ASFPM Vice Chair
Annual Report

Annual Conference—Grand Rapids, Michigan (2016)

Maria Cox Lamm, Vice Chair
4/28/2016
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As my first year as vice chair is coming to a close, I have been impressed by the amount of partnerships and involvement ASFPM has on many fronts. I want to thank the Pod facilitators, committee co-chairs, executive office staff and officers for all of their hard work.

The primary responsibility of the vice chair, in addition to serving on the board, is to interact with the policy committee co-chairs mainly through an August retreat and bi-monthly calls. Our committees are grouped into four pods, each with a pod facilitator who helps with communicating between all the committees that should be involved with a particular issue or topic.

This year the committee retreat was held August 18-20, 2015 in Madison, WI. It was a very productive time and great ideas were discussed. We got briefed on many issues of concern, participated in many lively discussions, all while leaving time to work at the committee and pod levels on updating committee work plans. Great discussions were had on a number of topics, including but not limited to, NFIP 2017 reform, Increase Cost of Compliance, private flood insurance and community-based flood insurance.

The policy committees work hard every year to provide information in many formats that are useful to ASFPM membership. During the year, co-chairs hold conference calls with their committee members. These calls provide a wealth of knowledge to all participants. The committees are called upon each year to provide their expertise in a number of ways. For example, the Stormwater Management Committee is developing a paper on green infrastructure, the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee provided comments to on FEMA Guidelines and Standards updates, the Floodplain Regulations Committee is active in revisions to FEMA technical bulletins and the Flood Insurance Committee produces a column in The Insider.

As one can see, the committee level is where a major portion of ASFPM work is done. Many members are not familiar with our committee or how to get involved. If a member has a particular interest or passion for a topic, then get involved with a committee. Check out the committee pages on ASFPM’s website, or the How to Volunteer Page. You can also participate in conference
calls, volunteer to assist with a committee and submit suggestions for agenda topics for calls.

As we start our transition to the next year we’ll be welcoming a few new board members and new leadership on a couple of our committees. I’d like to thank our co-chairs who have or are stepping down: Heidi Carlin of the Training and Outreach Committee, Kimberly Berginnis of the Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee and Bill Brown of the Stormwater Management committee. All have contributed greatly to ASFPM, as co-chairs and members.

It has been my honor to serve as your vice chair this past year. I truly appreciate the hard work of all of our volunteers and staff.