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STATE FLOODPLAIN
MANAGERS**

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

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**Floodplain Management Degree &
Certificate – Help Make it Possible!**

Deadline extended through March 9, 2012

For more information [see page 6](#).
Respond directly to survey [HERE](#).

NEWS & VIEWS

Vol. 25, No. 1

February 2012

Post Irene Recovery & Mitigation: Jersey Style!

Chad Berginnis, CFM, Associate Director, ASFPM

In many ways overshadowed by the Mississippi and Missouri River flood events, Hurricane Irene was also a significant flood event in 2011. Unlike the floods that occurred on the Missouri and Mississippi, Irene was unique from a floodplain management perspective in that there was no overall large flood control system already in place. Rather, non-structural tools including land use/building codes, insurance, and hazard mitigation for individual buildings were much more prevalent.

Focusing on the recovery and mitigation activities in areas affected by Irene, this is the first in a series of ASFPM articles profiling states significantly impacted by Irene and their subsequent floodplain management and mitigation efforts.

[Continued on page 22](#)

States Take on Coordinating Codes and FPM Ordinances

*Gregory Wilson, CFM, FEMA Building Science
Rebecca C. Quinn, CFM, RCQuinn Consulting, Inc.*

More than 21,600 communities now participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and many of those communities have enforced floodplain management (FPM) regulations for decades. Consequently, it's not surprising that the responsibility for enforcement may be assigned to a variety of offices including public works, planning and zoning, community development, or the building department.

In recent years, many states and communities have moved towards coordinating the enforcement of building codes with local FPM regulations. "We have identified a number of benefits associated with using the building codes to regulate buildings in flood hazard areas," observes John Ingargiola, Team Leader with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Building Science Branch.

[Continued on page 16](#)



From the Chair

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

Greetings!

On January 16 and 17 Bill Nechamen, ASFPM Vice Chair, and I met with ASFPM Executive Office staff in Madison, Wisconsin, at the ASFPM Executive Office (EO). While conference calls are great, there is nothing quite as productive as face to face conversations. As present Chair and having served as past Vice Chair, I have had the pleasure of several trips to Madison to meet with the EO staff and each time I am impressed with the incredibly talented, knowledgeable, and personable people at the EO. I had the opportunity to meet, in person, several relatively new staff including Bob Geenen, Financial Manager; Kevin Currie, Member Services Coordinator; Jason Hochschild, GIS Analyst; and Katrien Werner, Technical Editor. All great additions!

The ASFPM Board annual retreat was held on February 21-23, 2012. This retreat is an important milestone in our annual cycle as the Board begins its formulation of the FY 2013 Goals and Objectives. The Goals and Objectives adopted by the Board at the Annual Conference guide the efforts of the Executive Office, the Officers, and ASFPM's Policy Committees for the following year. The Goals and Objective adopted for FY12 can be viewed on the [ASFPM website](#). The retreat was held in Texas, as we have started the tradition of having the annual board retreat in the general locale of the upcoming [Annual Conference](#) which will take place in San Antonio on May 20-25, 2012.

ASFPM contributes to the advancement of flood risk management in many varied ways, not the least of which is weighing in on proposed programs and guidelines. Currently the hot topic is [Analysis and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levees \(LAMP\)](#) released by FEMA for public review and comment on December 9, 2011. This new protocol has far reaching implications for engineering, mapping, insurance, mitigation, and floodplain management. Many ASFPM Committees have been involved in commenting and our Co-Chairs have been coordinating these efforts. ASFPM's formal response has been refined and is posted on the [website](#). Thank you to the many individuals who provided thorough and carefully thought-out reviews.

Thank you to Julie Tallman, from Iowa, who has accepted the appointment to be the 2012 Nominations and Elections Chair for ASFPM! The [Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association](#) became the 31st chapter to join ASFPM in July of 2011. It is vital to ASFPM's continuing excellence that dedicated professionals, with a strong drive for reducing our nations flood risk, become actively involved with ASFPM. Please thoughtfully consider responding to the call for nominations to fill open positions on the [Board of Directors](#).

Sincerely,
Sally

From the Director's Desk

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



Unfortunately most people in the United States, living in residual risk areas behind levees, believe those levees provide “permanent protection” from flooding. We also hear this from decision makers, including members of Congress. It is not always clear if they truly believe that, or if they use the argument to bolster their opposition to the need for flood insurance or regulation. Current National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy has probably reinforced that line of thinking because the areas behind accredited levees are not required to have insurance or have flood risk reduction development standards in place. Thus, many feel the federal government is telling them it is safe to build and live in those areas. Interestingly, this perception of being totally safe from flooding whilst living behind a levee is not prevalent in other nations.

Many of us in the floodplain management profession, including federal agencies, are working to change the perception of flood risk, how communities and agencies view flood risk management of levees, and how to manage all residual risk areas associated with levees. However, at the same time, we see a barrage of legislation moving the cheese in the other direction. A classic example is [S.2039](#), which passed the U.S. Senate last week. It allows temporary levees, constructed with federal tax dollars during flood fighting, to become permanent levees. Not only that, it specifically allows the levees to be placed on land FEMA bought with post-disaster mitigation funds (again, taxpayer money), as an exemption to the permanent open space requirement on buyout land that has existed in the FEMA law since it was enacted in 1993.

In [S.2039](#), under the guise of “common sense”, the argument is that it is a waste of money to put up and take down temporary levees every few years a given community floods. This particular bill applies only to North Dakota in its current form, but many other states and communities are anxious to apply it nation-wide, seeing this as a way to build a levee right next to the river on buyout land, such that one may redevelop the area behind it. This development would be on land where buildings were severely damaged, and that the taxpayer bought out based on an application from the community, subject to an agreement that the land would be forever open space and the taxpayer would never again have to pay disaster relief of other costs for flooding on that property. In most cases, the buyout land is the highest risk property in the community, which is why the buildings were substantially damaged and thus qualified for the buyout in the first place. Here again, a new levee may reduce the probability (frequency) of flooding, but sooner or later it *will* overtop or fail, and the consequences will be severe - and to reiterate one more time, disaster costs will be largely paid by the federal taxpayer.

My message to all of you in this profession is that these kinds of bills, and there are many more, indicate that we are losing the argument to have those who build and live at risk pay for the consequences. We are largely losing this battle, I suspect, because those who benefit from these policies and laws are providing a better spin than we do. We like to think logic will prevail, yet every day offers examples in which the simplistic sound bite prevails over logic. It is important to remember that people are not stupid; they just have limited time to focus on issues, and so hijacked terminology or catch phrases like “common sense” make certain issues sound easier to understand. Explaining the long term impacts and costs, along with who benefits and who pays, is more complex and takes time.

As professional floodplain managers who understand the long-term implications, we must stay on our mission - but we may need to change, or add to, our target audience. Perhaps we will better achieve our goals by adjusting our focus to the 94% of the population that does not live at flood risk but continues to pay lots of the bills, as opposed to the 6% of the nation's population who do live in floodplains or who make money from developing them. Those of you who have had success with this messaging, we need you to share your approaches with the rest of us such that we don't all have to start from scratch. Other ideas are also welcome - please send them to ASFPM and we will share them with our members and readers.

LAL

For more on the Hoeven bill, [S.2039](#), please click [here](#) or [here](#).

For follow-up to the [December Director's Desk Natomas article](#), please see [page 8](#).

Definition of Terms - Green Infrastructure

Bolster Flood Risk Reduction Efforts through *Green Infrastructure*

By Kimberly Bitters, CFM, ASFPM Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee Co-Chair, Ohio DNR

ASFPM's Working Definition of *Green Infrastructure*:

A variety of best management practices (BMPs) that use both functioning natural and man-made systems to effectively slow, store, convey, and filter water.

Techniques generally use soils and vegetation to infiltrate, evapotranspire, recover, and reuse runoff or flood water in a way that moderates peak flows, manages stormwater volumes, and reduces flood risk.

Floodplain Management inherently implies a scope of application that lies within some definition of "floodplain". Within the context of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the term is generally applied through the enforcement of land use regulations within the 1% chance annual flood also called Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). To me, this implies that floodplain management is limited to land that is hydraulically connected to the flooding source. However, ASFPM promotes recognizing the breadth of floodplain management to further consider the very direct flooding impacts of drainage changes throughout the watershed and distinctly outside of the normal perception of "floodplain". This may mean blurring the lines between floodplain and stormwater management. To successfully integrate the two management systems, we will need to change the idea that we are managing land use and building practices within the confines of a distinct area. Instead, we will need to incorporate every aspect of land use that impacts flooding such as drainage tiles; culverts; ditches; soil compaction; vegetative location, diversity, and type; and other changes to the water system that have a direct correlation to the velocity and location of flood waters.

ASFPM's [Natural and Beneficial Function](#) (NBF), [No Adverse Impact](#) (NAI), and [Stormwater Management](#) Committees are in the process of discussing the interplay between cumulative development impacts and ecologically functioning natural areas. Discussion has centered on the flood risk reduction potential of preserved or rehabilitated floodplains, with a question mark hanging over the connection to hydraulically disconnected natural areas. *Green Infrastructure* techniques are intended to be applied throughout the watershed to improve water quality, guide runoff location, and maintain the existing flow regime. Most of the time, *Green Infrastructure* is a natural or green alternative to traditional engineered manipulations of runoff, so as to slow, temporarily store, and filter the water. This is beneficial because it mimics the pre-development characteristics and offsets some of the negative impacts of disturbance on the system. By requiring that runoff is released closer to the pre-development volume and timing, we moderate downstream peak flows, thus reducing the number and extent of flood events. The stormwater management community has widely recognized the benefits of using a broad suite of *Green Infrastructure* tools as a valid alternative to traditional engineered methods. In stormwater management plans, the use of natural riparian corridors (*i.e.*, floodplains) to offset runoff impacts has been implemented through riparian setbacks and "stormwater credits" that are essentially exchanged for design requirements. This is because the drainage network, including both watercourse with connected floodplain and hydraulically disconnected watery green space, is inextricably tied through flood damage. As a result, members of the ASFPM NBF committee have suggested that utilizing *Green Infrastructure* techniques throughout the watershed should be a vital aspect of an integrated flood risk reduction strategy.

