

**Association of State
Floodplain Managers**



Dedicated to reducing
flood losses & protecting
floodplain resources

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NEWS&VIEWS

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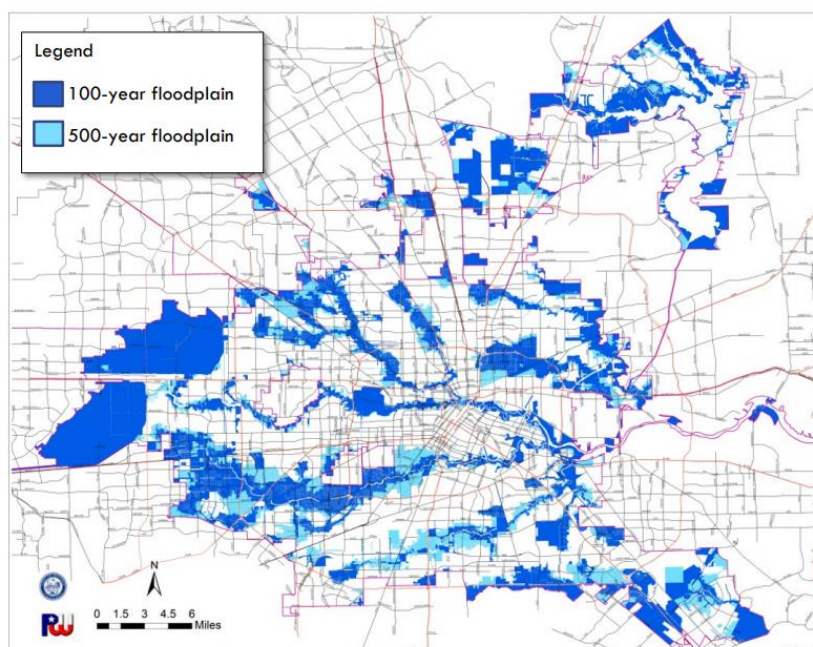
April 2018

Houston City Council Does the Right Thing with Changes to its Floodplain Ordinance

When the news broke April 3 that Houston's City Council approved stronger, MUCH stronger development standards and building codes, it felt like we should be popping champagne bottles.

Oftentimes after devastating floods, city leaders decide their constituents have been through enough, and shouldn't have to be burdened with rigid rebuilding standards. In their attempt to "protect" their flood-weary citizens, they are in effect placing them right back into harm's way. These structures will flood again. These people will go through the financial and psychological trauma of floods again. And taxpayers will bail them out again.

But Houston's leadership decided in a contentious 9-7 vote that the cycle of flood, rebuild, flood, rebuild ends in their



Map — Area Impacted by Proposed Changes to Chapter 19 (FEMA Current Effective FIRM, 2018)

community, which had been hit by three major floods events since 2015.

"This is a defining moment," Houston Mayor **Sylvester Turner** said in his final pitch to the council, according to the [Houston Chronicle](#). "Can we undo what was done with Harvey? No. But can we build looking forward? Yes. Does it mean it may cost more financially? Yes. But if it has the probability of saving lives, and if it has the probability of letting people know in our city and those who are looking to come to our city that we are taking measures to be stronger, to be more resilient, then that's positive for the city of Houston."

Even **Roy Wright**, FEMA's former deputy associate administrator for insurance and mitigation, weighed in with a letter to the city regarding proposed changes to the Houston floodplain ordinance.

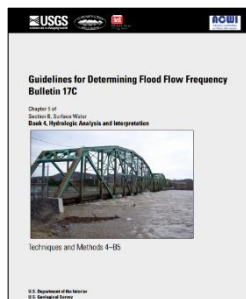
"In order for the nation to be more resilient, many communities will need to take these forward leaning steps," Wright wrote. "We will be looking to Houston to lead the nation in its resilience and capacity to shape policies that keep citizens safe through all hazards."

The City Council voted to expand the regulated area from only the 100-year floodplain, to include the 500-year floodplain; elevation increased to the 500-year floodplain plus 2 feet; and zero net fill. These changes go into effect Sept. 1.

In documents submitted to the City Council by city staff, it read, "Current floodplain regulations were inadequate to protect even compliant homes from flooding in Harvey. Almost 5,000 homes built to the 1 foot above the 100-year floodplain flooded in Harvey. Three thousand of these homes were outside the areas impacted by the reservoir releases...the city study shows that 84 percent of structures in the 100- and 500-year floodplains would not have flooded if the proposed changes were in place prior to Harvey."

City leaders are often called on to make difficult decisions for their constituents. These aren't always easy. But in the case of making Houston safer for the next flood, it was definitely the right decision and we raise a glass of champagne to you!

USGS Publishes Bulletin 17C, "Guidelines for Determining Flood Flow Frequency"



Accurate estimates of flood frequency and magnitude are a key component of any effective nationwide flood-risk management and flood-damage abatement program. [Bulletin 17C's Chapter B5 of book 4 \(TM 4-B5\)](#) deals with flood flow frequency analysis at gauged sites using the Expected Moments Algorithm. The use of extreme flood data represented by interval and censored data types, including historical, paleoflood and botanical evidence, is emphasized.

The ASFPF Flood Science Center facilitated a Cooperating Technical Partner webinar on "Flood Frequency Computations Using Bulletin 17C" last November. [Information on this webinar can be found here](#). This is one of the webinars ASFPF conducts as part of the CTP Information Exchange in coordination with FEMA. The slides and recording of the webinar can be accessed via the referenced link.

There will also be a workshop at the ASFPF national conference in Phoenix June 21. The title of the workshop is "Characterizing Flood Risk Using Bulletin 17C, the Updated Federal Guidelines for Flood Frequency Analysis."

Exploring the Possibility of Integrating Floodplain & Wetland Mapping



Federal panel from L-R: Jay Thompson, Maria Honeycutt, Megan Lang, Stephen Aichele and Luis Rodriguez. Photo by Jeanne Christie.

The [Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance](#) and [Wetland Mapping Consortium](#) combined forces to host an April 10 workshop at the Tommy Douglas Conference Center in Silver Spring, Maryland titled, “Exploring Opportunities for Integrated Mapping and Functional Assessment of Riverine and Coastal Floodplains and Wetlands.” The overall goal of this workshop was to discuss current and potential opportunities to integrate wetland, floodplain, coastal and riparian geospatial mapping efforts, techniques and data on ecosystem functions in order to improve decision making and resource management, as well as reduce risk, and to create a roadmap for the future.

