You’ve got a Friend at ASFPFM

We’re all in the business of floods in some fashion, and that means being prepared for emergencies is just part of the package. But you don’t have to go it alone. Just as communities band together after a disaster, the ASFPFM community is also there to help.

That’s what happened when flooding hit Missouri December 2015, and then again in 2017 (you might remember the floods if you attended our annual national conference last year).

Karen McHugh, ASFPFM’s secretary and Missouri’s state floodplain manager, wanted to get a Flood Damage Assessment Packet out to all affected communities as fast as she could. And luckily, Paul Osman, Illinois’ state floodplain manager, had one ready to go, and she quickly converted it to “Missouri-style.”

“If it weren’t for Paul Osman’s willingness to share the Illinois version of the database so freely, I would not have been able to help our Missouri communities so quickly in 2017. Many other floodplain professionals have shared their expertise as well: Tom Morey (Kansas state floodplain manager), Bill Cappuccio (Iowa state floodplain manager), Maria Cox Lamm (ASFPFM chair and South Carolina state floodplain manager) and Steve Samuelson (NFIP specialist in Kansas), just to mention a few,” she said.

After receiving the packet in 2015 and the emergency passed, McHugh had the idea to update it annually so that it was always ready to blast out immediately. She and her team created a spreadsheet with local floodplain administrator, county and community officials’ contact information, which was provided to them by the Emergency Human Services branch at the State Emergency Management Agency.
“They are the first in and know where the damage is and what community has been affected. This new relationship has sped up the process by days!” McHugh said. And when the devastating floods hit again in 2017, they were ready.

“Within two days we had a completed list of flood-damaged communities. By that Friday, we were able to send the Flood Damage Assessment Packet out by email, along with an accompanying letter from the state coordinator,” McHugh said. “This was always followed up with a phone call to make sure the floodplain administrators received the email with the Flood Damage Assessment Packet, not to mention that it gave us the opportunity to ask the all-important question: Do you need help with SDEs?”

This is just one of multiple stories of the ASFPM family helping one of its own in a time of need. And in the spirit of helping others who want to be prepared for the next flood, she’s providing a PDF of her Flood Damage Assessment Packet, as well as a Word version so that each state can adapt for its own needs.

If you have a story you’d like to share with ASFPM newsletter readers, please contact ASFPM’s Public Information Officer Michele Mihalovich at michele@floods.org.
Lots of tools were recently developed to help you communicate “mitigation” to the public and officials

ASFPM develops fact sheet for FHA 203(k), a finance option to reduce flood losses for homeowners

In an attempt to revitalize neighborhoods that were run down, the Federal Housing Administration created the 203(k) Rehabilitation Program, which has been around since the 1970s. It was originally designed to encourage families in the low- to moderate-income bracket to purchase homes that are in dire need of repairs, especially homes in older communities. However, it can also be used to finance flood mitigation projects even without a presidential disaster declaration.

These loans can be used by:

- Homeowners who want to protect their homes from floods by elevating or other flood protection activities, or
- People wanting to purchase a flood-prone home, but rehabilitate it to make it more resilient to future floods.

Because so few were aware of FHA 203(k) program, ASFPM wanted to develop this two-page fact sheet so flood-risk professionals and the media could help spread the word.

The 203(k) team that helped create the fact sheet includes Tim Trautman (ASFPM Mitigation Pod facilitator), Lisa Sharrard (Jones) (past ASFPM chair), Bruce Bender (ASFPM Insurance Committee co-chair), Jen Marcy (ASFPM Training & Outreach Committee co-chair), George Riedel (ASFPM Foundation donor coordinator), Joy Duperault and Mitch Paine (ASFPM Mitigation Committee co-chairs), Manny Perotin and Randy Behm (ASFPM Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee co-chairs), as well as help from Lynsey Wallace (former HUD employee) and Joseph Baietti (current HUD employee).

**Have a homeowner needing information on elevation? IASM developed this handy step-by-step fact sheet.**

The guide breaks down the checklist for people who own a pier and beam or slab on grade structure.

**Need help explaining to city officials the value of freeboard?**

ASFPM developed a tri-fold called, “The Costs & Benefits for Building Higher.” The terminology is relatively simple so that city officials not well versed in floodplain management can understand how communities are safer when building higher, and how their citizens can save money and increase the value of their homes.
Why I belong to my local chapter and ASFPM

Written by Dave Carlton, P.E., CFM, D.WRE

Individual ASFPM member since 1987, first conference in 1982, founding member of Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association, past co-chair of the Stormwater Management Committee, and Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee, current Region 10 director and current Certification Board of Regents member.

