

THE INSIDER

A Publication for Members - September 2012

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Madison, WI 53713 www.floods.org

608-274-0123 Fax: 608-274-0696 katrien@floods.org



Congress Supports a Study on Flood Insurance Alternative

Now that a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform bill has passed, there is a lot of activity related to implementing the bill. It appears that one of the chief concerns, both from ASFP members and others, relates to future affordability of flood insurance policies. When the cumulative impacts of the Reform bill are analyzed, it is evident that the Reform bill moves the program more towards actuarial rating very quickly. For example, the single provision for establishing a NFIP reserve fund could lead to premium increases on the order of 25% for all flood insurance policies, depending on how this provision of the law is interpreted. During recent presentations at ASFP Chapter meetings, most questions and concerns were related to the impacts of the changing flood insurance rates – from affordability to making it even more difficult to get a skeptical public to accept map changes.

While ASFP has been a proponent of movement towards actuarial rating, the key questions are “How much?” and “How fast?” An older PricewaterhouseCoopers study from the late 1990s showed that there was price sensitivity to flood insurance rates and worry that increases will result in people dropping flood insurance – especially those who voluntarily purchase it. Unfortunately, the Reform bill did not contain any of the new innovative ideas percolating out there on affordability and how to ease the burden on those who might need relief the most. Luckily, one of those ideas has recently seen some support in the US House of Representatives.

IN THIS ISSUE

[Congress Supports Innovative Approach](#)
[Assoc. Director - Operations Report](#)
[ASFP Science Services](#)
[LIDAR WEBINAR](#)
[Floodplain Manager's Notebook](#)
[ASFP Foundation](#)
[NFFA](#)
[ASFP Conference Update](#)
[ASFP Committee Chair Retreat](#)
[CFM Corner](#)
[Member Services Note](#)
[Washington Legislative Report](#)
[News - International](#)
[News - Stateside](#)
[Outreach, Video, and Social Media](#)
[Floods.org Tips & Review](#)
[Chapter Corner](#)
[News from the Chapters](#)
 [-Kansas](#)
 [-Colorado](#)
[Scholarships, Grants, Training](#)
[Job Corner](#)
[FPM Training Calendar](#)

Innovative Approach Long-Supported by ASFP Getting Attention at the Federal Level

*By Julie Tallman, Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater
Management Association Chair*

On Monday, September 10, the US House of Representatives voted 364-11 to require a study of voluntary, community-based flood insurance options (HR 6186). According to ASFP Director Emeritus and Senior Policy Advisor Larry Larson, voluntary community-based flood insurance has long been supported by ASFP. ASFP will be working to get Senate passage of the resolution later this month.

Community-based flood insurance is an insurance technique where a risk assessment is made for all the buildings in a community, and then premiums to cover that risk are paid collectively by that community rather than the current practice of assessing each building individually and having each individual owner pay a premium. This approach could result in potentially lower rates due to increased participation. There is also the option of providing lower-income households with access to vouchers to purchase flood insurance as part of the group.

[*Continued on page 2*](#)

Associate Director - Operations Report - Ingrid Danler

I just returned from a very successful meeting with our conference team in Hartford, CT—the site of our [2013 Annual Conference](#). While the heavy lifting and negotiations are done by the talented ASFPM staff, I get the privilege of touring and making decisions, along with our Diamond Sponsors, on the final locations and venues for the Tuesday and Thursday networking events, conference and exhibition details, and hotel hospitality and suite selections.



Hartford, CT will exceed your expectations. This is one year you don't want to miss! Bradley International airport was easy to navigate, and transport is easy via the Bradley Bus—a \$1.30 bus ride to downtown—yes, \$1.30! Hartford is a walkable town with easy sidewalks and over the street pedways. The town sits on the Connecticut River, with the new convention center opening to it with wide open space and windows—in the shape of the hull of a boat. With over 400-years of history, there is a great blend of old and modern. And, the town embraces the river with a fully bricked walkway, running paths, and the huge Bushnell Park and Capital grounds just minutes from the hotels and convention complex.

