

Association of State Floodplain Managers

*Dedicated to reducing flood losses
& protecting floodplain resources*

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NEWS&VIEWS

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Meet Your 2014-15 ASFP Board of Directors



Seated L-R (Bolded BoDs are new): Chad Berginnis, CFM, ASFP Executive Director; **Leslie Durham, PE, Secretary, AL**; Ceil Strauss, CFM, Vice Chair, MN; Bill Nechamen, CFM, Chair, NY; **Karen McHugh, CFM, Treasurer, MO**; Ingrid Danler, CFM, ASFP Associate Director-Operations.

Standing L-R: Rod Renkenberger, PLS, CFM, Region 5, IN; Brian Varrella, PE, CFM, Region 8, CO; Kyle Riley, PE, CFM, Chapter District 4, IA; **Dave Carlton, PE, D.WRE, CFM, Region 10, WA**; Valerie Swick, CFM, Chapter District 5, AZ; Mike Cothard, PE, CFM, Chapter District 2, IL; Shawn Putnam, CFM, Chapter District 3, SC; Jacob Tysz, CFM, Region 2, NY; Jessica Baker, PE, PMP, CFM, Region 6, TX; John Gysling, PE, CFM, Region 3, DE; Jeanne Ruefer, PMP, CFM, Region 9, NV; Michelle Burnett, CFM, Region 1, RI; Terri Turner, AICP, CFM, Region 4, GA; Janet Thigpen, CFM, Chapter Dist. 1, NY.
Not pictured: Shanna Michael, CFM, Region 7, MO. Photo by Dan Sherwood.

Flying Fish open ASFP's 38th National Conference

When the first plenary session of a national conference opens with salmon flying through the air – you know things are going to get interesting. And did it ever. The 38th annual ASFP national conference, called “Making Room for Floods and Fish,” was attended by 1,272 people, representing 49 states, DC, and Puerto Rico, as well as 21 international representatives from six foreign nations. Steve McMaster, conference program chair, scheduled 174 speakers and there were 68 exhibitor booths. The three



Fishmongers Erik Espinoza (left) and Anders Miller from the World Famous Pike Place Fish Market, tossed around salmon at the opening Plenary Session. Photo by Michele Mihalovich.

evening networking events at the Washington State Convention Center, Boeing's Museum of Flight and EMP Museum, and more than 10 "tours" were packed to the gills with attendees. The number of people Tweeting the hashtag #ASFPM2014 totaled nearly 100. About 200 people attended from Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association, our conference hosts, and the number of people who lodged complaints about the Seattle conference: zero.

It was a good mix of learning about flood loss mitigation, water resource management, NFIP, levees, dams, barriers, education and outreach, riverine and coastal modeling, and floodplain mapping, as well as networking and having fun.

Before the conference even began, ASFPM Board of Directors on Sunday took care of board business. Those action items, along with sponsor and Foundation acknowledgements, award announcements and coverage of our "special guest speaker" will appear in the July "Insider."

We'll highlight some of the speakers and other activities below in the "News & Views."

June 2

During the "General FPM Policy Issues Overview and Legislative Update," Tim Trautman, ASFPM POD facilitator and flood mitigation program manager for Charlotte-Mecklenburg in N.C., said FEMA's updated [Benefit-Cost Analysis Tool](#) is a great advance for mitigation efforts.

Berginnis reminded everyone that, "There is nothing better than FPMs contacting their Congress representative and letting them know how you feel."



Photo by Dan Sherwood.

At the **URS Showcase on June 3**, the panel discussed achieving higher standards to promote responsible floodplain management from a local, state, and federal perspective. Everyone on the panel, which consisted of Samuel Brody (Texas A&M), Dennis Dixon (Pierce County, WA), John Ingargiola (FEMA), Joseph Ruggeri (NJ Env. Pro.), Kevin Shunk (Austin, Texas), David Stearrett (FEMA Floodplain Management Branch), agreed that the 100-year-standard is "unacceptably low." Ruggeri said that higher standards and higher freeboard are the best ways to reduce flood

losses. Ingargiola with FEMA's Building Sciences Branch, said communities on their own could go to higher



ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis catches a salmon before Plenary Session 1, as speakers Bob Carey (left) and Mark Isaacson (center) watch. Photo by Dan Sherwood.

building standards, like what is used in the International Building Code. He told the packed room, “If you’re not using IBC standards, ask yourself why not.”

June 3

Plenary Session 1 focused on reconnecting floodplains to habitat. **Bob Carey**, director of strategic partnerships at The Nature Conservancy-Washington, discussed a collaborative effort in the Pacific Northwest to reduce risk, but also restore rivers. The [Floodplain by Design](#) acknowledges that floodplain management has not kept pace with growing communities. People are living in the path of flood waters; water quality is on the decline; and habitat critical to restoring salmon populations is disappearing. The [partnership](#) is carrying out integrated [projects](#) that improve flood protection for towns and farms, restore salmon habitats, improve water quality, and enhance outdoor recreation.