To accomplish this goal, a planning committee was formed with members from NFFA and WMC who met weekly over several months to develop the workshop, identify funding, invite speakers and participants, and manage the various logistical details required. The [Association of State Wetland Managers](#) facilitated the planning committee, and a generous grant from the [Association of State Floodplain Managers Foundation](#) provided critical financial support for the workshop.

Jerry Sparks from the foundation started the day with a warm welcome for participants, followed by an opening presentation by **Jeanne Christie**, executive director at ASWM, and **Dr. Maria Honeycutt**, a coastal hazards specialist at NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management. This was followed by five case study presentations by: **Mike Kline**, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Rivers Program; **Sinan Abood**, U.S. Forest Service; **Andy Robertson**, Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota; **Tim Beechie**, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center; and **Elliott Campbell**, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Afterward, **Eileen Shader**, from American Rivers and ASFPM’s Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee co-chair, moderated a round robin discussion of the case studies.



Presenters panel from L-R: Eileen Shader, Andy Robertson, Elliot Campbell, Mike Kline, Sinan Abood, and Tim Beechie. Photo by Larry Larson.

The afternoon session started out with a federal panel discussion that explored what federal agencies are doing in regard to integrated mapping and functional assessment of riverine and coastal floodplains and wetlands, and how they might support state efforts within the federalism context. The panel was moderated by **Marla Stelk**, ASWM, and included **Dr. Megan Lang**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory; Honeycutt; **Stephen Aichele**, U.S. Geological Service; **Luis Rodriguez**, FEMA; and **Jay Thompson**, Bureau of Land Management.

Following the federal panel, **Larry Larson**, ASFPM's senior policy advisor and Robertson facilitated a break-out session with workshop participants who were divided into three groups. Each group was assigned one topic for discussion: 1) Areas of Overlap and Distinction, 2) Key Challenges and Information Gaps, and 3) Opportunities to Leverage Resources. Within the group's assigned topic area, each group had to develop 2-3 bullet points that described: 1) What are the needs based on our discussions?, 2) What are some actions that can be taken to address the needs?, and 3) What are the challenges? The break-out groups reported out to the full workshop and Christie wrapped up the day with a full group round robin discussion covering final thoughts, lessons learned and next steps for an action agenda to move forward.

Some of the common recurring themes in regard to final thoughts by the group included:

- A need for improved communication among professionals, knowledge sharing, tools, models
- Partnerships, likely and unlikely, are critical to provide technical assistance, combine funding, expertise, etc.
- Digital data availability is important (identify who has it, where it is, and how to obtain it)
- Continuity of knowledge is key (stop reinventing tools and/or data that is already out there)
- Leverage existing mandates and legislative tools
- Clearly articulate use cases (fiscal support)
- Innovate and embrace technology while bridging the gap
- Tie mapping efforts to societal needs, hazards and costs

- Embrace social science to tell the story of social significance
- Make avoidance a priority
- Tools can be complex, but results should be easy to explain
- We need to provide clear, consistent, accessible and consumable messaging about the benefits and enhanced decision-making tools provided by integrating maps and providing site-specific information about natural floodplain functions and services

This workshop was intended to be the first step in a larger multi-year initiative. Next steps include:

1. Developing a workgroup to continue exploring opportunities and challenges over the next year, develop webinars, and participate in conference calls.
2. Plan for a second workshop in 2019 that will dig deeper into the technical challenges and opportunities. An area of particular interest will likely be exploring how to map floodplain functions to support protecting and restoring natural infrastructure and establishing green infrastructure. During the workshop an action plan will be developed for the third year.
3. Plan for a third workshop in 2020 to identify program and policy changes that need to be made in order to implement an integrated approach.

After the workshop, Sparks said, "I thought it was an excellent workshop. I learned many new things and perspectives as a 29-year practitioner in flood mapping and flood mitigation. The day left me excited about the possibilities of integrating floodplain and wetland mapping and I'm certainly eager to see where things head."

This long-term initiative has significant potential to advance the science, policy and practice of floodplain management. Many opportunities exist for individuals and/or groups interested in continuing this effort over the next few years. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved, please contact **Marla Stelk** at ASWM at marla@aswm.org or by phone at (207) 892-3399.

NAFSMA Opens Nominations for 2018 Excellence in Communications & Stormwater Management Green Infrastructure Awards



The National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies has officially opened its Excellence in Communications and 2018 Green Infrastructure Awards Programs. The association carries out these awards programs every two years. Nearly 50 entries were in 2016.

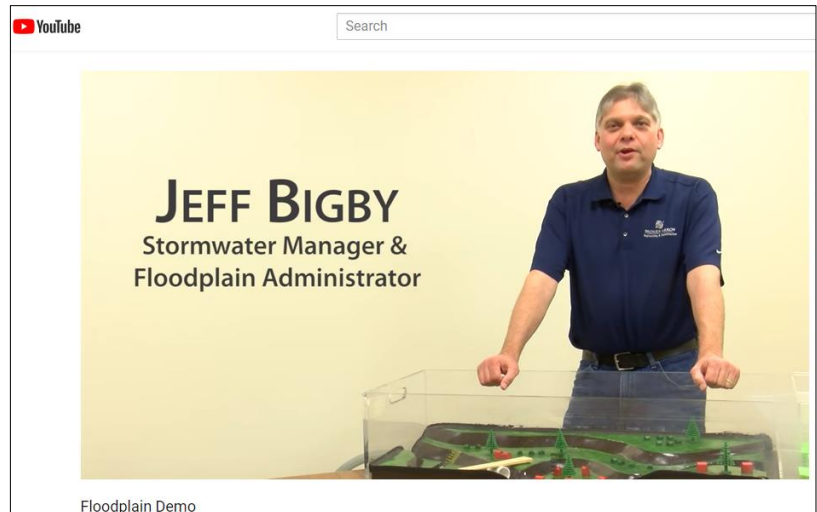
Entry submissions for both of the 2018 awards programs should cover projects and programs implemented between Jan. 1, 2016 and Feb. 28, 2018. To be eligible for consideration, [applications need to be submitted electronically via the NAFSMA website by midnight EST May 18, 2018](#). Award winners will be announced at NAFSMA's 40th Anniversary meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which is being held at the La Fonda Hotel July 10-12, 2018.

