

**ASSOCIATION OF
STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

*Dedicated to reducing flood
losses and protecting
floodplain resources . . .*

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NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. 25, No. 6

December 2012

ASFPM Releases Hurricane Sandy Recovery Paper

The Association released a [paper](#), developed by our leadership, outlining 23 suggested actions that communities, property owners, states, and the federal policy and funding decision makers can take to support a more resilient recovery and rebuilding following Hurricane Sandy. Successfully applying these actions would lead to less damage and suffering in future events, and result in more resilient communities and reduced federal taxpayer costs. We must rebuild in a way that will reduce vulnerability to flooding, hurricanes, and other large storms in the future, in order to avoid the human suffering and economic disruption that follows. We know that large events like Hurricane Sandy and Irene WILL happen again.

[Continued on page 4](#)

SCOTUS Decision in Arkansas Game and Fish Commission v. United States

Sam Medlock, JD, CFM, Policy & Partnerships Manager, ASFPM

On December 4, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion in an important floodwaters takings case, [Arkansas Game & Fish Commission v. United States](#), concluding that temporary flooding can give rise to a takings claim. However, the Court's decision may have important implications for states and local governments working to manage flood risk and potential liabilities.

[Continued on page 7](#)

Hurricane Sandy – ASFPM Takes Action

Dec 12, 2012 – [ASFPM responds to the President's request for supplemental appropriations for Hurricane Sandy.](#)

Dec 13, 2012 – [ASFPM releases Hurricane Sandy Recovery Actions](#)

Nov 26, 2012 – [ASFPM supports FEMA's efforts to develop advisory flood hazards information.](#)

More on Hurricane Sandy [HERE](#)
Resources for Local Officials – Coming soon!

Not yet an ASFPM member? [JOIN NOW](#) for access to numerous member benefits!
Questions? Contact your Member Services Coordinator at kevin@floods.org or 608-828-3000.



From the Chair

Sally McConkey, P.E., D.WRE, CFM

The last half of 2012 has been monumental for floodplain managers and mitigation professionals - with the passage of the NFIP 2012 Reform Act (Biggert-Waters) and the landfall of super storm Sandy. Some of the provisions of the NFIP reform are going to be tough, particularly rate increase and elimination of subsidies. However, the horrific loss of life and destruction along the east coast should serve to galvanize everyone involved in flood risk management to redouble our efforts to inform people of their risk, support actuarial rates for at-risk structures, and follow through with real mitigation actions that reduce our national exposure to flood losses. See the [ASFPM website](#) for more related to [Sandy](#). In the coming months we hope to see many stories of mitigation success as the East Coast rebuilds.

There are thousands of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel who have been assigned disaster duty along the East Coast. They are working long hours, living in hotels away from friends and family for weeks on end. Thank you for your service.

The quarterly State Floodplain Management and Mitigation Call continues to draw a large group, the last call was held on November 7th with 45 participants. Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Executive Director, provided an update on NFIP reform. There was an open discussion on CAP-SSE funding issues and the call ended with a brief discussion of EMAC requests to assist with the east coast disaster. The next call will be March 2, 2013, at 12 PM Central time. SFMs and SFHOs can send ideas for discussion topics to me, at sally@illinois.edu, for the next call.

FEMA has many Cooperating Technical Partners (CTPs) operating at the state, county, and local level. CTPs perform a wide range of activities to support [Risk MAP](#), holding meetings, planning, and preparing both regulatory and non-regulatory products. CTPs are partners with FEMA and FEMA's contractors, providing valuable local insights and commitment to projects. ASFPM supports the CTP program and the [Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee](#) is in the process of establishing a work group forum for CTPs. Dave Knipe is leading the effort and can be contacted at dknipe@knr.IN.gov.

We should all express our appreciation to the extremely hard working bylaws ad hoc committee: Bill Nechamen (chair), Ceil Strauss, Valerie Swick, Terri Turner, and Larry Larson. They performed a much needed update to the ASFPM Bylaws and to the *Procedures for the Nomination and Election of ASFPM Board of Directors* which had last been updated 15 years ago. They did an excellent job and the ASFPM Board approved the revised bylaws on December 11, 2012.

Happy Holidays,
Sally

From the Director's Desk

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



Operation Sandy

Based on the data that is coming in, we are on track to have two of the costliest flood disasters in modern U.S. history only 7 years apart. While we won't know the final tally, and initial damages for Sandy seemingly will exceed \$50 billion, these two storms – the other being Hurricane Katrina – are on track to have combined losses in excess of \$200 billion. While two data points do not make a trend – what is worrisome is the trend that is the average annual flood losses for the nation. The 1990s saw losses averaging \$5.6 billion annually. The 2000s jumped to more than \$10 billion annually, and this decade seems to be exceeding that number. As the organization of professionals representing floodplain managers, what are we to do?

For large storms like Sandy – ASFPM has traditionally played a strong role in trying to drive the national policy discussion – taking advantage of the fact that flooding issues emerge in the national dialog. For example, after the 1993 Mississippi River flood, ASFPM provided expert testimony to Congress, convened stakeholder meetings along the Mississippi to talk issues and solutions, and developed a policy paper that provided input into the *Sharing the Challenge: Floodplain Management into the 21st Century* report produced by the President's appointed Interagency Floodplain Management Review Committee led by Gen. Gerry Galloway. After Katrina – ASFPM again swung into action. In addition to producing a policy paper on Katrina and providing Congressional testimony, ASFPM hosted a policy meeting in New Orleans and also facilitated a series of meetings with the Interagency Flood Risk Management Committee to discuss coordination of FEMA and USACE policies and programs.

For Sandy, ASFPM has put together a strategy focusing on four areas: media relations, outreach and education, policy, and coordination with other entities (states, chapters, NGOs, etc.).

In the immediate aftermath of the event, ASFPM gave a lot of press and media interviews. Our message has been one of rebuilding smarter, including doing basic floodplain management functions like substantial damage determinations, as well as slowing down long enough to put together a solid, long-range strategy for rebuilding that increases community resiliency. We are now transitioning into having discussions on mitigation techniques, and providing thoughts on how communities can become more resilient. Also critical, is getting the word out on Advisory Base Flood Elevations. Finally, we are hearing of some mitigation success stories and are using them in our talking points, as well.

From an outreach and education standpoint, ASFPM is engaged with states, chapters, partners, and FEMA on how we can best assist. Currently under active discussion, is the the subject of deploying the ASFPM Coastal No Adverse Impact (NAI) and legal issues workshops in the hurricane affected area. We want to be sure that we are providing value to the conversation, and not getting in front of state floodplain management offices or our chapters. Certainly, as a national organization, ASFPM can bring a lot of expertise to bear from this standpoint.

