

Association of State Floodplain Managers



Dedicated to reducing
flood losses & protecting
floodplain resources

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NEWS&VIEWS

Vol. 32, No. 2

April 2019

The Scoop on FEMA's Newest Branch that Focuses on Resilient Community Infrastructure

ASFPM's Executive Director **Chad Berginnis** recently attended the [Hazard Mitigation Stakeholder Workshop](#) at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. While there, he heard a presentation from **Sam Capasso**, chief of FEMA's newest branch, the Community Infrastructure Resilience Branch.



Sam Capasso

"The work of his group needs to be on your radar. He's involved in workgroups related to the development of [Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#) provisions we care about. And he is the point of the spear on an issue that ASFPM has been working on for years – supporting 406 mitigation," Berginnis said.

Here are some highlights of his presentation:

- His branch, informally called "the 406 branch," formed late last summer. An initial focus is to ensure that 406 mitigation is recognized and promoted. Capasso's branch is a matrix group that interfaces and integrates with [FEMA Building Science](#), [Mitigation Grants](#) and [Public Assistance](#). Currently the branch has 11 people, and the intent is to focus on policy coordination at the national level, not necessarily to deploy in events.
- Currently involved in two DRRA workgroups: the [1235b workgroup](#) that is helping define latest codes and standards, and the definition of resiliency workgroup.
- Another initial focus area is training. Branch staff reviewed existing courses and training at EMI and other places related to developing hazard mitigation projects through PA. There is a new EMI Independent Study Course: [IS-1014: Integrating 406 Mitigation Considerations into your PA Grant](#) (about 90 days old).

- Involved in creating a job description of a PA “technical specialist” who focuses on a multidisciplinary approach to developing hazard mitigation proposals.
- Exploring what this branch looks like in FEMA regions. FEMA Region II developed a whole branch focused on community infrastructure.

Sam Capasso will be attending [our conference in Cleveland](#) if you'd like to learn more this new branch.

FEMA Building Science and Region IV Release Two Fact Sheets Supporting Risk MAP Efforts

FEMA's [Building Science Branch](#) and Region IV [released two fact sheets](#) that will reduce risk and improve resilience to buildings and their utility systems. The fact sheets explain that, before building in your community, it is important to recognize hazards that may be present, their potential impact, and provides numerous considerations and resources to help mitigate those risks. Effective design, construction, code enforcement and building to or exceeding the latest standard of practice, increases the disaster resilience of structures and their associated utility systems exposed to risk, thereby reducing damage and injuries.



[Risk MAP](#) (mapping, planning and assessment) provides high quality flood mapping products, risk assessment tools, and planned outreach support to enhance a community's understanding of its risk. This, in turn, will help improve risk-informed decision making, enabling various stakeholders to take action in reducing their vulnerabilities to hazards and increasing resilience for themselves and their community's at large.

The "[FEMA Building Science Considerations for Risk MAP](#)" fact sheet lists numerous Risk MAP flood risk products. These include depth grids, changes since the last Flood Insurance Rate Map, Flood Risk Assessment, Community Engagement and Outreach, as well as other strategies like building above code, adopting and enforcing more stringent regulations and utilizing FEMA best practices.

The second fact sheet, "[FEMA Building Science Resources to Help Reduce Risk and Improve Resilience](#)," provides numerous resources to help foster disaster-resilient communities. Within the framework of Risk MAP, various stakeholders and communities can use building science resources to help better understand their vulnerabilities and risks, along with options available to them for implementing effective mitigation efforts to reduce building and utility damage and down time, and reduce flood insurance premiums.

To do this, there are currently over 200 BSB flood, wind, building code, Mitigation Assessment Team, recovery advisory and other resources available. Ultimately, Building Science Branch resources can enhance Risk MAP product utilization by stakeholders and communities incorporating disaster resilience or best practices into their building and utility planning, code enforcement, design and construction. For additional information on FEMA Building Sciences, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/building-science>.

Holistic Coasts – A Coastal Fellow Story

Have you ever come across a potential project idea that seemed, well...overwhelming, and wondered who might be able to complete it? We had one of those project ideas and found just the person who could take on the challenge – **Jake Thickman**, who as a NOAA Digital Coast Fellow, worked successfully with ASFPM and the [Coastal States Organization](#) to complete a comprehensive coastal management guidance resource in late 2018! More about Jake soon, we promise.



Back in 2016, ASFPM had one of those big picture project ideas and wondered how to pull it off. The starting point was ASFPM Foundation's "[Holistic Coasts: Adaptive Management of Changing Hazards, Risks and Ecosystems](#)" summary report based on the 2013 4th Assembly of the [Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum](#) in Arlington, Virginia. The summary report provided overarching recommendations across several coastal issue areas, which led to some logical next steps—how might these recommendations be implemented? Additionally, CSO produced a number of policy guidance documents for use by its membership, the state Coastal Zone Management Programs around the country.

