

THE INSIDER



An exclusive publication for ASFPM members

—September 2015

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Climate-Informed Science & Flood Risk Management: Opportunities & Challenges

One hundred of the nation's leading experts from federal, state and local agencies, private practitioners and academia, converged Sept. 17 at George Washington University in D.C. for [ASFPM Foundation's 5th Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum](#).

This forum focused on "Climate-Informed Science and Flood Risk Management—Opportunities and Challenges." [ASFPM](#) and [ASFPM Foundation](#) Trustees agreed that there must be more discussion and better guidance on what exactly "climate-informed science" means in relation to one of the approaches in the revised Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

The forum opened with the following panelists: **Dr. Antonio J. Busalacchi, Jr.**, University of Maryland; **Michael Cohen**, RenaissanceRE Holdings, Ltd.; **David Ford**, David Ford Consulting Engineers, Inc.; **Roy Wright**, Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, FEMA; and **Dave Canaan**, Director, Mecklenburg County, NC, Water and Land Resources. ASFPM's Director Emeritus **Larry Larson** moderated the panelist discussion.

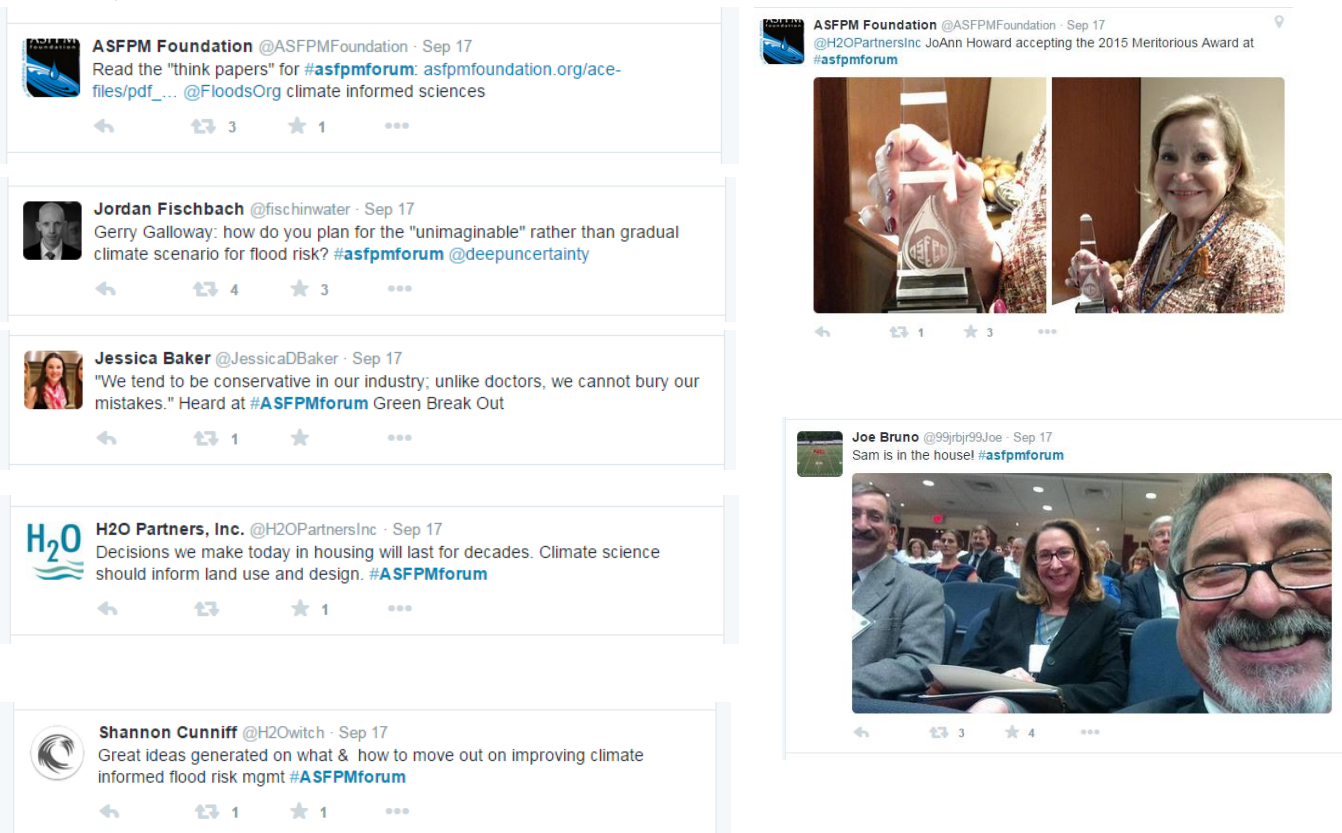
Later, the participants broke up into three groups, headed by professional facilitators who helped the groups try to come to a consensus on the following five questions:



All 100 participants at the ASFPM Foundation's 5th Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum, held Sept. 17 at George Washington University in D.C. Photo courtesy of John McShane.