Teachable Moments Using Video

Jeff Bigby, P.E., CFM, is the floodplain administrator of Broken Arrow, OK and the current vice chair of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. He said he's watch several flood model demonstrations on YouTube, but none were very comprehensive. "[This video we created was intended for multiple audiences](#). Floodplain managers can use it as a rough how-to guide on how to use the flood model," Bigby said.

"Secondly, it can be for the general public to learn about floodplains, wetlands, low impact development, stormwater detention, flood mitigation, flood safety (TADD), and the importance of flood insurance. The third audience would be stormwater quality managers who can show the water quality benefits of wetlands, pervious pavement and LID."

He said another goal is to get as many CFMs as possible to borrow these models to show people demonstrations in person. "Every CFM has some different types of floodplain knowledge they can impart while giving a demo," Bigby said. "Many CFMs could do a great job of outreach with these models."

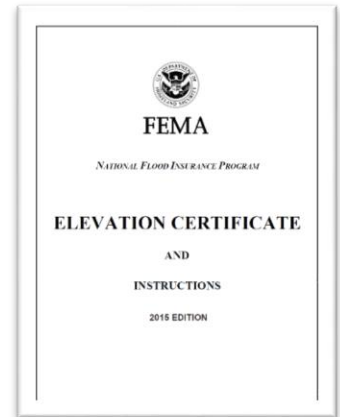


The [Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management](#) unveiled [this video](#) at its March conference. The 9-minute video shows how the Flood of 1993 impacted Illinois, and how they responded after the disaster to keep people out of harm's way for the next flood. Be on the look out for ASFPM members **Paul Osman** (Illinois state floodplain manager) and **Molly O'Toole** (president of Molly O'Toole & Associates) and **Loren Wobig** (Illinois Office of Water Resources).



ASFPM Committees Help in Elevation Certificate Update

Every three years, the Elevation Certificate form expires, and FEMA must renew it (along with incorporating any updates) via the Office of Management and Budget. When FEMA went through this process three years ago, the form was published with several errors and issues. ASFPM's Insurance Committee became an avenue for ASFPM members to provide FEMA with suggested corrections and enhancements. While FEMA used many of these to correct and improve the current document, there were still more improvements ASFPM and its members wanted to see.



ASFPM, through the Insurance Committee, sits as a non-voting member on the Flood Insurance Producers National Committee, which is made up of a voting representative from each of the three major insurance agent associations. Three times a year, FEMA meets with FIPNC and the Executive Flood Committee of the Institute for Business and Home Safety, which is comprised of Write Your Own insurance companies. At the February and July meetings in 2017, ASFPM strongly encouraged FEMA to form an industry committee to identify needed changes to the EC and then conduct quality control testing. At the October meeting, FEMA agreed to form the committee and held the first meeting in November. The group is comprised of floodplain management, surveyor and insurance professionals, as well as FEMA staff from different divisions and regions.

To coordinate a response, the ASFPM Insurance Committee formed an EC Review Work Group that includes interested committee members from the Flood Insurance and Floodplain Regulations Committees and is led by ASFPM Past Chair **Bill Nechamen**. After several calls with FEMA's industry committee and internally with our Work Group, ASFPM has submitted a list of recommended changes to the Elevation Certificate and Instructions. We are hopefully getting close to finalizing the recommended changes. ASFPM's submittal included our top five critical changes, a list of typos and errors to be fixed, and a list of secondary recommended changes. We also provided rationale and benefits of the changes to better inform FEMA staff as to the necessity of the adjustments. The goal of the top five changes is to

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands — one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

— Audrey Hepburn



ASFPM would not be the organization it is today without the drive, determination and dedication of our volunteers. And for this, we are forever grateful that you used one of your hands to help us in our mission to reduce flood losses and protect floodplains. Thank you!

reduce the number of errors and omissions related to BFEs and survey data, which directly impacts building owners, certified professionals, communities and insurance agents. The secondary list addresses a variety of issues related to improving the Elevation Certificate and Instructions as a whole.

FEMA hopes to have the changes agreed upon and finalized to submit to OMB by next month. We will keep ASFPM members updated with additional information as it becomes available.

Proposed Bill would have USGS Take Over Responsibility for the Nation's Flood Maps



Rep. **Rick Crawford** (R-Ark.) recently introduced [H.R. 5559](#), a bill that would transfer "functions related to the preparation of flood maps" from FEMA to USGS. The USGS prepares some general maps of flooding, while FEMA manages flood insurance rate maps, which define areas where communities must regulate development in order to make flood insurance available to their property owners.

It would be a bold move, stripping a Department of Homeland Security agency of a high-profile and politically-sensitive task and handing it to an Interior Department agency, which is a well know science agency with few controversial programs. NFIP flood mapping is an issue that gets lots of attention.

ASFPM Senior Policy Advisor **Larry Larson** said, "It's important to keep in mind that this is simply proposed legislation and we have no idea if it has much support. We will keep our eye on it and let our membership know if this is getting any traction."

Silver Jackets Offering Free Webinar May 16: Changes in the Magnitude & Frequency of Flooding in the U.S.

You can join a one-hour Silver Jackets webinar May 16 at 2 p.m. Eastern titled: "Changes in the Magnitude and Frequency of Riverine Flooding in the United States" presented by **Robert Hirsch**, a USGS research hydrologist. Whether you are an engineer, hydrologist, planner, geographer, communications specialist, or in another field dedicated to flood risk management, you don't want to miss this timely presentation.

Effective flood-loss mitigation requires sound information about flooding risks (information about how high and how often one can expect floods to occur on any given river). The USGS has been providing this kind of information for over 100 years. Flood-risk information depends on long-term streamflow data, detailed geographic information about watersheds and floodplains, and statistical analyses of these data. Historically, in doing these analyses the assumption has generally been that the relationship of frequency and magnitude never changes over time. Today the hydrologic science community and citizens in general recognize there are reasons changes could be taking place, driven by factors such as changes in land use; changing engineering works, such as land drainage, dams and levees; and changes in climate. An important part of planning for the future is knowing what changes have happened in the past and trying to learn about the drivers of those changes. The USGS has been working on this issue for more than a decade. The study results may surprise you.

