ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS  
Professional Development Committee  
2011–2012 Report  
San Antonio, TX

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The primary charge of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) 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 (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 Certification Board of Regents and the ASFPM 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 2012 Major Work Items of the Professional Development Committee are:

1. State Mandated CFM certification or Required CFM certification for Floodplain Management Tasks  
2. Investigate Mandatory ethics training for CFMs  
3. CFM Survey Results Summary  
4. Committee Activities  
5. CFM Exam Annual Review  
6. Support ASFPM’s Certification Board of Regents (CBOR)

1. State Mandated CFM certification or Required CFM certification for Floodplain Management Tasks  

CFM survey indicated a high percentage of respondents believe states should require that local Floodplain Administrators (FPAs) obtain the CFM designation. Discussion Paper is being finalized that summarizes research and it will be circulated to committee members for review and discussion before presenting a recommendation.
2. **Investigate Mandatory Ethics Training for CFMs**

A review of other professional organizations to determine mandatory ethics training requirements was conducted in 2010. The review involved 28 certifications. 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 2012, the PDC will work to prepare an Ethics Training Package that can be distributed to State Chapters and easily taught by leadership in the State Associations.

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 this year 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.

4. **Committee Activities**

Bill and Jessica conducted the Annual Meeting of the Professional Development Committee in Louisville in May 2011. Jessica attended the ASFPM Committee Chair retreat in August 2011. Jessica and Bill led a committee conference call in October 2011 with over 90 participants. Jessica and Bill regularly participate in ASFPM’s Committee Chair Conference Calls and POD calls.

5. **CFM EXAM Review**

On 1/1/2012, 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 2 of the R&V recommendations. Phase 3 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.

6. **Support CBOR**

The PDC will work with CBOR in the update of the CFM Ethics statement. Also, CBOR has initiated research into introducing Coastal as a specialty certification. PDC will assist CBOR in investigating this initiative.