

**ASSOCIATION OF
STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

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

INSIDE

NFIP Reform Passes!	Pg. 1-2
From the Chair	Pg. 3
Director's Desk	Pg. 4
New Board of Directors	Pg. 5
Farm Bill Passes	Pg. 6
ASFPM Leaders Annx	Pg. 7
2012 Conference Update	Pg. 8
2012 Nat'l Awards	Pg. 9
2013 Hartford CT	Pg. 9
Flood Barrier Testing	Pg. 10
Washington Report	Pg. 11
Calendar	Pg. 15



NEWS&VIEWS

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Breaking News: NFIP Reform Passes Congress!!

Chad Berginnis, CFM, Associate Director, ASFPM

By mid-afternoon on Friday, June 29, both the House and Senate passed the NFIP Reform bill!! Using all of the procedural tools available to the Congress, the House and Senate leaders negotiated a compromise NFIP Reauthorization bill that will be combined into a single package with a Transportation Reauthorization bill and a Student Loan bill. Because the bill language is in a conference report, there were no amendments and no debate on what was agreed to by Congressional leadership. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

For floodplain managers, this approach may have yielded the best possible outcome. While there were some good amendments that were going to be offered to the Senate bill, there were many problematic provisions that ultimately got added to the House Bill, HR 1309, through amendments before the bill was passed by the House last summer. And while it had appeared the Senate was trying to carefully manage the amendment process, the bill would have still had to have gone through a floor debate where amendments would have been voted on and ultimately the approved Senate bill would have had to been compromised with the House bill where there were no guarantees that good provisions or bad provisions would survive.

So what is in the bill? ASFPM prepared a side-by-side comparison of the previously passed House and Senate bill. Below is a summary of the provisions that we highlighted as key, but please note that there are far more aspects to the bill than are being reported in this article.

Continued on page 2

Meet your new BOARD of DIRECTORS! See page 5

NFIP Reform Breaking News, *continued from page 1 . . .*

The compromise bill is based largely on the Senate Bill (S. 1940) and includes the following key provisions:

- *Ending of Pre-FIRM subsidy for several classes of structures (severe repetitive loss, properties for which sum of insured losses exceed market value of the property, business properties, substantially damaged/improved properties, and properties that are new or lapsed).* This provision was largely contained in both the House and Senate bills and is already being implemented for any residential home that is not a person's primary residence, which was approved by Congress during the last temporary extension of the NFIP (HR 5070). While ASFPM has been a long supporter of movement towards actuarial rates, the key question is how much and how fast? The bill appears phase in these rates over 4 years.
- *Mapping and Mandatory Insurance Purchase in Areas of Residual Risk.* As of the time of this article, it appears that all provisions related to residual risk will be stripped from the bill. This has been the most hotly debated aspect of the bill in the Senate over the past several days. While the House bill didn't have this provision, the Senate felt quite strongly about including it.
- *Authorizes a National Flood Mapping Program* – Prior to this bill, while flood mapping was necessary to implement the program, it had never been authorized. An authorized program, especially in tight budget times, is far preferable to trying to convince Congress to fund something that is not authorized by them. For example, Map Modernization was considered a "Presidential Initiative." The program is authorized for up to \$400 million/year (this is not what it will actually receive which is determined during the budgeting process).
- *Establishes a Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC).* A Technical Mapping Advisory Council is being established to, among other things, recommend to FEMA how to improve the accuracy, quality, use, distribution and dissemination of flood maps and flood risk data; and recommend any new/updated mapping standards and guidelines; recommend procedures for delegating mapping activities; recommend methods for improving interagency coordination; and develop recommendations on how to ensure that FIRMs incorporate the best available climate science to assess flood risks.
- *Realignment of the Flood Mitigation Programs (FMA, SRL, RFC).* This has been included in the bill and it also includes an additional ASFPM supported position on Severe Repetitive Loss properties.

Part of the good news of this bill is that several problematic provisions were left out of the compromise bill. Waivers of the mandatory insurance purchase requirement in HR 1309 including for structures in A-Zones that are elevated 3 or more feet above the BFE is no longer in there. Also not included was the arbitrary requirement that FEMA couldn't directly manage more than 10% of the policies in force (FEMA direct flood insurance policies are usually a last resort due to Write-Your-Own companies not writing flood in a particular geographic area).

What is next? ASFPM will be working in the weeks ahead analyzing the changes and impacts of this bill. It's an exciting time . . . stay tuned!



From the Chair

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

Greetings!

