Sometimes a conference convenes, but not much comes of it. That’s not the case after River Action’s 11th annual Upper Mississippi River Conference held in October.

About 175 turned out for that conference, which included presentations from ASFPM’s Executive Director Chad Berginnis, and long-time ASFPM member Gerry Galloway, a civil engineering professor from the University of Maryland.

The conference focused on agriculture, manufacturing, navigation, tourism, the environment and flood resiliency and control in the upper Mississippi watershed. And while it was held in the Quad Cities area (Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa; Rock Island and Moline, Illinois), registration was open to anyone concerned about these issues. The target audience drew from the five Upper Mississippi River border states (Illinois, Iowa Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin). Engineers, environmental scientists, public works and city administrators, floodplain managers and other river stakeholders attended.

The conference included a workshop discussing the formation of a regional flood resiliency alliance for the Quad Cities area.
Inspired to keep the effort going, River Action sent invitations to workshop attendees and other potential alliance members asking them to meet Nov. 29 in Riverdale, Iowa to discuss forming a flood coalition, reviewing FEMA’s 10-step plan for forming a successful regional coalition, and introducing its Community Rating System.

Of course, forming a coalition could help identify and remediate or mitigate flood hazard areas and take actions or create policies that improve CRS ratings and qualify for reduced flood insurance rates. But other benefits include:

- Knowing interagency counterparts before the hectic times of a disaster—pre-flood conference calls across the area can pay dividends in calming fears and securing resources.
- Utilizing other communities as resources to fight floods as a group instead of separate communities—cities upstream where the flood has already passed may have resources they no longer need and can pass them downstream to communities in need.
- Leveraging the combined power of the alliance to secure grant funding for flood preparation, flood mitigation, prevention, etc.

The turnout was amazing! “And I was very impressed...with the general desire to learn more and improve the region in terms of floodplain management,” said Anthony Heddlesten, a water resource planner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Rock Island, Illinois.

He listed some meeting highlights:

- We did a brief highlight reel on what a flood alliance is and why it’s valuable;
- The Bi-State Regional Commission presented on a transportation resiliency project (a planning effort, not a construction effort); and
- Discussed what sort of presentations might be of interest for future meetings (tentatively, the plan is to meet quarterly as a group, with our next meeting to be held in late February or early March). Some possibilities include the National Weather Service Quad Cities spring flood predictions; USACE on its spring flood preparations; and bringing in a “Floodplain Management 101” speaker to help get everyone speaking the same language.

Heddlesten said later alliance meetings could feature a presentation on how to join CRS and a roundtable discussion with cities and counties in the region that have already joined to see what they’ve done and how it can be replicated by other communities and counties.
Tsunamis and the CRS: Two New Fact Sheets

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami warning that hit Anchorage, Alaska Nov. 30 was a critical reminder that natural disasters can happen anytime and anywhere. Luckily, there was no tsunami, but it’s a good time to make sure your community is prepared. And if your community participates in the Community Rating System, it could earn additional credits.

The National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, in cooperation with the CRS, produced two new fact sheets that explain the relationship between the CRS and tsunami programs. “Tsunami Preparedness & the Community Rating System” combines a brief overview of the risks posed by tsunamis with a capsulized explanation of the ways in which communities can address those risks by employing techniques credited under the CRS. It notes that tsunami-related credit points are available under 11 activities of the CRS, including one or more under each series: public information, mapping and regulations, flood damage reduction, and warning and response. It ends with a call for local-level emergency managers—who currently handle tsunami hazard in most communities—to engage with the local floodplain management program to address tsunami risk in a comprehensive fashion while also improving the community’s CRS rating.

“Tsunami Outreach & the Community Rating System” emphasizes the importance of public information programs in changing people’s behavior and thus saving lives and minimizing property damage in the face of tsunami hazards. The fact sheet describes the CRS credit available for outreach projects about tsunami risk (Activity 330), a map information service that supplies tsunami hazard information (Activity 320), disclosure of the tsunami hazard (Activity 340), and making tsunami protection information publicly available. It also describes the public information benefits of the CRS-creditable TsunamiReady program administered by NOAA. The NTHMP includes NOAA, FEMA, USGS and 28 U.S. states and territories. It works to protect lives and reduce economic losses from tsunamis by ensuring consistency and integration of federal and state programs for tsunami hazard assessment, warning guidance.

Portions of this article were reprinted, with permission, from the Aug/Sept 2018 edition of NFIP/CRS Update.

Have a story you’d like to share with ASFPM newsletter readers? Email ASFPM PIO Michele Mihalovich at michele@floods.org.
International Partnerships Elevate the Role of Floodplain Managers

Written by Phetmano Phannavong, P.E., CFM, DC NFIP Coordinator and Floodplain Manager, Member of ASFPM’s International Committee

I am often asked what other countries do toward flood risk management that we in the United States have not done already. Since the U.S. is very large and has such geographic diversity, it may be difficult to compare and apply the same approach in managing flood risks as is used in other countries. But many benefits to be gained from partnerships with our counterparts around the world include learning innovative ideas in policies and projects on the ground and having a forum that helps elevate our flood risk management role.