Green Infrastructure practices include (but are not limited to):

- vegetated floodplain corridors
- constructed or preserved wetlands
- pervious surfaces with infiltration gaps
- rain gardens
- vegetated swales

In most cases, floodplain management has maintained its distinctly localized approach to studying and managing development impacts. This approach has supported maintenance of a repertoire of tools that inadvertently result in a cumulative increase of flood risk. The difficult task of reversing the trend of escalating flood damages will require a shift toward *flood risk management* that incorporates a watershed-wide framework. To accomplish this shift, tools such as *Green Infrastructure* will be needed; and, we need to pursue consensus within the floodplain management community on several topics:

- A. Do we agree that floodplain management's scope of application can and should include geographic areas outside of the identified 100-yr floodplain? Does floodplain management's sphere of influence include both the geomorphic floodplain and hydraulically disconnected green spaces? Are we willing and able to consider the full range of hazard-related impacts resulting from drainage manipulations throughout the watershed?
- B. Do we agree that floodplain and stormwater management can and should be integrated? Can we agree on how these policies and practices should be applied so as to make this integration a reality?
- C. Do we agree that maintenance of highly functioning natural systems will have a measurable impact on reduction of flood risk? Do the benefits of prioritizing natural systems through protection or rehabilitation outweigh the costs? And, if so, should everyday floodplain management practices be expanded to include *Green Infrastructure* techniques?

[ASFPM's No Adverse Impact](#) initiative presents a shift in thinking towards comprehensive floodplain management that identifies and mitigates adverse impacts. Application of this philosophy calls for expanding the scope of management outside the "floodplain" to encompass the entire watershed and mitigate cumulative impacts caused by changes in land use. I believe that moving towards long-term efficient solutions to these problems necessitates incorporating options such as *Green Infrastructure* into standard flood risk reduction routines. Therefore, it is time to aggressively pursue agreement on an appropriate path forward and to implement those changes.

Please join the discussion by posting your comments on these and other issues, related to *Green Infrastructure* and Floodplain Management, to the [ASFPM discussion on LinkedIn](#)!

Before green alley was installed



...and after the green alley was installed.



Photo reprint permissions courtesy of
[Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning](#)

Green Infrastructure Peer Exchange Program - An Opportunity to Learn from your Peers!

Application Due: March 31, 2012

The Conservation Fund, with support from the US Forest Service, is offering a Green Infrastructure Exchange Program where entities seeking assistance can either visit or invite others with the requested expertise to visit them for free! We recognize that many questions can only be answered by peers - those who have successfully implemented a program or specific element, and have the lessons learned to share. Simply complete the application, identify a peer with the requisite expertise, develop a focused agenda for the exchange, and submit the application for approval! This program will cover all direct expenses associated with approved exchanges. Apply by March 31, 2012 to have your application considered for a 2012 exchange - applications accepted on a rolling basis until program funds expended.

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY!](#)



ASFPM PRESENTS THE 2012 CONFERENCE



MISSION MITIGATION

ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference

May 20 – 25, 2012 | San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter | San Antonio, TX

Howdy, y'all! The ASFPM conference team is on a Mission - *Mission Mitigation*, that is! With just three months remaining before we convene in San Antonio for the world's premier flood conference, the team is busy planning for a great week filled with state-of-the-art training, outstanding plenary sessions, intriguing field tours, and, of course, just a bit of Texas-sized fun. Make plans now to join us!

ASFPM is very pleased to announce the launch of a new website just for our national conference. Please visit www.asfpmconference.org for complete details on the full conference program, the networking activities, our sponsors and exhibitors, and registration information. We hope you find this new design helpful in planning what will certainly be a busy week.

Our host hotel, the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, is filling up quickly. Don't delay in making your hotel reservations at the Marriott to ensure you'll be right in the middle of all the action. The best way to ensure the best rates and placement within the ASFPM block is to visit the [hotel's ASFPM webpage directly](#).

If you have any questions, please contact ASFPM Conferences & Special Events Planner Chad Ross at chad@floods.org. Thanks and we'll see you in San Antonio!

Floodplain Management Degree & Certificate – Help Make it Possible!

Background

In 2011 ASFPM began a partnership with Clinton Andersen and the Community College of Aurora, Colorado. ASFPM has been assisting Clinton to develop an online Floodplain Management Associate's Degree and Certificate Program. ASFPM Board Members, Chapter Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Certification Board Regents have collaborated with Clinton to help identify and recommend floodplain management topics to be offered.

Action Needed

The next phase in the approval process is to demonstrate need and market demand for a stand-alone Floodplain Management Degree and Certificate Program. **We need your help, as floodplain management professionals, to establish this need and demand!** We ask that you take 5-10 minutes to respond to this short survey. Your participation can make a Floodplain Management Degree and Certificate Program a reality and will help identify critical knowledge areas for each course of study. The formation of an online degree and certificate program will also provide a new source of continuing education for CFMs nationwide. Responses will be kept confidential and are being collected by the Community College of Aurora. Your prompt response is appreciated!

Survey Response Deadline: March 9, 2012.

Click here to respond: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NPWJJ6>

Spread the Word

Please help us spread the word and encourage other floodplain management professionals to respond to the survey. Feel free to distribute this information and reprint this article with a link to the survey. Consider running this article in your member alerts, newsletters, and posting to your websites, blogs, Facebook and LinkedIn pages. If you have any questions or would like to help start a program in your state, please contact Kait@floods.org

Flood Insurance Committee's Corner

Zone D – Understanding the Undetermined Risk Zone

Until the release of FEMA's proposed new levee analysis in mid-December, Zone D was not a well known zone; people's knowledge and feelings about that zone were about as undetermined as the flood hazards it supposedly represented. However, with the newly proposed levee analysis, Zone D has become the buzz around the floodplain managers' email coolers. As a result, the [Insurance Committee](#) has received enough questions to warrant making this the topic of the month!

This column will not provide a comment either way, regarding whether or not it is prudent for FEMA to use Zone D to mark an area behind a levee as undetermined risk when it is known to be at risk for flooding. Instead, it will provide more of an overview (or for some, an introduction) of the zone.

Per FEMA's description, Zone D designation is used for areas where there are possible but undetermined flood hazards, per no analysis of flood hazards having been conducted. The designation of Zone D is also used when a community incorporates portions of another community's area where no map has been prepared. There are no FEMA floodplain management requirements (building requirements) in Zone D.

Flood insurance is available in Zone D; however, flood insurance is not federally required by lenders for loans on properties in these zones. That being said, lenders can still require coverage as a condition of their loans, even where it is not federally required.

Many questions pop up about the rates/premiums; e.g., is it higher or lower than an A zone. For brevity sake, here is an example of premiums for \$200,000/\$80,000 (building/contents; 10/2011 rates):

Pre-FIR M A, AE	Post-FIR M A (0-1+; est. BFE)	Post-FI RM A (+1; noBFE)	Post-FIR M AE (At BFE)	Post-FI RM AE (+1)	Pre/Post B, C, X – Preferred Risk Rates	Pre-/Post-FI RM B, C, X Standard Rates	Pre-FI RM D	Post-FI RM D
\$2,379	\$1,279	\$2,834	\$1,651	\$834	\$343	\$1,511	\$2,379	\$1,923

Finally, here is an interesting, *BUT IMPORTANT*, factoid about map changes and Zone D:

If an area is being remapped and properties are going from Zone B, C, or X to Zone D, first check if grandfathering the existing low-risk zone for future rating will provide a lower premium than using the new Zone D premium. Also note that since Zone D is not considered a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), a property that was designated in Zone D on the previous map and is newly designated as a SFHA (i.e., A zone) by a map revision, *may be insured as a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) based on the 2-year PRP extension eligibility* before grandfathering applies! More details on grandfathering and PRP Extension can be found at [NFIP Grandfather Rules-A Fact Sheet for Insurance Agents](#).

We hope this has helped to demystify Zone D. If not, please send any questions to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and we will help to find an answer.

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

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.

Levee Safety Update

Natomas Levee Follow-up

Please see 'From the Director's Desk' to access a complete version of the original article - as was printed in the [December News & Views, Vol. 24, No.6.](#)

*"The policy dilemma is that the majority of the Natomas basin is not currently developed, and federal policy is that the Corps will not build levees to protect undeveloped land. When asked how the Corps could proceed with a levee to protect tens of thousands of acres of undeveloped land, the reply was that a levee cutting across the basin to **protect** only the developed land was not the alternative under the Corps planning guidelines that provided the greatest economic return. While the Corps must look at other alternative plans, such as those maximizing environmental factors or other social effects, it is the plan maximizing economic development that the guidelines say should be selected. Ironically, the economic plan must be selected by the Corps, even if another alternative costs less or may be more sustainable."*

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

In the December News and Views, I covered an important national flood policy issue on how the Principles and Guidelines (P&G), used by the Corps of Engineers (USACE) to plan and build flood damage reduction projects, sometimes result in projects that add to the nation's flood risk, and expose federal taxpayers to future liability for disasters. The USACE asked that we print their response to the article, so they could provide an explanation of how the Sacramento District complied with the P&G and the federal executive order on floodplain management in developing and approving the Natomas project.

I used the Natomas levee as an example of how the current P&G can result in spending big amounts of federal taxpayer dollars (it will be well over a billion dollars in this case), to protect not only the 1/3 of the Natomas basin that is developed, but also the 2/3 of the basin that is undeveloped land. The District believes that the levee project does not convert rural lands into developed urban land because the federal project by itself does not provide 100 year protection. Their position is that less than 100 year protection will prevent development of the basin, unless someone else (state or locals) add to the federal project to provide 100 year protection.

ASFPM concurs in the assertion that the Sacramento District followed the current law and policy that apply to federal projects in developing the Natomas levee project. Our concern is not with what the District did in this case, but to point out how difficult it is for the agencies to use the current approach in P&G to arrive at the best long-term flood risk reduction project choices.

ASFPM has long advocated revisions to P&G that will provide USACE with better project choices. As many of you know, the current P&G force the Corps to select the project option that maximizes National Economic Development (NED). While the Corps does develop other options, the one that maximizes NED is to be selected.

