

# **ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

## **Chapter Director Annual Report 2013**

### **District 5 (FEMA Regions IX and X)**

#### **Valerie Swick, E.I.T., PH, CFM, Chapter Director**

District 5 encompasses FEMA Regions 9 and 10 that comprise the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

**Chapters in District 5:** Arizona Floodplain Management Association,  
Floodplain Management Association,  
Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association,

## ***CHAPTER ACTIVITIES***

### **Arizona**

#### **Arizona Floodplain Management Association (AFMA)**

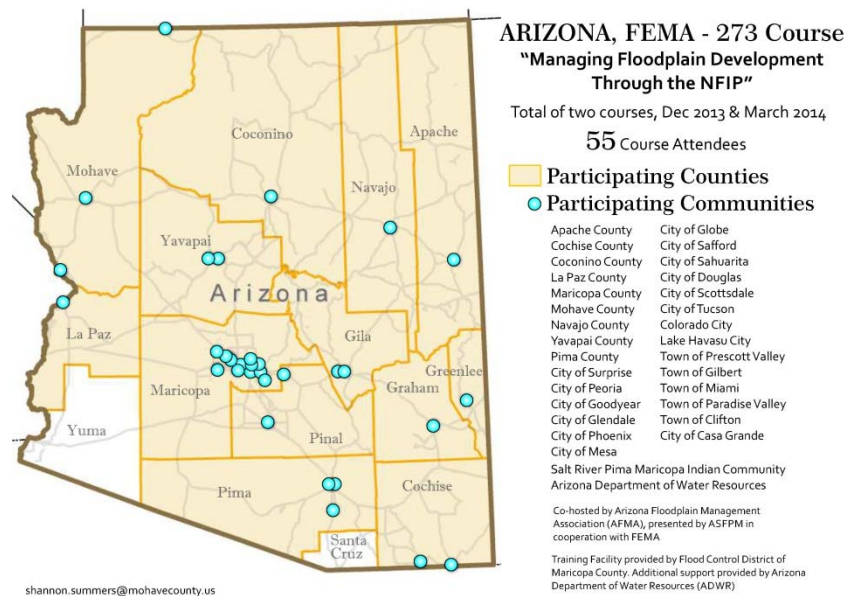
Chair: Shannon Summers, [shannon.summers@mohavecounty.us](mailto:shannon.summers@mohavecounty.us)

Website: [www.azfma.org](http://www.azfma.org)

The Arizona Floodplain Managers Association continues to provide local representation on a state-wide basis on floodplain management issues. As a state chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (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, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and the Arizona Division of Emergency Management.

- AFMA's membership is up to 514 members. There are 331 CFMs in Arizona.
- The Fall 2013 conference was a joint effort with the ASFPM Arid Regions Committee. The Arid Regions 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference took place at the Ft. McDowell Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. Training classes given in conjunction with the conference included the Post Disaster Emergency Management Training, No Adverse Impact Legal Issues, Clean Water Act – 404 Permits, ESA & CLOMR's, SWPPP Compliance and Arizona State Standard 4 – Sheet Flooding. Other highlights of the conference included a lively discussion on “Alluvial Fan Technical – Geomorphic Processes” along with numerous technical and programs and policies presentations.

- AFMA Co-hosted two FEMA-273 “Managing Floodplain Development Through



the NFIP” courses. One in December of 2013 and the other in March of 2014. Turnout was great with 55 attendees representing 31 communities receiving training certificates. There was a considerable amount of interest in this course and those that attended appreciated the opportunity. The trainers, Al Goodman, Peter Jackson and Charlie Cave were excellent and kept the course work interesting as well as informative. AFMA has been selected to co-host CRS E- 278 Field Deployed 4-Day CRS Class this year which AFMA members are enthusiastically looking forward to.



