



Coastal Issues Committee Status Report 2020

Lori Cary-Kothera
Tom McDonald, Jr., CFM
Co-chairs



**ASSOCIATION OF STATE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

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Overview

The primary mission of the ASFPM [Coastal Issues Committee](#) is to support the membership by promoting education, policies, and activities aimed at reducing the costs and impacts of coastal flooding, and protecting and preserving the natural and beneficial functions of coastal floodplains associated with coastal ecosystems and the services they provide.

The current co-chairs are Lori Cary-Kothera and Tom McDonald.

Priorities

Support and develop the Coastal Issues Committee

1. Participate in ASFPM Policy Committee conference calls and retreats
2. Attend the ASFPM Policy Committee chair meeting at the annual conference and hold an annual meeting
3. Organize and facilitate committee conference calls
4. Provide technical expertise on relevant policy issues
5. Solicit new memberships

Provide forums to share technical information

1. Participate in the Digital Coast Partnership, including helping to promote relevant tools and leverage aspects for the partnership to ASFPM members
2. Work with the Flood Science Center to share and promote relevant ASFPM developed materials
3. Maintain the quarterly lunch-and-learn speaker series
4. Participate in the climate subcommittee and identify actions and efforts for the Coastal Issues committee to lead or support
5. Participate on the Coastal CRS focus group

Update and develop new materials

1. Support ASFPM Foundation with its Georgia Elevation Certificate Diagram guidance project
2. Identify mechanisms for how to update the Coastal No-Adverse Impact materials

Recommended Actions

- Continue the lunch-and-learn quarterly webinars
 - ◇ GIS use in the CRS programs
 - ◇ Hurricane Awareness: 2020 Season Projections



- Update the Coastal No-Adverse Impact materials
- Explore how to implement the ideas from the Climate Change Discussion Group, including working on Policy Paper: “Priorities for Climate Change and Risk Reduction”
- Promote the new datum as it nears initiation date
- Enhance the committee’s web page by providing links to the webinars and committee action items
- Encourage cross committee relations through projects with similar interests and objectives that meet our priorities
- Continue to encourage membership networking through calls and gatherings (virtual or in person)

Summary of 2019/2020 Efforts

The Coastal Issues Committee has been working to reinvigorate the committee. In November we conducted a member survey to understand where they would like to see the committee focus. Members indicated a desire to increase their awareness of tools they can use, learn from other floodplain managers, and discuss key coastal policy issues. Topically there was a strong desire to discuss climate-related impacts: sea level rise, sunny day flooding, managed retreat, post disaster actions, and flood erosion control to name a few topics. There was consensus to continue the mix of our quarterly lunch-and-learn series along with bi-monthly/quarterly calls.

Moving forward we have hosted a number of webinars and calls. Webinars include:

- Miami Beach-Rising Above - with speaker Amy Knowles
- FEMA Acquisition Success in Georgia: Disasters and Non-disasters - with speaker Steve Juszcyk
- Green Infrastructure Tools for Floodplain Managers - with speakers Lauren Long and Tashya Allen

During our January call we discussed the results from the survey and started a conversation about how sea level rise is affecting coastal communities.

On the policy front, the committee chairs have been able to comment in support of the Coastal Barriers Resources Act. This fall, Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's decided to allow sand mining in CBRA areas. ASFPM and the NJ chapter were able to work with The National Audubon Society to develop a letter of protest. We received a little press, but to date the decision has not been reversed. ASFPM continues to support the Digital Coast Act. We are hopeful it will pass this year.