After I read the December N&V section on why professionals interested in floodplain management can benefit by being an ASFPM member, I thought about all the chapter members who are not ASFPM members, and wondered why. While many good reasons for being a member were listed, the next page, which featured Larry Larson’s Policy Matters! column, reminded me of one of the two reasons I’ve been an individual member for 30 years. It’s the opportunity to have a significant impact on national policy affecting floodplain management. This is something not available to chapter members as they would need to work through their chapter to influence policy, and then the chapter in most cases is only representing their state.

By being an ASFPM member, I can vote for six members of our Board of Directors (my regional director, chapter director and all four BOD officers). This group sets policy for the association and determines ASFPM priorities. Over the years, ASFPM has had a significant impact on the NFIP (Increased Cost of Compliance coverage, for instance), but we have also influenced many other pieces of legislation and rules. Examples include the farm bill, disaster assistance, pre-disaster mitigation and mapping budgets, Community Rating System, HUD policies, USGS streamgaging budget, Clean Water rules, Dam Safety and National Levee Safety programs and U.S. Corps of Engineers programs.

Being a chapter member provides you with several professional benefits including networking opportunities, training, involvement on committees addressing statewide issues and possibly working with your Legislature. But what chapters can’t do nearly as well as ASFPM is represent the entire profession of floodplain managers at the congressional level and with agency staff implementing national programs.

Access to all members in the Senate and the House of Representatives, especially congressional committee chairs and their staff, is available to our chair and vice chair, executive director and policy staff, as well as individual ASFPM members with the assistance of our Legislative Liaison Merrie Inderfurth. Because ASFPM is recognized as a leader in floodplain management and is nonpartisan, it’s much easier to get an audience with your congressional leaders. It doesn’t matter which party the member belongs to or from which state, ASFPM members can meet with them.

ASFPM has a reputation with Congress and federal agencies for representing the interests of floodplain managers nationally in a fair and coherent manner, developing relevant fact sheets, and providing pointed testimony on NFIP reform and many other issues before Congress. This is why congressional committees often ask ASFPM to testify at key hearings.

These national programs and standards significantly impact how all of us do our jobs on a daily basis and how safe our communities are. I urge you all to become individual members of ASFPM to support these activities being done on your behalf and to ensure you continue to have a voice on national policies and programs that affect your community.
Public Assistance Reimbursement Policy—How does it impact state & local floodplain managers?

Way back in 1998, FEMA issued Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.2 Eligibility of Building Safety Inspections Supporting Emergency Work. This policy, while to some might seem minor in nature, has huge implications when it comes to the National Flood Insurance Program. Since this policy’s inception, FEMA insisted substantial damage determinations do not fall under section 403 of the Stafford Act and is therefore not eligible for reimbursement under Public Assistance. FEMA determined substantial damage assessments required by the NFIP do not qualify as an inspection performed to determine immediate threats to public safety, but is an assessment performed to enforce the local flood-damage prevention ordinance.

What does this really mean for state and local floodplain managers? It means the cost incurred to perform the required substantial damage assessments will not be reimbursed. And systems like the Emergency Management Assistance Compact will not be used since most requests through EMAC are reimbursable under PA. For a state coordinating office, this policy means you might consider using Community Assistance Program—State Support Services Element funding to cover these costs. While it is an eligible activity, it could result in grant funds being expended at a rate that exhaust the grant before receiving the next fiscal year’s funding. This could result in the state coordinating office having to shut down unless the state covers the cost to keep it open.

The 2015 floods in South Carolina hugely impacted the state and state coordinating office. As a small staff, our agency pulled its resources to allow us to expand our workforce and cover more area by pulling staff members from other agency programs. This was a tremendous help and very much assisted South Carolina communities and citizens. However, my agency received no reimbursement for any of the costs associated with the assistance provided, which resulted in a huge burden being placed on an already tight agency budget.

At the local level the same issue arises. The local floodplain manager determines substantial damage. But conducting hundreds or thousands of them and associated permitting activities can be an extraordinary expense. The community usually does its best to pull the resources together to do the assessments. In the end, the community will receive no reimbursement for the costs associated with performing these assessments.

