal area management. The site also highlights upcoming training and provides information about ways to find funding for coastal protection and management projects. Visit at <http://www.mass.gov/czm/stormsmart/>.

■ *Leasing and Ownership within Ocean and Coastal Waters—A Conservation Practitioner’s Toolkit* helps private conservation organizations conserve ocean and coastal areas. The toolkit, developed by The Nature Conservancy, the Coastal States Organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Services Center, and others, helps groups understand what conservation leasing and ownership is; when leasing and ownership can help abate threats to ocean and coastal species, habitats, and ecosystems; and how to plan and proceed with leasing and ownership projects. The toolkit is organized in four steps: 1) Getting Started; 2) Decision-making; 3) Acquisition; and 4) Implementation. Useful resources are provided such as maps and data, state agency contact directories, case studies, and publications. Available for download at <http://www.leaseown.org>.

■ *The Economic and Market Value of Coasts and Estuaries: What’s At Stake?* notes that understanding, accounting for, and estimating the many potential economic benefits of coastal and estuarine protection and restoration is no small feat. To aid in addressing that challenge, the report introduces some of the critical concepts needed to begin to understand the economic importance of restoration. Chapter 1 presents the basic economics tools, ideas, and methods used to value and quantify the economic contribution of coasts. Subsequent chapters develop a framework of the economic goods and services provided by coasts and estuaries, which in turn provides a way for readers to navigate the complexity of the economic system supported by coasts and helps identify those components that may generate the most substantial economic value. Detailed examination is made of the value of recreation, marine transportation, energy infrastructure, commercial fisheries, real estate, and tourism. Linwood H. Pendelton, editor. 2008. Produced by Restore America’s Estuaries. 182 pp. Available at <http://www.estuaries.org/assets/documents/FINAL%20ECON%20WITH%20COVER%20PDF%2005-20-2008.pdf>.

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## Calendar

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

**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 MULTI-HAZARDS FOR FLOOD (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 of 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 7–10, 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/>.

**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. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.

## National Floodproofing Conference IV



New Orleans, Louisiana  
November 17-20, 2008

Abstracts are due June 13, 2008.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers and its co-sponsors present this forum for examining floodproofing techniques, materials, contractors, issues, programs, and funding.

Direct program inquiries to Larry Buss at [larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil) or Pat Skinner at [pskinner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:pskinner@agcenter.lsu.edu).

For registration, contact Chad Ross at [ross@floods.org](mailto:ross@floods.org) or (608) 274-0123.

Exhibitors, email Dante Accurti at [daccurti@deltaone.com](mailto:daccurti@deltaone.com).

- August 26–28, 2008:** ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERAL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOMES (FLASH), Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Contact FLASH at (850) 385-7233 or see [http://flash.org/pdf/052708\\_Final\\_Conference\\_Registration.pdf](http://flash.org/pdf/052708_Final_Conference_Registration.pdf).
- 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 10–12, 2008:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIANA ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, Brown County State Park, Indiana. See <http://www.inafsm.net/conferences/2008/conference08.htm>.
- September 15–18, 2008:** WETLANDS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE, Portland, Oregon. Sponsored by the Association of State Wetland Managers. 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 15–18, 2008:** UNIFIED MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PILOT) (E212), 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>.
- September 22–24, 2008:** FALL CONFERENCE OF THE ARKANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, Hot Springs, Arkansas. See <http://www.arkansasfloods.org/afma/>.
- 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 8–9, 2008:** ILLINOIS WATER CONFERENCE 2008, Champaign, Illinois. Hosted by the Illinois Water Resources Center with numerous sponsors. See <http://www.iisgcp.org/ilwater/>.
- 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>.
- October 13–16, 2008:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS II (E282), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.

- October 21–22, 2008:** A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: REDUCING FLOOD IMPACTS IN THE GARDEN STATE, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Sponsored by the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management. See <http://www.njafm.org/>.
- October 28–29, 2008:** MISSISSIPPI–ALABAMA BAYS AND BAYOUS SYMPOSIUM, Biloxi, Mississippi. Sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Mississippi–Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and many others. Abstracts are due August 1. See <http://masgc.org/baysandbayous/>.
- November 3–6, 2008:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- November 10–13, 2008:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS III (E284), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- November 12–14, 2008:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN, STORMWATER, AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. See [http://wi.floods.org/index\\_files/Conference.htm](http://wi.floods.org/index_files/Conference.htm).
- November 16–19, 2008:** LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT, Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers. See <http://www.asce.org/conferences/>.
- November 17–20, 2008:** NATIONAL FLOODPROOFING CONFERENCE IV, New Orleans, Louisiana. Sponsored by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others. Abstracts are due June 13. See <http://www.floods.org>.
- December 1–4, 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/>.
- December 1–5, 2008:** BASIC HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS (E313), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- December 15–18, 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/>.
- January 12–15, 2009:** HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS FOR FLOOD (E172), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- February 2–5, 2009:** HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS FOR HURRICANE (E170), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- February 2–5, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS II (E282), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- March 23–26, 2009:** UNIFIED MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (E212), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- March 23–26, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS III (E284), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- April 6–9, 2009:** RETROFITTING FLOOD-PRONE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (E279), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.

- April 6–9, 2009:** BASIC HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS (E313), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- April 20–23, 2009:** 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/>.
- May 4–7, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS II (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- May 18–21, 2009:** 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 7–12, 2009:** GREEN WORKS: 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/orlando>.
- June 15–18, 2009:** UNIFIED MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (E212), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 6–9, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS II (E282), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 13–16, 2009:** BASIC HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS (E313), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- 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/>.
- July 20–23, 2009:** 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/>.
- July 27–30, 2009:** HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS FOR FLOOD (E172), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 10–13, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 17–20, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS III (E284), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 31—September 3, 2009:** 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/>.
- 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 or see <http://www.floods.org>.
- 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, or see <http://www.floods.org>.



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