Congratulations to the 2012 annual conference team! The conference was a huge success and set a new record for attendance. Our local sponsors, the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA), gave us a Texas size welcome in San Antonio. TFMA and FEMA Region VI offered scholarships to local floodplain managers which brought many new faces to the conference. Those who attended this year saw the many volunteers helping to make sure the conference activities flowed smoothly. We owe them a big round of applause. The Executive Office staff performed their organizational magic tracking the millions of details and producing a polished professional conference. Thank you to all who contributed to this great conference.

Last year when I wrote the June “From the Chair” letter, the second paragraph started with “On the immediate horizon is the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program which expires...” Again, we have very high hopes of the passage of a bill that provides needed reforms to the NFIP. On June 25, a Chapter Alert was emailed to ask all the Chapters to contact their Senators to voice their opinions on various aspects of the Senate bill and proposed amendments. It seems Congress works at two speeds, either glacial or fast forward. See the hot NFIP Update on pages 1-2 of this edition!

As part of an effort to strengthen our ASFPM communication network, quarterly conference calls with State Floodplain Managers and Hazard Mitigation Officers have been initiated. Three conference calls have been held, each on a different topic: *Digital Maps and Products*; *Risk MAP Outreach and Products*, and *THIRA / PPD8 and Model-based Zone A*. These discussions provide a forum for information exchange and help to identify issues for ASFPM action.

I excited to serve another year as ASFPM Chair. Thank you for electing me and giving me this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Sally

From the Director's Desk

Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM
Executive Director, ASFPM



This marks my last News and Views column in the capacity of Executive Director of ASFPM. It is amazing how quickly 30 years goes---and frankly there were not many dull moments along the way. As one of the two 1977 founding members still active in the Association (French Wetmore is the other), it has been inspiring to see the Association grow from a group of 6 of us in the Midwest to over 14,000 members and 33 Chapters; a Board of directors of 19 professionals representing those members across the nation, and a very active group of 40 and more Committee Co-Chairs, Policy Committee Facilitators, liaisons, and other volunteers who help make this organization what it is. The ASFPM has grown from all volunteer to over 16 dedicated staff who keep the trains running and the membership, CFMs, conferences, Chapters and projects informed, effective, and productive. I would be remiss if I did not thank the hundreds and hundreds of volunteers who have helped this organization in any large or small way over the past 36 years—you have made a difference. This includes the ASFPM Foundation, which has raised over a million dollars to support research and good national flood policy.

ASFPM has made a difference in so many ways – national policy, training, the professional certification of grass roots floodplain managers, and information sharing through newsletters and now through our web site, which was a medium not even conceived when we started. The efforts of all of us have been aimed at making the nation and our citizens safer, more resilient, and smarter when it comes to making decisions about where and how to build, live, and work. An early and ongoing focus of ASFPM has been to help make the nation's flood maps more accurate and more useful. The fact the maps are still very controversial is indicative of their importance in the flood risk management effort. We as professionals have also grown to realize that social science must be included in what we do if we want to communicate with property owners and citizens so they not only understand their flood risk, but also understand they can personally do something to reduce that risk.

We have also worked to broaden our circle of colleagues to support the shared responsibility of managing flood risk. We work hard to build relationships with various interests and organizations, from other organizations representing states and communities, to those representing professional organizations of planners, engineers, educators, and so on, to ones representing development interests like builders, realtors, lenders, and others. We all have some common ground; the challenge is to find it and build off it so in the end we are all safer and disaster costs are reduced. (Congress, take note!)

The road ahead is full of challenges and ASFPM, under the leadership of your new Executive Director Chad Berginnis, will continue to lead the way. Chad has a history of leadership in all aspects of what we do, including past Chair and policy leader. He has a competent staff and a great Board of Directors and volunteers to help continue to move the cheese. I am pleased to support Chad and the Board in my role as Director Emeritus—Senior Policy Advisor. Right now, we are in what we hope are the final stages of another NFIP reform bill, one that has been 8 years in the making. ASFPM has been involved in NFIP Reform bills since the 1980s, and our counsel is increasingly sought by those in Congress and the Administration who want to know our ideas and what impact changes will have at the ground level.

Continued on page 5

From the Director, *continued*

Our reach of work and the interests of our members go far beyond the NFIP. And not just into non-Structural mitigation, which has grown so much over the past 2 decades. There are many, many federal agencies and programs that can increase or decrease flood risk and flood damages. There are 26 federal agencies that impact flood risk; and we focus on a dozen or more who have the greatest impact and that have programs our members work with. This would include FEMA/DHS, the Corps of Engineers, NOAA, NWS, NRCS, EPA, DOT, USGS, Fish and Wildlife, DOI, HUD, the White House Staff and others. We work with as many of them as we can, encouraging them to collaborate with each other, and as partners in implementing those programs on the ground, suggest ways they can work better to achieve their objective, and make the nation safer and more resilient to natural disasters.

