Association of State Floodplain Managers

ASFPM
District 1
Chapter
Director
Status Report

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Introduction

The ASFPM state chapters in District 1 are:
- Connecticut Association of Flood Managers
- New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management
- New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association
- Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association

In addition, a group of dedicated floodies in Massachusetts is forming a state-wide organization for floodplain management-related matters. In addition to meeting by phone and in-person, short online surveys have been used to provide direction, choose a logo, develop objectives, etc. They are now working seriously to formalize the mission statement and organization chart. They hope to host an event and elect board members in the fall of 2018.
Key Accomplishments of District 1 Chapters

- Each state chapter holds an annual conference, lasting from one to three days. These have all been highly successful venues for training, sharing success stories and networking. Each chapter provides Continuing Education Credits for Certified Floodplain Managers. Some also provide training credits for professional engineers, surveyors and local building officials. Some of the conferences include a local field tour (or two) in the conference agenda. This year NYSFSMA borrowed an idea from RIFMA and included a student poster contest. NYSFSMA also added a roundtable discussion with American Planning Association members about integrating hazard mitigation into planning efforts and was able to provide APA training credits to conference participants. Some chapters have developed agreements to reduce fees for participants from neighboring chapters.

- Each chapter provided training and opportunities to take the CFM exam. RIFMA supported the 4-day “Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program” 273 class and hosted “Orientation to the Floodplain Management Field in Rhode Island.” CAFM held a Meriden Green field tour of a national award winning flood mitigation project in Meriden, CT (a new urban park that doubles as flood storage capacity). NYSFSMA co-sponsored floodplain management training in an area with recent flooding (“Rebuilding After the 2017 Lake Ontario Flood: A Primer for Code Enforcement Officers”) and flood resiliency workshops on Long Island (“Planning for Community Resiliency” and “Code Enforcement for Flood Resilience”). NJAFM offered floodplain management training that includes in-person training and online instruction. RIFMA promoted additional training, with members attending the CAFM’s annual conference, the Southern New England American Planning Association conference, and the ASFPM conference.

- CAFM held an ASFPM Foundation sponsored Flood Symposium in March 2018, which was co-sponsored by the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation. About 70 people attended this successful event, even with mid-March snowstorms and some school delays/cancellations.

- Each chapter informs members and others through one or more newsletters. This year RIFMA started a Twitter Account: @rifma!

- NYSFSMA actively promotes improved legislation and policies. The association has drafted letters and comments about funding needs (for floodplain mapping, mitigation and stream gauges), the need for higher flood protection standards, and a draft FEMA policy that could pose additional burdens on local floodplain managers.

- Each chapter continually strives to enhance operations and improve support for members. NYSFSMA has hired a part-time executive director to support additional training and other activities. RIFMA is embarking on a strategic planning initiative and conducted an online membership survey to better understand the needs of members. They learned that topics of interest include: floodplain mapping, nonstructural mitigation, structural mitigation, nature-
based solutions, sea level rise and coastal vulnerability, and coastal construction. CAFM obtained Chapter Liability Insurance.

**Challenges for District 1 Chapters**

- There is a common challenge of having an active and effective organization with volunteer help. It is difficult to engage more than the core individuals and maintain an active volunteer base from one year to the next.
- Membership renewals are challenging and associations struggle to promote the organization and attract new members.
- Riverine risk education content is needed.
- It is difficult for an association to represent an entire state that is geographically diverse and has a full range of floodplain issues and challenges.

**Feedback to ASFPM and Recommendations**

- Would like to see a FEMA deployed course for advanced floodplain management.
- Is there any guidance on strategic planning from other chapters or national organizations that might be helpful?
- ASFPM can help with more issues bulletins to chapters.
- Facilitate information sharing between chapters by establishing an “ask a chapter” forum and resuming chapter calls.
- Promote ASFPM resources and online tools by preparing handouts for distribution at chapter conferences and/or short blurbs for inclusion in chapter newsletters.