

**ASSOCIATION OF
STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

*Dedicated to reducing flood
losses and protecting
floodplain resources . . .*

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NEWS & VIEWS

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Can we expect large Flood Control Systems to continue to manage extreme events in light of changing conditions?

By: Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM, ASFPM Executive Director

We have seen massive flooding throughout the nation in 2011. The unusual element this year is that it is occurring on major inland rivers (as opposed to coastal areas or hurricanes), and on ones that have highly engineered control systems. Those systems were designed to prevent flooding in very large events, but we are seeing major stress on those systems this year. Can these systems continue to reduce flood losses while still meeting the other demands we expect from those rivers or the engineered systems? Are the extreme events that were calculated many years ago - 50 to 85 years ago - still extreme events in light of the changes in watershed and greatly increased rainfall intensity we are experiencing? When the systems fail, do those who benefited from the systems pay for the consequences of failure? What sort of plans should we develop to manage these systems in the future?

The flooding on the Middle and Lower Mississippi River this year is on the scale of the great 1927 flood that resulted in massive flooding and total losses to the plantation share croppers in the lower river, as documented in the book "Rising Tide" by John Barry. After that flood, Congress approved the Mississippi River and Tributary (MR&T) system to "control" flooding from Cairo, Illinois, south to New Orleans. The system channels the flood flows between the levees, thus removing millions of acres of floodplains from the river that were historically covered with water. In each major flood, the river, of course, tries to reclaim its floodplain. The MR&T design recognized that building levees high enough to constrain these major floods was neither technically or financially logical. As such, it has planned relief valves called by-passes or floodways or spillways, with names like Birds Point to New Madrid, Morganza spillway, the Atchafalaya river, Bonnet Carre Spillway, etc. These are areas where the federal taxpayers purchased flood easements so the by-passes could be used occasionally, such as was done this year. Many of those areas are farmed, but when the spillways are opened, they will be flooded. The farmers may then lose a year's crop production, or at least some production - which was precisely why easements were purchased.

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Large Flood Control Systems, continued from page 1

Interestingly, we are seeing a similar dilemma being set up right now on the Missouri River. A number of large storage reservoirs were built on the Missouri that now are being asked to serve multiple purposes: 1) flood control, 2) navigation flow, 3) recreation, and others. All of us understand that operating the system to meet all of these purposes cannot be done without conflict. Those interested in navigation and recreation want the reservoirs held high, whereas those wanting maximum flood control want the reservoirs low so there is more room to store floodwaters during heavy floods. As I write this, the reservoirs are full, and due to heavy rains in the watershed and a very late melt of a very large snowpack in the mountains, the melt is happening very fast, bringing lots of water into the system that the reservoirs cannot store. In order to protect the dams from overtopping and potential failure, the Corps must open the gates (some for the first time in 50 years) and pass the flood flow downstream. This is resulting in very heavy flows that is causing flooding, and in some cases, levee failure in those downstream communities.

Lessons or questions from 2011?

1. These large systems seem to work during average flooding, but do they work under extreme events?
2. Will we see more extreme events in the future, as storms intensify, thus impacting the systems?
3. Would we calculate design flows differently today than we did 50-90 years ago when we built these systems, which were designed to provide protection for lives and property?
4. With increasing storm intensity and the huge loss of natural floodplains to store and convey floodwaters, can we maintain the design's delicate balance in these highly engineered systems?
5. The economic benefit of turning these floodplains into farmland and developed communities was considered essential to the nation's growth when they were built, but do the enormous consequences of system failure require us to now make adjustments in the systems? Is it reasonable to think a system that must rely on flood easements to flood some properties to save others is a sustainable system? Is development occurring in the easement areas in spite of the easement? Would outright purchase of the property with lease-back be more viable – and likely not much more expensive?
6. Large engineering systems have large operation and maintenance costs, and these costs escalate faster than the cost of living (today's annual budget for the Corps of Engineers has more money for O&M than for construction).
7. Some parts of the system may include a levee that is the responsibility of a non-federal entity, even if that levee was built by a federal entity—and these may be the weak link in the system.
8. What is the federal interest in the maintenance and re-capitalizing an existing levee (which is the responsibility of the non-federal sponsor), with assurance from the sponsor that they would be responsible for operation and maintenance? Even in prosperous times, levee owner budgets often did not account for needed maintenance or improvements. Now, many are demanding federal assistance to fix these levees that were allowed to deteriorate.
9. In the end: Do those who benefit from large systems pay for the consequences, or are the taxpayers paying?
10. Always remember . . . Mother Nature bats last!

ASFPM Bids Farewell

Please join us in thanking ASFPM's Financial Manager Debbie Pond and Deputy Director George Riedel for their many years of service to ASFPM. They are both embarking on new professional opportunities, and while we are sad to see them go, we are happy they are able to advance in their careers. Both will end their time with us on June 23.

Ingrid Danler has been hired as our new Associate Director-Operations. We expect to bring in a new Financial Manager around the end of July.





NFPC-V CALL for PRESENTERS Deadline: June 30

ASFPM, the USACE National Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee, and FEMA will conduct their 5th triennial National FloodProofing Conference in Sacramento CA November 28 to December 1, 2011. Read all about it and submit your abstract [here](#).

FEMA: Action Needed to Improve Administration of the NFIP

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) just released a report regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The GAO's report includes 10 recommendations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on how to improve planning, oversight, policies, and procedures of the NFIP. The report also includes recommendations to Congress on how to improve the program's financial stability. The full report can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-297>.

FEMA Releases 2011-2014 Strategic Plan

FEMA has completed their 2011-2014 FEMA Strategic Plan ([click here](#)). This document provides the foundation for how FEMA is going to foster community engagement, establish priorities to stabilize an event, build upon the understanding of risk, and learn from the things we do with the emergency management team – including Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments; private sector and non-governmental organizations; faith-based and community-based organizations; and the American public. FEMA's Strategic Plan describes FEMA's way forward to foster a whole community approach to emergency management.

The FloodSmart Levee Simulator – Learn How Levees Work

FloodSmart has developed a Levee Simulator Tool which shows different ways a levee can fail. It covers every type of levee failure and reminds everyone that simply living near a levee does not guarantee your home's protection. Don't just see it, share it! For more information, [click here](#).