Collaborating with the ASFPM Foundation and CSO were key steps toward refining the proposal idea—how to integrate and update guidance to coastal communities by focusing on overlapping and critical coastal policy issues and strategic objectives of each organization. All three organizations saw an opportunity through NOAA's Coastal Management Fellowship Program to work toward this idea. In 2016, the joint proposal was accepted for the Fellowship Program, and Jake was selected out of an impressive pool of candidates.

The culmination of Jake's extensive research and writing resulted in the "[Beyond Elevation: Exploring a Holistic Approach to Coastal Flood Risk Management](#)" report, which has just been released on the [ASFPM Flood Science Center website](#).

The report focuses on [coastal management goals](#), reviews [federal policies and programs](#), presents [state case studies](#) and provides [a guide to future strategies](#) and specific actions that can be taken at the federal and state level to make progress towards coastal management policy recommendations.

He collaborated extremely well with project teams from ASFPM and CSO, while working independently on challenging research topics and issues. On behalf of ASFPM, CSO and the ASFPM Foundation, we

Main Sections of the Holistic Approach to Coastal Flood Risk Management

Management Goals



An overview of coastal management principles and corresponding policy goals put forth by ASFPM and CSO in order to determine common goals between the organizations and identify specific policy objectives.

Federal Review



A comprehensive review of federal policies and programs with a direct or indirect nexus to coastal flood risk management, including compatibility with identified management objectives.

State Case Studies



Broad case studies of coastal flood risk management practices in [Wisconsin](#), [Florida](#), [New York](#), and [Washington](#), highlighting successful aspects of management in each state.

Future Strategies

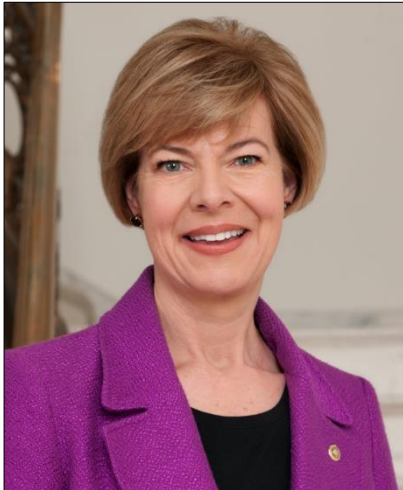


A guide to future strategies and specific actions that can be taken at the federal and state level to make progress towards coastal management policy recommendations.

want to express our sincere gratitude to Jake for being a tremendous colleague and wish him the best of luck in all his future undertakings.

We invite you to explore and learn more about the combined efforts of ASFPM, CSO and the ASFPM Foundation by visiting the [Holistic Approach to Coastal Flood Risk Management](#) website.

U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Lisa Murkowski Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Aid Shoreline Communities



U.S. Senators **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI) and **Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK) reintroduced bipartisan legislation, the Digital Coast Act, to help coastal communities better prepare for storms, cope with varying water levels, and strengthen coastal economic development planning efforts. [Read the full article here.](#)

Photos: Baldwin left, Murkowski right.



Policy Matters!

Larry Larson, P.E., CFM

Director Emeritus – Senior Policy Advisor, ASFPM



Will states have to pay a larger share of disaster costs in the future?

The Disaster Relief Act was developed in the 1950s to have the federal taxpayers pick up part of major disaster costs for those disasters “where the costs exceed the ability of local and state taxpayers to cover the costs of response and recovery.” The theoretical way the disaster program is supposed to work is if the costs are more than the community can handle, the state is supposed to help. And if the costs of that disaster exceed the capability of the state to handle, the state can ask FEMA to have the federal taxpayer to assist.

In reality, FEMA uses a simple cost per capita approach to determine the threshold at which the president will declare a major disaster, making the state eligible for federal taxpayer assistance. That threshold is now \$3.78 per capita in the impacted county. And if the state asks for federal assistance, the threshold is \$1.50 per capita in that state. The same formula applies to every state, no matter how much available monies they can obtain or how much or how little they have done to mitigate or reduce future disaster costs.

However, there is a stronger and stronger movement to have more of the costs picked up by the non-feds. Decision makers are realizing the current policy creates a perverse incentive for some communities and states to not worry if they allow development in high-risk areas because the federal taxpayers will bail them out. You may have seen that FEMA just denied over \$300 million in federal aid for part of the damage to the Oroville Dam in California, with a determination that lack of maintenance for known deficiencies in the spillway before the disaster contributed to the disaster and a wash out of the main spillway.