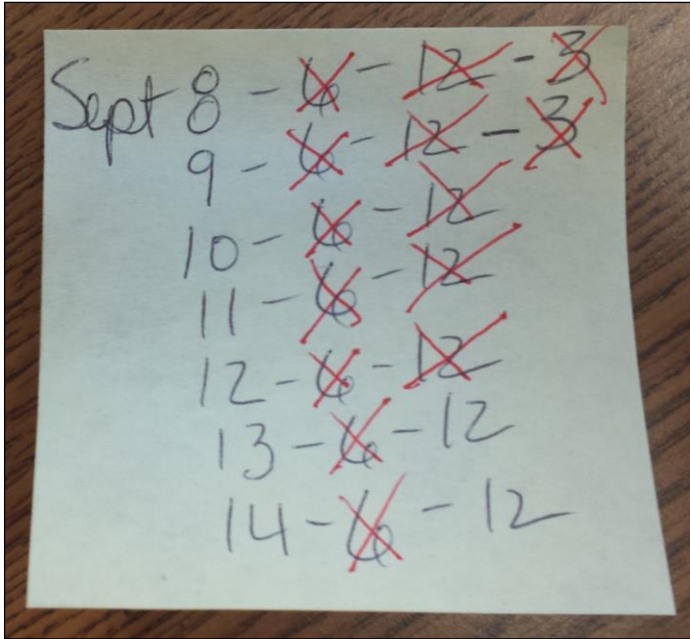
- What planning horizon(s) should be used when managing for future flood risk?
- What does a climate-informed flood hazard modeling approach look like, and is it implementable on a national basis?
- What happens if there are multiple answers to "What is the future flood hazard?"
- What are the most pressing data, tool and information gaps hindering development and/or use of a climate-informed modeling approach?
- Practically, when does it make sense to invest in climate-informed modeling versus using simplified options (e.g., freeboard or 500-year elevation)?

Organizers are gathering all of the notes from the forum and are deciding the best way to present the outcomes. Next month's [News&Views](#) will give a full report on the presentations and discussions at the forum. But in the meantime, you can go to Twitter and search #ASFPMforum to catch up on some of the happenings at the event, like:



Navigating the Crazy Social Media World, Tip No. 6

By Michele Mihalovich, ASFPM's public information officer



This month's tip will focus on the question, "How often should I post on social media?"

I'm sure everyone on social media has experienced the "oversharing" friend or follower. He posts sooooo much, you wonder how he holds a job he's so busy posting. Don't be that guy.

There are actually sound scientific studies done on this subject. Check out this [infographic](#) from **buffer**. I pretty much follow these guidelines on ASFPM social media sites: [Twitter](#) (three times per day, or more), [Facebook](#) (no more than twice a day), [LinkedIn](#) (once per day, and feel free to take a break on the week-ends), and [Google+](#) (no more than three times a day).

There are good reasons for sticking to these guidelines. The main one is that if you post more than proper etiquette calls for, you are negatively impact-

ing the number of people you reach. Your engagement with the people you're trying to reach simply dwindles. Which means you're wasting your time, but more importantly, if your posts are always hogging peoples' "feeds," they have no qualms about hiding your posts, or *gasp* deleting, unfriending or unfollowing you altogether.

As you can see from my elaborate Post-it® system (pictured above), every day I have a 6 a.m. slot that absolutely must be filled (this is for Facebook, my numero uno social media site for ASFPM). If I find additional interesting articles, I'll schedule them for the noon slot. I generally reserve that 3 p.m. slot (because you shouldn't post more than twice on Facebook, right). But once in a while, breaking news happens (yes, even in the floodplain management world), and that's when I use the 3 p.m. slot. On Sept. 8, *The Times-Picayune* broke the story, "[FEMA Inspector General seeks nearly \\$1 million from St. Tammany in misspent hazard mitigation money.](#)" That was too big of a story to have ASFPM followers and friends wait until the next open slot, which was Sept. 13. And when it's REALLY big news like that, sometimes your followers won't be too upset (like with this FEMA story, nearly 1,000 people were reached).

After a story posts on Facebook (nearly all of my posts are scheduled), I then share it on Twitter and Google+. If it's appropriate, I'll also share it on LinkedIn. I try to reserve posts on LinkedIn to new scientific studies, professional reports, practitioner implementation stories, things of that nature.