This October I had the opportunity to join 10 global delta cities at the Connecting Delta Cities network workshop in Venice, Italy. I represented Washington, D.C. at the workshop, hosted by the city of Venice and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. C40 is an international organization focused on tackling climate change and driving urban actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks. Connecting Delta Cities is a C40 network, which I became a member of in 2016, which seeks to adopt urban water management and climate change adaptation best practices, particularly on coastal flooding, through knowledge exchange and collaborations.
During the 3.5-day workshop, cities shared their flood risk management activities, learned from one another ways to improve their work, and experienced firsthand how Venice was preparing for sea level rise impacts. On the first day, cities discussed their most ambitious actions in flood risk management. I shared my ambition to develop integrated flood modeling to consolidate existing models for all types of flooding, including urban flooding, in a single tool for planning and operations throughout D.C. In a group exercise, cities discussed challenges, where each identified the lack of necessary data, what kind of modeling each currently has, and other elements to consider for flood modeling (e.g., active rivers underneath the city). On the last day, each city developed its action plan documenting ideas learned and specific items to follow up on.

Being in Venice and engaging with other cities on increased coastal flood risk due to rising sea levels brought home to me the very real threats and challenges my counterparts and I face. Since 2014, I have formed partnerships on behalf of D.C. with cities worldwide to explore and implement the most efficient and effective flood risk management solutions.

The DC Silver Jackets governance structure highlights the value of sharing our flood resilience knowledge. These continued collaborations are invaluable to helping this vulnerable area adapt to climate change in innovative and vital ways.

I look forward to sharing more on what I have learned and to receiving new ideas on how to enhance my global city collaborations under the Connecting Delta Cities network at the International Committee meeting during ASFPM’s annual national conference next year in Cleveland, Ohio. I’ll see you there!

To read the full article in a LinkedIn blog by Phannavong, follow this link.
What’s Happening around the World?

A collection of the most viewed stories on our Facebook page

**Texas**—The key takeaway from the latest Atlas 14 is, in the Houston area, a rainstorm that had a 1 in 100 chance of occurring in a given year now has a 1 in 25 chance of happening. Read, “How flood control officials plan to fix area floodplain maps.”

**Maryland**—The Naval Academy will raise one of its walls to combat sea level rise up to 3 feet in three decades, an environmental threat the institution shares with neighboring downtown Annapolis. Read the article here.

Jon Weinstein, former Ellicott City councilman, said, “Every drop of water that falls in this watershed converges at this point and is constricted. It goes where it wants to go, combination of climate change, upstream development and just simply the way the town is built.” Read, “To save its future, will this Md. Town have to destroy its historic business district?”

**California**—The work, much of it conducted by the California Conservation Corps, comes as the state overhauls its approach toward flood control, with a growing emphasis on reconnecting floodplains to rivers so they can absorb floodwaters. This shift in methodology marks a U-turn from past reliance on levees to protect cities and towns. Read, “Let it flow.”

**Virginia**—A FEMA grant program administered by Virginia Beach to raise flood-prone properties has faced inflated contractor bids and lawsuits from unhappy homeowners. Despite setbacks, the city has worked with FEMA to resurrect the program and bring financial — and emotional — relief to the homeowners involved. Read the article here.

**Mississippi**—Rising sea levels have cost home values over $263 million in Mississippi with the hardest hit areas located along the Gulf Coast – including Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Kiln and several other nearby towns and cities.

**Australia**—Designing with “making room for water” in mind. Read, “Design for flooding: how cities can make room for water” by The Conversation.

**The World**—Some of you may know Paul “Oz” Osman, ASFPM member and Illinois’ state floodplain manager. What you may not know is that he has a brilliant son, Matt Osman, who has co-authored a terrifying study on climate change, which is being picked up by every major news outlet in the world! Read CNN’s “Melting of Greenland’s ice is ‘off the charts,’ study shows.”
Story Maps Highlight Second Annual CTP Award Winners: Kentucky Division of Water Resources and Georgia Department of Natural Resources

The Kentucky Division of Water Resources and Georgia Department of Natural Resources have been recognized by FEMA as outstanding Cooperating Technical Partners. Their award-winning work has been featured in story maps located on FEMA’s GeoPlatform:

KDOw: http://arcg.is/1nqua0
GADNR: http://arcg.is/8uzTO

First place recipient, KDOw, was recognized by FEMA for excellence in Communications, Outreach and Program Management for integrating different technologies to communicate flood risk, including virtual reality and live polling during meetings, and for embracing a variety of partnerships.

