

THE INSIDER

A Publication for Members - November 2011

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Madison, WI 53713 www.floods.org
608-274-0123 Fax: 608-274-0696 katrien@floods.org



5th National FloodProofing Conference Levees & Beyond: Making Wise Choices

November 28 - December 1, 2011
Sacramento, California

Full attendance will earn 12 core CECs for CFMs!

Did you appreciate the [October News & Views](#) levee coverage?
If so, don't miss out on the opportunity to further explore levees (and more)!

The early NFPC discount registration period has been extended to November 14! Submit your registration now and save money! The conference brochure and registration forms are available on the conference website at <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=739>

Exhibitors are welcome and should inquire with Conference Planner, Chad Ross, in regards to special deals. Contact Chad at chad@floods.org



Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at rcquinn@earthlink.net. Comments welcomed!

With the publication of this issue of the Insider, I mark four years writing this column. Every other month, as I start writing, I think back on floodplain management questions I've answered and issues that have prompted discussions. Recently, I shared with a colleague how few comments I get – which sometimes makes me wonder if folks are reading it. I also mentioned that I don't know if many of these articles have been picked up in state floodplain management newsletters.

Continued on page 5

In This Issue

- 1 - [NFPC - Coming Up!](#)
[Floodplain Manager's Notebook](#)
- 2 - [Assoc. Director - Operations Report](#)
[ASFPM Staff Update](#)
- 3 - [CRS Task Force](#)
- 4 - [ASFPM Partnerships](#)
- 5 - [FPM Notebook continued...](#)
- 7 - [ASFPM Conferences Update](#)
[CFM Corner](#)
- 8 - [Washington Legislative Report](#)
- 10 - [ASFPM Foundation](#)
- 11 - [Chapter Corner](#)
- 12 - [News - International](#)
- 13 - [News - Social Media Update](#)
- 14 - [Scholarships, Grants](#)
- 15 - [Job Corner](#)
[FPM Training Calendar](#)

Associate Director - Operations Report - Ingrid Danler

"I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it."

Thomas Jefferson



Without a doubt, the biggest impression I carry about the ASFPM and its membership, is what a hard working Association of planners, engineers, and scientists, we are.

Despite our membership doing double-and-triple duty, as budgets are cut and clients and projects expect more with less, I am finding that it seems to strengthen our collective resolve and the commitment to good floodplain management. The disasters of 2011 taught, tested, and challenged us, both professionally and personally. It is the availability and accessibility of other professionals that have helped us teach, resolve, and make forward progress on the nation's planning and future. That's what makes ASFPM great, and what makes your membership and personal involvement in this Association so important.

It is membership renewal time, and we at the Executive Office in Madison, WI, are actively implementing the strategic plans that have been developed, as we continue to grow in size. We are currently nearing the launch for our new project management online tool, Tenrox, which will grow with us for internal project management, Federal grants, tracking invoicing, travel, and timesheets. Hand-in-hand, is the conversion of our financial accounting, budgeting, and reporting system, to a compatible QuickBooks Premiere Non-Profit edition 2011. For those that have undergone new software implementation, you may be aware that to simultaneously take on the two is a huge undertaking, yet it is the right step for the Association and our membership to move into the future.

I am happy to report that we are now fully staffed, with the final addition of Kevin Currie to our staff on November 1st as Member Services Coordinator. Along with Katrien Werner, Technical Writer, and Bob Geenen, Financial Accounts Manager, we expect great things as we develop the tools, materials and information needed to better serve you. Also, a big congratulations to Diane Brown, ASFPM's first employee, who celebrates 30 years with the ASFPM this week. If you have a chance to thank her, we know she would appreciate that, and we cannot imagine the ASFPM without her smiling presence!

Gather your cowboy boots for our 2012 Annual Conference May 20-25, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas. Over 300 abstracts were submitted by the October 31st deadline, and we expect to have another amazing conference in 2012.

ASFPM Staff Update

Please join us in welcoming Kevin Currie to the ASFPM team!

As of November 1, 2011, Kevin Currie has joined the ASFPM team to fill the position of Member Services Coordinator. Kevin is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire, with a double major in Political Science and Spanish. Kevin comes to us with direct experience working with association membership databases and membership management. He has also worked with outreach, publications, and conference registrations, and we feel confident that he will bring the right mix of skills, experience, professionalism and friendly demeanor to our office and our members.

Contact Kevin at kevin@floods.org

Diane Brown, Communications and Events Manager, celebrates 30 years with ASFPM this week.

Be sure to send her a note thanking her for her many contributions over the years! Her work is greatly appreciated!

Alan Lulloff, Senior Project Manager, has been appointed to the National Institute of Building Science (NIBS): Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (MMC).

Having an ASFPM member on this Board serves our members well and we are happy Alan will continue to represent our members on mitigation on the Council. We also wish to thank George Hosek, who represented ASFPM on this Council for many years, for his unselfish efforts in doing this for our members. Thank you!