A lot of activity is occurring in the flood and disaster policy arena. Different members of Congress concerned about reconstructing in a more resilient way are engaging ASFPM and asking for feedback as they contemplate policy issues. ASFPM shared some broad ideas on the funding supplemental before the President's budget request was released and we are currently processing through the President's request. At first blush I am encouraged that there is a significant recognition of the need to do – and fund – hazard mitigation, although some of the details of the requests are still a bit vague. As this edition of News and Views indicates – ASFPM developed a very broad ranging set of policy recommendations with significant input from ASFPM's volunteer leadership. I think it is a useful document in setting a clear marker as to what is needed to recover in a more resilient way – and it isn't just about more money! Furthermore, we are responding to requests for technical assistance from our Chapters as states develop and implement their recovery strategies, policies, and laws.

Finally, we are coordinating with multiple entities as we move solidly into the recovery phase of this event. ASFPM has been participating on FEMA's Community Planning Capacity Building (CPCB) RSF Collaborative Partner calls (this is a new function based on FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework), individual partner calls with longstanding collaborators such as The Nature Conservancy and American Planning Association to share information and direction, and calls between ASFPM and state floodplain management offices and ASFPM chapters in the affected areas. ASFPM has proactively released a call for volunteers (noted in the November Insider) in anticipation of the need for Certified Floodplain Managers through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Although we have not received any requests for mission assignments to date, we are hearing reports from the field that indicate there is a tremendous need to do substantial damage determinations.

In short, ASFPM is striving to implement a strategy, post-Sandy, that is responsive to floodplain managers' needs in the affected area, promotes sound long-term policies for mitigation and resiliency, and spreads the important news about the hazards of flooding, how to mitigate against the risk, and reduce losses. This is a challenging endeavor because we also need to keep all of our ongoing activities on track, but in the loss and misery of these large events, there resides a window of opportunity to change how we manage floodplains and flood risk for the better.

Your partner in loss reduction,

Chad

ASFPM Releases Hurricane Sandy Recovery Paper..... [continued from page 1](#)

While the Hurricane Sandy damage throughout the Atlantic Region, New York, and New Jersey coasts and cities is some of the worst the region has suffered, similar large events and the likelihood of their increasing frequency, should teach us valuable lessons that we must consider in the days, weeks, and months ahead. There is a need to take this disaster and use it as an opportunity to avoid the next one, rather than to rebuild in a way that will ensure another disaster or, at best, have slightly less damage and disruption next time such an event hits. We should react to this disaster in a different way than in the past. The rules need to change, or we will keep repeating our mistakes - proving yet again that we have not learned the lessons of the past.

In the devastating aftermath of a significant event like Sandy, there also exists a window of opportunity for communities and property owners to make wise redevelopment choices that will help support the economic and social vitality for generations to come. While such choices can be politically unpopular in the short term where the focus is to get back to normal, choosing a better path now can lead to reduced misery, suffering, and hardship for families and businesses in the future. It is much harder to make the needed changes after an event has been forgotten than it is to make the needed changes at a time when people are actively faced with the consequences of the storm, and thus more receptive to significant - although sometimes disruptive - actions, that can result in effective mitigation. Read the full paper, *Using Mitigation to Rebuild Safer and More Sustainable Communities*, [HERE](#).

The President has just submitted a Supplemental \$60.4 billion funding request to Congress that provides monies for various agencies and programs to assist the recovery from Hurricane Sandy. ASFPM is providing comments to the Administration and Congress on the supplemental funding. On December 12th, we issued a press release responding to the President's request for the supplemental funding titled: ["Hurricane Sandy Aid Should Support Resilient Recovery"](#). In that release, ASFPM Executive Director, Chad Berginnis, said, "Reconstruction of homes, businesses, and infrastructure is already underway and will continue throughout 2013 with a lot of public support." He continued, "It would be a huge waste of federal dollars to just rebuild everything as it was before. Mitigation is about rebuilding in locations and ways that reduce the costs and economic disruption from future storms." Access the full release [HERE](#).

The Association encourages the readers of News & Views to provide feedback on these papers, and to suggest ideas for the Hurricane Sandy recovery and rebuilding. This process will go for a long period of time, and your suggestions can help inform our continued input to the process. Contact diane@floods.org.



Policy Matters!

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

Have you all noticed the difference in the media reports and national policy dialogue following Hurricane Sandy, as compared to Hurricane Katrina in 2005? While the requests for federal disaster assistance from the impacted region are similar, at over \$100 billion for Katrina and \$60-80 billion for Sandy, there is a much stronger dialogue about how the communities, individuals, and states should “build back safer and more resilient.” That discussion was not front and center following Katrina, but it dominates the media and political discussions related to Sandy.

There are a number of economic and social factors likely contributing to this, but maybe, just maybe, the professional floodplain managers in the nation - and our allies - can take some credit, per our work over the last number of decades in pushing for post-disaster mitigation as opposed to rebuilding the same way and expecting a different result in the next disaster. It appears that more and more taxpayers have grown weary of ponying up their tax money, time and again, for those who suffer from natural hazards that can be - and often are - predicted; flooding is our most predictable and costly disaster. There has been promising dialogue from politicians, local and state officials, and professionals suggesting a number of approaches to rebuilding that would be more sustainable. I have read hundreds of media articles reporting on Hurricane Sandy and the importance in rebuilding better and safer. I continue to be amazed at the many comments submitted by readers of these articles with themes such as, “this is what happens when you build in high risk areas,” and “we should not rebuild the same way again,” and “why are we bailing out beachfront properties?” or “Barrier islands are nature’s way of protecting the mainland from storms and should never have been built on.” Surprisingly, a number of people go on to say damaged building on barrier islands should be acquired and the land left as open space.

To their credit, some of the communities impacted by Sandy had, in the past few years, come to understand they were at great risk to a large storm event on the coast. New York City and the state have been looking at their increased vulnerability due to sea level rise and climate change, as have others. And while they have not implemented many solutions yet, they seem to understand that Hurricane Sandy - while indeed a tragedy - also presents a real opportunity to adapt to these increasing threats while they are rebuilding from the disaster.

The combination of increasing storm intensity and actual sea level rise in the area over the past decades was a clear predictor this event would happen one day. The frequency and severity, of coastal storms and rainfall events, are changing in the northeast part of the US, as in many other areas. Moreover, over 100 years of tide gage data in the region confirm that relative sea level has risen one foot over the past century. The undeniable future of this coast is one of rising tides, shifting sands, increasing storm vulnerability, and increasing taxpayer liability if we do not use what we know to make us safer and less vulnerable. Interestingly, Sandy was no more an extreme event than was Katrina. Both probably matched the currently predicted 100 year event in a many places, meaning these areas can expect future storms of this magnitude and even larger in the future.

