

THE INSIDER



An exclusive publication for ASFPM members

—March 2016

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In honor of World Water Day, White House hosts first Water Summit



On March 22, 2016, in conjunction with the United Nations World Water Day, the Administration hosted a White House Water Summit to raise awareness of water issues and potential solutions in the United States, and to catalyze ideas and actions to help build a sustainable and secure water future through innovative science and technology.

Water challenges are facing communities and regions across the U.S., impacting millions of lives and costing billions of dollars in damage, according to a [fact sheet issued from the White House](#). Recent events, including record-breaking drought in the West, severe flooding in the Southeast, and the water-quality crisis in Flint, Michigan, have elevated a national dialogue on the state of our nation’s water resources and infrastructure. This dialogue is increasingly important as a growing population and changing climate continue to exacerbate water challenges.

The one-hour event was livestreamed, and you can watch a recording of all the speakers and discussions [here](#).

Following the summit, the White House announced nearly \$4 billion in private capital will be invested in water-infrastructure projects nationwide. More than \$1 billion from the private sector will be allocated to innovative research and technology and nearly \$35 million in federal grants this year will support cutting-edge water science.

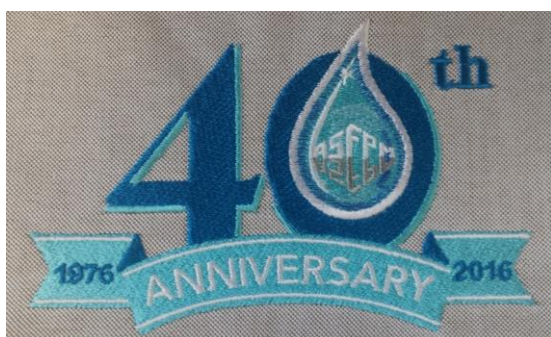
Read the full, 37-page [Commitments to Action on Building a Sustainable Water Future](#) from the White House.

40 Years of ASFPM History Captured in One Interactive Timeline!



[Click here for the timeline.](#)

Like our 40th anniversary logo? Like it enough to have it embroidered on a shirt, hat, jacket or vest? Well, when the ASFPM Board of Directors came to Madison in February for their annual retreat, they suggested making our 40th anniversary logo available for logo wear and other items. The embroidered logo is now available at ASFPM's Lands' End storefront: <http://business.landsend.com/store/asfpm/>



ASFPM does not make any money on the items you buy at the store. It's just something nice we want to be able to offer our members.

Special note for the ladies. This logo is 4.5 inches long, and some of the shirts available have "princess seams," which might interfere if you want the logo on the left or right side of your chest.

Note to all: If you'd like to add your name underneath the logo, there is a \$6 fee. The way to get your name or title added is that after you proceed to checkout, there is a blue box to the right. Click the link that says, "ENTER SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING YOUR ORDER"

Lands' End will need the following information:

1. Name or title you want stitched?
2. Script or block lettering?
3. Where you want it placed (more than likely below the logo)?
4. What color you want the name/title to be?

We would love to see a photo of you with the 40th anniversary logo on your clothing, so please send it to michele@floods.org!



INTERESTING FACTS

Five years ago on March 11, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake that hit off the coast of Japan, triggering a tsunami with 30-foot waves that killed 15,893 people. But it's interesting that [centuries-old stones placed all over the islands warned people about tsunami dangers.](#)

On March 21, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act. ASFPM has been keeping you informed about national flood policies for 40 years!

The Great Flood of 1913 (March 23-26) affected AL, AR, CT, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MA, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, TN, VT AND VA. 650 people were killed. It's floods like this that make us remember why ASFPM does what it does.



Main Street in Dayton, Ohio with several feet of water during the flood.

Kind of a new face walking the ASFPM EO hallways



Melissa Haig is ASFPM's newest full-time staff member, but she's actually been with us, serving as a part time librarian, since last summer. Melissa's duties are going to be split between developing and maintaining our library/library services and research activities in Science Services. Our Science Services department is overflowing with work right now, and has a great need to get much of the research work completed.

A few things about Melissa's background – she recently (2014) completed her Masters of Library Science at the University of Wisconsin. However, her background is pure science with a dual BS in Bacteriology and Medical Microbiology and Immunology, and she did work for a time at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison. Melissa lives in Madison with her two daughters and in her spare time likes to quilt and do long-distance bike rides.

Member news

Dewberry Announces the Promotion of Sam Crampton

Dewberry announced March 17 that it promoted Sam Crampton to associate vice president in the firm's Atlanta, Georgia office.

Crampton, P.E., CFM, and ASFPM member, manages Dewberry's water resources modeling department, which supports federal, state, local, and private clients throughout the U.S. He is a leader in technical innovations, specializing in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, real-time simulation, floodplain management, and dam and levee safety. He has extensive experience supporting the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency's Cooperating Technical Partnership map modernization, Risk MAP and National Dam Safety programs.

Crampton earned his Masters of Engineering degree in civil engineering from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. He is a registered professional engineer in Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Colorado, Louisiana, Ohio and Florida and is a certified floodplain manager. He also is a member of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers, Georgia Association of Floodplain Management and the Floodplain Management Association.



ASFPM Elections

Ballots were sent via email to all eligible members in good standing as of Feb. 1. Please watch your inbox and don't forget to cast your vote! This is one opportunity in which your voice can help shape the association. Be sure to make the most of your chance to help select our leaders.

Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate Issues First Annual Report

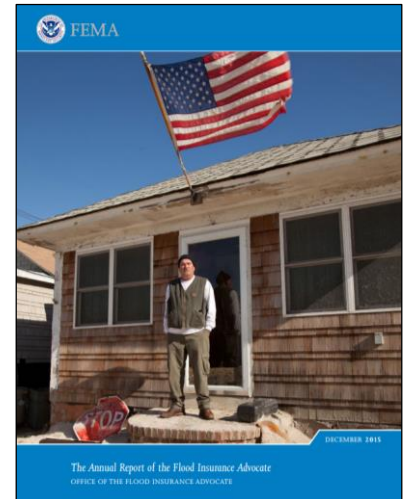
Dave Stearrett, the flood insurance advocate, released his department's [first annual report](#).

In his "message" in the report, Stearrett said, "During our first calendar year (CY) of operations, the OFIA received a few hundred of email inquiries at insurance-advocate@fema.dhs.gov, spanning the four focus areas of the office — flood insurance (74%), flood hazard mapping (16%), floodplain management (7%) and HMA grants (3%). In general, the inquiries received were from our customers (policyholders and property owners). We also received referrals from Congressional representatives, as well as FEMA and Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration leadership.

"Throughout the year, we took steps to foster long-term programmatic improvements through collaboration across FIMA in meetings, work groups and task forces; worked closely with the NFIP program offices to identify opportunities to improve outreach to and communication with our customers; provided feedback and input on proposed improvements to communications; and engaged stakeholders and staff in data gathering discussions. In particular, we began broader conversations within FIMA on the need for messaging and policy consistency and we are working to ensure our customers' needs and concerns are taken into account as the NFIP evolves," he said.

"In this report, we highlight five challenges and provide recommendations for each. As we move forward, the OFIA will continue to work collaboratively with FIMA's program offices to identify issues and work together to develop tools, resources and solutions that will support the fair treatment of all policyholders and property owners," Stearrett said.