Community Rating System Task Force

Summary of the September 2011 Meeting

Submitted by: *Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM*
State representative on the CRSTF

The FEMA CRS Task Force bade farewell to Berry Williams and Les Bond in the city of Denver this past September. They have decided to hang up their spurs. Their “too many years to count” contributions and participation as consultants to this group have resulted in a CRS program that has grown from a simple idea to a fully fledged program with 1,192 member communities. They will officially retire at the end of this year.

Standing left to right: **Berry Williams and Les Bond.**



We also said farewell to two of the local government representatives, Shannon Watson (Harris County, TX) and Maria Angeles (San Jose, CA). They served a year past their original tenure periods and did Yeoman’s duty as committee chairs.

Summary: During the course of the week of September 12th, 35 people attended the session. Fort Collins CRS Coordinator, Marsha Hilmes-Robinson, gave an excellent presentation on her community’s program and the Colorado Association of Stormwater & Floodplain Managers’ initiatives in the realm of CRS support.

I must say that the recent Weighting Forum and the numerous task force meetings, with their attendant committee conference calls, have been important for the results they conducted to the development of the 2012 CRS Coordinator’s Manual. Not surprisingly, the majority of the week was spent discussing the issues associated with the manual. To assuage the anxieties of those worrying about the new changes, FIMA offers the following:

- Don’t deviate too much from the Weighting Forum recommendations;
- Changes should not target an increase in overall points unless recognizing additional mitigation effects;
- Stage in the larger changes in points;
- Have a balance; keep the total dollar discount at about the same level;
- Minimize the number of communities that will lose CRS classes;
- Consider the effect of the change in larger communities, and;
- Conduct an outreach to Congress to explain changes in communities’ CRS discounts.

After FEMA decides upon the final total of points available in CRS, the points for each Activity and Element will be developed. With this decision, an analysis will be made of all member communities to determine who will lose points and who will gain points. If a community will lose a Class, a profile will be developed for the ISO Specialist’s use in assisting communities in taking appropriate actions to obtain other points that might bring the rating back. Community verification visits will be scheduled in such a manner that adversely affected members will have more time to tune their programs. Cycle visit timelines will also be studied.

Webinars (which have been successful in the past) will be conducted for all interested stakeholders. A newsletter, information on the website, and sessions at FPM conferences will be conducted. All feasible efforts will be made to ease communities through the. (*The Task Force is not attempting to create ‘haute cuisine’ here, just systematic new recipes for CRS Activities and their attendant rating schedules.*) It should be noted that the CRS website will migrate to the FloodSmart website from its old host at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) site. This move should be completed by early 2012.

Good news in reference to CRS User Groups, they have increased to 11 organizations nationwide. The concept is beginning to catch on, and many positive results have been obtained through this volunteer effort. Additionally, there are at least twelve state FPM associations which now have CRS dedicated committees, with more forming. All ASFPM State Chapters are encouraged to discuss the formation of CRS committees, as part of their technical support to their membership. I foresee great accomplishments in the future and extend my thanks to all for the work that has been done thus far.

Continued on page 4

Now I must deviate from my standard report conclusion. I would like to thank ASFPM for providing the opportunity to serve as the representative to the Task Force these past two years. On October 31st, I will retire from state government and relinquish the post of State Floodplain Manager, which I have held these past 14 years. I look forward to entering the heady days of perceived leisure and endless possibilities. Who knows, y'all might see me later, working in some other FPM capacity. Only time will tell.

ASFPM and Others Hosted Natural Floodplain Functions Workshop, October 19-21, 2011

“Preserving and Restoring Floodplain Natural Functions: Informing Assessment and Policy Efforts” was the title of a two-day workshop recently conducted by the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) in Washington, D.C. Focus was on sharing information and techniques for monitoring and assessing the natural functions and resources of floodplains among invited subject matter experts in the industry. The 80 participants represented over 50 non-governmental organizations and Federal, State and Local agencies.

The event was sponsored by members of the NFFA: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Association of State Wetland Managers; ASFPM; American Rivers; Natural Hazard Mitigation Association; The Nature Conservancy; National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies; Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management; Atkins Global; Coastal States Organization; and National Wildlife Federation. An affiliation of federal agencies, professional organizations, non-profit groups, and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, the NFFA mission is “to promote, protect, and enhance the protection, restoration, and management of natural floodplain resources” and their goals can be [found here](#):

Future reports will be found on ASFPM’s Natural & Beneficial Functions Committee page.

Contact ASFPM’s Communications and Events Manager Diane Brown at diane@floods.org to find out more about joining the affiliates to address these important issues.

ASFPM Hosted a Meeting of the NOAA CSC Digital Coast Partnership, in Madison, September 14-15, 2011

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Service Center, headquartered in Charleston, SC, has developed a website called the Digital Coast. This site provides the information needed by those working to conserve and protect coastal communities and natural resources. With the support of Mississippi State University, CSC has established a Digital Coast Partnership with a number of the website user organizations.