Space is limited! To attend, **log into the web meeting first**, then dial audio.

WEBINAR LINK: <https://usace.webex.com/usace/j.php?MTID=mc291c3b1fae0bb4e14b4959340221545>

AUDIO:

Call-in toll-free number: (877) 336-1839

Access Code: 8165946#

Security Code: 8899#

From the Chair

Maria Cox Lamm, CFM &
South Carolina State Floodplain Manager



Impact of ASFPM

Many know of ASFPM's work with Congress advocating for good policy regarding all aspects of floodplain management. What may not be as well known is that we spend a lot more time working with federal agencies to improve program implementation. Making sure programs and policies work at the local level is very important to us. Our voice is strong because of the years of advocating for good policy.

A great example of ASFPM working with a federal agency is the Community Rating System. For years ASFPM urged FEMA to develop a program that would reward communities that go above and beyond the minimum NFIP standards in their local community. After some thought, FEMA developed the CRS program. As most of you know, the program provides reduced flood insurance premium rates based on actions the community is making that are above the minimum NFIP standards. A class rating system is utilized to determine the amount of flood insurance premium reduction for a community. Under this system a community accrues points to improve its CRS class rating and receive increasingly higher reductions to the flood insurance premiums for its citizens. Currently CRS is being implemented in 5 percent of the 22,000+ communities that participate in the NFIP. That might seem small, but more than 69 percent of all flood insurance policies are written in CRS communities.

Another great example is the Silver Jackets program. For decades ASFPM worked with the Army Corps of Engineers, urging them to think beyond the usual structural projects like levees, dams and channels. If a structural project was not feasible or cost effective, the Corps might walk away with no solution provided to the community. ASFPM urged the Corps to provide technical assistance to communities to assist them in exploring other options. The Corps developed the Silver Jackets program, which brings together state and federal agencies to learn from one another and provide technical assistance to communities in reducing flood risk. Every state Silver Jackets team is different, but brings the appropriate state and federal agencies to the table and allows for collaboration that builds state capacity, identifies potential funding sources for unmet needs, optimizes the use of resources and facilitates close relationships that are vital to disaster response and recovery.

ASFPM takes great pride in using our voice to promote good policy with federal agencies, the administration and Congress. As you can see, an even bigger source of pride is the ability to use our voice to have a positive impact on implementation of programs that directly affects floodplain management at the local level. The two examples I have provided are programs ASFPM still supports and provides feedback when appropriate.

If you have an issue or feedback on a program you would like to share with ASFPM, please contact your state or regional ASFPM chapter, the ASFPM chapter director for your district or ASFPM regional director for your region. Even better, get involved in an ASFPM Policy Committee!

Policy Matters!

Larry Larson, P.E., CFM

Director Emeritus – Senior Policy Advisor, ASFPM



I just read an [interesting report from Rand](#) on why people do not buy flood insurance. The low take up rate for flood insurance is a long standing problem that impacts the solvency of the NFIP and costs federal taxpayers billions of dollars.

A number of professionals believe people will buy flood insurance if we just communicate flood risk to them (many of us do not subscribe to that theory). We have been using various means to communicate risk to people for decades, as has Mother Nature—with no real success. The take up rates have not moved much at all, and the usual drop three years after the disaster continue to appear. FEMA is promoting structure-specific risk information instead of FIRM maps as the tool that will convince property owners to buy flood insurance. I'm not aware if FEMA has analyzed whether that has increased take up in the state that has that information.

To address this, some options mentioned have included:

- Mandatory flood insurance for all properties—or universal coverage (mandatory is the main driver of insurance take up).
- Require flood insurance in 500-year, not just 100-year (especially key in light of increased rainfall intensity and sea level rise).
- Make it clear that disaster relief will not be large for those in high-risk areas without flood insurance (and reflect that in law/rules). This is hard to accomplish, especially after a huge disaster since Congress does not want to appear they are abandoning those who just suffered dramatic losses (even if the losses were attributable to individual choice or poor community management of known flood risk).

As the move to private flood insurance continues, these issues will not go away. If flood insurance rules and coverage are set by 50 states instead of the federal government, and disaster money continues to flow from Congress, this issue will only become more complex.

If you have ideas on this issue, you may want to share them with ASFPM at larry@floods.org.

Federal Disaster Recovery Funding Opportunity

Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

CDBG-DR announced almost \$28 billion in disaster supplemental funding allocations for disasters occurring in 2017 (based on unmet needs) and from 2015 to 2017 (for mitigation work). For complete information on the announcement, visit the CDBG-DR website [here](#). Additional allocations for disaster mitigation work for disaster years 2015-2017 have also been made. Please contact **Matthew Mullin** at mmullin@iedconline.org with any questions or concerns.

Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Buildings Course at EMI May 14-17

FEMA is sponsoring a four-day E0279 Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Buildings Course at the EMI National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, May 14-17. This course is designed to provide engineering and economic guidance to architects, engineers and local code enforcement officials in retrofitting existing one- to four-family residential structures situated in flood-prone areas. The retrofitting measures presented are creative, practical, compliant with applicable floodplain regulations, and satisfactory to most homeowners.



This E0279 course will cover the concepts of flood-proofing and retrofitting, regulatory framework, design parameters, benefit-cost analysis, and technical feasibility considerations. Participants will complete a design activity on a real-life case study. It will also include a computer laboratory session with hands-on exercises using the FEMA benefit-cost analysis program modules.

To Apply: Complete a [FEMA Form 119-25-1](#), General Admissions Application, with student signature and signature of supervisor or sponsoring agency official. Mail, scan or fax the application to:

NETC Admissions Office (Room I-216) National Emergency Training Center
16825 South Seton Avenue Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998
Phone: (301) 447-1035 Fax: (301) 447-1658
Email: netcadmissions@fema.dhs.gov

For additional information about this course, visit:

<https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frt/npccatalog?courseId=2082#anc-search-results>

EDA 2018 Resilience Grant Opportunity for Federally Declared Disaster Areas in 2017!

The U.S. Economic Development Administration recently announced a new funding opportunity for disaster recovery project activities.

