

**ASSOCIATION OF
STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

*Dedicated to
reducing flood losses and
protecting floodplains . . .*

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NEWS & VIEWS

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Mitigation Funds Available

Besides reducing future flood damage, investments in hazard mitigation enhance a community's resiliency in the face of disaster, as floodplain managers well know. In addition, hazard mitigation programs have been shown to be a wise economic investment. A 2005 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences determined that for every \$1 invested in hazard mitigation, \$4 worth of net societal benefits are generated.

Most communities and states have pre-identified flood hazard mitigation ideas in their hazard mitigation plans, but often they do not have the financial resources to carry them out. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs are an important source of financial support for these jurisdictions. Although the HMA programs will not fund all types of hazard mitigation, they can fund activities such as acquisition and demolition, relocation, elevation, and retrofitting of flood-prone buildings; minor flood control measures such as small ring walls/levees around single structures and/or channel modifications; stormwater management features that reduce potential flood risk; infrastructure protection measures that reduce flood risk; and the development and updating of hazard mitigation plans.

Applications are now being accepted for the fiscal year 2010 funds from FEMA under the agency's HMA programs. The Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Guidance was presented at the HMA Summit in Denver, Colorado, last week. The Guidance is the culmination of a two-year unification process to include all five HMA grant programs. In addition to the annual, non-disaster HMA grant programs (Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Severe Repetitive Loss, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Repetitive Flood Claims), the FY2010 Guidance incorporates the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the first time. The HMGP will continue to provide funds to implement mitigation measures in communities after a disaster declaration. Cost shares for all the programs vary from 75%/25% to 100% federal funding. The eligible project types and cost shares vary by program as well.

The application period for the non-disaster grant programs will open on June 1 and close on December 4, 2009. The amount of funding available will be announced when the FY'10 federal budget is finalized. The ASFPM has learned that funds that remained in last year's FMA and SRL appropriations will also be available.

➤➤➤ Applicants should direct questions or requests for assistance to their FEMA Regional Office. Access the Uniform Guidance at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3649>.

Musings from the Chair

Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM

Epilogue

It was a balmy Thursday in Norfolk, Virginia, the seventh of June, 2007. I stood behind the lectern facing the assembled membership of the ASFPM. Pam Pogue had just turned the helm over to me and the applause had not yet died down . . . but what had I gotten myself into? There could only be one possible future trajectory for me, a parabola that would smash into that ever-shrinking block of “free time.” My categorical mental battle space assumed a national flood risk management focus, to include all ancillary subjects that it could encompass.



Since that moment, which shall exist forever as a mental snippet, I have traveled approximately 65,822 miles on your Association’s business. I suppose that is a respectable log for the two terms that encompassed 17,664 hours of my life. *[Have you ever noticed how street lights, as viewed from a night-flying aircraft, can actually spell out letters or look like symbols? In retrospect, I should have joined the various frequent flyer clubs when I was Vice Chair, but it didn’t seem important at the time. I guess everyone has that one lesson that is learned many times, and just as quickly forgotten.]* It was not always a smooth journey, because there was always the unexpected, wasn’t there?

These past two terms have flown by and, I might add, with alarming speed. To sum it up succinctly, the various international/national/state conferences, board meetings and calls, administrative councils, D.C. grand rounds, paperwork, project review work, etc., etc., blurred into a continuous stream of experiences. But of all the listed preceding activities, I should reveal that my favorite times were those spent attending chapter conferences. That is where the heart and soul of the ASFPM resides, where concepts can become realities.

Since the last issue of *News and Views*, your Association has testified twice before Congress, completed the update of the 2007–2012 Strategic Plan, finalized the FY ‘09-10 Goals & Objectives, held elections, accepted a chapter application, completed a draft ASFPM Transition Plan & Sustainability Framework, and completed the preparation for the 2009 annual conference in Orlando, Florida. Our indefatigable Executive Office staff, officers, board members, and policy committees are justly known for their penchant for completeness and detail and an overall team effort. *[We should have a sign posted somewhere in the Madison office: “No Issue Left Behind.”]*

Three items of interest I would like to toss your way come from my last round in Washington, D.C. on May 18th and 19th. We met with several congressional staffs and federal agency staffers, among which there was not a single caviling personality! A great idea surfaced during a conversation with Representative Gene Taylor’s office that tied in wonderfully with our concern for residual risk behind levees. It seems that a delegation from a Texas Levee Board has candidly expressed that they would not be opposed to purchasing flood insurance for the structures protected behind their accredited levee. *[Whoa, they said what?]* This would be a validation of residual risk management that would be most versatile and innovative. Perhaps this idea can lead to the development of an Accredited Levee Group Policy (aka AL Policy) through the NFIP. Of course, self insurance whereby the levee owners utilize the public market could also happen. There are excellent potentials here that exist on so many levels.

Secondly, that nagging problem of establishing a community-adopted base flood elevation in an A Zone was discussed during our meeting with the Federal Highway Administration. I had always informed the local floodplain administrators (in Mississippi) to use any nearby Mississippi Department of Transportation bridges as possible sources of information on the 1% chance flood level along a stream or river. *[This was a hopeful statement on my part.]* Happily, we were informed by the senior FHWA bridge engineers that this was indeed the case.