So what is the big picture when it comes to this policy? This FEMA policy directly impacts the state and local floodplain manager’s ability to protect life and safety. Ask any state or local floodplain manager who has worked a recent disaster and they will tell you that performing these assessments are important to public safety. The quicker these assessments are performed, the quicker people can safely occupy buildings. This policy makes it very hard for any state or local floodplain manager to be able to access additional resources to assist in recovery from a disaster. This impacts EMAC, local mutual aid agreements and even state and local agencies willingness to assist with additional resources.
You might ask what is ASFPM going to do about this? ASFPM is aware of the impacts of this policy at the state and local level and has been working on this issue for more than a decade. We are again presenting a case to FEMA to repeal this misguided policy. Most recently ASFPM has taken a congressional approach to resolve this issue as part of some broader reforms to the federal Stafford Act. ASFPM is also starting a project that examines the entire system of how substantial damage determinations are supported and completed, with the hope of improving our nation’s approach to this important issue. For example, one way to improve the system would be to have ASFPM chapters have a trained cadre of floodplain managers that could at least deploy in-state after a disaster (currently we have about six chapters out of 36 with this capability). If you would like more specific details on this issue, please contact myself or Chad Berginnis.

**Stormwater & Urban Planning Experts, ASFPM Policy Committee Needs You**

The ASFPM Stormwater Management Committee co-chairs are seeking volunteers to support the development of a discussion paper regarding urban flooding. Specifically, the committee is seeking experts who would like to provide case studies regarding urban flooding, support the writing efforts on the paper itself, or provide review of the draft documents. Please contact Jeff Sickles (jsickles@enginuity-es.com) or Jamelyn Austin Trucks (jamelyn.trucks@atkinsglobal.com) if you have a strong interest in volunteering to support these efforts.
Policy Matters!

Larry Larson, P.E., CFM
Director Emeritus – Senior Policy Advisor, ASFPM

Infrastructure is like weather. Everyone talks about it, but does anyone do anything about it? Will we really address the need now that the administration and Congress portend they will fix it and some governors and mayors join in the rally cry? In this column, I will address some of the issues and ideas floating around and discuss some basic principles ASFPM thinks must be part of any taxpayer funding of public infrastructure.

First of all, what does the word infrastructure include? It appears the administration proposal released Feb 12 mostly includes surface transportation (roads, bridges and some rail). Less prominent is the infrastructure related to water and energy. Water has a number of components, such as water supply, wastewater, water quality, ecosystem restoration and flood risk management, which includes levees, dams and dredging waterways. Energy also has many elements that must include renewable energy from wind and solar. We also hear talk of expanding broadband and digital access, especially to rural and low-income communities.

Secondly, is the vehicle to fix the nation’s infrastructure addressed only by the infrastructure bill? Not at all. Let’s look at other sources of huge infrastructure funding:

(1) The Disaster Supplemental bills that are now passed nearly every year, and have been particularly expensive in 2017-18, are providing large amounts of taxpayer funding to recover from Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and other flooding, as well as costly and deadly wildfires in California and elsewhere in the nation. So far, Congress has obligated the federal taxpayers to provide more than $141 BILLION for helping these areas recover. Much of this money goes to infrastructure. FEMA money rebuilds public infrastructure, DOT money is for roads and bridges, etc. HUD money funds some infrastructure, but it also goes to individuals. SBA provides money for infrastructure loans and small business loans. There are many other agencies providing taxpayer dollars, but you get the idea. The Corps received the equivalent of six to eight years worth of regular construction budget funding ($15.055 billion) in the supplemental.

(2) Water Resources Development Act provides authorizations mostly for Corps of Engineers projects like levees and dams, floodwalls, seawalls, beach nourishment, ports and navigation. This is where the rules governing the planning and approvals of projects are set, and today the backlog of authorized, but uncompleted projects has grown to some $95 billion. The total annual budget for the Corps to build and maintain projects is running about $5 billion to $6 billion, with over half of that now going for Operations and Maintenance to maintain the huge inventory of already built projects. Interestingly, over the past 25 years, the Corps funding from disaster supplementals has equaled 1/3 of its regular budget. The Congressional Research Service report indicates most Disaster Supplemental funding going to flood fighting and rebuilding projects the Corps originally built and turned over to local sponsors for O&M. But we are also seeing Corps disaster funds building new or expanded projects. If anything, that trend of increasing costs is rapidly expanding.
(3) Regular budgets for DOT for transportation, EPA for state water revolving funds or other clean water grants, NRCS for some dams and levees (and lately an occasional relocation project) and other agencies. Clearly, with growing congressional interest in infrastructure spending and February’s two-year budget agreement with broad increases in overall budget caps for domestic and defense-related spending, the annual appropriations for these and other programs will be areas of intense interest in the remainder of FY2018 and FY2019.