- No deadline for application
- Projects must be related to disaster declared counties
- \$93,810,000 allocated for West coast
- \$587 million available nationwide

EDA released the Disaster Supplemental [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) with general policies and application procedures. For more information, visit the EDA website:

<https://www.eda.gov/programs/disaster-recovery/2018-supplemental/>



Managing Floods Where Mountains Meet the Desert

ASFPM's 42nd Annual National Conference

Phoenix, Arizona

June 17-21, 2018

This year, like every year before it, ASFPM has lined up an incredible group of plenary speakers for our annual national conference.

Our **opening plenary** on June 19 focuses on, "Rebuilding 2017—The Year of Disasters." The Honorable **Edward M. Emmett**, judge and presiding officer of Harris County Commissioners Court in Texas, will speak on "Harvey Hammered Houston! Rebuilding Texas." **Christy Jones**, deputy director for statewide emergency preparedness and security for the California Dept. of Water Resources, will discuss "Fires, Flash Floods and Mudslides."

Our **second plenary** is about issues and implementation strategies for the NFIP, and will include the following experts: **David Maurstad**, assistant administrator of the Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration; **Dr. Carolyn Kousky**, director of policy research and engagement of the Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; **Laura Lightbody**, project director of the Flood Prepared Communities with The PEW Charitable Trusts; **JoAnn Jay Howard**, H2O Partners president and former Federal Insurance Administrator; and **Cheryl Small**, executive director of the National Flood Determination Association.

The **final plenary**, "Making it Work: Flood Mitigation Best Practices and Success Stories," features **Steve Martin**, state floodplain manager with the Florida Bureau of Mitigation; **Roger Lindsey**, stormwater program manager with Nashville Metro Water Services; and **Kelli Sertich**, branch manager and policy, planning and coordination with the Maricopa County Flood Control District, Arizona.

Now, aside from learning what's going on in the world of flood-risk management, our annual national conference also includes a ton of fun networking opportunities.

The "**Sunday Welcome Fest**" is a state fair inspired event, complete with cornhole, darts, basketball, football and more! The "**Thursday Networking Reception**" will be held at the Arizona Science Center. The venue has more than 300 hands-on interactive exhibits that spans four levels. Explore the human body, experience the forces of nature, be fascinated by physics, discover digital communications and investigate renewable resources. Designed by renowned architect **Antoine Predock**, this unique landmark is nestled in the picturesque setting of Heritage and Science Park directly across from the Phoenix Convention Center.

"Run for the Shade" is this year's theme of the **6th Annual Running of the Chapters**.

[Click here to learn everything about this 5K run/walk](#), including how to register.



You can start making your arrangements now, such as [registering for #ASFPM2018](#) before prices increase May 30, and booking your [hotel rooms at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix](#) before May 25 to take advantage of the group rate. Don't forget to regularly check out the [2018 conference webpage](#).

We've also put together an [information page on all there is to do in Phoenix](#).

Job Corner

ASFPM is adding talent to our staff in Madison, Wisconsin. We want an experienced and ambitious **training and e-learning coordinator** to take our multiple webinar series, workshops and facilitated training to a national audience. Help us deliver cutting-edge projects from our Flood Science Center to the scientific and planning community, and create the strategic direction, technology, coordination and speakers to make this happen. A **CFM** is preferred, or must be obtained within one year of hire, and strong technological skills are a must. Salary range is \$55K-\$65K, along with excellent benefits and a relocation package to Madison if necessary. Deadline to apply is May 1, 2018. Submit resume and cover letter to employment@floods.org. [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](#).

- **Snohomish County Public Works in Washington is hiring a surface water utility director.**
- **A director of building and planning is needed in Bensalem, Pennsylvania.**
- **The Illinois State Water Survey (University of Illinois) is looking to fill one or more positions for its Coordinated Hazardous Assessment Mapping Program.**

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](#)



FEMA News You Can Use

FEMA's Roy Wright Accepts President and CEO Position with IBHS

It was [announced April 5](#) that **Roy Wright**, FEMA's chief executive for the NFIP, will assume leadership of Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, a leading research and communication organization, beginning April 25. [FEMA also announced](#) that **David Maurstad** will serve as acting deputy associate administrator for insurance and mitigation, as well as the director of the NFIP.

Flood Insurance Advocate Releases His Annual Report

FEMA released the [2017 Annual Report](#) of the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate. The report is intended to increase transparency, and support ongoing improvements to the National Flood Insurance Program with the goal of reducing its complexity. In 2017, the OFIA identified eight primary policyholder and property owner frustrations, which include recommendations that present opportunities for reducing the complexity of FEMA



FEMA Announces its Intent to Transfer NFIP Risk to the Capital Markets

FEMA announced April 2 its intent to secure additional reinsurance for the National Flood Insurance Program through a mid-year placement engaging the capital markets. This will continue to expand the role of the private markets in managing the nation's flood risk. [Read full release here.](#)

FEMA Names New Underwriting Branch Chief

John Hintermister has been selected as the branch chief for the Underwriting Branch in the Product Delivery Division of the Federal Insurance Directorate, according to a March 30 announcement. Hintermister filled a vacancy left when **Jhun de la Cruz**, who after several decades of working in the flood insurance industry, retired at the end of 2017. [Read more here.](#)

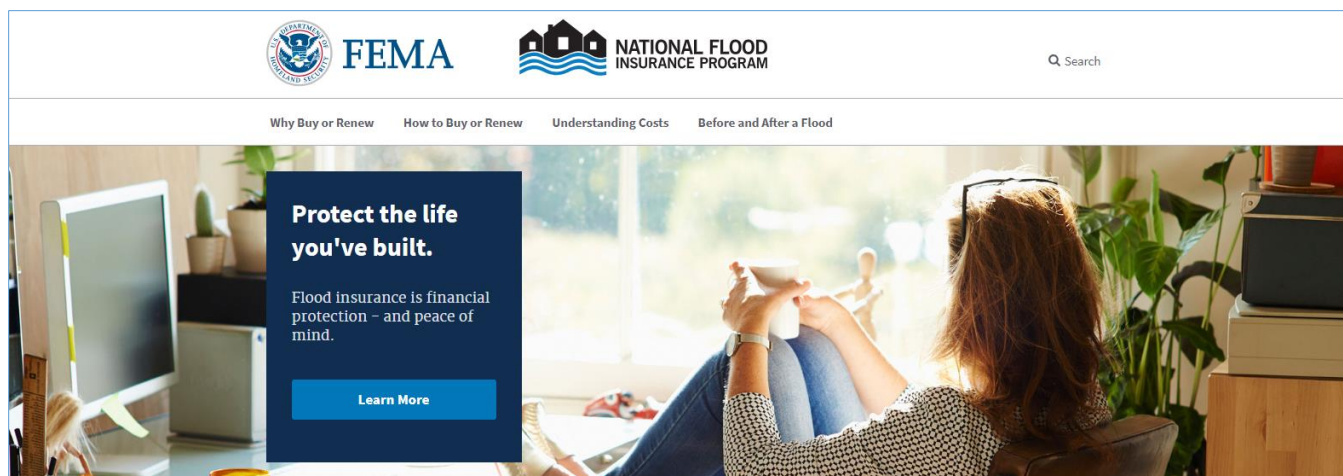
A Look Back at 30 Years of Mitigation Helping Communities Rebuild Stronger