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Musings from the Chair (cont.)

Upon my return to Pearl, I contacted our MDOT Bridge Division and was told that they had such reference material on file. It seems that many surveyors may not be aware of the procedure for obtaining that data, but there exists online information or they could just call the bridge or roadway design division and ask. That was a “eureka moment” 12 years in arriving. If you keep poking at a problem long enough, it will eventually begin to unravel.

Lastly, the use of the Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) insurance rider has always been a nebulous concept to many floodplain managers at both the state and local levels and, of course, to insurance agents. Unless a local community official had actually been approached by a homeowner for a statement of substantial damage (by flood) or the NFIP State Coordinator had become involved in local damage assessments, it wasn't really understood. In the past few years, FEMA headquarters has made available to the State Coordinators two links in BureauNet for ICC information. It is possible to pull out the individual ICC claims data in great detail or just a summary table. In Mississippi, 1,093 flood insurance policyholders have mitigated their damaged properties (after Katrina) to the tune of \$25 million dollars. There are also 144 claims in progress or pending. That is encouraging news indeed! [*The State Hazard Mitigation Officers can use the claim sheets to verify a local match to a HMA grant, an excellent tool indeed.*] I'm sure that we can use this data in our local and state level floodplain management programs.

Flood insurance can provide not only a quick claims check to a policyholder, but also provide mitigation actions in a *much* shorter period of time than that taken by the traditional grant programs. Why wait years for what can be done in months? This is a valuable tool for floodplain managers to utilize; it just takes outreach to the public, the insurance agents, and knowledge of damage assessment techniques. Now if FEMA would increase the ICC ceiling to \$50 thousand and remove the “flood-damaged-only” requirement, wholesale mitigation could occur.

So this is it. Jacki Monday told me on day one that I shouldn't be afraid to do some creative thinking, so in my last 11 missives, I have posited many suggestions or facts and attempted to share whatever information I managed to glean with you. [*My objective to be remembered as the author of an interesting newsletter column, much as Giovanni da Verrazzano is widely remembered as a great explorer, has been fully realized.*] It can be stated in earnest that the Association provides a continuum of ideas that cannot be discounted by our policymakers and partners without consequences. To have been your “out there” public scribe has been an honor and a privilege.

I hope to see y'all in Orlando; be sure to attend as many of the breakout presentations, workshops, and plenary sessions that you possibly can. I understand that we will have a record number of 24 international attendees this year. I hope this is an indication of the future for us, to have a greater presence on the world stage of floodplain management. After all, the ASFPM annual conference is the premier mitigation event of the year, anywhere. [*I plan to establish my personal headquarters poolside.*] Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your support and gifts of your precious time. Last thoughts . . . the past two years weren't good years, they were grand. Ciao! ■

GREEN WORKS TO REDUCE FLOOD LOSSES

33rd Annual Conference of the
Association of State Floodplain Managers
June 7–12, 2009 • Orlando, Florida



Join the ASFPM and hundreds of floodplain management professionals in exploring the issues and problems associated with reducing flood damage, making communities more sustainable, and managing floodplains and their fragile natural resources. The ASFPM annual meeting will feature technical presentations, panel discussions, field trips, the Certified Floodplain Manager exam, business meetings, training, networking, exhibits, and more.

Access registration information at <http://www.floods.org/orlando>.

American Generosity can be Misdirected

This week I attended an event at a local high school. The occasion was the presentation of honors and scholarships to graduating seniors. Over 100 students received honors of all rank (this is a large school with a graduating class of about 500), and most of them have been accepted into a college with some or all of their tuition and other expenses paid. However, what struck me was the number of other scholarships (over 50—one of which was to our granddaughter, I'm proud to say) given out beyond that to deserving honor or other students, mostly funded by individuals, organizations, or businesses here in Madison.

This was a close-to-home demonstration to me that here in America we are indeed a generous people. We have empathy for those in need (hard for me to imagine any college students who don't need cash), and not only do we give personally, but also our federal government gives as well, using our tax dollars. There is a plus and a minus to this government generosity when it comes to disaster relief, however. Although it makes sense to help those who suffer from unexpected damage from natural hazards with some financial and other assistance, when we help the same ones over and over, we are supplying people with incentives to continue to live at risk and not to change their behavior.

In fact, the behavior of people becomes one of whining for government to bail them out again and to lobby for more money from those who are not living at risk, while rejecting personal responsibility for their roles in living at risk and failing to change where they live or how they build/rebuild to reduce that risk. Suddenly, in their minds, saving them from the ravages of natural hazards becomes the purpose of government, and they do not see—or want to see—what their own roles should be in coping with flooding or other risks.

In fact, we often help such folks stay at risk by allowing (or even encouraging) them to rebuild in the same location, thinking that that is what will make their lives better after the disaster. That same argument is used to allow low-income people to avoid mitigation, to be released from purchasing flood insurance, and so on . . . as if by helping low-income people remain at risk we are somehow helping them out. Surely we don't really mean to say, "I don't want to live in high risk flood areas, but it's okay for poor people to live there." There is something wrong with that picture.