There have also been proposals to create an incentive system for disaster declarations that would give credit to reduce the state share or provide a greater federal cost share to states that are going above the norm to prevent and mitigate against disasters. While the most recent such proposal appears to have stalled, we are seeing more and more “billion-dollar” disasters. There were 14 disasters last year that totaled \$91 billion in damage. And total costs of such events over the last three years (2016-2018) exceeding \$450 billion— **averaging \$150 billion / year**. As federal resources become more scarce, there will be increased pressure to move in this direction. It is important states take actions that will not only reduce future disaster costs, but also reduce the burden on property owners and federal taxpayers.

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!



What's the ASFPM Foundation been up to?

With the ASFPM annual national conference just a month away, it's time to start thinking about the [Silent Auction](#). Once again the ASFPM Foundation will be holding a silent auction in the exhibit hall, and this year all proceeds from the auction will be directed to the [Future Leader Scholarship](#) fund. Anyone can donate items valued \$25



or more to the silent auction. Historically, items that are easily transported by conference attendees on their trip home have commanded the highest bids – consider unique items that reflect your state or region. To learn more about how to make your tax-deductible donation to the

silent auction, [click here](#) or send an email to

asfpmfoundation@floods.org.



The foundation is excited to host lunch Tuesday, May 21 in the Grand Ballroom of the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland. Be sure to plan to attend this event, which will be featuring a number of projects your donations helped to fund this year.

The **2019 Student Paper Competition** will take place Tuesday, May 21 from 3:45 – 5:30 p.m. (See pocket guide at the conference for room location.) We encourage you to attend the competition and show your support for future floodplain management professionals. This year's semi-finalists include: **Jasmine Thomas**, University of Illinois, "A Win-Lose Situation for Floodplain Buyouts: Exploring the Impacts of Floodplain Buyouts on Participants in the State of Illinois;" **Nick Stamnas**, University of Washington, "Saving the NFIP: A Transfer of Development Rights and Land Swap Strategy;" and **Nora Louise Schwaller**, University of North Carolina, "Disaster Exposure and Migration: The Impact of Major and Minor Flood Events on Population Loss."

Judges selected by the foundation will evaluate papers and presentations. Finalists will be awarded of up to \$1,000 at Thursday's Awards Luncheon May 23.

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. Learn more or donate [here](#).

On Wednesday, May 22 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. the foundation will be hosting perhaps its most fun and spirited event at the conference – the annual **Donor Appreciation Reception and Live Auction** – which celebrates our donors. The live auction typically features up to seven items (valued at \$500 and up) donated by ASFPM Foundation Board Trustees’ member corporations. Tickets to the event will be available for \$125. Please watch for an email with more information regarding this event. Proceeds from the live auction supports foundation activities and projects.

So what do your donations fund? Here are a few of the activities and projects since our last newsletter article, made possible by the generosity of our individual donors and corporate sponsors. We would like to express our continued gratitude for your support.

In March, the foundation convened the [6th Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum – Increasing Our Resiliency to Urban Flooding](#) in Washington, DC. More than 100 invited experts representing federal, state and local agencies, the private sector, academia and other stakeholder groups, met for two days to explore opportunities, barriers and challenges, and focus on the policy path forward as it relates to urban flooding.



Gilbert F. White Forum participants before the opening panel discussion, George Washington University Marvin Center, Washington, DC. Photo by John McShane.

The forum kicked off with three panel discussions. The first—state and local practitioner perspective, with **Amy Knowles**, deputy resilience officer, city of Miami Beach, Florida; **Joe Kratzer**, P.E., CFM, managing civil engineer, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Illinois;

Sally Ann McConkey, P.E., CFM, D. WRE, Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and **Christine Morris**, chief resilience officer, city of Norfolk, Virginia.

The second—national perspective, with **Chad Berginnis**, CFM, ASFPM executive director; **Katharine Burgess**, AICP, vice president, Urban Resilience, Urban Land Institute; **Allison Coffey Reilly**, Ph.D., assistant professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Maryland at College Park; and **David Maurstad**, deputy associate administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, FEMA HQ.

And third—the insurance perspective with **Matt Chamberlain**, FCAS, MAAA, principal and consulting actuary, Milliman; **Roger Grenier**, Ph.D., senior vice president, AIR Worldwide; and **Samantha “Sam” Medlock**, CFM, ASFPM Foundation Trustee, managing director, Willis Towers Watson.



Afterwards, forum participants engaged in active discussions during break out group sessions, reconvening in general session to do report outs and develop priority policy recommendations. The foundation will publish the forum's findings and recommendations this fall. In the meantime, please read the [thought papers](#) submitted by forum participants before the event. These papers played an important role in the development of the forum agenda and sparked meaningful dialogue. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the sponsors who helped made this event possible.