Third, let’s talk funding. The administration’s proposal relies almost exclusively on the states and locals to step up and fund infrastructure. Actually, much of the nation’s infrastructure is already funded by states and locals according to an analysis on 2014 infrastructure spending by Chad Shirley, the Congressional Budget Office’s Deputy Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies. About a quarter of the $416 billion came from the federal government, and three-quarters came from state and local governments.

Think of the water and sewer provided to your house or business, the city streets and local roads, as well as public buildings, etc. Much of road and bridge funding is provided by a user fee, the federal gas tax, that has not increased to keep up with inflation. The proposal would reverse the cost share of infrastructure projects the federal government is involved in from 80/20 to 20/80 federal/non-federal. Whether states and locals will do that is questionable? Furthermore, the Environmental Law and Policy Center’s analysis says the administration’s proposal will actually result in an overall decrease in federal funding for infrastructure. While the bill provides $200 billion in federal funding, it cuts that much and more for existing infrastructure funding. Examples slated for elimination are New Starts transit program and TIGER program.

Fourth, what about the permit streamlining and resultant impact on the environment? The administration’s proposal eliminates most of the protections from use of the National Environmental Policy Act. ELPC reports the Trump proposal is based on the demonstrably wrong belief that NEPA is needlessly delaying the construction of necessary roads, bridges, transit lines and schools. Numerous independent analyses have shown this simply isn’t the case. Environmental Impact Statements ensure better projects are built and that bad ones aren’t. Infrastructure delays are almost always caused by the lack of money to build projects or the lack of local consensus over what should be built.

The purpose of explaining all of the above is to help our readers understand how this process is playing out. As all of this proceeds, let me mention some principles that ASFPM recommends must be included on any taxpayer-funded infrastructure:

(1) All actions funded must be designed and constructed to last a long time. That means it must account for the risks it will face over the design life of the facility. In coastal areas, that means it must be designed for projected sea level rise and storms that can be expected over its projected lifetime. Use of a federal rebuilding standard when using taxpayer dollars is essential. Why would taxpayers want to rebuild these facilities over and over because we ignored conditions we can calculate?
(2) If these facilities are expected to be operated and maintained by non-federal sponsors (most sign an agreement saying they will), then there must be legal assurances the sponsor has the financial mechanisms to do so (bonds, directed taxing, reinsurance or insurance-related securities, etc.).
(3) All federally-funded projects must consider the full array of options. For example, besides engineering solutions, nature-based solutions must be considered, analyzed and costed (including the benefits these provide).

(4) There is an ongoing need for federal oversight, not only because federal taxpayer funding is used, but to protect people and property. In the administration’s proposal, for instance, there is a provision to strip the authority of the Corps from overseeing design, construction, operation and maintenance of levees on the main stem of the Mississippi River. Think about that! Levee owners in Missouri could raise their levee for protection, only to have the levee across river in Illinois now overtop and flood people in Illinois—or vice versa. What about the people and communities upstream or downstream from that section of the levee? Who makes sure they are not adversely impacted, flooded and suffer extreme losses? Because these levee issues cross state boundaries, federal oversight is essential.

ASFPM has a more detailed list of infrastructure policy recommendations in our National Flood Programs and Policies in Review (2015) document. Please let us know what issues you see with infrastructure in your community or state, and what needs to happen to improve infrastructure with public policy that saves taxpayers money over the long term and protects people and property as well as our economy, environment and social structure.

Mary Fran Myers Scholarship
Application Deadline: March 17, 2018

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship recognizes those who share the same commitment to disaster research and practice as the late Mary Fran Myers, who guided the center as co-director for many years. Set aside for those who have the potential to make a lasting contribution to reducing disaster vulnerability, this year the scholarship is open to those residing in North America and the Caribbean. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals and workshop registration costs.