Now I don't want you to read this and panic, thinking you have to start posting more. The truth is, if you don't have anything to say of importance to your friends and followers, then don't post. That's like being the social awkward guy who says weird and completely inappropriate things at dinner parties. Don't be that guy.

And once again, if you have a specific question for navigating the crazy world of social media, shoot me an email at michele@floods.org



American Planning Association
Making Great Communities Happen

Association of State Flood- plain Managers

575 D'Onofrio Dr.
Suite 200
Madison, WI 53719
Phone: (608) 828-6325
memberhelp@floods.org
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American Planning Assc.

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Phone: (312) 431-9100
Fax: (312) 786-6100
customerservice@planning.org

Planning Information Exchange (PIE) Webinar

Hazards Planning & Resilience: The Elected Official's Perspective

Oct. 19, 2015, Noon – 1 p.m. CT

(Beginning at 1 p.m. ET, 11 a.m. MT, 10 a.m. PT)

In cooperation with the American Planning Association, the Association of State Floodplain Managers presents the third Planning Information Exchange webinar. PIE, is a free eight-part quarterly webinar series focusing on tools, best practices and strategies on the role of hazard mitigation planning and its connections with other community planning and hazard risk reduction initiatives.



The third part in the series involves discussions with district 2 board supervisor for Linn County, Iowa, **Linda Langston**, and district 3 board commissioner for El Paso County, Colorado, **Sallie Clark**. Linda is a past president of the National Association of Counties, and is the current board chair of NACo's Resilient Counties Initiative. Sallie currently serves on the NACo board as president. Both presenters have experience as elected officials before, during and after a disaster in their communities. **Chad Berginnis**, executive director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, will moderate as they discuss:

- What elected officials are most concerned about when it comes to natural and man-made hazards;
- Whether communities should try to become more resilient and why;
- The role of planners and planning can be improved to help elected officials be more effective;
- Perceived obstacles to effective hazards planning; and
- Words of wisdom for practicing planners.

Registration:

www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/planninginformationexchange/
When directed to the landing page, please click on the register button under the titled section 'Upcoming Webinars'. You will then be taken to the registration page. Please fill in the required information and click the submit button.

*One CM and CEC credit is available for AICPs and CFMs



Floodplain Manager's Notebook

By Rebecca Quinn, CFM

What do you do when you have questions about how to interpret and enforce your floodplain management regulations and building codes? More than 22,100 communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, which means thousands of floodplain administrators, plan reviewers, building officials and inspectors could, at some point, have questions and need answers.

When faced with unusual situations, it's always better to do some homework than to wing it. It's also important to get definitive answers from reliable sources, not just opinions or guesses. Remember, not only might misinterpretations jeopardize your community's standing in the NFIP, they could easily end up exposing your property owners to increased risk of damage and costing them a lot more for NFIP flood insurance policies.

FEMA Publications. FEMA publishes a lot of [guidance documents](#) that should be your first choice for answers from the source. Guidance is just that – it's offered to help people interpret and apply NFIP regulations. Occasionally I hear grumbles about the length of some FEMA publications ("why does it take more than 30 pages to explain flood openings?"). Keep in mind that every scenario and permutation covered in a FEMA publication has actually come up at one time or another. This makes FEMA pubs rich resources—and I encourage you to download or order hardcopies, keep them handy and use them frequently. However, remember they're based on the minimum NFIP regulations, not your community's adopted ordinance, which may be more restrictive or have higher standards.

Below you'll see a short list of what I consider the best sources for guidance. I encourage you to read these pubs cover to cover at least once. Doing simple word searches without reading the full context can get you in trouble. And, when you rely on FEMA guidance to interpret and enforce your regulations, I think you should note the publication (and perhaps section or page number) in your plan review notes.

NFIP State Coordinators. The governor of each state appoints an NFIP state coordinating agency (usually called "state coordinator") that is charged with assisting in the implementation of the NFIP. State coordinators are expected to maintain the capability to perform duties and responsibilities specified in regulation, including the capability to "guide and assist county and municipal public bodies and agencies in developing, implementing, and maintaining local floodplain management regulations." (44 CFR § 60.25)

Some Important Terms—keep these differences in mind.

"Nonconforming" is not the same as "noncompliant." A building constructed in violation of regulations or building codes is noncompliant: it does not comply with the requirements. "Nonconforming," a term commonly used in zoning, refers to buildings that pre-date the adoption of regulations or codes. So a building built before a community adopted its floodplain management regulations and FIRM (often called "pre-FIRM") is nonconforming. Because it wasn't required to comply, it is incorrect to call it noncompliant.