For those following the story of our first Future Leaders Scholar **Jesus Mulgado**, we are pleased to see Jesus progressing well with his studies. As part of his scholarship, Jesus was able to attend and participate in the Gilbert White Forum. After completing his undergraduate degree and taking the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, Jesus will be traveling to the ASFPM annual national conference where attendees will be able to visit with him at the foundation's booth in the Exhibit Hall and at the Donor Appreciation Reception. From there, Jesus will be heading for Washington, DC where he will be working as an intern at Dewberry before returning to the University of Arizona to complete his final year as the Future Leaders Scholar and obtain his master's degree.



Jesus Mulgado and Matt Miller in DC for the GFW Forum.

The foundation and [Floodplain Managers Association](#) co-hosted the [2019 State Flood Risk Symposium](#) April 4 at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento, California. Modeled after the Gilbert White Forum, the symposium provided focus on the state-specific topic of "The Differing California Flood Disasters." Panels and breakout groups focused on three subtopics: (1) floods



(Left) Mark Seits, FMA, welcomes participants to State Flood Risk Symposium in Sacramento. (Right) Molly O'Toole, ASFPM Foundation Board Trustee, facilitating the dam breakout group



connected to fires, (2) levees and (3) alluvial fans, mudslides and dams. Over 60 invited experts engaged in lively and valuable discussions. FMA will translate the discussions into one or more white papers to help shape additional workshops at future state conferences.

This year the ASFPM Foundation Projects Committee sponsored the [2019 Rocky Mountain Environmental Challenge](#), a partnership between [Earth Force](#) and FEMA Region 8. Students representing five schools



Brad Anderson, ASFPM Foundation Projects Committee Chair, judging High Plains School students demonstrating a model of a school field drain lined with river rock cobble.

from across Larimer County, Colorado on April 4 presented action projects focusing on flooding and other natural hazard issues affecting their communities. They presented their innovative project proposals in a very professional manner to a crowded district boardroom and handled tough questions from our expert panel of RMEC judges representing the city of Fort Collins, Larimer County, state of Colorado, FEMA Region 8 and ASFPM Foundation. Students' project proposals addressed tough issues such as campus flooding, stormwater management, school emergency preparedness, understanding the impact of flooding on wildlife and community wildfire prevention. Below are the results of the 2019 Rocky Mountain Environmental Challenge, with the winner invited to attend the ASFPM annual national conference as the foundation's guest.

1st Place - Estes Park Middle School

- Proposal Title: Protecting Estes Park from Wildfires
- Prize: \$1,000

2nd Place - Blevins Middle School

- Proposal Title: Blevins Middle School Wildlife Cameras: What is happening in the 12 Fort Collins Drainage Basins?
- Prize: \$800

3rd Place - Webber Middle School

- Proposal Title: Natural Disasters! Are We Ready?
- Prize: \$600

4th Place - Compass Community Collaborative School

- Proposal Title: Water Quality, Floods and Permeable Surfaces
- Prize: \$400

5th Place - High Plains School

- Proposal Title: River Rock
- Prize: \$200



Compass Community Collaborative School Students present their stormwater management proposal.

Congratulations to all of the participants, students and teachers for their hard work and efforts in raising community awareness of natural hazards and for their excellent work to make their communities stronger, safer and more resilient!



Not an ASFPM member yet? Then you're going to miss out on our newest member-only benefit--**a free, half-hour webinar every month bringing you up-to-date on the most pressing national policy issues impacting the programs you deal with every day.** The briefing will conclude with a five-minute presentation by one of ASFPM's Policy

Committees to discuss what their hot topics and activities are at the moment. This benefit is available for all of ASFPM's individual, student, retired, corporate and agency members! [Join today!](#)

NAFSMA's National Awards Program to Recognize Excellence in Flood Risk Awareness Communications Underway



The National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies' 2019 Excellence in Communications on Flood Risk Awareness and Water Quality, as well as its Green Infrastructure in Stormwater Management Awards programs, are officially open. Online applications, as well as more detailed descriptions of the awards programs, are available at www.nafsma.org. All submissions are to be made electronically.

NAFSMA's awards programs, which are carried out under a mentoring agreement with FEMA, are open to all public agencies and private firms working with a public agency on communications efforts for flood risk or water quality or a stormwater management green infrastructure project. NAFSMA members and non-members are invited to apply. **The deadline for 2019 submissions is 11:59 p.m. Eastern May 15. Projects must be completed by May 1, 2019 to be considered.**

For questions on the Green Infrastructure Awards Program, please contact Dusty Williams at dustyw2015@gmail.com or (951) 313-0257.