Mark Isaacson, manager of King County’s Water and Land Resources, discussed “multi-objective management,” which is necessary when you have to factor in a wide variety of end-users. “We have to make room for floods, and fish, AND people.” He also said, “It is not ‘what did you do wrong,’ but ‘what did you learn.’ Leaders listen. Leaders learn from mistakes.”

The **Keynote Luncheon**, sponsored by AECOM, opened with a bang when a surprise guest took the stage – retired **Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré**, best known for serving as commander of [Joint Task Force Katrina](#) responsible for coordinating military relief efforts for [Hurricane Katrina](#)-affected areas across the [Gulf Coast](#). The General did not mince his words addressing this crowd. His message was clear, “Do NOT build in a floodplain.” He also said, “The rest of the world is going to look to us on how we live in harmony with water. We need to be the leaders!” **Josh Sawislak**, senior advisor to U.S. Secretary Shaun Donovan who had to speak next, said, “Boy, how do I follow THAT?” He managed to keep folks interested, though, by discussing a vision for comprehensive regional plans and long-term disaster recovery. He said, “Washington demands taking rising seas into account for post-Sandy projects.” ASFP’s Foundation President, **Doug Plasencia**, followed with a discussion on the Foundation’s recent summary report called, [“Holistic Coasts: Adaptive Management of Changing Hazards, Risks, and Ecosystems,”](#) which he said had a lot in common with TNC’s collaboration efforts outlined in “Floodplains by Design.”



Retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré. Photo by Diane Brown.



Enjoying a little dinner under the airplanes June 3. The networking event was held at Boeing’s Museum of Flight. Photo at left by Michele Mihalovich.

June 4

New NFIP rules, and “Changing the Flood Risk Management Paradigm,” were the topics of discussion at the **Plenary Session 2**. **David Miller**, associate administrator of FEMA’s Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, said, “If I keep providing subsidized flood insurance, we’ll never be a viable program. Keeps me up at night.” **Eugene Henry**, hazard mitigation officer for Hillsborough County in Tampa, FL., gave his “From the Trenches” report, where he outlined his community’s [Local Mitigation Strategy](#), and Post Disaster Redevelopment Strategy. **Berginnis** rounded out the session by saying, “States are doing a good job getting involved, but it will require keen attention to national policy by state chapters.”



Just a small sampling of the athletes who participated June 4 in the second annual “Running of the Chapters.” Photo by Dan Sherwood.

Plenary Session 3 focused on resiliency and natural hazard mitigation. **Ellen Gilinsky**, policy advisor to assistant administrator for water (EPA), started off the conversation by explaining how the EPA addresses flood risk, given the Administration’s focus on climate change and resiliency. And the first order of business, she said, is the proposed definition of “waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act. Gilinsky invited everyone to check out the [proposed definition](#), and submit comments by the Oct. 20 deadline. She also touted the benefits of “green infrastructure,” and shared a [case study](#) depicting the long-term flood protection benefits of green infrastructure. Next up was **Jerad Bales**, associate director of USGS. He talked about USGS’s current initiatives and new policy direction. Two points: There is compelling evidence that rainfall is changing, so it will affect floodplain management. Also, it is crucial to help communities understand flood risks, and a great tool in helping with that is USGS’s [Flood Inundation Mapping](#) website. Rounding out the session was **Kirk Hanlin**, assistant chief of Natural Resources Conservation Service. He explained about NRCS conservation programs and their impact on flood risk management; and that his go-to website is NOAA’s [National Climatic Data Center](#).



About 500 people packed into the convention center’s ballroom for the June 4 FEMA Town Hall on mitigation and insurance. Rhonda Montgomery, executive officer of FIMA moderated the following panelists: (from right) David Miller, FIMA; Roy Wright, deputy associate administrator for mitigation; Deborah Farmer, acting branch chief, Floodplain Management and Insurance; Doug Bellomo, director of risk analysis division; and Kayed Lakhia, deputy director of risk reduction division. Photo above by Michele Mihalovich.

