

# ASFPM Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee Status Report



Co-chairs: Rebecca Pfeiffer and Eileen Shader  
April 14, 2017



Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)

## 2016-2017

### Committee Mission

The mission of the Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee is to promote understanding and appreciation of the benefits provided by naturally functioning floodplains by the public, policy makers and association membership. The committee champions the capacity of naturally functioning floodplains to provide multiple benefits to communities, including but not limited to flood damage reduction, water quality protection, habitat conservation, opportunities for recreation and aesthetically pleasing landscapes. By raising awareness of and promoting the benefits provided by naturally functioning floodplains, the committee builds support for their protection and restoration.

### Committee Liaisons:

**John Velimesis** P.E., CFM; Seattle, Washington- Watershed Pod liaison

**Dave Carlton** P.E., CFM, D.WRE; dkcarlton & associates, Seattle, Washington – CRS and USGS Climate Change Workgroup representative

**Dave Fowler**, Stantec, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – NFFA and ASWM liaison

### 2016-2017 Tasks

#### New Work Items:

1. Track progress of 2016 WRDA proposals to promote consideration of natural and nature-based approaches.
2. Track implementation of the FFRMS, with a focus on the requirement for agencies to consider natural and nature-based approaches. Advise ASFPM on comments.
3. Track and update NBF Committee on Oregon Biological Opinion and NFIP Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.
4. Support NFFA workshop on barriers to restoration.
5. Track and contribute to the association's comments for the NFIP Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.
6. Explore interest in producing a second paper to be part of a short series of discussion papers with NBF-related content, following up on the Riverine Erosion Hazard discussion paper.
7. Support and provide content and feedback to ASFPM Science Services as they update and evolve the ASFPM committee web pages.

#### Standard On-going Work Items:

8. Participate in ASFPM Policy Committee Conference Calls and Retreat
9. Attend Policy Committee chair meeting at the annual conference and hold an annual meeting
10. Support NAI education and outreach efforts.
11. Coordinate with and promote ASFPM goals and objectives to the Association of State Wetland Managers.

12. Outreach to environmental organizations on behalf of the association as volunteers are identified and as requested by the board.
13. Support NFFA efforts, including a meeting at the annual conference.
14. Promote an NBF track and Early Bird session at the upcoming national conference.
15. Represent ASFPM on the USGS Climate Change Workgroup.
16. Support the Higher Education Committee and their pursuit of a Master's Degree program in floodplain management.
17. Support the executive office on providing feedback and expertise to promote natural floodplain function considerations for the policies and procedures issued by FEMA or other entities, including mitigation policies.
18. Collaborate with the Flood Science Center's program effort on integrating ecosystem services with floodplain planning.
19. Support CBOR on NBF-related CFM exam question development.
20. Provide input on the "NAI How-to Guides," including writing sections on the natural and beneficial function benefits of NAI or tools that achieve multiple objectives.
21. Be prepared to provide comments and support regarding the Pacific Northwest Biological Opinion.
22. Act as a liaison for ASFPM with the Green Infrastructure Collaboration organized by the EPA.
23. Provide support to American Rivers use and development of the "successful NBF project" template.
24. Distribute articles, reports, new tools and other relevant information related to natural floodplains to the committee.

## Details:

### Policy Updates

- The Water Infrastructure Investment Act of 2016 (included WRDA) included a provision requiring USACE to consider natural and nature-based approaches. We expect USACE to develop implementation guidance on this topic in 2017-18. NBF Committee will continue to track this opportunity to encourage members and ASFPM to submit comments.
- Three agencies produced implementation guidance documents on the FFRMS: FEMA, HUD and USACE. Members were encouraged to submit comments, particularly on the natural and nature-based approaches section.
- FEMA released a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the NFIP April 6. The comment period closes June 6. The NBF Committee invited FEMA staff to provide an update during the policy discussion at the annual conference. We will encourage NBF members to submit comments, and advise ASFPM on comments.

### 2016 ASFPM Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI

- Hosted Early Bird Session: Riverine Erosion Hazard Paper
- Natural Floodplain Function Alliance meeting participation

### General Outreach and Coordination

#### Natural Floodplain Function Alliance:

- The NBF committee participated in NFFA webinars and conference calls and participated on the Steering Committee (Dave Fowler and Eileen Shader).
- Helped organize and presented at the NFFA workshop on Permitting Barriers to Nature-based Approaches. Working with the NFFA steering committee to identify post-workshop action items.
- Earth Economics:
  - NBF Committee members helped write and review the new paper, "[Why We Continue to Develop Floodplains: Examining the Disincentives for Conservation in Federal Policy](#)." The paper was discussed in committee meetings and the final paper was distributed to the committee.