Honorable Mention winner, GADNR, was selected for excellence in the development of Tools and Resources, like its GeorgiaDFIRM.com and Flood Risk Snapshot, which takes a closer look at a property’s individualized flood risk. Their multiple communication tools help officials and residents understand each step of the Risk MAP process and provide resources for local floodplain managers.

These story maps are interactive products that use GIS maps, narrative text, images and video to showcase CTP work.

The CTP Recognition Program highlights the accomplishments of CTPs performing exceptional work in the areas of Program Management Best Practices, Tools and Resources, Communications and Outreach, and other key areas of the Risk MAP process.
Cooperating Technical Partners Recognition Program Nominations Now Open

The nomination period for the 3rd Annual CTP Recognition Program will be open until Jan. 10, 2019. The CTP Program encourages CTP Stakeholders (CTPs, FEMA staff and contractors) to nominate CTPs that clearly demonstrate operational best practices at any stage of a Risk MAP project and who help communities get involved in mitigation action. A CTP cannot nominate itself, but CTPs may be nominated by other CTP stakeholder. If you know of a CTP that deserves to be recognized, please download the nomination form and process [here](#).

The CTP Recognition Program process includes the following steps:

- **Nomination Period (Oct. 24, 2018 – Jan. 10, 2019):** CTPs can promote their organization through the CTP Collaboration Monthly and other newsletters (as well as direct contact with their FEMA regional lead). CTPs and FEMA staff can nominate their peers for the CTP Recognition Program.

- **FEMA Review and Selection (February – March 2019):** FEMA must review each nominee and determine if they are a viable candidate. Top-selected CTP nominees will be part of the final vote in April 2019 during the Community of Practice (CoP) General Meeting.

- **Announcement of the Winner at ASFPM’s Annual National Conference in May.**

CTPs are encouraged to showcase the following types of innovation for the CTP Recognition Program.

- **Program Management Best Practice:** The nominee offers an impactful solution or implementation of good project management skills or resources as a best practice.

- **Tools and Resources – Alignment to FEMA’s Moonshots:** The nominee offers a product or innovative solution that can be used by other CTPs and/or FEMA to help lead to either (1) increased knowledge and awareness about the need for flood insurance, or (2) improved accessibility of data to assist in mitigation plan and/or project development at the local level.

- **Communications/Outreach – Alignment to FEMA’s Moonshots:** The nominee demonstrates success with outreach initiatives and processes that help lead to either (1) increased knowledge and awareness about the need for flood insurance or (2) increased mitigation investment and/or improved mitigation project planning at the local level.

Download the nomination form and process [here](#). You must be registered with the CTP Collaboration Center. Click [here](#) to register.

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**Job Corner**

Take a look at [FREE Job Postings on ASFPM’s Job Board](#). And if you’re an employer, posting a job is also absolutely FREE!
Cooperating Technical Partners Program Launches New LOMR Review Partners Program Training for 2019

In 2018, FEMA approved the expansion of the Letter of Map Revision Partner Program out of pilot status.

To help with the expansion of the program, FEMA is offering a LOMR Partners Training Course at the Emergency Management Institute. This course is designed to educate CTPs who are interested in applying to become a LOMR Review Partner. The 4-day course is scheduled for April 29-May 3, 2019 at EMI in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Each potential LOMR Review Partner applicant is required to attend the training course before submitting an application for the LOMR Review Partners Program. In order to attend the training course, CTPs must follow the steps below to complete the pre-application process.

1. Coordinate with your regions to communicate your desire to become a LOMR Review Partner
2. Complete the eligibility questions.
3. Complete the CTP Special Topics Course Interest Survey
4. Attend the 4-day training at EMI
5. Submit application for LOMR Review Partners Program (Dates TBD)

During the training, instructors and participants will:
- Discuss the expansion of the LOMR Review Program
- List the requirements of the LOMR Review Program
- Review the Grant Application Cycle
- Compare and contrast the benefits of becoming a LOMR Review Partner
- Discover lessons learned from existing LOMR Review Partners
- Review LOMR Review Partner Application Process
- Explore digital tools used during the LOMR Review Process
- Identify MT2 regulations related to Case Process Workflow
- Identify communications challenges associated to the LOMR Review Partners Program

CTPs interested in the LOMR Review Partners Program Training course at EMI must complete the LOMR Review Partners Program Eligibility Survey. If the answer to each question is “yes,” then CTPs will be directed to take the EMI Course Interest Survey. You must complete both surveys to be considered for the training.

For more information about the LOMR Review Partners Task Course and prerequisites, contact Laura Algeo, national CTP program coordinator (Laura.Algeo@fema.dhs.gov) or Sean McNabb, CTP program coordinator (Sean.McNabb@fema.dhs.gov).
Getting excited about ASFPM’s 2019 conference in Cleveland? While conference registration doesn’t open until February, one thing you can do now is book your hotel room. This year we’ve contracted with three different hotels (each with different rates). But all are within easy walking distance to the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland.