Above, I painted a fairly bright picture of risk awareness and how everything may be rebuilt to not flood from a similar event again. Reality is a bit different. While the intent of a number of communities and states is noble, there is a long distance between the lip and cup. Every decision on every damaged building presents an opportunity to rebuild better, but many opportunities are missed because:

- Each damaged building was not inspected to determine if it was substantially damaged, because if it was, it must be rebuilt to current regulations, which usually means elevated for protection.
- Substantial damage triggers Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) for those covered by flood insurance, which could provide up to \$30,000 to help elevate or otherwise mitigate the building.
- Communities or states too often relax permit requirements, allowing property owners to start rebuilding before substantial damage can be determined to see if ICC might be available, or if the property should be part of a mitigation project (for buyouts or elevation, money spent early may no longer be available to support or match mitigation funding).

These are just a few of the missed opportunities. In addition, there is a myth that any sand dune or beach nourishment project greatly reduced or prevented damage. As such, we are seeing requests for billions of tax dollars to pump sand to rebuild beaches and sand dunes. Beach front property owners and their lobbyists are trying to send the message that “beach nourishment and construction of artificial dunes is protection from hurricanes.” In some cases it may help, in others, maybe not. In all cases, the issue is more “who pays” and “how often.” If such measures might help reduce flood losses in an area, is the dune or beach lost in every storm or gradually eroded over time, even without a large storm? If so, how often does it need to be rebuilt? Should the taxpayers in the Midwest and elsewhere in the nation pay for protecting beachfront homes—especially time and time again?

All these and more issues are part of the national dialogue right now. How they are resolved will be determined by whose voices are heard. As professionals in this field, I urge all of you to weigh in: Share your knowledge and expertise. You can make a difference.

Ring in 2013 – A Message from ASFPM’s Associate Director of Operations

Ingrid Danler, CFM, Associate Director Operations

In the November issue of The Insider, I noted that when U.S. News & World Report creates their 2013 Annual Best Jobs Report, I hope they notice how exciting Floodplain Management has been this past year! Floods, then drought, then floods again - this dominated the news and the nation’s attention for most of the year, culminating in Hurricane Sandy which, on the heels of NFIP reform, is changing the landscape and dialogue of flooding and floodplain management.

Currently, there are less than 8,000 Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM’s) nationwide, and a large private sector involvement, serving to manage the more than 21,700 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program that by Federal Law must designate a floodplain administrator. In a 2009 ASFPM survey of our membership, we verified that over 68% of local officials have Bachelor’s degrees or higher in a multitude of disciplines. However, the missing piece was having professionals – specifically, the next generation of professionals with degree options in Floodplain and Flood Risk Management!

Recognizing this need, the ASFPM Board of Directors approved a [RESOLUTION](#) in their November Call which included making Higher Education our 14th Policy Committee. The Resolution tasked the group to encourage and enable the development of flood risk management degree programs at institutions of higher learning - to include 2 year associates degrees, minors, 4 year bachelor’s degrees, and graduate degrees including doctoral programs - with their attention focused on using the Emergency Management model to bring undergraduate and graduate programs to Universities nationwide. The Resolution was point on in describing the need for degreed floodplain managers. I invite you to read it, use it, and promote it. If you are interested in serving on the steering committee of this group and driving the new work plan, active ASFPM members can feel free to contact me at Ingrid@floods.org.

[JOIN NOW](#) to receive member benefit publication, *The Insider*, and read more in our January issue!

SCOTUS Decision in Arkansas G & FC v. U.S..... [continued from page 1](#)

Background

The 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees owners of private property that, if the government takes over the property for its own public purposes, it must pay the owner a dollar amount that represents its current market value if the property were to be sold. One of several ways that government action may effect a taking is when the government physically occupies private property.

Here, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission filed a physical takings claim against the United States in the Court of Federal Claims, alleging that the government had taken its property without just compensation. The Commission claimed that temporary deviations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) from an operating plan for Clearwater Dam during the years 1993 to 2000 caused increased flooding in the Commission's Dave Donaldson Black River Wildlife Management Area.ⁱ This flooding, in turn, damaged or destroyed timber stands in the Management Area. The federal government argued that any increased flooding was only temporary and constituted, if anything, a tort rather than a taking. They also argued that the damage was not substantial enough to constitute a taking and that the effects in any event were not predictable, again defeating a takings claim.

The Claims Court concluded that the deviations from the 1953 Water Control Manual were "interim deviations" that were "approved at various times from 1993 to 2000."ⁱⁱ The court also found that: "Certainly no *permanent* flowage easement in the Management Area was taken by the flooding attributable to the Corps' deviations from the operating Plan for Clearwater Dam. . . . [A] *temporary* flowage easement is a necessary foundation for the Commission's takings claim, as has always been evident from the Commission's pleadings and proofs."ⁱⁱⁱ The Claims Court concluded that the government had taken a temporary flowage easement over the Commission's property and awarded a total of \$5.8 million in damages. The federal government appealed.

The appeals court reversed, ruling that the damage caused by the USACE could not be considered a taking because the floodwater releases were temporary deviations. The majority cited *Sanguinetti v. United States*, 264 U.S. 146 (1924), which held that to be considered a taking, flooding must "constitute an actual, permanent invasion of the land, amounting to an appropriation of and not merely an injury to the property." The dissenting judge wrote that extended and repeated flooding of property does constitute a taking and that the majority had misconstrued the precedent it cited.

The Supreme Court decided to take up the case in April, but in the meantime, the federal government attempted to resolve the dispute by offering the commission \$13 million. The commission rejected the offer.

Oral Arguments

Arguing for the state agency was a commission lawyer, James F. Goodhart, of Little Rock. Arguing for the federal government was Deputy U.S. Solicitor General Edwin S. Kneedler. The case was heard by an eight-member Court, since Justice Elena Kagan has taken herself out of the case, presumably because of a prior involvement with it when she was U.S. Solicitor General before joining the Court.

During oral arguments, most of the questions and comments from the Court seemed to demonstrate sympathy to the Commission's arguments that temporary flooding can effect a taking. Justices appeared more hostile to the government's position that downstream landowners are not due compensation because they should have been aware of the inherent risks of operating an enterprise on flood-prone lands. Justice Kennedy and Chief Justice Roberts, in particular, seemed to take issue with Kneedler's

ⁱ The Clearwater Lake Manual allowed for deviations from the "normal regulation" releases for (1) emergencies, (2) "unplanned minor deviations," such as for construction or maintenance, and (3) "planned deviations" requested for agricultural, recreational, and other purposes. The deviations in question here fell into the latter category.

ⁱⁱ 87 Fed. Cl. 594, at 603.

ⁱⁱⁱ Id. at 617 (emphasis in original); see also id. at 619–20 (finding appropriation was "temporary rather than permanent").

argument that landowners downstream could never make a claim even though a property owner upstream of the dam could potentially seek compensation if the water regularly floods his property. They seemed inclined to try to find a taking based on the facts of this case, but struggled with how to distinguish the flood damage at issue from every other flood that follows dam gate and other flood control operations. Justice Kennedy repeatedly requested an “operational baseline” of “expected protections for property.” If one flood is not enough, but eight is too many, where is the Court to draw the line?