You can see there is no lack of things we can do, and always a place for you as members to get involved and participate. Call a committee Chair and volunteer on issues of interest to you, run for a Board position, help at the conference, Call the Chair or Executive Office and tell them you can help on one of the many national committees for which we are asked to provide a representative. The opportunities are endless. I look forward to continuing to work with and see all of you in the future. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

LAL

ASFPM 2012-13 Board of Directors



Seated L-R: Joe Ruggeri, PE, CFM, Treasurer, NJ; Bill Nechamen, CFM, Vice Chair, NY; Sally McConkey, PE, D.WRE, CFM, Chair, IL; Chad Berginnis, CFM, ASFPM Associate Director; Larry Larson, PE, CFM, ASFPM Executive Director; Ingrid Danler, CFM, ASFPM Associate Director-Operations. **Not pictured:** Joy Duperault, Secretary, FL

Standing L-R: Paul Woodward, PE, CFM, Region 7, NE; Diane Calhoun, CFM, Chapter District 3, TX; Jim DeAngelo, CFM, Region 2, NJ; Alison Meehan, CFM, Region 3, VA; Brian Varrella, PE, CFM, Region 8, CO; Ceil Strauss, CFM, Region 5, MN; Alisa Sauvageot, CFM, Region 9, AZ; Kyle Riley, PE, CFM, Chapter District 4, IA; Michael Dopko, CFM, Chapter District 1, NY; Valerie Swick, CFM, Chapter District 5, AZ; Mike Cothard, PE, CFM, Chapter District 2, IL; Terri Turner, AICP, CFM, Region 4, GA; Bob Freitag, CFM, Region 10, WA; Jessica Baker, PE, PMP, CFM, Region 6, TX; Michelle Burnett, CFM, Region 1, RI.

Senate Passes Farm Bill in Bipartisan Vote

The Senate passed its farm bill by a 64-35 bipartisan vote on June 21, paving the way for the House to take action later this summer. The final vote on the sweeping legislation came after a 2½ day marathon in which senators voted on more than 70 amendments. The legislation would spend \$969 billion over the next decade but still cut \$23.6 billion from farm programs and eliminate more than 100 program authorizations. It would cut about \$6.5 billion from conservation programs, consolidating them from 23 to 13, and shift farm subsidies from a direct payment system to subsidies for crop insurance. The bill also would provide about \$800 million in mandatory funding to rural energy programs working to increase energy efficiency and build up the nation's domestic advanced biofuels industry. As expected, Southern senators voted against the farm bill for changes that they say benefit corn and soybeans to the detriment of peanuts and rice. They hope to work out their concerns in a House/Senate conference committee.

The House Agriculture Committee will mark up its version of the bill beginning July 11 after the full House votes next week on the fiscal 2013 agriculture appropriations bill.

While the Senate bill is touted for its \$23 billion in projected budget savings, the Senate version of the 2012 Farm Bill is actually 60 percent larger than its 2008 predecessor. The measure does cut \$50 billion in direct payments to agricultural producers, but it redirects most of that money – some \$35 billion – into new so-called "shallow loss" insurance programs. The bill expands existing crop insurance programs, whose premiums are roughly 60 percent subsidized by the federal taxpayer and are now projected to cost \$95 billion over the next decade.

Some are concerned the shallow loss programs included in the Senate bill would guarantee agricultural producers protection from even modest dips in their income, which can encourage development of those lands most prone to suffer flooding and erosion. Because the coverage protects against drops in what are currently record-high commodity prices, it also could end up costing more than what the Congressional Budget Office projects.

However, the Senate did approve an amendment from Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., that would cut crop insurance subsidies by 15% for agricultural producers with adjusted gross incomes of more than \$750,000. The change is estimated to save roughly \$1 billion over the next decade.

The good news is that this package does unexpectedly include an amendment to relink conservation compliance to crop insurance premium subsidies. The Soil and Wetlands Conservation Amendment passed by a vote of 52-47 on this amendment by Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-GA, despite strong opposition by agricultural leaders. The provision would require farmers to abide by certain conservation measures in order to receive subsidies from the government to help pay for insurance premiums.

ASFPM signed on to a letter indicating that attaching basic conservation measures to federal subsidies for crop insurance is good for taxpayers, good for wildlife, and good for the long-term health of America's farmlands. The Senate vote continues the long-standing conservation compact between farmers and taxpayers.