And FYI, we are putting the final touches on the preliminary program and workshops. If you submitted a presentation for consideration, be on the lookout for a notification email in January!

Interested in sponsoring the ASFPM 2019 conference? Please check out the 2019 Sponsor + Exhibitor Prospectus and the Benefit Breakdown Information Sheet to learn about the different opportunities available. Contact conference@floods.org if you have questions.

Plus, there is sooo much to do in Cleveland. Check out the “Make No Mistake, This is Cleveland” website that highlights things to do, events, cool bars and restaurants and even “planning tools” to get around the city.

ASFPM’s conference website is constantly being updated, so check it often! Registration opens in February, but in the meantime, get your fingers in social media posting shape for #ASFPM2019 by liking and following our Facebook and Twitter pages!

Coastal GeoTools 2019, taking place in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Feb. 11-14, 2019, is coming up. Don’t miss the chance to share your geospatial expertise and learn from your peers—start planning now! Registration is now open. While you’re registering, also make your hotel reservation at the conference rate of $93/night plus tax and resort fee.

Have questions? Contact us at info@coastalgeotools.org.
What flood policy changes in 2018 will help the nation’s communities, citizens and taxpayers reduce flood risk and associated damage? What did not happen in 2018 that will hinder future efforts to manage flood risk?

Let’s start with the positive changes. While not extensive, there were a few important ones. First, changes to the Stafford Act (Disaster Relief Act) will now allow communities to use mutual aid under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact process for doing substantial damage assessments and floodplain permitting following a major flood. Community officials from the same or other states can come in and help and have their expenses covered under EMAC. This will greatly speed up and improve the community efforts to makes thousands of these decisions post disaster, which is the first step in community recovery. Property owners should not have to wait six months to find out what they must do in their rebuilding efforts in order to get back into safe housing or businesses. ASFPM is working with our Florida chapter and others impacted by 2018 disaster events to ensure these provisions are applied retroactively to 2018 events.

Another positive change for taxpayers was part of the bill to fund the Department of Defense. In that bill, Congress mandates that expenditure by the DOD must consider future conditions of flooding and build or rebuild damaged facilities to account for those future conditions with some added safety factor. For ordinary facilities, they must include 1 foot of freeboard above the 1% chance flood level, and for critical facilities (ones that must be operational or accessible during major flood events) they must include 2 feet of freeboard. These measures will ensure taxpayers aren’t paying to rebuild those facilities time and again, especially in light of sea level rise and increased storm intensity.

One other big issue is NFIP compliance with the Endangered Species Act. FEMA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) were unable to reach agreement on how FEMA could programmatically handle ESA compliance, so FEMA is now poised to require all 22,000 communities in the NFIP to perform the procedures to comply with ESA on each permit the community issues. This does not seem to be a tenable process, so the ensuing outcry could lead to total exemption of the NFIP from ESA by Congress. ASFPM is working with the agencies to reach a compromise on how this can be handled programmatically, and is seeking member input.

Probably the biggest “did not happen” action was reauthorization and updates to the NFIP. While the House passed an NFIP bill, it had lots of problems and was not acceptable to the Senate. The Senate had about four decent bills introduced, but none passed by even the oversight committee. It now appears the NFIP (set to expire Dec. 21 at the time of this writing) will see another “kick the can” extension for six months into next spring. Since all bills not passed by end of December will die, this will allow the next Congress to start over on new bills, which should be productive. The issues have sorted out somewhat, which means some of the bad ideas may go away, and some better ideas may emerge.

If there are policy issues currently impacting your citizens, community or state, please let me know about it at larry@floods.org as we work to improve flood risk management nationwide.
Not an ASFPM Member Yet? The Benefits may Surprise You!

Many ASFPM members initially joined the association for the discount to our annual national conference, the one place you can go to learn about all aspects of floodplain management: natural processes, human behavior, risk analysis, actuarial insurance ratings, engineering analyses of flooding and mitigation, economic analyses of policy decisions and public policy.

Others joined for the CFM exam discount (a $480 price tag for non-members, and only $100 for members). But soon realized they now belonged to a community of nearly 7,000 fellow “floodies,” passionate experts who are always ready to mentor and lend advice on navigating the sometimes tricky waters of floodplain management.

Not all members are floodplain managers. Many were exposed to ASFPM through their work at universities, federal agencies and the private sector, which brings a unique perspective to our 14 policy committees. Members provide direct input to federal programs/agencies, write white papers and develop tools for locals. This work can advance the floodplain management profession, and even change national flood policy.

ASFPM is an organization that helps you broaden your knowledge base through discounted webinars and specialty workshops, as well as working on and exploring problems with fellow professionals.

You’ll build confidence in your ability to do your job effectively, train other professionals, and share knowledge with elected officials and your community.

Our website is packed with resources, tools, reports and publications and available to anyone because a big part of our mission is to educate. If communities use these resources to strengthen their resilience against floods, then we’ve just fulfilled another aspect of our mission. But as an ASFPM member, you’ll hear about these resources first through our members-only newsletter “The Insider” and member alerts.