Opinion

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote the opinion for the Court that “recurrent floodings, even if of finite duration, are not categorically exempt from Takings Clause liability.”^{iv} The Opinion emphasized that the Court had issued a number of decisions allowing compensation for temporary invasions of private property, so it was not deciding anything new this time in finding that the government had no flat exemption to that obligation. However, the Court did not go so far as to rule that the Game Commission is now entitled to be paid the \$5.7 million it had been awarded earlier. The case is now headed back to lower courts, where the federal government may try legal arguments to avoid having to make payment.

So, what *did* the Court hold, and what does the decision mean to floodplain managers? When the government makes a decision to release water from a retaining dam, it can be sued even if the downstream flooding is temporary in duration, provided it causes sufficient damage that is traceable to the decision to release. What matters, Ginsburg wrote, is not the duration, but a case-by-case analysis of all of the factors that help resolve whether damage was done and whether it was severe enough to constitute a seizure of the property for government purposes.

What did appear to be somewhat novel about the opinion was Justice Ginsburg’s admonition to the government lawyer’s “slippery slope argument,” that a ruling against the government in this case would lead to a lawsuit any time the government released any water from any river project and flooding resulted. “To reject a categorical bar to temporary-flooding takings claims,” Ginsburg wrote, “is scarcely to credit all, or even many, such claims... Today’s modest decision augurs no deluge of takings liability.”^v

Time will tell.

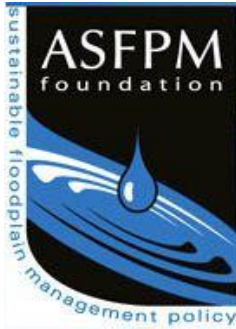
The decision of the Court reinforces what smart floodplain managers already know: floodwaters can result in a takings claim, even if the inundation at issue is temporary in nature. “We rule today, simply and only, that government-induced flooding temporary in duration gains no automatic exemption from Takings Clause inspection.”^{vi} For this reason, river and floodplain managers should continue their diligent efforts to avoid actions that may result in adverse impacts to downstream and adjacent property interests. Moreover, where those impacts may be unavoidable, flood easements and other tools are already available to mitigate potential liabilities.

ASFPM will continue to monitor developments as this case makes its way back to the lower courts on remand. What do you think of the Court’s opinion? How might this potential expansion of liability change how your organization works to mitigate its liability exposure? We invite you to share your views on your [ASFPM’s LinkedIn Group Page](#).

^{iv} Arkansas Game & Fish Comm’n v. United States, 133 S. Ct. 511 (U.S. 2012)

^v *Id.*

^{vi} *Id.*



ASFPM Foundation

The ASFPM Foundation wishes you all a most successful and disaster-mild 2013. Check your email for the Foundation donor plea – it is not too late to still make a 2012 tax-deductible donation! Members can simply add it to your 2013 Membership Renewal Form or you can go to www.asfpmfoundation.org and look for the Donate box to make your secure transaction in just a couple of minutes. Questions can be directed to Diane Brown at diane@floods.org or 608-828-6324 in our office.

Your support is always greatly appreciated. Stay flood safe!

3rd Annual Collegiate Student Paper Competition

Abstract Submittal Deadline: **December 31, 2012**

The 3rd annual collegiate student paper competition will be conducted at the 2013 ASFPM Conference held on June 10-13 in Hartford, Connecticut. The goals of this program, funded by the ASFPM Foundation, are to encourage student engagement in floodplain management topics and to identify talented individuals with the potential to make lasting contributions to the Body of Knowledge of floodplain management.

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students (or a team of 1-3 students) are urged to submit a one-page abstract (500 words double spaced) on subjects relating to floodplain, flood hazard, flood risk, or stormwater management, concisely describing the research and expected results from the study. Students who have previously submitted an abstract, but not been selected, may submit their abstract again.

Up to three semifinalists will be invited to submit a full paper which will be due **March 1, 2013**. Semifinalists receive up to \$1,000 for travel assistance to make their presentations at a special student session during the conference, and are judged by an eminent panel of floodplain managers for a scholarship of \$1,000, \$500, or \$250.

Please submit abstracts electronically as a PDF to ASFPM Outreach & Events Manager Diane Brown at diane@floods.org. More information is available at: [ASFPM Foundation Student Paper Competition](http://www.asfpmfoundation.org).

Additional ASFPM Foundation information is available on the website: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/>

Call for Nominations for 2013 ASFPM Awards

Join the stars who have received national recognition over the years for doing the right thing and doing it well. Here are the award categories for excellence in floodplain management for which we invite your nomination of worthy programs, projects or persons. See [ASFPM AWARDS](http://www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp) for more detail on these categories.

- Media Award
- LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year
- Sheaffer Floodproofing Award
- Ivey Certification Award
- Tom Lee State Award
- James Lee Witt Local Award
- Meritorious Achievement Award

Our conference theme for 2013 in Hartford, Connecticut, is “Remembering the Past – Insuring the Future”. Please help us showcase the many successes across the country! Simply go to the ASFPM awards nomination page at www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp and submit your program, project, or person online. Make sure you get it in by the **March 1, 2013** deadline because it will not be extended as the conference is in mid-June this year. It is highly recommended that you provide applicable letters of support for your nomination. Send those to Outreach & Events Manager Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at diane@floods.org, who can also answer your questions about the process or categories (phone is 608-828-6324). Winners will be notified in mid-April to allow time to make travel arrangements.

ASFPM Science Services – 2012 Review

The ASFPM Science Services Program had another eventful year and was engaged in a variety of projects and research development initiatives, from deploying and updating an outreach website for FEMA's Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study (2012 Federal Inter-agency Initiative) to the development of the Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Planning Guide full of case studies that allow local planners and officials to find answers to pressing coastal hazard issues. Key initiatives focused on increasing ASFPM's capabilities and capacity, which included hiring a full-time Project Manager, securing funding for a NOAA Digital Coast Fellow co-mentored in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the continued expansion of our IT infrastructure to support Web and GIS application development, analysis, data storage and access aimed at creating linkages through web-based data catalogs and digital publication libraries.

ASFPM Science Services Highlights

Drew Whitehair was hired as a Project Manager at ASFPM on December 1st, 2012 to manage several active ASFPM projects as well as pursue new opportunities that fit within ASFPM's mission. Drew comes from Michael Baker Jr., Inc. where he was also a Project Manager managing several hazard mitigation planning projects as well as other emergency management and hazard mitigation related activities. Prior to that, Drew worked in both the Hazard Mitigation Branch and Disaster Recovery Branch (Public Assistance Program) at Ohio Emergency Management Agency managing several million dollars of flood mitigation projects including acquisitions, elevations, flood warning systems, stormwater management, and mitigation planning. He was also the program lead for benefit-cost analysis, compliance lead for NEPA environmental review requirements, and served on national focus groups to improve FEMA's benefit-cost analysis and Severe Repetitive Loss Program. Additionally, Drew has past experience at the local level working for the Tuscarawas County, Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Drew holds a Bachelor's of Science in Emergency Management from the University of Akron. You can reach Drew at 608-828-6342 and drew@floods.org.