ASFPM believes some of the following changes could lead to better project choices:

1. The USACE needs to be moved from being purely an organization that implements projects as measured against an economic development model, to one that is implementing projects that consider a broad array of national priorities. A national example of such a project is the Napa California setback levees, bridge construction, and river/wetland restoration.
2. The nation can no longer afford to simply optimize projects in a manner that maximizes NED and then leaves it to a political process to fund. The net results is a national policy that causes us to support construction in bad places benefiting one community or region, but that ultimately become all federal taxpayers responsibility to bail out when inevitable flooding occurs.

Should local and State Government decide that this is a good project, they have the prerogative to fund it themselves, but that can lead to the next question of a disaster policy that in a sense underwrites poor decision making on the back of all tax payers. One can see the P&G policy does not operate in and by itself.

LAL

The following article is the USACE Sacramento District's Response to the [original article](#):

Reducing the Flood Risk to Residents of Natomas

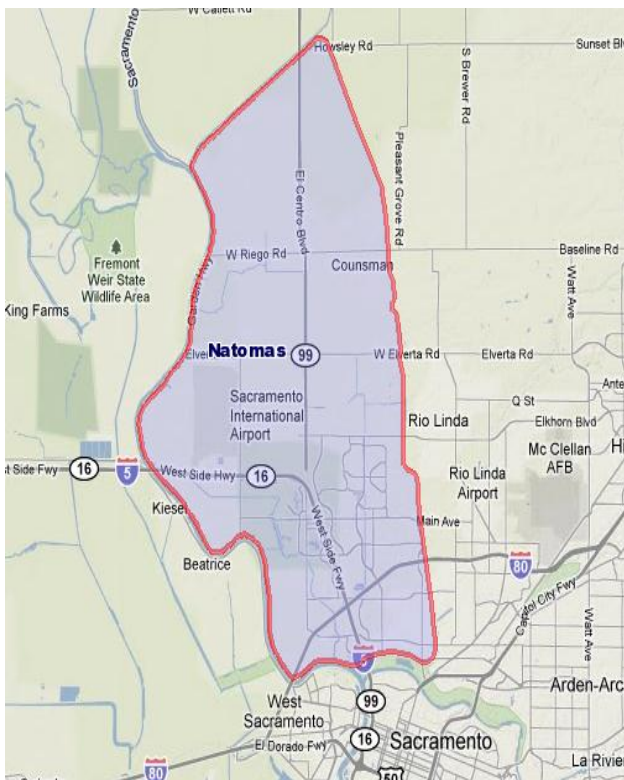
By Alicia Kirchner and Dan Tibbitts, USACE Sacramento District

Project overview:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the state of California (state) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) are partnering in a new project to reduce flood risk to the Natomas basin in the greater Sacramento area. In December 2010, the partners finished an interim decision document recommending Congressional authorization of this project. In fact, the state and SAFCA are constructing some levee improvements now, anticipating credit of their expenditures towards the ultimate project. Forty-two miles of levees already exist around the basin. The new project consists of strengthening some of those existing levees and in other areas constructing a levee adjacent to the existing levee, essentially widening the existing levee structure.

What Was Considered:

The Natomas study looked at different ways to reduce the risk of flooding to the existing residents and infrastructure. The alternatives considered were: improve all 42 miles of levees surrounding Natomas; improve levees on the southern two thirds of the Natomas basin and build a new levee across the middle of the basin; and buy out all land owners in the Natomas basin area to reduce consequences of flooding. The plan that was ultimately recommended to Congress for authorization was the first one at an estimated cost of \$1.1 billion. The alternative that included a levee across the middle of the Natomas area was \$233 million more than the recommended plan, due to additional land and borrow needs. Estimates for the floodplain buy-out plan were upward of \$9 billion.



Federal Considerations:

As part of its investigations, the Corps is required by regulations to identify what is called the National Economic Development (NED) plan, set forth in the Economic and Environmental Principles for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies and Implementing Guidelines ([Principles and Guidelines](#)). The NED plan is the alternative plan that maximizes net economic benefits to the nation. Net benefits are the cost of a project subtracted from the benefits of a project, and by that we mean – in simple terms - the amount of money federal taxpayers would save by not having to pay to recover from a flood if the work was done. This calculation is performed for each alternative plan. As a first rule, benefits of a project must exceed costs. Then, net benefits of alternatives are compared to each other to identify the plan that has the greatest net benefits. The plan with the greatest net benefits is identified as the NED plan and serves as the basis for federal investment contributions to project cost-sharing. There are other considerations in identifying “federal interest” in a project, but NED is currently the primary criteria.

The most important benefit from a flood risk management project is the reduction in risk to life. Today, there are about 100,000 people living in the Natomas basin. The next consideration is economics, balanced with the environment. From the federal perspective, economic benefits that can be considered when evaluating a flood risk reduction project are limited to quantification of damages avoided by reducing the likelihood of a flood event. It is estimated that flooding in the basin would cause \$8.8 billion in damages, disruption and displacement to things like property, public infrastructure and traffic. To be clear, potential future development is not considered in benefit calculations. The various alternatives considered for Natomas had essentially the same total economic benefits. Project cost became the driving factor in identification of the NED plan. The alternative to strengthen existing levees and in some places construct an adjacent levee has the greatest net NED benefits and therefore is identified as the NED plan.

In order to attain approval of the project by the administration, USACE demonstrated compliance with the existing Principles and Guidelines, as well as applicable laws, policies and regulations. Another key policy consideration in flood risk management project development is given in [Executive Order 11988](#) for Floodplain Management. This EO requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long and short-term adverse effects associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains, and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. As part of developing the Natomas project, USACE complied with its implementation guidance for the EO. In short, the alternatives took into consideration the EO as part of the decision-making process. The Natomas project identified for federal participation does not enable urban development of rural land. The federal project, after all work is complete, will leave Natomas with a 1 in 67 chance of flooding in any given year. For lands to be developable, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) minimum standard of a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any given year must be met.

In summary, there are an estimated 100,000 people living in the Natomas area subject to potential deep flooding already, and a \$1.1 billion investment is required to help reduce the flood risk to these people, their homes and businesses. SAFCA has put into place what they call a development impact fee, where, when new subdivisions go in, the developers pay a fee for levee improvements for further increasing the level of risk reduction to mitigate for increasing consequences should a levee failure occur. Fundamentally, there is always risk when living behind a levee. USACE and state and local governments continue to investigate further risk reduction measures to the greater Sacramento area, as well as for neighboring urbanized areas and throughout the Central Valley as a whole. USACE is responsible for the efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars, working to find that delicate balance between reducing risk to the people who are already in flood prone areas in the most cost-effective way, while not increasing the future likelihood of development, which in turn, raises the flood risk in the long run.

January 30, 2012 - Levee Assessment Mapping Process (LAMP)

ASFPM Presents General Comments on Flood Mapping Residual Risk Areas Behind Levees

FEMA recently released its proposed new levee mapping approach for mapping areas behind levees that are not accredited. This was in response to concerns about the "without levee" mapping approach. FEMA requested comments and gave the public an opportunity to [provide input](#) regarding the new approach.

A [fact sheet](#), the [Federal Register notice](#), the [proposed approach](#), and [FEMA Analysis and Mapping Project-Questions for Consideration](#) are all posted on the [ASFPM Levees and Flood Insurance page](#).

ASFPM utilized the committee process to develop comments for a formal ASFPM letter.

As a matter of national policy, the NFIP must view levees and dams as temporary features that have temporary effects on the nation's floodplains. A levee which is designed to contain a given flood, such as the 100-year flood, will be overtopped by a larger flood and the damage from the larger event will be exceptionally larger if no mitigation measures apply behind the levee, and the federal taxpayer ends up footing the bill if flood insurance is not required. Even well designed, constructed and operated levees have the probability of overtopping or failing, with catastrophic consequences. As such, and since the NFIP pays claims for these larger flood events, those areas should be mapped, development standards required, and flood insurance required, with the expected damages considered in premium rates.

Please see the ASFPM website to view the consolidated [Levee Assessment Mapping Process comments](#).

ASFPM Sends Letter on Hoeven Bill to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

On Friday, January 27, a bill passed the Senate to establish a pilot program in North Dakota that would allow levee construction on property acquired through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and deed restricted as open space. The bill, [S.2039](#), can be found [here](#). For the January 27, 2012 Press Release, as distributed by Senator Hoeven, please click [here](#). To see Senator John Hoeven discussing the bill, please follow the link to download and save the [video](#).

The Senate-passed bill has since been sent to the House of Representatives where there is pressure from some Members to fast track the legislation. Before this can take place, it must go through the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. On February 6, 2012, ASFPM sent a Chapter alert requesting action. On February 7, 2012, [ASFPM](#) sent a letter to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This letter, to Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) and Ranking Minority Member Nick Rahall (D-WVA), is [available here](#).

Levee Vegetation Research Symposium - Call for Abstracts

Abstracts Due: April 15, 2012

The Levee Vegetation Research Symposium 2012 – *Scientific Progress Informing a Path Forward* will be held on August 28-30, 2012, at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California. Invited presenters will share the results of research related to the effects of woody vegetation on levee performance and reliability. The planning committee invites submission of abstracts for consideration from researchers who have conducted original research or analysis, germane to the topic of woody vegetation on flood control levees, and who would like to present and discuss their findings at the symposium. Researchers who can contribute studies based on sites outside of California, as well as in countries outside the USA, are strongly encouraged to participate. Visit the Symposium 2012 website, www.safca.org/symposium2012.htm, to stay updated on registration, speakers, and other agenda details. Please send abstracts and questions regarding the [call for abstracts](#) to LeveeVeg.2012@SacCounty.net.



FINAL CALL FOR 2012 NATIONAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS

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 to which we invite your nomination of worthy programs, projects, or [persons](#). For more details, please [click here](#):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Lee State Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> James Lee Witt Local Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sheaffer Floodproofing Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Louthain Award for Distinguished Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ivey Certification Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Meritorious Achievement Award |

Our conference theme for 2012 in San Antonio is "[MISSION MITIGATION](#)". Please help us showcase the many successes across the country! Simply go to the [ASFPM awards nomination page](#) and submit your program, project, or person online. Make sure you get it in by the **March 1 deadline** because it will not be extended, given that the conference is in mid-May 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. Diane is available to answer your questions about the process or categories and may be reached at 608-441-3003. Winners will be notified in mid-April to allow time to make travel arrangements.