Read the full [Annual Report of the Flood Insurance Advocate](#) here.



USGS publishes "Identifying and preserving high-water mark data: techniques and methods 3-A24"



The report serves as a field guide for identifying high-water marks and presents guidance and proper techniques for preserving, evaluating and recording the data collected for use in surface-water modelling, flood documentation, indirect streamflow measurements and other important work.

The report is organized into four sections. The first is a field guide with photos and illustrations intended to familiarize the new hydrographer with a wide variety of high-water mark evidence left by flood and high-flow events. The second section presents standard methods for preserving high-water mark data with respect to various uses of that data, including new guidance on uncertainty evaluation. The third section is a collection of best practices collected from experienced field personnel that will benefit new and advanced personnel. Finally, an appendix on *Paleoflood High-Water Marks* presents a substantial introduction to the practice of hunting very old marks. Seven narratives are provided throughout the report to help illustrate the content.

The report is available for download at: <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/tm3A24>, and printed copies will be distributed to Water Science Centers.

USDA Announces \$260 Million Available for Regional Conservation Partnership Program

These projects also can preserve flood storage and enhance natural floodplain functions

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced March 10 the availability of up to \$260 million for partner proposals to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability. The funding is being made available through USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#) and applicants must be able to match the federal award with private or local funds.



Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP investments of nearly \$600 million have already driven 199 partner-led projects. The program leverages local leadership to establish partnerships that can include private companies, local and tribal governments, universities, non-profits and other nongovernment partners to work with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on landscape- and watershed-scale conservation solutions that work best for their region. This will be the third round of funding through RCPP, helping USDA build on record enrollment in all voluntary conservation programs, with more than 500,000 producers participating to protect land and water on more than 400 million acres nationwide.

"Across the country, locally-driven efforts are having a positive effect on conservation and production," said Vilsack. "RCPP serves as a valuable vehicle for matching federal investment and private capital to advance natural resource conservation and support agricultural production. Partners in the 84 new high-impact projects we announced in February are matching USDA funding more than two-to-one for a combined investment of over \$720 million.

"We recognize the growing interest in leveraging private capital markets to foster impact investments in conservation, sustainable agriculture and forestry," said Vilsack. "For this new round, we hope to see even more applications that support the development of environmental markets and conservation finance projects."

USDA is now accepting proposals for Fiscal Year 2017 RCPP funding. Pre-proposals are due May 10. For more information on applying, visit the [RCPP website](#).

Nominations Now Open for Mary Fran Myers Gender and Disaster Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the [2016 Mary Fran Myers Gender and Disaster Award](#). The award recognizes disaster professionals who continue the late Myers' goal of promoting research on gender issues in disasters and emergency management.

Individuals and organizations eligible for the award will have added to the body of knowledge on gender and disasters or furthered opportunities for women to succeed in the field. The selection committee is especially interested in nominations from outside the United States. Previously nominated individuals who have not won the Mary Fran Myers Award are still eligible.

The award winner will be invited to participate in the [Natural Hazards Workshop](#) in Broomfield, Colorado, on July 10-13 and will be acknowledged in the Workshop program. Workshop fees will be covered. Travel to and accommodations at the Workshop are the winner's responsibility.

Nominations should be submitted by May 2 to gdn@gdnonline.com. Questions can be forwarded to [Maureen Fordham](#) or [Cheney Shreve Liu](#).

Please note that this award is different from the similarly named Mary Fran Myer Scholarship. For more information on the scholarship, please visit the [Natural Hazards Center Website](#).



By Rebecca Quinn, CFM

Time for another grab bag of topics. There are a lot of questions and topics that don't take a full column to answer, so this month I'll share a few I've been asked about recently.

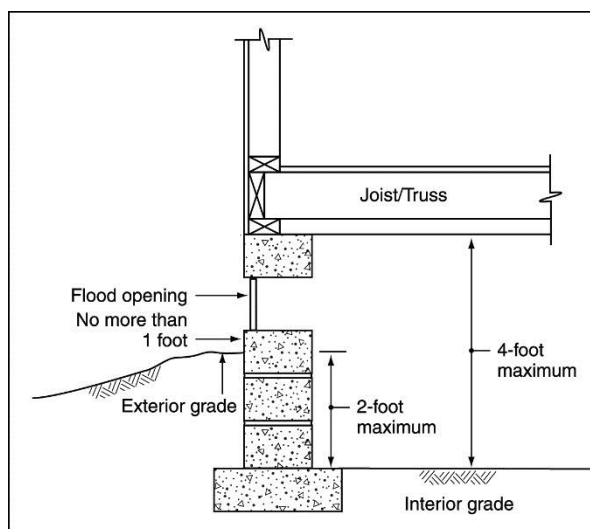
What if Elevating a Building on a New Foundation Doesn't Trigger SI/SD? I have to say this one catches me off guard every time! Really? An owner elects to go to all the trouble and expense to elevate a building on a new foundation but doesn't want to elevate it to at least the BFE? That's the only scenario I can conceive where a community might do a Substantial Improvement determination and, if the result is the work doesn't exceed 50 percent of the market value of the building, the owner wouldn't have to bring it into compliance. Under the basic NFIP rules, that's the answer if SI isn't triggered. But please tell me you'd do everything you can to convince the owner to fully elevate on a fully compliant foundation. Just the flood insurance savings alone should be convincing, to say nothing about avoiding damage caused by shallower, more frequent floods!

Well, it turns out this scenario is covered explicitly in Section 1103.5 of the 2015 *International Existing Building Code*, which states: "Additions and foundations in flood hazard areas shall comply with the following requirements: (5) For a new foundation or replacement foundation, the foundation shall comply with Section 1612 of the IBC, or Section R322 of the IRC, as applicable." Now, to be complete, I should also cite item (4) of the same code section, which does still leave a loophole for "raised or extended foundations" and requires compliance only if the work constitutes Substantial Improvement.

Does Technical Bulletin 11 Allow Any Crawlspace Below Grade? No, look at the limitations described in TB 11 and you discover this option is only available in Special Flood Hazard Areas with relatively shallow depths during base flood conditions. I think this question comes up because it's human nature to dip into guidance documents to find the answers you want to find ... sometimes skipping over important content that doesn't necessarily support your preferred outcome. Do that with FEMA TB 11 and it could get your community in trouble, although the real financial consequences would be borne by property owners.

TB 11 is titled [*Crawlspace Construction for Buildings Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas*](#). Sounds like the go-to source for crawlspaces, right? Wrong. The second sentence states it "provides guidance on crawlspace construction and supports a recent policy decision to allow construction of crawlspaces with interior grades up to 2 feet below the lowest adjacent grade (LAG), referred to as below-grade crawlspaces, provided that other requirements are met." I've added the underlining – those are the parts that too many people seem to skip over.

In addition to the physical limitations illustrated in the graphic, the TB makes it clear that "Communities that choose to allow below-grade crawlspace construction will be required to amend their floodplain management ordinance to include the provisions outlined in the following sections on below-grade crawlspace construction." Again, I added the underlining for



emphasis. Remember, ANY change to ordinances must be reviewed by NFIP state coordinating agencies or FEMA regional offices.

