Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee Status Report 2020

Lori Rafferty, P.E., CFM
Bill Smith, P.E., CFM
Co-chairs

June 2020
Introduction and Overview

The mission of the Professional Development & Continuing Education Committee (PDCEC) is to provide vision, leadership, and direction to ASFPM members regarding issues affecting the floodplain management profession. The PDCEC strives to maintain a high standard of integrity, ethical behavior and practices, professional conduct, and skill for all floodplain managers and encourages certification via the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) program. PDCEC also strives to expand and promote the professional status and legal responsibility of the CFM and will review and monitor professional education opportunities for floodplain managers.

The PDCEC provides a liaison to the Certification Board of Regents to support the CFM program. In this capacity, the liaison communicates and provides alignment of common activities between CBOR and PDCEC regarding issues affecting the floodplain management profession.

In addition to Lori Rafferty (Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District) and Bill Smith (HISINC, LLC) who served as co-chairs for 2019-2020, Louie Greenwell served as on the PDCEC committee as the liaison to the Certification Board of Regents.

The PDCEC established the following priorities for 2019-2020

Priority 1 - The PDCEC will continue to promote the use of the two-hour ethics workshop at state and national floodplain conferences. PDCEC is currently working to annotate the slides for the ethics workshop to make the training more easily accessible to our members. PDCEC expects to have the final annotated version of the training available by August 2020.

Priority 2 - In 2016, ASFPM submitted a request to the Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee, which is part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), for a Standard Occupational Classification for floodplain managers. Several federal laws and numerous state and local government regulations reflect the title of “floodplain manager”; however, there is no standard occupational classification for the title. In August 2018, the Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee recommended the “floodplain manager” classification not be created due to their Classification Principle 9, which deals with collectability. Collectability is the ability for the BLS and the Census Bureau to collect and report on data on the occupation. After reviewing the requirements to meet the collectability metric, the PDCEC determined that the Standard Occupational Classification will not be pursued at this time. This topic could be considered in the future if the requirements are modified or if collectability is more easily tracked in the future.

Priority 3 - In 2019, the Professional Development Committee revised its name to the Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee. With this name change, the committee takes on a larger lead in continuing education. During the past year, the PDCEC assisted with the review of the new NFIP independent study courses, IS-0273 How to Read a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), IS-0274 How to Use a Flood Insurance Study (FIS), and IS-1119 Letter of Map Amendment and Letter of Map Revisions based on Fill (LOMA/LOMR-F). The PDCEC will continue to support continuing education as needed.

The PDCEC also solicited and received documentation from some of the accredited states on their training programs that are administered by the local floodplain associations and the state coordinator offices. ASFPM training documents are also being reviewed. This evaluation is for assurance that all of the training provided to CFMs across the nation are considered equivalent in quality and standard of care. A report will be
prepared by the end of 2020 with the summary of this evaluation and an opinion of the standard of care being provided to all CFMs.

**Recommended Tasks**

**Task 1** - PDCEC will continue working to annotate the two-hour ethics workshop. Once this workshop is finalized, it will be shared on the ASFPM website.

**Task 2** - PDCEC will continue to promote professional development and continuing education opportunities. Examples of these opportunities could be a professional development track at the ASFPM conference and assistance with the review of new floodplain management classes.

**Task 3** - PDCEC will continue to update the “Certification Program Survey” for ASFPM and the CFM certification program. The survey was last updated in 2019 to compare the ASFPM CFM certification program to other certification programs around the country. The survey compared 50 certification programs across multiple disciplines to compare costs, prerequisites, and continuing education requirements. The survey is used to determine if certification costs should be adjusted, as well as if prerequisites for certification and continuing education requirements should be strengthened.