Partner feedback guides the development of this information resource, and provides a means by which diverse groups can come together, in order to address coastal issues. In addition to the organization representatives that routinely attend partnership meetings, local representatives of these organizations and staff from Wisconsin Sea Grant and Wisconsin Coastal Management Program were in attendance. The Digital Coast Partnership includes:

American Planning Association (APA), Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), Coastal States Organization (CSO), Mississippi State University, National Association of Counties (NACo), National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Services Center (NOAA CSC), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

For more information on the Digital Coast Initiative, please visit <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/>



NOAA Webinar - FREE! November 10, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time [Understanding Changes in Extreme Precipitation Projections in a High-Resolution Modeling Framework](#)

One of the challenges inherent to understanding the effect of global climate change on precipitation extremes is the mismatch of scale. Climate models simulate large-scale patterns of long-term change, while weather models generally diagnose small-scale weather phenomena such as extreme rainfall. Linking changes in the atmosphere to changes in surface hydrology (e.g., flash flooding and stream behavior) adds an additional layer of complexity to this challenge. Therefore, understanding the potential effects of global-scale changes on local-scale weather and hydrology requires new research approaches to connect questions and processes across all of these scales.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

So this month I decided to run a list of the topics covered over the past four years and to again invite State Coordinators and newsletter editors to look up the complete articles and use them in their education outreach efforts. ASFPM members may access previous Insider articles online at:
<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=367>

2007, November. A short note on flood openings that are required to be within 12" of grade – but which grade? And a comment on one state's legislature which was urging FEMA to reject proposed new flood maps because the state had been lucky enough to not have experienced many significant floods in the previous 40 years and because map revisions may expand Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) boundaries.

2008, January. Interesting increase in number of Preferred Risk Policies (PRP), with factors that may contribute to that growth. Notes on the NFIP evaluation report that indicates the majority of post-FIRM buildings have their lowest floors at/above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE), but enclosures below elevated buildings often not compliant.

2008, March. Buildings in more than one flood zone (or affected by more than one BFE) must comply with the more restrictive requirements, with references to the Elevation Certificate (EC) and the International Code Series.

2008, May. Accessory structures, even small sheds, are regulated – but do not have to be elevated if properly built.

2008, July. Tanks are development, too – and subject to local regulations and building codes. Notes on factors to consider when designing and permitting tanks in SFHAs.

2008, September. A significant number of buildings on FEMA's repetitive loss list are nonresidential buildings, and many of them have received more than \$1 million in claims. Why isn't there more focus on mitigation? Nonresidential buildings are eligible for Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) claims and mitigation grants.

2008, November. Buildings on sloping sites with crawlspaces or "walkout" lower levels, and complying with the requirements for flood openings.

2009, January. Communities in the NFIP are required to "maintain for public inspection" certain records, especially elevation certificates. Missing records is one of the most common problems identified during Community Assistance Visits (CAV). Despite state rules that may allow municipal records to be disposed after a period of time, documents related to floodplain management are to be retained permanently.

2009, March. This column listed 13 topics and invited readers to let the editor know which they'd like to see addressed detail. Topics ranged from fences in Flood Hazard Areas to additions to historic structures to buildings over water.

2009, May. Brief report on two of the NFIP evaluation reports that emphasized that "the success of the NFIP depends on communities ensuring that buildings and other development in their jurisdictions are constructed and maintained in accordance to these standards". Unfortunately, those same reports identify common reasons for noncompliance that could be costing policyholders a lot of money, but that are easily corrected. Most common are inadequately elevated service equipment and problems with flood openings.

2009, July. Thoughts and suggestions on a then-new mitigation planning requirement that requires communities to address participation in the NFIP and "continued compliance with NFIP requirements".

2009, September. HUD's new rules for installation of manufactured homes include provisions for installation in flood hazard areas. HUD requires all states to either use HUD's rules or have HUD determine whether state rules are consistent. HUD also requires states to adopt a program that includes training and licensing of Manufactured Home installers and sets an appropriate level of inspection.

2009, November. Electric meters and panelboards – are they subject to floodplain management or building code rules that require electrical (and other) service equipment to be elevated?

2010, March. Building codes based on the International Code Series include flood provisions and the majority of states have one or more codes based on the I-Codes, so this is an important topic. There are a number of advantages to this, and a number of challenges.

2010, May. Building codes based on the International Code Series refer to ASCE 24, Flood Resistant Design and Construction. Notes highlight some of the requirements in ASCE 24, including additional height above BFE (free-board) based on the type of building, specifications for fill used to elevate buildings, requirements for Coastal A Zones, and limitations on dry floodproofing.

2010, July. More details on building codes and limitations in ASCE 24 for dry floodproofing, including limits on human intervention and a requirement for emergency access. Floodproofing designs must account for flood loads associated with the level of protection, not just the BFE, and designs must be certified by a qualified registered design professional.