In the end, it all comes down to "who pays" for development that is at risk for flooding. I have talked about that before, and cover it in some detail in the National Policy Initiatives of ASFPM 2009 annual report, written by Sam Medlock and me, which is posted on the ASFPM website at http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_National_Policy_annual_report_2009.pdf. I urge you to read it.

We can't—and probably don't want to—eliminate disaster relief, if it is properly used for what are truly unforeseen and unavoidable events. Instead, using it more wisely should be our goal, so that we provide more rewards to those individuals, communities, and states who undertake actions on their own to reduce their risk exposure, and not use it to encourage people to remain at risk.

See many of you in Orlando in a week! ■

The Insurance Committee's Corner

(Mis) Understanding the National Flood Insurance Program

As many of you readers may have experienced, “disconnects” occasionally appear between what the flood insurance side of the NFIP requires versus what floodplain management requires. Likewise, there are rules, guidelines, and regulations that are misunderstood and misinterpreted, and often go “uncorrected” for many years. For example, can you grandfather (insurance) zones for pre-FIRM buildings after a new DFIRM becomes effective? Who really is responsible for what when identifying substantially damaged buildings so that the policyholder can receive Increased Cost of Compliance payments? How do you successfully get a Severe Repetitive Loss Property off the list when it has been successfully mitigated?

Well, these and other questions have come to the Insurance Committee, so the Committee (with outgoing Chair Al Goodman as the moderator) will be addressing these and other related issues at a workshop from 2:00 to 5:00 on Thursday afternoon (June 11) at the ASFPM National Conference in Orlando. Come learn more about grandfathering, Increased Cost of Compliance coverage, and the Severe Repetitive Loss Property program from Bruce Bender, Paul Osman, and Chad Berginnis. Also, they will share some of their first-hand experiences (and you can share yours). If you have any questions or issues that you would like addressed, you can email them in advance to insurancecorner@floods.org. ■

*This column is produced by the ASFPM Insurance Committee.
Send your questions about flood insurance issues to insurancecorner@floods.org
and they will be addressed in future issues of the newsletter.*

Got an Idea for Local Floodplain Protection?

Applications are due August 1 for the next round of technical assistance from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service. The amazingly knowledgeable RTCA staff provide technical assistance to communities so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways.

The ASFPM has long promoted this program (and participated in the Rivers and Trails Coalition) not only because it achieves results, but also because it does not provide direct funding but instead lends technical expertise and advice so that localities can build their own capability. The RTCA staff actually go out into communities and help with consensus building and crafting solutions. There are many examples of such projects across the nation that have improved management and protection of floodprone areas while providing other community benefits.

The applicant may be a state or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens' group. Preference is given to projects that include both natural resource protection and outdoor recreation. Applicants are encouraged to discuss project ideas with RTCA staff before submitting an application.

➤➤➤ For more information about the application procedures and ideas for projects, visit <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.

Professional Opportunities

Technical Coordinator for CRS

Insurance Services Office (ISO), which provides FEMA with technical support for administering the Community Rating System, is looking for a person to help manage internal work related to the CRS as a Technical Coordinator, Community Hazard Mitigation Programs. The person hired may choose to work at ISO's home office in Jersey City, New Jersey, or in either of the Regional Processing Centers located in Marlton, New Jersey (outside Philadelphia), or Chicago, Illinois. The coordinator will be responsible for

- Coordinating activities among the CRS (Flood) Program and other ISO mitigation programs (Building Code Evaluation and Public Protection); and providing technical support for the Flood Program;
- Providing program support to information technology staff for software development and testing; and
- Providing technical support to ISO corporate communications for marketing and advertising flood program products and services (brochures, displays, booths, etc.).

The successful candidate will have a combination of the following knowledge, skills, and experience:

- College degree with 4–6 years experience in floodplain management, emergency management, evaluation of community building codes, and/or municipal fire protection analysis;
- An undergraduate or graduate degree in fire protection, occupational/industrial safety, risk management, homeland security, engineering, or an insurance-related field;
- Thorough understanding of building construction, hazards associated with building occupancies, municipal fire department administration, and loss mitigation techniques;
- A working knowledge of computers; hydrology and hydraulics; GIS, topographic mapping and map reading; surveying; planning; construction plan review; and stormwater regulations;
- Excellent skills in verbal and written communication, public speaking, math, and customer service;
- Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) status will be required within one year of employment.

▶▶▶ Those interested in the position can visit <http://www.jobs-isofamily.icims.com> and insert 18868 into the keyword search block. ISO is an equal opportunity employer and offers a competitive salary and a solid benefits package with medical, dental, 401(k) and ESOP.

American Rivers needs California Flood Management Director

American Rivers is looking for a Director of Conservation to lead and manage the California Flood Management campaign, which focuses on protecting and restoring watersheds and wetlands of the California Bay Delta. The Director is responsible for integrating his/her work into the organization's national flood management campaign, which is a central component of American Rivers' climate change adaptation goals. S/he develops and executes a multi-jurisdictional campaign to restore and protect river and floodplain systems and improve flood safety in the Central Valley, by promoting flood management reform and innovative, "green" flood control infrastructure that can adapt to future climate change, restore riparian and floodplain ecosystems, help recover listed fish species, and improve the quality and reliability of state water supplies. The Director will work with leading scientists; federal, state, and local government; agricultural interests; conservation partner groups; and other primary stakeholders.