The Floodproofing Certificate: Do You Have the Most Recent? There's been considerable confusion about the most recent edition of the Floodproofing Certificate. I'm not entirely clear on the chronology, but I do know there were changes between the final and an earlier version that, I think, was distributed to the Write-Your-Own insurance companies. The final has an OMB Control Number and expiration date of Nov. 11, 2018 in the upper right corner and is available here: [FEMA Form 086-0-34](#).

As stated on the cover page of the recently-released NFIP Floodproofing Certificate, the principal purpose of the information collected is to "estimate risk premium rates necessary to provide flood insurance." Keep that in mind as you review the key changes I'm describing here. One change is separation of certification of the "floodproofed elevation" from certification of "floodproofed construction."

The latest edition has a new Section II, Floodproofed Elevation Certification. This is where a land surveyor, engineer or architect authorized by law (of the state in which the project is located) to certify elevations which "must be based on finished construction." From time to time I get questions on who can certify elevations. Just because the NFIP certificates list all three professionals does not override limitations imposed by state laws. Many states do not authorize architects and engineers to do land survey work.

Pay close attention to the new Section III, Floodproofed Certification and the exact changes made, which I show here:

I certify the structure ~~that~~, based upon development and/or review of the ~~structural~~ design, specifications, as-built drawings ~~and plans~~ for construction ~~and physical inspection, has been designed and constructed~~ ~~the design and methods of construction are~~ in accordance with accepted standards of practice (ASCE 24-05, ASCE 24-14 or their equivalent) and any alterations also meet those standards and ~~for meeting the following provisions:~~

As you can see, one big change is the certification clearly is not just about the design, but about whether a building was constructed as designed based on as-built drawings and physical inspection. Keep that in mind because the NFIP regulations at 44 CFR 60.3(c)(4) require certification of the design, not the "as-built" construction. That makes sense when the certificate is part of the permit application. But, given it's fairly common for dry floodproofing measures to fail (or not be properly installed if human intervention is necessary), it also makes sense for communities to use the FEMA certification based on as-built drawings and inspection as part of close out before issuing a certificate of occupancy.

So I'm left with this question: If the revised Floodproofing Certificate is used to certify actual, as-built elevations and construction, what do communities use to satisfy the NFIP requirements for certification of the design? I suggest the certification statement from the previous edition is a good starting point, with a few tweaks to the verb tense so it's clearly certifying the design. Here's what I would consider using, if I was still in the regulatory business:

Non-Residential Floodproofing Design Certification:

I certify that, based upon development and/or review of structural design, specifications and plans for construction, the design and proposed methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice (ASCE 24-05, ASCE 24-14, or their equivalent) for meeting the following provisions:

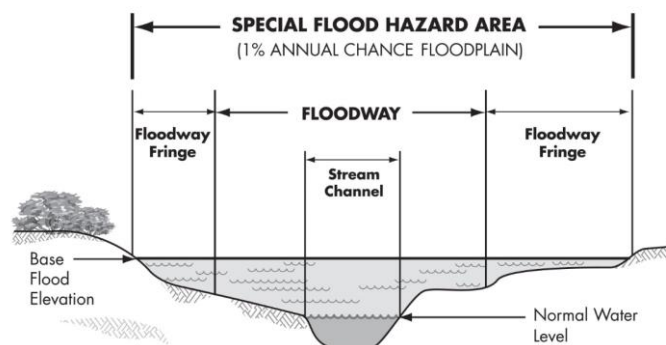
The structure, together with attendant utilities and sanitary facilities, is designed to be watertight to the floodproofed design elevation of [INSERT ELEVATION RELATIVE TO DATUM ON THE FIRM], with walls that are substantially impermeable to the passage of water.

All structural components are capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic flood forces, including the effects of buoyancy, and anticipated debris impact forces.

I certify that the information on this certificate represents my best efforts to interpret the data available.

Floodway Encroachment – Can Floodway Boundaries be Shifted, Perhaps to Avoid BFE Increases? Yes, floodway boundaries can be shifted, but obviously that’s the short answer based on theory. Whether this is an option at specific locations depends on the results of floodway encroachment analyses and whether a proposal satisfies FEMA’s requirements for changes to FIRMs.

First, some basics on the floodway concept. The floodway is the channel of a watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be reserved to convey the base flood discharge (see graphic). This is an oversimplification of the process, but the first step in delineating a floodway is preparation of a hydraulic model of the area inundated by the base flood (i.e., the SFHA). Then the computer model is incrementally modified to artificially encroach, or fill, into the SFHA until there is a predicted increase in water surface elevation of up to one foot somewhere along a reach of the watercourse (some states use a lower threshold than 1 foot, which results in wider floodways). When that 1-foot limit is triggered, FEMA draws the floodway boundary to reflect the modeled artificial encroachment. The benefit of doing this is we already have analyses showing “worst case” scenario assuming the floodway fringe is completely encroached. This means engineering analyses don’t have to be prepared for individual development proposals that stay within the fringe.



Flood Insurance Studies include Floodway Data Tables for watercourses with floodways (see graphic below). Note well that if the SFHA outside the floodway is completely encroached with development, the BFEs will increase (see the “with floodway” column) up to 1 foot higher than the BFE shown on the FIRM (see the “regulatory” BFE column). This is one of the driving forces behind ASFPM’s development of the [No Adverse Impact](#) approach to floodplain management.

Floodway			Base Flood Water Surface Elevation			
WIDTH (FT.)	SECTION AREA (SQ. FT.)	MEAN VELOCITY (FT. PER SECOND)	REGULATORY	WITHOUT FLOODWAY	WITH FLOODWAY	INCREASE
450	4,013	4.2	459.0	459.0	460.0	1.0
507	2,536	6.7	459.4	459.4	460.3	0.9
560	2,453	7.0	460.6	460.6	460.9	0.3
570	2,579	6.6	461.9	461.9	462.3	0.4
645	2,262	7.5	464.4	464.4	465.3	0.9
520	2,434	7.0	466.7	466.7	467.3	0.6

The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) has a Floodway Table for every waterway that was studied by detailed methods for which floodways were delineated.

① This is the only readily available velocity data to use in computations of hydrodynamic loads

② Computed BFE (rounded values are shown on the FIRM)

③ Amount of allowable increase – not more than 1-foot at any location

Next, let’s do a high level look at modifying the floodway. Usually, the computer-modeled encroachment considers equal encroachment on both sides of the watercourse unless the topography on one side rises more steeply than on the other side. Now let’s get back to the initial question – suppose a property owner whose land is constrained by the floodway shown on the current FIRM wants to move the boundaries to make it easier to develop – can that be done?

This is where the answer depends on a site-specific analysis. The hydraulic models FEMA used to produce the FIRM (or new models that replicate the current BFE and floodway boundaries) can be used to examine options to shift the floodway boundaries.

Before anyone gets too excited about it, the NFIP requires changes in boundaries, including floodway boundaries, to be submitted for FIRM revision. Shifting floodway boundaries, even without changing BFEs, potentially means someone else's property would be affected by the floodway designation (and thus subject to the encroachment limitations). As part of the map revision process, FEMA requires a public notice or statement by the community that it has notified all affected property owners. It wouldn't surprise me to learn that property owners who anticipate developing their land might object to having more of their land included in the floodway, and thus constrained by the floodway encroachment requirements.

Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at rcquinn@earthlink.net. Comments welcomed!

Chapter Corner

Is your chapter “outstanding?” Let ASFPM know about it!

ASFPM is now accepting 2016 “Outstanding Chapter Award” nominations. There is a separate nomination form for this award and nominations will be accepted until April 1, 2016. [Click here](#) to submit an ASFPM chapter nomination for consideration. Preview the form at: [www.floods.org/ace-files/chapters/2016 Chapter Award NOMINATION PREVIEW.pdf](http://www.floods.org/ace-files/chapters/2016_Chapter_Award_NOMINATION_PREVIEW.pdf)



Flood Loss Avoidance Benefits of Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management

Prepared for Environmental Protection Agency by Atkins (December 2015)

This [modeling study estimates the flood loss avoidance benefits](#) from application of small storm retention practices for new development and redevelopment nationwide. Twenty HUC8 watersheds were modeled in areas where significant growth is expected between 2020 and 2040, using the FEMA Hazus model and national-scale datasets. The area of the watersheds ranges between 500 and 3,000 square miles.



The study was conducted in consultation with other federal agencies including the US Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The approach was vetted by a panel of experts from government, academia and industry. The results show that, over time, the use of green stormwater infrastructure can save hundreds of millions of dollars in flood losses, while just applying the practices to new development and redevelopment only. If retrofitting were to occur, the avoided losses would be even more significant.

Nitty Gritty Details of Elevating Historic Buildings

Written by Rod Scott, CFM, of L&R Resources, LLC in Mandeville, Louisiana

This is the last in a series of columns on mitigating historic buildings.

One flood hazard mitigation project for a historic building that reduces flood risk, keeps flood policy rates reasonable and preserves vital tax revenues is to elevate buildings, but the design of these elevation projects needs to involve structural engineering as well as architectural design. The design has an impact on the ability of the owners to retain historic designation, which is the gateway to federal and state financial incentives for the rehabilitation and mitigation of the building now and into the future. The people and organizations involved with historic preservation are grappling with the changes that occur to a building when elevated. Many of them are just now discovering the financial implications of the increases in flood insurance rates for pre-FIRM buildings. The fact is that this is the beginning of a historic era for our older historic architecture in America located in the floodplain. More and more historic preservation advocates are realizing that climate changes/sea level rise and flood insurance policy increases will make it virtually impossible to keep these buildings if they are not mitigated to reduce flood risks.

FEMA has many publications to help with elevation, retrofitting projects: [P-312](#) and [P-259](#) as well as [P-551](#) (selecting the correct mitigation measure)

In my [last column \(pg. 10-12\)](#), I wrote quite a bit on how to finance these projects, this time, I'll focus largely on the [actual process and considerations when elevating a historic home](#).

With a project design in hand, you can get a construction budget and financing secured. The American Society of Civil Engineers provides structural design guidance for construction in the flood zone through ASCE24-14. The International Building Code and International Residential Codes refer to ASCE for compliance. The architects and civil engineer designers must follow those guidelines for construction plans. The design is very important so that the historic preservation review boards, locally as well as the state and federal government preservation offices, can approve the work. Another very important detail of the elevation project that can be overlooked and/or under applied is the required flood venting of any enclosure below the minimum required elevation. This situation can lead to the elevation project not receiving the flood mitigated policy rates desired from the project. Flood vents come in two main options, non-engineered and engineered and further there is the International Code

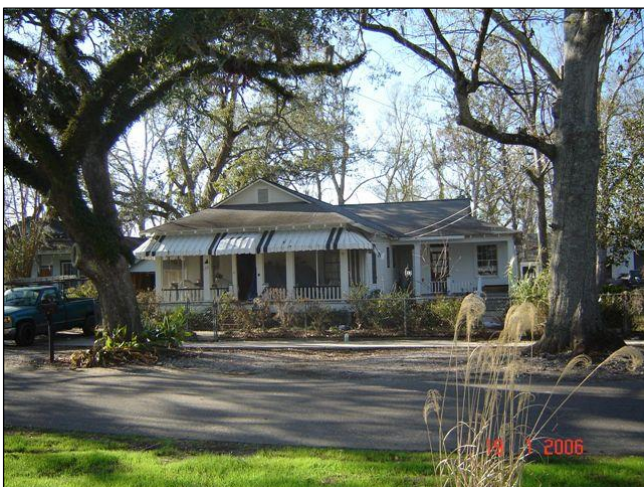


Photo on left before elevation. Photo on right after elevation. Photos courtesy of Rod Scott.

Council Evaluation Service certified products. It is the responsibility of project designers, contractors and code officials to make sure there is enough “net free area” of venting to equal the square feet of the enclosure. [FEMA Technical Bulletin 1](#) explains the flood vent requirements and the new “[non-engineered vent guide](#),” reveals the true “net free” area of most all of the known non-engineered flood vents in the marketplace. Make sure the surveyors in your area have a copy of this important guide book.

NFIP regulates the height of the elevated building first finished floor. Depending on the Zone VE or AE, there is a difference in where that first floor or the lowest structural member height is measured from in order to get the NFIP height of the building from the ground around it. On top of the minimum FEMA flood map elevation minimum height requirements, a governing body can add additional height for the elevation in their flood ordinance. This added height is known as freeboard. Freeboard adds additional flood risk reduction beyond the minimum FEMA flood map elevation requirements. It also further reduces flood insurance policy rates beyond the level at the minimum flood map elevation, and it contributes points toward a community CRS rating. In order for the project design professionals to get the exact minimum elevation required, an “elevation certificate” for the existing building will need to be produced and any locally-required freeboard added to determine final structure height. With a changing climate and rising sea levels, it really makes sense to elevate 1-3 feet above the minimum flood map elevation required. So the height of the elevation and the design of the details of the elevation (like wood or masonry piles, stairs, porches/railings, people lifts/elevators) all come into play now and need to interface with historic preservation.

Historic buildings are designated such because they meet certain criteria like age (minimum 50 years), integrity, location, workmanship, architecture, contributions to history or historic people/events/periods of history. Historic buildings are an irreplaceable, important part of the architecture of our communities, but due to their being built before flood maps, most need some sort of flood hazard mitigation.

With the preliminary project plans completed, estimates for the construction phase of the project can be secured. In some states the elevation contractor is also the general contractor, and in other areas the elevation contractor just performs the lift and let down. Wood frame buildings are the easiest to lift and come in three primary variants. The oldest are the timber frames, next the balloon frames and finally the stud wall/plate floor construction. The first two require the lifting steel to be inserted along the sides of the building and the plate frame can have fewer beams inserted length wise. Masonry buildings require special lifting steel designs and are the more expensive of the lift riggings. Every code enforcement jurisdiction varies as to what it requires for the elevation project. Those with little experience often require a demolition permit and complete disconnection from utilities. Those jurisdictions with lots of experience often allow the occupants to get temporary utility connections and continue to live in the building during the construction or at least after the building is reset on the new foundation and re-connected to utilities.

Lifting company insurance coverage and experience is very important. Once a building is separated from the foundation, the property owner’s insurance no longer covers the building. It is imperative that the lifting company provide “custody and control” insurance, otherwise known as riggers insurance, for an amount that meets or exceeds the replacement value of the building. Other required insurance is liability and workers compensation and it is always good for the customer to ask to have a copy of the lifters insurance declaration page from their insurer. A good place to start locating nearby lifting companies is to go to the [International Association of Structural Movers](#). They have a state by state locator service. Other than the lift, the balance of the construction is within the scope of capabilities of most general contractors.

