ASFPM Professional Development Committee Status Report

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia

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The primary charge of the Professional Development Committee is to provide vision, leadership and direction to ASFPm members regarding professional and related issues affecting the floodplain management profession. The PDC strives to maintain a high standard of integrity, ethical behavior and practices, professional conduct, and skill for all Certified Floodplain Managers. PDC also strives to expand and promote the professional status and legal responsibility of the CFM and review and monitor professional education opportunities for CFMs.

The PDC endeavors to maintain the accuracy and reliability of the Certified Floodplain Manager exam(s) with an annual review and report of the exam questions and results and direct support to the Certification Board of Regents and the ASFPm executive office.

The 2015 Major Work Items of the Professional Development Committee are:

1. Refine CFM ethics training – offer another ASFPm ethics webinar – develop training package to be delivered to state chapters.
2. Work with CBOR on defining core competencies of floodplain managers.
3. Refine state mandated CFM discussion paper to include updates from state legislative efforts.
4. CFM exam annual review.
5. Certification survey update.
1. **Refine CFM Ethics Training – Offer Another ASFPM Ethics Webinar – Develop training package to be delivered to State Chapters**

In October 2014, the Professional Development Committee offered a 1.5-hour webinar through ASFPM’s webinar series. More than 90 attendees participated and we received great feedback from the group. PDC plans to present another offering of this webinar in 2015.

A review of other professional organizations to determine mandatory ethics training requirements was conducted in 2010 and updated each year. The review originally involved 28 certifications and has now been expanded to 39 different certification programs. Most have some type of “Code of Ethics,” but few have mandatory ethics training requirements. However, mandatory ethics training is required by individual state licensing boards for various professions. The CFM survey indicated that about 55 percent of respondents believe mandatory ethics training will benefit the CFM program. In discussions over the past several years, ASFPM’s PDC decided that more ethics training would be needed before mandatory ethics continuing education could be required for CFMs. The PDC will continue efforts to prepare an ethics training package that can be distributed to state chapters and easily taught by leadership in the state associations.

2. **Work with CBOR on Defining Core Competencies of Floodplain Managers**

CBOR is currently working on an effort to define floodplain management as a labor category. As part of this process, PDC will assist CBOR in research of professional positions considered to be “floodplain managers” to define the core qualifications and requirements of these positions.

3. **Share State Mandated CFM Requirements document with State Chapters**

The CFM survey indicated a high percentage of respondents believe states should require local floodplain administrators to obtain the CFM designation. In 2014, Bill Tingle, former PDC co-chair, released a white paper titled, "State CFM Training Requirements for Local Floodplain Administrators." Legislation was introduced in the 2015 Texas Legislature that would require community floodplain officials to attend a minimum of six hours of floodplain management training per year. The PDC white paper provided valuable information regarding state law in Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and West Virginia. The PDC is currently updating the 2014 PDC white paper to include "lessons learned" regarding the Texas legislation.
4. **CFM Exam Annual Review**

PDC committee members participated in the 2014 CFM exam review that produced an updated CFM exam that was released Jan. 1, 2015. Release of the 2015 CFM exam completes the Reliability and Validity assessment of the CFM program that was initiated in 2008. ASFPM contracted with Ohio State University to perform the R&V assessment. PDC committee members participated in the assessment that resulted in a five-year R&V implementation plan that incorporated CFM program changes and improved the national CFM exam.

5. **Certification Survey Update**

PDC committee members conducted the 2014 annual certification survey that reviews 40 certification programs and compares key elements such as ethics, continuing education requirements, certification exam, association membership fees, and recertification fees. The certification survey is shared with the ASFPM Board of Directors and CBOR to help evaluate the national CFM program. The 2015 certification survey is underway.