2010, September. Dealing with unsafe buildings – does the substantial improvement definition help or hinder? Every word in the provision that allows certain costs to be excluded is important.

2010, November. Three FEMA programs reinforce each other when it comes to nonresidential government-owned and private nonprofit buildings damaged by flooding in a declared disaster. The programs are the NFIP, Mitigation Planning, and Public Assistance. [In retrospect, I should have included FEMA's mitigation grant programs, some of which can be used to fund mitigation of these facilities.]

2011, January. Most states and communities that adopt building codes base them on the International Code Series. Some important differences in both defined terms and some common terms used by building officials and floodplain managers are described.

2011, March. Historic structures – the benefits of processing applications as variances rather than applying the “definition approach.” To not be subject to Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage rules, historic structures must retain their historic designation – a determination that should be left to the historic preservation professionals.

2011, May. This column was a grab bag of short topics, including whether we regulated below the BFE or below the lowest floor; measuring flood openings with fixed louvers; below-grade crawlspaces; citing FEMA's Technical Bulletins in regulations; and Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage in floodways.

2011, July. Handling additions to existing buildings results in more questions than just about any other aspect of floodplain management. FEMA P-758 covers the topic thoroughly. The Florida State Floodplain Management Office developed a handy-dandy quick guide that uses a flow chart format to help users figure out which rules apply.

2011, September. An overview of the substantial damage rule and the Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage that is available when NFIP-insured buildings in SFHAs are substantially damaged by flood. Insurance adjusters are to supposed FEMA submit data on buildings that “will probably be substantially damaged” – data that local officials can request from their NFIP State Coordinating Agency or FEMA regional office.

[RCQ]

NOTE! State Coordinators and newsletter editors are welcome to use the Floodplain Manager's Notebook columns, without express permission as long as credit is given. Send an email to rcquinn@earthlink.net if you'd like to see all columns published since November 2007. We can also provide the Word files for specific columns, which can be used to develop state-specific versions.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

ASFPM Conference Update



5th National Floodproofing Conference & Exposition Levees & Beyond: Making Wise Choices November 28 - December 1, 2011 – Sacramento, California 12 core CECs for CFMs

The early discount registration period has been **extended to November 14!** Submit your registration now and save money! The conference brochure and registration forms are available on the conference website at <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=739>.

If you have not yet made your hotel reservation, you'll want to do that right away. Our negotiated rate has now been **reduced to \$99** plus tax. This new rate applies to all current and future reservations. This rate won't last long – our block expires on November 14. Don't hesitate – visit https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcoming_groupID=3210216 to make your reservation directly with the hotel.

We are also still accepting exhibitors and sponsors for this event. If your company or organization is looking for additional exposure, we have four excellent sponsorship packages available to maximize your presence in front of the nation's floodproofing experts. Please contact Chad Ross at chad@floods.org or 608-441-3005 for more information.

ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference | Mission Mitigation May 20 – 25, 2012, San Antonio, Texas

The deadline for submitting your presentation for the 2012 conference has now passed. Each year, we have significantly more presentations than we can accommodate, so late submissions are not considered! Lead Presenters who are accepted into the program will be notified by December 31. The San Antonio Marriott River Center is now accepting hotel reservations for the conference and a limited number of government per diem rooms are still available. Please note that this block is for government employees only and you will be asked to show identification upon check-in to confirm your employment status. The hotel has set up a direct link to their reservation system, which is available at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ASFPM2012>. Both per diem and group rate rooms can be reserved using this link.



Award nominations Sought for ASFPM 2012 Conference - see Chapter Corner on page 11 for more information.

CFM[®] Corner

The email for certification questions is cfm@floods.org. This section will appear in each issue of the Insider. For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please send an email to Anita Larson at the above address.

CFM Renewal 1/31/2012

ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM renewal January 31, 2012 will receive a letter and renewal form via "snail" mail this month. If you do not receive your information in the mail by November 22, 2011, please contact Anita Larson at cfm@floods.org or (608) 274-0123 to ensure your CFM does not lapse.



Conference CECs

Please join us in Sacramento, CA, November 28- December 1st for the 5th National Floodproofing Conference. Full attendance will earn CFMs 12 core CECs towards the training requirement for renewal. More details can be found on www.floods.org

Washington Legislative Report

By: Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Ready for Action – But Nothing Assured

In the remaining weeks of the 1st Session of the 112th Congress, a number of bills involving issues of interest to floodplain managers are poised for action. Much uncertainty surrounds their path forward, however.



Federal agency appropriations for FY 2012 remain up-in-the-air, but progress is being made. A “mini-bus” (as opposed to “omnibus”) appropriations package, including three regular appropriations bills, passed the Senate on November 1st. A House-Senate Conference Committee is meeting this first week of November and a successful conclusion is expected. One regular appropriations bill has been signed into law. That leaves 8 regular bills yet to be completed. Another Continuing Resolution, extending federal agency funding at essentially FY 2011 levels until late in December, will probably be attached to the “minibus” in order to buy time for action on the other bills. Another “minibus” is rumored which would include funding for the Army Corps of Engineers. Funding for the Department of Homeland Security is rumored for a possible third “minibus”.