FEMA Announces the Release of the Annual Report of the Flood Insurance Advocate

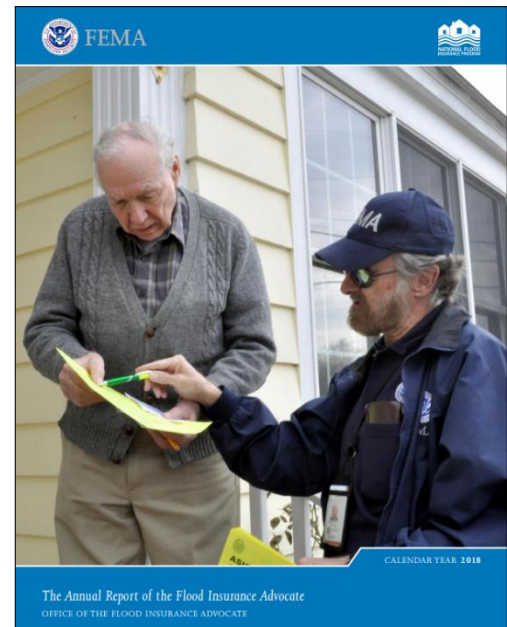
FEMA announce in March the release of the [2018 Annual Report](#) of the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate. The report is intended to increase transparency and to support the ongoing improvements to the National Flood Insurance Program with the goal of reducing the program's complexity. The OFIA's mission is to advocate for the fair treatment of policyholders and property owners by providing education and guidance on all aspects of the NFIP, identifying trends affecting the public, and making recommendations for program improvements to FEMA leadership.

In its 2018 Annual Report, the OFIA identifies four primary topics of policyholder and property owner frustrations and makes recommendations for reducing the complexity of FEMA:

- Confusion Regarding Premium Increases;
- Confusion Regarding Condominium Coverage;
- Misunderstandings Claim Impacts When Assuming a Non-Primary Residence; and
- Lack of Refunds for Prior Policy Terms After a Letter of Map Amendment is Issued.

Proactively, OFIA began researching the following three topics for 2019:

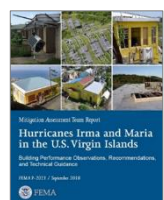
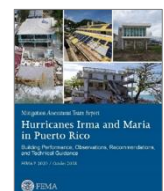
- Group Flood Insurance Policies;
- Policy Lapse and Discounted Premium; and
- The FEMA Flood Insurance Claims Appeal Process.



Other FEMA News You Can Use

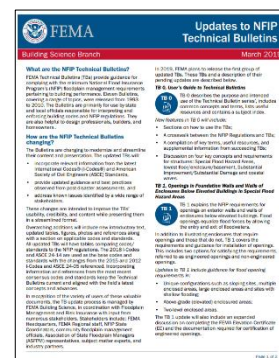
FEMA Releases MATs on Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands

In October 2017, FEMA's Building Science Branch deployed a Mitigation Assessment Team in Puerto Rico to evaluate wind and flood damage, as well as other hazards caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. More information can be found in [FEMA P-2020, Mitigation Assessment Team Report: Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico](#), along with technical guidance that can be used to reduce future hurricane damage. During October and November 2017, FEMA's Building Science Branch deployed the USVI MAT in St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. The full report can be found in [FEMA P-2021: Mitigation Assessment Team Report: Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the U.S. Virgin Islands](#).



Updates to the NFIP Technical Bulletins

The NFIP Technical Bulletins are changing to modernize and streamline their content and presentation, incorporate relevant information from the latest I-Codes and ASCE Standards, provide updated guidance and best practices observed from post-disaster assessments and address known issues identified by a wide range of stakeholders. These changes are intended to improve the TBs' usability, credibility and content while presenting them in a streamlined format.



The updates will provide state and local officials, design professionals, builders, insurance agents and home owners clear and concise information in a modern format.

The updated outline for the Technical Bulletins is:

- **Section 1** introduces the subject and purpose;
- **Section 2** references and provides information related to the applicable NFIP Regulations;
- **Section 3** presents and compares applicable codes and standards with NFIP Regulations;
- **Section 4** provides information on NFIP flood insurance rates;
- **Following Sections** contain guidance, best practices, and other subject-specific content;
- **References & Resources** lists references and other useful subject-specific resources.

Visit FEMA's Technical Bulletin website at <https://www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins> to access them.

April 2019 Revisions to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual Posted Online

The NFIP Flood Insurance Manual that became effective April 1, 2019, has been posted for your reference in the FEMA Media Library. [View the manual here.](#)



TMAC Has Been Re-mobilized!



The Technical Mapping Advisory Council, which provides advice and recommendations to FEMA to improve the preparation of Flood Insurance Rate Maps, has been at a standstill due to a delay in appointing new members to replace those whose terms had expired last year. The new appointments have been approved and the council will be soon reconvene to finish last year's Annual Report and get started on the charges of 2019. Jim Nadeau, a surveyor, CFM, Realtor and author of "[Welcome to the Flood Zone](#)," has been appointed as TMAC's "surveying member," and will serve a three year term.

