ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS
Chapter Director Annual Report 2009
District 4 (FEMA Regions VII and VIII)
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District 4 encompasses FEMA Regions 7 and 8 that comprise the following states: Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah.

State Chapters in District 4: Missouri, Colorado
State Associations in District 4: Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Montana

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Missouri
Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (MfSMA)

In response to severe storms, flooding and a tornado during the period of September 11 to 24, 2008, the State of Missouri has been approved for $5.3 million in FEMA grant monies for disaster aid for residents suffering damages.

The annual conference was recently conducted from April 15 to 17, 2009 in the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri. The conference included six concurrent sessions related to Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, and Water Quality Issues; CFM Review Session and Exam; Keynote Address by Doug Plasencia (Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.); Boat Cruise on Lake of the Ozarks; and a Golf Tournament. A special Floodplain Award was initiated at the conference this year. According to Tom Krahenbuhl, President of MfSMA, the award was named after the Missouri Father of Floodplain Management, George Riedel!

The MfSMA membership is approaching 400 and following the testing opportunity at the annual conference, includes over 115 Certified Floodplain Managers. The MfSMA is planning to conduct four CRM review sessions/workshops/exams during 2009. In addition, the organization published a newsletter (Winter 2009) available on the website. Much effort has been devoted to upgrades to the website and all those interested in floodplain activities in the state of Missouri are welcome to visit the website at www.mfsma.org.

Colorado
Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM)

The Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) was very active and continued to provide its membership with numerous training and educational opportunities. CASFM presently has 676 active members including 303 members registered as CFMs. In the last year, the organization provided four CFM training and review workshops throughout the state including the annual conference, provided training and testing opportunities for over 70 individuals.

The 19th Annual CASFM conference was held on September 10 to 12, 2008 at Crested Butte Mountain Resort in Crested Butte, Colorado. The theme of the conference focused on Low Impact Sustainable Stormwater Management with the keynote address provided by Dr. Tom Ballestero from the University of New Hampshire. Technical sessions focused on issues related to Low Impact Development (LID), Stream Restoration, Technical Modeling, Floodplain Management and Technical Preparedness, Urban Stormwater Runoff, Watershed Protection and Sustainable Stormwater Management. Over 275 people registered for the conference and were treated to a variety of technical presentations, field trips, and social events.
Workshops continue to be conducted in several areas of the state and focused on topics including the Community Rating System, Stormwater Quality/LID, and FEMA's New Flood Elevation Certificate. The Elevation Certificate/Flood Insurance Workshop was held Thursday, April 30, 2009 at the City of Aurora. The FEMA Elevation Certificate provided an overview of the EC, how it's utilized by the various users, and upcoming changes to the form. Outreach to the membership also included the publication of the CASFM newsletter which was provided in the Summer/Fall of 2008.

The CASFM-Ben Urbonas Scholarship was established in 2002 as the CASFM Scholarship. It was renamed to the CASFM Ben Urbonas Scholarship in 2008 to honor its namesake for his more than 30 years of service to both Colorado and the Nation with his pioneering work in the fields of Stormwater Quality and Floodplain Management. This scholarship is awarded to a graduate level student studying in a field closely related to the goals of CASFM.

Much of the history of the organization, along with training opportunities, committee reports, meeting minutes, and conference information is presented on the CASFM website at www.casfm.org. If you are interested in the floodplain and stormwater activities within the state of Colorado, please visit the website.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Montana
Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM)

Todd Klietz, Chair of the Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM), reported the following significant floodplain issues continue to prevail within the state, or are receiving the attention of the AMFM membership:

1. NO FILL BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

For over 30 years, the State of Montana mandated residential construction on fill. No other options such as stemwalls or piers were allowed. With a mandatory 15’ perimeter fill, the obstruction created by an average home was nearly tripled. On April 1, 2009, the Governor signed HB 270 into law which removed the two words “on fill” from State law. The Bill was sponsored by Rep. Michele Reinhart (D) Missoula and was overwhelmingly supported by both political parties in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. AMFM members assisted with bill drafting and testified in support of the legislation. Montana communities expect to be issuing permits for no-bill build alternatives this construction season. Montana continues to mandate 2’ of residential freeboard and .5’ floodways.

2. HB 129 - AUTOMATIC ADOPTION

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation promulgated a Bill which streamlined the FEMA floodplain map adoption process. At AMFM's urging and testifying before legislative committees, the Bill was re-written to ensure that the State of Montana (rather than local government) remains responsible for validating that the FEMA maps and FIS are prepared in accordance with more stringent State requirements including .5’ floodways.

