



# ASFPM Region 7 Status Report 2019

**Association of State Floodplain Managers**

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## INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The ASFPM Region 7 area includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. ASFPM chapters and floodplain management associations in Region 7 include Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association, Kansas Association for Floodplain Management, Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association and Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association.

Special note: At the same time this report is being written, there is widespread flooding across Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and northwest Kansas. Worst of flooding has been reported in Nebraska. Places in Region 7 states along the Missouri River are most effected.

Declared disasters for Region 7 included two each for Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. Missouri finally had an entire calendar year without a disaster. Missouri has had 39 flood related deaths, 87% in automobiles, over the last four years. About time for Missouri to get a break.

*Iowa* had a declared disaster FEMA DR-4386 for 31 counties in August for severe storms, straight line wind and flooding. Iowa has 675 NFIP participating communities with 12 CRS communities. There were four FIRMS that became effective since the last report. Another 23 Preliminary FIRMS published in Iowa since the last report. Iowa offered two floodplain manager workshops in 2018. The CFM test was offered three times. Iowa currently has 69 CFMs.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Iowa Water Conference was held March 12-13, 2018 in Ames. The following goals were established at the members meeting. Update organizational goals, more lunch webinars for members, and hosting annual conference in October.

The **Missouri** Floodplain Management Team began by developing a Statement of Work (SOW) that defines pre-disaster, event, post-disaster assistance and support to NFIP communities. This document helps organize the state's efforts in providing assistance and support to Missouri NFIP-participating communities. Next, the Missouri Floodplain Management Team updated its Flood Damage Assessment Packet and prepared event-ready boxes to be deployed immediately following a flooding event. Implementing the SOW, our team took substantial damage training to local officials, teaching them to use the FEMA SDE software tool while emphasizing the community's post-disaster responsibilities.

To encourage wise development in the floodplain, the Missouri SEMA Floodplain Management Team purchased the Ward's Stormwater Floodplain 3D Simulation Model with the intent of demonstrating the impact that development has in our floodplain to school- age children. The model has captivated adult audiences, so the Floodplain Management Section made plans for a presentation during the MfSMA Annual Conference.

The Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association conference will be held in Osage Beach March 27-29, 2019.

**Nebraska** emphasized RISK Map projects and training in the last year. There were staffing changes in Nebraska. One position remains unfilled. Due to extensive flooding problems and emergency needs, Nebraska staff didn't have a lot of time to help with this report.

Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association will sponsor an event on May 2-3, 2019 that will feature a tour of Kingsley Dam and speakers on dam safety, endangered species and Platte River Basin. NeFSMA's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be July 11, 2019 in Nebraska City with the theme, "What Can Green Do for You?" The annual membership meeting is planned for Nov. 21, 2019 at the SAC Museum in Ashland.

**Kansas** had numerous flash flood events over the past year. These were short-term flash flood events that affected many areas. Most of these events were declared as disasters by the governor of Kansas. At the same time, most of these floods did not become Presidential Disaster Declarations. Manhattan had 300 families displaced when their homes and apartments flooded. There was no Individual Assistance for those families. Mitigation grants are of particular importance in Kansas because this state usually doesn't meet the threshold for a Declared Disaster. Kansas had staff positions to fill this year. Kansas worked on an update to its Quick Guide, updating model ordinances, training, mapping and Community Rating System when not occupied with flash floods.

Kansas Association for Floodplain Management will have its next conference Sept. 4-5, 2019 in Lawrence. There will be a pre-conference workshop and a post conference CFM test.

## **REGION 7 PRIORITIES**

- **Mapping**
  - Every state in Region 7 has some focus on flood mapping. Better maps will continue to be needed.
  - Open house workshops combined with map meetings have been a proven success in several Region 7 states and should be continued and improved.
- **CRS Increase**
  - Region 7 is working with communities to move forward in CRS.
    - There were 64 CRS communities in Region 7 at the last report. There are now 67 CRS total communities in Region 7. Some of the original communities have increased in class level.
- **Training Needs**
  - Training of insurance agents has been an issue of special concern because policies have been rated incorrectly, making the flood insurance more

- expensive. What sort of training will be given to agents about Risk Rating 2.0?
- All states reported training events and CFM exams being given.

- **Silver Jackets**

- Silver Jackets projects have been growing in importance. Every state is working with Silver Jackets on a variety of different types of projects.  
Missouri had six Silver Jackets projects funded in 2018 and five approved for 2019.  
Kansas had five Silver Jackets projects approved in 2018 and has requested five projects for the coming year.  
Nebraska did three projects in 2018.  
Iowa did two projects in 2018.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Based on input from the NFIP coordinators within the region and various other floodplain management professionals, the following goals and recommendations are made for the next year:

- NFIP reform is a concern we all share. Need NFIP reauthorization that includes reforms that will ensure sound floodplain management policies.
- Need funding for flood maps in accordance with the ASFPM publication "Flood Mapping for the Nation." There are large areas in Region 7 that are still without flood maps of any kind.
- Better training for insurance agents. Would like to say that FEMA Region VII has increased the level of training being offered to agents. More is needed.
- The new draft agriculture structures guidance document did little to address issues of insurance with agriculture buildings. There is a need for low-cost agriculture buildings to be exempted from mandatory purchase requirements. It creates bad will toward floodplain management when a farmer pays more in premiums than a building may be worth.
- State floodplain managers in Region 7 are concerned with upcoming implementation and guidance for Endangered Species Act requirements. Two state coordinators were extremely disappointed with the email that FEMA sent to communities attempting to explain the reasons for implementing ESA compliance requirements because the message was so confusing that many people didn't understand it.
- More publications with guidance for local administrators on what to do to prepare for a flood and what to do after a flood would be helpful.