And if you’re a full-time college student wanting to get a jump start on professional development in the ever-growing flood risk and reduction field, ASFPM offers $30 student memberships (and you get most of the same benefits as a regular membership).

If you still need convincing, read what our members are saying about the value of an ASFPM membership. Ready to join? Sign up here and begin enjoying your benefits today.
Comments needed for FEMA’s draft policy on Agriculture Structures in the Floodplain
FEMA recently released a draft policy that potentially affects many, if not most, communities. The FEMA draft policy on Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures is available at: https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management.

ASFPM encourages members to review and comment to FEMA by the Jan. 21, 2019 deadline. ASFPM will also submit comments. Please send a copy of your comments to us by Jan. 14 at InsuranceCorner@floods.org, so we can summarize and reinforce the concerns and recommendations of our membership.

FEMA Releases New Residential Tornado Safe Room Doors Fact Sheet
This fact sheet provides graphics and useful information about selecting adequate door assemblies for residential safe rooms.

Proposed Changes to Coastal Barrier Resources System in CT, MD, NY, RI and VA
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a notice in the Federal Register Dec. 18 to announce the availability of draft revised boundaries for 310 Coastal Barrier Resources System units (256 existing units and 54 proposed new units) located in Connecticut, Maryland, New York (Long Island), Rhode Island (including a minor portion of a unit that is located in Westport, Massachusetts) and Virginia for public review and comment. The proposed boundaries are accessible via the CBRS Projects Mapper (located on the right side of the page). Additional information related to the proposed changes and instructions for providing comments and participating in virtual public meetings are available on the USFWS’s webpage for the Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project.

The proposed boundaries were produced through a multi-year effort funded by the Department of the Interior to comprehensively modernize the maps of the CBRS for nine states most affected by Hurricane Sandy. The modernization effort will correct mapping errors affecting property owners, add new qualifying areas to the CBRS, and provide the public with more accurate and accessible CBRS data and maps. Please review the draft boundaries and provide input before the deadline April 17, 2019. You may submit written comments by one of the following methods:


By hard copy: Submit by mail or hand–delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0034; Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: BPHC; Falls Church, VA 22041-3808.

Following the close of the public comment period, USFWS will make any appropriate changes and then prepare final recommended maps for congressional consideration. The final recommended maps will become effective only if they are adopted by Congress through legislation.
Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors and Sponsors

Thank you to our donors for making #GivingTuesday on Nov. 28 a big success! This year the ASFPM Foundation set an ambitious goal—to raise $5,000 on #GivingTuesday—with all proceeds going to its Future Leaders Scholarship fund. And to up the ante, George Riedel, the foundation’s donor coordinator, offered to match the $5,000 goal with a $1,000 donation.

By the end of the day, the foundation received $3,830 in gifts, which is an amazing amount! George decided he would donate his matching gift, bringing the total to $4,830! Sincere appreciation to all of you who donated, and to those who posted and shared tweets. Because of your efforts, the foundation continues to build the scholarship fund to help more future leaders, like our inaugural Future Leaders Scholar Jesus Mulgado, to fulfill their dreams of becoming floodplain management professionals.

As we near the end of 2018, we also want to thank the Floodplain Management Association (California, Hawaii and Nevada) for hosting the Larry Larson Speaker Series at annual conference in Reno, Nevada this past September. Because we held the event, titled “Big Data = Big Future + Big Challenges” in conjunction with the FMA conference, it was one of our most successful speaker series with more than 350 participants. Thanks to our corporate sponsors – AECOM, Dewberry, ESP, HDR, H2O Partners, Michael Baker International, Moffatt & Nichol and Willis Towers Watson – that made this special event possible.

Planning is underway for the 2019 State Flood Risk Symposium, co-hosted by FMA, to be held this spring in Sacramento; and for the 6th Gilbert White National Flood Policy Forum, which will be held in D.C. this March. The foundation also continues to support a number of projects conducted by the ASFPM Flood Science Center, as well as assist the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management complete an online floodplain management reference guide project. We’d like to thank all of our donors who make
this work possible. If you haven’t yet given to the foundation, your donation now before the end of the year will help us to continue this important work for the floodplain management community.

Finally, the 2019 Student Paper Competition abstract submission deadline is Jan. 12. If you know a full-time student enrolled in a floodplain management related field at any college or university, please encourage her or him to submit an abstract. Three semi-finalists will be invited to submit papers and present them at the ASFPM 2019 annual national conference in Cleveland, Ohio in May. Cash prizes of up to $1,000 will be awarded.

Thank you all again for playing a vital role that allows the ASFPM Foundation to do good work for floodplain managers across the nation and globally. We wish you a safe and restful holiday season and a very Happy New Year with many more good things to come.

‘Tis the season to be… nominating your flood-risk management rock stars!