LIDAR Webinar Series – This Fall ASFPM worked with GeoCue Corporation to present an educational webinar series focusing on LIDAR. The four part webinar series began with an introduction to the technology, terminology and overview of LIDAR concepts, continued with the specification parameters for a LIDAR collection project, then dealt with the concerns of accepting and quality controlling received LIDAR data, and culminated in a live demonstration of common tasks an end user would likely encounter when working with LIDAR data. ASFPM was fortunate to partner with GeoCue, who diligently worked with us to produce and present webinars that were content rich and software agnostic while still making trial software and sample data available to ASFPM members and CFMs. The webinars were very well received with over 500 people participating in each of the four webinars. Science Services hopes to bring more of these technical educational opportunities to our members in the future. More information - including links to the trial software, sample dataset, and webinar slides - is available at the [LIDAR Webinar Series page](#).

NOAA Digital Coast Fellow - This past year ASFPM and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) went through a rigorous Fellowship selection process that included development of a joint proposal, and review of over 30 fellowship application packages followed by phone and in-person interviews. We are very excited that Laura Flessner joined ASFPM and TNC as the Digital Coast Fellow. Laura is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina Wilmington where she specialized in Coastal Management. Laura's strong background in environmental and coastal issues and her GIS technical experience fit nicely with natural and beneficial function approaches emphasized by both ASFPM and TNC. Over the course of her two-year fellowship, Laura will focus on the intersection of TNC's *Coastal Resilience* program and ASFPM's *No Adverse Impacts* program to develop a solid framework and key resources that integrate watershed-based risks, impacts, and interdependencies with coastal resilience strategies. Laura is located at TNC's Global Marine Initiative Office in Seattle, Washington. Funding for Laura is generously supported through the [NOAA Coastal Fellowship Program](#) as part of ASFPM's involvement with [NOAA's Digital Coast Partnership](#).

ASFPM Science Services Projects

The projects highlighted below represent a large, but not complete, part of the overall Science Services Program that continues to look for additional opportunities.

NOAA Digital Coast Partnership – ASFPM continued its involvement with the [NOAA's Digital Coast Partnership](#). NOAA's Coastal Service Center (CSC) headquartered in Charleston, SC, developed [Digital Coast](#) as a geospatial resource that provides access to data, tools, training and applications. The site provides the information needed by those who want to conserve and protect coastal communities and natural resources. With the support of Mississippi State University, CSC has established the Partnership with other national organizations that include ASFPM, American Planning Association (APA), Coastal States Organization (CSO), National Association of Counties (NACo), National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), and TNC. Partnership feedback guides the development of this information resource and provides a means by which diverse groups can come together to address coastal issues. The Digital Coast website provided tremendous geospatial resources for response to Hurricane Sandy.

Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study – FEMA is updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for all the coastal communities along the Great Lakes coastline. ASFPM has been serving on the Steering Committee and has been contracted by FEMA to develop and maintain the official program website. ASFPM has also been assisting in the development of outreach materials and presentations at state conferences and participating in the Technical Workshops and Discovery Meetings associated with the project. ASFPM's understanding of coastal hazard analysis and mapping has been greatly enhanced through this process and will help ensure State and local governments are informed and involved throughout the mapping process. Visit the [Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study website](#) for more information.

Coastal Flood Risk Reduction Course – In partnership with Bob Freitag, University of Washington, and the Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center, the curriculum was developed to provide a one-day awareness-level training course that enhances the participant's ability to reduce coastal risks and enhance coastal benefits. ASFPM has participated as an instructor for two workshops conducted on the west coast as well as one at the 2012 AFPM Conference in San Antonio.

Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Planning Guide - The Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Planning Guide is being developed to provide local decision makers with educational information, methods, and examples for mapping, analyzing, and visualizing coastal hazards and adaptation strategies. The planning guide was funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Digital Coast partnership and community-based partners from the [Great Lakes region](#) are working together on a project that will help Great Lakes communities adapt to a changing climate. ASFPM is playing a leadership role on this effort in close collaboration with and guidance from the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Additional regional and local partners include the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute and UW Extension, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, and other Sea Grant programs in this region.

Dam Risk Reduction – The objective of the Dam Risk Reduction project is to develop a national risk reduction strategy for communities impacted by dams, keeping in mind the wide range of issues associated with ownership, purpose, and the environment. This strategy provides suggestions on how to improve community understanding on the effects of dams on floodplains and floodplain management, how communities can find information on dams that may impact their responsibilities, and what steps can be taken to ensure that communities and States are aware of the hazards associated with dams and be prepared to deal with them through appropriate mitigation strategies. Throughout the United States, there are many examples of how dams have impacted communities. Several recent events throughout the United States have illustrated these issues.

Washington Report

-Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Lame Duck Time

With the elections over, the Congress resumed legislative business on November 13th. Capitol Hill has been a busy place, as not only are all of the Members of the current Congress (112th Congress) in town to complete critical legislative business, but the newly elected Members-to-Be have been on the Hill for their orientation sessions and office selection lottery. After being in session for one week, the Congress recessed for Thanksgiving week, but is back now until the session finally adjourns. In all likelihood they will remain in session for at least three weeks in December.

The issue of primary focus is Congressional action on averting the “fiscal cliff” and its projected severe fallout. Discussion about various paths forward often encompasses other possible legislative activity, notably a Supplemental Appropriations bill to provide further assistance with recovery from Hurricane Sandy and possibly an omnibus Appropriations bill finalizing funding for many federal programs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013. At present, the government is operating under a Continuing Resolution, which actually is in effect into March of 2013. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees, however, are engaged in informal negotiations to ready an omnibus bill in case there is an opportunity to move it.

Meanwhile, development of major legislation such as a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and a Farm Bill continues. A number of other bills, many derivative of issues emerging from Hurricane Sandy, are being introduced. Since final action is unlikely before the Congress adjourns, these are really being introduced now with a view toward the new Congress which will convene in January.

In the midst of all this, the office lottery has occurred, meaning many current Representatives and Senators are moving to better office space and newly elected Members of Congress are moving in – usually to the less desirable office space. The halls are stacked with furniture, filing cabinets, and boxes. Some offices are challenged to keep up their fast-moving work while office systems are down and even staplers are in boxes.

Disaster Supplemental Appropriations

Reportedly the Supplemental request was relayed to the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate late in the day on Friday, December 7th. Details are not yet available, but House Chairman Hal Rogers has indicated that the total requested is \$60.4 billion.