It is likely that the Senate Banking Committee’s version of the flood insurance reform legislation will be brought to the Senate floor during the next several weeks. Even if it passes the Senate, it is not at all certain that a House-Senate agreement on resolving differences between House and Senate bills could be achieved before the end of this Congressional session. That would leave the matter of extending authority for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) unresolved, probably necessitating an extension through the rest of the fiscal year via an appropriations bill.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) held a hearing entitled “A Review of the 2011 Floods and the Condition of the Nation’s Flood Control Systems”. Larry Larson, ASFPM Executive Director, presented testimony. A video archive of this hearing is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/ArchivedWebcast>. The Committee was interested in the status of levee systems and of floodplain management. While there was discussion of significant repair needs and the need for a more focused strategy for flood risk management, it is not likely that legislative activity based on this hearing will take place until the next Congressional session which begins in January.

A bill making a number of changes and reforms to the Stafford Act disaster relief, response, recovery and mitigation programs has been introduced in the Senate and could be taken up by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in November or December.

Other Action

Other legislative activity is finding its way to committee and/or floor consideration as part of other, often unrelated, measures.

On November 3rd, the Senate considered and voted down a portion of President Obama’s jobs proposal (S. 1769) that included funds for public works construction and for a new infrastructure loan fund. A Republican alternative was then offered and also voted down, but that bill (S. 1786) included delays for EPA rules and regulatory process changes and freezes.

In the House, two committees are developing measures to delay the processing and implementation of rules at EPA.

Continued on page 9

Flood Reform bills

The present situation is that the Flood Insurance Reauthorization and Reform Act (HR 1309) passed the House on July 12th. The Senate Banking Committee reported its bill out of committee on September 8th and the measure is awaiting Senate floor consideration. Because the report has not yet been filed for that bill, it does not yet have a bill number. Contents of the bill are listed in the September issue of "Insider". Additionally, a side-by-side comparison of the two bills is available on the ASFPM website.

Indications from staff of both the House Financial Services Committee and the Senate Banking Committee are that they see significant similarities in the two bills and that the differences do not seem impossible to resolve. Senate floor time is a problem, however, largely because a significant number of amendments could be offered, some of which could be controversial. It is also possible that staff level negotiations over differences could take place using the bill as reported out of the Senate Committee. If both House and Senate committees agreed to a final version, that measure could be brought to the House and Senate floors.

Stafford Reform bill

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) introduced the Disaster Recovery Act of 2011 (S. 1630) on September 23rd. This bill has been in development for quite a long time. The accompanying press release states that it builds on recommendations from FEMA and HUD as well as several organizations including the Association of State Floodplain Managers. The legislation seeks to improve recovery from major and catastrophic disasters and it includes significant elements to strengthen hazard mitigation, particularly as a component of recovery.

Section 201 of the bill amends Section 403 of the Stafford Act. Among its provisions, it would:

- authorize assistance for inspection of damaged structures

Section 203 of the bill amends Section 404 of the Stafford Act and deals specifically with hazard mitigation. Provisions include:

- Streamline reimbursement for mitigation work and the pre-approval process
- Provides for a unified interagency process and consideration of multiple structures as a group for the purpose of environmental, and historic reviews, benefits-cost analysis and fulfillment of cost-share requirements
- Provides a 10% increase in the federal share for individual mitigation projects in states that have adopted and actively enforce a building code based on a nationally recognized model building code
- Provides for an advance of up to 10% of a state or local government's estimated Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assistance
- Clarifies that the required benefit-cost analysis shall not include the costs of federally imposed environmental review requirements
- Adds building code enforcement by state and local governments to the list of eligibility criteria for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program
- Requires promulgation within 180 days of overdue regulations required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 relating to program administration by states
- Requires FEMA to develop a report within a year, in consultation with state and local governments, outlining obstacles to timely disbursement of mitigation funds, recommending improvements and determining the feasibility of development of a uniform application for mitigation assistance.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. There is some possibility that the bill could be marked up and reported out of committee before the end of the Congressional session.

Continued on page 10

Hearings and Mark-Ups

On October 18, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held its hearing on “Review of the 2011 Floods and the Condition of the Nation’s Flood Control Systems”. This was a long hearing, well attended by Senators on the Committee. The first panel consisted of eight Senators and Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO). The second panel included Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy and other Army Corps witnesses.