Back in Madison, our busy implementation phase, post-conference, begins. Both the thirteen Policy Committees and the Certification Board of Regents have their week-long retreats in August and September, respectively. Workplans and strategic direction are the themes, and we so appreciate the efforts of over 40 of our volunteer ASFPM members who descend on Madison to make these groups work. The Board created four ad hoc groups this year—Chapters, By-Laws, Long-term Financial Plan Implementation, and Higher Education—and the Board/EO leaders on these groups are just beginning their missions this fall, as well, and hope to have recommendations by early Spring. Renewals for membership and CFM's are also ramping up for fall and winter renewal cycles.

[Science Services](#) continues to produce high-quality products and if you haven't explored some of their work, check out www.greatlakescoast.org. There are many more products we plan to launch soon, and for those interested, please take advantage of the [free LIDAR training](#) currently being offered. You can sign [here](#) and may also receive 1-CEC credit towards your CFM for each of the four sessions that you attend.

And in honor of Hartford, CT as the birthplace of Mark Twain, I leave you with his quote:
"Supposing is good, but finding out is better."

- Mark Twain in *Eruption*; Mark Twain's Autobiography

Cover..... [Continued from page 1](#)

FEMA has stated in congressional testimony that voluntary community-based flood insurance could help the NFIP better account for the full cost of flood risk, as well as provide incentives to encourage communities to implement greater flood mitigation measures. An individual flood insurance holder has no means or incentive to buy out or relocate entire high risk neighborhoods, develop warning and evacuation plans, or to build stronger levees or dikes; a community policyholder, however, would have the means and incentives to take those kinds of precautions. In theory, under this model, the homeowner would pay insurance much like how one pays a utility bill on a monthly or quarterly basis.

The resolution will commission this study of the community-based flood insurance concept so that FEMA can understand how it could be put to the greatest benefit. You can track the progress of this resolution as it makes its way to the Senate floor by visiting <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php> or the ASFPM website: www.floods.org.

Abstract Submission

Open August 1 to October 1, 2012



- Data Access
- Geospatial Applications
- Geospatial Business Cases
- Innovations in Technology
- Uses of Digital Coast Resources



@CoastalService, #CoastalGeoTools

www.facebook.com/NOAACoastalServices

March 25 to 28, 2013

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

<http://geotools.csc.noaa.gov>

ASFPM Science Services

800 ASFPM members and CFMs participate in ASFPM's LIDAR Educational Series

By Alan Lulloff, P.E., CFM, ASFPM Science Services Program Manager

ASFPM is partnering with GeoCue, Inc. out of Madison, Alabama, to provide a free webinar-based educational series on the use of LIDAR data. The first webinar in this four-part series, held on September 10, was a resounding success with over 800 people participating. It is evident that floodplain managers recognize the importance of understanding more about this technology. LIDAR is being used to cost effectively produce topographic data that can significantly improve the quality of the floodplain mapping. However, it is somewhat different than the traditional contour mapping that people are used to seeing. This series is intended to bring the data out from behind the curtain to help floodplain managers better understand the technology. Participants are provided sample data sets that allow them to work with real data. The upcoming three webinars will be providing information on how to write specifications for LIDAR contracts, ensure proper quality checks are performed on LIDAR data sets delivered, and fully take advantage of additional information that can be extracted from the LIDAR point cloud.

People are asked when registering if they are a Certified Floodplain Manager and CEC credits are automatically given to those that actually log on and actively participate in the webinar. Due to the large number of participants we ask that people not send in individual requests for their CFM CECs.

Registration is now open for the remaining three webinars but we recommend you sign-up early. As a result of the tremendous response received on the first webinar, GeoCue has upgraded its webinar software from 500 to 1,000, but expanding beyond 1,000 is not feasible at this time.

ASFPM is pleased to be able to provide this training to its members and CFMs.



ASFPM Presents

LIDAR Essentials

Understanding and specifying the most important factors influencing flood map accuracy

Point cloud data from LIDAR bring tremendous value to mapping and analysis projects. Learn the basics of LIDAR data acceptance, exploitation and derived product generation from our in-depth LIDAR Educational Series of webinars.