Qualifications include an advanced degree in river science, physical sciences, law, policy or other related disciplines, along with 10-15 years experience working in flood management, river and wetland restoration, or water and land conservation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and tributaries, including conservation planning and advocacy. The candidate should be an effective advocate with strong skills in oral and written communications, analysis, budget management, and fundraising.

Salary will be commensurate with experience, and a full benefits package is offered. American Rivers is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

▶▶▶ Send a resume and cover letter (including salary history) to Fanette Jones, Director of Administration, American Rivers, 1101 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; or fjones@amrivers.org, with "Attn: California Flood Management Position" in the subject line. No phone calls, please. For more about American Rivers, see <http://www.AmericanRivers.org>.

Washington Report

✧ All referenced legislation and committee reports can be viewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. ✧

Legislative Report

Lots of Activity . . . poised for Legislation and Appropriations

Congressional committees have been engaged in considerable preparation for acting on legislation and for marking up appropriations bills. Hearings of interest to the ASFPM have been numerous, including many on all aspects of climate change and adaptation. Many appropriations hearings have been held on agency budgets for Fiscal Year 2010. The ASFPM presented testimony at two hearings in May, one on restoring FEMA to independent status and another on recommendations for a national levee safety program.

The details of the Administration's FY 2010 budget requests for the federal departments and agencies were finally sent to Capitol Hill in early May. A budget blueprint had been released in February, but details were insufficient for holding appropriations hearings. Appropriations subcommittees in both the House and Senate held hearings in late April and in May, and markups are expected to begin in House subcommittees during the first weeks of June.

Flood Insurance Reform

A flood insurance reform bill very similar to the one passed by the House last session is expected to be introduced in mid June by Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chair of the Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee. Because the bill would differ only slightly from the version previously passed by the House, it is possible that it could be considered under a Suspension of the Rules procedure usually used for non-controversial bills.

This House bill was initially developed several years ago. Since that time, the multi-year NFIP Evaluation was completed and released, a significant FEMA Inspector General's report on the NFIP was issued, and a number of U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports dealing with various aspects of the NFIP were also produced. The ASFPM has expressed concern about the lack of opportunity to consider those findings and recommendations. The ASFPM has suggested that, if hearings cannot be held and full consideration be given to those significant reports, it would be preferable to reauthorize the NFIP for a two- or three-year period rather than the five years called for in the previous House and Senate bills. If legislation cannot be completed by September 30th, it will be necessary to pass a simple reauthorization until the reform bill can be passed.

Timing of action on the Senate side is unclear at present, although it is likely that the Senate, too, will consider a bill very much like its bill from last session. Major areas of difference between the House and Senate then would remain the same—forgiveness of the NFIP debt, inclusion of wind insurance, and creation of a catastrophe reserve fund.

A number of bills have been introduced in the House in response to concerns about FEMA's new flood maps and about the associated outreach process. Mapping issues have become particularly politically sensitive due to the decertification of levees and the upcoming expiration of many Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) agreements. According to committee staff, it is not likely that those bills will be included in the reform bill, but that could change.

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Washington Report (cont.)

Pre-disaster Mitigation Reauthorization

The President's budget request for FEMA includes a substantial change to the PDM program, moving it to a risk-based formula instead of the competitive process now in use. According to FEMA officials, the program would continue to include the \$500,000 per state allocation, but the remainder of the funds would be made available according to the yet-to-be-developed risk-based formula. States would make determinations as to which applications to fund, with FEMA's role being to assess each application for feasibility and cost effectiveness.

The House passed a bill in April (H.R. 1746) reauthorizing the PDM program for three years, increasing authorized funding to \$250 million per year, increasing state allocations to \$575,000 from the current \$500,000, and codifying the competitive nature of the program. The program will expire on September 30th if no reauthorization action is taken. Since the House passed this bill codifying the program as competitive, the path forward is unclear at present. The Senate has not taken any action on reauthorization and the Appropriations Subcommittees for the Department of Homeland Security have not indicated their views on the proposed change.

National Catastrophe Insurance

Several bills have been introduced to provide some means of federal assistance to "backstop" homeowners insurance coverage in the case of catastrophic events.

One, H.R. 2555, introduced by Ron Klein (D-FL), would "ensure the availability and affordability of homeowners insurance coverage for catastrophic events." Another, H.R. 83, introduced by Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), would provide federal reinsurance for state natural catastrophe insurance programs. Both of these bills are pending in the House Financial Services Committee. Another bill, H.R. 998, introduced by Tom Rooney (R-FL), would provide for tax-deductible contributions by property and casualty insurance companies to a tax-exempt policyholder disaster protection fund for payment of claims arising from catastrophic events. That bill is pending in the House Ways and Means Committee. Bill Nelson (D-FL) has introduced S. 886, which would provide a federal guarantee of state catastrophe loans, thereby enabling states to issue bonds.

No action has been scheduled on these bills.