Every year at ASFPM’s annual national conference, we honor professionals who are doing the floodplain management profession proud. Below is a reminder of our categories. Please get your nominations in before Feb. 1, 2019!

**Tom Lee State Award for Excellence** is given annually to recognize an outstanding floodplain management program or activity at the state level (not an individual).

**James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence** recognizes outstanding local programs or activities at the front lines of floodplain management. Eligible entries include local units of government such as cities, towns and counties (not an individual).

**Larry R. Johnston Local Floodplain Manager of the Year Award** honors outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level. It recognizes an individual responsible for the development of a distinguished local program or activity, or one who struggles to implement flood hazard reduction at the local level in the absence of sophisticated programs and support.

**John R. Sheaffer Award for Excellence in Flood Proofing** is presented for completed work involving a particular project, work, research, design or publication that exhibits the incorporation of accepted procedures, practices and constraints of flood proofing, or promotes the field or knowledge of flood proofing by enhancing the awareness and use of new procedures, methods, designs and/or products. Individuals, private organizations or governmental units and agencies are eligible.
Outreach/Media Award acknowledges efforts of media to increase information and/or awareness of flood issues with the general public. It is also for an individual, agency or organization for exceptional outreach efforts.

John Ivey Award for Superior Efforts in Certification recognizes exceptional efforts to promote the professional certification of floodplain managers.

Meritorious Lifetime Achievement in Floodplain Management Award recognizes individuals who, throughout their career, have achieved success in a significant aspect of floodplain management. These efforts include policy, outreach, implementation, education, government, research, litigation or other actions that demonstrate the advancement of flood loss and risk reduction within the nominee’s professional realm.

Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes an ASFPM chapter for exemplary practices and activities that deserve national recognition. It acknowledges distinguished works by a chapter in going above and beyond its mission in a way that can be shared and replicated by other ASFPM chapters.

Goddard-White Award is given to individuals who have had a national impact carrying forward the goals and objectives of floodplain management. Nominations for this award must be submitted directly to the Board of Directors. Click here to contact your regional director to make a nomination.

Jerry Louthain Distinguished Service Award is the highest award ASFPM gives to recognize individuals who, through their long-term efforts, have clearly influenced the work of the association. Nominations for this award must be submitted directly to the Board of Directors. Click here to contact your regional director to make a nomination.

ASFPM Upcoming Webinar Opportunities

Check the ASFPM Webinars Schedule Regularly for Upcoming Events.
From the Chair

Maria Cox Lamm, CFM &
South Carolina State Floodplain Manager

From Congress to the local floodplain manager

ASFPM works on many levels to assist local floodplain managers. I had the pleasure of being part of a very important law change. As many of you know, Substantial Damage assessments and post-disaster floodplain management recovery duties have been considered non-reimbursable under the Public Assistance program since FEMA policy RR9523.2 passed in 1998. Before then, costs were reimbursable, including costs for floodplain managers helping other floodplain managers in disaster-affected communities (also called mutual aid).

Overturning this policy has been a priority for ASFPM for some time. After my state, South Carolina, saw extensive flooding in 2015 and used the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (which is the mechanism for requesting interstate mutual aid) for assistance, we ended up with a huge bill! I became an advocate for overturning the policy with this great real-world example. So, with my state’s experience in hand I joined the ASFPM policy team and we hit the ground running.

We approached FEMA to discuss overturning the policy after Hurricane Harvey. Once the ruling came down from FEMA that the policy would stand, we changed our approach. We moved to get Congress involved. This is where my experiences from years of repetitive flooding came in very handy. As we discussed the issues it became very apparent that knowing the issues all the way down, from the state to the local level, was vital to senators and representatives. As we continued to share our knowledge with all who would listen, we started to get movement.

In the end, Section 1206 of the DRRA was written and addressed the long-standing issue of reimbursement for these important activities. Now that the law has been passed, we are all awaiting the implementation guidelines that FEMA will provide.

This change will have huge, positive implications at the local level for floodplain managers. If you are in a community that has seen repetitive flooding, it is possible that some if not all the cost associated with post-disaster floodplain management activities will be reimbursed. Specifically, Section 1206 states that building code and floodplain ordinance administration and enforcement including inspections for substantial damage compliance are eligible for reimbursement. As you know, the work doesn’t end with the substantial damage determination. There are permits to be processed, inspections to be done on repairs, and certificates of occupancy to be issued. This also means that costs for others to aid a community should now be reimbursable. What great news for all of us floodplain managers!

Working on this important legislation is one of the highlights of my relationship with ASFPM. With all the repetitive flooding my state has endured since 2015, it is nice to know the stories and examples from my local governments and my personal experiences at the state coordinating office have made a difference. This is truly an example of how, through our national professional organization – ASFPM - one can make an impact that extends far beyond their day-to-day lives. So I encourage everyone to get involved and share your experiences.
From the Director’s Desk

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM

What a year!