Once the project is permitted, the water, gas and sewer utilities need to be disconnected from the building. In many areas the electric supply can remain by attaching an umbilical so the home can safely be elevated and appliances like freezers and refrigerators can remain operating at the building. Exterior stairs are demolished/removed. The elevation company mobilizes at the site and installs the lifting beams and sets the cribbing tower

bases into dug out starter courses. It is vital that the elevation cribbing support be placed in a manner that allows demolition of the old foundation and excavation/building of the new foundation if that is a project requirement. On structural slab elevation projects, the elevation company excavates each of the existing piling locations and drives segmented block piles to a point of refusal, and then the shoring cribbing is placed at pre-determined intervals for lifting/shoring the building while the foundation work is done. On masonry buildings, each lift design is unique.

Once the building is elevated above the final foundation height, the foundation demolition/construction can proceed. This part of the project is the most expensive scope part of the project and so very important. Some buildings are small enough or lots big enough to temporarily relocate the building so that wood pilings can be driven. If pilings are required and the building can't be moved, then the only choice is helical piles, which are more expensive than wood piles. Once the foundation is complete, the building can be lowered onto and attached to the new foundation, utilities reattached, decks, stairs and utility stands built and final foundation details like brick/stone facing or stucco coatings can be applied. At this point, the final elevation certificate is completed and filed and the floodplain permit is closed out. The flood policy is adjusted to the new rate and any financial incentives or financing concluded.

In summary, historic buildings provide us a unique sense of place in our communities and are often the core of our central business districts and original housing that surrounds those areas. Historic buildings are part of the visitor experience and are utilized in heritage tourism attraction, thereby generating small business development spaces, employment opportunities and vital property and sales tax revenues for our schools and local government operation. They are worth preserving and protecting from floods.



Photo on left before elevation. Photo on right after elevation. Photos courtesy of Rod Scott.

Job Corner

The Walker Basin Conservancy in Nevada needs an executive director. Halveston Bay Foundation in Texas is hiring a water programs manager. And The Baldwin Group in Maryland is looking for a coastal hazards/coastal resilience specialists. These are just a handful of the great job listings on ASFPM's job board. Visit our [job postings here](#), and if you're an employer and you want to [post an opening](#), it's **FREE!**

Deputy Director Report – Ingrid D. Wadsworth

For us up here in the north, winter is a wonderful reprieve from lawn care, bugs and weeding. And while snow has its major downsides, the plus side is that it's white and blankets everything so beautifully and disappears completely with those first few warm sunshiny days. At my Wadsworth domicile, we got our first batch of eggs from our flock of guinea fowl, which we hope will result in 20 cheeping balls of fluff in the next few weeks. And the fresh palette of empty garden boxes begs dreams of complicated vegetable gardens, canning and jams. Yes, it is the season of renewal.



Spring means renewal for ASFPM too. We welcomed more than 45 ASFPM leaders to Madison this past month. We started building plans for our new fiscal year (yes, fiscal year 2017!), which begins July 1, 2016. Additionally, we are in busy prep mode for the 40th ASFPM national conference, and we hope to blow you away with Midwestern charm and hospitality (as well as craft beer culture) in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The 2016 Board of Directors election ballots were sent to eligible voters March 18. If you have not voted in the BOD elections, please do so. Any newly elected directors will be announced at the conference's Thursday luncheon. The big items for our BODs will be the new "Goals & Objectives," as well as the annual budget. Look for annual reports to be posted around conference time and be sure to meet your directors at conference.

The Certification Board of Regents also met in Madison. We welcome two new regents: Louie Greenwell of PRIME AE Group, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky, who replaced retiring John Ivey, and Roger Lindsey of Metro Nashville Water Services in Tennessee, who replaced Heidi Carlin who stepped down last fall. We thank John and Heidi for their service and welcome Roger and Louie. The separate exam workgroup is busy with Warren Campbell taking the reins of the Exam Workgroup due to John Ivey's retirement.

Best wishes,



Grant Opps...

Grant opportunities are being offered from the National Science Foundation for "[Interdisciplinary Research in Hazards and Disasters](#)." Just a reminder to bookmark the Florida Climate Institute's website for a comprehensive list of [funding opportunities](#). It's a fabulous resource.

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a full nationwide listing of floodplain management-related training opportunities, visit [ASFPM Online Event Calendar](#). Looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? Check out our event calendar with LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2016! Search the calendar by state using the directions below, or use the category drop down menu to search by event category. 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 that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses, which are listed with their FEMA course number and are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

CFM[®] Corner



Your CFM[®] is the cornerstone of your success

Having and maintaining your CFM is an important part of your career and professional credibility. We are partners with you, so if you have certification questions, please feel free to contact us at cfm@floods.org.

New Things!

- Knock out 12 CECs for full registration and attendance at the annual ASFPM conference, this year in Grand Rapids Michigan June 19-24. No need to send us anything. We will automatically credit you after the conference.
- CFM portal for all! Unless your CFM is with an accredited chapter (authorized to administer the national CFM program), all CFMs—ASFPM member and non-member—can access the portal via their CFM number now. Update your personal info, upload CECs and see when your certification expires in the portal. If you have problems logging on or have questions about your CECs, contact Anita at cfm@floods.org.

Certification Board of Regents

In partnership with the executive office, [CBOR](#) consists of 10 dedicated volunteers and three federal liaisons who manage the policy and procedures of the program. Separately there is a team of 4-8 volunteers who are trained and authorized to work on specific exam questions, analytics and changes to the exam.

We'd like to welcome **Roger Lindsey** of Metro Nashville Water Services in Tennessee, and **Louie Greenwell** of PRIME AE Group, Inc. in Louisville, Kentucky as our newest regents. They were able to participate in our CBOR meeting in Madison this month and work on Goals & Objectives for the new fiscal year that begins in July, new PowerPoint and guidance materials and deliberate on policy-making. Welcome aboard.



Photo (left) shows some of the Certification Board of Regents who attended the annual gathering in Madison. From left: Mike Parker, vice president; Mark Riebau, president; Louie Greenwell, professional development committee; John Ivey, retiring; Warren Campbell, academia; Jennifer Dunn, federal agency representative; Lisa Jones, private sector; Roger Lindsey, at-large ASFPM member.



*Louie
Greenwell*



*Roger
Lindsey*



Great Lakes—Grand Partners
ASFPM's 40th Annual National Conference
June 19-24, 2016

ASFPM staffers **Jenny Seffrood** (events planner), **Diane Brown** (outreach and events manager) and **Jason Schneeberger** (IT manager) recently met in Grand Rapids with the local host team to make sure everything is in order for our biggest event of the year. They reported back that everyone is going to love the hotels, the [DeVos Place Convention Center](#) and the city itself! If you haven't yet [registered for ASFPM's annual national conference](#), you really should think about it before the **early discount ends April 15!**



Left photo from L-R: ASFPM staffers **Diane Brown** (outreach and events manager), **Jason Schneeberger** (IT manager) and **Jenny Seffrood** (events planner) at the DeVos Place Convention Center going over space assignments and overall convention center layout. Right photo: The planning team enjoying themselves at a Grand Rapids treasure, [Founders Brewing](#). From L-R: **Jerry Hancock** (floodplain manager for Ann Arbor), **Mark Walton** (executive director of the Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association and local host team coordinator), **Diane Brown** and **Jenny Seffrood**.