Although conservation requirements were tied to crop insurance in 1985, they were removed in 1996 by Congress in order to encourage more farmers to sign up for the insurance program. Conservation requirements remained tied, however, to direct farmer subsidy programs. With the farm bill's shift from direct payments to a more insurance-based subsidy system, conservation groups and others turned their focus to re-linking the payments, worried that farmers would flock to insurance that did not come with conservation requirements by taking marginal land out of conservation programs putting those lands into production. Marginal lands include wetlands and highly erodible lands. Without conservation compliance, it is likely that stream buffers would also be lost.

ASFPM Announces Leadership Transition

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) is pleased to announce the appointment of CHAD BERGINNIS to ASFPM Executive Director, effective July 1, 2012, at the start of our new fiscal year.



LARRY A. LARSON, Executive Director since 1982, is transitioning his role with the Association to Director Emeritus - Senior Policy Advisor, a post where he will continue to apply his 50 years of experience to the needs of ASFPM and the nation for managing flood risks to humans, floodplain resources, and the nation's taxpayers. This will allow ASFPM to continue a smooth long-term transition of senior leadership.

Over the past dozen years, the ASFPM has grown at a rapid and gratifying rate, testimony to the increasing significance of flood-related issues at all levels of government and the private sector throughout the nation. Our dedicated and talented staff members work hard to supply the technical, scientific, and administrative support to provide exemplary member services and maintain the ASFPM's high visibility and credibility as a voice for sound public policies that affect flood risk, disaster cost, and water resources. Chad's experience working in local government, state government, and the private sector, as well as serving in numerous ASFPM leadership positions, provides the ideal background to apply to the continued growth of the Association.

We value the ideas, energy, and ongoing contributions over these past 35 years from our members and partners all across the United States to achieve our shared goals. These relationships are invaluable and help set the stage for the next exciting phase of our efforts to improve public safety and protect natural floodplain resources. Please continue to share your concerns and interests with our Officers, Board members, Committee Chairs, and Staff.

Chair Sally McConkey, P.E., D.WRE, CFM and the Board of ASFPM



LARSON HONORED in SAN ANTONIO

A special "toast and roast" celebration of Larry's 30 years as ASFPM Executive Director was held at the annual national conference Awards Luncheon in San Antonio, presented by Master of Ceremonies Dan Accurti and prepared by Awards Coordinators Diane Brown and Mike Klitzke. Pictures through the years, "Larry-isms", accolades from colleagues, and video footage of the ceremony will be available on our awards web page by mid-July.





UPDATE on ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference, May 20 – 25, 2012 San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter | San Antonio, TX

ASFPM would like to thank each and every one of you who participated in this year's Conference. You're the reason we do this and we couldn't do it without you. We'd like to send a special thank you to the Texas Floodplain Management Association and all of the volunteers who helped plan, organize, and conduct the conference. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to all of the Conference Sponsors for their continuing support and ensuring the ASFPM National Conference remains the world's Premier Flood Conference.

As far as registration numbers are concerned, we set all kinds of records! We had nearly 1,200 registrants plus their guests bringing our total participation number to 1,344. We had representatives from all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, as well as 10 international representatives from 5 foreign nations. Surprising no one, Texas proved their might with an astounding 290 participants. Virginia made a strong second place showing with 125. Here's how the numbers broke down:

- General Registrations: 1053
- Exhibit Booth Registrations: 77
- Exhibit Booth Representative Registrations: 38
- One-Day Registrations: 16
- Workshop-Only Registrations: 7
- Registered Guests: 153

You can view the conference PowerPoint Presentations from [plenary and concurrent sessions here](#). Videos of the plenary sessions and Awards luncheon will also be available soon, stay tuned!

THANK YOU 2012 SPONSORS!



NATIONAL AWARDS CONFERRED!

The Annual National Awards for Excellence were presented at the Thursday luncheon, with the following results. Please see the [ASFPM Awards page](#) for more detail.



Media – Indianapolis Museum of Art
LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year – Steve Parker, City of Dallas, TX
Sheaffer Floodproofing – John Ingargolia
Ivey Certification Award – Mike Parker
Tom Lee State Award – Arizona Floodplain Management Association
James Lee Witt Local Award – San Antonio River Authority
Honorary Membership – Wallace A. Wilson
Louthain Award for Distinguished Service – Siavash Beik
Meritorious Achievement – Scott Edelman
Special Recognition for 30 Years as ASFPM Executive Director – Larry A. Larson



ASFPM 2013 – Hartford, Connecticut

As you may have seen in the promo during the Awards luncheon in San Antonio, the Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association, Connecticut floodplain managers, and our members from throughout New England are ready to insure a successful conference next year in Hartford! RIFMA will be our co-hosts when we convene June 9-14, 2013, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford to discuss issues relevant to our theme: "**Remembering the Past - Insuring the Future.**" We appreciate your patience as we redesign our conference website at <http://asfpmconference.org> for Hartford!