Webinar 1: An Overview of LIDAR

September 10, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- An overview of airborne LIDAR technology (How it Works)
- LIDAR Parameters (Density, Resolution, Precision, Network and Local Accuracy)
- Datums and Coordinate Reference Systems
- Accuracy considerations
- ASPRS LIDAR data format, LAS
- Uses of LIDAR Data - Data applications

Register Now

Webinar 2: Specifying LIDAR Collection Projects

October 22, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- Product-driven specification methods
- How performance specifications affect project cost
- Cost/Performance trade-offs
- "Buy-ups" - cost/benefit considerations
- Breakline (e.g. "hydro-flattening") considerations
- Specifying data deliverables
- Specifying data accuracy
- Specifying data formats and media
- Data Rights
- Monitoring Projects

Register Now

Webinar 3: LIDAR Acceptance and QC

November 9, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- What is the cost of not doing QC?
- A discussion of performance parameters
- Importance of independent ground control
- Data delivery strategies
- QC Program Strategies
- Quantitative Checks
- Vertical accuracy testing - relative and absolute
- Qualitative checks
- Communicating issues

Register Now

Webinar 4: Using LIDAR Data

December 10, 2012: 3:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

- Basic 3D visualization
- Intelligent data thinning - Model Key Points
- Generating derived products (for example, gridded elevation files)
- Generating contours
- Adding breaklines - enhanced elevation models
- Advanced topics - Adding value via local data extraction

Register Now

Technical Presentations by
GeoCue Corporation





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

It is 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 several with you. As usual, please let me know your take on these topics.

NFIP Minus-Rated Flood Insurance Policies. FEMA recently announced that Community Rating System (CRS) communities can request a list of minus-rated properties (and reminded us that the information is subject to the Privacy Act). Properties that are "minus rated" are not eligible for the CRS discount because the lowest floors are one foot or more below the base flood elevation (presumably based on data in Elevation Certificates). FEMA's announcement indicated communities can request their minus-rated list by emailing NFIPCRS@iso.com (include the Community Identification Number).

During a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) a few years ago, I looked at several homes that were on the minus-rated list. Those homes were elevated, but what I saw suggests the reasons for minus-rating may include several factors, not just the lowest floor elevation. Some had heat pumps that were on platforms, but the platforms were more than a foot lower than the lowest floor (see photo). One had several flood openings that were higher than 12" above grade, and several had non-engineered flood openings that didn't add up to 1 sq. in. of net open area for every sq. ft. of the enclosure (both of those conditions means enclosures aren't compliant). But what I remember most was the local official's reaction. He realized that because his inspectors (and the builders!) hadn't paid enough attention to details, his citizens were paying more for flood insurance. He said he was going to contact owners and encourage them to resolve the problems and to submit revised elevation certificates. I suggested he also ask the owners to contact their insurance agents to see if they can find out exactly what inadequacy was leading to the minus-rating status. I've not circled back to find out how it all turned out.



Topo Shows Ground Below Base Flood Elevation (BFE), But Site is Outside of Special Flood Hazard Area
As more and more Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are being revised using updated and more refined topographic mapping, this situation should occur less and less. The question is what do you do when you have clear technical documentation in the form of recent topo map or surveyed data that show the ground elevation of areas adjacent to but outside of the mapped special flood hazard area is lower than the base flood elevation? This scenario is probably quite common, especially in communities where Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) were delineated years ago using topo maps that had 5-, 10- or even 20-foot contour intervals.