ASFPM Foundation

To access the February 2012 ASFPM Foundation Newsletter, please [click here](#).

The ASFPM Foundation is now accepting donations for their 2012 Annual Silent Auction in San Antonio, TX. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation on behalf of your chapter, state, agency, or corporation. For more information on the ASFPM Foundation's 2012 Silent Auction, visit the [Foundation Auction page](#).

Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund Award Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Deadline: March 31, 2012

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year to a full-time college junior or senior currently enrolled in an undergraduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management, or a student enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to floodplain/stormwater management. Eligible applicants include current undergraduates in a four-year college program, applicants to a graduate program, or current graduate students. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited university or college in the United States and be a citizen of the United States. Eligible fields of discipline include civil or environmental engineering, planning, emergency management, environmental sciences, or other disciplines with a demonstrable link to floodplain/stormwater management. Applicants must complete a 2012-2013 [Scholarship Application Form](#) which can be downloaded from ASFPM's website. Selection preference will be given to those applicants who demonstrate a history of civic or volunteer service, as well as a financial need (i.e. full-time students responsible for their own tuition), in addition to meeting the basic qualifications. In order to be considered, the Scholarship Review Committee must receive the 2012-2013 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to March 31, 2012. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's college or university. The selection will be made prior to May 1, 2012. Applications and reference letter should be emailed to ASFPM@floods.org. For further information, contact Diane Brown at 608-441-3003.

ASFPM Foundation Offers 2nd Annual Collegiate Student Paper Competition in San Antonio

Abstract Submittal Deadline: March 10, 2012

Full Paper Due: May 1, 2012

Abstracts will be reviewed by an ASFPM panel and three semifinalists will be invited to submit a full paper which will be due by May 1, 2011. These three semifinalists will receive up to \$1,000 for travel assistance to make their presentations at a special student session during the ASFPM 2012 Conference, where they will be judged by an eminent panel of floodplain managers. From these, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be selected and they will receive scholarships of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250, respectively. Students are encouraged to submit abstracts on studies related to one or more of the following topics: coastal, Great Lakes, riverine, alluvial fans, estuary issues, higher (than minimum Federal) stormwater control standards, compliance with flood regulations, flood insurance, Community Rating System, post-flood activities, Letters Of (flood) Map Changes (LOMCs), National Flood Insurance Program reform, flood mitigation planning, noteworthy flood mitigation project success, GIS applied to flood risk assessment, recertification of dams and levees, impacts of decertification, dam failure, levee inventory, non-levee embankments, natural and beneficial floodplain functions, environmental/green construction for flood mitigation, flood outreach/education programs, stormwater, watershed modeling, hydrology and hydraulics (H&H), flood hazard data management and tools, LiDAR, floodplain mapping, Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), local/state mapping programs (including higher standards), floodway standards, geomorphology of floodplains and resultant implications on the built environment, human impacts on floodplains including water quality and ecological factors, Endangered Species Act (ESA) present and anticipated impacts on floodplain management, and Risk MAP. For additional information on the scholarship and requirements - visit the ASFPM Foundation's [Student Paper Competition website](#). Further questions may be directed to diane@floods.org.

Mary Fran Myers Scholarship

Deadline: March 26, 2012

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications. Recipients will receive financial support allowing them to attend the [2012 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop](#) in Broomfield, Colorado, July 14-17, 2012. Recipients may also stay through July 18 to attend either the International Research Committee on Disasters or the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association add-on events for researchers and practitioners, respectively. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals, and registration costs. The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship is awarded annually to at least one potential Workshop participant. Recipients are recognized at the Workshop and may be asked to serve as panelists, where they can highlight their research or practical experiences with hazards and disasters. Hazards practitioners, students, and researchers with a strong commitment to disaster management and mitigation and who reside in North America or the Caribbean are eligible to enter. Eligibility is based on current place of residence, not citizenship. Applicants from outside North America and the Caribbean will be eligible for the scholarship in 2013. Previous attendees of the Natural Hazards Workshop are *not* eligible for the 2012 Mary Fran Myers Scholarship. Preference is given to those who can demonstrate financial need. For more information on past scholarship winners and how to [apply](#), visit the Natural Hazards Center's [Mary Fran Myers Scholarship page](#) or the [ASFPM Foundation's website](#).

National Flood Determination Association (NFDA) Announces Results of Certification



The [NFDA](#) recently announced the results of its certification program.

Newly certified are CBC Innovis and Nationwide Real Estate Tax Service, which join companies certified in previous certification cycles: American Flood Research, CoreLogic Flood Services, DataQuick, LandSafe Flood, and LPS National Flood. Some flood zone determination companies have not sought certification. All currently certified companies are NFDA member although membership is not a requirement.

The intent of the certification program is to further the industry as professional businesses that are committed to providing critical services to mortgage lenders and insurance agencies. The program is designed to recognize companies that operate within the guidelines set forth by the NFDA to maintain standards of excellence, foster professionalism, and advocate quality services.

The certification process is rigorous, requiring companies to demonstrate of a very high level of performance. On-site audits are conducted by a Certified Professional Accountant and include business practices such as having a business recovery plan, at least two years of experience, adequate financial viability, a quality assurance program, adequate record keeping, and a staff training program that includes specific key elements.

NFDA acknowledges that accuracy is the most significant factor when making flood zone determinations. In the certification process, NFDA applies a blind, multi-level, peer review process to a randomly selected sample of a company's records. The records are checked and double-checked by accuracy review teams.

To be certified, companies must demonstrate at least a 99% rate of accuracy in identifying Special Flood Hazard Areas. It should be noted that certification does not guarantee a company's performance on any individual flood zone determination. However, it does confirm that a company met multiple measures of quality performance at the time of certification. Certification resources that describe the requirements are available on NFDA's webpage.

ASFPM is represented on the NFDA Certification Committee by Rebecca Quinn, CFM.

Engaging the Public - Tools!

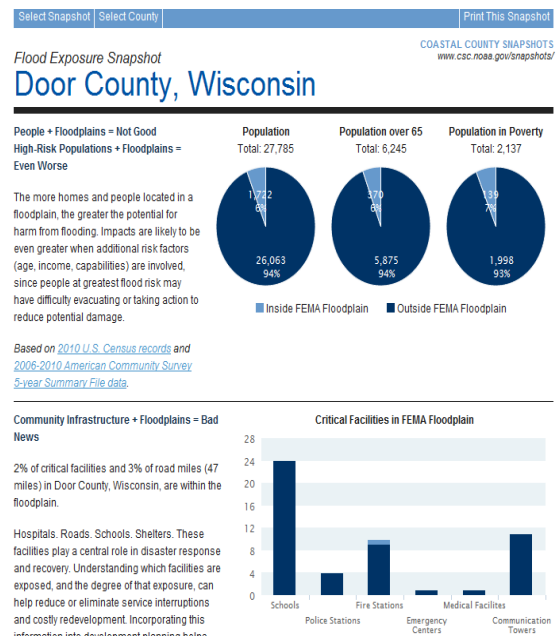
Coastal County Snapshots: An Issue-Specific Data Communication Tool

The [Coastal County Snapshots tool](#), developed by NOAA's Coastal Service Center as part of [Digital Coast](#), provides brief, county-level overviews of key resource management issues, including coastal flooding, ocean-related employment, and the benefits of wetlands in the coastal environment. Snapshots are illustrated with summaries of relevant data and graphical displays that help local officials understand the role of data in decision-making.

Coastal County Snapshots turn complex data into easy-to-understand stories, complete with charts and graphs. Users select a coastal county of interest and the website does the rest, providing information that can help communities become more resilient to coastal hazards.

Local officials, including planners, coastal managers and floodplain managers, use snapshot information to learn about their communities; handouts generated by the snapshots can be a helpful educational tool when working with governing bodies and citizen groups. Current snapshot data holdings focus on flood risks and the local economy.

See accompanying images for examples, or better yet, try it out for yourself!

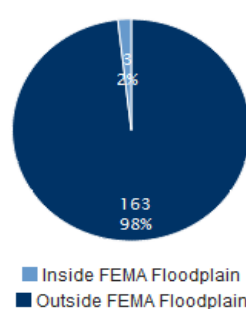


Increasing Development in Floodplains = More People in Harm's Way Loss of Natural Buffers = Less Protection

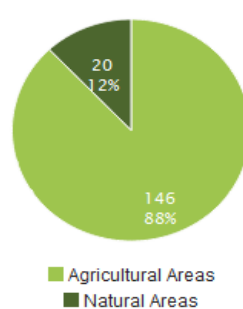
A county with more natural areas (wetlands, forests, etc.) and less development within floodplains typically has lower exposure to flooding. A county that monitors land cover changes within the floodplain will detect important trends that indicate whether flood exposure is increasing or decreasing. Armed with this information, local leaders can take steps to improve their safety and resilience.

Based on [NOAA Land Cover Data](#).

Amount of Land Converted to Development 2001-2006 (acres)



Type of Land Converted to Development 2001-2006 (acres)



Door County Floodplain



Outside FEMA Floodplain
Inside FEMA Floodplain
Water

Note: This map may not represent the county's entire floodplain.