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.

NATIONAL FLOOD BARRIER TESTING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

MANUFACTURER PARTICIPATION

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), in partnership with FM Approvals and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has established the National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program. The intent of the new program is to help promote the use of flood barriers that have been objectively tested and conform to the highest national standards at commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential properties. It is believed those products having successfully completed testing and certification requirements of this program will help to assure end users that during real flood conditions, they will function as the manufacturer describes and perform as they were intended.

HOW WILL IT WORK? Manufacturers entering their products into the National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program are required to complete a program application and submit a non-refundable application fee. With flexibility in mind, manufacturers shall be given the option to either have their flood barrier products tested to a minimum or a maximum standard for performance:

<i>Level 1:</i>	<i>Water related testing including a minimum of one foot hydrostatic test. A Test Report will be issued only, no certification conferred.</i>
<i>Level 2: Silver</i>	<i>Water testing including a minimum of one foot hydrostatic test, materials testing, and a plant/product inspection. A Test Report will be issued and FM Approval certification granted if successfully passed.</i>
<i>Level 2: Gold</i>	<i>Water testing including a minimum of two feet hydrostatic test, materials testing, and a plant/product inspection. A Test Report will be issued and FM Approval certification granted if successfully passed.</i>
<i>Level 2: Platinum</i>	<i>Water testing including a minimum of three feet hydrostatic test, materials testing, and a plant/product inspection. A Test Report will be issued and FM Approval certification granted if successfully passed.</i>

For more information on participating in this program, please contact:

*Chad Berginnis, CFM
ASFPM
608-274-0123*

*Brian MacDonald
FM Approvals
781-255-4825*

*Randall Behm, PE CFM
USACE
(402) 995-2322*

Water testing will be performed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and materials testing/inspections will be performed by FM Approvals. Depending on the testing level desired by the manufacturer, a proposal would be prepared by the testing entity and appropriate contractual agreements would be put into place. Once all necessary application information is received, testing will be scheduled and conducted. For Level 2 testing and certification, an FM Approvals representative will visit the manufacturer's facility to review quality control procedures.

After testing has been successfully completed, a report will be prepared and sent to the manufacturer. For a product passing Level 2 testing, the manufacturer can label the product as FM Approved. Products successfully tested will be listed on the *National Flood Barrier Testing and Certification Program* webpage and for FM Approved products, also listed in the *Approval Guide*, at www.approvalguide.com. Follow-up audits of manufacturing facilities are required in order to maintain FM Approved status.

ASFPM Washington Liaison

2011-12 Annual Report to Membership

May 20, 2012

-Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

The 112th Congress, Second Session – So Far

As this Congress nears the mid-term of its second and final session, time is already growing short for meaningful legislative activity. This is because it is a Presidential election year which lends more than the usual jockeying for partisan advantage to the atmosphere and which means the regular session will be shorter, followed by a Lame Duck session after the election. So progress on all legislative and appropriations activity must be viewed in this context.

Back in January

When the second session began in January, there were two active versions of flood insurance reauthorization and reform legislation – one which had passed the House and one which had been reported out of the Senate Banking Committee. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was operating under an extension of authority until May 31. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Administration were completing final reviews of a major “Re-Thinking the NFIP” project, making recommendations for reforms.

The Congress was operating under the guidance of budget number caps for each Committee adopted last summer during difficult debate over the debt ceiling.

There were hopes for legislative activity during the second session on a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and there were expectations of completing action on a 2012 Farm Bill.

Now in May

There are still two active versions of flood insurance reauthorization and reform legislation. The NFIP is still operating under an extension of authority until May 31. FEMA and the Administration have not yet released the results of the “Re-Thinking the NFIP” 2 ½ year initiative.

The House has passed its own Budget Resolution which sets a spending ceiling for FY 2013 that is \$19 billion below the level agreed to last summer and the level at which the Senate continues to operate. The differing ceilings are reflected in the ceiling allocations to each House and Senate appropriations subcommittee. This will create complications for resolving differences between House and Senate appropriations bills.