There are at least two ways to handle it, but in my opinion, only one makes sense. Sure, you could say "we adopt the maps, the maps show the SFHA, and that's what we regulate –good, bad or ugly." What bothers me about this is it means you'd ignore credible technical evidence that the flood risk shown on the FIRM is not reasonable. Deciding to ignore the evidence would thus allow people to build at-risk. I expect some lawyers would find this an interesting scenario after a flood that damages people allowed to build without recognition of the risk. I recommend the other way to handle it, and that is to acknowledge that it is appropriate to base decisions on good data to avoid putting people and their property at risk. Some states and communities include specific "elevation prevails" language in their floodplain management regulations to clearly provide authority to regulate these areas not shown on FIRMs. While having that language certainly makes it easier, in my opinion it's not necessary. I think the public purpose of protecting public safety and minimizing future flood damage is sufficient basis on which communities can regulate areas that clearly are subject to flooding under the base flood conditions, even if not shown as SFHA on FIRMs.

Fences in SFHAs. Every now and then I get asked about fences – usually the question is "Really? We're supposed to regulate fences in SFHAs?" Well, sure, fences definitely fall under the broad NFIP definition of "development." The next question is always about what requirements apply. Before we get to that answer, let's

examine why fences should be regulated. Solid fences and fences that trap debris can obstruct the free flow of water and cause water to back up, increasing flood depths. I've even seen where such a fence held back a lot of water and then suddenly failed, sending a rather substantial "wall" of water downstream, causing more damage than if the fence hadn't been there. Another concern is that fences themselves become debris that contributes to blockage of flow, clogging culverts and bridges, and causing property damage, even in coastal areas.



Now, let's get to the question about what requirements should apply. First, many communities regulate fences. Those that enforce building codes based on the International Code Series explicitly regulate fences not over 6 ft (or 7 ft; the height changes between the 2009 and 2012 editions of the codes). The codes don't have requirements written specifically for fences: the general requirement to resist loads applies (most common is to ensure fences don't collapse under design wind loads).

I did an internet search and turned up a number of state and local regulations and guidance documents for fences in SFHAs. The following are some of the requirements or methods suggested:

- Prohibit new fences in floodways or prohibit certain "solid" fences and fences that block flow in floodways.
- Require encroachment analysis for fences in floodways.
- Fences outside of floodways are permitted if they will not "divert or change the flow."
- Fences shall be "open to allow the free flow of water," such as split rail and 2- or 3-wire.
- Chain link fencing not allowed unless demonstrated it will not impede flow when debris is piled against it.
- Use "very sturdy pull posts" set deep and angled slightly upstream to increase resistance.
- Require fencing materials to be attached on the downstream side of posts to break away more readily.
- Construct a hinge, pivot mechanism, or other means for the portion of the fence that is below the BFE to break away or float to avoid obstructing flow.
- For low-water pedestrian bridges, use railings that are held by hinged pins that allow the railing to collapse or fold down when the water rises.
- Require fences in floodways to be tethered so as the water rises, the fence is displaced from its normal position, but doesn't float downstream and generally can be reinstalled when the water recedes.

Alteration or Relocation of a Watercourse. The NFIP has two basic requirements related to alteration or relocation of a watercourse: assure that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any waterway is maintained (44 CFR § 60.3(b)(7)) and notify, in riverine situations, adjacent communities and the NFIP State Coordinator's office (and provide the notifications to FEMA) (44 CFR § 60.3(b)(6)). Note that the NFIP regulations don't define "watercourse," nor do they define "riverine."

So the question is whether there is significance to the fact that the requirement to assure maintenance of the flood carrying capacity does not use the word "riverine." Does that mean communities must assure the flood carrying capacity of "watercourses" in areas subject to daily tidal action and flooding from a coastal source? In my opinion, no. A "watercourse" is a natural or artificial channel through which water flows (www.merriam-webster.com) and "riverine situations" are watercourse that are riverine, which are those that resemble a river: they have drainage basins that capture rainfall that drains to the watercourse, which then flows downhill under the influence of gravity. Regardless of what it's called – river, stream, creek, run – a flowing body of water is riverine. The concepts behind the idea of preserving the "flood carrying capacity" are applicable only in riverine waterways – changes in the channel can alter or block the free-flow of water which could adversely affect BFEs and SFHAs, increasing flooding. The concept as the rationale behind delineating the "floodway" and requiring encroachment analyses before permitting development in floodways. In my opinion, this means communities with tidal channels that don't resemble a river aren't required to implement those two requirements every time someone builds a bulkhead, cuts another canal, or otherwise alters the shoreline along those channels. Those tidal channels are not "riverine watercourses."