This year marks the 30-year anniversary since the Robert T. Stafford Act was amended to include funding for hazard mitigation grants as a way to help communities recover and rebuild after a presidentially-declared disasters. In the last three decades, FEMA's [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) programs have expanded to three mitigation grant programs for pre- and post-disaster events and recently surpassed \$15 billion in funding provided for state, local, tribal and territorial mitigation projects. Communities across the nation are now more resilient, and that growth continues. Watch Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chiefs **Karen Helbrecht**, **Michael Hillenburg** and **Anna Pudlo** share their reflections on the value and benefits of mitigation: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/videos/161686>.

"The Watermark" Resurfaces as an NFIP Quarterly Financial Report

FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration published its [first new version of The Watermark](#) March 30. According to the website, "[The Watermark](#) is a quarterly report that provides transparency on the financial state of the NFIP. The goal is to give interested stakeholders one central location to secure answers to reoccurring questions pertaining to the NFIP." The [previous newsletter with the same name](#) focused on many aspects of the NFIP, such as "Understanding the Power of Grandfathering" or how to find NFIP regulations online.

And more FEMA news...



FloodSmart.gov is Back!

For many years, FEMA's FloodSmart.gov was an important resource on flood insurance information for residents, business owners, floodplain managers and others. While FEMA ended the national marketing campaign (FloodSmart) as of October 2016, they kept up the www.FloodSmart.gov and www.Agents.FloodSmart.gov website. Unfortunately, due to a security breach, they had to turn off access to the website and visitors were directed to www.FEMA.gov/NFIP.

FEMA recently re-introduced FloodSmart.gov with a new look and feel. Here's what they had to say:

The new site takes the best from the interim FEMA.gov site, combined with internal and social science research, website usage research, as well as government regulations and best practices to develop an entirely new, streamlined and customer-centric FloodSmart.gov.

The FloodSmart.gov team is already at work on more enhancements to FloodSmart.gov, which will include: Agents toolkits, Agents social media assets, Agents marketing tools, Map change toolkits and Campaign-related landing pages.

Some tools from the old FloodSmart.gov have been removed. This was necessary because the old tools no longer met functionality or data security regulations. We're working on bringing even more functional tools to the site soon.

As new ideas are generated and developed, we will release those in an agile manner to constantly keep the site fresh, updated and enhanced.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Butch Kinerney (eugene.kinerney@fema.dhs.gov).

So, if you removed the FloodSmart.gov link from your website or as a resource, put it back on! Meanwhile, we will keep you updated as we hear about new enhancements.

FEMA Considering New Acquisition Program Direct to Property Owners

FEMA is considering a new acquisition program that deals directly with property owners (the state and/or community would not have to be involved). ASFPM is urging its members to [please submit comments to the Federal Register before the April 30 deadline](https://www.floods.org/n-news-hottopics/article.asp?id=541). Here are all the details: <https://www.floods.org/n-news-hottopics/article.asp?id=541>

FEMA Releases Affordability Framework for the NFIP

FEMA released an affordability framework April 17, as required by the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. The framework titled, "An Affordability Framework for the National Flood Insurance Program," provides the first ever data-driven analysis of policyholder and potential policyholder incomes by flood risk and home ownership status. The framework suggests that policyholders and non-policyholders with the lowest median incomes live in the highest hazard areas. The framework proposes several options for developing an affordability program for flood insurance and offers models of the costs of each option.

"This report moves beyond anecdotes. For the first time a conversation about affordability and flood insurance is supported by deep data being brought to bear with the release of this framework. Access to Census data and the American Communities Survey is a game changer for us and Congress. We can move forward with data that will point to more sustainable solutions," said former NFIP Director **Roy Wright**. "Flood insurance is a valuable tool that helps survivors recover in the aftermath of devastating flood events. In some situations, those living in high-risk areas for flooding face a decision between purchasing flood insurance and maintaining basic household necessities."

[You can download the full report here.](#)





What's the ASFPM Foundation been up to?

2018 Connecticut State Flood Risk Symposium

In March 2018, the [Connecticut Association of Flood Managers](#) and the [Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaption](#), in coordination with the ASFPM Foundation, hosted a one-day symposium at the University of Connecticut School of Law in Hartford to discuss the state's flood resilience and climate science.

This marked the 12th [State Flood Risk Symposia](#) the foundation has held since 2011. These events always have a strong emphasis on proposed action items and how to measure progress in flood-risk management at the community level.

The impacts of recent significant events, such as Hurricane Sandy, as well as more localized storms, have heightened concern throughout Connecticut about flood risk, increasing risks due to future conditions, and opportunities to mitigate those risks. Of particular challenge to Connecticut is the balance between preserving its industrial heritage along rivers and reducing the impacts of future floods. Through the Sandy recovery process, the state and its neighbors have the benefits of lessons learned and best practices.



Photo by Diane Brown.

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.



The ASFPM Foundation held a State Flood Risk Symposium with our Connecticut Association of Flood Managers. The goal is to facilitate discussion on flood risk, establish priorities for improving policy and program implementation, and to formulate recommendations and directions for the future at the state level. Photo credit: Diane Brown.

The goal was to gather a broad cross-section of representatives from local government, academia, the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, non-profit environmental agencies, and representatives of the insurance, real estate, engineering and construction industries. These diverse professionals provided insight to discussions on future flood-risk implications for Connecticut and ways in which to move forward with prudent private and public investments, protected natural and beneficial functions, and improved resiliency.