Appropriations bills for those programs deemed least controversial are being marked up and will be soon or are already ready for floor consideration. These include the Energy and Water bills (Corps of Engineers), Homeland Security bills (FEMA) and Commerce, Justice, Science bills (NOAA, NSF). One bill (CJS) has passed the House and three more are ready for the floor. Six bills are ready for the floor action in the Senate. There are 12 regular appropriations bills.

No action has been taken on a new WRDA bill in either the House or Senate, although committee staff still hopes that their committees can still consider draft legislation. Significant progress has been made toward producing a 2012 Farm Bill.

National Flood Insurance Program—Authorization and Reform

Authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is fast approaching its latest expiration date of May 31. The path forward is not at all clear.

With two weeks left before the NFIP could once again expire, the manner of providing for continued operation is not yet clear. Both the House Committee on Financial Services and the Senate Banking Committee had been optimistic that they could complete action on the reauthorization and reform bills that have been working their way through the legislative process (H.R. 1309 and S. 1940). Meanwhile, FEMA's Administrator, Craig Fugate, sent a letter to the committee Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members on April 23rd asking for a two year clean reauthorization of the program. Senator David Vitter (R-LA) introduced bills providing for a 7 month program extension (S. 2344), a 60 day extension and a 30 day extension. In the House, Rep. Judy Biggert (R-OH) introduced a bill (H.R. 5740) providing for a 30 day extension and including the private sector provisions from the larger House reform bill.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) tried to bring up the 7 month extension for a vote on May 15, but an objection was raised by Senate Tom Coburn (R-OK). Under Senate rules, just one Senator's objection can stop a bill's consideration. Senator Coburn said he would rather have the program lapse than approve an extension without at least removing the subsidies from the program. The House is scheduled to vote on May 16 on Rep. Biggert's 30 day extension bill.

It is now all but certain that completing action on the reauthorization and reform bills is not possible before May 31. The House passed its bill last summer and passed it again in April as part of a budget reconciliation package. The Senate Banking Committee reported out its bill, but it has not yet been considered on the Senate floor. To wrap up the work on those bills would necessitate Senate passage followed by House-Senate Conference committee deliberations to resolve differences, acceptance of the Conference Report on the House and Senate floors and then the President's signature. With completion of action on these bills so close at hand, neither House nor Senate committees were willing to consider the 2 year extension requested by FEMA and the Administration. A major effort was launched by many interested parties to "Flood the Hill" with requests to bring S.1940 to the floor. Majority Leader Reid has been reluctant to do so due to concerns about the number and nature of possibly unrelated amendments that could be offered. Based on a Senate floor colloquy on May 15, it appears that Senator Coburn and Senator Reid will work together to limit the number and nature of amendments so that Leader Reid can bring up the bill. This would still not allow time for completion of action before the end of the month as the Senate is in recess the week of May 28, so some extension would be necessary to avoid a lapse.

Both of the larger bills would provide for a 5 year program reauthorization along with a number of reforms. Many of those reforms are very similar and even identical in both bills, but other reform measures are very different. A notable example is that the Senate bill provides for mandatory purchase of flood insurance in residual risk areas behind levees while the House bill (through an amendment) directs that FEMA not map residual risk areas behind levees.

During visits with committee staff and staff of committee members on April 26, ASFPM representatives urged that the program not be permitted to lapse, noting the difficulties caused for the housing, building, insurance and real estate industries as well as for state and local officials when the program has endured several periods of hiatus in the recent past. It was clear that committee staff and other Congressional staff are very much aware of the importance of avoiding yet another program lapse. Whether or not a lapse can be avoided with a short extension now seems to depend on agreements among Senators.

Appropriations

The bills ready for House floor consideration are the Energy and Water bill (H.R. 5325), Homeland Security (no number yet) and Military Construction/Veterans (no number yet). The Commerce, Justice, Science bill (H.R. 5326) passed the House on May 10. Those ready for Senate floor consideration are the Agriculture bill (S. 2375 and S. Rept. 112-163), the Energy and Water bill (S. 2465 and S. Rept. 112-164), the Commerce, Justice, Science bill (S. 2323 and S. Rept. 112-158), the Transportation/HUD bill (S.2322 and S. Rept. 112-157) the Homeland Security bill (no number yet) and the Military Construction/Veterans bill (no number yet).

ASFPM submitted Outside Witness Testimony on the budget proposal for FEMA. That testimony, as well as Outside Witness Testimony on the Corps of Engineers budget request, is posted on the ASFPM website. ASFPM also joined a number of other organizations in providing commentary in support of streamgaging funding to the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees.