2018...wow! Reflecting on this past year, I feel so blessed and humbled to be here at ASFPM doing the important work of flood loss reduction. We have had some major victories during the year, some setbacks, and plenty of opportunities going into 2019. Let’s take a look at some highlights.

On the funding front, as 2018 winds down we are coming off of back-to-back years of record funding for flood mapping, which means community FIRMs get updated more often. We also had substantial amounts of funding going towards pre-disaster mitigation. But what really is stunning is the amount of post-disaster mitigation funding that has been made available through a combination of HMGP and also through funding supplemental passed by Congress. The remarkable $28 billion made available through the CDBG-DR is the highest amount I can recall. And of course all of this funding goes to state and local projects to be more resilient.

From a policy standpoint, I like to measure victories by new policies that achieve our goals of flood loss reduction and preventing bad policies from being enacted. As you can read in ASFPM Chair Maria Cox Lamm’s column, perhaps the biggest win was portions of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. Among the dozen or so provisions that I would consider good for flood loss reduction is the new formula based pre-disaster mitigation program and new authority for assistance in doing substantial damage determinations and code administration/enforcement.

There were some elements of the legislation that weren’t so good as well. I think that NFIP reform failing in 2018 is OK. While there were a lot of thoughtful reforms in three Senate proposals, the House bill had a lot more bad than good and we felt would ultimately weaken the NFIP and its benefits (mapping, mitigation and floodplain management) that go with it. There really wasn’t a pathway to compromise. So, in 2019 it would be great to have some additional hearings to address current flooding issues like urban flooding, repetitive losses, FEMA’s progress on the national flood mapping program, etc. and get a thoughtful reform package.

We almost got a Digital Coast Act in 2018; however, I think the prospects are better in 2019 for it coming to fruition. FEMA’s new strategic plan is the most mitigation friendly one I have ever seen and there are new opportunities through the 2018 Water Resources Development Act to promote nonstructural flood proofing alternatives. Your voice is reflected in many comments ASFPM sent to different federal agencies as they worked to implement programs and in ongoing meetings where ASPFM represents our members interests (Operating Partners for flood mapping, FIPNC/IBHS Flood Committee for flood insurance, FEMA Higher Education, periodic meetings with agency leaders, etc.).

Internally, there has been progress too. ASFPM’s CFM program having recently certified its 10,000th CFM is using an updated exam and the Certification Board of Regents is working hard on implementing its new strategic plan. ASFPM membership continues to grow and we are working hard to focus services on meeting the needs of our members. Our webinar series – the Planning Information Exchange (a partnership initiative with the American Planning Association) and the low-cost ASFPM webinar series are
seeing good attendance, and there are many more training opportunities on the horizon now that we have a full-time training and e-learning coordinator on staff.

But training comes in a variety of ways, which is why we launched our state mentoring program. We are in the process of updating ASFPM’s main website www.floods.org as well, and will be updating ASFPM’s strategic plan in 2019.

The National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program is receiving record manufacturer interest and there are new resources for those thinking of purchasing barrier products.

The Flood Science Center is working on a multitude of projects – for example, did you know that you can get access to many great K-12 flood education resources through our project website?

ASFPM has built a substantial following on different social media platforms – trying to meet our members where they are most comfortable interfacing with us. Finally the ASFPM Foundation has launched its exciting new ASFPM Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship, and awarded its first recipient!

ASFPM continues to strengthen the many partnerships we have with other organizations. In 2018 we were invited to be part of the Federal Alliance of Safe Homes new Resilience Policy Council; we partnered with the National Association of Realtors to revive the Flood Map Coalition; and are now part of a weekly policy working group with about a dozen other national organizations. Currently ASFPM is in the process of finalizing a MOA with our counterpart in Australia – Floodplain Management Australia.

Of course all of this would simply not be possible without the support of our members, chapters, corporate and agency partners, and project funders. I am profoundly grateful for your support of ASFPM in the past year. As we look towards 2019, there are two things of which I am certain. It will flood and ASFPM will be there to help!

Your partner in loss reduction,

Chad
ASFPM Leadership Reflects on ASFPM’s First Employee Retiring after 36 Years of Service

Left photo: Diane with the “Father of Floodplain Management,” Gilbert White in 2004. Right photo: Diane posing with the plaque she received during her last conference, which was held in Phoenix (2018).

From Larry Larson, an ASFPM’s Co-founder and Current Senior Policy Advisor

Diane A. Brown started helping ASFPM with some tasks in 1981 when I met her through one of my Wisconsin DNR staff. She had several years of experience planning, organizing and running events and activities with a statewide nonprofit membership association. At the time, ASFPM had no staff. It was basically being run by our board members, especially the chair and treasurer, and the newsletter was produced periodically out of my office at the DNR. As the 1982 annual conference in Madison approached, we needed added expertise to organize and produce the conference so I asked Diane if she would help, and that started a very long relationship. She’s actually had at least eight different titles through the years as we grew and expanded!