The purpose of the symposium was not only to generate ideas and solutions from within our group of professionals and jurisdiction representatives, but also to understand and include challenges and multi-faceted interests of all other potential stakeholders as well. Only by working in serious partnerships with all stakeholders do we stand a chance of being successful in managing our floodplains effectively.

The three plenary speakers touched on this critical need for partnerships throughout their presentations.

Nick Shufro, assistant administrator for the Risk Management Directorate within FEMA's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, provided a background on FEMA and the federal government's focus on "Investing in Mitigation for a More Resilient United States."

David Vallee, hydrologist-in-charge with NOAA's National Weather Service and **James O'Donnell**, executive director at CIRCA and UConn Professor of Marine Sciences, discussed "Our Changing Climate and its impacts to Connecticut."

Jim MacBroom, P.E., senior vice president at Milone and MacBroom, provided context on "New York Resiliency Initiatives (Riverine Corridors)" detailing local mitigation efforts and practical lessons learned from those projects.

Following the plenary presentations, attendees were broken up into four groups that were then led by facilitators from the foundation and scribes from the chapter. They helped lead discussions on the following breakout group topics:

- How can Connecticut address the challenges of adapting riverine and coastal infrastructure to climate change and the associated hazards such as more frequent flooding and sea level rise?

- How can communities begin to evaluate the option of elevating homes versus pursuing acquisition and/or retreat strategies in riverine and coastal areas?
- How does Connecticut balance riverine floodway or coastal waterfront redevelopment and future risk in Connecticut's historic mill towns, harbors and industrial corridors?
- How do local municipalities, non-profits and state regulatory agencies re-emphasize natural and beneficial functions in Connecticut's densely developed coastal and riverine areas? For example, living shorelines, floodplain restoration/enhancement, green infrastructure, adaptive designs, etc.

These four breakout groups were then given the opportunity to convene as a large group in the afternoon, and provide group report-outs to all attendees. This was beneficial in allowing visibility to and input from all groups on all topics. The outcomes of these discussions will be captured in a final "Connecticut Flood Symposia Report," along with actionable goals to achieve in continuing the dialogues and outcomes.

It is clear that as the professionals who are considered "experts" in this field, we need to continue to reach outside of our comfort zone and have sustainable floodplain management conversations with a very diverse group of stakeholders to achieve the goal of protecting our communities from flood-related risk. As you are going about your work day, take a moment to think about collaboration, partnering and sharing resources. Who can you work with? How can you make sure that all stakeholders are being supported? In addition to your projects and programs being successful, how can you develop a program to enhance and showcase other community interests as well?

Thank you to our donors!

The [ASFPM Foundation](#) has funded and continues to fund activities and projects such as the Future Leadership Scholarship, State Flood Risk Symposia, Historic Flood Documentation project, Best Practice and Case Studies Compendium, and No Adverse Impact "How-to Guides," just to name a few. These activities and projects were made possible because of donations to the foundation from ASFPM members, chapters and corporations. We would like to recognize and thank first time donors to the ASFPM Foundation this fiscal year:

- Brian Caufield
- Jim and Nancy Dunham
- Eileen Fretz
- Cessaly Hutchinson
- Maria Rose
- Arkansas Floodplain Management Association
- Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association
- Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association

Donations are the foundation's only source of funding to make activities and projects happen. We hope we can count on your support in 2018. Go to <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/give-now>. Every year at the ASFPM annual conference, the foundation holds a silent and live auction. If you'd like to donate to the silent auction and need to ship the item, send it to: **JE Fuller, Attn: Elise Moore, 8400 S. Kyrene Rd., Ste. 201, Tempe, AZ 85284**. Need more details? Go to: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/fundraising/silent-live-auctions>.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the ASFPM Foundation, please contact **George Riedel** at george@asfpmfoundation.org.

ASFPM News...

Two ASFPM Policy Committees are getting new names. The Training and Outreach Committee will now be the **Risk Communication and Outreach Committee**, and the Professional Development Committee will be the **Professional Development and Continuing Education Committee**. ASFPM Board Chair **Maria Cox Lamm** said, "I believe these name changes better align with the missions of each of these committees."

Donny Phipps, CFM, has been appointed to the ASFPM Certification Board of Regents as an at-large regent.

Phipps, who for the past 43 years, has served Columbia and Richland County, South Carolina in the code enforcement profession. "My career has been exciting with many challenges attending meetings with the International Code Council, state and local associations, local HBA/BIA, neighborhood and council meetings providing an open flow of information on codes, procedures and changes. This has allowed me to develop skills and focus on growth and to provide quality service," he said.



ASFPM Board Chair Maria Cox Lamm said Phipps' "knowledge and energy will be an asset to the board and to the further development of the CFM program."

Bridget Faust, who worked as a project research specialist for the ASFPM Flood Science Center since 2014, is heading to DC.

"With the help of funding from Wisconsin Sea Grant, I will be moving to Washington, DC to complete a 15-month fellowship with the Coastal States Organization and NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. During this fellowship, I will spend time supporting NOAA and CSO's work with the National Coastal Zone Management Program," Faust said.

We are VERY happy for her, and VERY sad for us! She's the cute redhead in purple (below).



From the Director's Desk

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



The dog has caught the car!

Most of you have probably seen a dog chasing a car and heard the expression that the dog “wouldn’t have a clue what to do with the car if he caught it.” Well, I say that in 2018 we have caught the car!! From a mitigation grant perspective, we were able to convince Congress that hazard mitigation was a worthy investment and they agreed – to the tune of nearly \$425 million in hazard mitigation assistance (HMA). For FY18, Congress appropriated \$249.2 for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and \$175 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). The only question is – can we spend it on good projects?

Here is why I am worried. If history is any guide, I am worried that the “system” will not be primed to handle such a large amount of funding. Because not only do we have a record amount of HMA funding through FEMA, there is also a record amount of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-DR) funding available as a result of last fall’s Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria; and likely near record funding available through FEMA’s post-disaster hazard mitigation program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), for states impacted by these events. In the past, states that had large amounts of HMGP and CDBG funds available reduced or eliminated their participation in the pre-disaster mitigation programs in the years after the disaster. So that means more money for the rest of the states and communities, right? Yes, however, only if communities and/or states develop and submit eligible mitigation projects.