The Administration had delayed sending the request to the Hill to allow time for the states affected by Hurricane Sandy to prepare assessments of their losses and recovery needs that would be as accurate as possible.

The next step will be for the two Appropriations Committees to examine the request and put together a Supplemental Appropriations bill. This is occurring as negotiations on an overall spend/tax formula to avert the “fiscal cliff” are inching along with the December 31st deadline quickly approaching. How Supplemental appropriations will fit into that overarching fiscal, yet-to-be-developed framework is not clear. According to testimony from FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate at a Senate appropriations hearing on December 6th, the Disaster Relief Fund still has sufficient funds for immediate recovery needs, but will require Supplemental appropriations early in the new year.

Other Legislative Activity in the Lame Duck Session

Committee consideration of some legislation is continuing and a variety of bills related to Hurricane Sandy recovery are being introduced. It is possible that some could be acted upon because of time lags waiting for the major legislative business of the lame duck. On the other hand, most projections indicate little chance of action on other legislation. Most indicate the legislative work is setting up bills for attention early in the new Congress. They will have to be re-introduced, however, and given new bill numbers.

ASFPM is continuing to engage in discussions with staff who are working on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Stafford Act revisions (Senator Landrieu), and the Farm Bill.

WRDA

Staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee are nearing completion of a draft WRDA. The Committee held a hearing on November 15th. Witnesses were from The Nature Conservancy, American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies and the National Waterways Conference. Many of the witnesses were Senators and House Members from areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. There was considerable favorable discussion of the benefits of beach nourishment in reducing the damage from severe coastal storms.

The EPW Committee held a subsequent hearing on recovery from Hurricane Sandy on November 29th. All witnesses at that hearing were Senators and Members of the House from Sandy-impacted areas.

There continue to be indications that the Committee could mark up and report out its bill before this Congress adjourns, but chances seem to be diminishing. Committee Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has expressed her expectation that the bill could be considered on the Senate floor early in the next Congress.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been reluctant to put together a WRDA because of uncertainties about the “fiscal cliff” situation and because of the current House ban on earmarks and lack of clarity on its application to named projects in WRDA legislation. If the Senate acts on its WRDA, prospects may improve for House action in the new Congress.

Stafford Revisions

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has been developing legislation to substantially revise the Stafford Act for over a year. She is considering changes to the draft bill to address issues highlighted by Hurricane Sandy. She could decide to move the bill on its own or possibly attach it or portions of it to Supplemental Appropriations legislation or an omnibus appropriations bill. All or none of the above could occur.

The House passed a FEMA Reauthorization bill ([H.R. 2903](#)) in September which has been sent to the Senate for consideration. That measure made some changes to the Stafford Act. Two elements of particular interest to ASFPM involve requiring FEMA to publish regulations to implement authority from the 2000 Disaster Mitigation Act for state administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and clarifying that demolish and rebuild (mitigation reconstruction) is an authorized activity under HMGP.

Farm Bill

Action on the House version of the Farm Bill is still stalled. It remains possible that either the full reauthorization bill reported by the House Agriculture Committee or a one year simple extension of agriculture programs could be taken up on the House floor during the lame duck session. The fate of conservation compliance is a key focus for conservation groups and ASFPM has joined in signing a letter to House leadership urging inclusion of conservation compliance.

Study of Community-Based Group Flood Insurance Policies

The House passed a bill this fall ([H.R. 6186](#)) to task FEMA with studying the feasibility and benefits of developing various forms of group flood insurance policies. Although a similar provision was included in the major flood insurance reform legislation, it was not included in the final version. The bill passed the House overwhelmingly and with the full support of the Financial Services Committee Chair Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and the Subcommittee Chair Judy Biggert (R-IL). ASFPM has urged the Senate Banking Committee to bring this bill up for consideration by the full Senate during the lame duck session.

The STRONG Act

Senator John Kerry (D-MA) will soon introduce a bill to establish an inter-agency Cabinet level working group to address challenges presented by extreme weather including adaptation to and mitigation of effects. The Cabinet level group would function under the auspices of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President. ASFPM has been consulted during development of the legislation and has written to Senator Kerry expressing support for the concept and looking forward to further refinement and development. The bill will likely be introduced during the lame duck session, but consideration of the measure can be expected to be deferred until the next Congress.

Referenced legislation can be viewed by visiting <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing the bill number or title.

Flood Insurance Committee

Corner

Pre-FIRM Rate Subsidies Begin to Disappear in 2013

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (FEMA's acronym is BW-12), was signed into law on July 6, 2012. With that will come many changes to the rate structure of the flood insurance program. The first impact will be on pre-FIRM buildings. Here's an overview of what will happen in 2013. You are encouraged to read the Bulletins for more details.

Starting January 1, 2013, subsidized premium rates for pre-FIRM non-primary residences in the high-risk Special Flood Hazard Areas will begin to increase by 25 percent a year until they essentially reflect full-risk rates. For clarity-sake, some definitions:

A primary residence is a building that will be lived in by the insured or the insured's spouse for at least 80 percent of the 365 days following the policy effective date. If the building will be lived in for less than 80 percent of the policy year, it is considered to be a non-primary residence. Also remember that only primary residences receive replacement cost coverage on the building!

A pre-FIRM building is one that was built before the community's first flood map became effective and has not been substantially damaged or improved.

More details can be found in [NFIP Bulletin W-12043](#).

Starting August 1, 2013, subsidies will be similarly be phased out at 25 percent a year for commercial properties, severe repetitive loss properties consisting of 1-4 residences, and properties that have incurred flood-related damages where claims payments exceed the fair market value.

Note that new policies written on pre-FIRM buildings due to a sale or deliberate lapse will be issued at **full-risk rates**.

More details can be found in [NFIP Bulletin W-12109](#).

Beginning in 2014, FEMA indicates that premium rates for other properties, including non-subsidized properties, will increase as new or revised flood maps become effective and full risk rates are phased in for these properties. This refers to BW-12 Section 100207 and grandfathering. It is not clear how this will be implemented and if, for example, existing grandfathered policies will be grandfathered in (great grandfathering?!). While FEMA figures this out, they have removed the 2-year policy limit for the Preferred Risk Policy Extension until the new rates are implemented.

More details about the extending the PRP Extension can be found in [NFIP Bulletin W-12054](#).

WARNING: When these pre-FIRM subsidized premiums begin to disappear, affected property owners may become upset (understatement?) and they (and the media) may blame the increase on recent or upcoming map changes. Be prepared to explain that it is due to a law passed by Congress (which may start being called Bitter-Waters by some), not due to map changes or FEMA just deciding to target these buildings.

As always, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to share them with us.

--Your Humble Insurance Committee Co-Chairs
Bruce Bender & Gary Heinrichs

This column is produced by the ASFPM Insurance Committee. Send your questions about flood insurance issues to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and they will be addressed in future issues of the newsletter.