The third panel included Larry Larson (ASFPM), Gerry Galloway (U. of Md.), Brian Dunnigan (NE/DNR), Mayor A.C. Wharton, Jr. of Memphis, TN, Capt. Mike Lorina (Associated Branch Pilots), Buzz Mattelin (Lower Missouri Coordinated Resource Mgt Council and MT Assn of Conservation Districts), Terry McGean, (Ocean City, MD Engineer). Larry Larson’s testimony is posted on the ASFPM website. Other testimony can be found by going to www.epw.senate.gov and clicking on the hearing title or hearing date (October 18). A [video](#) of the hearing is anchored on this website, as well, and can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/ArchivedWebcast>

On October 12, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on “The Federal Role in Disaster Recovery and Response”.

On October 12 and 13, the House Homeland Security Committee marked up H.R. 3116, Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act. It was favorably reported out of committee on a largely party line vote of 20-12. A comparable bill, S. 1546, has been introduced in the Senate, but no DHS Authorization bill has ever passed the Senate.

Also on October 12, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled, “National Infrastructure Bank: More Bureaucracy and More Red Tape”.

On October 13, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held a hearing on H.R. 2903 “The FEMA Reauthorization Act” and H.R. 2904, “Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Modernization Act”.

On October 25, the House Homeland Security Committee’s Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communication held a hearing on emergency management assessment after Hurricane Katrina.

On November 4, the House Science Committee’s Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation will hold a hearing on the “Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Act”.

All legislation referenced (except the Senate flood insurance bill) can be viewed by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number, title or subject.

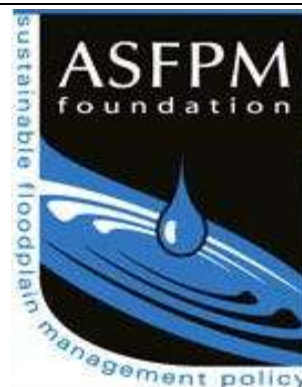
ASFPM Foundation

Be on the lookout later this month for the fall ASFPM Foundation newsletter, outlining their notable activities in 2011.

NEW this year – you will be able to easily donate to the Foundation on your member renewal form – just check the box and add the amount to your check or credit card.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Additional ASFPM Foundation information is available on the website: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/>



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Chapter Corner

Chapter Renewals

2012 is nearly here - don't let your Chapter Membership benefits lapse! 2012 Chapter Renewals have been sent to each Chapter's Contact 1 and 2. Please let Kait know if you have questions about your membership benefits or renewal. To avoid a lapse in chapter services, submit your renewal and payment no later than December 31, 2011 to [Kait Laufenberg](mailto:kait@floods.org), ASFPM, 2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713, P: 608-274-0123.

Congress Pressures the IRS to Share Nonprofit Audit and Compliance Information

By Kait Laufenberg

Not only does the newly revised [IRS Form 990](#) ask more questions about financial transparency and reporting than ever before, but now the information it collects from exempt organizations may be subject to Congressional scrutiny.

In October, the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Health Chairman, Charles Boustany requested audit and compliance information on exempt organizations from the IRS. Details can be found in the House's [Press Release](#). Areas covered in sections 2) Compliance, 3) Unrelated Business Income, and 4) Audit Process of the Press Release are those where Chapters may have the greatest *potential* risk.

This request comes on the heels of an [AARP Congressional Investigation](#) related to their "for-profit" sale of health insurance as an exempt organization. While each of the areas covered in this request appear to be direct outcomes from the Fed's investigation of AARP, it is certainly not limited to healthcare-related nonprofits. In recent years, the Congress has tasked the IRS with rooting out noncompliance, closer inspection, and tighter controls on financial accountability and transparency for exempt nonprofits. In just the past 12 months, the IRS has [revoked exempt status from over 275,000 nonprofits](#) nationwide as part of this initiative.

With the current economic climate, it seems unlikely the focus will shift off of nonprofits anytime soon. The time is ripe to get your exempt organizations' records and financial house in order. Chapters are urged to consult an experienced nonprofit accountant, tax preparer, and/or lawyer in your state to ensure the chapter's compliance with applicable laws and to aid in preparing for the future.

ASFPM is providing these recommended practices for guidance purposes. Chapters should consider the list of practices as illustrative not exhaustive. Each Chapter should independently evaluate what practices are best suited for their respective operation based on their needs and applicable state law.

**The next all Chapters conference call is November 17, 2011, 1:00 p.m. Central Time.
All Chapter Board and Committee members are invited to participate.
Please contact Kait at kait@floods.org to submit agenda items & RSVP.**

Award Nominations Sought for ASFPM 2012 Conference

ASFPM is currently accepting award nominations from Chapters and their members for consideration and recognition at the 2012 Conference in San Antonio, TX, May 20-25, 2012. A full listing of the ASFPM Awards with description of qualifying criteria can be found on the [Awards Page](#) of the ASFPM website. We're always looking for nominees from local government for the James Lee Witt Local Award (awarded to exemplary local programs or projects) and the Larry R. Johnston Local Floodplain Manager of the Year Award (recognizing exceptional local professionals). To nominate a floodplain manager for consideration, please submit the [Nomination Form](#) online per instructions on the form page. Award nominations are due via the online form no later than March 1, 2012.