So this is my challenge to the floodplain managers and mitigators out there – **do whatever you can to get a local hazard mitigation project pulled together this year**. Odds are better now than they have been in a lot of years that a project could get funded! Dust off your hazard mitigation plans to get some project ideas and start working now on project applications. If you or your community has never submitted for a hazard mitigation project, I recommend the following steps.

First, you need to know what hazard mitigation actions are eligible to be funded. [FEMA’s 2015 HMA Guidance](#) (the latest available has a handy table that shows what types of project can be funded under which program:

Table 3: Eligible Activities by Program

Eligible Activities	HMGP	PDM	FMA
1. Mitigation Projects	✓	✓	✓
Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition	✓	✓	✓
Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation	✓	✓	✓
Structure Elevation	✓	✓	✓
Mitigation Reconstruction	✓	✓	✓
Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures	✓	✓	✓
Dry Floodproofing of Non-residential Structures	✓	✓	✓
Generators	✓	✓	
Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects	✓	✓	✓
Non-localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects	✓	✓	
Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings	✓	✓	✓
Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities	✓	✓	✓
Safe Room Construction	✓	✓	
Wind Retrofit for One- and Two-Family Residences	✓	✓	
Infrastructure Retrofit	✓	✓	✓
Soil Stabilization	✓	✓	✓
Wildfire Mitigation	✓	✓	
Post-Disaster Code Enforcement	✓		
Advance Assistance	✓		
5 Percent Initiative Projects	✓		
Miscellaneous/Other ⁽¹⁾	✓	✓	✓
2. Hazard Mitigation Planning	✓	✓	✓
Planning Related Activities	✓		
3. Technical Assistance			✓
4. Management Cost	✓	✓	✓

⁽¹⁾ Miscellaneous/Other indicates that any proposed action will be evaluated on its own merit against program requirements. Eligible projects will be approved provided funding is available.

Also remember that in 2016, after this guidance was published, FEMA identified three other mitigation project types that can be funded: floodplain and stream restoration projects, aquifer storage and recovery projects, and flood diversion/storage (which can be used to improve ecosystem services). Job aids and supplemental information for these types of projects can be found [here](#). Are you at a loss for mitigation project ideas? Start by reviewing your hazard mitigation plan. Some of the actions identified in the plan may be a perfect fit for HMA funding. Otherwise, you might look at some of your capital improvement projects you've been planning that also reduce flood risk.

Second, get some technical assistance to put your application together. Of course there are a number of good consultants who can do this kind of work, but do not overlook other technical assistance resources such as your [state's hazard mitigation office](#), and/or your [state's floodplain management office](#). They may be able to offer additional information, webinars, training or other application assistance. At a minimum, your state staff will be able to help you identify critical application deadlines for the 2018 HMA application cycle. [ASFPM's 2018 annual conference](#) June 17-21 in Phoenix is a perfect opportunity to get lots of flood hazard mitigation project ideas and talk to local officials, FEMA staff and other experts on all things flood mitigation!

Third, identify your sources for local match. FEMA HMA projects typically have a 75% federal/25% non-federal cost-share. Where will that non-federal cost share come from? You will need to identify that source as part of your project application

Fourth, begin putting together your project application now! DO NOT DELAY. I am guessing that because Congress was late in passing the FY18 budget, a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), will likely not happen until this summer or early fall. At that point, it is possible that there will be a short application window, and states will set their own application deadlines as they have to review all project applications before they are submitted to FEMA for consideration. ASFPM hopes to partner with FEMA in pushing out information and training (i.e. webinars) for this year's funding opportunity.

Don't get me wrong. This is a good problem to have. However, it is going to take a collective effort from all of us (the HMA "system"), from communities submitting project applications, to states that will be assisting, gathering and submitting applications, to FEMA who will be reviewing applications and selecting projects, to make this year's cycle successful. After all, while the funding amount is significant, the nation's flood risk is many, many times larger. Let-s get it done!

Your partner in loss reduction,

Chad

What's Happening around the Nation?

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

The Nation—"On the one side, more people need insurance coverage," Roy Wright, who used to direct the flood program for FEMA, told POLITICO. "Secondly, there should be more private capital backing that risk." Read, "[As Congress stalls, Trump quietly overhauls flood program.](#)"



"FEMA is not a first responder," Daniel Kaniewski, the agency's deputy administrator, said in a speech at George Washington University's Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. "We are going to be very blunt with the American public about what FEMA can and can't do, about what the federal government can and can't do, and I hope state and local governments take this forward as well." Read, "[FEMA has a 'blunt' new message: It won't be there for every future disaster.](#)"



ASFPM, APA and 13 other national organizations [sent a joint letter to Congress](#) supporting the creation of the State Flood Mitigation Revolving Fund. The legislation, S.1507, led by Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Sen. John Kennedy (R-La.) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), would create a new partnership with states to provide low-interest loans for projects that save lives and dollars.



The House has rolled two ill-conceived proposals into the FAA's re-authorization bill (H.R. 4). Section 609 would allow the Corps to swipe FEMA funding and build big expensive flood control projects. Section 628 would exempt the NFIP from the Endangered Species Act. Read, "[Congress is messing with disaster programs \(AGAIN\).](#)"



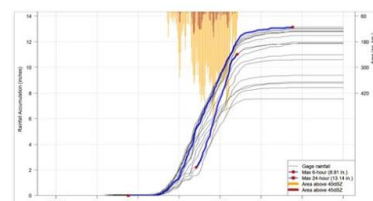
An OpEd from *The Hill*: This means individuals foregoing the purchase of a FEMA NFIP policy—separate and apart from their homeowners or renters insurance policy—and counting on FEMA financial aid to rebuild their lives after a flood—are making a mistake. Read, "[We need to bridge the flood insurance coverage gap.](#)"





Tennessee—A floodplain manager in TN recently received an elevation certificate submittal with this shown as the flood vent and described as a "break-away door." There's no permanent door behind the screen doors and the owner is adamant this meets the flood vent requirements. What do you all think and why?



Virginia—While state and federal authorities use decades-old data to set stormwater standards and practices, Virginia Beach would be the first locality in the nation to build future flood risk from rainfall into its codes and ordinances. [Read the story from Wetlands Watch here.](#)



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