To learn more about Mary Fran Myers, the scholarship and to submit an application, please visit the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship page.
Last chance to nominate person, project, agency, etc. for an ASFPM award

The time to submit a nomination for an ASFPM award is NOW. The deadline is March 1! 
Click here to submit your nomination online. Below are the categories.

**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 Floodproofing** 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 floodproofing, or promotes the field or knowledge of floodproofing 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 or exemplary practices and activities that deserve national recognition.

**Goddard-White Award** is given to individuals who are highly instrumental in carrying forward the goals and objectives of floodplain management throughout the nation. 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.
Upcoming Trainings & Webinars

The Northeast Climate Science Center recently announced its upcoming spring webinar offerings, including the March 7 “Managing Floodplain Expectations on the Missouri River” being taught by Robb Jacobson (USGS-CERC). Click here to see other classes.

In 2017, the FEMA Region 10 Mitigation Planning team offered the "Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Coffee Break" webinar series. They focused on the development of quality, innovative natural hazards mitigation plans that enhance community resilience. Join the thousands who have already participated in the webinars. Recordings and materials for all 12 webinars are available for anyone to view and download.

ASFPFM partnered with Red Vector to offer a quick and easy option for those seeking Continuing Education Credits for their CFM education requirements. Launched in June 2016, the ASFPM online university has a variety of pre-approved courses you can take whenever it is convenient for you. Click here to see what’s available.

Coastal Construction Training at the 2018 NHC Orlando

FEMA is sponsoring a free two-day residential coastal construction course at the National Hurricane Conference – Hilton Orlando March 26-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This course is designed to train participants on FEMA’s Coastal Construction Manual, the primary, state-of-the-art reference for planning, designing and constructing residential structures in the various coastal environments. The target audience is engineers, architects and building code officials; as well as floodplain management, hazard mitigation, planning and building officials with building science knowledge. University students with a major in civil or structural engineering and/or architecture may also apply. Register using this form and submit to Lisa@HurricaneMeeting.com by March 9. Note: you do not have to be registered to attend the NHC to take advantage of this offer.

Texas Floodplain Construction Training

As Texas recovers and rebuilds from Hurricane Harvey, it is important that we design and build stronger. This all starts with an understanding of the International Code Council’s Residential and Building Codes, the ASCE 24 Standard, FEMA Guidelines and best practice approaches seen during Hurricane Harvey. This 1.5-hour webinar is designed to educate architects, builders, code officials, engineers and floodplain managers.

Register for either the March 19 webinar, March 20 webinar or March 21 webinar. CFMs can earn one CEC for this webinar.
Managing Floods Where Mountains Meet the Desert

ASFPM’s 42nd Annual National Conference
Phoenix, Arizona
June 17-21, 2018

Registration for the year’s most comprehensive floodplain management training and networking opportunity is now online! Register to attend “Managing Floods where Mountains Meet the Desert” in Phoenix. Don’t wait too long, as the early discounted rate increases after April 17! The preliminary draft program is also available for review, though some changes are expected in the coming months. Need a hotel room? Our room blocks at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix are within easy walking distance to the Phoenix Convention Center. You can reserve your room now from this link on our conference page. Visit our conference page for more information.

If your firm or organization is interested in high-level exposure at this conference, be sure to check out our sponsor and exhibitor opportunities. The ASFPM annual national conference is THE place to engage your stakeholders and clients. Contact Jenny Maurer at jenny@floods.org for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Phoenix!

And don’t forget to get your fingers in social media posting shape for #ASFPM2018 by liking and following our Facebook and Twitter pages!

Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming National Conferences

Phoenix, Arizona, June 17-21, 2018

Cleveland, Ohio, May 19-24, 2019

Fort Worth, Texas, June 7-12, 2020
Parisiens use Unofficial High Water Marks, as do Locals Everywhere

This editorial first appeared in Australia’s Floodplain Manager e-newsletter and is reprinted here with permission from the writer, Neil Dufty.

As reported in this edition of Floodplain Manager, the Seine River running through Paris has finally peaked after heavy winter rains. Although warned officially via a stream gauge on the river, Parisians tend to like to do their own flood level monitoring using a local unofficial marker: the Zouave statue attached to the Alma Bridge. By the way, according to Wikipedia, the Zouaves were a class of light infantry regiments of the French Army serving between 1830 and 1962 and linked to French North Africa.