If you have questions about an award or the process, please contact Diane Brown, Communications Manager at diane@floods.org.

General News & Information

International News

Thailand:

Aon Report on Thai Floods Highlights 'Extreme Human Suffering,' Economic Loss'

On October 31, 2011, Aon Benfield released a highly detailed report covering the extremely heavy rains to the widespread damage, an estimated \$6.5 billion, inflicted upon the Thai economy as a result of the ongoing floods in the region. Flood impacts extend far beyond the Thai border, given the important role Thailand plays in global commerce, industry, and agriculture. It is estimated that more than 9.4 million people were affected by the floods in at least 64 of the country's 77 provinces, and Thailand has declared a third of its provinces to be disaster zones as the country continues to battle against the rising flood waters.

To access the full report, **Thailand Floods: An Event Update**, please visit:

http://thoughtleadership.aonbenfield.com/ThoughtLeadership/Documents/201110_ab_apac_thailand_floods_update.pdf

El Salvador:

Recent Flooding in El Salvador - Call to Action

Nathan Weller, EcoViva, November 8, 2011

From Oct. 13-21, 2011, Tropical Depression 12-E hit El Salvador, causing the worst flooding disaster in recorded history. What started as a standard tropical depression and heavy rain event – characteristic of the country's wet season – soon became a full-fledged crisis. Heavy rainfall totaling 1.5 meters quickly eclipsed precipitation levels by nearly twice what had been observed over the same time period during Hurricane Mitch in 1998. With coastal soils waterlogged and unable to absorb such a massive amount of moisture, rivers in the region experienced peak flows never before seen by local communities or emergency responders.



Romero Flooding - Photo courtesy of EcoViva

At the height of the flooding, dams along the Lempa River released water at a rate of 9,500 cubic meters per second, over 3 times the volume that area levees were built to withstand. Faced with flows never before experienced, let alone planned for, some 17 kilometers of earthen levees along the banks of the Lempa River were destroyed in multiple places, further inundating dozens of local communities and destroying personal property, crops and cattle. The extent of the flooding was so severe that the mayor of Jiquilisco, the local province in the Lower Lempa River Basin, called for a complete evacuation of the area - the first time in local history that this has been known to occur.

In the Lower Lempa region, over 7,000 rural people were evacuated to schools, community centers, and other makeshift shelters. During the height of the emergency, community organizations became instrumental in coordinating relief efforts to compliment the government's capacity to respond. [EcoViva](#), an international development organization based in Oakland, California, has been in close contact with its local partner organization in Jiquilisco, the Mangrove Association, to assess damages, raise funds for both immediate relief, and mobilize resources and support for future reconstruction.

Officials throughout Central America have attributed the extreme rain totals to climate change. Raul Artiga of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) [stated](#), "Climate change is not something that is coming in the future, we are already suffering its effects." [Herman Rosa Chávez](#), El Salvador's Minister of the Environment, elaborated that the frequency of extreme rainfall events, defined by more than 100 millimeters (4

inches) in 24 hours, or 350 millimeters (14 inches) in 72 hours, in El Salvador has increased continually since the 1960s. Chávez said that until the 1980s, El Salvador “had never been affected by a Hurricane in the Pacific.” Since then, several of the worst weather disasters have resulted from Pacific weather patterns, including Hurricane Paul in 1982, Hurricane Mitch in 1998, and now Tropical Depression 12-E.

On October 20th, El Salvador’s President Mauricio Funes met with leaders in the Lower Lempa at EcoViva’s partner organization, the Mangrove Association, and promised support for reconstructing communities and local agriculture (pictured below). As part of this response, the President created an ad-hoc commission to assess next steps in flood mitigation. Comprised of the Ministries of Agriculture, Public Works, the Environment, and the Lempa River Hydroelectric Authority (CEL), this group is tasked with drafting a plan to reduce the probability that this sort of event will happen again in the future. Of primary concern is the efficacy of the earthen levee system along the river banks, actions to deal with sedimentation by dredging the river, improved channel systems to disperse water within the flood plain, and possibly management of dam outflows and the reservoir system upstream.

Flooding is not new to the Lower Lempa River Basin. In fact, EcoViva and its local partner organizations have been working for 15 years on disaster prevention and development that accounts for risk management in the area. Thanks to these early warning systems, local communities were able to successfully initiate evacuations two days before the levees broke, saving thousands of lives. Nevertheless, the scope and extent of the impact of Tropical Depression 12-E requires a re-think of how development in El Salvador factors risk into account. As [Minister Chávez](#) added to the reconstruction conversation, “we cannot rebuild in the same vulnerable way. If we do not take the [changing weather] phenomena into account, we will be throwing that investment away.”



President Mauricio Funes sits in on emergency response discussions
Photo Courtesy of EcoViva

In order to inform this very important and timely conversation, EcoViva seeks hydrologists, civil engineers, soils engineers, and other experts to provide advice to local leadership and members of the Salvadoran government on flood mitigation, floodplain management, and river management, in order to avoid a repeat of this disaster.