Diane coordinated ASFPM’s correspondence, event planning, membership management, elections, critical information, newsletters and many other activities on a consulting basis for 10 years. She designated a room in her home as the ASFPM office to conduct our business and got a computer, printer and fax machine. Remember those? She would bring documents to me for discussion/signature at lunch or after work. By 1996 ASFPM rented an office and hired Diane as office manager, a big change in our life and times for sure!

In the early years, one of the states would sponsor the annual conference, booking the hotel, planning offsite activities and coordinating the registrations and bills. Diane worked with them throughout the process and assisted with hotel, board activities, logistics, etc. After the 1997 conference in Little Rock, Arkansas it became apparent that the conference was too big for a state to book, manage and conduct. For the next 10 years, Diane booked the hotels, ran the program abstracts and registrations, handled the
activities at the conference like registrations, side events, meetings with agency leaders, evening events for participants and more with the assistance of volunteer help she secured.

By 2008 growth mandated a full-time conference planner, as Diane’s duties now included supporting the ASFPM Foundation, managing the scholarships for higher education and student participation at the conference, and working with the many partners of ASFPM, while still managing many key activities for the conference. Diane trained the new conference planner and continued to assist with some conference support until her retirement. One of the things Diane always organized was the most valuable and appreciated hospitality room for ASFPM leadership. This is where we would host gatherings for the state floodplain managers and state mitigation officers, network with board and committee chairs, meet with key federal agency program leaders, and simply relax and regroup. It was always stocked with lots of Wisconsin cheese and sausage!

Diane was likely the best known ASFPM staff member because she worked so long with members, conference participants and national partners across the spectrum. Her skills in working with hotels and other venues for conferences and meetings served us well, and she has passed those skills on to other staff. As the association and its membership, certification program, conferences, chapters, training and foundation have grown throughout the years, it now requires 3-4 people to fulfill all the roles what Diane once did!

But even more important than her duties with ASFPM are the relationships she developed for the association and foundation. For many years, Diane was the face of ASFPM. People knew her, worked with her and trusted her. She always went the extra mile to make people feel welcome and thank them for everything they did for the association. We will miss, but never forget, her bubbly personality, smiling face and dedicated support of ASFPM and our members. She and her husband Mike Klitzke plan to spend much of their time traveling and stopping to visit members around the nation who have become great friends. We wish her all the best and thank her profusely for 36 years of “just being Diane.”

Diane’s “flood friends” can find her at dibrownk@yahoo.com.

From Dan Accurti, ASFPM Chair 1987-1989

Since my involvement with ASFPM began when the association was in its infancy and continued for the next 33 years, I certainly had considerable interaction with Diane. I watched her rise from a part-time employee to a valued member of the executive staff at ASFPM. As her tenure increased, so did the duties and responsibilities she undertook. Her professional growth greatly helped lead the association to mature into the reputable organization that it is today. The institutional knowledge that she gleaned along the way cannot be replaced, and her talents will surely be missed. Retirement will certainly bring many rewards and also some challenges, and as she has so adeptly demonstrated over the years—no task is unsurmountable. It was a pleasure to have had so many professional interactions with Diane, and I am honored to call her my friend.

From Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Board Chair 1993-1996 and current ASFPM Foundation President

When I look back 25 and 30 years ago, the association was a fragile organization financially, fueled by passion and ideas, and fighting on a national stage well above our actual fighting weight. The reason why we were successful was because our primarily volunteer base felt a deep sense of connection to each
other on a professional and a personal basis. Diane’s ability to connect people and make them feel part of something bigger than themselves to a large extent was part of the “secret sauce” that was uniquely Diane.

From French Wetmore, ASFPM Chair 1985-1987, CBOR President 2000-2003

For the first 10 years after we organized in 1976, we had a comfortable club of NFIP state coordinators. We did what a few of us had spare time for. Larry became executive director in 1982. It, too, was additional duty at a time when your state work came first. I recall as chair having a 15-30 minute call with Larry each week. The entire business of ASFPM would be covered.

And then, along came Diane! We now had an office outside a state agency (pay no attention to the fact that it was Diane’s basement). We had someone to pick up the workload and actually turn wishes into products. It was a turning point that allowed the association to expand services to its members and freed up the officers to tackle more policy issues. She paved the way for a full-time executive director and the office of full-time professional staff that we have now. Back then, we debated “how can we justify paying for Diane” and now it’s “how did we live without her?”

From Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Chair 2004-2006, ASFPM Executive Director 2012-present

Diane really embodied what it meant to make a personal and professional connection through ASFPM. Her earnestness in everything that she did for ASFPM, as well as her commitment to the organization, are traits that served her colleagues and every single ASFPM member well. We will always be indebted to have her as a key staff person early in the development of our organization to help foster the sense of community and friendship that goes hand-in-glove with being an ASFPM member.
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