"Variance" is not the same as "waiver." A variance is official permission to do something that is not otherwise permitted. The NFIP regulations provide for variances in 44 CFR § 60.6, but if a community processes variance requests as specified in the regulation. Of particular note, variances are to be the minimum necessary to afford relief—not a wholesale permission to ignore all aspects of flood resistance. Communities shall issue variances only upon a showing of good and sufficient cause, a determination that not granting a variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant, and a determination that increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws and ordinances. To waive something means to give it up or relinquish it voluntarily. For example, building codes typically allow building officials to waive or modify requirements for site plans for interior work on existing buildings and when otherwise warranted. So one significant difference between variances and waivers is who initiates the action: a variance is requested by the applicant and a waiver is at the discretion of the code official.

State coordinators are valuable resources because many of them have years of experience not only with NFIP regulations, but state-specific requirements. Plus, they're able to answer questions about local ordinances, perhaps even your community's specific regulations. If you don't already know your state coordinator, check [ASFPM's list](#) online.

If necessary to answer unusual questions, your state coordinator can turn to floodplain management specialists in FEMA regional offices for assistance. I strongly recommend you get in touch with your state coordinator rather than go directly to the FEMA regional office. State folks are there specifically to help you—plus, they're familiar with state programs that may be more restrictive than the NFIP minimums and more than likely they've already got answers to common questions. Many states have their own floodplain management, water resources, coastal zone or similar programs with their own regulations.

FEMA Building Science Helpline. This helpline, managed by the Building Science Branch out of FEMA Headquarters, responds to questions related to topics covered in building science publications. This, of course, takes us back to my first recommendation—check out FEMA guidance documents first. Helpline answers are based on NFIP regulations, not the more restrictive or more specific requirements of your state or local regulations. As always, any adopted requirement that exceeds the NFIP must prevail. Contact the helpline at FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov or (866) 927-2104.

The Building Science Helpline answers about 200 questions each year. The most common questions are about flood openings, basements/below-grade areas, substantial improvement and substantial damage, and flood damage-resistant materials. It shouldn't be a surprise those topics figure prominently in FEMA's publications.

Short List of Guidance Publications. Some FEMA publications are available in hardcopy (call (800) 480-2520)

1. [NFIP Technical Bulletins](#) (flood openings, flood damage-resistant materials, elevators, free-of-obstruction, breakaway walls, and more)
2. [FEMA P-758](#), Substantial Improvement / Substantial Damage Desk Reference (just about everything you need to know in 100 pages)
3. [FEMA P-499](#), Homebuilder's Guide to Coastal Construction (lots of illustrations and content that's valuable in all flood zones, including riverine communities)
4. [FEMA P-936](#), Floodproofing Non-Residential Buildings
5. [FEMA P-85](#), Protecting Manufactured Homes from Floods and Other Hazards (flood, wind and seismic loads, test data on ground anchors in saturated soils and dry-stacked piers, pattern book with prescriptive foundation designs)
6. [FEMA P-550](#), Recommended Residential Construction for Coastal Areas: Building on Strong and Safe Foundations (design guidance for several foundation types, including pattern book for typical foundations)
7. [Building Code Resources](#): Excerpts of the Flood Resistant Provisions of the 2015, 2012 and 2009 I-Codes, "Highlights of ASCE 24-05 and ASCE 24-14, Flood Resistant Design and Construction," and checklists demonstrating NFIP consistency
8. [ICC/FEMA](#), Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes®: Coordinating Building Codes and Floodplain Management Regulations (check out Chapter 3, which compares NFIP and I-Code requirements)

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

GREAT LAKES—GRAND PARTNERS

The "Call for Presenters" for ASFPM's national conference in Grand Rapids is now OPEN! Click [here](#) for all the details and good luck!!! **Deadline is Oct. 31.**

This also means that the [2016 conference webpage](#) is up and running, which means you can check out the [DeVos Place Convention Center](#), book a room at one of the [three hotels](#) we've contracted with for a sweet deal, read our [Speaker Success Tips](#), get information on becoming a [sponsor](#) or [exhibitor](#), and even [join ASFPM](#) so you can start enjoying discounted prices on conference registration fees and webinars.

Conference registration doesn't open until February, but updates to the [conference webpage](#) will be added as information becomes available.



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 2015! 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.



Flood Insurance & the NFPPR

If you hadn't heard, ASFPM recently released its 2015 version of [National Flood Programs & Policies in Review](#). It represents recommendations for ways to improve national flood policies and programs based on input received by members. Last year, the Insurance Committee reached out to members for their input (as well as feedback from other committees) related to suggested changes on the insurance side they'd like to see. The responses were compiled, reviewed, condensed and then presented to ASFPM for inclusion in this report.