June 5

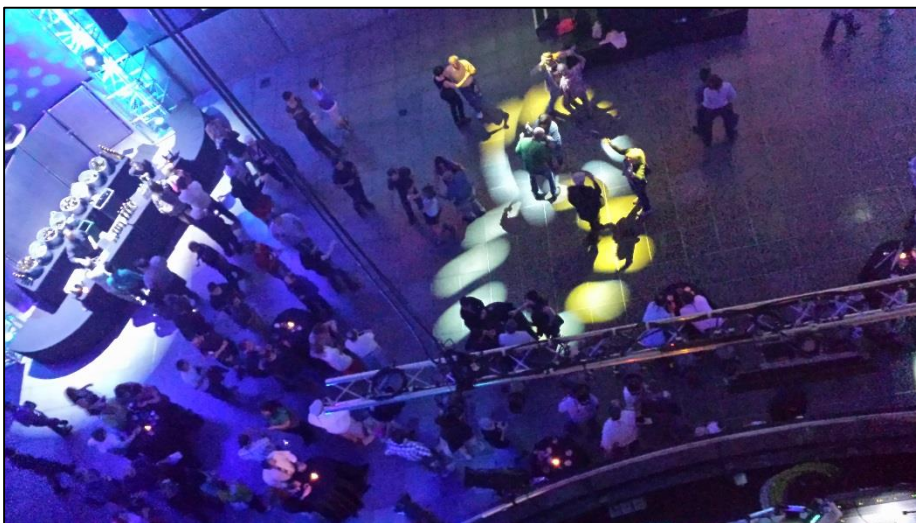
The fourth and final plenary session focused on “Local Mitigation Personified – Local Practices around the Nation.” Larry Larson refers to the three speakers in his “Policy Matters” column as “champions.” He said, “**John Miller, Tim Trautman and Brian Varrella** gave outstanding presentations on how you, the local/state floodplain manager, can make communities and neighborhoods resilient, and build toward sustainability. Those three champions were not complaining that their communities or states could not make things happen because federal programs either were or were not helping. They were sharing ideas on what any community or state can use to do the right things within the current context we all have to deal with.”

These three trailblazers all had helpful insights into what THEY were doing in their communities, and how it could be applied to others. First, **Miller**, of New Jersey, who is a huge proponent of using Twitter to communicate local flood issues, said, “Voluntary buyout is a way to restart.”

Trautman of North Carolina said comprehensive local programming is key to resiliency. “Must begin with the end in mind to become resilient...Keep flood maps updated to save citizens and map future floodplains...Through (Charlotte-Mecklenburg counties) mitigation buyout program, we’ve removed 550 families from the floodplain...One, have a vision. Two, have stable dedicated funding. Three, just do it, even if you suck at it.”

Varrella of Colorado managed to get the crowd to cheer for the Denver Broncos, minus the nearly 200 NORFMA members. His talk focused mainly on how wildfires contributed to the massive flooding damage last September. He also said, “Social media is the number one way people wanted to communicate after a disaster....There are great lessons to be learned from OTHER chapters. Find out what works and what doesn’t. Making connections is key.”

June 5 was capped off with an incredible night at the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum, sponsored by AECOM, Dewberry, Michael Baker International and URS. Photo below is of the crowd dancing to a DJ. Photographed by Michele Mihalovich. Photo right is of the Guitar Gallery Column and was photographed by Dan Sherwood.





From the Chair

William S. “Bill” Nechamen, CFM

As I sit down to write my column, it has been a little over a week since leaving beautiful Seattle. Many thoughts and comments are still echoing around in my skull. First of all, I’ve never experienced a conference in which every single comment I heard was positive: from the speakers, to the technical sessions, to the quality of the food and social functions, to the facility, to the weather. Everything lined up to provide an outstanding event. I’m a little embarrassed

at the number of people who thanked me or congratulated me for the conference. The credit goes to the ASFPM staff, the local hosts from Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association, and Steve McMaster’s crew of abstract reviewers, as well as to all of the presenters and attendees.

The Chair does not get to attend many technical sessions, but I managed to get to a couple, including one during the final session June 5. In years past, the final session was sort of a ghost town with few people in the rooms. But in this session, there were 30-40 people. At 5:30 p.m. when the session ended, at least a third of the people stayed around to talk with the speakers and each other. They remained talking even as the conference center staff removed room dividers around them. I heard similar stories from people attending other late afternoon sessions that day.

A few key phrases I heard at the conference are sticking in my mind:

- “One and done,” by David Miller, FEMA’s associate administrator for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, which means we need to invest in mitigation during recovery so that we don’t have to repair it after the next event.
- “Talking amongst ourselves is not outreach – it’s in-reach,” by Brian Varrella, CFM in Fort Collins, Colo., and ASFPM’s Region 8 director.
- “If you look out your window and see water, you live in a damn floodplain,” by retired Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, best known for serving as commander of [Joint Task Force Katrina](#) responsible for coordinating military relief efforts for [Hurricane Katrina](#)-affected areas across the [Gulf Coast](#).

I hope you’ll take that energy and information from the conference and put it to work in your states and communities. If you couldn’t make the conference, talk to people who did to learn more, and put it on your agenda to be in Atlanta next year.

Now the work begins to carry out the annual goals and objectives passed by the Board of Directors. That work is carried out by the Madison staff, as well as policy committees. If you are not active in one or more policy committees, I urge you to get active and make a difference.

The conference also got me thinking about bottom lines. I urge everyone to think about the bottom line of our profession, which is to reduce flood losses while preserving the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. As we make day-to-day decisions in our jobs, we should ask ourselves every day: are we working towards our bottom line?

Useful News from FEMA

FEMA's Underwriting Risk Insurance Division recently released a Hurricane Sandy Recovery Advisory 7 -- [Reducing Flood Risk and Flood Insurance Premiums for Existing Residential Buildings in Zone A](#). But ASFPM's

Director Emeritus Larry Larson said that

although the guidance is directed for how to mitigate non-substantially damaged buildings in Sandy, it could be useful for areas other than Sandy too. He said, "The focus seems to be on how to reduce insurance premiums since it was issued by insurance side of FEMA, but used data and information from Building Sciences. Seems very useful."