The Zouave statue provides a crude measurement of river heights, and through local knowledge, the resultant impacts of flooding in the surrounds. For example, access to the footpaths by the river embankments usually are closed when the Seine’s level reaches the feet of “The Zouave:” when the water hits his thighs, the river is unnavigable. During the great flood of the Seine in 1910, the level reached his shoulders. This time, as the river crested, the stone soldier managed to keep his waist dry.

The Zouave statue is firmly entrenched in Parisian folklore, being mentioned in songs, books and even having its own Twitter account!

Many other communities around the world have their own unofficial flood markers. One that I’m aware of through flood warning assessments is the ‘Yogi Bear’ statue found in a park in Wangaratta, Victoria (left). Like the Zouave, locals tend to defer to Yogi for an indication of the flood levels.

Should we be encouraging communities to use these unofficial flood markers? My view is yes, with a few caveats. All means of warning should be used, and along with official warnings issued by meteorological and emergency agencies, local reference gauges and markers can help trigger appropriate response actions. Furthermore, local landmarks remind people of floods during dry times, and continue the discourse about flooding and preparedness in the community (a goal of community engagement).
And now for the caveats. Firstly, there is a saying in the flood industry that “no two floods are alike.” The local impacts of flooding at a certain level shown by the marker can be different, particularly if there are multiple watercourses entering the town or city. Secondly, people can risk their safety by moving through floodwaters to view the marker. Lastly, the effectiveness of the unofficial flood marker is only as good as local knowledge: the interpretation of what a particular level means for the at-risk community.

So let’s keep using the Zouave, Yogi Bear and all those other famous flood markers, keeping in mind their limitations.

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**Job Corner**

Are you passionate about bringing cutting-edge floodplain management training to a national audience? Are you ambitious about creating the strategic direction, technology, coordination and speakers to make this happen?

**ASFPM** is adding talent to our staff in Madison, Wisconsin and want an experienced and outstanding **training and e-learning coordinator** to take our multiple webinar series, workshops, on-site and facilitated training to the next level. **CFM** preferred, and strong technological skills a must.

We offer a competitive salary, benefits and a relocation package to Madison. Deadline to apply is March 23. [See the full ad here.](#)

Take a look at other job postings on ASFPM’s Job Board. And if you’re an employer, posting a job is absolutely FREE! Below are just a few of the other jobs currently on our board. Check them out on [ASFPM’s Job Board](#).

- **Atkins** is hiring a senior drainage engineer in its Riverdale, Maryland office.
- **An executive director is needed for the Assn. of State Wetland Managers in Maine.**
- **CDM Smith needs a senior risk analysis professional in Boston.**
National Mitigation Investment Strategy Public Comment Period Open through March 11
The public comment period on a National Mitigation Investment Strategy (Investment Strategy) is now open. The draft Mitigation Investment Strategy makes a series of recommendations, which – if met – could result in a nation better equipped for, and less vulnerable to, natural hazards. The draft Investment Strategy is available on the National Mitigation Framework website. Comments on the draft Investment Strategy will be accepted from Jan. 11 through March 11, 2018. Comments can either be submitted via email to fema-nmis@fema.dhs.gov or through the IdeaScale Mitigation Investment for the Nation campaign page.

Applications being accepted for FEMA’s Youth Preparedness Council’
The FEMA Youth Preparedness Council was formed in 2012 to bring together youth leaders from across the country who are interested and engaged in advocating youth preparedness and making a difference in their communities. Council members are selected based on their dedication to public service, efforts in making a difference in their communities, and potential to expand their impact as national advocates for youth preparedness. The deadline to complete and submit your application is March 18, 2018. If you have any questions about the requirements to be on the YPC, please visit the FAQ or email FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA Releases Recovery Advisory to Assist Homeowners in the U.S. Virgin Islands with Rebuilding
Homeowners in the United States Virgin Islands who were impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria are encouraged to understand their flood risk and any building or insurance requirements by consulting the effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the USVI. Homes located in Special Flood Hazard Areas are subject to NFIP regulations, such as Substantial Improvement and Substantial Damage and homeowners need to be aware of these as they make decisions. The Recovery Advisory also includes options homeowners may want to consider to minimize risk of future flooding when rebuilding, including relocation, elevation and wet floodproofing. Visit https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/158123, which includes links to additional resources to support rebuilding.
What’s the ASFPM Foundation been up to?