The comprehensive recommendations (starting on p. 33) are separated into the following categories:

- Insurance and Mapping
- Rating for Flood Insurance Premiums
- Lender Compliance
- Increased Cost of Compliance
- NFIP Training on Flood Insurance
- Incentives to Maintain Policies
- Flood Insurance Rating and Affordability
- Insurance Claims
- Elevation Certificates
- Risk Communication and Marketing
- NFIP Policy Coverage
- Alternatives to the NFIP

The Insurance Committee strongly encourages those who work with the insurance side (e.g., mapping, ECs, ICC, rating) to review the six pages of recommendations. With the 2017 Reauthorization looming, if you see something you'd like to add, or suggest wording changes, please let us know.

Meanwhile, be looking for the April 2016 changes to the flood insurance manual/program to be released by FEMA by Oct. 1. We'll give an update on those in the next issue.

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

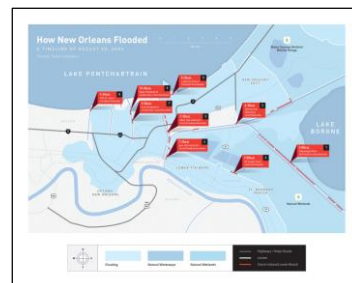
Bruce Bender and John Gerber and Liaison **Gary Heinrichs**

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—Rick Luettich is a world-renowned hurricane storm-surge modeler who sits on the board of the New Orleans flood-protection authority. He said the city's new \$14.5-billion levee system designed to repel a 100-year storm is bigger and stronger than the one that collapsed with deadly consequences during Hurricane Katrina. But he's also a parent and put the protection in personal, practical terms. "If my daughter was buying a house in New Orleans with a 30-year mortgage, I'd have to tell her there's a 25-percent chance water will come over the top of that system before she pays off the mortgage." Read *The LENS* article [here](#). The graphic, created by Evan Travelstead of *The Weather Channel*, shows the sequence of levee breaches that flooded the city in 2005.



A federal inspector general has recommended FEMA recoup nearly \$1 million from St. Tammany Parish. The money was doled out as part of hazard mitigation efforts that took on greater urgency after Hurricane Katrina, though the grants also came out of three other declared federal disasters in Louisiana. Read *The Times-Picayune* article [here](#).

Canada—Wow! Calgary Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra said he's aggravated by experts who favor parks over development [next to the river]. "The time for room from the river was 100 years ago. We're stuck now with the city that we have ... and we actually have to spend significant amounts of money to mitigate the effects of flood and drought. If we are spending that kind of money, it actually makes counter-intuitive sense to put more things — not parks that cost money, but tax-generating things like the West Village." Read the full Calgary Herald [article](#).

Anywhere in the U.S.—As U.S. coastal population surges, it is battenning down the hatches, building sea-walls, bulkheads, and breakwaters to protect people from rising seas and ever-stronger storms. The result: 14 percent of the nation's tidal shoreline has been "hardened." By the end of the century, a third of the coast could be armored if the trend continues. But new research finds that wetlands, marshes and other natural barriers are more effective than concrete at protecting coasts. Read the article [here](#). Photo at left: Salt marsh tidal pools at Boat Meadow Beach in Orleans, Massachusetts, by John Greim/LightRocket via Getty Images.



Western United States—Truly a fantastic read: "When FEMA fails: Agency policies wreak havoc on the fire- and flood-prone West," in this [article](#) from the [New England Center for Investigative Reporting](#). Photo at right shows Hot Shots Captain Cody Lee keeping a watchful eye on a fire on the next ridge as his crew cuts a fire line to contain the Waldo Canyon wildfire June 8, 2012.





...NEWS YOU CAN USE

FEMA's 2015 Individual and Community Preparedness Award Winners Announced

FEMA announced Sept. 3 the winners of the 2015 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Awards, recognizing the outstanding efforts of individuals, programs, and organizations throughout the country working to prepare their communities for emergencies.

"Effective emergency management requires commitment, teamwork and engagement by the entire community before disasters occur," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "I congratulate the individuals and organizations that embody these ideals. Through their hard work and dedication, they are making our nation stronger and safer."

The winners developed innovative practices and campaigns in 2014 that made outstanding contributions toward making communities safer, better prepared and more resilient. For example:

The **Northern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee** members are role models in their communities by developing and implementing comprehensive emergency response plans and activities to assure resilience and preparedness throughout western Massachusetts.

Henderson (Nevada) Office of Emergency Management launched a comprehensive education and outreach campaign known as Get READY! Stay READY! to educate city employees and general public about individual and family disaster preparedness. In total, the campaign reached more than 100,000 people, held more than 55 educational and outreach events, produced 12 videos and developed a comprehensive brochure and website.