The same division also issued a June 19 bulletin regarding the Oct. 1 program changes, and includes a Revised Rate Table 2A, which can be viewed [here](#).

Two new documents addressing national dam safety have been added to FEMA's Publication Warehouse.

One is the "Federal Guidelines for Inundation Mapping of Flood Risks Associated with Dam Incidents and Failures." The purpose of this [document](#) is to provide dam safety professionals with guidance on how to prepare dam breach inundation modeling studies and conduct mapping that can be used for multiple purposes, including dam safety, hazard mitigation, consequence evaluation, and emergency management including developing EAPs. This guidance is intended to provide a consistent approach that can be applied across the country.

The second is a DVD, called "Geospatial Dam Break, Rapid EAP, Consequence and Hazards GIS Toolkit," which has a suite of ArcGIS tools designed to support the development of simplified dam break studies, Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning datasets, loss of life assessments, Emergency Action Plans and EAP map panel creation. This version of GeoDam-BREACH can be used for various workflows including: Simplified Dam Break Studies, Risk MAP Datasets, Loss of Life Assessment, EAP Map Panel Creation, and EAP Development. This resource has been posted to the FEMA Library and can be ordered as a hard copy DVD only from the FEMA Publication Warehouse [here](#).

That FEMA. Nothing gets by them. A June 23 bulletin, also from the Underwriting division, said, "It has been brought to our attention that policyholders who had already received the full-risk rates have attempted to obtain duplicate policies after May 1 from a different insurer in order to benefit from the subsidized rates ... This bulletin serves as a reminder that duplicate policies are not allowed under the NFIP." Read the sternly worded bulletin [here](#).



From the Director's Desk

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM

Resilience: The New “In” Thing

At this year's conference in Seattle, I heard a lot of people talking about resilience. In fact, it seems to be the “in” thing right now. Think about it. Federal policy is focused on it, as evidenced by the President issuing an Executive Order last November that directs agencies to undertake actions to enhance climate preparedness and resilience, including the establishment of a state, local and tribal leaders' task force. The insurance industry seems to be very interested in mitigation and resilience measures; states are undertaking their own analyses of local climate issues to better understand adaptation and resilience needs; and the just released [Risky Business](#) report presents a new approach to understanding climate change risks to key US business sectors and recommends that everyday business practices need to change to become more resilient.

So what, exactly, is resiliency? A National Academies publication [Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative](#) defines resilience as *the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events*. In fact, the publication goes on to describe characteristics of a more resilient nation and recommends developing a culture of disaster resilience.

So it got me thinking, what is ASFPM's approach to flood risk/flood disaster resiliency? And as I talked to more and more of our members at the conference, the answer became clear: No Adverse Impact! I went back to ASFPM's white paper that got NAI started and found the following definition and explanation:

“In essence, No Adverse Impact floodplain management takes place when the actions of one property owner are not allowed to adversely affect the rights of other property owners. The adverse effects or impacts can be measured in terms of increased flood peaks, increased flood stages, higher flood velocities, increased erosion and sedimentation, or other impacts the community considers important. The No Adverse Impact philosophy can shape the default management criteria: a community develops and adopts a comprehensive plan to manage development that identifies acceptable levels of impact, specifies appropriate measures to mitigate those adverse impacts, and establishes a plan for implementation.”

By definition, resiliency means having the ability to adapt to adverse events – whether they be manmade or natural. More recently, the national resiliency discussion has been viewed through the lens of climate change. NAI, though, is traditionally seen as accounting for and often preventing adverse manmade impacts. However, going back to the definition of NAI – adverse impacts can also be those that a community considers important. A community could choose to include climate change as an adverse impact desiring to be accounted for and implement actions to reduce or eliminate the adverse impacts. However, even without climate change, resiliency – and NAI – are important considerations for a community's long-term health.

This way of thinking is being incorporated into the tools being fleshed out in ASFPM's [NAI How-To Guide](#) series. Last summer we developed two how-to guides: mitigation and infrastructure. This summer, we will be releasing the next two guides, one for planning and another for education/outreach. Each guide identifies five NAI level tools that a community should consider implementing. Once we finish with all of the guides, there will be 35 specific NAI level tools that cover all of the building blocks in the NAI Toolkit. Where appropriate, the tools also account for climate change impacts. But all tools will result in better community resiliency.

The bottom line is that if a community adopts an NAI philosophy and undertakes NAI level tools/actions, it will undoubtedly be more resilient. So if you haven't thought about ASFPM's NAI initiative in a while, or haven't seen any of our recent products, take another look – and act to improve your community's flood resilience.

Your partner in loss reduction,

Chad

Not yet an ASFPM member? [JOIN NOW](#) for access to countless member benefits!
Questions? Contact our member services coordinator at kevin@floods.org or (608) 828-3000.