Living In Known Natural Disaster Areas

The *Washington Post* recently had an article by Roger K. Lewis regarding why people continue inhabiting a known floodplain. The article points out that scarcity of land that is intrinsically safe and appropriate for development is usually not the reason people settle in places at risk. To view the entire article, [click here](#).

White Paper on Mitigating the Impact of Disasters by Planning and Building for Resiliency

McGraw Hill's "Engineering News-Record (ENR)" recently produced a White Paper, "Recommendations to Congress, the Administration and the Private Sector to Mitigate Impacts of Disasters by Planning and Building for Resiliency," drawn from the ENR Mitigating Disaster through Design and Construction conference held in March 2011. Over 120 expert practitioners, from both the public and private sector who deal with the challenges of creating a more resilient built environment, shared their insights over the two days that the conference took place. To view this White Paper, [click here](#).

Report: “Weathering Change: Policy Reforms that Cost Less and Make Communities Safer”

With floodwaters still threatening Mississippi River communities, American Rivers released a report detailing changes needed to protect communities from floods and other effects of climate change. It proposes common sense changes to 10 areas of federal policy to better prepare communities for the effects of climate change and save lives and property. The report, “Weathering Change: Policy Reforms that Cost Less and Make Communities Safer,” recommends changes to wasteful and dangerous federal policies and practices that make people and wildlife more vulnerable to floods, drought, and other effects to climate change. The full report is available at www.AmericanRivers.org/weatheringchange.

Draft Report – Assessing the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains: Issues and Approaches; Future Directions

The Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. (ASWM) has released a draft report, “Assessing the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains: Issues and Approaches; Future Directions.” This draft report was prepared by ASWM to help federal, state, and local floodplain management staff, water planners, wetland managers, and others to assess, protect, and restore floodplain “natural and beneficial” functions. The full draft report can be found at http://aswm.org/pdf_lib/nbf.pdf. They are seeking comments regarding this draft report, please submit them to Jon Kusler, 1434 Helderberg Trail, Berne, New York 12023 or Jon.Kusler@aswm.org. Comments are due by July 1, 2011.

June Declared National Oceans Month

President Obama has proclaimed June 2011 as National Oceans Month. On June 2, 2011, The Obama Administration took another important step to implement the Nation's first comprehensive ocean policy by launching a series of events aimed at gathering public input from the communities and economies that depend on and care for our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Click [here to read the proclamation](#) and here to learn more and to get involved in the [National Oceans Month public events](#).

The National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes prioritizes nine objectives to address some of the most pressing challenges facing these precious resources. The National Ocean Council is overseeing development of strategic action plans for each of the nine objectives. The outlines, by design, are draft products that serve as an early and valuable point in the plan development process for focusing public and stakeholder input. As a first step the National Ocean Council has released nine strategic action plan outlines. Click [here to access these outlines and to submit your comments](#).

Andrew Lipsky, Ocean Policy Advisor, National Ocean Council, Executive Office of the President, 202-456-4328

Provide input to U.S. National Ocean Policy (Deadline: July 2)

The National Ocean Council announced that the public will have 30 days to comment on the strategic action plan outlines <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap/> for each of the nine objectives in the National Ocean Policy. Writing teams composed of representatives from the National Ocean Council agencies developed these outlines to provide an initial view as to how federal agencies might address the priority objectives. They are preliminary documents that serve as an early and valuable point in the plan development process for focusing public and stakeholder input. We encourage you to submit comments and ideas to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap/comments> by **July 2, 2011**.

FLOOD INSURANCE: Management, organization among NFIP program's many problems, says GAO

Paul Quinlan, E&E reporter

The nation's federally backed flood insurance program, which staggers under an \$18 billion debt, also faces a slew of organizational and management problems that contribute to its precarious position, the Government Accountability Office reported yesterday. GAO's [report](#) includes 10 recommendations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on how to improve planning, oversight, policies and procedures of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It also includes three recommendations to Congress on how to improve the program's financial stability. "Our goal in this was to help identify some of the root causes for the challenges associated with FEMA's oversight of NFIP," said Orice Williams Brown, who directed the inquiry for GAO. The probe ran from July 2009 through June 2011, Brown said.

The report came on the same day the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee heard from FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate on how to correct the program's many faults. Chief among them: a subsidized rate structure that combined with Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005 to plunge the program deep into debt. "As the program exists now, it is unlikely that we can retire the \$18 billion debt," Fugate told the panel. His comments echoed those made to a House committee earlier this year, which went on to pass a bipartisan fix ([Greenwire](#), May 13). The Senate Banking panel is expected to introduce its own answer to the House bill later this year. The GAO report focuses on problems in management -- both of people and of its records of policies and claims. GAO spotlighted the challenges in modernizing the policy and claims management system. "After 7 years and \$40 million, FEMA ultimately canceled its latest effort (NextGen) in November 2009 because the system did not meet user expectations," the report says. "As a result, the agency continues to rely on an ineffective and inefficient 30-year-old system."

Maps Will Acknowledge Levees Below 100 Year Protection

FLOOD INSURANCE: FEMA to give some credit for subpar levees when assessing risk

Paul Quinlan, E&E reporter

Under pressure from Congress, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is moving fast to change its practice of ignoring the existence of a levee considered to be substandard when assessing a homeowner's flood risk. Dubbed the "without levee" practice, it has sometimes resulted in big flood insurance rate increases for homeowners across the United States who were found to be living behind one of the nation's hundreds of aging levees recently deemed to be substandard, or incapable of protecting against a 1-in-100-year flood.

That could soon change. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate told lawmakers on 6/9/2011 that an in-the-works policy, due out in draft form in 60 to 90 days, would require his agency to take all levees into account when assessing flood risk, regardless of whether the structure is certified, and consider its flood protection value "as built." "We will now, after this process, look at structures that are there and then map what this risk looks like," Fugate told the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. The change could mean savings for many homeowners who recently found themselves living in low-lying areas FEMA deemed at-risk of flooding. FEMA has been working to redraw flood maps across the United States to better account for flood risk, as part of a broader effort to reform the nation's deeply indebted National Flood Insurance Program.

Before, if it wasn't up to the 1-in-100-year standard, the levee did not exist on FEMA's new maps. Now even substandard levees could be given some benefit of the doubt. That could go far in alleviating pressure on communities that cannot afford to upgrade a levee found to be below-standard or pay to have their levee certified. Lawmakers – 49 House members and 29 senators – petitioned Fugate to make such a change in a letter earlier this year. Committee members praised him for moving forward quickly on changing the practice. "Thank you for that policy change," said Louisiana Sen. David Vitter (R). "That's enormously important."



