ASFPMP Region 4 Director
Annual Report

Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)

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5/19/2016
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2015-2016

Introduction and Regional Overview

The ASFPM Region 4 area includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. ASFPM chapters and floodplain management associations in Region 4 include: Alabama Association of Floodplain Managers (AAFM), Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA), Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM), Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM), Association of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi (AFMM), North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers (NCAFM), the South Carolina Association of Hazard Mitigation (SCAHM) and Tennessee Association of Floodplain Managers. These organizations hold annual conferences and sponsor training opportunities.

Overview of events for the past year (April 1, 2015 – April 1, 2016) included:

Disaster Declarations 2015:

- **4211** Tennessee April 2, 2015
  - Severe Winter Storm, Flooding
- **4215** Georgia April 20, 2015
  - Severe Winter Storm
- **4216** Kentucky April 30, 2015
  - Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides
- **4217** Kentucky May 1, 2015
  - Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides
- **4218** Kentucky May 12, 2015
  - Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides
- **4239** Kentucky Aug. 12, 2015
  - Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides
- **4241** South Carolina Oct. 5, 2015
  - Severe Storms and Flooding
Disaster Declarations 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4248</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Jan. 4, 2016</td>
<td>Severe Storms, Tornadoes Straight-line Winds and Flooding</td>
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<tr>
<td>4251</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Jan. 21, 2016</td>
<td>Severe Storms, Tornadoes Straight-Line Winds and Flooding</td>
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<tr>
<td>4259</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Feb. 26, 2016</td>
<td>Severe Storms and Flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4268</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>March 25, 2016</td>
<td>Severe Storms and Flooding</td>
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Six of the eight Region 4 states had at least one, with some having multiple, disaster declarations during the report period April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016. Of the 11 disaster declarations during that time period, all but one have had a flooding component.

**Region 4 Priorities**

Flood Insurance and the National Flood Insurance Program reform have received a considerable amount of attention and will continue to be a hot topic for the coming year.

Aging Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the cost of remapping communities and states continue to be a focal issue as well. Many areas remain unmapped and many communities’ maps are so old that they are a very inaccurate depiction of the true flood risk within the community. Deployment of map updates appears to be a concern, as well – “mapping is not keeping up with development and mapping is certainly not getting ahead of development!”

Additional mapping concerns include:

- Mapping should be and continue to be a high priority – additional money is needed for mapping since adequate floodplain management is difficult to achieve without accurate floodplain maps
- Mapping ALL unstudied A Zones within a community as each community is remapped
- Does the ASFPM Mapping the Nation Report need to be updated (it is now three years old) to reflect this additional cost?
- Funding for mapping should be prioritized by need (date of last update, age of
maps, etc.) and not who had the latest disaster – many communities have been mapped more than once, while others remain unmapped.

Coordination between states needs to be had so that entire watersheds are mapped at once (and not piece meal). Floodplains consistently cross jurisdictional boundaries.

More training for and between “the planners and the floodplain managers” – many don’t communicate and the evidence of relatively new development being flooded is a prime example of buildings being located where they should have never been built.

Increasing communities’ participation in CRS needs to be a focus.

Additional accessible training is needed – (free) webinars were suggested as a viable source of information. Floodplain management issues and regulatory changes were suggested as topic issues of interest for state leadership and membership.

**Recommend Actions**

Based on input from Region 4, it is recommended that ASFPM:

- Provide outreach/assistance, as practicable, to state NFIP coordinators and SHMOs, especially new state NFIP coordinators or new SHMOs;
- Distribute relevant and important information regarding floodplain management and regulatory changes to state NFIP coordinators and SHMOs (and to membership) within each state within the region;
- Champion the effort to coordinate with FEMA to provide consistent regulatory guidance between the regions, and between HQs and the regions. There are numerous inconsistencies between FEMA HQ’s guidance and Region IV’s guidance;
- Provide frequent updates on NFIP reform progress, congressional initiatives and pending legislation, especially those matters that directly affect the states;
- Continue to push FEMA on timely distribution of CAP funds;
- Continue to push for increased funding for floodplain management, flood programs and flood mapping. Push to keep PDM as a grant source;
- Provide timely information on federal budget cutbacks affecting state programs;
- Continue to push FEMA to do restudies where needed, to map behind levees, and to map un-numbered A Zones. If FEMA cannot accomplish this on its own, then a mapping grant program should be created (with a 75/25 match) for communities to update their own maps, thus creating more local involvement in floodplain mapping;
- Continue outreach on PRP, LOMA “Out as Shown” and other flood insurance topics;
Continue efforts to standardize plan formats and risk assessments in FEMA-approved state and local hazard mitigation plans;
Update the Higher Standards Guide;
Continue to provide more levee information/outreach in states where this is applicable;
Provide more focus on floodplain management at the state and local levels;
Provide more outreach at the state and local levels. Perhaps a mechanism for doing this would be a monthly webinar that all ASFPM members could call into. ASFPM committees could be responsible for these webinars on a rotating basis;
Promote ASFPM membership and update Region IV members on ASFPM activities;
Attend, when invited and when possible, the NFIP coordinators meetings for the region;
Attend, when invited and when possible, the annual meetings for each state within the region;
Provide, when invited and when possible, NAI training for each state within the region;
Should (continue to) work with Georgia (and Region IV) in coordination with the ASFPM Foundation to implement the action items outlined in the 2013 Georgia Flood Risk Symposium. It goes without saying that other states in Region 4 that have had Flood Risk Symposia will need follow-up as well;
Should look at affordability issue of implementing HFIAA-14 – especially for low income, elderly and needs-based constituency;
Should encourage timely roll-out of Risk MAP. Should be a priority with mapping of ALL areas in a community, not just remapping of previously studied AE zones;
Should allow ASFPM members who are local officials in good standing to be able to run for officers of the ASFPM board (at least secretary and treasurer in the beginning of the transition); Combine this with a requirement that any local official running for an officer position must have served at least one full two-year term on the ASFPM board within the past 10 years prior to running for an officer position AND be actively working on a minimum of one ASFPM committee as verified by the co-chairs of that committee:
  ➢ Relative “newcomers” to ASFPM are running for and obtaining an officer position while seasoned “locals” are not allowed to run at all;
  ➢ This will require that the ASFPM Constitution be modified;
    o Suggest that an Ad-Hoc Committee be developed of current and past board members to study the issue and bring recommendations back to the ASFPM Board with implementation by the 2017 voting cycle;
Should provide more training for and between “the planners and the floodplain
managers.” Many don’t communicate due to stove-piping of departments within local government;

- ASFPM should be a frequent presenter at APA conferences and APA chapter conferences and APA should be a frequent presenter at ASFPM conferences and chapter conferences;

- More joint APA/ASFPM projects should be proposed and geared at both disciplines;

- APA classes/workshops/webinars should be able to get ASFPM continuing ed credits if they broaden the horizon of floodplain management and ASFPM classes/workshops/webinars should be able to get APA continuing ed credits if they broaden the horizon of planning;

- Both fields should broaden their scope to include emergency managers and hazard mitigation specialists;

- Should develop mechanisms to promote increased community participation in CRS; and

- Should provide additional accessible training via (free) webinars to ASFPM members.