FEMA E- 273 Course Participants March 2014

- **Office Hours with FEMA** continues to be a popular feature of the conferences. AFMA is excited to have several FEMA representatives attending the May 14-16 Spring conference in Tucson, Arizona. FEMA partners attend the meetings which provide much appreciated contact for the Arizona communities. Meetings are held between FEMA Region IX (Engineering and CAV divisions) and the local communities.
- The **Legislative Issues Committee** monitored the Arizona State Legislature and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives bills in an effort to keep AFMA members abreast of relevant issues. The biggest issue continues to be changes to & impacts of BW-12. Also monitored were proposed rules expanding the scope of CWA jurisdiction. On a State level, HB 2443 was passed that amended SR 1598 (the Regulatory Bill of Rights) and SB 1231 which addressed indemnity as it relates to negligence.
- The **Technical Committee** meets monthly to support AFMA with technical input and needs. These needs include soliciting and selecting presentations for the Technical Breakout Session of the Conferences, planning and executing technical field trips, and facilitating technical classes and short courses. A guiding principal for the Technical Committee is to provide low cost educational opportunities to the AFMA membership in the form of these presentations, field trips, and classes. In 2013, the Technical Committee facilitated a three day HEC-HMS Computer Workshop that was held in Tucson, Arizona. The Pima County Regional Flood Control District partnered with the AFMA Technical Committee to make this class a success. The Technical Committee also offered assistance to the 13th Triennial ASFPM Arid Regions Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Technical Committee continues to look for presentations, field trips, and short courses to offer the membership
- The **Programs and Policies Committee** brought back the Traveling Roadshow with a stop in Yuma County. The roadshow brings professionals from the NFIP and AFMA organizations to Arizona communities to ensure that floodplain managers have the knowledge and support they need to do their jobs well. This was the start of the second round in the state, and while some of the information presented was updated to reflect current trends, much of the basic information remained as many positions had been filled by new people. Presenters included Brian Cosson and Maureen Towne from ADWR, Alisa Sauvageot from AFMA, and Craig Sellers from Yuma County. The committee also continues to help organize the Programs and Policies segment of the AFMA conferences.
- The **Arizona CRS Users' Group** was created under the Programs and Policies committee and is chaired by Myesha Harris and Maureen Towne. There have been three meetings with several communities included as well as attendance by the CRS ISO, Kerry Redente. The group has been recognized by the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS) and has had the support of Debbie Cahoon Vascik, the Users Group Liaison to the NFIP/CRS. The group has had a very strong start. The group has worked diligently to bring CRS training opportunities to Arizona and this year, their persistence paid off with the notification that AFMA will be hosting a CRS E-278 this year.

- The **Education and Public Involvement Committee** awarded \$2,000.00 each to six students in Arizona pursuing a degree in the field of water resources or related field. The committee raised \$4,306.00 of the total \$12,000.00 distributed to scholarship students. The funds were collected from cash contributions, and raffle/silent auction event conducted during the spring conference in Sedona. The student's applications were screened for eligibility and recommendations forwarded to the AFMA Board of Directors for final consideration. The committee proctored the national CFM exam a total of four times during the past year, three times in conjunction with AFMA sponsored conferences, and after completion of the AFMA co-hosted ASFPM/FEMA 273 classes. The committee continued to offer a one-day CFM Exam Preparatory Workshop twice during the year. A total of 28 attendees participated in the workshops.
- ASFPM District 5 Chapter Director, Valerie Swick, continues to advocate the public outreach capabilities of the WARD's Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System. The AFMA Board of Directors appreciates her continued support and expertise as our members use the system that AFMA purchased for outreach education. The system is a three-dimensional physical model that illustrates floodplain flooding and mitigation concepts. AFMA purchased one of the models after seeing its capabilities and it is used by AFMA members to educate and inform the public.
- AFMA continues to support the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) State Standards Work Group. AFMA works closely with Ravi Murphy, Brian Cosson, and Maureen Towne of Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) with respect to education, training classes, and funding opportunities.

### **California, Nevada, and Hawaii** **Floodplain Management Association (FMA)**

Chair: Thomas Plummer, [thomas@civilsolutions.com](mailto:thomas@civilsolutions.com)  
 Executive Director: open position  
 Website: [www.floodplain.org](http://www.floodplain.org)

In 2013, FMA outreach, education and engagement efforts continued to expand while the association embarked on new opportunities to pursue its mission. The Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, brought together record attendance, sponsorship and participation from the region; workshops and luncheons provided excellent networking and educational opportunities; the association participated again in state-level flood risk planning and outreach efforts; and the Board of Directors continue work on the strategic plan of the Association

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 2013 Annual Conference was located near Disneyland. It was rich in both technical and policy discussions, drawing attendees from throughout the United States and other countries. The Los Angeles based conference hosted nearly 450 attendees featuring 8 concurrent tracks with over 100 presentations, 12 professional workshops, 9 interactive policy panels and a premier Exhibit Hall providing invaluable networking opportunities.

Conference topics included:

- Flood risk in agricultural areas
- Communicating flood risk: Liability and best legal practices for floodplain managers
- BW 12
- FEMA issues with 2-D modeling and high resolution mapping.
- Coastal flood risk, flood mapping and coastal zone management practices in the West
- The latest on levee safety federal programs and initiatives
- Recommendations for flood risk policy and funding in the Flood Futures Report and the California Water Plan framework
- The International Building code, the FEMA CRS Program and local floodplain management ordinances
- And many others.

The 2013 Conference also featured a second installment of the 2-D Modeling Symposium, which hosted interesting presentations and lively discussions on the use of 2-D modeling in floodplain studies, and issues associated with high resolution floodplain mapping. This popular event was chaired by Kathleen Schaefer of FEMA Region IX and organized by a special symposium committee.. A draft report was produced and forms the basis for future discussions.

## **WORKSHOPS**

FMA offered several well-attended professional workshops including HEC-RAS course, and a FLO-2D course.