On the DHS/FEMA request, ASFPM's testimony made 4 points:

1. Strong objection to yet another reduction in the flood mapping budget, noting the essential importance of risk identification to flood hazard mitigation and the flood insurance program. We continue to point out the urgent need for total map funding of over \$330 M (fees and budgets)
2. Strong objection to elimination of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program - urged minimum of \$35 M
3. Concern about folding 16 grant programs ranging from terrorism to mitigation into one large National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP), about the lack of detail accompanying the plan for allocation of grants and about the lack of consultation with stakeholder groups
4. Appreciation for doubling funds available from the National Flood Insurance Fund for the Flood Mitigation Assistance, Severe Repetitive Loss, and Repetitive Flood Claims programs.

During visits with committee staff and personal staff of committee members, it seemed apparent to ASFPM representatives that there is considerable hesitation across party lines about approving the proposed NPGP, at least without considerable further development of the details.

Army Corps of Engineers

On the Army Corps of Engineers request, ASFPM's testimony focused on support for programs which can bring Corps technical assistance to states and communities such as Planning Assistance to States, Flood Plain Management Services and Silver Jackets. The testimony also expressed the importance of continued progress on the national levee inventory, to include Corps built but locally maintained and operated levees. The full House Appropriations Committee marked up the Energy and Water Appropriations bill on April 25. That bill provides funds for the Army Corps of Engineers as well as the Department of Energy.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee approved its Energy and Water bill on April 26. Overall, the House bill provides \$32.1 billion and the Senate bill provides \$33.4 billion. The House committee approved, by a 29-20 vote, an amendment offered by Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT) which would prevent the Corps from finalizing guidance jointly developed by the Corps and EPA clarifying the definition of "navigable waters" under the Clean Water Act. It is anticipated that a similar amendment will be offered to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill which funds EPA. The Senate bill does not include such an amendment. That bill includes an amendment offered by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Dan Coats (R-IN) to support Corps efforts to develop ways to prevent Asian Carp entrance into the Great Lakes. The committee defeated, on the vote of 14-15, an amendment by Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) to shift \$40 million from Missouri River environmental conservation and habitat restoration to flood control construction projects on the Missouri River.

The House provided \$4 million for Planning Assistance to States (PAS) and the Senate provided \$4.5 million. The President's budget request was \$4 million. The House provided \$9.5 million for Flood Plain Management Services and the Senate did the same. The budget request was \$9.5 million. Apparently about \$3 million of that will contribute toward an overall funding level of about \$6 million for Silver Jackets. Both the House and Senate provided the budget request of \$550,000 to contribute toward the streamgaging programs at U.S.G.S. The House provided the budget request of \$4.034 million for Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, while the Senate provided \$8 million. The House provided \$9.650 million for the National Levee Inventory although the budget request was \$10 million. The Senate provided the \$10 million.

FEMA

The House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee marked up its bill on May 9 and the full Appropriations Committee held its mark-up on May 16. The measure provides \$92.1 million for mapping (RiskMAP) which is an increase from the budget request of \$89.3 million, but a decrease from the FY '12 level of \$97.7 million. The bill also provided \$14.3 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation, an important increase from the budget request of \$0, but less than the FY '12 funding of \$35 million. The bill did not provide approval for the consolidation of grant programs into the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP). It did approve the doubling of funds from the National Flood Insurance Fund for the streamlines FMA, SRL and RFC programs.

The Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee marked up its bill on May 15 and it will be considered in full committee on May 17. That bill provides for \$5 million more than house (\$97 million) for RiskMAP and \$35 million for PDM. Other details are not yet available.

Other Legislation to Watch

Farm Bill

The Senate Agriculture Committee marked up its 2012 Farm Bill on April 26 after being postponed for a day in an effort to address regional crop differences and issues. The House Agriculture Committee has launched a series of hearings in preparation for marking up its version.

The Senate Farm bill as reported out of committee would save \$23 billion over 10 years and reauthorize Agriculture programs for 5 years. Current authorization is set to expire on September 30. The bill restructures commodity programs and farm subsidies, consolidates 23 conservation programs into 13 (reducing spending by \$6 billion over 10 years) and eliminates almost 100 program authorizations. However, it provides for huge subsidies in crop insurance, which ASFPM and others are concerned may lead to many farmers taking marginal land out of conservation programs and planting crops. More information about the Farm Bill, including the text, is available by going to: www.agriculture.senate.gov and going to the Farm Bill page.

The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing on conservation programs of the Dept. of Agriculture on April 26.