ASFPM Upcoming Webinar Opportunities

[Check the ASFPM Webinars Schedule Regularly for Upcoming Events.](#)

Have a story you'd like to share with ASFPM newsletter readers? Email ASFPM PIO Michele Mihalovich at michele@floods.org.

ASFPM News

ASFPM [Coastal Issues Committee](#) submitted comments April 11 on the “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System; Hurricane Sandy Remapping Project for Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia.” [You can read the CBRA comments here.](#)

ASFPM submitted comments April 11 in response to a Federal Register notice of a proposed rule defining the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act. The proposed rule is the second step in implementation of the Executive Order signed Feb. 28, 2017, instructing the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to revise the 2015 Clean Water Rule. [Read our comments here.](#)



Flood Fest 2019: The Mitigation Resilience Tour
ASFPM's 43rd Annual National Conference
Cleveland, Ohio
May 19-23, 2019

This is the last newsletter you'll receive from us before [ASFPM's 43rd annual conference in Cleveland!](#) So this is our last chance to try and woo you to attend #ASFPM2019—the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference. Here's what you'll be missing if you're not in Cleveland:

Check out our [full program](#) to learn about plenaries, networking events, [hotels](#), workshops, presenters, technical field tours, demonstrations, exhibits, informative panel discussions and [things to do in Cleveland](#).

The 7th Annual [Running of the Chapters](#) (5K Run/Walk).

The annual [silent auction](#) is sponsored by the ASFPM Foundation. The proceeds of this year's silent auction will be directed to the Future Leaders Scholarship.

Please note that conference registration increases after May 5, [so register now if you haven't.](#)

And don't forget to get your fingers in social media posting shape for #ASFPM2019 by liking and following our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages!

What's Happening around the Nation?

A collection of the most viewed stories on our [Facebook](#) page

Louisiana—Sea level rise and ground subsidence will render the flood barriers in New Orleans inadequate in just four years. Read, "[After a \\$14-billion upgrade, New Orleans' levees are sinking.](#)"



Missouri—"Calls to address the flood disaster by rebuilding levees even higher than they were previously and adding new levees onto our overly channelized river system are counterproductive and must be resisted. Massive spending on new dams and levees will make future floods even worse, not better." Read, "[The Missouri River is a 'mad elephant' that won't be tamed by 'bigger and better' levees.](#)"



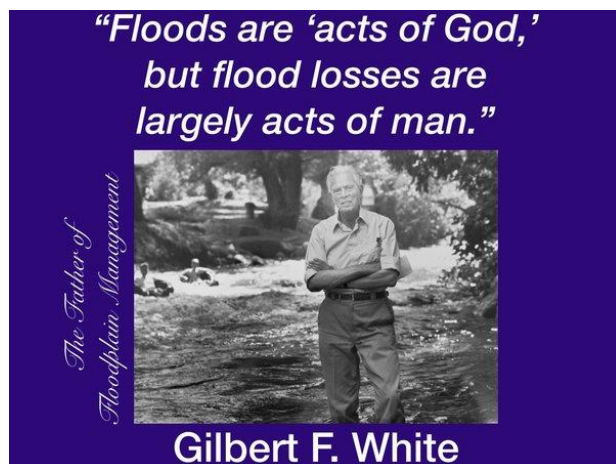
Florida—Mexico Beach is struggling with a balancing act: rebuilding to stricter standards that can guard it against future storms, while not increasing costs so much that they drive away homeowners who give the town its character. Read, "[Flattened by Hurricane Michael, Florida town tries to stave off big development.](#)"



The Nation—The U.S. Air Force says it needs \$4.9 billion in new funding over the next two and a half years to cover the costs of rebuilding two air bases hit by natural disasters. [Read the NPR piece here.](#)



Urban flooding is a complex and distinct kind of flooding, compounded by land use and high population density, and it requires a different approach to assess and manage, says "[Framing the Challenge of Urban Flooding in the United States](#)," a new report from NASEM.



Special thanks this month goes to **Brian Rast**, P.E., CFM, PMP, who created this awesome meme of Gilbert. We initially saw it on Twitter, a post by @BrianRastUSACE (Rast's handle). He agreed to let us share it on Facebook, and you guys went wild for it. As of April 22, the photo reached 1,693, engaged 200, generated 72 reactions, 13 shares and five comments! Guess we really love the "Father of Floodplain Management."

From the Director's Desk

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



Some Stories are Worth Repeating!

As a dad of an almost 4 year old, we read and re-read stories a lot. Some of Noah's favorite books at bedtime are those I have read dozens of times. In fact, if I stray too far from the text and try to improvise, Noah will call me out on it. But hey, a good story is a good story, right?