Green Infrastructure Benefits Calculator

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) website offers a number of tips, in addition to a tool developed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for calculating the benefits of a proposed green infrastructure project. To check this out, please visit:

<http://www.h2ocapture.com/Calculate.aspx>

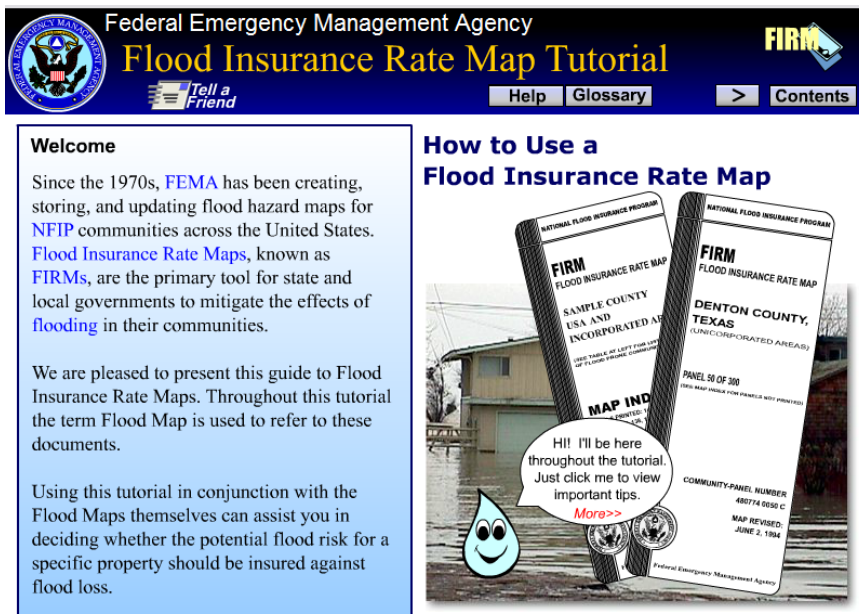
Green Values™ Stormwater Management Calculator - Center for Neighborhood Technology

The National Green Values™ Calculator was developed for quickly comparing the performance, costs, and benefits of Green Infrastructure, or Low Impact Development (LID), to conventional stormwater practices. It is intended to take the user through the step-by-step process of determining the average precipitation at their site, choosing a stormwater runoff volume reduction goal, defining the impervious areas of the site under a conventional development scheme, and choosing from a range of Green Infrastructure Best Management Practices (BMPs) to find the combination that meets the necessary runoff volume reduction goal in a cost-effective way. To learn more, please visit:

<http://greenvalues.cnt.org/national/calculator.php> and <http://logan.cnt.org/calculator/calculator.php>

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Tutorial

Looking for a basic tutorial on FIRMs? Click [THIS LINK](#) to get started!

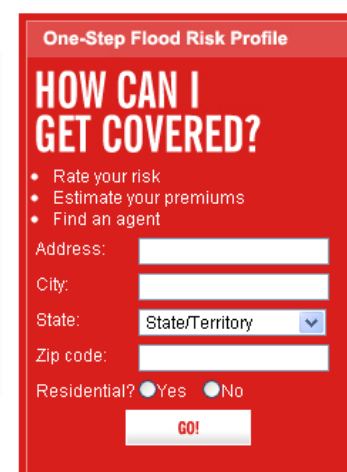


Cost-of-Flooding
This [tool](#) serves to show how a few inches of water can cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage.



Winter Rainy Season Widget

This [tool](#) details the danger of floods and the importance of flood insurance through an online customer quiz.



Perhaps the most obvious benefit is having all the requirements that govern how buildings are designed in one place, the building code. Another is that routine inspections are conducted several times during construction by most building departments, which may not be standard practice in other departments. Building departments also have clear enforcement authority.

FEMA reports that the current edition of the I-Codes (2012) and previous editions, going back to 2006 include flood provisions that are consistent with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements for buildings and structures. To download flood excerpts from the I-Codes and “Highlights of ASCE 24,” go to <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/buildingscience/index.shtm> and click on “[Building Code Resources](#).”

The majority of states and territories adopt building codes based on the International Code Series® (I-Codes), including the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, and the International Existing Building Code. Most states with state codes require their communities to enforce those codes. Even if not required by their states, many communities adopt these same codes. Very few states do not allow communities to adopt codes and a small number of states specify that only certain communities can do so.

“Of course,” says Ingargiola, “the main body of the building code only applies to buildings and structures, which means communities must have another mechanism to enforce NFIP-consistent requirements when people propose development activities other than buildings.”

To ensure that all NFIP administrative requirements and requirements for development other than buildings are satisfied, communities that enforce building codes based on the I-Codes have two options. They must either have a local ordinance or, if allowed by state law, adopt Appendix G of the International Building Code. Appendix G has administrative provisions and requirements for development that is not within the scope of the codes.

“FEMA worked with the International Code Council to develop Appendix G provisions that are consistent with the NFIP requirements,” says Ingargiola. If local ordinances are used, they should be coordinated with the codes to eliminate conflicts and avoid duplication. This has prompted some NFIP state coordinating agencies to work alongside their code commissions to bring about that coordination. Coordination has taken a number of paths.

The State of Florida A few years ago the Florida Division of Emergency Management asked the Florida Building Commission to convene a working group to consider the merits of retaining the flood provisions of the I-Codes in the 2010 edition of the Florida codes. Not only did the group make that recommendation, it developed Florida-specific amendments. Prior to the 2010 edition, floodplain requirements were found only in local regulations.

Florida’s NFIP coordinator, Joy Duperault, estimates that building officials in fewer than half of the state’s 458 NFIP communities also serve as the floodplain administrator. She notes that the “challenge is to encourage the floodplain administrators in the rest of the communities to plan ahead for coordination with building officials, which will be critical when the codes are effective starting March 15, 2012.”

“By law, the building code governs the design and construction of buildings and structures, which triggered a need to develop local FPM regulations that work with the code,” observes Duperault. Her office recently released a new model FPM ordinance that is specifically written to coordinate with the Florida Building Code (which does not include Appendix G). After consultation with the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) and FEMA, a revised version will be available mid-March.

Duperault not only coordinates with the Florida Building Commission staff, she regularly communicates with the leadership of the Florida Floodplain Managers Association and the BOAF. Both organizations provide training and host workshops on the flood provisions of the codes and related topics.

The State of Oregon In its 2007 report, the Oregon Flood/Building Code Standards Task Force recognized that coordinating the state's model FPM ordinance not only with the NFIP, but with the state building code is important.

Christine Shirley, the Oregon NFIP coordinator, notes that floodplain managers and building officials (typically in different departments) should have been coordinating all along. But the state's recent emphasis on the flood provisions in the building codes has prompted greater effort. "Now the need to communicate feels like plowing new territory, with some rocks and stumps that nobody anticipated," remarks Shirley.

"Local floodplain managers typically are in planning departments," says Shirley, noting that building departments are responsible for issuing permits for buildings after planning departments issue floodplain development permits. Floodplain development permits also are required for non-building development. "Planning departments check the flood hazard area and floodway boundaries, the base flood elevation, and the flood zone," she says. "And if buildings are proposed in flood hazard areas, the building department enforces the flood provisions of the building code using the flood data checked by planning."

Asked about the state's role, Shirley emphasizes training, "When both building officials and floodplain managers attend the same training, they often figure out some requirements are falling through the cracks. One of the biggest problems is getting out the message that building officials need to send design certifications and final, as-built elevation certificates to the planning department." Many building departments, she notes, purge permit records as soon as the retention period elapses, while the NFIP requires permanent retention.

Shirley's office is working with communities to adopt the new Oregon model FPM ordinance that is coordinated with the building code (the state does not make Appendix G available for local adoption). The model encourages communities to remove requirements for buildings that cause duplication or conflict with the building code. It also has language for adoption of higher standards that affect the design of buildings, such as additional freeboard above what is already required in the codes.

New York State In 2003, the New York State Division of Code Enforcement and Administration was given a very short time to adopt statewide building codes based on the 2003 I-Codes. That initial schedule made it a challenge to get comprehensive input from others, including the NFIP coordinator, Bill Nechamen. "We identified a few concerns that we worked out with the Division, notably how variances are handled," says Nechamen, recalling the early years, and "because floodplain management criteria had not been explicitly covered in the previous edition of the NYS code, the Division's staff had a lot to learn very quickly."

"That effort paid off two years later, when my office submitted a code change proposal to add 2ft of freeboard to the residential code," says Nechamen. "The proposal was accepted based on our justification and economic analysis showing how the higher construction costs are balanced by lower damage and lower NFIP insurance premiums."

Nechamen observed that his office regularly calls the state's code agency with questions about codes, and the Division routinely calls for clarification of floodplain issues. "That allows us to provide input that is consistent with the NFIP guidance and advice."

Continued on page 18

“Having the flood provisions in the code has led to better enforcement of the NFIP requirements for buildings,” says Nechamen. He also notes that having consistent requirements statewide, as well as with other states, makes it easier for design professionals. Despite the benefits of statewide consistency, “with approval by the state Code Council communities can adopt even higher standards if justified by locally unique conditions.”

For example, because new flood maps for Long Island include the Limit of Moderate Wave Action that delineates the inland extent of the 1.5-ft breaking wave, Nechamen prepared sample language that communities can adopt to regulate Coastal A Zones as Zone V. “So far,” he reports, “every community that has requested this code change has been approved.”

“Right now, local FPM ordinances still include all requirements for buildings because some buildings are exempt from the code,” says Nechamen. “We help communities make adjustments to their ordinances to avoid conflicting with the building code.” Local FPM ordinances also are required because the state did not adopt the IBC Appendix G.

State Modification of the I-Codes A number of states have modified the flood provisions of the I-Codes, typically because the NFIP state coordinator works with the state agency or commission responsible for revising the codes every 3 to 6 years. A few examples:

- **Michigan** also amended the code to require additional elevation. One foot was added to the requirements of the residential code, and the building code was modified to require Type III and Type IV buildings (including essential and critical facilities) to be elevated or floodproofed to 1 foot above the 500-year flood level. In addition, “because much of the noncompliance we see is related to crawlspaces and below-grade spaces, we added clarification to those requirements,” reports Les Thomas, the Michigan NFIP coordinator.
- **Rhode Island** NFIP coordinator Michelle Burnett points to a building code amendment that requires applications for variances to the flood provisions to be forwarded to her office. She also notes that “because the building code includes flood provisions, we revised the model FPM ordinance to eliminate as much duplication as possible.”
- **Maryland** has not yet modified the flood provisions of its building codes, but state floodplain management staff expects it may happen in the future. With more than 4,500 miles of Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic coast shoreline, the Governor’s 2008 Commission on Climate Change recommended a review of the state’s building code to develop enhanced requirements for coastal areas, including at least 2 feet of freeboard, to promote disaster-resistant construction. There’s also growing interest in planning for more extensive flood hazard areas as sea levels rise.