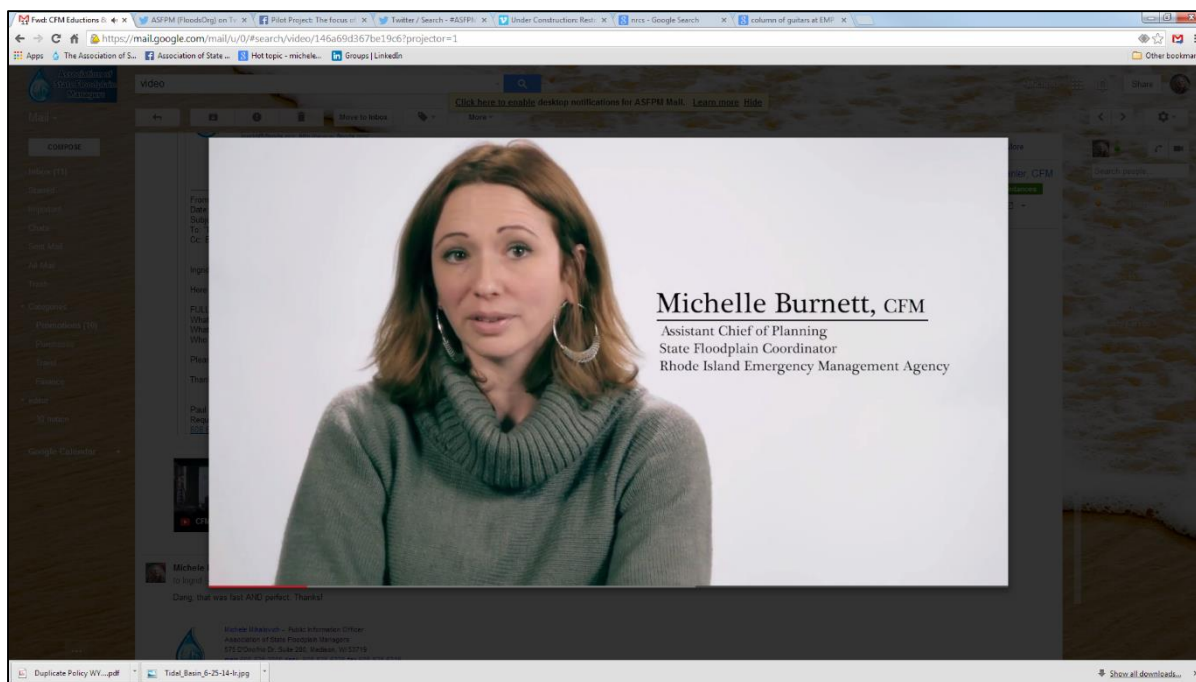
Mitigation on my Mind!

*ASFPM's 39th Annual National Conference,
 May 31-June 5, 2015*



Terri Turner, Georgia Association of Floodplain Management's local host coordinator, gives a warm Southern welcome to everybody and says, "Come on down for some Georgia hospitality and good ol' ASFPM learnin' and networkin'." The call for presenters will go out in September, as usual, so be sure to keep an eye out for it.

Certification Board of Regents unveil “CFM Education & Awareness” Videos at Seattle



Screenshot of Michelle Burnett from the “CFM Education & Awareness” video.

The following is a Q & A with Ingrid Danler, ASFPM’s associate director of operations and CBOR’s secretary.

Q: How did this project come about?

A: CBOR is innovating much of its organization and process to accommodate the needs of floodplain managers nationwide. We've got such a great program, and it's popular and growing, and we wanted to make sure that we provide good and relevant marketing materials out there and available.

Q: Who are we trying to reach with these videos?

A: We want the videos to be motivational, so we focused on the very specific age demographic of 30-40. These are folks who have been in their career about a decade, and have made the decision that they like floodplain management. We intentionally want to tell the story of how it fits your career and life.

Q: Why were Brian Varrella and Michelle Burnett chosen to be featured in the videos?

A: Both are such solid representatives of that demographic, and really using their CFM to its fullest capacity. They are both capable, motivated and passionate about floodplain management, as well as respected voices in their own communities. Additionally, they represent two different areas of the country – Rhode Island and Colorado.

Q: Did CBOR receive some sort of grant to put it together?

A: Yes, this was funded within a broader cooperative agreement with FEMA-HQ that supports the certification program.

Q: What company was hired to film and edit the video?

A: Requisite Video is a Madison-based company whose owners happen to also be in the target demographic. Coordinating the filming when Brian and Michelle were in Madison for the Board of Directors retreat was quite economical.

Q: How do you envision floodplain managers or others using these videos?

A: These videos are for open use. We hope floodplain managers locally will show them to their mayors and administrators to justify the time and investment of a CFM in their community. We hope that private sector managers will see the competitive advantage of investing in their staff. We hope that state and federal officials will see the value of relevancy with their constituents by investing in the shared knowledge that comes with being a CFM. We see our 35 chapters across the nation using these videos to not only promote the value of the CFM, but also of their state chapter and use it as a recruiting and retention tool--and we hope all 35 post to their own websites. And if we get positive feedback, we hope to produce more videos in the future.

