The primary charge of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) is to provide vision, leadership, and direction to ASFPFM 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 (CFMs). 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 Certified Board of Regents and the ASFPFM Executive Office. In addition to attending meetings of the Certification Board of Regents and Committee Chair and POD conference calls, the information below provides a current update of the accomplishments and activities of the PDC.

**The 2013 Major Work Items of the Professional Development Committee are:**

1. Investigate Mandatory ethics training for CFMs and prepare Ethics Training Package to be delivered to State Chapters.
2. Develop Floodplain Management Career Brochure.
3. CFM Survey Results Summary.
4. Share State Mandated CFM Requirements document with State Chapters.
5. Support the ASFPFM Higher Education Committee.
6. Ongoing Committee Activities.
7. CFM Exam Annual Review.
8. Support ASFPFM’s Certification Board of Regents (CBOR).
1. **Investigate Mandatory Ethics Training for CFMs**

A review of other professional organizations to determine mandatory ethics training requirements was conducted in 2010 and updated in March 2013. 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% of respondents believe mandatory ethics training will benefit the CFM program. In 2012, the Professional Development Committee reviewed and commented on revisions to the CFM Code of Professional Conduct. Results were presented to CBOR. An ethics training workshop was held in OKC and Louisville conferences, and the material continues to be refined. In 2013, the PDC provided recommendations to CBOR to assist development of an Ethics White Paper. 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. The PDC has offered to develop the Ethics Training as an on-line course that can be offered by Red Vector and allow all proceeds to be paid to the ASFPM Foundation. The PDC will relinquish all copyrights to the ASFPM Foundation for the Ethics Course.

2. **Develop Floodplain Management Career Brochure**

Research was conducted of professional positions considered to be “floodplain managers”. The PDC is working to determine career requirements (interests, education, etc) required for positions considered to be “floodplain managers”. The information is being compiled in an outline. Once completed, graphics/publishing support will be necessary to develop a brochure layout. The PDC plans to distribute the brochure digitally to ASFPM and State Chapters.

3. **CFM Survey Results Summary**

In March 2011, a ten question survey was developed and posted online to gather input from the membership on a variety of issues regarding professional development. Over 1800 CFMs completed the survey. The survey results were summarized in 2012 and posted to the PDC Committee section of the ASFPM Website. Results were summarized by overall participation and separated into local government/private sector response summaries. The summary report can be viewed at:


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

The CFM survey indicated a high percentage of respondents believe states should require that local Floodplain Administrators (FPAs) obtain the CFM designation. A Discussion Paper is being finalized that summarizes research and it will be circulated to committee members for review and discussion before presenting a recommendation. Once finalized, the paper will be distributed to State NFIP Coordinators and State Chapters.

5. **Support the ASFPM Higher Education Committee**

The ASFPM Board approved a Higher Education Committee to promote the profession of Floodplain Management into a degree via formal training at Universities. The PDC can support this committee as needed to create an action plan and report to be submitted to the ASFPM Board. A listing of colleges and universities offering floodplain management and related courses, prepared by the PDC, was turned over to the ASFPM Higher Education Committee.
6. **Ongoing Committee Activities**

Bill and Jessica conducted the Annual Meeting of the Professional Development Committee in San Antonio in May 2012. Jessica attended the ASFPM Committee Chair retreat in August 2012. Jessica and Bill regularly participate in ASFPM’s Committee Chair Conference Calls and POD calls.

7. **CFM Exam Annual Review**

On 1/1/2013, ASFPM transitioned to the updated CFM exam incorporating changes recommended by the Reliability and Validity (R&V) report prepared by Ohio State University. This completed Phase 3 of the R&V recommendations. Phase 4 is now under way and includes replacing True/False questions with multiple choice questions and revising exam questions as needed to reflect FEMA and NFIP changes. The remainder of R&V tasks will include program administrative changes.

8. **Support ASFPM’s Certification Board of Regents (CBOR)**

The PDC continues to work with CBOR to update the CFM Ethics statement. Also, CBOR has initiated research into introducing Coastal as a specialty certification. PDC has provided recommendations to CBOR in their efforts to produce a White Paper for this initiative.

9. **Certification Survey Update**

The PDC updated the Certification Survey March 28, 2013, and delivered it to CBOR in both printed and electronic format. CBOR then provided the updated Survey to the ASFPM Board. The Survey now includes 39 different Certification Programs and provides valuable information to both the ASFPM Board and CBOR.