Reminder: Registration for the 4th Annual Running of the Chapters—5K Run/Walk is OPEN. Register for the ["Floods & Suds 5K" here](#).



Don't forget that right now you can [order conference memorabilia from the Virtual Store](#). Two things to remember: one, the order deadline is May 22 (orders will NOT be accepted after that deadline), and two, merchandise will NOT be available for purchase onsite like it has in past years. You will be picking up your items onsite though.

If your firm or organization is interested in high-level exposure at this conference, be sure to check out our [sponsor](#) and [exhibitor](#) opportunities. The ASFPM annual national conference is THE place to engage your stakeholders and clients. Contact Jenny Seffrood at jenny@floods.org for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to Grand Rapids!

Mark Your Calendars for our Upcoming National Conferences.

Kansas City, Missouri, April 30 - May 5, 2017

Phoenix, Arizona, June 17 - 22, 2018

Navigating the Crazy Social Media World, Tip No. 9

By Michele Mihalovich, ASFPM's public information officer

Every month or so I bestow upon you wise social media advice (not really, but I try). However, there is an opportunity at our national conference in Grand Rapids to learn virtually EVERYTHING you need to know in one sitting—and it's FREE.

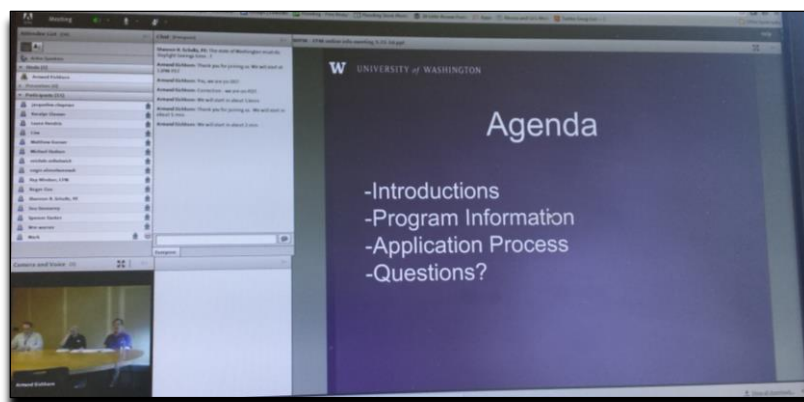


The National Disaster Preparedness Training Center is offering the training workshop, [*“Social Media for Disaster Response and Recovery \(PER-304\).”*](#) The workshop, worth 6.5 Continuing Education Credits, is being taught by [*Allison Hardin and Kevin T. Sur*](#) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 20 at our national conference in Grand Rapids.

This course will enhance your ability to build up an organization's communication strategy for disaster preparedness, response and recovery. You'll leave with a better understanding of social media and its uses and the current tools, methods and models to properly make use of social media for crisis communication. Through the use of social media tools, you'll learn and master skills to disseminate information and monitor, track, measure and analyze social media traffic. You'll even be able to use social media as a method to identify warning signs that a crisis is developing. You will have to bring a Wi-Fi enabled device (laptop preferred) with ability to access social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Learn more about the workshop and other fabulous happenings at [*ASFPM's 40th annual national conference here.*](#) And in the meantime, do you have a specific question for me so that I can help you navigate the crazy world of social media? If so, email me at [*michele@floods.org*](mailto:michele@floods.org).

Water resources professionals, engineers, planners and floodplain managers from all over the U.S. participated in an online informational meeting about the University of Washington's new Master of Infrastructure Planning and Management Program with an emphasis in Floodplain Management. ASFPM's Higher Education Committee Co-Chair Bob Freitag has been instrumental in trying to get this degree program up and running. Learn more about this master's degree program, the only one like it being offered in the country, here: <http://www.infrastructure-management.uw.edu/overview/floodplain/> Classes for this mostly online program are set to begin in June.





Flood Insurance Committee Corner

New Flood Insurance Advocate Report Highlights ICC as One of Top Five Issues

Recently, FEMA's Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate (OFIA...yes, another new acronym!), released its [first annual report](#). Headed up by David Stearrett (former FEMA HQ Floodplain Branch Manager), the OFIA received a few hundred email inquiries in its first year, of which about 75 percent were insurance related, about 15 percent were mapping and the remaining 10 percent were floodplain management/mitigation/HMA grants related.

The report highlights five main challenges they have seen in the past year and provides recommendations. The five key issues are:

- The lack of actionable data available to FIMA and the OFIA
- Applications of the HFIAA surcharge, specifically default assumptions and limitations
- Limitations on the issuance of prior-term refunds
- Lack of understanding, and the availability of, floodproofing certification/credit information
- Barriers in receiving Increased Cost of Compliance payment

While each of these are important, the Insurance Committee is happy to see ICC on the list as it has been one of the top priorities we have been addressing in the past two years. While ASFPM and the Insurance Committee have focused on identifying and encouraging FEMA to implement provisions of the law already passed by Congress and identifying changes we'd like to see, there are also disconnects that could be more easily fixed and addressed without legislation or major changes by FEMA.

One identified disconnect by OFIA was that FEMA guidance documents are incomplete or don't capture all of the ICC information needed to help a community official issue a Substantial Damage letter. For example, the letters don't contain accurate market value and repair costs or are not clear that the SD is due to flooding. As a result, WYO insurance companies are denying the ICC claim. The OFIA recommends FEMA update the 7-year-old [Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference](#) (FEMA P-758), the 13-year-old [NFIP ICC Coverage Guidance for State and Local Officials](#) (FEMA 301), and develop additional material to help educate policyholders and stakeholders.

While these document updates will help, the Insurance Committee encourages our members to email us (InsuranceCorner@floods.org) any ICC issues you are experiencing so we can collectively identify areas where ICC can be improved, and then share that with FEMA and OFIA. Right now, one ASFPM member is working with OFIA to resolve an ICC issue raised late last year, which ultimately could have benefits for all. So, let us hear from you.

Meanwhile, take time to read the report. It's informative and a quick read.

Humbly yours,

--Your Humble [Insurance Committee Co-Chairs](#)

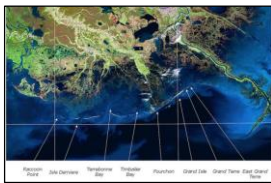
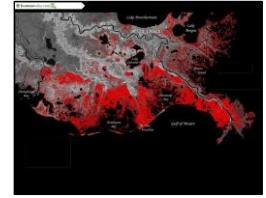
Bruce Bender and John Gerber
Liaison **Gary Heinrichs**

This column is produced by the ASFPM Insurance Committee. Send questions about flood insurance issues to InsuranceCorner@floods.org and they will be addressed in future "Insider" issues.

What's happening around the world?

A collection of the most viewed stories on our [Facebook](#) page

Louisiana—State officials and some of the locals who took part in a recent public hearing are talking more frankly than ever about the need for drastic measures that might help residents weather storms and flooding as coastal Louisiana continues to wither into the Gulf of Mexico. Read "[This is a really big deal.](#)" Image at right created in 2013 by USGS depicts land loss in coastal Louisiana through 2050.



