ASFPM REGION 2 DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)

2015-2016
New Jersey and New York

Introduction and Regional Overview

ASFPM Region 2 is, by area, the organization’s smallest region. But with nearly 29 million people in the two states (and with New Jersey the nation’s most densely populated state), we are one of the “largest” regions within ASFPM’s geographical breakout and contain nearly 10 percent of our nation’s population. In addition, the vast majority of our population lives within 25 miles of the Atlantic Ocean and its many adjoining bays, inlets and rivers, making Region 2 one of the most vulnerable areas subject to coastal flooding and sea level rise.

This problem is especially acute in New Jersey where more than a third of the state’s total land area falls within a designated Special Flood Hazard Area.

Region 2 has 100 percent state association coverage and is represented by two official ASFPM chapters: New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association and New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management. Both state chapters conduct annual state annual conferences in various locations in each state.

Regional Activities

New Jersey

While a small state geographically, New Jersey is particularly active in the Community Rating System and currently has 74 participating communities with a total annual flood insurance premium savings of $25,167,926.

New Jersey continues to work with FEMA Region II to prioritize flood risk mapping projects with the state through Risk MAP. Post-preliminary processing is ongoing and continues for all of our Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay communities and portions of our riverine communities. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has been a Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA since 2006 and continues to assist FEMA Region II on its mapping and outreach priorities. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management continues to work with communities on hazard mitigation projects and plan updates. NJDEP continues to work closely with NJAFM to assist on membership services,
training, outreach and the annual conference planning, which will be in Oct. 18-20 this year in Atlantic City. In addition, the NJDEP has worked with NJAFM to provide regular training sessions and exam offerings for the Certified Floodplain Manager certification. CFM certification in the Garden State is now nearing 300.

**New York**

Within New York, the state’s [Department of Environmental Conservation](https://www.dec.ny.gov) is the primary agency responsible for assisting in the implementation of the NFIP by the state’s 1,500 cities, towns and villages. To that end the NYSDEC has been active in ensuring the continued strengthening and resiliency of the goals of the NFIP.

NYSDEC received a [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program](https://www.dec.ny.gov) award following Hurricane Sandy to provide floodplain management training throughout the state. The training, being provided on site at least once in every county in New York, includes full day NFIP training and an additional half day training on FEMA’s levee certification and Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure and the state’s coastal erosion hazard area program, as appropriate to the county.

NYSDEC is also working with a state inter-agency group to develop flood risk guidelines for future flooding under the [New York State Community Risk and Resiliency Act](https://www.dec.ny.gov). The Act requires various state permit and grant programs to consider “the future physical climate risk due to sea level rise, and/or storm surges and/or flooding” in decision making. The Floodplain Management Section of NYSDEC is taking the lead in drafting a flood risk guidance document to be used by state agencies in carrying out the Act’s requirements. The guidance is also being prepared to offer approaches that local communities and programs not specifically mentioned in the Act can consider.

Furthermore, in order to improve delivery of NYSDEC’s flood protection programs in western New York state, NYSDEC has created a “flood hub” for the western end of the state near Rochester. The Hub includes a full-time floodplain manager who carries out community assistance visits and contacts as well as technical assistance in the western half of the Empire State. This effort has resulted in improved outreach to communities across upstate New York.

The state continues to work with FEMA to prioritize flood mapping Risk MAP projects. Discovery projects have been completed in large areas of the state covered by the Seneca – Finger Lakes watersheds and the Lake Ontario watersheds. Discovery projects are currently ongoing in the Oneida River, Lake Champlain and Mid-Hudson watersheds.

NYSDEC continues to work closely with the NYSFSMA to assist with membership services, its annual meeting and Board of Director services. This included working with NYSFSMA to plan and carry out the ASFPM Foundation – NYSFSMA flood risk
symposium held in Hyde Park this April. The symposium was a great success and attendees benefited from the knowledge and expertise of nearly 100 leaders in the field from New York, the northeast and beyond.

**Regional Priorities**

Additional training modules should be developed that may be delivered in the states.