ASFPM Certification Board of Regents Annual Report

Mark Riebau, CFM, CBOR President
April 11, 2017
Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)

2016-2017 Activities

As of April 1, 2017 there are nearly 10,000 CFMs in the US.

CBOR rolled out a new section on map reading in the CFM exam Jan. 1, marking the first new maps since the inception of the exam in 1998. The new map section bases questions on two actual FIRMs rather than Flood County, USA. As a result, the questions the Exam Work Group were able to create were more realistic and provided a better evaluation of examinee’s ability to read and interpret maps. While the results are still very preliminary, the pass/fail ratio for the map reading section of the exam remain in the 70-75% range, which suggests the questions meet our reliability and validity standards. We’ll be able to do a better assessment after more exams have been given.

The executive office, with input from CBOR, filed a comprehensive comment letter urging the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to add “floodplain manager” as an occupation in the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification Manual scheduled for publication this summer. Of the 1,100 occupations listed by BLS, none include “floodplain manager,” even though every one of the 22,000 communities that participate in the NFIP must delegate at least one person to serve in that capacity. BLS stated they intend to republish the SOC next year and will offer one more open comment period before then. Our comments have been received and logged and are under consideration.

At the urging of the ASFPM Board of Directors, CBOR has begun evaluating converting to a digital exam by creating a discussion paper with an alternative analysis. Other initiatives include investigating prerequisites before applicants are allowed to take the exam, changing the appropriate forms to require they be signed by a CFM, and working on a five-year strategic plan through 2023.

CBOR currently has two vacancies. Mike Parker (at-large) retired and his long commitment to the CFM program, CBOR and the CFM Exam Work Group will be missed. He has not missed a CBOR meeting or conference call in over 10 years. Warren Campbell (academia) also, stepped down as a regent so that he could devote time to leading the CFM Exam Work Group, which does the in-depth analysis of the exam, and designs the exam questions and question pool.