The **Alabama Be Ready Camp** provides youth with skills and knowledge to be prepared and more resilient when a disaster strikes. The five-day residential camp is for sixth grade students interested in learning about disaster preparedness. The Be Ready Camp curriculum and materials have been documented by FEMA Corps members, and will be available to other states and tribal governments for replication this fall.

The 11 FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Award recipients will be recognized Sept. 8 in Washington, D.C. During the recognition ceremony, recipients will share their experiences, success stories and lessons learned with fellow emergency management leaders.

This year's winners of FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Awards are:

Outstanding Citizen Corps Council Award: Ready New York, NYC Citizen Corps, NYC Community Emergency Response Team

Community Preparedness Heroes Award: Craig Wolfe (Massachusetts) and Northern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee Members (Massachusetts)

Awareness to Action Award: City of Henderson (Nevada) Get READY! Stay READY! Campaign

Technological Innovation Award: Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium, Geographic Information System/Information Technology Working Group

Outstanding Achievement in Youth Preparedness Award: Alabama Be Ready Camp

5th Annual Recipients of the John D. Solomon Whole Community Preparedness Award: Ready Montana Program and Spartanburg County Office of Emergency Management (South Carolina)

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Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives Award: Orange County, California Community Emergency Response Team Mutual Aid Program

Outstanding Citizen Corps Partner Program Award: New Orleans Medical Reserve Corps (Louisiana)

Excellence in Volunteer Sustainability Award: City of Irvine Community Emergency Response Team (California)

Go [here](#) for more information on this year's award recipients and to see the honorable mentions.

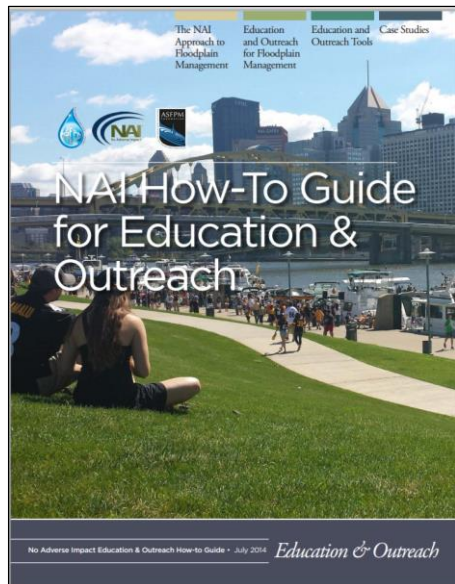
Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review Guide for Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance Applicants Released

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the inter-agency steering group comprised of the Department of Homeland Security, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Council on Environmental Quality, announced Sept. 11 the release of the Unified Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation Review [Guide for Federal Disaster Recovery Assistance Applicants \(Applicant Guide\)](#). The issuance of this applicant guide is an important step in the implementation of the [Unified Federal Review \(UFR\) Process](#), established in July 2014 through an [interagency Memorandum of Understanding](#).

The UFR Process provides federal agencies with opportunities to expedite environmental and historic preservation reviews through enhanced coordination for all presidentially-declared disasters. The applicant guide will assist applicants, (i.e. state and local agencies, Indian tribes, small business owners, individuals) in complying with EHP requirements when multiple agencies may be involved in funding or permitting a disaster recovery project. It also outlines the type of information applicants should submit to federal agencies to assist in expediting the EHP review.

To learn more about the [UFR Process](#) and to access the applicant guide, visit the UFR webpage <https://www.fema.gov/unified-federal-environmental-and-historic-preservation-review-presidentially-declared-disasters>

ASFPM's NAI How-to Guide for Education & Outreach is out!



The ultimate goals for our No Adverse Impact how-to guides are to have communities take a different approach to managing development that prevents increasing flood risk, and to incorporate NAI concepts into other community activities. This [Guide](#) identifies just a few ways a community can incorporate the concepts into its education and outreach activities.

Each guide, which can be found [here](#), includes: an explanation of the NAI approach to floodplain management, common terminology so that lay people can easily understand the Guide, tools, research and case studies, and additional resources.

This Guide includes helpful tips on educating developers and contractors about NAI, as well as the public in general using flood models, high water mark signs and more.

CFM[®] Corner – Where your career and practice meet

Why is being a [Certified Floodplain Manager](#) important? Having your CFM tells the world you are a qualified professional. PLUS, the continuing education component of your CFM is a statement of your continually-improving skills.

NEW! The Certification Board of Regents has approved changes to the Continuing Education Credit requirements for renewal. CFMs can now acquire their 16 CECs anytime in their two-year certification period, and we will no longer separate core or parallel disciplines. As long as the activity increases your knowledge in floodplain management, we will consider it for CECs. To help you know what qualifies, refer to the [Guidance for Continuing Education Credit](#) and new [CEC Verification Form](#).