[RCQ]



ASFPM Foundation

Biannual ASFPM Foundation Newsletter Released

To access the most recent ASFPM Foundation Newsletter, please check your inbox or [click here](#). Previous editions are [available here](#).

ASFPM FOUNDATION Offers 3rd Annual Collegiate Student Paper Competition Abstract Submittal Deadline is **October 31, 2012**

Every spring the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) conducts an annual technical conference that attracts over 1,200 people for a week-long event that showcases the state-of-the-art in techniques, programs, resources, materials, equipment, accessories, and services to accomplish flood mitigation, risk reduction, and other community goals.

The 3rd annual collegiate student paper competition will be a part of the program at the 2013 ASFPM Conference June 10-13 in Hartford, Connecticut. Teams consisting of one or more students are encouraged to submit abstracts on subjects relating to floodplain or stormwater management at the 2013 conference. The goals of this program are to encourage student engagement in floodplain management topics and to identify talented individuals with the potential to make lasting contributions to the Body of Knowledge of floodplain management. [Read here for more](#).

Additional ASFPM Foundation information is available on the website: <http://www.asfpmfoundation.org/>

Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) Offers Webinar October 9, 2012 on Natural Floodplain Management (FPM) at the Local Level

The Natural Floodplain Function Alliance (NFFA) is an affiliation of federal agencies, professional organizations, non-profit groups, and individuals who are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, established in 2010 to promote, protect, and enhance the protection, restoration, and management of natural floodplain resources. The [NFFA web page](#) features information about its activities and publications, schedule of calls/events, and reports useful to those interested in learning more about the importance of natural floodplains. It is hosted on the website of the [Association of State Wetlands Managers](#). ASFPM's Watershed POD Facilitator [Dave Fowler](#) and Outreach & Events Manager [Diane Brown](#) both serve on the NFFA Steering Committee. NFFA members are invited to participate in monthly calls on the 2nd Monday at 3:00 p.m. EDT each month, which alternate between discussion sessions on critical topics/information sharing and webinars hosted by various member organizations. The October 9th "meeting" is a webinar on "Understanding Flood Management and Natural Floodplain Mitigation at the Local Level", to be presented by Dave Fowler, CFM (see description below). Folks interested in receiving information to sign up for the October webinar or wishing to join NFFA should contact Laura at laura@aswm.org.

Understanding Flood Management and Natural Floodplain Mitigation at the Local Level: Thinking Outside the Box Culvert

Floodplain management, for too long, has been focused on structural flood damages with little consideration to the cultural, economic, or environmental effects of a selected "flood control" strategy. Too often the dominant flood control strategy was to confine the river to a predefined channel size and capacity that maximized the availability of land for development or agriculture. This results in the river channel serving a simple utilitarian role as a conveyance structure to remove unwanted excess water as rapidly as possible. Efficiency in water transport was the ultimate goal, and this resulted in structural interventions being constructed at the expense of the natural system. Impacts from structural flood control projects have resulted in both short term and long term consequences on the functioning of the natural drainage system (floodway and floodplain). Mitigation of these impacts and planning for future flooding (stormwater management) must be part of the design in an economically and environmentally sustainable watercourse system.



SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES: **June 9 - 14, 2013**, for ASFPM's 37th Annual National Conference, "Remembering the Past - Insuring the Future", at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. Presentation submittals are due **October 31, 2012**.

The CALL FOR PRESENTERS is now online and can be downloaded [here](#). The conference page will soon be updated with Speakers instructions, Sponsorship and Exhibitors information, and a link to the conference hotels.

Our theme for 2013 is derived from New England's rich history and its vibrant future. The play on words with "insuring" is a tribute to Hartford's status as "the birthplace of insurance."

This Call for Presenters seeks a broad range of professionals to address the many issues and problems associated with managing flood risk, reducing flood damages, making communities more sustainable, and protecting floodplains and fragile natural resources.