Levee Safety

The Water Resources Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing May 19th on the report of the National Levee Safety Committee, created by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, and on recommendations for a national levee safety program. ASFPM Executive Director Larry Larson provided testimony, which is available on the ASFPM website. The testimony supports the Levee Safety Committee report, but notes that its recommendations are focused on levee engineering and suggests that land use and other considerations should be incorporated in an effective levee safety program. Testimony was also presented by the American Public Works Association, the National Wildlife Federation, the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Future action is uncertain at this time. Staff have indicated there will likely be another hearing on the subject. There is clearly subcommittee interest in developing a bill to create a levee safety program.

Watershed Planning

The Water Resources Subcommittee of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee is drafting a bill to provide for and support sustainable watershed planning. Subcommittee consideration of a draft is possible very soon. More details will be available when the bill is introduced.

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Washington Report (cont.)

Disaster Recovery

Hearings continue to be held on issues associated with recovery of the Gulf Coast states from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The most recent hearing was held by Mary Landrieu's (D-LA) Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. That subcommittee also held a hearing on May 20th on the role of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants in disaster recovery.

Climate Change

Both the House and Senate have been engaged in numerous hearings on the topic of climate change, geared toward development of major climate change legislation in this session. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce held four hearings in late April focused on a draft bill entitled the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454). The hearings dealt with a wide range of considerations such as green jobs and economic benefits, allocation policies to assist consumers, ensuring U.S. competitiveness and international participation, low carbon electricity, carbon capture and storage, renewables and grid modernization, energy efficiency, transportation, building appliances and utilities, carbon market assurance, state roles, Clean Air Act, and adaptation to climate change.

The bill was approved in markup on May 21st after a four-day session during which some 96 amendments were considered. Eight other Congressional committees have jurisdiction over some portion of the bill, so those committees will have to weigh in before it can come to the House floor in late June or July. The House Ways and Means Committee has some jurisdiction over major portions of the bill, but that committee is heavily engaged in health care legislation, which it considers a priority.

The National Climate Service Act of 2009 (H.R. 2407), was introduced by Bart Gordon (D-TN) to establish a National Climate Service at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The bill was introduced May 14th and referred to the House Science and Technology Committee. The bill would "add climate change forecasting, warnings, education and reponse to NOAA's weather-related duties," according to *The CSO Weekly Report*. The Committee has scheduled a markup for June 3rd.

Reauthorization of the State Clean Water Revolving Fund

Both House and Senate committees are moving on legislation for state clean water and drinking water revolving funds and programs to repair infrastructure and improve water quality. The Senate bill, S. 1005, has been reported out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The markup reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for 5 years. The bill authorizes \$39 billion for critical water infrastructure needs to reduce stormwater and wastewater pollution. The measure includes financial incentives for states and localities to fund sustainable, cost-effective "green" infrastructure projects. The measure would authorize the WaterSense Program, a voluntary product labeling program, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The House bill, H.R. 1262, was passed by the House on March 12th.

Coastal Issues

CZMA Reauthorization—The Coastal Zone Management Act coalition continues to work toward a reauthorization of the CZMA. The coalition, in which ASFPM is a participant, is preparing a letter explaining the need for CZMA reauthorizing legislation. The Administration's budget request for CZMA state grants is \$66.1 million, the same funding level as last year except that it includes \$3.44 million for coastal zone management activities within NOAA.

Working Waterfronts—H.R. 2548 was introduced in May by Chellie Pingree (D-ME). The bill creates a grant program to support state development of plans for working waterfronts. Local waterfront interests include commercial fishing, recreational fishing, aquaculture, boat building, and other shore-related uses. States may determine which working waterfronts are at risk and in need of protection.

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Washington Report (cont.)

FEMA & DHS

The Obama Administration announced on May 13th that FEMA would remain within the Department of Homeland Security. After months of demurring during Congressional hearings and press conference, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano testified on May 13 that the President had decided that FEMA would stay within the Department.

Ironically, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure had scheduled a hearing for the next day on the bill (H.R. 1145) introduced by Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) and Ranking Minority Member John Mica (R-FL) to restore FEMA to its former status as an independent agency. The hearing proceeded regardless, with the view that it would be important to get on the record concerns about how FEMA is functioning as a part of DHS. The ASFPM's testimony (available at the ASFPM website) noted the bureaucratic slowdown of consideration of policy and regulatory issues, the diminished agency morale, and the lack of DHS attention to hazard mitigation and risk identification.

With assurances from senior FEMA officials, the ASFPM noted in oral testimony that new FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate intends to fully implement the prescriptions for enhanced FEMA autonomy that were passed by Congress in the post-Katrina emergency management legislation, with the full support of Secretary Napolitano.

Nominations and Confirmations

Craig Fugate, former Florida Director of Emergency Management, was confirmed and sworn in as FEMA Administrator. Jo-Ellen Darcy is awaiting full Senate confirmation as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Peter Silva is awaiting Senate confirmation as the Environmental Protection Agency's Assistant Administrator for Water. David Hayes has been confirmed as Deputy Secretary of the Interior after "holds" on his confirmation regarding oil and gas leases and energy development on public lands were lifted.