Similarly, the story of Darlington, Wisconsin is worth repeating. A quick history. Darlington is a chronically flooded community of 2,500, and straddles the Pecatonica River in southwest Wisconsin. By the 1990s its small historic downtown looked like many in small town America – facing the long, slow path into decay and the repeated flooding only sped this process up. Then the city – with the help of mayor and local mitigation champion Bev Anderson – turned to mitigation. Mobilizing multiple agencies (federal, state and local), as well as business and homeowners, Mayor Bev and the community went to work. They updated the comprehensive plan to be intentional about mitigating against future flood damage. They developed the city's flood mitigation plan using a multi-objective approach to understand problems, consider all solutions, identify community concerns, obtain expert advice and build partnerships (and it was the first mitigation plan approved in Wisconsin). Then over the next several years, Darlington:

- Floodproofed nearly 20 commercial buildings while preserving the historic storefronts. Floodproofing was done by elevating the interior of the businesses
- Elevating, relocating utilities and filled basements of over 50 homes
- Acquired and demolished commercial properties most at risk to flooding adjacent to the river
- Relocated the Darlington wastewater treatment facility outside of the floodplain
- Developed a 33-acre business park outside of the floodplain for relocated and new businesses
- Developed a riverside park with a trail, campground and open space

[Wisconsin Emergency Management](#) agency and [FEMA](#) have written up Darlington's success story over the past couple of decades.

Since Darlington isn't too far from Madison (where ASFPM's headquarters is located), the local news broadcasts whenever Darlington floods, and it happens often. In fact, in the last 18 months, Darlington has experienced three floods. But last month was the biggest flood since 1993, and it came within a foot of the 18.22 foot record set in 1993. But this is where this story never gets old. While one news story focused on the one business that didn't do mitigation and the problems they experienced, the bulk of the coverage was about flood mitigation. In fact, because flooding in Darlington is now not much more than a nuisance, when our new governor toured the community, the discussion focused on mitigation, not on flood damage. The segment on the governor's tour might now be one of my all-time favorite [news segments](#). Who wouldn't like their governor to go on a flood mitigation tour versus a flood damage tour? Who wouldn't like to have businesses deal with a day and a half closure during a flood, followed by a three-hour cleanup? I chuckled when the new police chief said they no longer put out a community-wide call for help for flood fighting because there isn't much to do!

Isn't that a great story? Well, I want to share another related story. And it is the story about your professional organization – ASFPM – and its role in how flood hazard mitigation is done today. We exist to develop and promote policies, tools and stories that help communities do flood hazard mitigation. From a policy standpoint, ASFPM has long supported FEMA's budget for pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation projects, as well as mitigation planning in Congress. We've testified on the importance of programs like 406 mitigation, traditional nonstructural mitigation techniques, appropriate uses of CDBG-DR funds for flood mitigation, and the value of nonstructural mitigation done by the US Army Corps of Engineers. ASFPM's Mitigation Policy Committee helped encouraged FEMA to better account for natural benefits in its benefit-cost analysis and routinely provides input into FEMA's mitigation program implementation. Our training webinars include topics like mitigation techniques and mitigation financing. And a project recently completed by ASFPM's Flood Science Center, with support from the ASFPM Foundation, is a [best practices and case studies compendium](#) where we have organized all case studies we have done through the years and put them in an easy to access online web portal. ASFPM's No Adverse Impact Committee in the past few years developed a [mitigation how-to guide](#). In short, ASFPM wants to help write the nation's narrative on flood hazard mitigation, in addition to telling the wonderful story of its value.

How are these two stories related? Well if ASFPM continues to be successful in helping mitigation happen through improvements in national policy and programs, greater availability of training, tools and resources, then Darlington's story needn't be unique. In fact, wouldn't it be great if 50 years from now, we could point to hundreds of Darlingtons, where a flood is nothing more than that...just a plain ol' flood!

Your partner in loss reduction,

Chad

**ASFPM welcomes all of our new members who joined in March 2019!
Can't wait to get to know you all!**

Dallas Alley, Village of Swansea, IL
Destiny Aman, HWC, Alexandria, VA
Timothy Amison, Township of Hamilton, NJ
Seyoum Asamenaw, Federal Energy
Regulatory Commission, Lawrenceville, GA
Tina Belz, GPD Group, Seven Hills, OH
Callie Benton, C. H. Fenstermaker &
Associates, LLC, Lafayette, LA
Douglas Bergstrom, City of Henderson, NV
Mark Berke, Town of Amherst, NY
Pieter Beyer, City of Boulder, CO
Jonathan Bingham, Cache County, UT
Jason Bird, Jacobs Engineering, Tampa, FL
Robert Boulette, Levy County, FL