Conclusion A number of NFIP state coordinators have remarked on improved compliance now that building codes include flood provisions. This benefit will likely grow as more states and communities work through the process to coordinate codes and FPM regulations.

At the national level, FEMA reports a strong positive trend in the number of jurisdictions adopting flood damage-resistant building codes. The number has grown to nearly 9,000, an increase of more than 100% since 2008, according to FEMA. “This trend, along with effective enforcement, will yield tremendous benefits in floodprone communities across the nation,” says James Walke, Risk Reduction Division Director at the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, at FEMA. “Disaster-resistant building codes help protect economic tax base and enable communities to recover quicker after disasters.”

Resources

http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/SFMP/lobc_resources.htm

www.oregon.gov/LCD/HAZ/docs/floods/FINAL_ORMod_9_29_2011.pdf

Washington Report

-Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Off To a Slow Start

The Congress is back for the 2nd Session of the 112th Congress, but so far the momentum has been slow. The Conference Committee is meeting to try to develop the next step for the payroll tax and other tax extensions package that will expire at the end of February. There is some talk of again including the House-passed flood insurance bill in the measure. Committees in both the House and Senate are moving on various aspects of the anticipated major surface transportation legislation. Action on a major energy and jobs measure is anticipated. Most committees' agenda for the session is somewhat vague.

Release of the President's budget, one week late on February 13, kicks-off a period of hearings in the various House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees on budget requests for specific departments and agencies. Authorizing committees, too, often hold hearings on agency budgets and the House and Senate Budget Committees will be holding hearings with a view toward developing Budget Resolutions to guide the appropriations process. This year, the Senate leadership has indicated that the Senate Budget Committee may not put together a Budget Resolution and may simply rely on overall budget figures agreed to during last year's debate over the debt ceiling.

Budget and Appropriations

Overall, the President's Budget Request is expected to reflect substantial reductions. A number of departments and agencies were instructed to incorporate a 10% reduction in their budget projections. Many departments and agencies have scheduled budget briefings with the press and stakeholder groups in the days immediately following.

The House Appropriations Committee has already scheduled some hearings. The House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee will hold its hearing on FEMA's budget request on March 7th. The Interior and Environment Subcommittee will hold its hearing on EPA's budget request on February 29th, on the Fish and Wildlife Service on March 1st, on the Bureau of Land Management on March 6th and on the U.S. Geological Survey also on March 6th. The Subcommittee will hear from outside public witnesses on March 21, 22, 27 and 28.

Appropriation levels for most of the federal departments and agencies for FY 2012 are included in the omnibus appropriations measure completed and signed by the President in December. That bill ([H.R. 2055](#)) started out as the Military Construction Appropriations bill, but was expanded to include all of the remaining 8 appropriations bills and became the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2012. Section B includes funding for the Army Corps of Engineers. Section D, Title III is funding for FEMA. Section E Title I is funding for the Department of the Interior (including USGS) and Title II is funding for EPA.

Flood Insurance

The way forward for reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is still not clear. Currently, the program is authorized until May 31st. This was accomplished in the omnibus appropriations bill which finally cleared the Congress in late December. Instead of authorizing the program until September 30th, the date which applies to the rest of the bill, the May 31st date was chosen to maintain pressure for passage of the flood insurance reform bill ([S. 1940](#)) by the full Senate. This would allow for time remaining in the session to reach agreement on differences between House and Senate bills. The House bill ([H.R. 1309](#)) was passed in July, 2011. The Senate bill ([S. 1940](#)) was reported out of the Senate Banking Committee in September, 2011, but not formally filed until December.

On a separate track, the House bill was incorporated into the first version of the tax extender bill toward the end of the last session. It was thought that the flood bill could be used as an offset for the revenue losses due to tax break extensions. The Congressional Budget office found that there would be no savings to the Treasury, but rather to the National Flood Insurance Fund. When the Congress passed the shortened two month tax extender bill, the flood bill was not included. Now, however, there is again some possibility that the flood bill could be attached. That would tend to either force Senate acceptance of the House bill or make it very difficult to achieve any compromise bill.

Continued on page 20

On February 9th, Senators Vitter (R-LA) and Tester (D-MT) sent a [letter](#) to the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders asking that the flood reform bill be brought up on the Senate floor for debate and passage. The letter was signed by 41 Senators from both parties. Meanwhile, the Conference Committee is continuing to meet on the tax extender package with much leadership involvement. Since the flood bill, if included, would have nothing to do with the focus of the legislation, the prospects for “conferencing” House and Senate flood bills would be limited at best. Another possibility would be another short term extension if no action has been taken as May 31 approaches. So, to repeat, the way forward for the NFIP is far from clear.

Levees on Buy-Out Land

On January 27th, the Senate took up and passed [S. 2039](#), a bill to establish a pilot program in North Dakota which would allow levee construction on property acquired through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and deed restricted as open space. The bill was introduced by Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) and passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent. It has now been referred to the House, where there was some effort to bring it to the House floor immediately. Instead, it has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. ASFPM sent out an alert to Chapters on this legislation and sent a letter to Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) and Ranking Minority Member Nick Rahall (D-WVA) explaining concerns about the bill.

The [ASFPM letter](#) is posted on the association website. Some of the points made are:

- opens the door to expansion nationwide
- makes it more difficult to resist pressures for other uses of deed restricted land
- taxpayers already paid to mitigate the losses on this land; levees would encourage development and increase consequences and costs of a flood
- levees under this provision would be able to enroll in a federal maintenance program which would again shift ongoing O&M costs to federal taxpayers
- because buy-outs tend to be in deep floodplains and often close to the watercourse itself, levees would pinch the river creating adverse impacts

WRDA and Levees

There is a good possibility that there will be efforts later this spring to develop a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Both House and Senate committee staffs have indicated that this is the intent, although some impediments could delay action. Action on the Surface Transportation legislation is fully occupying the attention of the committees at present and must be completed before any action can proceed on a WRDA. The questions surrounding what is and is not an “earmark” must be resolved since WRDA bills traditionally involve Congressional authorization of specific projects, which could be considered earmarks.

Both House and Senate committee staffs have indicated strong interest in inclusion of some elements of a levee risk management program. The National Committee on Levee Safety has developed legislative recommendations which include programmatic recommendations such as a grant or loan fund for levee repair. Indications are that the legislative climate on Capitol Hill will make it difficult this year to create new programs and to fund them. It seems more possible to improve and expand existing programs. ASFPM has recommended greater use of the Army Corps of Engineers’ technical assistance programs such as Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS), Planning Assistance to States (PAS) and [Silver Jackets](#). ASFPM staff met with staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to discuss these issues in January.

Stafford Act

Consideration of changes to the Stafford Act (disaster assistance and mitigation) is possible this spring. The relevant subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is assembling recommendations for legislation. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee may mark-up legislation to amend the Stafford Act introduced by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS). The measure ([S.1630](#)) is titled the Disaster Recovery Act and was introduced in September, 2011 after a significant period of development and consultation with interested parties including the Stafford Coalition, of which ASFPM is a member.

Coalitions and Partner Meetings

Stafford Coalition

The Stafford Coalition met on January 30th after a hiatus. Chad Berginnis attended the meeting for ASFPM. There was much discussion of the upcoming Congressional agenda and consideration of hazard mitigation issues. The group meets again toward the end of February and will probably have authorizing committee staff as guests.

Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance

The Alliance met at the end of January to discuss its agenda for Congressional briefings on hazards issues during this Congressional session. Larry Larson and Merrie Inderfurth attended the meeting for ASFPM and agreed to work with the American Society of Civil Engineers on a levee/flood risk briefing, probably to take place in April.

Other coalitions in which ASFPM participates will likely meet after the budget request for FY 2013 has been made public. Those include the Flood Map Coalition, the USGS Coalition, Streamgage Coalition, and the Mitigation Alliance.

In January meetings in Washington D.C., ASFPM representatives met with various partner organizations. These included the League of Cities, the Conference of Mayors, the Coastal States Organization, the Technical Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP), the Institute for Water Resources (IWR), the Stafford Coalition, and the Congressional Hazards Caucus Alliance.

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



Don't Let Your Member Benefits Lapse!

Renew your 2012 ASFPM membership now to avoid a lapse in your ASFPM member benefits. As of February 1st, non-renewed members no longer receive ASFPM member alerts, *The Insider*, preferred member rates for conference registration, and will not be eligible to vote in our national elections. Don't miss out - renew now!

Renewal forms were mailed out in early December 2011. If you haven't received yours, please contact Kevin Currie, Member Services Coordinator at kevin@floods.org or at [608-274-0123](tel:608-274-0123) and he can email you a copy of your form. If you were an ASFPM member in 2011, renew online in the [member section of the ASFPM website](#). If you have forgotten your password, click the "Forgot Your Password?" link and a new password will be sent to the email address we currently have on file for you. If you have any questions about the renewal form or how to renew online, please also direct these to Kevin at kevin@floods.org. The 2012 dues are \$110 for Individual members.

NOTE: *Your membership renewal is separate from your CFM certification renewal, so it is possible to be up for renewal for both your membership and your certification at the same time.*

As the first hurricane to make landfall in New Jersey in over a century, Irene proved to be much more of an inland flooding event. With Irene dumping up to 14 inches of rain, state climatologist David Robinson said Irene is likely to go down as the second most damaging storm in New Jersey history, after what he called the "Great Flood of 1903." All 21 counties were declared Federal disaster areas. As of February 10th, nearly \$300 million in disaster assistance had been provided with more to come, given that many of the Public Assistance (PA) dollars have not yet been obligated and PA is generally the largest category of assistance.

Preparing for Landfall

Longport, NJ, is a small coastal community located on Absecon Island, a barrier island approximately 9 miles long and consisting of Atlantic City, Ventnor, Margate and Longport. It is a Community Rating System (CRS) Class 8 with over 1,400 active flood insurance policies. The Borough, surrounded by water on three sides and with a summer population of over 10,000, has a land area of .38 sq. miles.