Continued Changes in Flood Insurance Policy Rates from NFIP Reform Act

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) requires FEMA to take immediate steps to eliminate a variety of existing flood insurance subsidies and calls for a number of changes in how the program operates. The new rates will reflect the full flood risk of an insured building, and some insurance subsidies and discounts will be phased out and eventually eliminated. Rates on almost all buildings that are, or will be, in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) will be revised over time to reflect full flood risks. Based on various conditions set forth in the law, subsidies and grandfathered rates will be eliminated for most properties in the future.

Effective on January 1, 2013, flood insurance policy rates for some older non-primary residences in SFHAs that received subsidized rates based on their “pre-Flood Insurance Rate Map” (pre-FIRM) status will increase by 25 percent a year until they reflect the full-risk rate. A pre-FIRM building is one that was built before the community’s first flood map became effective and has not been substantially damaged or improved. If the building will be lived in for less than 80 percent of the policy year, it is considered to be a non-primary residence. Click [here](#) to read a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) bulletin that provides additional details around the legislation.

The NFIP will also begin eliminating subsidized premiums for other buildings effective on August 1, 2013, as mandated by Section 100205 of BW-12. Click [here](#) to read the full bulletin and note that key changes include:

- Subsidies will be phased out for severe repetitive loss properties consisting of 1-4 residences, business properties, and properties that have incurred flood-related damages where claims payments exceed the fair market value of the property.
- Properties with subsidized rates will move directly to full-risk rates after a sale of the property or after the policy has lapsed.
- New policies will be issued at full-risk rates.

Note that policyholders should be aware that allowing a policy to lapse could be costly. A new application will be required and full-risk rates will take effect.

Important Note on Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs)

As of January 1, 2013, PRPs issued on properties located in a high-risk area may continue beyond the previously designated two-year period until FEMA completes analysis and implements a revised premium structure put in place with BW-12.

For some policyholders in areas flooded by Sandy, the impact of these changes could be substantial. For this reason, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages property owners to consider flood insurance costs when making decisions about how high to rebuild. A brochure that details some of the legislation’s impacts on building is also available [here](#). We encourage you to print it out and distribute to your local community members.

Publications, Video, the Web

Florida's Tropical Storm Debby Loss Avoidance Report Released

The [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) is happy to announce that Florida's Tropical Storm Debby Loss Avoidance Report is now available on their website. [Check it out here.](#)

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management Sends Letters of Support to FEMA's David Miller

On November 27, NJAFM sent a letter of support to David Miller, FEMA's Associate Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, expressing their support. [This letter is available here.](#)

Wharton Risk Center Issue Brief Offers Reasons for Why People Fail to Learn to Prepare for Hurricanes

Studies tested individual's ability to learn (via computer simulation) to invest in protection against hurricanes. An important finding is: The more effective an investment in preventing harm, the more difficult it is for decision makers to remember the need for the investments. Avoidance of losses due to protection suppressed subsequent investments. Read more at: [Failing to learn from experience about catastrophes: The case of hurricane preparedness.](#)

On Ravaged Coastline, It's Rebuild Deliberately vs. Rebuild Now

The New York Times has published a poignant article covering the dilemma people face while waiting for mitigation decisions that take an extended period of time. Those who have worked disasters will have experienced, time and time again, the challenge in getting impatient communities to hold out for appropriate guidance in rebuilding to maximum benefit with the proper direction and mitigation planning. Homeowners know the process very often takes far too much time to wait, and without assistance, they will do what they can. [Read more here.](#)

Eight Success Story Videos Recently Published on NOAA's Climate.gov

NOAA recently posted videos about Fourchon Parrish, sea level rise, subsidence, and community efforts to adapt to a changing landscape. Watch these videos at the following links:

[Windell's Levee: Protecting a Coastal Community](#)
[Everything's Moving: Relative Sea Level Rise Explained](#)
[Leaving Leeville: Losing a Coastal Community](#)
[Advanced Coastal GPS: Immediate Data, Immediate Decisions](#)
[Built to Last: Climate Data Ensure Oil Supply Route](#)
[Ground Zero for Sea Level Rise](#)
[Louisiana's Front Line: Defense from Storm and Surge](#)
[Resilience and Energy: Coastal Management Ensures Supply](#)

EPA Releases Video: "EPA Scientists at Work: Managing Sewer Overflows with Green Infrastructure"

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists are currently studying green infrastructure to determine the most effective and efficient practices for water treatment, management and transport. Water infrastructure may be considered "gray" or "green." Gray infrastructure refers to traditional practices for stormwater management and wastewater treatment. Green infrastructure refers to sustainable pollution reducing practices that also provide other ecosystem services such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions or increased flood control. Examples of green infrastructure include grass and forest buffers, use of porous materials for paving, as well as small-scale practices like rain gardens and rain barrels. [Click here to view the video.](#)

National Flood Services introduces Flood Tools, An Online Tool for Calculating Flood Risk

Many property owners have turned to [FloodSmart](#), run by the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) and overseen by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), as a way to gauge their flood risks. Recently, a third-party management organization for insurance companies, [National Flood Services](#), has introduced an [interactive site](#) where homeowners can input their addresses to see what level of flooding they might expect on their properties. Read more [HERE](#).

ASFPM Link to Submit Photos

ASFPM is always looking for good photos of flood mitigation, natural floodplain functions, and soft engineering. Please send ASFPM your public domain photos: http://www.floods.org/photo_upload.asp

New Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC) Application

FEMA is launching the Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC) - a new way to submit a request to change a property's flood zone designation. The new Online LOMC application allows anyone to electronically submit required documents and property information when they are requesting FEMA remove their property from a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). As of December 17th, applicants can use this new website to request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) instead of using the MT-EZ paper form. A LOMA is a letter from FEMA stating that an existing structure or parcel of land will not be inundated by the base flood. LOMA-eligible requests must be concerning properties on naturally high ground, which have not been elevated by fill. FEMA will roll out more features in the coming months! This application will allow ASFPM members to better meet the needs of their customers. The benefits include:

- *Applicants may save information online and finish applying at their convenience*
- *Clear and intuitive interface makes applying user-friendly*
- *Frequent applicants can manage multiple LOMA requests online*
- *More efficient communications with LOMA processing staff*
- *Applicants can check their application status in real-time*
- *Coming soon! Request all LOMC types via the Online LOMC*

To learn more about this exciting new tool, visit www.fema.gov/online-lomc.

