This year I asked my chapters three targeted questions. Here are their responses:

**What are your chapter’s best accomplishments this year? What are you most proud of?**

Many of the chapters expressed that their conferences are great successes for them every year. Both high attendance and engaging speakers were cited by several chapters as accomplishments. The Maryland chapter has started holding a second conference each year and has reached new stakeholders that way. The Virginia chapter held a third workshop this year allowing them to cover more of the state. Virginia Tech professors and students attended and supported the workshop.

Other accomplishments are listed below by chapter.

**Illinois, IAFSM:**
- Legislative committee action on state legislation
  - bringing awareness to our membership
  - signing on to position statements
- Inter-organization committee activities
  - conference registration reciprocity with other professional organizations
- Water table distribution for student education (we have four that get loaned out for free around the state)

**Maryland, MAFSM:**
- Streamlining abstract submittal and review process, which relieves some tedious manual effort in preparing the conference.
- Implementation of Constant Contact for email campaigns, which is expected to enable more professional and better branding for routine email communications.

**Michigan, MSFA:**
- Following a change in leadership, the chapter is examining all processes and making changes to better the organization. The transition will continue with a new executive director and a new treasurer.

**Minnesota, MNAFPM:**
- Pew Charitable Foundation – the legislative committee chair attended meetings with SHMO and state NFIP coordinator to discuss pending federal flood risk legislation.
- Representatives from MNAFPM continue to volunteer at the annual Metro Area Children’s Water Festival [http://metrocwf.org](http://metrocwf.org). Festival attendees included fourth grade classrooms from the greater metro area, who rotated stations throughout the day.
- Annually the Society of American Military Engineers and the state chapter host a joint luncheon.
- Creation of instructions for the various applications the committee uses to manage conference business and an instruction manual and month by month list of activities for the conference.
Ohio, OFMA:
- By far OFMA's biggest accomplishment has been working with the planning and organization of the ASFPM Annual National Conference in Cleveland. We hope that all the attendees will find this year's conference to best they have ever attended!

Pennsylvania, PAFPM:
- Gaining ASFPM state chapter status

Virginia, VFMA:
- Solid growth in membership
- VFMA co-sponsored the annual Virginia Water Conference again. VFMA filled all slots for presentations in their track and was asked to assist in filling other vacant slots.
- Updated the VFMA webpage, including a members-only page with presentations from fall workshops and annual conferences

Wisconsin, WAFSCM:
- Member participation and organization of the annual conference. Attendance is usually great and it makes enough money to allow support for scholarships to the state and national conferences.

What challenges has your chapter faced this year?

Several challenges were mentioned in many of the chapters' responses. Those include how to increase membership; how to increase capacity of an all-volunteer chapter; how to retain institutional knowledge upon turnover of leadership; and how to update and maintain bylaws, regulations and procedures for regular chapter operations.

Other challenges of specific chapters are listed below.

Illinois, IAFSM:
- Legislative activity:
  - how to avoid jeopardizing 501(c)(3) status while being politically active
  - dealing with conflict of views on legislation among diverse membership
  - avoiding conflict of interest with public/state employee’s as leaders on the board when the board takes a public position on controversial legislation
- Staging projects/initiatives that could be launched when grants or new funding sources and partnerships become available

Pennsylvania, PAFPM:
- Funding

Virginia, VFMA:
- Want VFMA newsletters to be valuable to members, provide information of interest, and come out on a regular basis, but we may need additional support from board members or general
- VFMA is interested in providing more training to members, but needs to better identify opportunities and agree to how funds should be spent
What could ASFPM do to make your chapter membership more valuable? What assistance, resources or services could ASFPM provide chapters to enhance their experience?

Several chapters mentioned advice or guidance from ASFPM or other chapters on strategic planning; staffing (volunteer vs. paid); and increasing membership and volunteer time would be very helpful.

Other thoughts from specific chapters are listed below.

**Maryland, MAFSM:**
- Assistance with administrative aspects of running a chapter would be helpful (tax filing, insurance coverage, domain hosting, online event mgmt.).
- It is appreciated that ASFPM has implemented a tiered chapter renewal fee, rather than smaller and larger states all paying the same amounts.

**Michigan, MSFA:**
- It is appreciated that some effort has been made to assist with content for newsletters.
- Which other chapters have award and scholarship programs?
- What are others doing to attract younger demographic while recognizing long-term members?
- Collaboration with other chapters for educational offerings.

**Ohio, OFMA:**
- It would be helpful for ASFPM to work with FEMA to promote the idea that all entities that participate in the NFIP should require floodplain managers to be CFMs. This would at least ensure that those enforcing floodplain regulations have a base line of knowledge for what they are tasked to do. It would also increase participation in the chapters because certified individuals would need to maintain their certifications through continuing education credits.

**Pennsylvania, PAFPM:**
- Information and ideas on how to make PAFPM membership more valuable
- Examples of chapter funding streams. Do other chapters stay afloat from membership dues, conference sponsorship, grant funding, etc.?

**Virginia, VFMA:**
- Work towards having regional/district chair and regional coordinators available for workshops in person or by teleconference.
- Have district calls a minimum of once a year, along with district lunches at the annual conferences.
- Feature a different chapter in each newsletter. Have a “Focus on a Chapter” section in each newsletter. Interview the regional/district chairperson as part of this.
- Have a conference call with a chapter president, vice president and secretary with ASFPM executive officer/president at least once a year. This would allow the top people in a chapter to have the full attention of the executives with ASFPM to discuss first hand thoughts, needs, wishes, and positions etc., of each chapter and to hear firsthand where ASFPM stands on issues. Everyone should be provided equal time and considered to be equal to all other chapters.
Wisconsin, WAFSCM:

- A potential additional benefit from ASFPM would be more ways to obtain credits to maintain the CFM credential. Lower cost options and a wider variety of topics covered for credits would be appreciated. The ASFPM annual conference is great to attend, but not always the easiest to get to or be able to afford.
- Getting and maintaining the CFM credential is expensive. It’s cost prohibitive for individuals whose employer doesn’t cover the expense. When compared to the P.E., the cost for the CFM is about the same. Perhaps there is a way to lower the cost of maintaining the credential.