Seth Bradley, Dewberry, New Orleans, LA
Lindsey Brouse, Borough of Selinsgrove, PA
Natalie Buden, Heidt Design, Tampa, FL
Lynn Burnett, LTA Engineers, LLC, Myakka City, FL
Alvin Chambers, Town of Kingstree, SC
Latha Chandrasekaran, WSP, Bloomfield, NJ
Audrey Chapman, MAPEI, Pompano Beach, FL
Mandi Clark, City Of Oldsmar, FL
Kyle Clark, Volkert, Inc., Birmingham, AL
Ernie Corn, Clark County, NV
Adam Crouch, Moffatt & Nichol, Lake Mary, FL
Zachary Cutler, Flood Barrier America, Inc., Brooklyn, NY
Megan Daubenmier, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., St. Louis, MO
Jenna David, AECOM, Greenwood Village, CO
Matthew Denison, Collier County, FL
Guenevere Drewes, Wisconsin Emergency Mgmt., Madison
Heath Dumack, Dumack Engineering, Newtown, PA
Tighe Ebner, HWC, Washington, DC
Robert Endress, White, GA
Jonathan Erzkus, Town of Amherst, NY
Richard Faulkner, City of Topeka, KS
George Folles, City of Tamarac, FL
Tyler Goodwyn, Greene County, MO
Thomas Grayson, Perry County 911 Center, MO
Daniel Green, City of N. Charleston, SC
Ted Halpin, Madison County., NY
Leigh Hamilton, Dewberry, New Orleans, LA
Mark Harriman, BFA, Inc., Washington, MO
Troy Havens, Yakima County, WA
Kiersten Hines, 2N Civil, LLC, Englewood, CO
Jeanne Hornsby, C.H. Fenstermaker & Assoc., Lafayette, LA
Bryan Hummel, EPA, San Antonio, TX
Heather Hyde, Jacobs Engineering, Pace, FL
Dana Interiano, Davie Shoring, Inc., Natalbany, LA
Matt Jones, Jacobs Engineering, Englewood, CO
Claire Jordy, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA
Jason Karam, Garber Surveying Service, Hutchinson, KS
Erin Kepple-Adams, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA
Joyce Kirk, O. R. Colan Associates, LLC, North Charleston, SC
Justin Kozak, Center for Planning Excellence, Baton Rouge, LA
Gina LaMonte, Town of Paris, NY
Louis Leone, City of Kiowa, KS
Carolyn LeSieur, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge

**Have questions about
your membership?
Contact Jim Dunham at
memberhelp@floods.org**

Emily Logan, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Beulah, CO
Rebekah Longstreet, City of Sun Valley, ID
Charles Loughman, Wilson & Company, Kansas City, MO
Steven Martinez, City of Joplin, MO
Robin Mesaric-King, Town of Buena Vista, CO
Nicole Metzger, Atkins North America, Inc., Newport News, VA
Tara Micka, Baker County, OR
Kara Miller, Baker County, OR
Golam Mohiuddin, HNTB Corporation, Indianapolis, IN
Eric Mongan, City of Cottage Grove, OR
Eric Moster, Indiana Dept. Natural Resources, Indianapolis
Gregory Newell, Davie Shoring Inc., Natalbany, LA
Donald Newell, Strategic Enenergy Analysts, LLC, Rome, IN
Garrett Noel, City of Youngsville, LA
Joanna Opena, WSP USA, Las Vegas, NV
Sharon Osterby, Lake County, IL
William Pace, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Topeka
Laura Palmer, The Kleingers Group, West Chester, OH
Justin Peers, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
Patrick Robinson, Clark County, NV
Gena Robinson, HWC, Washington, DC
Simone Rock, USACE, Omaha, NE
Brian Rusu, SBCCI, Inc., Wildwood, FL
Jason Shon, WSP USA, Las Vegas, NV
Jamie Shorkey, City of Kenner, LA
Daniel Simpson, City of Oldsmar, FL
Jane Slavin, Town of Orangetown, NY
Richard Snyder, Sunrise Engineering, Inc., Washington, UT
Todd Sowerby, Henry County, MO
Mary Taitano, Indiana Dept. Natural Resources, Indianapolis
Matthew Thomas, Restoration Design Group, Inc, Medford, OR
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Eric Trotter, City of Elkhart, IN
Keira Trujillo, WSP, Greenwood Village, CO
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Kathryn Valentine, Seminole County, FL
Canaan Voss, BFA, Inc., Washington, MO
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Chad Weller, City of Joplin, MO
Gregory White, Town of Lowell, IN
Ra'Desha Williams, Flood Control District of Maricopa County, AZ

Richard Williams, Township of
Hamilton, NJ
Brienna Wirley, New York State Dept.
Env. Conservation, Avon
Jeffrey Wyrostek, City of E. Providence,
RI
Stephanie Yezzi, Southern Tier Central
Regional Planning Devt. Board,
Binghamton, NY

NEWS&VIEWS



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