ASFPF 2011 Conference: *Flood Risk Management – the Winning Ticket*

ASFPF's 35th Conference enjoyed resounding success this May when 1,000+ floodplain managers descended on Louisville, Kentucky, a most apropos location given their recent share of floods. We offer our most hearty congratulations and thanks to the local team for their hard work the past two years getting ready to help conduct the conference. The Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers was ably led by Louie Greenwell and the Ohio Floodplain Management Association coordinated the numerous local volunteers, organized by Alicia Silverio. The Concurrent Session Program was again "master-minded" by our Standing Program Coordinator Steve McMaster of Ideation, Inc., and we sure hope he has many years left in him for this monumental task! And of course we thank our many presenters and workshop instructors, without whom we would not have this educational opportunity!

Here is a quick overview of the plenary sessions that helped inform and motivate all the conference attendees. You can find a full description of the speakers' messages on our 2011 conference page (thanks to ASFPF's Region 4 Director Terri Turner for that comprehensive report). Videos of their presentations will post in late July.

We kicked off Tuesday morning with Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer informing us that even with 18,000 parcels in the floodplain and 1 billion gallons of rain falling on the City this past April (a record event), all things worked as designed – homes were dry and businesses kept on operating. A firm believer in proper floodplain management, the Mayor stated that "flood protection will last a whole lot longer than we will and we are leaving a legacy for those to come." Plenary I, *The Starting Gate: The Vision for Managing Risk to People, Property, and Natural Resources*, was moderated by ASFPF Chair Greg Main. **Mark P Smith**, Director of the Eastern US Freshwater Program of The Nature Conservancy, noted that WE are our nation's leaders. We need to build the environment into our decisions to promote a healthy future, collaborate with partners to be successful, and work to achieve multiple benefits, such as conservation, natural benefits, and resource protection. "Let a river be a river!" **Brian Bingham**, Regulatory Services Director for Louisville-Jefferson County MSD, explained that they are constantly trying to improve efficiency with their 16 flood pumps and 27 miles of floodwalls and levees. The Program has grown from one that primarily focused on nuisance complaints to a \$10 million budget to reduce first floor flooding, improve public response, increase green infrastructure, and reduce gray projects. Executive Director of the Milwaukee MSD **Kevin Shafer** stated that it is "ok to set the bar high – such as zero homes in the Special Flood Hazard Area, cleaner rivers, river walks, fishable rivers. If we plant our seeds well, they will grow and the economic engine with which we do projects will mature and thrive. "Let nature help you do your job."

Tuesday's Keynote Luncheon featured **Mayor Jill Techel** of Napa California, who provided evidence of how well community coalitions can work as an economic driver in the community. Napa's "Living River" program focused on guiding the river to return to nature with natural slopes, meanders, mud flows and sand bars, maintaining fish resources, and replacing 13 bridges while promoting aesthetics in the community. The Project, which used partners to achieve success, was a catalyst for 1 billion dollars in new investment into the community. **Scott Edelman**, ASFPF Foundation President, reported that the ASFPF Foundation has raised 1 million dollars since its inception in 1997, funding such projects as the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forums, No Adverse Impact tools, FloodManager Game, the Nick Winter Scholarship, the Ward Flood Model, and much more. Action items for 2012 include the 4th national policy Forum with coastal emphasis, state level flood risk policy events, further distribution of the FloodManager Game, and funding/promoting flood policy white papers. The Foundation needs each member's help in taking back knowledge to your respective states and volunteering your time, talent, and financial support so that the vital mission of the Foundation can continue for years to come.

ASFPF Vice Chair Sally McConkey moderated Plenary II Wednesday morning, *Navigating the Turn: Managing Flood Risk Associated with Levees via the Policy and Program Nexus of Flood Maps, Levees, and Flood Insurance*. **Doug Bellomo**, Director of Flood Hazard Mapping at FEMA, reminded us that times are tough and uncertainty will continue in the economy, the climate, our personal finances, and in how this country is growing. We have become a society of binary thinking: safe/unsafe, in/out of the Special Flood Hazard Area. RiskMAP is an opportunity and a platform for creative thinking and resolve. "Be the cool head in the room – have facts, consider feelings, broaden the dialog, focus on long term thinking." **Jeff Jensen**, Deputy Director of the Flood Risk Management Program, Institute for Water Resources, USACE, noted that many levees are aging – both chronologically and structurally. Hurricane Katrina highlighted the need for levee inventory, risk analysis AND communication, Operations & Maintenance (O&M), and systems management from a watershed approach. The Corp's Levee Safety Program plans to assess/manage the system and provide a framework for a National

Strategy. "Take nonstructural actions BEFORE the flood, not after." National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) President **Jim Fiedler** described this organization of 13 public agencies whose mission is to protect lives, property, and economic activity from the adverse impacts of storm and flood waters. Challenges include communications and outreach, thinking long term, utilizing local partners in flood damage reduction projects, establishing national guidelines/ roles/ responsibilities, improving O&M, using carrots > not sticks, and advocating local decision making. **Sam Riley Medlock**, ASFPM's Policy and Partnerships Program Manager, stated that the levee problem today is relevant and growing. There are no national standards or national approaches to the levee issue, even though millions live behind levees – who largely perceive flooding to be a federal responsibility. "It's all about risk. Can we afford to stay in this current state of vulnerability? Can we afford another 2005 hurricane season?" As a nation we must visualize and strive for success in equity (geographical and intergenerational), sustainability (environmental and economic), and resiliency (existing and foreseeable hazards). "If we all work together, we can get there!"