Q: Is there anything you'd like to add that wasn't asked?

A: We now have more than 8,500 CFMs nationwide. The program is growing.

Here is the full, [five-minute video](#).
There are three, shorter, breakout videos:
[What is the CFM program?](#)
[What are the Benefits?](#)
[Who can become a CFM?](#)

Policy Matters!

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



This year's ASFPM conference was outstanding. That is not just my opinion. That is what all of us have been hearing from more than 1,200 attendees. Presentations and events were all highly rated—thanks to all who presented or helped organize the week.

What I want to discuss today is the growth of the conference. Not just the growth in attendees (the 1982 conference in Madison had 175 attendees), but the growth in depth and breadth of the dialogue at the conference over the past 38 years. In the beginning years, presentations focused on federal programs. This included lots of discussion about NFIP—primarily mapping and regulation at first, because states and locals were mostly doing mapping and regulation. Later, more discussion was added on mitigation and insurance. But even the link between mitigation and insurance was a difficult sell until BW-12 pushed insurance rates toward actuarial, which then made it financially clear how important it is for property owners to mitigate their risk in order to reduce their costs and increase the safety for their families and communities.

For those of you who were at the conference (for those of you who weren't, you can view the presentations on our website beginning July 1), vision the Thursday morning plenary with three local/private speakers talking about new, effective approaches they have used at the local and state level. John Miller, Tim Trautman and Brian Varrella gave outstanding presentations on how you, the local/state floodplain manager, can make communities and neighborhoods resilient, and build toward sustainability. Those three champions were not complaining that their communities or states could not make things happen because federal programs either were or were not helping. They were sharing ideas on what any community or state can use to do the right things within the current context we all have to deal with.

Therein lies the change in dialogue I mentioned. Our members, especially those movers and shakers out there, know we cannot wait for federal programs to bail us out. In fact, those who do are mostly the ones least resilient. We all do what we can so federal programs will provide support and the right incentives to encourage local and state decision makers to select wise options for development, both pre- and post-disaster. All communities and states can decide to do some or all of the things these champions described: map and regulate to future conditions, add freeboard to account for increased storms and sea level rise, elevate substantially damaged homes to at least the future flood level, if not 2-4 feet higher; and even better, establish your own mitigation program at the local or state level, that leverages FEMA, HUD or other programs to actually buy out and relocate buildings at high risk.

As I walked around the conference, whether in the plenary or breakout sessions, I saw states, locals and their private sector partners sharing stories about what works and what doesn't on the ground. That is the big change I have seen. Our attendees are building off each other and their professional experience in helping communities do it better. They show how to build the federal program standards and funding into the picture, but as a starting baseline, which must be enhanced to achieve the best solution. This also helps our federal partners understand what it takes to be successful locally so they can adjust their programs to be supportive. This means we are growing the professional field of floodplain management—a major goal we all have.

It's easy to see why so many of our participants say they go back after the conference to their jobs totally reinvigorated and energized. With all these great ideas exchanged, how could you not?

What's happening around the nation?

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

Vermont

The Vermont Climate Assessment found that higher rates of precipitation expected to come with climate change could bring heavier winter snows over the next 25 years, good news for ski resorts until the state becomes too warm to sustain significant amounts of snow. Story [here](#). Photo credit: A car sits flooded in a yard on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 in Williamstown, VT (AP Photo/Toby Talbot) | ASSOCIATED PRESS.



Florida

"I don't get FEMA money. I don't have flood insurance. The housing market crashed. I lost my husband. I lost my income. I'm afraid this has done me in." -- a property owner in Gulf Breeze, FL, after the April floods. Read article [here](#). Photo credit: Rhea Kessler stands in her Gulf Breeze rental property that was destroyed in the recent flood. (Ben Twingley/btwingley@pnj.com, Ben Twingley/btwingley@pnj.com).



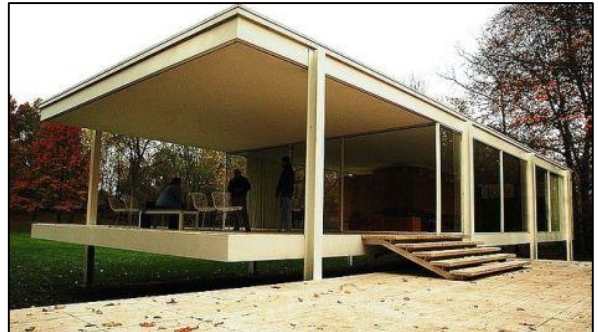
U.S. Coasts



“We are a coastal country,” says Susanne C. Moser, a convening lead author for the [National Climate Assessment](#)’s Coasts chapter. The U.S. has 94,000 miles of coastline and more than \$1 trillion in coastal infrastructure. Coastal lifelines, such as water and energy infrastructure, and nationally important assets, such as ports, tourism, and fishing sites, all are increasingly vulnerable to sea-level rise, storm surge, erosion, flooding, and related hazards. Image at left from the opening video from *The Story Group*.