## **REGIONAL LUNCHEONS**

Regular luncheons in Sacramento and San Diego continued to grow, and luncheons in the Bay Area were initiated. Sacramento luncheon topics included subject areas relating to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, climate change and hydrologic modeling, agricultural floodplain management, and flood risk communication strategies. In San Diego, topics focused on integrated regional water management, coastal wetlands and lagoon restoration efforts, stormwater management issues and flood preparedness.

## **SUPPORT TO STATE AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS**

FMA continued its involvement in the development of the 2013 update of the California Water Plan. In addition, FMA co-lead the California Flood Caucus, which focuses on a new flood risk management strategy component of the Water Plan and on input to the early drafts of the California Statewide Flood Future Report which provides a comprehensive statewide flood risk assessment and recommendations. FMA also has been involved in outreach efforts to support the State of California on various programs affecting water and flood risk, and continues to be a key player on several important statewide discussions including regulatory streamlining, infrastructure financing and land use practices.

FMA continued to participate in an advisory role on the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program, the Statewide Watershed Program, and other efforts.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

The FMA Board of Directors has begun the process of re-evaluating the list of initiatives, and prioritizing those initiatives. In 2013 the membership voted on new By-Laws in preparation for the incorporation of the association as a 501(c)(4) in the State of California which is planned for 2014. The Board also discussed opportunities for enhancing and aligning internal operations and resources to better serve its members.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After 10-years of valued service, Iovanka Todt has stepped down from her position as Executive Director of the Floodplain Management Association of California, Nevada and Hawaii. Iovanka's final day with the Association was March 31st, 2014. Iovanka's contributions saw the Association grow to more than 500 members with conferences being attended annually by more than 600 leading industry professionals from all over the world.

The Association activities are all continuing as planned with the help of our consultant Smith Moore and Associates, and our volunteers. The Board members are also stepping up to take on additional duties. Registration for the Annual Conference September 2-5, 2014 in Santa Clara California will be posted shortly via our website [www.floodplain.org](http://www.floodplain.org).

The Association will be advertising for the open Executive Director's position in the coming weeks.

## NORFMA

### Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

#### Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA)

Chair: Hans Hunger, [hhunger@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:hhunger@co.pierce.wa.us)

Website: [www.norfma.org](http://www.norfma.org)

The activities as of March 2014 include:

\* **Conferences** – NORFMA conducted the following conferences in 2014.

- Washington (main conference) September 18-20th, 2013 in Skamania, Washington. Conference had 135 attendees. Board elections were held. NORFMA gave out 18 scholarships covering registration: 9 OR, 5 WA, 2 AK, & 2 ID.
- Oregon held a mini conference on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Salem Oregon. 60 Attendees.
- Idaho held a mini conference on November 13-14<sup>th</sup>. 118 Attendees  
(All conferences held CFM exams and refresher courses).

\* **Prep for 2014 ASFPM Conference** – NORFMA has a conference committee established and key positions filled such as Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, Field Trip Coordinator, and Sponsorship Coordinator. Field trips have been set and the Welcomefest for Sunday night has been planned. The 5k run started in Connecticut will continue and planning has been under way. Lastly, NORFMA has been coordinating Scholarships that will be awarded to conference attendees to cover 75% of expenses.

\* **Board Administration** - The Board had monthly conference calls to discuss various topics. Minutes are posted on Association website. The Board members held our annual meeting/dinner on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> in Lynwood, WA coinciding with FEMA staff and State Floodplain Coordinators annual meeting so they could attend also. This is a general discussion of each State's activities, NORFMA activities and goals, and FEMA's concern. It helps us keep relationships fresh.

\* **Committees** - NORFMA has created five standing committees (Membership, Policy, Conference, and Training, CRS).

- Membership committee: Focus continues to be expanding memberships in OR, ID, and AK. Membership is currently around 220.
- The Policy committee – Recently a survey was sent out to gauge the effectiveness of the FEMA Biop (Puget Sound area) on improving floodplain management. The Survey results will be shared, particularly with NOAA who is in the process of issuing a new Biop for Oregon.
- CRS Committee – This committee has met several times and discusses both the administration of the current CRS program but also future changes.
- Sediment Management Issues Group – This group meets periodically to discuss issues surrounding sediment management, both the transport and accumulation of sediment in various Western Washington Rivers and also potential for removal of this sediment. Primarily the desire to remove the sediment is for the purpose of flood risk reduction.
- Training – Henry Hu is the Training Committee Chair. Committee will be looking at some webinar training that might be promoted in Alaska where long distances make travel an issue.

\* **Website** - The website ([www.norfma.org](http://www.norfma.org)) continues to be updated. NORFMA is in the process of transitioning to website that supports associations called Club Express. It lists committees and contacts to volunteer, posts newsletters, comment letters generated by NORFMA, job announcements, and presentations from previous annual conferences. Dave Miles, from our Board, is the contact person for posting information.

\* **Training** – 3 Day HEC-RAS training was offered in November. Two additional trainings are being prepared for ID and OR.