After a stroll through the Exhibits, ASFPM Executive Director Larry Larson opened Plenary III, *The Back Stretch: Federal Efforts to Integrate Flood Risk Management Approaches*. **Sandra K Knight**, FEMA's Deputy Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administrator, stressed that the best places to live must include sustainability and resiliency and that we must have a unified voice – that reducing risk is a joint effort. Even with all of the positive work FEMA is doing, there are still a few things that make her lose sleep at night: levees, dams, the need for a national strategic water resources policy, and valuing mitigation. "Mitigation starts with strong leadership and mitigation works!" **Alex Dornstauder**, Deputy Chief of the Office of Homeland Security in USACE, noted that we place large demands on our planet and current situations are forcing emergency managers to be more risk managers than emergency managers. "Time is our enemy, water is not!" The over-arching strategy must be Integrated Water Resources Management, which would guide us all to be more strategic and less tactical. A case example is the multi-disciplinary Silver Jackets program, a comprehensive holistic strategy, state-led and focused at the watershed level (a USACE initiative). Corp challenges include synchronized life cycle flood risk management, levee compliance, consistent Silver jacket implementation, and annual Emergency Management funding. He closed with a famous Abraham Lincoln quote, "We live in interesting times. Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair." **Colonel Alvin B Lee**, Executive Director of Civil Works for USACE, spoke about "Operation Watershed", the current flood fight on the Mississippi River System (the 3rd largest watershed in the nation, draining 41% of the US basins). As they attempt to protect the 4 million people that live along the Mississippi River Valley, new flood records are being set up and down the Mississippi. Despite the public criticism the Corps has received for operating the Bird's Point–New Madrid Floodway, it protected a broad range of land uses and (hopefully) prevented failure of the entire system and unintentional consequences downstream. Said Colonel Lee, "It is very important to be candid and to communicate actual risks. The public needs to understand the risk so that they can take action."

Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Associate Director, moderated Plenary IV, *The Finish Line: Managing Flood Risk and Natural Resource Risk in a Changing World*. **Margaret Davidson**, NOAA's Coastal Services Center Director, described how change is occurring in demographics, politics, budget realities, a service-based population, and Mother Nature. She asserted it is not only important to understand the physics of our environment but the social science components as well. "People still don't understand. To quote Cool Hand Luke, 'What we have here is a failure to communicate'." We must synchronize our communications upfront, not after the fact. We must increase the role of the private sector, embrace locals, broaden the field of play, add natural and beneficial functions into our definitions. Integrating programs and collaborating on projects is key. "We need to use one another's nickels." **Jim Mullen**, President of the National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA) and Director of Washington State EMD, urged us to be concerned about fragmentation and stove-piping of the mitigation process. A White Paper introduced by NEMA stressed the need to develop a common theme (for all hazards) to communicate. Out of this was created The National Mitigation Alliance, consisting of 20 member entities and tri-chaired by NEMA, ASFPM and the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA), which hopes to gain congressional attention for mitigation. Jim feels strongly that we need to elevate mitigation and safety in our communities, as the first and the last elements in Emergency Management, and that what we ALL do is important. "Don't fight the questions, help get the answers!" **David Batker**, Chief Economist and Executive Director of Earth Economics, pointed out that our economic value is set within our environment, but our natural capital is becoming scarce. For instance, for every 2.5 miles of wetlands, you can take 1 foot off the storm surge of a hurricane, yet 1.2 million acres of wetlands have been lost on the Mississippi delta alone. We should be measuring storm surge vs. hurricane strength. David stressed that "if we don't renew the landscape, we can't reduce the risk". We need to change the cost/benefit analysis we currently use to include natural and beneficial functions, and we need aggressive restoration.

The Annual National Awards for Excellence were presented at the Thursday luncheon in Louisville, with the following results. Please see the [ASFPM Awards page](#) for more detail.

Media Award – Indiana’s News Center
LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year – Bruce Funk, Longport Borough, NJ
Sheaffer Floodproofing Award – Wally Wilson
Ivey Certification Award – Texas FPM Association
Tom Lee State Award – Florida DEM-Floodplain Management Program
Honorary Membership – Ken Zwickl
Louthain Award for Distinguished Service – Steve McMaster
Meritorious Achievement Award – Bill DeGroot
Goddard-White Award – Edward J. Hecker

YOUR 2011-12 Board of Directors



Seated L-R: Larry Larson, PE, CFM, Executive Director ; Ingrid Danler, Associate Director-Operations; Chad Berginnis, CFM, Associate Director; Bill Nechamen, CFM, New York, Vice Chair; Sally McConkey, PE, CFM, Illinois, Chair; John Crofts, CFM, Utah, Treasurer; Alan Giles, CFM, Georgia, Secretary.

Standing L-R: Terri Turner, AICP, CFM, Georgia, Region 4; Paul Woodward, PE, CFM, Nebraska, Region 7; Michelle Burnett, CFM, Rhode Island, Region 1; Alisa Sauvageot, CFM, Arizona, Region 9; Heidi Carlin, CFM, Texas, Region 6; Michael Dopko, CFM, New York, Chapters District 1; Ceil Strauss, Minnesota, Region 5; Valerie Swick, CFM, Arizona, Chapters District 5; Alison Meehan, Virginia, Region 3; Gerald Robinson, PE, CFM, Illinois, Chapters District 2; Diane Calhoun, CFM, Texas, Chapters District 3. **Not pictured:** Laura Tessieri, PE, CFM, New Jersey, Region 2; Jeff Sickles, PE, CFM, Colorado, Region 8; Bob Freitag, CFM, Washington, Region 10; Brad Anderson, PE, CFM, Colorado, Chapters District 4.



from the Chair

Sally McConkey, P.E., D.WRE, CFM

Top of the priority list is to thank our 2011 annual conference local sponsors: the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers and the Ohio Floodplain Management Association. Those who attended this year's conference saw the many volunteers helping to make sure the conference activities flowed smoothly. We owe them a huge round of applause. The Executive Office staff again performed their organizational magic tracking the millions of details and producing a polished professional conference. One particular highlight was the second day opening plenary performances by the official Kentucky Derby bugler Mr. Steve Buttleman. Thank you to all who contributed to this great conference.

On the immediate horizon is the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which expires in September 2011. April's edition of *News and Views* had excellent coverage in the "Washington Report" section by Merrie Inderfurth. **This summer is a critical time for NFIP legislation.** It is everyone's responsibility to contact their congressional representatives and help them understand the importance of the NFIP. A lack of understanding of the NFIP can lead to amendments to the legislation that can detract from the programs objectives. Congressional representatives listen best to their constituents. As my predecessor Greg Main urged in his last letter as Chair in April, please contact the Executive Office for links to the "FLOOD 101" and other helpful materials you can use as talking points.