Illinois

The good folks at the National Trust for Historic Preservation are considering putting a house on a ginormous hydraulic lift so when the rains come, the house can rise above the waters like a Baba Yaga’s hut on technological chicken legs...[story](#) from *Grist*. Photo of the Farnsworth House by Greg Robbins.



Also in Illinois



An insurance company has dropped its unprecedented lawsuit that had claimed that nearly 200 Chicago-area communities didn’t do enough to prevent last year’s widespread flooding, according to a [story](#) in the *Chicago Tribune*. Photo at left: Neighbors help residents of the Big Bend neighborhood in Des Plaines evacuate their homes April 2013 due to rising floodwaters from the nearby Des Plaines River, by Jonathan Bullington, *Chicago Tribune* / April 18, 2013.

Colorado

Large parts of Colorado reject federal flood insurance program, as [reported](#) in *The Denver Post*. Ten of Colorado’s 64 counties and 56 municipalities don’t participate in the voluntary program. Photo at right: The Snake River damages the only road leading to the town of Montezuma in Summit County, which doesn’t participate in the NFIP, by Lindsay Watts/7News.



New Jersey

After endless submittals, high hopes for approval and more than two years of waiting, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has stunned the borough of Bloomingdale with a rejection of its flood mitigation application. At the June 10 Borough Council meeting, Mayor Jonathan Dunleavy announced the disappointing news and said the denial would not put the kibosh on the project, but would cost the borough more money in application and engineering fees. [Story](#) reported by NorthJersey.com.

Texas



Mike Kimbro began clearing out and installing new Sheetrock in his Bluff Springs Road home near Onion Creek, Texas, after it filled with about 5 feet of water in last year's historic flood. But he's not elevating the home out of the flood area, as regulations require, and he never got a development permit from Travis County, which told him to stop construction three times. So Travis County has sued him, according to a [story](#) in *Austin American-Statesman*. Photo at left: Nancy Kimbro takes a look inside

her damaged home where the water line was nearly above her head. "I've lived here for over 30 years and I've never seen it like this before." Photo by Ralph Barrera.

Congratulations are in order...

ASFPM's Science Services Department learned June 16 that it has received a \$350,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program.

As part of the Obama Administration's commitment in the [Climate Action Plan](#) to make local communities more resilient against future storms, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced \$102.7 million in competitive matching grants to support 54 projects along the Atlantic coast. The grants will fund science-based solutions to restore wetlands and other natural areas, better manage stormwater using green infrastructure and assist states, tribes and local communities in protecting themselves from major storms such as Hurricane Sandy, which devastated much of the East Coast in 2012.

Science Service's project description: Engage Ohio and Rhode Island communities in projects that will improve their coastal resiliency. Project will encourage communities to participate more, provide an ecosystem resiliency roadmap, and potentially lower flood insurance costs. To see a full list of grant recipients, go to <http://on.doi.gov/1nL7Cly>.

ASFPM's First CompeTWEETion Deemed a Smashing Success!

How can we make such a bold statement? One, because you told us how much you enjoyed it and already suggested ideas for next year's [CompeTWEETion](#) in Atlanta. Two, numbers do not lie. ASFPM's Twitter page has shown steady growth since November, when it had 145 followers, compared to today, which indicates 673 followers. But weekly page views have always been pretty low – generally between 300 and 1,000.

However, during the Seattle [CompeTWEETion](#) week, total views were a staggering 15,900+! We asked you to get creative and clever, snaps some photos, report what you were learning at the plenary sessions and workshops – and you did not disappoint. Below is a good sampling of some of the #ASFPM2014 Tweets.

But before you check those out, we need to announce this year's first [CompeTWEETion](#) winner, who received the most RETWEETS with the #ASFPM2014 hashtag. Do note that ASFPM staff were not eligible. Also, a couple people turned down the ReTweet Master title because they were, "Just doing it for fun," and for one federal employee, the free registration to next year's conference would have exceeded the federal gift threshold.

So, drum roll please.

ASFPM's first ever Twitter [CompeTWEETion](#) King and receiver of a FREE registration to next year's conference is...

The undisputed Colorado River Dude, prolific Tweeter, Board Chair of Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers, and ASFPM's Region 8 Director – BRIAN VARRELLA, who won with the following Tweet:



[Brian Varrella @coriverdude · Jun 1](#)

"Half of the world's population live within 120 miles of the coast" - Dr. Holly Bamford. It means [#coastal](#) issues matter [#ASFPM2014](#) [#NOAA](#)

Congratulations to everyone who joined in the fun, and we welcome feedback and ideas for next year. Send them to Michele Mihalovich at michele@floods.org.