Coalitions

Meetings of the Stafford Coalition and the Flood Map Coalition are scheduled for June. The Stafford Coalition had a conference call meeting with Deb Ingram, head of FEMA's mitigation programs, on May 27th to discuss the proposed changes to the PDM program. A CZMA Coalition conference call took place on May 26th to discuss a letter urging Congressional action this year on CZMA reauthorization. The ASFPM participates in these coalitions as well as the U.S. Geological Survey Coalition, the Streamgage Coalition, the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Coalition, and the Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance.

The USGS Coalition testified before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on May 15th regarding President Obama's budget request for the U.S. Geological Survey. The FY 2010 budget request for the USGS is \$1.098 billion, a 5.2% increase from last fiscal year. However, in its testimony the USGS Coalition recommended increasing the budget to at least \$1.3 billion, to include enhanced funding for climate change and energy initiatives, the national stream gage network, arctic ecosystem studies, staff for biology cooperative research units, extended continental shelf studies, and the youth conservation corps. The enhanced budget would enable the USGS to "address the growing backlog of science needs that has resulted from stagnant real budgets for more than a decade, accelerate the timetable for deployment of critical projects, and launch science initiatives that address new challenges." The testimony reiterated the Coalition's support for "more federal investment in USGS programs that underpin responsible natural resource stewardship, improve resilience to natural and human-induced hazards, and contribute to the long-term health, security and prosperity of the nation." The testimony is posted on the ASFPM website at http://www.floods.org/PDF/Testimony/USGS_Coalition_FY2010_Senate_Testimony.pdf.

—Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison
Rebecca Quinn, CFM, Legislative Officer

Publications, Software, the Web

■ *The New Orleans Hurricane Protection System: Assessing Pre-Katrina Vulnerability and Improving Mitigation and Preparedness* is the report of the National Research Council's Committee on New Orleans Regional Hurricane Protection Projects, just released. In the wake of Katrina, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) to address fundamental questions about the performance of the hurricane protection system during the storm and to assess the risks posed to the New Orleans region by future tropical storms. The Corps asked the National Academy of Engineering and the National Research Council convene a committee of experts to examine a series of draft reports released by the IPET. This, the committee's fifth and final report, reviews the final IPET assessment and identifies key lessons from the Katrina experience. Its overarching conclusion is that the major guiding principle behind the construction and maintenance of the New Orleans hurricane protection system is flawed. It is not possible to "make the city safe," the NRC concluded, because "the greater New Orleans metropolitan region is naturally vulnerable to flooding, especially in areas below sea level." Instead, "better hurricane preparedness for New Orleans will require a combination of structural and nonstructural measures." Its nine specific recommendations are well-founded and many are essential to future regional sustainability. Among them are (1) the voluntary relocation of people and neighborhoods out of particularly vulnerable areas; (2) significant improvement in building-by-building floodproofing; (3) re-examination the 100-year flood standard; and (4) consideration of a revamped hurricane protection system that would have a smaller overall footprint. National Academies Press. 2009. 68 pp. Available for free online reading at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12647#toc. An excellent 4-page "Report Brief" is available on that site as well.

■ *Adaptation 2009: Safeguarding Fish, Wildlife and Natural Systems in the Face of Climate Change* is the report of a conference by the same name that was held in Washington, D.C., in February 2009, hosted by the Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program and the National Wildlife Federation. The two-day dialogue among 130 management, policy, and research professionals was focused on how natural resource management and conservation will need to be transformed to meet the challenges of climate change. Participants analyzed four major natural systems: (1) coasts and estuaries, (2) freshwater ecosystems, (3) forests, and (4) grasslands and shrublands. After plenary presentations on the status of science and management in these systems, breakout groups identified top priority management and policy changes that will be required for natural resource agencies to begin coping with the impacts of climate change. The extent of overlap among priorities was noteworthy. There is a clear need to manage on a landscape scale, rather than focusing solely on single resources or species, because so many of the management objectives are interrelated—healthy forests contribute to functional groundwater recharge areas, which are essential for healthy freshwater systems, which in turn help maintain healthy coastal habitats. The conference concluded with a call for the establishment of an ongoing forum for sharing knowledge and promoting best practices in the emerging field of natural resource adaptation, tentatively christened the "Climate Change and Ecosystems Alliance." National Council for Science and the Environment. 2009. 33 pp. Background information, presentations, audio, and the report are available on the conference website at <http://ncseonline.org/WHPRP/NWF/Adaptation2009/>.

■ *Hurricane Katrina and Economic Loss* is a special issue of the *Journal of Business Valuation and Economic Loss*. Its articles explore some of the subtle complexities of how the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe affected local businesses, larger industries including casinos, state and local economies, tax revenue, environmental values, and more. Vol. 4, Issue 2. Accessible through the Berkeley Electronic Press at <http://www.bepress.com/jbvela/announce/20090504/>.

■ Disaster Recovery Resources is the website of a project sponsored by the Public Entity Risk Institute to identify, collect, and share information, in various forms, that contributes to an understanding of the community recovery process after a major disaster. The website is an ongoing process, masterminded by Claire B. Rubin, that collects, analyzes and annotates (to the extent possible) the most relevant and useful information on disaster recovery. Among the many topics for which bibliographic entries have been compiled are definitions of recovery, governmental programs, policy statements from FEMA and other agencies, modeling the recovery process, contributions from the private sector and non-governmental organizations, classic academic case studies of recovery and reconstruction, financial and economic recovery, college courses and syllabi on recovery, post-disaster waste and corruption, and many more. Contributions from researchers, practitioners, and consultants are welcome. Visit at <http://www.DisasterRecoveryResources.net>.