In other news, CBOR approved another design for the **CFM stamp**. So now ASFPM will be offering our existing signature line stamp, as well as the new round stamp. For more information, click [here](#).

Sample Signature Stamp Design:

OR

Sample Round Stamp:

_____,CFM
Ingrid D. Wadsworth, CFM
#US-11-06161
Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM®)

*Not show in
actual size.
Actual size is:
1.5" x 3"*



*Not show in
actual size.
Actual size is:
1.5" x 1.5"*

Please remember to notify cfm@floods.org when you move. CFM renewals and other certification-related material is mailed to your **HOME ADDRESS**. Also, make sure we always have your current employment information with correct email address on file.



We know you're busy, so if you have any questions please email us at cfm@floods.org. And if there are specific topics you'd like to hear more about in future articles, please let us know.

Job Corner

Visit [ASFPM Job Corner](#) for up-to-date job listings. Have a job opening you'd like to post? It's free!

Grant Opps

Reminder: Bookmark the Florida Climate Institute's website for a comprehensive list of [funding opportunities](#). It's a fabulous resource.

ASFPM Deputy Director Report – Ingrid D. Wadsworth

It occurred to me this morning that if Facebook is the barometer of the public's interests, then the Sept. 27 blood moon was watched by just about everyone in the world. No matter where you are on this circling globe, humans find these massive events interesting. And, unlike the natural hazards world we live in, eclipses are not only predictable, but the historical record of them stretches back to ancient times, lending itself to a feeling of stability as a human on Earth.

Don't you wish we had flood maps going back to ancient times? As floodplain managers, we need to remember that there is comfort in predictability and stability. We have seen people stay stubbornly in their homes rather than face uncertainty in leaving. And even we, as floodplain managers, often have a hard time accepting the changes in our ever-changing, ever-increasingly unpredictable world and profession. If you focus on the daily events, it would seem that the world is unstable, but in reality there is quite a bit of stability all around us.

ASFPM is one of those anchors of stability. For the past 35 years, we have supported the floodplain management profession with training, conferences, certification, mentorships and friendships. We just applied to the Department of Labor to officially have "floodplain management" recognized as a profession. So stay tuned on that one.

Another anchor of the profession is your CFM. And to make it even easier, leadership has approved new changes to the CEC policy to help you stay on top of your professional development with more credit for what you are already doing. Check the new [Guidance for Continuing Education Credit](#) and [CEC Verification Form](#). We also approved a new CFM stamp for purchase.

In an ever-changing political and world climate, know that your ASFPM membership and CFM are two of the biggest anchors of your professional credibility and development. We are happy to continue that assurance.

Sincerely,

Ingrid D. "Wadsworth"

A happy change due to marriage

Washington Legislative Report

*Meredith R. Inderfurth,
ASFPM Washington Liaison*

After Long August Recess, Focus on Appropriations for FY 2016, Then Combustion

When Congress returned Sept. 8, it was clear that a Continuing Resolution (CR) would be needed to provide funding for the federal government in the new fiscal year beginning on Oct. 1. By the end of the month, controversies over the way forward had resulted in the early resignation of the Speaker of the House John Boehner, probable passage of a CR and avoidance of a government shutdown.



The “clean” CR, without policy riders and specifically without a rider prohibiting funding for Planned Parenthood, seems likely to pass the Senate Sept 29 and the House on Sept 30 with the support of some Republicans and most Democrats. That CR would fund the government at FY15 levels until Dec. 11. It is highly likely that the September disputes will be replayed in December as the Congress confronts the need for either an omnibus appropriations bill for FY16 or another CR.

Pressures to take action to defund Planned Parenthood resulted in movement of stand-alone measures to disallow the funding and in test votes on a CR including the de-funding. It became clear the government would be shut down if a way to pass a “clean” CR could not be found. That would require substantial reliance on Democratic votes, which placed the Republican speaker in a difficult position. Speaker John Boehner has weathered many political and ideological tensions and disputes within the ranks of his party. Most recently in July, after the House had successfully passed six of the regular appropriations bills, he had to pull all further appropriations from consideration by the full House because of attempts to add amendments relating to flying the Confederate flag. Meanwhile, Democrats were pressing for a new overall budget agreement, which led Senate Democrats to threaten to filibuster any appropriations bills until an agreement to work around sequester level spending limits, similar to an earlier such agreement, could be achieved.

Most pundits are predicting that these issues – policy riders, call for a new overall budget agreement – as well as disputes over the need to increase the debt limit – will all rise up again. By that time, there will be a new speaker in place and that the election could take place by mid-October. The projected agenda for the rest of the calendar year will be affected by the speaker’s resignation effective Oct. 30. It could result in some measures being acted on more quickly and in others being delayed.