Other popular ReTweeted #ASFPM2014 Tweets:



ASFPM @FloodsOrg · Jun 3

How do I know if I live in a floodplain? Gen says, if you look out your window, and see water, you live in a damn floodplain #ASFPM2014



Terri L Turner @floodplaineek · Jun 4

Congrats to the Colorado Assoc (CASFM) for winning the Outstanding Chapter Award at #ASFPM2014



Jessica Baker @JessicaDBaker · Jun 4

WWBBD? Bill Brown: "Floodway is to Hydraulics what Rational Method is to Hydrology-both were useful tools whose time has passed" #ASFPM2014



ASFPM @FloodsOrg · Jun 3

We are in a "profound profession" said Isaacson...even if no one understands what it is we do #ASFPM2014



Chad Ross @ThatFloodGuy · May 31

Welcome Floodplain Managers! Well done @SheratonSeattle! #ASFPM2014
pic.twitter.com/iHpWwrA2NI



Ingrid Danler @ingriddanler Jun 3

#ASFPM2014 Fish mongers toss fish "Seattle-style" at the opening plenary!
pic.twitter.com/0DHxX3koBe





Lori Cary-Kothera @Kothera · Jun 2

No one more passionate than an ASFPF floodplain manager. #ASFPF2014



RI Flood Squad @we_do_floods · Jun 2

Someone's cruising to the #ASFPF2014 exhibits... even we're surprised how far this guy will go for drink tickets! pic.twitter.com/4fgXUDO42j



Nature Conservancy WA @Conserve_WA · Jun 3

#RestorationWeek is a great time to talk Floodplains by Design! #ASFPF2014 @floodsorg
<http://nature.ly/1uc0fpQ>



CASFM @CasfmOrg · Jun 5

We are so proud of @CasfmOrg member Will Birchfield of @TownofEstesPark for his #ASFPF2014 FP Mgr of the Year Award pic.twitter.com/NcVjggRFgi



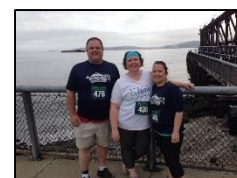
Bill @Nechamen · Jun 4

Disaster mitigation as 'one and done?' Smart spending now to prevent more spending later. D. Miller, FEMA at #ASFPF2014



NeFSMA @NeFSMA · Jun 4

Katie R., Paul W., and Lori L. representing in the 2nd Annual Running of the Chapters. #ASFPF2014 pic.twitter.com/qlvqVmmSDD



John A. Miller @jamiller45 · Jun 5

#ASFPF2014 Coastal session "Today's flood is tomorrow's high tide." Already seeing this says contractor for #NOAA Coastal Services Center.



TFMA @TexasCFM · Jun 3

Higher standards outreach materials targeted for elected officials will be on FEMA's Higher Standards website soon- Dave Stearrett [#ASFPM2014](#)



FCA @FloodControlAm · Jun 1

Flood Control Dog loves [#ASFPM2014](#) pic.twitter.com/VgHS1r48fJ



Matt Koch @mkoch61 · Jun 5

[#ASFPM2014](#) AECOMs Vince Geronimo presenting on CRS Benefits to Coastal Communities [@AECOM](#) [@WaterAECOM](#) pic.twitter.com/S8Z6ukbGrv



Kimberley Pirri @COEngrGirl · Jun 4

Two-pronged approach to flood master planning: preservation and mitigation, since 1972. -Shea Thomas [#ASFPM2014](#) [@CasfmOrg](#) [@UDFCD](#)

Job Corner

Visit [ASFPM Job Corner](#) for more information and the most up-to-date job listings.

How Did We Do? Rate Your Conference Experience.

If you attended the Seattle conference, we want to hear from you! Please refer to the conference wrap-up email sent last Monday, June 16, for a link to the conference evaluation. Your opinion matters and your input will help shape future conferences. If that's not enough of an incentive, one respondent will be randomly selected to receive a FREE registration to ASFPM 2015 in Atlanta next year May 31-June 5. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

ASFPM Editorial Guidelines

ASFPM accepts and welcomes articles from our members and partners. “The Insider” and “News & Views” have a style format, and if necessary, we reserve the right to edit submitted articles for space, grammar, punctuation, spelling, potential libel and clarity. If we make substantive changes, we will email the article back to you for your approval before using. We encourage you to include art with your article in the form of photos, illustrations, charts and graphs. Please include a description of the art, along with the full name of who created the art. If the art is not yours originally, you must include expressed, written consent granting ASFPM permission to use the art in our publications. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Mihalovich at editor@floods.org.

Questions, items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to:

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Deadline for News & Views is the first day of odd-numbered months.



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For address changes and member services, contact the ASFPM Executive Office at the address in the box above.

Looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has several training opportunities listed for 2014! Search the calendar by state using the directions below, or use the category drop down menu.

<http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp>

- Go to the calendar and click on the search feature icon at the top of the calendar. Type your state's initials in parenthesis (for example "(WI)") into the search field and it will pull all the events (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, Md.

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NEW TREASURER EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014

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