ASFPM Chair Status Report 2019

Association of State Floodplain Managers

ASFPM Chair Maria Cox Lamm, CFM

May 10, 2019
Another year has passed and ASFPM has once again worked hard for better floodplain management, mapping and mitigation. In this challenging but exciting time, we have worked hard to make a difference. Everyone from our all-volunteer leadership and active members to the staff have had a lot on their plates this year. To assist in focusing all our efforts, the ASFPM Board of Directors develops annual Goals and Objectives that are lined out in a document. This document sets the top priorities for the association for the upcoming year and is used to focus and guide the executive office staff and committees on where to focus our efforts.

One of our most important efforts is advocating for good policy at the national level. As we all are aware, bad policy made in Washington D.C. ends up impacting state and locals directly as we are the boots on the ground when it comes to implementation. So we spend a lot of time educating members of Congress about the importance of flood risk management. As part of the education process, we proudly support funding for programs important to floodplain managers. If it is important to floodplain management or floodplain managers, we support it!

Back in October 2018, the passing of the Disaster Reform and Recovery Act made a huge direct impact to states and communities regarding substantial damage. Section 1206 of the law is the section that ASFPM wrote and fought valiantly for it to become law. This section will revolutionize the states and a community’s ability to deal with substantial damage by allowing states and communities to receive reimbursement for cost associated with substantial damage, as well as facilitate mutual aid.

As a result of our efforts on NFIP reform, ASFPM was invited to testify before the U.S. House Financial Services Committee in March. The ability to highlight our priorities for reauthorization and reform directly supports our mission for good policy as they directly impact floodplain management all the way down to the local level. If you would like to learn more about ASFPM’s priorities, they can be found in the ASFPM Priorities for Reauthorization and Reform document.

Throughout the year, ASFPM, our members and our allies have been in front of Congress fighting for more funding for floodplain mapping and mitigation. The results have been impressive. The amount of funding for these programs has seen some of the largest increases in recent history.

I would also like to highlight a few more exciting things happening at ASFPM:

- New member benefit of a monthly National Policy Briefing webinar;
- New headquarters for ASFPM, which is providing more cost savings through ownership rather than renting;
- In 2018, ASFPM hit 7,000 members for the first time; and
- Our policy committees continue do amazing work with collecting comments, submitting comments, providing feedback to federal agencies, and created guidance on a variety of issues.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Dave Fowler, who proudly served as our Watershed Pod facilitator for many years.
I would like to thank **Dave Carlton** for accepting the role of Watershed Pod Facilitator. His many years of dedicated service to ASFPM will provide extensive knowledge that is extremely valuable.

I would like to offer my sincere thank you to all our exiting board members: **Brian Varrella**, Vice Chair; **Amanda Flegel**, Treasurer; **Rod Renkenberger**, Region 5 Director; **Steve Samuelson**, Region 7 Director; **Jeanne Ruefer**, Region 9 Director; **Janet Thigpen**, Chapter Director District 1; and **Dianna Woods**, Chapter Director District 5. Each one of these individuals has brought their knowledge and passion to their roles. Once again, thank you for your time and leadership during your service to the association.

I truly have been honored to serve as your ASFPM chair. I am humbled and in awe of all the hard work that this association has been able to accomplish over my time as chair.