As a reminder, Congress has acted on all of the 12 regular appropriations bills at least at the Appropriations Committee level and the House has actually passed six of them. This means there are House and Senate recommended funding levels to work with for a compromise omnibus appropriations bill. The

July issue of *The Insider* provided some detail on contents of some of those bills as well as bill and accompanying committee report numbers. The bills and reports can be read by going to www.Congress.gov.

Active Legislation

H.R. 1471 FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act

This bill reauthorizes several FEMA programs, reinstates a three-year statute of limitations on FEMA reclaiming funds, established new aggregate limits on management costs under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and under Section 406 (PA) mitigation. ASFPM provided a letter of support for the measure and it was reported out of committee with bipartisan support. Leadership of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is pressing for consideration of the bill soon on the House floor.

H.R. 2901 and S. 1679 Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act

These bills were introduced June 25 in the Senate by Senators Heller (R-NV) and Tester (D-MT) and in the House by Reps. Ross (R-FL) and Murphy (D-FL). The identical measures seek to clarify requirements and processes for private company flood insurance policies to meet the mandatory purchase requirements associated with NFIP.

The bills have the support of a broad range of insurance companies, insurance agent and broker groups, reinsurance companies and groups, major lender organizations and the SmarterSafer Coalition. All are urging movement soon on the bills and urging House and Senate Committees to act on these bills soon without waiting for inclusion in the 2017 NFIP Reauthorization. There could be hearings this fall.

While ASFPM is not opposed to the concept of private flood insurance policies, at this time ASFPM has not committed to supporting this bill. Instead, ASFPM is urging the inclusion of an “equivalency fee” in any legislation facilitating private flood insurance policies. The concept of this fee is to be assessed on private flood insurance policies to help fund mapping, hazard mitigation and floodplain management, all of which are funded to some extent through the federal policy fee portion of an NFIP flood policy.

H.R. 348 Respectfully and Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act

The RAPID Act was introduced by Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA) and passed the House Sept. 24 by a vote of 233-170. The measure establishes hard timelines for National Environmental Policy Act reviews. It is an element of various efforts to limit the regulatory authority of the Executive Branch and the vote results were largely partisan. A number of amendments offered by Democrats were defeated. The White House has issued a veto threat and it seems unlikely the bill will be taken up in the Senate this fall.

H.R. 3456 Flood Insurance Mitigation and Policy Holder Protection Act (FIMPPA)

This bill was introduced by newly-elected Rep. Daniel Donovan (R-NY) and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. It was also included as a subcommittee amendment to the Prepare Act (H.R. 3583), which is scheduled for a mark up in the full House Homeland Security Committee during the week of Sept. 28.

The bill has three sections. One deals with the engineering reports that have given rise to concerns about accuracy of claims payments. The second deals with the appeals process and the third requires FEMA to issue its report on alternate mitigation options (required by earlier legislation) within 60 days.

Other Legislative Updates

Water Resources Development Act of 2016

Chairman Shuster (R-PA) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee had earlier indicated his commitment to restore a two-year cycle to Water Resource Development Acts. Since 2007 there had been no passage of a WRDA bill until the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA).

True to his word, the Committee initiated discussions with stakeholder groups as they begin to formulate plans for a WRDA 2016. ASFPM leadership was invited to meet jointly with the Republican and Democratic staffs of the Water Resources Subcommittee in mid-September. Indications are that the bill will be relatively lean and focus on needed legislative fixes pursuant to implementation of WRRDA 2014 and other mostly technical legislative changes. Committee staff are interested in feedback on implementation of WRRDA 2014. Writing of the bill and related hearings will occur in the spring.

Waters of the U.S.

Controversy continues over the rule that attempts to clarify the definition of “waters of the U.S.” for the purposes of implementation of the Clean Water Act. Several appropriations bills for FY16 carry language prohibiting use of funds to implement the rule. Whether or not such language is carried on any further appropriations measures remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee’s Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water will hold an oversight hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers’ participation in the development of the new definition. The hearing is being held pursuant to indications during the summer of significant internal differences over the rule. The hearing took place Sept. 30 at 10 a.m.

Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

A number of appropriations measures for FY16 contain riders prohibiting use of funds to implement the new standard. After receiving many comments on the proposed guidance issued pursuant to the President’s Executive Order 13690, the Administration is expected to release its final guidance very soon. It is anticipated that the final guidance will address some of the concerns expressed, particularly with regard to application of the standard to federal permitting actions. Hopefully, the guidance will alleviate some of the concerns and eliminate at least most of the expressed objections. Fact sheets endeavoring to clarify application of the standard have been issued by HUD, FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

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

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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](#).

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