Grant and Project Opportunities

[Call for Presentations 2nd Annual Student Water Conference – April 4-5, 2013](#)

Oklahoma State University

Deadline: January 18, 2013

The conference organizing committee invites graduate and undergraduate students to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Abstracts on all water research topics - including but not limited to surface water, ground water, water quality, water quantity, storm water management, in-stream flows, water conservation, water reuse, water transfer, flood and drought, climate change, water resource economics, and water policy – are encouraged. Non-OSU Students: Some travel assistance funds are available for travel to the conference. Graduate and undergraduate students will have the opportunity to apply for travel assistance up to \$250 per student. Please refer to the abstract submission requirements to apply for the travel assistance grant. For more information, contact Dr. Garey Fox, Associate Professor and Buchanan Chair, at 405-744-8423 or at garey.fox@okstate.edu.

[Call for Abstracts – 2013 NHWC Training Conference and Exposition Submittal Deadline Extended](#) **National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) - First Coast, Lasting Partnerships**

Deadline: January 31, 2013

The theme for the 10th National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) Biennial Training Conference and Exposition, taking place in Ponte Vedra, Florida, is "First Coast, Lasting Partnerships". This theme focuses on the region of Florida called the "First Coast" where the conference is being held on June 3-6, 2013. More information at: [Conference](#), [Abstract Submission](#), Student Scholarship and Presentation Contest.

[Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Joint Venture Habitat Restoration and Protection Grant](#)

Fish and Wildlife Service

Deadline: February 1, 2013

The goal of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is to target the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem by funding and implementing federal projects that address these problems. As part of this initiative, the two bird habitat joint ventures that are in the Great Lakes watershed - the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture - will be working with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs in the Midwest and Northeast Regions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to competitively fund state and other partner projects for long-term habitat restoration, enhancement or protection, for conservation of native Great Lakes fish and wildlife populations, particularly migratory birds. Preference will be given to activities that help meet the habitat goals of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Implementation Plan or the Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain (BCR 13) Bird Conservation Region Plan, other relevant bird conservation plans, and State Wildlife Action Plans.

[Call for Abstracts](#)

The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) - 2013 Critical Infrastructure Symposium

Deadline: February 1, 2013

TISP will be holding The 2013 Critical Infrastructure Symposium, "Advancing Full Spectrum Resilience", on April 15-16, 2012, in West Point, N.Y. At The 2012 Critical Infrastructure Symposium, Lt. Col. Steve Hart, Ph.D., P.E., USA, and Wayne Boone, Ph.D., Carleton University, proposed the concept of "Full Spectrum Resilience" as an integrated understanding of resilience across the Levels of Resilience, the Range of Impact and the All-Hazards Environment. This concept provides a frame of reference for relating new and existing resilience initiatives to each other in order to form a comprehensive body of knowledge and practice. The 2013 Symposium will move this concept from theory to practice. The paper explaining Full Spectrum Resilience, along with all presentations for the 2012 Symposium can be found on the [TISP website](#).

[Request for Proposals for the USGS Water Resources Research National Competitive Grants Program 2013](#)

United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR)

Deadline: February 21, 2013

For projects of regional or national significance, \$250,000 is available for one- to three-year projects. Proposals are requested on the topics of water supply and availability, including investigations of possible new sources of supply, improvement of impaired waters to usable quality, conservation of existing sources, and limiting growth in demand. Complete announcement and proposal preparation guidelines available [here](#) or at <http://water.okstate.edu/programs/owrii/grants>

[2013 Conservation Innovation Grant](#)

United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Deadline: March 6, 2013

NRCS provides [funding opportunities](#) for agriculturalists and others through various programs. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. NRCS administers CIG. More information is available [here and here](#).



2013 Conference Update

The Hartford Conference Team has some great things in store for us next June! As you might imagine, Sandy has provided not only challenges but also some great opportunities for dialogue and outreach when we meet in New England for our 37th conference. A big tip o' the hat to our local hosts in Connecticut and Rhode Island as they work through the recovery efforts while keeping conference planning on track.

Our program team is continuing to review the abstracts and workshops and is assembling a stellar program. Everyone who submitted a presentation for consideration will be informed in January as we release the preliminary program.

Please keep an eye on your inbox for continuing conference announcements. We're putting the final touches on the conference website and will have it up and running shortly.

See you in Hartford!

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES: June 9 - 14, 2013, for ASFPM's 37th Annual National Conference, "Remembering the Past - Insuring the Future", at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT.

Calendar

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 2012 - 2013 Continuing Education Opportunities

There are seats available for floodplain management courses at EMI that have been pre-approved for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for CFMs. EMI courses are offered at the Emmitsburg, MD campus and are **FREE** for local and state government employees. FEMA reimburses travel expenses and provides housing for state and local government employees attending EMI courses. Attendees or their employers pay for the campus meal ticket (about \$100 per week). You can find the EMI Course Schedule and application materials on the [EMI website](#).



- E170 **HAZUS-MH for Hurricane Jan. 7-10, 2013** (6 Parallel CECs for CFMs)
- E274 **National Dam Safety Technical Workshop Feb. 20-21, 2013** (12 Core CECs)
- E176 **HAZUS-MH for Floodplain March 18-21, 2013** (12 Core CECs)

Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 18th Annual Wetlands Conference

Wisconsin Wetlands Association will hold their 18th Annual Wetlands Conference **February 12-14, 2013** at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The conference will highlight the environmental, socio-cultural, and economic value of wetlands and will promote the latest research on and techniques for wetland restoration and management. The conference program will include a keynote address, theme-focused sessions, general wetland sessions, one or two symposia or special sessions, a banquet with speaker, working groups, and field trips. Based on recent conference attendance, they anticipate that the 2013 event will draw 200-300 natural resource scientists and professionals from university departments, government agencies, private firms, and non-profit organizations as well as representatives of the media and citizen conservationists. Their audience typically includes participants from all around the state of Wisconsin and from the larger Great Lakes & Upper Midwest regions. Student scholarships application deadline is **January 4, 2013**. More information will be available soon [here](#) or call 608-250-9971.

National Flood Determination Association – 2013 Conference

Mark your calendar for the [National Flood Determination](#)'s 16th Annual Conference **March 24-26, 2013** in Scottsdale, Arizona. More information coming soon!

River Rally 2013 - Call for Proposals

River Rally 2013 will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, **May 17-20, 2013**, with a special focus on environmental justice and human health issues (related to our water resources). They expect 400 clean water advocates from across the country, and River Rally provides an excellent opportunity to share your experience with a broad audience. [Call for proposal](#) deadline is October 18, 2012. For information, [click here](#).

ASFPM Calendar

The events listed below are only the highlights of events of interest to floodplain managers. A complete list of flood-related training, conferences, and other meetings, including ALL the workshops and conferences of State Chapters and associations is always posted at
http://www.floods.org/n_calendar/calendar.asp

June 9–14, 2013: 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
Hartford, Connecticut. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

June 1–6, 2014: 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
Seattle, Washington. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

May 31–June 5, 2015: 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS,
Atlanta, Georgia. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org>

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2012! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by category.

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.

NEWS & VIEWS

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News & Views is published six times each year by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc., and is paid for by member dues.

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