FEMA Reauthorization—HMGP, Dam Safety, etc

The House Transportation and Infrastructure reported out a bill (H.R. 2903) on March 8 which reauthorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the next two years. Title II of the bill focuses on amendments to the Stafford Act (disaster assistance). Among its other provisions, it reauthorizes the emergency management assistance compact grants (EMAC) and reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program. It also requires FEMA to establish criteria within 180 days for state administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). It also sets up a pilot program for revised procedures for Public Assistance (Section 406 of the Stafford Act). Committee staff has indicated their expectation that this bill could be considered soon on the House floor.

Flood Insurance for Farmers Act

H.R. 4020, introduced in late February by Representative John Garamendi (D-CA), would create a new agricultural zone for flood insurance purposes. It would allow premiums at a Zone X rate in agricultural areas where levees are not accredited. It would also eliminate floodplain management building standards in the new zone. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. Committee staff doubt that the measure can be taken up during this session because it was introduced after the House had already passed its flood insurance bill.

Levees on FEMA Buy-Out Land

Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) introduced S. 2039, a bill to allow a state or local government to construct levees on land bought out under FEMA hazard mitigation programs and designated as open space. After being introduced in February, the bill was almost immediately brought up on the Senate floor and passed under Unanimous Consent. The measure is now awaiting consideration by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. ASFPM has sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee expressing concern about the bill and explaining the reasons for concern.

Halting Guidance on Definition of “Navigable Waters”

Chairman John Mica (F-FL) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee along with Ranking Member Nick Rahall (D-WVA), Water Resources Subcommittee Chairman Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK) and Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-MN) introduced H.R. 4965. The measure would halt finalization of joint guidance from the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA on the definition of “navigable waters” under the Clean Water Act. The proposed guidance is under consideration at the Office of Management and Budget at present. A similar bill was introduced in the Senate (S. 2245).

Coalitions where ASFPM participates

Most coalitions in which ASFPM participates have been actively meeting as Congressional activity has moved into high gear.

Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance

The Alliance has met several times this year and has already sponsored several Congressional briefings on various disaster related topics. The Alliance is interested in working with ASFPM and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to sponsor a briefing on levee issues later this spring.

Flood Map Coalition

The coalition met on April 12 for a full briefing on the status of the RiskMAP program and future plans. This coalition includes representatives of state and local government, homebuilders, realtors, and numerous other professional or non-profit organizations. This group was instrumental in obtaining the funding for Map Mod and continues its interest in RiskMAP.

Stafford Coalition

The Stafford Coalition has met twice so far this year. Most recently, the coalition met with Republican and Democratic staff of the House Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss the FEMA Reauthorization bill, H.R. 2903, with particular emphasis on Stafford Act provisions impacting mitigation.

USGS Coalition

The coalition has met several times this year, most recently to discuss development of outside witness testimony on the USGS budget request, especially concerned about streamgage funding and other key USGS data programs. USGS Director Marcia McNutt met with the coalition on May 9.

All legislation referenced can be read by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number. Further information on ASFPM testimony or policy positions is available on the ASFPM web site www.floods.org

For more, please see [ASFPM 2012 Legislative and Policy Priorities](#) on ASFPM's website. This and other documents are available at [National Policy and Programs > Working with Congress](#).

Calendar

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 2012 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](#).

E194 **Adv. Floodplain Mgmt. Concepts Aug. 27-30, 2012** (12 Core CECs)

E273 **Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP Sept. 24-27, 2012** (12 Core CECs)



Hydroinformatics Conference

The next Hydroinformatics Conference will be held in Hamburg, Germany, **July 14-18, 2012**. Topics on the agenda will include disaster mitigation, hydrological modeling, hydraulic modeling, climate change impacts, developments of flood and drought early warning systems, socio-economic aspects of hydroinformatics realizing active stakeholder participation, and more. For more information go to <http://www.hic2012.org/>.

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)

6th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration

October 20-24, 2012

Healthy coastal and estuarine habitats are critical not only to the environment and the national economy, but to regional and local economies, as well. Because human and natural systems are interdependent, restoration strengthens and reinforces the social, economic, and environmental ties that bind communities together. Healthy coastal ecosystems mean jobs, new and better economic opportunities, and the prosperity and stability important in the troubling economic times and high unemployment rates our nation faces. For additional information, please see:

[Conference Prospectus](#) and [Call for Proposals: Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters](#)

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. Deadline for submitting symposia proposals is September 30, 2012, [click here](#). 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. Call for presentations and posters will be available by September 2012 with submission deadline November 11, 2012. Student scholarships application deadline is January 4, 2013. More information will be available soon [here](#) or call 608-250-9971.

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>**



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Deadline is the 18th day of odd-numbered months.

For address changes and member services, contact the ASFPM Executive Office
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