Greetings!

It is that time of year when ASFPM officers, board members and committee co-chairs are busy writing their yearly reports prior to our annual conference. There is always a lot of work and progress to report and it is always hard to summarize. This has been a particularly busy year with the implementation beginning of the Nation Flood Insurance Program Reform Act 2012 (Biggert-Waters 2012) and the devastation brought by Hurricane Sandy on the East coast. It marks the first full year that Chad Berginnis has served as Executive Director of ASFPM. It also marks my last year as Chair of ASFPM.

A measure of our success is the progress towards meeting our Goals and Objectives which are set each year by the Board of Directors. The annual reports from our Policy Committees, Executive Office, Legislative Liaison, Chapter Directors, and Regional Directors will provide the details of our efforts and progress and illustrate the wide-ranging activities of ASFPM.

ASFPM added two new chapters this year: Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association and the Northwest Regional Floodplain Managers Association (NORFMA). NORFMA includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and British Columbia. We now have 35 Chapters!

Several ad hoc committees were established this year with specific objectives and goals. The Higher Education Ad Hoc explored the concept of establishing college level curriculum and degrees in flood risk management. On November 27, 2012, the ASFPM Board passed a resolution crafted by the ad hoc committee and established a standing committee to work with partner agencies to actively promote the increase of existing flood risk management curriculum within institutions of higher learning already engaged in teaching flood risk management courses, and to seek out opportunities within other disciplines, such as Planning and Emergency Management, to promote flood risk management courses within their current curriculum structure. The goal of this committee is to foster the development of 2/4-year degree programs at colleges and universities. This will be a process and much appreciation to Robert Frietag and Warren Campbell for serving as Co-Chairs and to the 9 current members of the committee.

The By-Laws Ad Hoc committee lead by Bill Nechamen performed a much needed update to the ASFPM By-Laws and to the Procedures for the Nomination and Election of ASFPM Board of Directors which had last been updated 15 years ago. The ASFPM Board approved the revised By-Laws on December 11, 2012.
The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) Charter Ad Hoc Committee examined the current charter and has prepared an update of the Charter and is working on the development of a Policies and Procedures Manual.

ASFPM is a vibrant and growing organization, but we need to plan for the future financially. An ad hoc Long-term Financial Committee will be examining our budget process and working on projection models. One aspect of our growth is providing valuable services to our members and chapters. The Chapter Ad Hoc Committee examined services to chapters and how ASFPM’s chapter model compares to other professional organizations. After lengthy debate a phase-in of increased chapter dues was decided upon by the Board of Directors so that chapters support a larger percentage of the costs for Chapter services and less is supported by member dues.

As ASFPM grows in numbers, the challenge will be to stay in touch and in tune with our membership increases. The Executive Office hosts well attended Chapter webinars (by Chapter Coordinator Kait Laufenberg), regular announcements go to members with breaking news, and many of our policy committees hold regular conference calls and/or webinars. The quarterly call/webinar for State Floodplain Managers and State Hazard Mitigation Officers and their staff has continued to draw 40 or more participants per call. The next Chair will continue hosting this forum for exchange of information and practices and identification of issues that ASFPM should take to FEMA or other federal partners.

Going a little out of the box, ASFPM and the ASFPM Foundation each provided $5,000 to the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. to support the Designing for Disaster exhibition. The Designing for Disaster exhibit will discuss disaster mitigation as an evolving science and highlight the tools and strategies that today’s engineers, designers, planners, and business and community leaders are investigating and adopting to build safer, more disaster resilient communities both here and abroad. The exhibit will be in Washington DC this coming year.

My heartfelt thanks are extended to the dedicated staff of the Executive Office and to the tremendously talented volunteers who make this organization outstanding. It has been a fantastic 4-years as Vice-Chair and then Chair of ASFPM. It has been an honor and a pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, ASFPM Board of Directors