Deep in the Louisiana Bayou, some 50 miles south of New Orleans, the French-speaking, state-recognized Native American tribe Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw became the United States' first official climate refugees when the federal government awarded them \$48 million to migrate. [Read the story from Humanosphere.](#)

Texas—Houston is the fourth-largest city in the country. It's home to the nation's largest refining and petrochemical complex, where billions of gallons of oil and dangerous chemicals are stored. And it's a sitting duck for the next big hurricane. Learn why Texas isn't ready in this "[Hell and High Water](#)" article from *Propublica*.

South Carolina—Developers who wanted Richland County (South Carolina) to pay them millions of dollars for restricting construction at the old Green Diamond project site lost their fight March 21 in the U.S. Supreme Court after 12 years of legal efforts. Read "[U.S. Supreme Court rejects Green Diamond taking case](#)" from TheState.



Colorado—A Colorado village determined that building a pool in a floodplain does not constitute an "exceptional hardship," and enforced its floodplain regulations. Read "[What is an 'exceptional hardship'?](#)"

United Kingdom—Planting trees around rivers could reduce the height of flooding in towns by up to 20 percent, new research for the Environment Agency in UK suggests. Read the [BBC article here](#).



Anywhere in the world—"Sea-level rise may be the most predictable outcome of climate change. Expanding warmer waters and melting land ice contribute to flooding – and scientists agree that we are locked into sea-level rise for centuries to come. The question is not if we will retreat from the coast, but when. Still, the rush to develop the coast occurs at a maddening pace." [Read the opinion piece](#), written by Orrin H Pilkey, Linda Pilkey-Jarvis and Keith C Pilkey, in *The Guardian*.



This story, "[We had all better hope these scientists are wrong about the planet's future](#)," recently appearing in The Washington Post. Here is the "controversial climate change catastrophe study": <http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/16/3761/2016/acp-16-3761-2016.pdf>





Nick Winter Memorial Scholarship Fund for College Students

Deadline: April 1, 2016

The ASFPM Foundation will grant a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2016-17 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 U.S. and be a U.S. citizen. Eligible fields of discipline include civil or environmental engineering, planning, emergency management, environmental sciences, or other disciplines with a demonstrable link to floodplain and stormwater management.

Applicants must complete a [Scholarship Application Form](#). 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 application form and a separate reference letter by April 1, 2016. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient's university. Applications and reference letter should be sent electronically to diane@floods.org. For additional questions, contact Diane Brown at (608) 828-6324. ASFPM Foundation information is available on the website: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/>



FEMA News you can use...

Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration has new Address

FIMA will move its offices from Arlington, Virginia to Washington, D.C. effective April 1, 2016. All correspondence to all Federal Insurance Divisions must now use the following address: DHS-FEMA-FIMA, Attn: (Name), 400 C St. SW, Room 313, Washington, D.C. 20472-3020

FY16 PDM & FMA Application Period Now Open

The FY16 Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant application period opened and **will close June 15, 2016 at 3 p.m. EST**. Local and tribal governments or sub-applicants must submit planning and project sub-applications to their State/Territory Applicant agency. Contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer: <http://www.fema.gov/state-hazard-mitigation-officers> to find out their internal deadline for sub-applications. Learn more [here](#).



FEMA Issues an Addendum to HFIAA Program Changes: Clear Communication of Risk

Bulletin W-15046 described the initial implementation of Section 28, Clear Communication of Risk, of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. Section 28 requires FEMA to clearly communicate full flood risk determinations to individual property owners regardless of whether their premium rates are full-risk rates. Ensuring clear and accurate communication of flood risk requires correct underwriting information. This bulletin describes how FEMA will rate policies using correct information. The full bulletin includes specific procedures for insurers to follow as part of this effort. Read the [full bulletin here](#).

A Busy Time for ASFPM Submitting Comments

ASFPM and the Mapping and Engineering Standard Committee submitted comments March 3, 2016 on the latest proposed changes to the Guidelines and Standards for spring 2016. Read the comments [here](#).

ASFPM submitted comments March 21, 2016 on its support of Establishing a Deductible for FEMA's Public Assistance Program. Read our comments [here](#).

ASFPM commented on Economic Development Administration's Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Framework. Read the full comments [here](#).

Washington Legislative Report

*Meredith R. Inderfurth,
ASFPM Washington Liaison*

Mid-Session Already

The legislative session is so short this year that we are already about at the mid-point. Some legislation is moving through the process, but it isn't clear what will actually make it all the way through to passage. Appropriations subcommittees are in the midst of their hearings on federal department and agency budgets prior to marking up their bills later this spring. In the House, the internal disputes over a budget resolution threaten the leadership's objective of actually moving all of the appropriations bills individually.



Yet Congress will begin a very long recess in mid-July and is not set to return until after Labor Day in September. This is due to the Republican and Democratic Party Conventions in this Presidential election year. When they return, only a few weeks will remain until the beginning of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1. Increasingly, it seems likely that a Continuing Resolution will be necessary to keep the government funded until a lame duck session after the November elections.

Legislation in the Works

H.R. 1471 FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act

This bill passed the House on a voice vote February 29th. It has been sent to the Senate and referred to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee where no action has been taken yet.

The bill authorizes appropriations for FEMA for two years. It provides authorizations for the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System and for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). It defines public broadcasting facilities as private nonprofit facilities for eligibility for disaster assistance, places a 3 year statute of limitations on reclaiming disaster relief funds and permits waiver for collection of some disaster-related debts. It changes the eligibility threshold of certain small projects for expedited disaster assistance payments from \$35,000 to \$1 million. Rates for reimbursing states and local governments for direct and indirect administrative

costs associated with disaster recovery projects are established. Hazard mitigation assistance for areas affected by fire is authorized regardless of whether or not a major disaster is declared.

Importantly, the bill authorizes a study leading to a report on comprehensive disaster costs to the nation. FEMA's National Advisory Council (NAC) is tasked with directing the study.

ASFPM expressed support for H.R. 1471.

H.R. 2901 Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act

This bill was reported out of the House Financial Services Committee March 2nd on a vote of 53-0. It is expected that the measure will be scheduled soon for a vote in the House under "Suspension of the Rules". This is a technique intended for non-controversial legislation. Bills considered under Suspension cannot be amended and must pass by a 2/3 vote of the House. Chief sponsors of the bill are Reps. Dennis Ross (R-FL) and Patrick Murphy (D-FL).

The bill specifies the private flood insurance policies shall be accepted by lenders in fulfillment of the mandatory purchase requirement of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. It defines private flood insurance as including policies issued by admitted or non-admitted insurance providers which are approved in the state or jurisdiction where a property to be insured is located. The measure also directs that any period of coverage by private flood insurance be considered a period of continuous coverage.

A similar bill, S. 1679, was introduced in the Senate by Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Jon Tester (D-MT). As passage of H.R. 2901 is probable in the House, it becomes more likely that the Senate Banking Committee will take action on S. 1679.

ASFPM sent a letter to the leadership of the House Financial Services Committee acknowledging the strong interest in development of a private flood insurance market, but noting the importance of maintaining the structure and other functions of the NFIP. The letter said, in part: "ASFPM believes that whatever direction private flood insurance takes in the future, a strong and viable NFIP must be available as well.