The ASFPM Foundation has a number of efforts underway for 2018, including the update of its Strategic Plan and accepting applications for the first ASFPM Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship (deadline to apply ended Feb. 25).

2018 Student Paper Competition Deadline Extended to March 15

Do you have university connections or know a student in programs related to floodplain management (such as natural sciences, engineering, planning, public policy or atmospheric science)? If so, we need your help to spread the word about the ASFPM Foundation’s Annual Student Paper Competition. Abstracts (500 words or less) are now due March 15. Three semifinalists receive travel stipends to attend the 2018 ASFPM national conference in Phoenix, and will compete for cash prizes of up to $1,000. Detailed information, including examples of papers previously presented, can be found here on the foundation’s website.

New Way to Give

The foundation continues to explore fundraising opportunities, and one simple way is through AmazonSmile.

Another way to donate is through smile.amazon.com. Start your shopping process at that link and type in “Association of State Floodplain Managers Foundation” as the charity you’d like to donate to. Any purchases you make through AmazonSmile, means a 0.5% donation from Amazon to the ASFPM Foundation. To learn more about AmazonSmile and how it works, click here.

The ASFPM Foundation is working to serve ASFPM, its chapters and members to advance projects, education and policy initiatives that promote reduced flood risk and resilient communities. Everyone’s support is appreciated – and put to good use through foundation activities. Visit the ASFPM Foundation website to learn more.

WHAT IS THE ASFPM FOUNDATION?

In 1996, ASFPM established a non-profit, tax-exempt foundation, which serves as an advocate for the profession and as a voice for you, the practitioner, supplier or service provider.

The foundation seeks and directs funds to help ASFPM meet its goals and support floodplain management activities that originate outside of ASFPM.

Foundation donations have supported development of the CFM program, No Adverse Impact publications, college student paper competitions, higher education opportunities in FPM, and specialty think tank meetings, including the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forums and Larry Larson Speakers Series.

ASFPM Foundation promotes public policy through strategic initiatives and serves as an incubator for long-term policy development that promotes sustainable floodplain and watershed management.
Mitigation kudos!

Winter is the time for awards, whether it be for movies, television, music, and this year, we are also enjoying the winter Olympics. I was so excited to see our athletes standing there receiving their medals, that I began to think about awards I would give out based on recent activities that are worthy of mention. So it is in that spirit I wanted to take the time to hand out some mitigation kudos for new policies, tools, standards and data that should have a meaningful impact on reducing flood losses in the nation.

And the award goes to...the National Institute of Building Sciences and FEMA! At the federal level, perhaps the biggest news is the Mitigation Saves 2.0 report, which was released this past month. Remember the statistic “For every $1 invested in mitigation, there is $4 in avoided future losses?” Well erase that from your memory! The new statistic is “For every $1 invested in mitigation, there is $6 in avoided future losses and if it is riverine flood mitigation, it is $7 in avoided future losses.” The new report analyzes not only FEMA mitigation grants, but also those from the Economic Development Administration and Housing and Urban Development.

And the award goes to...the Department of Housing and Urban Development! Also in early February, HUD issued rebuilding standards for projects that use its funds for rebuilding after Harvey- Irma-Maria. This standard requires a 2-foot freeboard for projects in the 100-year floodplain and for critical actions, including those in the 500-year floodplain, they must be elevated to either the 500-year flood elevation or 100-year plus 3 feet of freeboard, whichever is greater. It also mandates compliance with more stringent state and local codes. This is a significant improvement on the Sandy rebuilding standard issued by HUD and other federal agencies in the aftermath of that event.

And the award goes to...Congress! As part of the latest disaster supplemental legislation, Congress passed some changes to the Stafford Act (the federal law that gives us programs like the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Public Assistance). The most notable change is the ability to get a better cost share for PA based on state actions that improve resilience such as the adoption of mitigation plans, adoption and enforcement of the latest building codes, and funding or tax incentives for mitigation projects. FEMA will have one year to develop guidance on how states can do this.

