

# ASFPM District 5 Annual Report



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Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)

## 2016-2017

### Introduction

The ASFPM chapters in district 5 are:

- [\*Arizona Floodplain Management Association\*](#)
- [\*Floodplain Management Association\*](#) – multistate chapter for California, Nevada and Hawaii
- [\*Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association\*](#) – multistate chapter for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. Though not part of ASFPM, British Columbia, Canada is also affiliated with NORFMA.

### Arizona

#### Arizona Floodplain Management Association

Chair: Dan Cherry, [dan.cherry@yavapai.us](mailto:dan.cherry@yavapai.us)

AFMA continues to provide local representation on a statewide basis on floodplain management issues. As a state chapter of ASFPM, AFMA is a conduit to national level training, publications and policy issues impacting the profession. AFMA provides an educational forum for technical and regulatory training and discussion on management of Arizona's floodplains and cooperates with other agencies with similar interests including FEMA, ASFPM, ISO, Arizona Department of Water Resources and Arizona Division of Emergency Management.



AFMA currently has 625 active members. There are 336 CFMs in Arizona.

The **2016 Spring AFMA Conference** was held in Flagstaff, AZ May 4-6. Some of the classes presented as part of the conference included a presentation by Bruce Bender about recent and upcoming changes to the National Flood Insurance Program; a talk by Arizona Department of Water Resources staff member Suzie Bohnet about how to properly permit manufactured housing in high risk flood zones in Arizona; and an in-depth workshop on the introduction and application on basic scour analysis techniques as they relate to design and floodplain management. The scour workshop was presented by a team of engineers from HDR, Inc.

**AFMA's Fall 2016 Conference** was held in Wickenburg, AZ Nov. 8-10. A day-long workshop was provided at the conference on the subject of geomorphology for floodplain managers, which introduced floodplain managers, engineers and planners to the basic elements of fluvial geomorphology, and to demonstrate how geomorphology can be practically applied to enhance project design and multi-objective management of floodplain corridors. Topics covered included basic concepts of geomorphology, alluvial fan flooding, post-fire flooding and debris flows,

and riverine erosion. It was a well attended course and provided to AFMA members free of charge with registration.

Another short-course offered at the same conference was Flood Warning 201, which was taught by members of AFMA's own Flood Warning Committee. This workshop was designed to build on the ALERT 101 class that has been offered previously by covering advanced topics important to designing, maintaining and operating an effective ALERT (Automated Local Evaluation in Real Time) system, and to inspire the more experienced ALERT program managers to get more out of their systems for increasingly effective floodplain management, emergency response and public awareness. This class featured four sessions: 1. Building an effective end-to-end flood warning program; 2. Communicating Severity and Risk/Public Outreach/ALERT2; 3. Coordinating with the NWS and 4. Advanced Technology Examples.

**Office Hours with FEMA** continues to be a popular feature of AFMA's conferences and we had several FEMA representatives in attendance at our fall 2016 conference in Wickenburg. FEMA partners attend the office hours meetings, which provide much appreciated contact for our communities. Meetings are held between FEMA Region IX (Engineering and CAV divisions) and our local communities.

The **Technical Committee** meets monthly to support AFMA with technical input and needs and takes on a significant role in organizing technical-track presentations and training opportunities at the semi-annual conferences. It also often includes planning and executing technical field trips, and facilitating technical classes and short courses offered outside of the conferences. A guiding principal for the committee is to provide low-cost educational opportunities to the AFMA membership in the form of these presentations, field trips and classes.

The **Programs and Policies Committee** worked with the rest of the AFMA Board of Directors to develop sessions at the conferences targeted at floodplain management policy issues for the 2016 conferences. Additionally, a "Traveling Road Show" was held in March of 2016 in Florence, AZ for communities in Pinal County and the surrounding areas. The purposes of the road shows are to disseminate information to the communities related to the duties and responsibilities of the floodplain administrator, meet and talk with the ADWR floodplain program representatives, introduce AFMA available resources, and discuss relevant community issues. In 2016, six communities attended the road show.

The **Education and Public Involvement Committee** awarded scholarships to five students in Arizona (\$2,000 for three and \$1,000 for two, for a total of \$8,000) pursuing a degree in the field of water resources or related field. The funds to support the scholarships were collected from cash contributions, raffle/silent auction event conducted during the spring 2016 conference in Flagstaff, as well as from membership dues. The student's applications were screened for eligibility and recommendations

forwarded to the AFMA Board of Directors for final consideration. The committee continues to proctor the national CFM exam in conjunction with AFMA sponsored conferences and hosted it twice in the spring and fall of 2016.

AFMA continues to support the **Arizona Department of Water Resources** in helping to oversee the NFIP in Arizona, and works closely with ADWR staff with respect to education, training classes and funding opportunities. In training classes, AFMA membership and ADWR have been a part of offering several day-long classes on proper completion of the Elevation Certificate, as well as a short course that was held in September 2016 on the overlap between the flood provisions in local building codes and floodplain management regulations.

The most significant event looming on the horizon for AFMA is that it will be the host chapter for the **2018 ASFPM national conference** to be held in Phoenix June 17-22, 2018. AFMA already has a strong committee for the conference pulled together, chaired by Rebecca Timmer, that has been working with ASFPM staff, and a contingent of 2018 conference committee members are traveling to Kansas City, MO for the 2017 conference to meet with the KC conference planning committee and learn the ropes, so to speak. It will be a warm time of year to be in Phoenix in 2018, but we look forward to welcoming you all, so please save the date.

### Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association



As a multi-state chapter, NORFMA has some unique challenges in reaching its members across four states. Trainings and events are often held in western Washington, where a majority of our membership resides. Since 2009 the annual conference has been alternately held near the four corners of Washington state to encourage attendance from bordering states. Mini-conferences have also been held in Idaho.