The ASFPM Officers, Board, and Policy Committee Co-Chairs are launching an effort to strengthen networking with our Chapters and our State Floodplain Managers and Hazard Mitigation Officers. Chapters are encouraged to have their committee chairs or topic points-of-contact to join the ASFPM committees with similar interest. We will also be initiating regular conference calls with the State Floodplain Managers (SFMs) and the State Hazard Mitigation Officers (SHMOs).

I have truly enjoyed the past two years serving as Vice Chair and I am looking forward to the next year serving as ASFPM Chair. Thank you for electing me and giving me this opportunity.

Best Regards,
Sally

ASFPM Foundation Completes 1st Annual Student Paper Competition

We are pleased to announce results of the first ASFPM Student Paper/Presentation Competition. Three students among the many who submitted abstracts were selected to attend the 2011 national floodplain management conference as the guests of the ASFPM Foundation, in order to present their papers in a professional environment. In addition to hosted participation in the full conference, prize money was awarded to the winning students. Please join us in congratulating them.

1st Place - Jeana Wiser, University of Washington 2nd Place - Younghun Jung, Purdue University
3rd Place - Katelyn Toebbe, University of Louisville KY

From the **Director's Desk**

Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



Change or Status Quo?

Will the extraordinary number of natural disaster events this year generate the energy to move for policy change by the nation's decision makers? As you may recall, 9-11 generated the impetus to create DHS, to include FEMA in DHS, and to fund an incredible amount of activity related to terrorism, under the theory that the nation's big threat is terrorism. Since 9-11 there have been hundreds of disasters, most of them caused by natural hazards, and some human-caused but not terrorist caused. And the hurricane season has just started!

In 2001 alone, over 500 deaths have been caused by tornadoes and scores more by flooding. It seems that wind may result in more loss of lives than flooding, which is not how it usually works. The massive disaster in Japan was caused by an earthquake and Tsunami, both natural hazards. Could the subsequent nuclear disaster have been prevented using adequate mitigation measures?

In the 10 years since the 9-11 event and in light of the record numbers so far this year, will decision makers now see our biggest threat to lives and property as natural disasters? If so, will they address the changes in policy, programs and funding to address natural disasters? Will they understand and support strong mitigation programs as the most effective means to reduce the costs, loss of lives and suffering caused by natural hazards?

The flooding on the Mississippi River and now the Missouri River have gone on for well over a month, and will likely go on for another month or more. In the meantime, we will likely see more disasters created by natural hazards that continue to add to this record. Of all the hazards we face, those caused by floods are the most predictable, and therefore the ones we can most readily plan for and mitigate.

But of course, the first thing we must do is recognize and admit our risk . . . kind of like a 12 step program. If decision makers don't want to recognize flood risk, that provides us an opportunity to help them recognize it and to understand that recognizing it is not economically negative. We can help them understand that long term economic and social and environmental sustainability comes from identifying the risk, assessing the options to mitigate the risk, and then mitigating the risk. And that addressing the risk is a shared responsibility among all levels of government, citizens, and the private sector.

Working together, we CAN create a safe and sustainable America.

Connect Your Community to America's Great Outdoors!

Are you trying to protect your local rivers, save an unspoiled landscape, or build trails where everyone in your community can enjoy nature? [We Can Help](#). Every year, the National Park Service helps hundreds of locally-driven projects that create opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation, connect youth with the outdoors, and connect communities to parks. [Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance](#) from the National Park Service provides no funding, but our experienced staff can help communities plan for success. [Applications for technical assistance](#) will be accepted until August 1. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project ideas with [a staff member in your area](#) before preparing an application. Visit www.nps.gov/rtca for complete information and [application](#).

Flood Insurance Committee Corner

FLOOD IN PROGRESS

The big news in the past month or two has been around the flooding that is occurring across the nation. From the mighty Mississippi, to the swollen Missouri River to even New England and Lake Champlain! While warnings of high snow pack and the potential for flooding were given early by many local, state and federal government agencies, unfortunately many citizens maintained their sandbag (or head in the sand) mentality. And as we have seen, it has not worked in many places as levees have breached, overtopped and even been blown open . . . and dams are releasing enormous amounts of water causing flooding down river.

These flooding events have unleashed a tsunami of news stories about local residents going to their local lender to quickly get a small loan to avoid the 30-day waiting period. While the lending regulators will need to address any potential compliance issues (if any) with the loan itself, FEMA has provided guidance regarding the timing of when coverage was in effect versus when the “flood” started. The exclusion in the policy (Section V [B]) states that the NFIP will not insure a loss directly or indirectly caused by a flood that is already in progress at the time and date that the policy term begins or coverage added. In an attempt to further explain the exclusion, FEMA released a Bulletin (during the week of the ASFPM conference) to help address the timing of flooding associated with, for example the blowing of the levee in Missouri and the opening of the spillway in Louisiana. While some clarification was provided, initial feedback was that additional questions still needed to be answered. To provide further clarification related to the more recent release of additional water from the Garrison Dam (ND) along the Missouri River, FEMA issued a second Bulletin that identifies when the flooding event began. These two Bulletins are on the Insurance Committee page and if you have not read these two Bulletins, we recommend that you familiarize yourself with them, even if your area is not currently flooding . . . because someday it will!

—Your Humble Insurance Committee Co-Chairs
Gary Heinrichs & Bruce Bender

This column is produced by the ASFPM Insurance Committee. Send your questions about flood insurance issues to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and they will be addressed in future issues of the newsletter.

Risk MAP Launches Second Annual Survey

Starting in mid-June now and continuing over the next few weeks, Risk MAP is conducting its second annual survey of chief elected local officials and Tribal officials to:

- Understand their flood risk awareness
- Identify the steps they've taken to reduce their communities' flood risk
- Determine how they share flood risk information with their constituents
- Understand how FEMA can make it easier for them to communicate about flood risk

This year, FEMA is conducting additional surveys in areas with Risk MAP projects so that they can identify any differences in flood risk awareness or communication within Risk MAP vs. non-Risk MAP areas. FEMA has also added questions on dams, levees, and some additional questions on flood insurance. The resulting information will allow FEMA to continue to refine its communications and outreach efforts. We encourage you to mention the survey to your CEO's and stress the importance of their participation. The more responses FEMA is able to collect, the better able it will be to help improve communication about flood risk nationwide. Risk MAP homepage is: http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/rm_main.shtm

Washington Report *-Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison*

✧ All referenced legislation and committee reports can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.
Type in the bill number, or go directly to the committee's website to read testimony. ✧

Keeping Up With It All

Trying to keep up with all the various hot spots of activity that could affect the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA's mitigation and mapping activities, and related federal agencies and interagency task forces right now requires vigilance and alertness. There are many moving parts and the ways in which they could interplay in the near future are difficult to predict. Center stage in early June has been in the House of Representatives, but both wings of the stage will move to the center soon. The legislation to reauthorize and reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is ready for consideration on the House floor. The Homeland Security Appropriations bill, which provides FY'12 funding for FEMA, has just passed the House and is ready to be sent to the Senate for consideration.