And the award goes to...Harris County, Texas! We now have important new development/redevelopment standards for Harris County, which is the third most populous county in the United States and was significantly impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The new standards require homes in the 500-year floodplain to be elevated to that level and in the 100-year floodplain to be elevated to 2 feet above the 500-year elevation. In corresponding with local officials there, they did an analysis of the buildings damaged and found that 1) the 100-year flood protection elevation was inadequate, and 2) most damage would have been avoided in the 100-year floodplain if they had been elevated to a level above the 500-year elevation.

And the award goes to...Norfolk, Virginia! In Norfolk, we are seeing one of the most forward-looking community/comprehensive plans ever created (at least to my knowledge). Passed in late 2016, the
Norfolk Vision 2100 plan looks 80 years into the future (much further than the typical 20-30 horizon that is common in comprehensive planning). Such a time horizon looks at infrastructure investments long term as well as threats such as sea level rise on a time horizon that is actionable. This past January, city leaders passed an updated zoning ordinance based on the Norfolk Vision 2100 plan that includes meaningful mitigation provisions, including a 3-foot freeboard, requirements that all development in the 500-year floodplain either be elevated to 1.5 feet above the highest adjacent grade or the 500-year flood elevation (whichever is greater), and that severe repetitive-loss properties must come into compliance if there is any repair or alteration of a structural element of the building. They also introduce a visionary concept in the code called a “resilience quotient,” which is a performance-based standard requiring additional resiliency measures based on a menu of options.

On the 30th anniversary of the Federal Stafford Act and HMGP, which is really the hazard mitigation program that got it all started, it is useful to reflect on how far we have come even as the challenge we face is growing. And while we must relentlessly pursue better policies and programs to increase our resilience, it’s also useful to pause and celebrate our successes. When I see successes like the five items mentioned above being accomplished just in the last three months, I am encouraged that we do have the ability to make meaningful and lasting change.

Your partner in loss reduction,

Chad

In case you missed this…

FEMA updated its “NFIP Desk Reference Guide for State Insurance Commissioners and Others.” The guide is in three distinct parts: Before the Flood, During the Flood and After the Flood. Each provides valuable resources on what you need to know, what you need to share with policyholders and property owners, and who to contact. It’s organized to provide you the information you need to know when you need to know it most. FEMA published it electronically to ensure easy updates as the program evolves, and also included an interactive version.
What’s Happening around the World?

A collection of the most viewed stories on our Facebook page

**Texas**—We know city officials think they are doing the right thing for their community, but they are literally putting people in harm’s way during the next flood. ASFPM’s Larry Larson is quoted in the story, saying, "Let's not let them build to the old standard. They're going to get hammered next time." Read “After Harvey’s floods, Friendswood will allow residents to rebuild at ground level.”

**East Coast**—The review of federal flood insurance claims after 2012’s Hurricane Sandy lacked oversight, cost $150 million more than estimated and resulted in duplicate payments, the Homeland Security Department Inspector General found in a Jan. 24 audit reported by Emergency Management Feb. 7. Read “Auditor says FEMA review duplicated Sandy payments and exceeded budget.” Read article here.

**Louisiana**—Ohhh Myyy! The 93,000 pounds of Mardi Gras beads (more than 46 tons) were all found on St. Charles between Poydras Street and Lee Circle. Speaking at a news conference, Dani Galloway said Public Works is brainstorming with the city’s sanitation department on methods, such as temporarily stuffing the openings with “gutter buddies,” to keep so many carnival beads from going down the drain. Read article here.

**United States**—“Companies need to think carefully about the risks of flood, and the increased risks from climate change,” said Tom Neltner, chemicals policy director at the Environmental Defense Fund. “Saying ‘We’ve always done it this way’ doesn’t work anymore.” Read the NYT article here.

BREAKING NEWS. OBAMA’S FLOOD RULE LIVES: HUD’s decision reflects a reluctance to spend money "on stupid things," according to Eli Lehrer, president of the R Street Institute, a libertarian think tank. "And building in areas that are almost sure to flood in the near future is really stupid." Read “Trump applies Obama-era flood aid rules he axed six months ago.”

With the Trump administration signaling infrastructure as a top priority for 2018, it’s critical that the federal government adopt stronger safeguards before investing significant amounts of taxpayer dollars. Read “Three reasons the U.S. needs a flood-ready building policy.”

**United Kingdom**—Developing in the floodplain because "sea level rise hasn’t gone up all that much" seems like a jolly good idea. Read the article from BBC here.
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