Private insurance companies benefit from the flood risk maps and local floodplain management ordinance monitoring and technical assistance that are funded through a policy fee associated with NFIP policies. The ASFPM suggests that an equivalent policy fee be associated with private market policies to contribute to ongoing support for these functions that private insurers have acknowledged to be very important. We suggest that it is important to plan ahead to ensure adequate continued support for the mapping and floodplain management functions of the NFIP."

WRDA 2016

Leadership of the committees with jurisdiction over water resources programs have indicated a commitment to return to producing Water Resources Development Act bills on a two year cycle. After WRDA 2007, it was seven years before the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014).

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources has reached out to stakeholder groups for discussions about and recommendations for the next WRDA. ASFPM has participated in these discussions and has provided recommendations, primarily focused on suggested modifications to PL 84-99 which deals with repairs to Corps built but locally owned and maintained structures. The Subcommittee held a hearing on February 24 entitled, "A Review of US Army Corps of Engineers Reports to Congress on Future Water Resources Development and Chief's Reports". It is anticipated that the Subcommittee will produce a draft bill sometime this spring.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has held two hearings this year leading toward development of a WRDA. A hearing on February 10 was entitled, “The Importance of Enacting a New WRDA” and another hearing on March 16 was entitled, “WRDA – Policies and Projects”. That hearing was with officials of the Army Corps of Engineers. It is likely that the Committee will mark up its bill in April.

NFIP Reauthorization

The House Financial Services Committee has indicated its intent to focus this year on issues associated with reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. The program will need reauthorization in 2017.

In January, the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held an informal Roundtable on Flood Mapping Issues for Members and invited participants. Larry Larson participated for ASFPM. The Subcommittee held two flood insurance hearings in January. One was entitled, “Opportunities and Challenges for the NFIP” and the other was entitled, “How to Create a More Robust Private Insurance Marketplace”. Details on the Roundtable and both hearings were provided in the January issue of “Insider”. Further hearings and/or roundtables are likely. The Subcommittee hopes to produce a first draft of reauthorization legislation this fall in order to be ready to act on legislation early the new Congress after January, 2017.

A number of bills dealing with the flood insurance program have been introduced and are pending consideration in the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee. Presumably these bills will be considered in the context of developing a draft reauthorization bill. Some of those are:

H.R. 4107 Flood Insurance Transparency and Accountability Act (A companion bill, S. 2324, was introduced in the Senate.)

H.R. 3456 Flood Insurance Mitigation and Policyholder Protection Act

H.R. 4866 to Delay Increases in Flood Insurance Premium Rates for Certain Properties for 12 Months

H.R. 2918 Flood Insurance Fairness Act

H.R. 3297 Fairness in Flood Insurance Act

H.R. 3317 Flood Insurance Integrity Act

The Subcommittee held a hearing on March 22 on “Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing”. At that hearing, the National Association of Home Builders presented testimony that included discussion of possible adverse impact of the new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) on housing affordability.

The Senate Banking Committee has not held hearings leading toward reauthorization and has not adopted a proactive agenda comparable to the House effort.

Digital Coast Act

Legislation has now been introduced in both the House and Senate to codify the Digital Coast Partnership program at NOAA. ASFPM has been an active member/participant in the Digital Coast Partnership. The very long title of the legislation is: to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision- support tools, training and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region .

The bipartisan bills are:

H.R. 4738, introduced by Reps. C.A. Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Don Young (R-AK) and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 2325, introduced by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Appropriations

House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees continue to hold hearings to examine Department and Agency budget requests. At these hearings, Department and Agency representatives appear to defend their requests. The subcommittees all accept Outside Witness written testimony. Instructions for submittal can be found on the committee websites. Deadlines for some have already passed, but testimony on the FEMA budget is due in the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on April 1 and in the House Subcommittee on April 22.

ASFPM will submit testimony on the FEMA budget request, recommending funding at the FY 2016 levels for flood risk mapping (\$190 million), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (\$100 million) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (\$175 million from the National Flood Insurance Fund). ASFPM will recommend that mapping be funded at the level authorized in Biggert-Waters 2012 of \$400 million, but will urge that at least the FY '16 amount of \$190 million be appropriated.

The FEMA budget request for mapping is \$178 million, slightly down from the FY '16 enacted level of \$190 million. The budget request for FY '16 had been \$278 million. Flood mapping is funded partially by appropriations and partially by funds from flood insurance policy fees. Because of an increase in the policy fees to take effect on April 1, FEMA anticipates an additional \$12 million in fee revenue in FY '17. For FY '16, the combined amount for mapping was \$311 million. The FEMA budget request for FY '17 is \$12 million below the FY '16 enacted level which assumes the overall mapping budget will remain at \$311 million for FY '17. Due to the drop in policies in force probably resulting from rate increases and surcharges, ASFPM questions whether or not that \$12 million in increased policy fee income will be realized.

The request for PDM is \$54 million, a significant drop from the FY '16 enacted level of \$100 million. The FY '16 request had been \$200 million.

FMA is funded from premium income. The amount designated for FY '17 is \$175 million, the same as the amount for FY '16.

ASFPM has already submitted testimony on the Corps of Engineers budget request urging strong funding for the technical assistance programs: Flood Plain Management Services (FPMS), Planning Assistance to States (PAS), National Flood Risk Management Program (NFRMP) and Silver Jackets. That testimony is posted on the ASFPM website.

ASFPM also will submit letters supporting aspects of the NOAA budget and the USGS budget.

Other Matters of Interest

Reports Released

1. "Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate Annual Report" This Just released report is available by going to www.fema.gov and typing in the search box: Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate.

Several reports required in the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 have been released. All are free PDF downloads.

2. Affordability Report (part 2) has been released by the National Academies Press and is available at:

www.nap.edu/21848. 3. “A Community-Based Flood Insurance Option” is available at www.nap.edu. Type in the title of the report.

4. “Tying Flood Insurance to Flood Risk for Low-Lying Structures in the Floodplain” is available at www.nap.edu. Type in the title of the report.

Another report on community based flood insurance was done by Carolyn Kousky and Leonard Shabman at Resources for the Future. That report is titled: “A Proposed Design for Community Flood Insurance”. Go to www.rff.org and, using the search space, type in Kousky-Shabman or community flood insurance.

The Legislation discussed in this article can be reviewed by going to www.Congress.gov and typing in the bill number or title.

Written by Meredith R. Inderfurth, ASFPM Washington Liaison

This report appears regularly as a member benefit in “The Insider,” ASFPM’s member newsletter produced in the odd months. See ASFPM’s Goals and Objectives for FY15 [here](#).

ASFPM Editorial Guidelines: ASFPM accepts and welcomes articles from our members and partners. “The Insider” and “News & Views” have a style format, and if necessary, we reserve the right to edit submitted articles for space, grammar, punctuation, spelling, potential libel and clarity. If we make substantive changes, we will email the article back to you for your approval before using. We encourage you to include art with your article in the form of photos, illustrations, charts and graphs. Please include a description of the art, along with the full name of who created the art. If the art is not yours originally, you must include expressed, written consent granting ASFPM permission to use the art in our publications.

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