In one of the wings, the Senate and its committees are preparing to act on both authorization and appropriations legislation. The first of two planned hearings on the NFIP took place on June 9th when the Banking Committee heard from FEMA Administrator Fugate. ASFPM has been tentatively asked to testify at another hearing for which the date has yet to be determined. The Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee is preparing to produce its version of an appropriations bill for FY'12 towards the end of the month. In the other wing, FEMA is reaching the concluding period of its "Re-Thinking the NFIP" project and will be sending its options and report to both the House and Senate, probably in July.

Meanwhile, the NFIP, which has been reauthorized under the current Continuing Resolution, will expire again on September 30th unless some further Congressional action is taken. The House bill would reauthorize the program for 5 years, but does not reauthorize the Severe Repetitive Loss Pilot program. The Senate bill is expected to also reauthorize the NFIP for 5 years. The House Appropriations bill includes a one year reauthorization.

House Appropriations Subcommittees providing funding for other federal agencies are now being marked up and moving to full committee consideration. The Energy and Water Appropriations bill providing funding for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation has just been marked up in subcommittee and will be taken up in the full Appropriations Committee on June 15th. Senate Appropriations Subcommittees are continuing to hold hearings on agency budget requests under their jurisdiction. The Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on June 8th on the status of FEMA's emergency preparedness programs with a focus on interoperable communications.

Flood Insurance Reauthorization and Reform, H.R. 1309

After being marked up in Subcommittee on April 6th, the bill was marked up in the full Financial Services Committee on May 12th. Almost 30 amendments were considered. The full list of adopted amendments can be viewed by going to: www.financialservices.house.gov, clicking on Hearings & Mark-ups, then clicking on the H.R. 1309 mark-up. Each amendment can be clicked on individually so the language can be read. Some of those amendments adopted are:

- Chairman Biggert (R-IL) – adding "Representative of State flood insurance coordination offices" to the membership list for the new Technical Mapping Advisory Council and other technical corrections
- Reps. Schweikert (R-AZ) and Green (D-TX) – report to Congress in 1 year on ways to limit the percent of policies in FEMA's Direct program and notify policy holders of availability of policies through WYOs
- Rep. McCarthy (D-NY) – extension of preferred risk policies in certain situations
- Rep. Lucas (R-OK) – to clarify that premiums and fees must be actuarial for any property owner purchasing insurance after a policy has lapsed
- Rep. McCarthy (D-NY) – notify Senators and House Members of any map changes affecting their states or Districts

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Washington Report (cont.)

- Reps. Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Renacci (R-OH) – clarifying definition of “residential” for coverage limit purposes as “designed for occupancy by one to four families”
- Rep. Frank (D-MA) – swimming pool enclosures at ground level or below buildings between November 30 and June 1 will have no effect on flood insurance coverage
- Rep. Westmoreland (R-GA) – when portion of property is in Special Flood Hazard Area, but structure is not, FEMA must expedite review and, if structure is not in SFHA, charge no fee for review
- Rep. Watt (D-NC) – adding to membership of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council two representatives of state Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) and two representatives of local CTPs, one of which should be a local levee manager or executive
- Rep. Moore (D-WI) – providing for studies of voluntary community based insurance options (by both FEMA and GAO), including evaluation of the incorporation of mitigation activities
- Reps Neugebauer (R-TX) and Dold (R-IL) – requiring a report on inclusion of building codes as a component of floodplain management criteria, the regulatory effect of doing so and the resources that would be required from states and local governments to enforce
- Rep. Waters (D-CA) – to allow use of CDBG funds for outreach activities associated with flood maps and flood insurance
- Rep. Wates (D-CA) – to allow reimbursement of the cost associated with LOMAs which are successful
- Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) – requiring an annual assessment of the ability of the NFIP to pay claims with and without the use of additional borrowing authority
- Rep. Westmoreland (R-GA) – specifying that force placed policies only cover the amount of the mortgage
- Rep. Conesco (R-TX) – specifying that a residential property occupied by the owner or a bona fide tenant is a primary residence
- Rep. Biggert (R-IL) – the National Academy of Sciences is to study graduated risk behind levees and the associated land development, insurance and risk dimensions
- Reps. Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Pearce (R-NM), and Paul (R-TX) – no maps may be issued that omit or disregard the protection afforded by an existing levee, flood wall, pump, or other such feature, regardless of its accreditation status
- Rep. Westmoreland (R-GA) – Actuarial rates must be charged for repetitive loss properties refusing mitigation offers
- Reps. Bachus (R-AL), Capito (R-WVA), and Schweikert (R-AZ) – steps must be taken to facilitate use of private insurance to satisfy the mandatory purchase requirement

The Financial Services Committee has requested that H.R. 1309 be placed on the schedule for House Floor consideration as soon as possible. The House was in recess during the week of June 6-10, but it is expected that the flood insurance bill will be scheduled for floor consideration soon. A number of amendments will probably be proposed for floor consideration, but the number and terms will be determined by the House Rules Committee. Any of the many bills that have been introduced relating to the National Flood Insurance Program (“Insider” May, 2011) could be offered as amendments. Additionally, an amendment could be offered which would fold the Severe Repetitive Loss program and the Repetitive Flood Claims program under the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, simplifying administration of the efforts to address repetitive loss properties.

Senate Flood Insurance bill

The Senate Banking Committee is expected to draft its own version of flood insurance reauthorization and reform legislation, probably by early July. A hearing on the program was held June 9th where FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate testified. A subsequent hearing is expected in a few weeks and ASFPM has tentatively been asked to testify. Indications are that a new Senate bill will incorporate many elements of the bill passed by the Senate in 2008. No agreement between House and Senate versions was reached at that time, so nothing was signed into law. A Senate bill is, like the House bill, expected to reauthorize the NFIP for five years. (Meanwhile, the House Appropriations bill has language reauthorizing the NFIP for one year.)