■ *Climate Literacy: The Essential Principles of Climate Science* is a 13-page guide that includes information on how individuals and communities can help reduce climate change and its impacts. The guide is a product of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program and was compiled by an interagency group led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Climate Literacy guide supports the development of formal and informal educational materials about climate science, plus professional development opportunities for educators. Eight principles and a host of supporting concepts list information for individuals and communities to know about earth's climate—including information about the impacts of climate change as well as possible approaches to adaptation or mitigation. The guide's developers intend to integrate the framework into national and state education standards, and to support teacher workshops to ensure that educators are proficient in teaching the concepts of climate science. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2009. 13 pp. To download the guide, go to <http://www.climatescience.gov/>.

■ *The 2009 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* is a new report by the United Nations' International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, based on massive database drawing together specific information on various hazards worldwide—including droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis—over a 32-year period, 1975-2007. These data, from a cross-section of United Nations, governmental, scientific and academic sources, were then “crunched” to provide an unprecedented series of global disaster risk trends, maps, and related tools. In remarks upon the release of the report, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon notes that “Disaster risk is rising in an alarming way, threatening development gains, economic stability and global security while creating disproportionate impacts on developing countries and poor rural and urban areas . . . While we cannot prevent natural phenomena such as earthquakes and cyclones, we can limit their consequences. Sound response mechanisms after the event, however effective, are never enough. Pre-emptive risk reduction is the key.” The document identifies three primary “risk drivers:” unplanned urban development, vulnerable livelihoods, and ecosystem decline, all of which are underpinned by climate change. The report urges a radical shift in development practices, and a major new emphasis on resilience and disaster planning. It proposes a 20-point action plan to reduce risk, focusing on stepping up efforts to respond to climate change; strengthening the economic resilience of small and vulnerable economies; supporting community initiatives; enhancing national and local governance; encouraging the adoption of high-level development policy frameworks; and, above all, investing in sustainable disaster risk reduction measures. The Report is a collective effort of the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, United Nations Environment Programme, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the ProVention Consortium, regional inter-governmental and technical institutions, national governments, civil society networks, academic/scientific institutions, and many others. The report and related documentation can be accessed at <http://www.preventionweb.net/gar09>.

■ States and communities wondering what others are doing to address climate change and looking for guidance on how to approach the topic can now access one website for resources and information. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center has established the Coastal Climate Adaptation website, which focuses on adaptation-related resources, such as local and state plans, new policies, case studies, risk and vulnerability assessments, and decision-support tools. The site also provides access to basic climate science resources and has a forum where users can suggest new resources, engage in dialogue on the issues, and submit comments and questions. Check it out at <http://community.csc.noaa.gov/climateadaptation/>.

■ *Compendium of Disaster Assistance Programs* is an inventory of federal programs that provide financial and other assistance to individuals, states, localities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses affected by a disaster. The data were compiled based on surveys of agencies and reviews of past catalogs of assistance. It does not reflect basic research provided by federal agencies, the mission assignment activities directly related to response, or any of the many programs administered by non-government agencies. For each of the 240 programs that provide disaster assistance—spread among 22 federal agencies or departments—the compendium lists the entity that administers the program and a summary of the program's purpose, along with the sources of more details. OIG-09-49. Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security. 2009, 56 pages. The report is available in pdf format at http://www.dhs.gov/xoig/assets/mgmt/rpts/OIG_09-49_Apr09.pdf. The website, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, contains up-to-date information about the specific programs; see <https://www.cfda.gov/index?cck=1&au=&ck=>.

■ *Smart Growth Policies: An Evaluation of Programs and Outcomes* is the result of a two-year evaluation of whether four selected states achieved the objectives of their smart growth policies, typically spelled out in legislation. Several states engaged in what was first called growth management, and then smart growth, beginning more than 25 years ago—Oregon has spent nearly four decades promoting compact development to contain sprawl. The study examined the performance of Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, and Oregon in five major objectives of smart growth: promoting compact development, protecting undeveloped land, providing a variety of transportation options, maintaining affordable housing, and achieving positive fiscal impacts. Although all states achieved some success, no state did well in all five performance measures. Maryland was successful in protecting natural resources through its land preservation programs and state funding for the purchase of farmland conservation easements; Oregon's commitment to urban growth boundaries helped reduce development on farmland in the Willamette Valley, and encouraged commuters to use transit, walk, or bike to work. But some smart growth states failed to achieve objectives in key policy areas, such as providing affordable housing in Oregon and Maryland, or promoting compact urban growth in Florida. The study also looked at four other states without formal statewide smart growth legislation: Colorado, Indiana, Texas, and Virginia. Although Colorado had no statewide smart growth program, it outperformed some states with such policies by supporting local government actions to pursue effective land use planning within a regional context. The report recommends that, to be successful in achieving smart growth, objectives and implementation mechanisms be clearly articulated, and that states use a variety of regulatory controls, market incentives, and institutional policies coordinated at the regional scale. The authors conclude that more information and better data are needed, particularly in the areas of environmental quality, public finance, and the nature of interactions among smart growth policies—land use, transportation, and housing affordability, for example. Gregory K. Ingram, Armando Carbonell, Yu-hung Hong, and Anthony Flint. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. 2009. 288 pp. \$35. Free download available at <http://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/PubDetail.aspx?pubid=1571>.