EcoViva is currently seeking qualified volunteers to come to El Salvador in early December on a flood mitigation delegation, and also professionals who can brief staff over the phone or in writing on watershed-level floodplain management issues that must be considered in the recovery plan.

Please contact Nathan Weller, at nathan@eco-viva.org, or (831) 521 7975, for further information and to get involved. Additional information is also available here: <http://vivaecoviva.wordpress.com/>

Printed with permissions from EcoViva, <http://eco-viva.org>, (510)835-1334

Social Media Update

Have you noticed the addition of the Facebook icon to the ASFPM website? Directly next to the search box?

Starting this month, we will begin posting our Hot Topics, as well as [News & Views](#), to the ASFPM Facebook page.

For the latest, and to participate in discussion, please see: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Association-of-State-Floodplain-Managers-ASFPM/154357237913278>

For those using LinkedIn, you may continue to find more in-depth conversation and information here: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Association-State-Floodplain-Managers-841717>

We look forward to increasing our use of social media, as yet another tool, for keeping our members better informed! General social media questions, comments, or feedback? Please contact katrien@floods.org



Scholarships, Grants

Hazard Mitigation Funding Assistance - FY12 HMA Grant Programs

Deadline: December 2

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. Currently, FEMA administers the following HMA grant programs:

- [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#)
- [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\)](#)
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#)
- [Repetitive Flood Claims \(RFC\)](#)
- [Severe Repetitive Loss \(SRL\)](#)

For more information, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hma/index.shtm>

NOAA Webinar - FREE! December 7, 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern Time

[Marshes on the Move: Understanding and Using Model Results that Show Future Sea Level Rise Impacts on Coastal Wetlands](#)

The scientific community is in agreement that global sea level is rising and coastal marshes are changing as a result. Understanding where and how coastal environments will change in response to sea level rise, however, is a complex modeling challenge. This webinar will help participants understand key considerations and questions to ask when presented with models and maps estimating the future condition and location of coastal wetlands in response to rising sea level. In this webinar, participants will learn about:

- Gain a basic understanding of some key parameters and uncertainties associated with these models
- Interact with technical specialists regarding real world implications of model results
- Learn how modeling results can be incorporated into management initiatives

AmeriCorps State and National Planning Projects Funded

Letter of Intent Due: December 15, 2011

Application Due: January 18, 2012

The AmeriCorps State and National Planning Grants provide support for the development of AmeriCorps programs that will engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based interventions to solve community problems. Proposed national service program plans will address the following areas of focus: improve academic outcomes for children, youth, and young adults; serve veterans and military families or engage veterans in service; *and increase community resiliency through disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.* For more information, please visit [Corporation for National and Community Service](#)

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program Advance Notice – \$67m

Deadline: TBD

HUD has released advance notice of funding for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. This program supports metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact. HUD is not yet receiving pre-applications or applications. Specific questions regarding program requirements should be through www.hud.gov/sustainability or directed to sustainablecommunities@hud.gov.

To download the advance notice of requirements, visit <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=ascrp01nofa.pdf>

Dissertation Fellowships in Hazards, Risk, and Disasters

[National PERISHIP Awards](#)

Deadline: February 1, 2012

Despite recent changes at the Public Entity Risk Institute, the PERISHIP Dissertation Fellowship Program is alive and well, and accepting applications. The fellowships support work in natural and human-made hazards, risk, and disasters in all disciplines. Up to six grants will be awarded in 2012 to support doctoral student dissertation work. Grants can be used for data collection, travel, software purchase, data entry assistance, statistical analysis services, or similar purposes. Eligible candidates must be "all but dissertation" and have an approved dissertation proposal at a U.S. educational institution by the application deadline. Non-U.S. citizens may apply if their degree will be granted by a U.S. institution. For complete information and application instructions, see the [PERISHIP Web site](#).

Job Corner

For the most up-to-date job listings, please visit our online Job Corner at: <http://floods.org/n-jobpost/index.asp>

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a full nationwide listing of Chapter, State, and Partner training opportunities, please visit our online calendar at: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2012! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.

<http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp>



Go to the calendar and click on the search feature icon at the top of the calendar. Type your state's initials in parenthesis (for example "(WI)") into the search field and it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

Upcoming ASFPM Events – Mark your Calendar!

- Nov. 28 – Dec. 1, 2011 – National Floodproofing Conference V – Sacramento, CA
- May 20-25, 2012 – ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference – San Antonio, TX
- June 9-14, 2013 – ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT
- June 1-6, 2014 – ASFPM 38th Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA
- May 31 – June 5, 2015 – ASFPM 39th Annual National Conference – Atlanta, GA

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Copyright ©2011 ASFPM.

Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors.

Reproduction, with credit, permitted for individual ASFPM-authored articles. Please contact katrien@floods.org