Local floodplain manager, **Bruce Funk**, CFM, wears many hats including CRS Director, Assistant Fire Chief and Deputy Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Director. Bruce Funk was also recognized as ASFP's 2011 Floodplain Manager of the Year.

According to Bruce, "We were preparing for Irene to hit our coastal community with 100 mph sustained winds and a tidal surge of 8 to 10 feet. A hurricane of that magnitude probably would have destroyed and/or substantially damaged a majority of our homes. Mandatory evacuation was ordered on Friday, August 26, and by Saturday evening, Longport, like most coastal communities, was a ghost town."

Bruce's preparations extended beyond the community and to his own personal readiness, "Having experienced past Nor'easters but never a hurricane of this magnitude, I installed my flood gates, put away all the porch furniture, clipped back tall trees, tied down everything, boarded up several windows, photographed my 125 year old home inside and out, took my brief case with copies of all important documents and kissed my house goodbye. My wife, mother, and our three golden retrievers (all of whom wanted to stay and ride out the storm), had to be convinced that this was very serious and the 'real deal'. I had to tell them it wouldn't look good if the CRS director/OEM/Assistant Fire Chief/ASFP local floodplain manager of the year were to stay behind with his wife and mother while the rest of the community evacuated." Bruce's family evacuated.

Irene made its landfall near Little Egg Inlet, New Jersey, at around 5:30 AM Sunday, approximately 20 miles north of Longport, with winds estimated at 75 mph. For Longport it was a non-event. "We experienced wind & rain with no tidal flooding. It was comparable to a typical Nor'easter."

Lessons Learned

According to Bruce, there were more than a few lessons learned:

- Local preparation, communications, and evacuations went well. But, this time nothing happened. Next time, evacuations will probably be more difficult as a result.
- Unfortunately, only a few homes were storm ready, i.e., with furniture put away, loose items tied down, and storm panels installed. Homes 7 years or newer were required to be constructed with impact resistant glass and/or to have pre-cut plywood panels be installed. However, the majority had nothing done, nothing installed!
- Being on a barrier island, there are no shelters. While the county had had previously done a lot of preparation for access and functional needs populations, the shelters on the mainland experienced a shortage of qualified staff and security; they were overwhelmed with the number of persons who arrived, persons evacuated from nursing homes and their own homes, many of whom had health issues, were dropped at shelters without the medical staff and/or supplies. Additional caches of medical supplies and enhanced plans need to be developed to serve access and functional needs populations in the future.
- People should know that storm shelters are a last resort and we need to stress the importance of planning ahead, and having a designated place of where to go to get out of harm's way.
- Through local CRS Outreach, County, and State outreach projects, there needs to be better education of residents about storm shelters, what to expect, and who should go. Also there is a need to stress the importance of evacuation, how to prepare your home, where to go, and what to take.

Bruce further states, "The Barrier island communities dodged a bullet with other areas of New Jersey getting hit harder. Overall, I believe we are reasonably well prepared, but there is still a long way to go. We know what to expect, but now we have to convey that message to the public!"

Flood Hazard Mitigation Post Irene

Further inland, communities were not nearly as lucky. In the aftermath of Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) quickly transitioned from response to recovery to risk reduction. Both agencies' program staff shifted gears appropriately, in working closely with State Agency partners and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to better engage in assisting the disaster survivors while they were still trying to recover and clean up from the storms.

New Jersey's previous experience with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) process was that it took more than twelve months to implement. With regard to property acquisition projects, this length of time meant that affected homeowners sometimes repaired damaged homes that would eventually be torn down - a futile effort. The NJOEM's goal, with support from the Governor's office, was to identify those property owners willing to sell their homes and move out of harm's way, and to get them into the program prior to their beginning the costly home repairs. *The NJOEM objective was to award HMGP funds in half the time it had previously taken, in six months as opposed to the twelve.*

In order to facilitate the quicker response, New Jersey developed an aggressive plan and inclusion criteria to focus the estimated HMGP funds on those communities with high levels in four different categories: damage from these disasters, historical damage, community interest, and homeowner interest in the program. A list of communities was developed based on the scoring from that formula.

Concurrently, there were a lot of substantial damage determinations to conduct. According to [New Jersey's State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Sgt. Robert Little](#), "It was an across-the-board partnership between the community floodplain managers, State Code Officials and Inspectors, our State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) office, and FEMA Disaster Assistance Employees (DAEs) and NFIP representatives. [Joe Ruggeri, New Jersey State Floodplain Manager](#) agreed. "Our office worked closely with FEMA and the Joint Field Office in meeting and assisting communities throughout the state with questions regarding substantial damage determinations. We learned that most of the communities are reactive instead of proactive in that they wait for residents to come to them instead of going out immediately and determining which structures have been substantially damaged."

Both Little and Ruggeri see several lessons learned. According to Little "We see a need and it is our intent, due to the rapid turnover of qualified individuals at the local level, to develop and provide ongoing training for those Local Code Officials in Substantial Damage Assessments (SDA) - approximately 80% of who are also the Local Floodplain Managers." Ruggeri added "We plan to update and revise our existing model ordinances to include specific language on the local floodplain administrator's roles and responsibilities for assessing substantial damage in the future right after a disaster occurs."

Then, according to greatest need, NJ and FEMA met with the communities, solicited their input, and developed a local plan to maximize results from a limited amount of funding. The funds available were far less than the needs of any one of the municipalities that had expressed interest; and it was necessary to allocate the funding across the largest possible impacted area.

New Jersey benefitted from additional FEMA assistance during this process; disaster reservists were assigned to act as the application writers and mitigation program experts for 14 communities. The result? Eight communities submitted early HMGP applications, with over \$38 million in total project costs, for the acquisition of 145 homes. FEMA has awarded the funds and contracts are being executed so the acquisition process can begin. The remaining six communities, still in the process of completing their applications, will account for an additional \$15 million in total project costs completing 53 acquisitions and 18 elevations.

The survey process generated a comprehensive list of substantially damaged homes statewide; and the NJOEM will focus on that list to determine how the remaining allocation of Tropical Storm Irene HMGP funds will be distributed.

Continued on page 24

According to Assistant Deputy State OEM Director **Major Dennis McNulty**, “Statewide intergovernmental partnerships, and our excellent relationship with FEMA Region II, make this complex task manageable and help to reduce risk from future disasters.”

Still, mitigation demand remains high. NJOEM is currently managing mitigation projects from nine disasters declared within the past two years. It received requests for HMGP projects from Hurricane Irene, from approximately half of its 566 municipalities. These requests were valued at over \$400 million but funds are available to assist just an approximate ten percent of those requests.

Blue Acres: An Innovative State Flood Mitigation Program

New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) offers a unique program to assist the acquisition process. Under New Jersey’s Blue Acres program, money from bond issues is used to acquire homes in floodways and floodplains, in order to ultimately return them to open space. Most recently, once in 2007 and again in 2009, voters in New Jersey voted to approve a total of \$36 million for the Blue Acres program which has been around since 1961. **Fawn McGee**, NJDEP Green Acres Program – State Land Acquisition Bureau Chief, says that there is a lot going on, “Twenty of twenty-one counties have mitigation plans and this is important – it opens the door.” Prior to Irene, the Blue Acres program focused on properties on the state’s Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) list. Because many of these properties aren’t adjacent to other state open space land holdings (the state owns acquired properties under Blue Acres), the state executes a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with communities for maintenance.

A partnership between NJDEP and NJOEM has leveraged the Blue Acres Program to provide 100% of the appraised value of homes being acquired under the Hurricane Irene disaster declaration. NJDEP made the decision to provide local grants to the towns that received FEMA approvals under the Hurricane Irene disaster declaration. This partnership results in NJDEP additional funds to selling homeowners that might have otherwise only received 75% of what their home is worth since the HMGP program can provide only up to 75% of the total project funding. In many cases, the additional funding makes the difference between the homeowner participating in the program or remaining in the flood hazard area. NJDEP has also funded the match for many communities, provided staff to assist in project development, and administered projects in several instances. According to McGee, “Our focus is acquisition. The State Green Acres, through its Blue Acres Program, is responsible for one hundred thirty buy-outs. One hundred eleven of which are in the Passaic Basin and fifty-seven of which are under DR-4021 (Hurricane Irene).

One nationwide issue that New Jersey also struggles with is the loss of “ratables” (income from property taxes) as a result of the acquisition of parcels of land. Until recently, New Jersey had a program in place that provided partial payments in lieu of taxes, for a period of years, in order to ease the loss of the ratables. However, this program was discontinued due to recent state budget cuts. As a result, some communities were on the fence about acquisitions, instead opting for elevating buildings or not participating at all. Irene seems to have changed some minds. According to McGee, “Wayne Township had a high number of SRL properties- at 310. However, they determined that the cost of emergency services far outweighed the ratables that they were collecting. In fact, as a result of Irene there is a real sense that in all levels of government there is a need to chip in and help out. Everyone realized that they needed to do something for the people and as quickly as possible.”

Breaking the Repetitive Disaster Damage Scenario - FEMA Release 4025-130

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Of the more than \$200 million the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is expected to reimburse the commonwealth for infrastructure damage from Irene and Lee, more than \$30 million of that will be used to rebuild infrastructure to a higher standard. FEMA provides 75 percent of the mitigation grant funding. The commonwealth's share of eligible project costs is 22 percent; the remaining three percent is paid for by the applicant. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) administers the program and allocates the funds. Click the following links, from the [FEMA Release 4025-130](#), for more information on Pennsylvania [Tropical Storm Lee](#) and Pennsylvania [Hurricane Irene](#).

Publications, Video, the Web

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) Building Code Ratings Release

IBHS has recently released a [report](#) of the analysis of building codes in 18 Gulf Coast and Atlantic states. This report also gives these states recommendations on how to improve their code systems. To access the report and summary, as well as a state-by-state ranking and state-specific description of the issues, please read further: [News Release](#), [Full Report](#), [Key Points](#)

Know Your Flood Risk - YouTube Page

To view a number of videos released by the UK's Know Your Flood Risk campaign, click [HERE](#).

Missouri River Basin Climate Information

ASFPM has updated the website, adding climate information on the [Missouri River Basin](#).