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Washington Report (cont.)

On the same day as the Senate hearing, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled, "Action Needed to Improve Administration of the National Flood Insurance Program". The report can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-297>

Other Senate bills of interest are:

S. 1091 The COASTAL Act of 2011, introduced on May 26 by Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS). This bill provides a formula for allocation of losses between wind and flood when an event has left only a slab. It also reauthorizes the NFIP for five years. The bill was referred to the Senate Banking Committee.

S. 1118 This bill was introduced on May 26 by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND). It would authorize construction and maintenance of levees on property acquired under FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs (ie. deed restricted land). The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Appropriations

Homeland Security

The House of Representatives passed its Homeland Security Appropriations bill, H.R. 2017, on June 2nd by a vote of 231-188 after considering many amendments. The bill had been brought to the Floor on June 1st under an "open rule" meaning that any amendment considered germane to the bill would be in order. Most amendments dealt with border and immigration issues, but a number dealt with FEMA and natural disaster concerns.

Overall, the bill includes a one year extension for the NFIP. Funds for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program include only \$40 million, which was the budget request from the Administration. The accompanying Committee Report (H. Rept. 112-91) explains that this lower amount is due to a significant unobligated balance carried over. The measure includes about \$103 million for flood mapping, down from \$220 million in FY 2010 and a slightly lower level in FY 2011. Overall, including both appropriated funds and anticipated funds from policy fee revenues, the mapping program level for FY '12 under this bill would be reduced by about 34%. The bill establishes a RiskMAP Advisory Council.

On the House floor, an amendment was adopted that was offered by Homeland Security Subcommittee Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) to add \$1 billion to the Disaster Relief Fund to assist in response to recent disasters. The funds would be offset by unobligated funds from an advanced car technology program at the Department of Energy. Another amendment offered by Rep. Carter (R-TX) was adopted. That amendment would prohibit any funds of the Department of Homeland Security from being used to participate in the work of the Interagency Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation. Additionally, an amendment was adopted to require a report on how to limit the percent of NFIP policies written in FEMA's Direct program rather than by Write Your Own (WYO) participating insurance companies.

The Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee expects to mark-up its version by the end of June or early July.

Energy and Water Appropriations

The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee marked up its FY 2012 bill on June 1st. The measure cuts considerably less from the funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers than requested by the Administration. The budget request sought a reduction of \$284 million, but the House bill would provide a reduction of only \$88 million. This is a 4.3% increase over the budget request, but a 1.8% reduction from FY 2011 funding and a 12.4% reduction from FY 2010 funding. The bill includes language to prohibit changes to Corps guidance concerning the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

[continued on next page]

Washington Report (cont.)

Funds for the Bureau of Reclamation are 8.5% below the President's budget request and FY 2011 funding. The bill will be marked-up in the full Appropriations Committee on June 15th.

Other House Appropriations Subcommittees have scheduled their mark-ups for this month and July. Only three bills have been reported out of the full committee thus far and only one (Homeland Security) passed the House. It appears that no Senate Subcommittees will mark-up bills until July. The House leadership hopes to pass a many of the 12 regular appropriations bills as possible before the August recess to facilitate final passage through both the House and Senate before the new fiscal year begins on October 1st.

Other Legislation of Interest

The Natural Disaster Mitigation Act, H.R. 2099, was introduced on June 1st by Rep. Thomas Rooney (R-FL) and Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS). The bill would provide a tax credit (25% of mitigation expenditures up to \$5,000) for mitigation activities to prevent or reduce losses from hurricanes and earthquakes. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Reps. Tom Rooney (R-FL) and Allen West (R-FL) also introduced a measure which establishes tax deferred reserve accounts for insurance companies in case of future losses.

Another bill would create tax-exempt savings accounts for individuals and families to save for possible future disaster related expenses.

Also of Interest

A bipartisan letter from 150 Members of the House, including 15 Republicans, to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, seeks "robust and consistent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund". The letter says the LWCF is critical to protecting drinking water, providing hunting and fishing access, preventing lands being sold for development, and revitalizing urban parks and open space. Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) has indicated that the program will probably be significantly reduced because his subcommittee will have to cut funding for the Department of the Interior and EPA by \$2 billion for FY 2012.

Coalitions

Stafford Coalition

The Coalition met on May 19th to share information on the status of Stafford Act programs during this Congress.

USGS Coalition

This coalition met on June 9th to discuss USGS Appropriations for FY 2012 and plans for next September's Congressional Reception honoring the work of USGS and Members of Congress who have strongly supported that work.

Congressional Hazard Caucus Alliance

The group met May 24th to plan Congressional upcoming Congressional briefings. A briefing on the Mississippi River and Tributaries flooding as well as flood and related levee issues is being planned and ASFPM will play an active role.

Referenced legislation can be viewed by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number. Information about the "Re-Thinking the NFIP" project at FEMA can be found through the FEMA website: www.FEMA.gov. Type "Re-Thinking the NFIP" in the search box.

-Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Publications, Software, the Web

The COMET Program is pleased to announce the publication of **Coastal Climate Change**. As climate changes, dynamic coastal regions are experiencing a wide range of impacts. Coastal communities need to prepare adaptation strategies to cope, and many who live or work in coastal regions are wondering what climate change might mean for them. This 3-hour module provides an overview of the impacts coastal regions are experiencing and may continue to experience as a result of Earth's changing climate. The intended audience is NOAA Sea Grant agents and others involved in coastal extension work, but the content should be relevant to anyone who works with, lives in, or holds an interest in coastal regions. Please follow this link to start the module: <http://www.meted.ucar.edu/climate/coastalclimate/index.htm>. For technical support for this module, please direct e-mails to: support@comet.ucar.edu.

Greening America's Capitals – an EPA program to provide technical assistance to support selected capital city projects, including smart growth and green infrastructure. The deadline for cities to submit letters is June 20. More information on the program is at <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/greencapitals.htm>.

