RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES

Whereas, floodplain and flood risk management courses are taught in only a few institutions of higher learning, there is no known Floodplain Management degree curriculum at any institution of higher learning, and flood damages and costs are increasing worldwide; and

Whereas, floodplains are considered natural capital providing a host of goods and services; and

Whereas, most universities teach many floodplain management related courses, that reside in many independent departments and degree programs without significant coordination of programs which should be multidisciplinary, interdepartmental, and comprehensive; and

Whereas, more than 21,700 communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and by Federal Law must designate a floodplain administrator, and where there are currently some 8,000 Certified Floodplain Managers nationwide and a large private sector involvement in floodplain and flood risk management; and

Whereas, flood risk management encompasses a body of knowledge, has a viable national professional organization, chapters, and a reliable and valid certification program that all meet the criteria of a profession; and

Whereas, the creation of a flood risk management degree will serve to enhance the status and satisfy the need of the flood risk management profession in having undergraduate and graduate degrees; and

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the ASFPM fully supports the creation of a standing committee with the goal of encouraging and enabling the development of flood risk management degree programs at institutions of higher learning to include 2 year associates degrees, minors, 4-year bachelor’s degrees, and graduate degrees, including doctoral programs; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the ASFPM Board directs the standing committee to work with partner agencies to actively promote the increase of existing flood risk management curriculum within institutions of higher learning already engaged in teaching flood risk management courses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ASFPM Board directs the standing committee to seek out opportunities within other disciplines, such as Planning and Emergency Management, to promote flood risk management courses within their current curriculum structure.

ADOPTED BY THE ASFPM BOARD ON 11-27-12

Attested by Joy Duperault, ASFPM Secretary