Gays Mills, WI - Community Relocation Out of the Floodplain

The Village of Gays Mills was struck by back-to-back floods in August 2007 and June 2008. Both flood events were greater than 500-year flood events, which resulted in substantial losses to residences and businesses within the Village. With these devastating floods occurring so close together, the Village began earnestly considering the possibility of relocating the portion of the Village located in the floodplain. To read further, please see the January 29 article in the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) or access the [Gays Mills Long-term Community Recovery Plan](#).

ASFPM LinkedIn Discussion on Green Infrastructure

Please join the discussion by posting your *Green Infrastructure* and Floodplain Management comments to the [ASFPM discussion on LinkedIn](#)! For additional background, [click here](#).

ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference - On Facebook

Are you wondering who else is planning to attend? Join our [ASFPM Facebook Event Page](#) to find out!

Around the World



Brazil

In [January of 2011](#), floods took at least 903 lives, primarily in Nova Friburgo and Teresópolis. 2012 did not begin much better, as numerous people were evacuated and rendered homeless per a [levee rupturing](#) near [Campos](#). In the Região Serrana region, 5.25 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, over half the average expected rainfall for the entire month of January. Warning sirens were activated as [people left](#) the area in danger of flash flooding and mudslides. More information is available [here](#).

Netherlands

In the first week of January, the Netherlands experienced high water levels, resulting in some evacuations in the northern part of the country per the storm surge. Interested in reading more from an American's perspective? Consider checking out Jessica Ludy's [website](#) on her recent experiences in the Netherlands.

Philippines

Typhoon Washi brought devastating floods, leaving numerous people homeless and a death toll that has significantly surpassed 1000. President, Benigno Aquino, has pledged to help survivors rebuild their lives but stated, "[In return we expect you to refrain from moving back to those places that put your lives at constant risk](#)." A recent [outbreak](#) of [leptospirosis](#) has complicated matters. [Read more here](#).

United Kingdom

The [Know Your Flood Risk campaign](#), in conjunction with RAB consultants, produced a guide aimed to reduce the worry about what flood protection products to use, illustrating the variety of ways in which a home can be protected, demonstrating how the various products can be fitted, and explaining when it is appropriate to use them - all written with the homeowner in mind. Please follow the link to [read more](#).

West Africa

The [Comet](#) Program recently announced the publication of a module for the [African Satellite Meteorology Education and Training](#) (ASMET) project, specifically dealing with [flooding in West Africa](#). This learning module examines an extreme flooding event that occurred in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in 2009. Users must assess the conditions in order to determine heavy rain and flood risk.

Grant and Project Opportunities

IAEM Scholarships

Application Period begins in February 2012

The [IAEM Scholarship](#) Program competitively awards scholarships to full time students working towards degrees in emergency management, disaster management, or related fields. The next application period will begin February 2012. The application is available on the [IAEM website](#). For more on EIIP, click [here](#).

Audubon Fellowships for US Conservation Projects

Deadline: March 5, 2012

National Audubon Society is currently accepting applications for the [TogetherGreen Conservation Leadership Fellowship Program](#) – a program that focuses on nurturing environmental leaders across the U.S. The program will offer forty (40) \$10,000 fellowships in 2012. TogetherGreen Fellows should have strong leadership skills, an interest in designing and completing a Conservation Action Project, and a shared passion for learning, achieving results, and empowering others. TogetherGreen Fellows will come from a variety of backgrounds, including the arts, education, communication, policy, science, research, and business. One of the goals of our program is to support projects that engage audiences traditionally underrepresented in the conservation movement.

ASFPM Foundation Offers 2nd Annual Collegiate Student Paper Competition in San Antonio

Abstract Submittal Deadline: March 10, 2012

Abstracts will be reviewed by an ASFPM panel and three semifinalists will be invited to submit a full paper which will be due by May 1, 2011. These three semifinalists will receive up to \$1,000 for travel assistance to make their presentations at a special student session during the ASFPM 2012 Conference, where they will be judged by an eminent panel of floodplain managers. From these, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be selected and they will receive scholarships of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250, respectively. For additional information on the scholarship and requirements - visit the ASFPM Foundation's [Student Paper Competition website](#).

Mary Fran Myers Scholarship

Deadline: March 26, 2012

The Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications. Recipients will receive financial support allowing them to attend the [2012 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop](#) in Broomfield, Colorado, July 14-17, 2012. Recipients may also stay through July 18 to attend either the International Research Committee on Disasters or the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association add-on events for researchers and practitioners, respectively. Scholarships can cover part or all of transportation, meals, and registration costs. For more information on past scholarship winners and how to [apply](#), visit the Natural Hazards Center's [Mary Fran Myers Scholarship page](#) or the [ASFPM Foundation's website](#).

Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund

Deadline: March 31, 2012

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year to a full-time college junior or senior currently enrolled in an undergraduate program related to floodplain/stormwater management, or a student enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to floodplain/stormwater management. Applicants must complete a 2012-2013 [Scholarship Application Form](#) which can be downloaded from ASFPM's website. In order to be considered, the Scholarship Review Committee must receive the 2012-2013 Scholarship Application Form and a separate reference letter prior to March 31, 2012. Email applications and reference letter to ASFPM@floods.org.

American Planning Association Scholarships

Deadline: April 30, 2012

Undergraduate and Graduate level planning scholarships are available in amounts ranging from \$2,000-\$4,000. See [APA website](#) for more details.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER • EMMITSBURG, MD 21727



FEMA

Course: *E176 Hazards United States-Multi-Hazards (Hazard-MH) for Floodplain Managers*

Date: April 23-26, 2012

Course Description:

This course provides in-depth instruction and hands-on exercises that develop the skills needed by Certified Floodplain Managers and other Emergency Planners to effectively use the Hazus tools necessary for modeling the impacts on communities from riverine and coastal flooding. This course uses highly advanced modeling based on the E172 Hazus-MH for Flood. The course provides sophisticated analysis of flood modeling with respect to the needs of local and State Certified Floodplain Managers and Emergency Management personnel.

Course Goal:

This course provides the necessary skills for local and State Floodplain Managers to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from floods. Instruction will emphasize user-supplied flood study inputs to assist the student in developing and calculating the most accurate flood depth and elevation information that can be produced by Hazus-MH for riverine and coastal flood hazards.

Course Length:

This course is 4 days in length. Travel days are Sunday and Friday.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs):

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) awards 2.8 CEUs for completion of this course.

Location:

National Emergency Training Center (NETC), Emergency Management Institute (EMI), Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Pre-Requisites:

Strong Geographic Information System (GIS) experience and completion of the E313 Basic Hazus-MH course is required. In addition, E172 Hazus-MH for Flood course is recommended. Participants must currently use or be planning to use GIS and Hazus.

Target Audience:

This course is intended for the following: State and local floodplain managers, emergency planners, and emergency managers; State and local GIS specialists responsible for risk assessment activities with focus on riverine analysis; regional personnel responsible for mitigation and response activities; other Federal agencies with a need to conduct highly detailed analysis of riverine flooding.

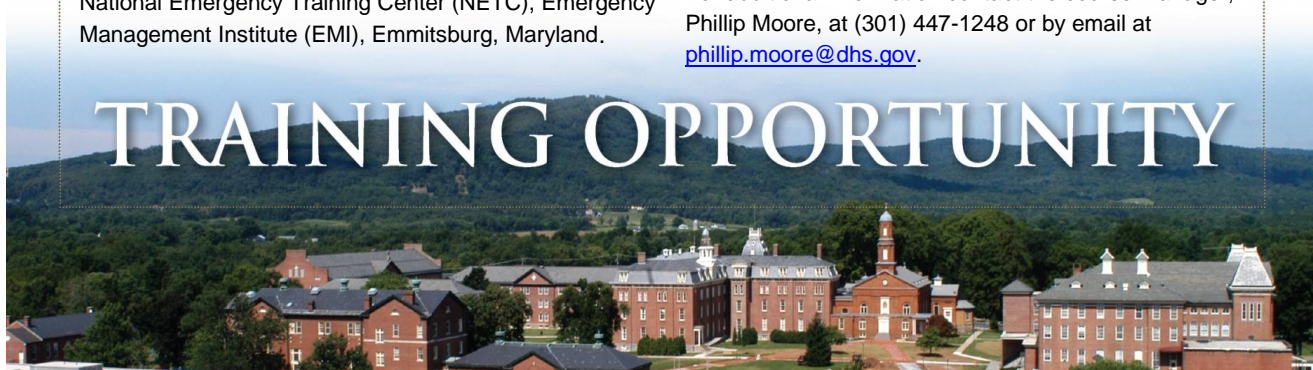
To Apply:

Complete a FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application with student signature and signature of supervisor or sponsoring agency official. Submit the application through the State emergency management training office who will fax it to the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Admissions Office at (301) 447-1658. The need to attend this training must be documented in block 16 of the application. For further enrollment information, refer to the EMI web site at <http://training.fema.gov/Apply>.

EMI Point of Contact:

For additional information contact the course manager, Phillip Moore, at (301) 447-1248 or by email at phillip.moore@dhs.gov.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



Calendar

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 2011 - 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](#).



- E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **Mar. 19-22, 2012** (12 Core CECs)
- E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **Apr. 23-26, 2012** (12 Core CECs)
- E273 *Managing Floodplain Development thru NFIP* **June 11-14, 2012** (12 Core CECs)
- 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)

Arid LID 2012: Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development in Arid Environments

The conference will take place on **March 27-29, 2012**, and the format of the conference will be two and a half days, primarily in a single-room setting (up to 200 attendees), with breakout sessions and a morning of field trips. Sessions will be targeted to stormwater, planning, and design professionals; researchers in water resources and urban sustainability; as well as activists and educators interested in implementing these features through grassroots, community-driven models. Participation is especially encouraged from those working in GI/LID in arid regions of the southwestern U.S. (southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, west Texas) and northwest Mexico.

For more information, visit AridLID.org

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 realising 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](#)

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

May 20–25, 2012: 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS, San Antonio, Texas. Contact (608) 274-0123 or see **<http://www.floods.org>**

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.



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

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

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