3. RIVERINE SETBACKS

This is the third consecutive legislative session where laws were proposed (and failed) to require mandatory streamside setbacks for new construction. This year's proposal minimized the number of streams that would have required setbacks, had bipartisan and gubernatorial support but died in legislative committee. The Association continues to provide information and testimony as requested by lawmakers.
The 10th Annual AMFM Conference titled, “FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT: APPLICATION TO IMPLEMENTATION” that was held March 2-5, 2009 in Great Falls Montana was a great success. Over 100 participants attended the 3-day conference.

There were presentations, technical workshops, training sessions, exhibits and field tours in a variety of areas including wetland delineation and levee tours. The sponsors this year, PBS&J, AECOM, Baker, RLK Hydro, RPA, Confluence, HDR and Water Environmental Technologies made each aspect well worth the time and travel for everyone.

Over the past year, AMFM co-sponsored land use law attorney, Stephanie Kruer, to speak about the importance of the “No Adverse Impact” (NAI) concept at the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) annual convention. AMFM joined forces with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Missoula City/County and Ravalli County in sponsoring and staffing a well-visited flood awareness booth at the Western Montana Fair. Plans are already underway to continue providing interactive floodplain education and outreach opportunities, such as the Rolling Rivers Trailer Demonstration, at a variety of Montana’s trade meetings, conventions and fairs.

In the Fall of 2008, the AMFM was proud to publish its first newsletter. Topics of discussion within the newsletter included: Dealing with the Community Acknowledgement Forms, What to Do about Retention and Detention Ponds, Joint Application for Working in Montana’s Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains and Other Water Bodies, and Latest News in Map Modernization.

AMFM presently has over 81 members of which 46 members are CFMs.

AMFM recently submitted an application to ASFPM to become a chapter. The application is presently being reviewed by ASFPM with approval anticipated prior to the ASFPM conference in Orlando.

Please refer to the AMFM website (www.mtfloods.org) for any questions related to the organization.

Utah
Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (UFSMA)

Utah and the Utah Floodplain Management Association (UFSMA) are concerned with the development pressure to develop in floodplain areas and dealing with compliance and map revisions. Education and outreach is needed to teach the local floodplain administrators and developers on the proper ways to develop in floodplain areas, or better yet, to keep it as open space. Another interest for this year's conference is flood insurance cost and coverage. These are topics that we can hopefully address at this year's conference November 19 to 20, 2009 in St. George, Utah.

Within the last year, two newsletters were produced by the State Floodplain Administrator, John Crofts. Many floodplain issues are presented and discussed within the newsletters. The USFMA is currently designing a web page on Blogspot.com due to problems in the reliability of the state’s webpage. In addition, USFMA is also going to start “Twitter” (a social media post) to better communicate Association activities.

There are currently 100 members within the Association, including 18 CFMs. The review and exam for the CFM will be offered again in November 2009 in conjunction with the annual conference.

Application materials for a submittal to ASFPM to become a chapter have been received and presently being completed. It is hopeful that the application will be submitted to ASFPM in the near future.
Nebraska
Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NeFSMA)

The Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NeFSMA) is sponsoring its first annual conference Nebraska Floodplain Managers on Friday, July 31, 2009 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Highlights of the conference include: Keynote Address by Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Public Works Special Project Administrator, Watershed Management, City of Lincoln; and technical sessions related to Floodplain Management 101, Flood Insurance Basics and the NFIP, and Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers. CFM credits are offered for technical sessions related to Hydrology and Hydraulics for the Non-engineer, Structural and Non-structural Options for Reducing Flood Losses, and FEMA Elevation Certificate Workshop. Additional details and registration for the annual conference can be found on the association website, [www.nefsma.net](http://www.nefsma.net).

In addition to the first annual floodplain conference, NeFSMA continues to sponsor quarterly meetings, technical presentations/workshops/training opportunities, publication of a quarterly newsletter and coordination of the training and testing associated with the CFM program through the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Presently, over 50 CFM are registered within the State of Nebraska. From an outreach perspective, NeFSMA provides presentations at local Nebraska conferences to educate attendees about floodplain and stormwater management.

North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa

In the last few months, interest has been expressed by floodplain professionals within the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa with respect to the formation of a floodplain association and ultimately the chartering of an ASFPM state chapter. Initial information has been provided to these professionals and assistance offered by ASFPM regarding formation of an association.