Grant and Project Opportunities

DHS Announces Grant Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Preparedness Grants

Deadline: June 20, 2011 for preparedness grants, July 5, 2011 for transit grants

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced the release of FY 2011 grant guidance and application kits for 12 DHS grant programs totaling \$2.1 billion to assist states, urban areas, tribal and territorial governments, non-profit agencies, and the private sector in strengthening our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. Final submissions must be made through the Non-Disaster Grants system at <https://portal.fema.gov>. Further information on DHS's preparedness grant programs is available at www.dhs.gov and www.fema.gov/government/grant/nondisaster.shtm. Office of the Press Secretary, Contact: 202-282-8010

YSI Foundation "Minding the Planet" Grant Request for Proposals

Deadline: July 1, 2011

YSI Foundation seeks proposals for research projects that focus on data collection to assess changes in the environment. Research on quantifying change from artificial disasters (i.e. pollution), natural disasters (i.e. oil spills, flooding), or climate change (i.e. water acidification), and the use of environmental data to demonstrate the changes is preferred. This year the YSI Foundation will award two grants **\$25,000** to the first recipient and **\$15,000** to the second recipient selected by an Outside Selection Committee. Applications are due by **Friday, July 1, 2011** at 5:00 pm EDT. Only electronic applications will be accepted and must be emailed to foundation@ysi.com by this time. Previous individual recipients are not eligible. Contact Susan Miller, Foundation President, at 937-657-1710 or smiller@ysi.com. Requirements Details and Documents are at: http://www.erf.org/system/files/YSI_CERF2011_Minding_the_Planet%20RFP.pdf and http://www.erf.org/system/files/YSI_%20CERF2011_MTP_Cover_Page.doc

Capacity Building Support for Sustainable Communities Grantees

Deadline: July 8, 2011

The Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities Program provides support to intermediary organizations that can provide capacity building support for communities engaged in planning efforts that support community involvement and integrate housing, land use, land cleanup and preparation for reuse, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments. Proposed capacity building

activities in support of the Sustainable Communities Partnership must demonstrate proficiency in one or more of the following outcome areas: developing effective implementation strategies for economic development and local and regional planning; advancing social equity in planning, participation, and decision-making; strengthening sustainability practices for tribes, small towns, and rural places; scenario planning; incorporating water infrastructure planning and investments into local and regional planning efforts; addressing sustainability in slow local and regional economies; and establishing a national sustainability learning network. Contact [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#). The application deadline is July 8, 2011.

NOAA NMFS MARFIN Southeast Region FFO Announcement

Deadline: July 18, 2011

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southeast Region, is seeking proposals under the Marine Fisheries Initiative Program (MARFIN), for research and development projects that optimize the use of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and off the South Atlantic states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida involving the U.S. fishing industry (recreational and commercial), including fishery biology, resource assessment, socioeconomic assessment, management and conservation, selected harvesting methods, and fish handling and processing. This program addresses NOAA's mission goal to "Protect, Restore, and Manage the Use of Coastal and Ocean Resources through an Ecosystem Approach to Management." [See more here](#).

Calendar

3rd Int'l Week on Risk Analysis, Dam Safety, Dam Security and Critical Infrastructure Management (3IWRDD)

Polytechnic University of Valencia is organizing the 3rd annual IWRDD event October 17-21, 2011, in Valencia, Spain. It will provide an excellent opportunity for public and private professionals, companies, and institutions to exchange knowledge and international best practices regarding a variety of issues focused on improving the safety, security and reliability of dams and related critical infrastructure. A technical tour of Tous Dam and a practical course on "Risk Management Models" will be conducted as well. Participants are invited to submit abstracts (up to 350 words in length) to be considered for the Forum and Benchmark Workshop by using the templates available here: http://www.ipresas.upv.es/abstract_E.html. The deadline for abstracts has been extended until 13 May 2011. For more information contact Kristen Baumgartner at 703-603-5131 or kristen.baumgartner@hq.dhs.gov.

Building Safe, Healthy & Livable Communities

11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: The call for session proposals is open now and closes June 30. The conference itself will be in February 2012 in San Diego. See more at <http://www.newpartners.org/cfsp/>.

Hydroinformatics Conference

The next Hydroinformatics Conference will be held in Hamburg, Germany, July 14-18, 2012. Topics on the agenda will include Disaster mitigation, Hydrological modeling, Hydraulic modeling, Climate change impacts, Developments of Flood and Drought Early Warning Systems, Socio-Economic Aspects of Hydroinformatics Realising Active Stakeholder Participation, and more. Abstracts can be submitted until August 1, 2011. For more information go to <http://www.hic2012.org/>.

Call for Papers for Joint Conference by Applied Technology Council (ATC) and Structural Engineering Institute (SEI), October 24-25, 2012

Please join us in building an exciting program by submitting abstracts for individual presentations and proposals for complete sessions. Oral and poster presentations are welcome, as well as panel discussions and debates. Suggested topics include: Wind Engineering – General, Coastal Flooding, Engineering for the Building Envelope, Low Rise Buildings – Wind, High Rise Buildings – Wind, Infrastructure - Wind and Flood, Meteorology and Oceanography, Risk Modeling and Forensic Engineering - Wind and Flood. A complete list of topics and subtopics can be found on the [conference website](#). Proposals are due September 9, 2011. For additional instructions on how to upload an abstract or session proposal to the paper management system, please visit the [conference website](#). All presenters of accepted proposals are strongly encouraged to submit 10-12 page final papers for inclusion in the conference proceedings. Visit the [conference website](#) for all the up to date information. Questions? Contact Debbie Smith, Manager, SEI Programs, dsmith@asce.org or 703-295-6095.

Dates to Remember

Call for Papers Due: September 9, 2011

All Final Publication Ready Papers Due: April 25, 2012

Notice of Acceptance: January 5, 2012

Conference: October 24-26, 2012

ASFPM Calendar

The events listed below are only the highlights of events of interest to floodplain managers. A complete list of flood-related training, conferences, and other meetings, including ALL the workshops and conferences of State Chapters and associations is always posted at http://www.floods.org/n_calendar/calendar.asp

November 28–December 1, 2011: NATIONAL FLOODPROOFING CONFERENCE V,
Sacramento, California. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

May 20–25, 2012: 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
San Antonio, Texas. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

June 9–14, 2013: 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
Hartford, Connecticut. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

June 1–6, 2014: 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
Seattle, Washington. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

May 31–June 5, 2015: 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
Atlanta, Georgia. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

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

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

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

NEWS & VIEWS

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

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