Calendar

See more flood-related meetings, conferences, and training at
<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/calendar.asp>.

- June 7–12, 2009:** GREEN WORKS TO REDUCE FLOOD LOSSES: THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Orlando, Florida. 12 core CECs. See <http://www.floods.org/orlando>.
- June 15–18, 2009:** UNIFIED MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (E212), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- June 22–25, 2009:** WETLAND CONNECTIONS: CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLANDS SCIENTISTS, Madison, Wisconsin. See http://www.sws.org/2009_meeting/index.mgi.
- July 6–9, 2009:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 11–15, 2009:** DELIVERING CONSERVATION TODAY AND TOMORROW, Dearborn, Michigan. Annual Conference of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. See <http://www.swcs.org/>.
- July 13–16, 2009:** BASIC HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS (E313), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 19–23, 2009:** COASTAL ZONE '09, Boston, Massachusetts. Hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center, with numerous sponsors. See <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>.
- July 20–23, 2009:** MANAGING FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (E273), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact EMI at (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 20–24, 2009:** THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, Los Angeles, California. Sponsored by the University of Florida, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others. See <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2009/orgcomm.html>.
- July 27–30, 2009:** HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS FOR FLOOD (E172), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- July 31, 2009:** FIRST STATEWIDE CONFERENCE FOR NEBRASKA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Lincoln, Nebraska. Sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association. See <http://dnr.ne.gov/floodplain/floodplain.html>.

- August 2–7, 2009:** ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND A GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY, Albuquerque, New Mexico. 94th meeting of the Ecological Society of America. See <http://www.esa.org/albuquerque/>.
- August 3–6, 2009:** HAZUS MULTI-HAZARDS FOR MITIGATION PLANNING (E296), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 10–13, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 17–20, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS III (E284), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 17–20, 2009:** RESIDENTIAL COASTAL CONSTRUCTION (E386), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 19–20, 2009:** FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HAWAII FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. For information, contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123.
- August 31—September 3, 2009:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- September 7–11, 2009:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, San Jose, California. See <http://www.floodplain.org/conference.php>.
- September 14–17, 2009:** ADVANCED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS II (E282), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- September 15–18, 2009:** FALL MEETING OF THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF STORMWATER AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Crested Butte, Colorado. See <http://www.casfm.org/>.
- September 15–18, 2009:** CONFERENCE OF THE INDIANA ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, Angola, Indiana. See <http://www.inafsm.net/conferences/2009/conference09.html>.
- September 20–23, 2009:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Stillwater, Oklahoma. See <http://www.okflood.org>.
- September 21–23, 2009:** FALL CONFERENCE OF THE ARKANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, Springdale, Arkansas. See <http://www.arkansasfloods.org/afma/calendar/index.php?allevents=2009>.
- September 28–30, 2009:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW YORK STATE FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Latham, New York. See <http://ny.floods.org/index.html>.

- September 27—October 1, 2009:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS OF MISSISSIPPI, Location to be determined, Mississippi. See <http://www.msafmm.com/>.
- October 7–9, 2009:** JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN, STORMWATER, AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT AND THE MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Superior, Wisconsin. See http://wi.floods.org/index_files/Conference.htm.
- October 14–16, 2009:** FALL WORKSHOP OF THE NEW MEXICO FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION, Hon Dah, Arizona. See <http://www.nmfma.clubexpress.com/>.
- October 15–16, 2009:** FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT, Somerset, New Jersey. See <http://www.njafm.org/index.php?id=2&category=annualconference&ann=N>.
- October 21–23, 2009:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLOOD AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES, Colorado Springs, Colorado. See <http://www.nafsma.org>.
- October 22, 2009:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGERS, Linthicum, Maryland. Contact Mjilliam@g-and-o.com or see <http://www.mafsm.org>.
- October 31—November 5, 2009:** IAEM ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EMEX EXHIBIT, Orlando, Florida. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers. See <http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/FutureConferences.htm>.
- March 2–5, 2010:** ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE MICHIGAN STORMWATER-FLOODPLAIN ASSOCIATION, Bay City, Michigan. See <http://mi.floods.org/>.
- April 19–22, 2010:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- April 25–29, 2010:** MONITORING FROM THE SUMMIT TO THE SEA—SEVENTH NATIONAL MONITORING CONFERENCE, Denver, Colorado. Sponsored by the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. See <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2010/index.html>.
- May 16–21, 2010:** THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office, (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>.
- June 14–17, 2010:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- August 9–12, 2010:** NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (E278), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Contact (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.
- May 15–20, 2011:** THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, Louisville, Kentucky. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123, or see <http://www.floods.org>.



NEWS & VIEWS

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