NORFMA held its 2016 conference in eastern Washington, to make it more feasible for members in Idaho, Oregon and eastern Washington to attend. The 2017 conference will take place along the Pacific Coast of Oregon, to focus on coastal management issues.

The association also issues scholarships to the annual conference enabling floodplain officials to attend from remote locations. NORFMA has developed a New Members Forum to help connect floodplain managers new to this career with regional mentors, and plans to hold regular networking events.

### Awards:

This year, NORFMA recognized Bryan Pohl of Tillamook County, OR, as its "Floodplain Manager of the Year" and Andrew Kinney of Thurston County, WA was recognized with a "Distinguished Career Service Award" for his work as the county's emergency

management coordinator. Whatcom County, WA River & Flood Division received this year's "Community Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management."

## Floodplain Management Association



**Chair: Mark Seits,** [mark.seits@hdrinc.com](mailto:mark.seits@hdrinc.com)

**Executive Director: Mary Seits,** [mary.seits@floodplain.org](mailto:mary.seits@floodplain.org)

In 2016, FMA outreach, education and engagement efforts continued to expand while the association embarked on new opportunities to pursue its mission. The annual conference in Sacramento, CA brought together 700 participants and 33 exhibitors. The workshops, luncheons and tour of the Sacramento Train Museum provided excellent networking and educational opportunities. The association participated again in state-level flood risk planning and outreach efforts. These efforts include our luncheon series and training courses provided throughout the year.

## Priorities and Activities

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mary Seits was hired as the new ED May 8, 2015. She remains ED.

### CONSULTANT

Our contract with Smith Moore and Associates continues to provide conference planning and coordination services along with membership and training registrations.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2016 annual conference focused on resiliency. It was rich in technical and policy discussions, drawing attendees from throughout the United States and other countries. The Sacramento based conference hosted 700 attendees featuring eight concurrent tracks with over 80 presentations, professional workshops and policy panels. The conference included a premier Exhibit Hall providing invaluable networking opportunities with several events located within the exhibit hall. The conference was titled "Building Community Resilience through Action."

Conference topics included:

- Managing California Waters Through Federal, State and Local Cooperation
- Flood Issues of the Drought
- Agricultural Structures in Floodplains – Developing Collaborative Solutions
- Conservation of Flood Waters
- Forward Focus to Risk-Informed Decision Making
- New requirements in FEMA's Community Rating System program

- Federal Flood Control Issues
- California Building Code and the NFIP
- The FEMA CRS Program and local floodplain management ordinances
- CFM Review Course and Test
- And many other topics

The 2016 Conference also featured the California Extreme Precipitation Symposium, with the theme Future Directions of Weather Forecasting and Reservoir Operations Speakers. This event was chaired by Gary Estes and had 180 in attendance.

## **WORKSHOPS**

FMA offered several well-attended professional workshops including HEC-RAS, Streambank Erosion and XPSWMM classes.

## **REGIONAL LUNCHEONS**

Regular luncheons in Sacramento, San Diego and the Bay Area continued to grow. Sacramento luncheon topics included PDM/FEMA Grant Programs, Emergency Watershed Protection Program and Opportunities for Flood Risk Reduction and Habitat Enhancement in the Lower Sacramento Delta Region. In San Diego, topics included the Chollas Creek Watershed Master Plan, Water Programs and Water Quality Equivalency. Bay Area luncheons grew considerably with higher attendance and a wider range of topics which included San Francisco Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System and Lower Silver Creek Watershed Flood Study Using ICM Software.

## **FINANCIAL AUDIT**

FMA has hired an audit accountant to review and reconcile our books as well as to make suggestions for improved record keeping processes. This was a year-long review taking place through 2016.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Encourage the use of effective floodplain management principles and practices through education, outreach and training
2. Represent, recruit and involve members and stakeholders in local, state and federal floodplain management issues and policy
3. Promote leadership in floodplain management
4. Strengthen association partnerships with agencies, academia and other associations
5. Strengthen the fiscal and legal health of the organization
6. Enhance internal expertise and board composition
7. CEPSYM – Symposium was held Tuesday of our 2016 conference. FMA will continue with CEPSYM as one its annual projects.

8. Initiate Southwest Extreme Precipitation Symposium with Gary Estes and Marty Ralph.
9. Open a physical office space.
10. Increase attendance and sponsorship of 2017 annual conference.
11. Expand attendance, variety and number of offerings in our training courses, webinars and workshops.
12. Grow attendance at our regional luncheons and expand into new regions.

## 2016 Floodplain Management Association Awards

- **Floodplain Manager of the Year** – “Reggie N. Hill”, Secretary-Manager, Lower San Joaquin Levee District, Dos Palos, CA
- **Award for Excellence (2 awards)** – “Gary Brunner, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE” and “U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center”, Davis, CA
- **Hogg-Owen Award for Meritorious Achievement in the Floodplain Management Association** – “Fran E. Borcalli, P.E.” (retired), Bend, OR
- **Karl Mohr Distinguished Service Award for National Activities** – “Dr. Gerald E. Galloway, Jr.,” Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, and Affiliate Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- **Communications and Outreach Award** – “Youth Outreach Award, Clark County Regional Flood Control District,” Las Vegas, NV
- **Goddard Award for Outstanding Article in Floodplain Management (2 awards)** – “Andrea P. Clark, Esq.,” Downey Brand LLP, Sacramento, CA and “Chris Huxley”, TUFLOW, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- **Integrated Flood Management Award** – “Los Angeles County Department of Public Works,” Los Angeles, CA