

ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee Status Report



Co-chairs: Bruce Bender, CFM, & Steve Samuelson, CFM (Interim)
March 30, 2017



Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)

Introduction and Overview

The ASFPM Flood Insurance Committee supports ASFPM's floodplain management efforts through information, education and outreach activities on flood insurance issues. The committee provides input on flood insurance legislation and flood insurance rules and guidelines propagated by FEMA. The committee also helps keep the ASFPM membership informed of upcoming changes to the National Flood Insurance Program and potential impact of these changes.

In support of the ASFPM goals and objectives for 2016/2017, the committee developed five broad focus areas. These areas are:

- 1) Continue to monitor modifications and improvements to the insurance aspects of the NFIP from FEMA and Congress
- 2) Continue liaison activities with the Flood Insurance Producers National Committee, Institute of Business and Home Safety and National Flood Determination Association
- 3) Work with FEMA on issues affecting flood insurance including insurance aspects of the Community Rating System, Increased Cost of Compliance, levees, coastal and Risk MAP
- 4) Provide flood insurance-related information and assistance to members
- 5) Finalize a Mitigation-Insurance Handout – Reduce the Risk. Reduce the Rate. Mitigation Activities a Homeowner Can Take

Note that on Jan. 1, John Gerber did step down for a 12-month assignment with the National Guard. Steve Samuelson has stepped in as an interim replacement and has been actively supporting the committee.

2016/2017 Committee Co-chair Activities

1) Monitor Ongoing changes in the NFIP

During the past year, the committee continued to monitor FEMA's implementation of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. These included monitoring legislative activities on the Hill, reviewing WYO Bulletins and other notices released from FEMA and news articles on flood insurance, including private flood insurance. Numerous articles were written for ASFPM's *Insider* to help keep members updated.

The co-chairs also monitored the Federal Register for notices that could affect the NFIP as well as the changes in the Elevation Certificate.

The top topics this past year were ICC and the Elevation Certificate, and more recently, agricultural structures. The Office of the Federal Insurance Advocate and ASFPM have identified ICC coverage as needing improvements and enhancements. ASFPM has been having quarterly calls to help stress the areas needing improvement (as have members, such as Jennifer Gerbasi from Tangipahoa Parish). For the second year in a row, OFIA has identified ICC as an area needing FEMA's attention.

The EC was issued and then re-issued in 2016 with significant problems. Working with members from across the organization, the committee collected issues and recommended changes and submitted them to FEMA. Many of these changes were incorporated in the latest version that was released in March 2017.

A topic picking up in interest, which crosses several committees, is the challenges of regulating and insuring agricultural structures in the floodplain. This is also a top issue for FEMA's Floodplain Management Division. ASFPM's Chair Ceil Strauss sat on a California Ag Task Force, which provided recommendations to FEMA. The Insurance Committee will be exploring this further, starting with an Early Bird Session at the 2017 ASFPM annual conference in Kansas City.

2) Continue Liaison Activities with Other Flood Insurance Interest Groups

The committee continued to liaise with other groups including:

- Participation in the ASFPM policy committee conference calls and retreat, which was held in Madison, Wisconsin in August 2016
- Held two Insurance Committee calls with members
- Attended three IBHS Flood Committee meetings
- Attended three FIPNC meetings
- Attended the National Flood Conference and annual ASFPM conference
- Attended the National Flood Determination Association Conference
- Developed the annual report for the committee reflecting accomplishments
- Developed the 2016/2017 committee work plan

3) Work with FEMA on Issues Affecting Flood Insurance

As detailed earlier, the Insurance Committee worked with ASFPM executive office to continue to push for changes in ICC. An Early Bird Session was held at last year's ASFPM conference to further flush out the issues. FEMA has been very helpful in responding to queries and providing clarification related to specific questions or situations members have raised. They have also provided an update at the Insurance Committee annual meeting, as well as sat in on the ICC Early Bird Workshop at last year's conference. Finally, as mentioned earlier,

the Insurance Committee provided a listing of recommended changes to the EC, which several were included in the most recent release.

4) Provide Flood Insurance-related Information and Assistance to Members

The committee spent considerable time this year helping keep the members aware of changes and happenings in the flood insurance world that may affect them. These included:

- Conducting two Insurance Committee conference calls
- Presenting an update at the annual ASFPM conference
- Requesting input from members and consolidating input from other committees regarding the updating of the Elevation Certificate
- Sharing updates on changes to the federal flood insurance program via member news alerts
- Providing news articles for the bi-monthly *Insurance Committee Corner* in *The Insider* and responding to people who commented via the email in that column
- Responding to email questions and correspondences on a number of insurance-related topics including impact of map changes, ICC, EC and changes to the flood insurance program due to reform legislation
- Updating the Insurance Committee website with current fact sheets and information
- Reviewing related documents from the EO and providing direction and input regarding the implementation and impact of the past legislation as well as commenting on upcoming reauthorization legislation

5) Create a Mitigation-insurance Handout

Working with three other committees (Training & Outreach, Floodplain Regulations and Floodplain Mitigation), the development of a fact sheet has been started to help explain the benefits of elevation from a reduced risk and reduced premium perspective. This was temporarily put on hold.

Future Actions

The committee co-chairs will use feedback from the annual committee meeting in Kansas City to help formulate the work plan for 2017/2018. Work items from the 2016/2017 work plan that need additional work will be incorporated into next year's plan. In addition, there will be continued focus on working with FEMA to address identified disconnects in ICC and the challenges around regulating and insuring agricultural structures in the floodplain, as well as any bills that appear related to reauthorization of the NFIP.