In addition to the CONCURRENT SESSION Presentations, ASFPM is also accepting proposals for a limited number of 2- and 4-hour TRAINING WORKSHOPS. Those wishing to submit for either a concurrent session or workshop will use the same Survey Monkey collector.

It is recommended that you preview the form before you submit using the linked PDF versions below. Presenters are urged to create a text version of their abstract or workshop submission in a Word document to copy and paste into the online form BEFORE submitting online so they have a copy of their submission. The online form will NOT send Presenters a copy of their submission. Due to the high volume of submissions, we are not able to provide copies of submissions. Presenters who are selected for the 2013 conference program will receive a copy of their submission at the time they are notified of their selection status. Only online submissions will be considered, the PDF previews are for review ONLY.

Workshop submissions are different than Concurrent Session submissions and each require separate submission forms and information:

- Workshops are 2-4 hour long courses which include a syllabus, course objectives, and exercises. Workshops should be targeted at offering continuing education for floodplain management professionals. Workshop attendees may pay a fee in addition to their conference registration to attend.
- Concurrent Session presentations are 25-30 minutes in length and fit within the standard conference agenda. Concurrent session attendance is included with conference registration. Presentations fit within conference topical tracks, which you will be able to select from on a following page after choosing "Concurrent Session" below.

Concurrent Session Submission Form PREVIEW is available here:

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/Conferences/2013_Concurrent_Submission_Form_PREVIEW.pdf

Workshop Submission Form PREVIEW is available here:

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/conferences/2013_Workshop_Submission_Form_PREVIEW.pdf

Tips to Improve Your Odds of Being Selected to Present:

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/conferences/2013_speaker_tips.pdf

Once you have reviewed the [Call for Presenters](#), the preview forms above, and the Speaker Tips, and are ready to submit your presentation for consideration, please visit our Survey Monkey collector at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013_ASFPM_Conf_Presentation_Submission_Form

ASFPM Committee Chair Retreat

August 27-29, ASFPM Committee Co-chairs met at the Executive Office in Madison, WI



Are you taking advantage of the member benefit that allows you to engage with committees of interest? See the [ASFPM website](#) for the updated committee work plans - coming soon! Access our Policy Committees & POD Facilitators list on [page 2 at this link](#)

CFM® Corner

This section will appear in each issue of the Insider. For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please send an email to Anita Larson at cfm@floods.org.



Continuing Education Credits (CECs)

ASFPM Certification staff recently completed certification renewal for about 850 CFMs. One of the main issues with the certification renewals was submittal of proper documentation for CECs. A CFM must submit verification of attendance for training they have taken during the previous two years. A copy of a Certificate of Attendance is great, but please plan ahead when attending training. If no certificates are given out, have a CEC verification form with you to have signed by the entity providing the training. Submit the verification along with a copy of the agenda with dates of training, location, and timelines to ASFPM when submitting your CEC documentation. For more information go to: <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=217&firstlevelmenuID=180&siteID=1>

ASFPM Member Services Note

Hi everyone! Kevin Currie here, your member services coordinator. I want to thank all of you for your amazing involvement with ASFPM! As current members, your participation and engagement in ASFPM is truly appreciated. Additionally, I'd like to give you all a little advanced notice that our member renewal cycle is just around the corner. You'll be receiving further details from me soon, but here is a preliminary heads-up that you will be able to renew your membership for 2013 beginning sometime in October with a due date of **December 31, 2012**.

If you have ANY questions regarding your member benefits or membership renewal just shoot me an email at kevin@floods.org.

Washington Legislative Report

By: Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

They're Back – But Not For Long!

After a long August hiatus, the Congress is very definitely back! Due to the Republican and Democratic Conventions, the Congress did not reconvene until September 10th. As promised by the leadership, a Continuing Resolution providing funds for federal programs for six months was released and voted on during the first week. Having passed the House on September 13th, it presumably will be taken up in the Senate during the week of September 17th. If passed and the White House is in agreement, the major “must do” work of this work period will be completed.



Other important legislation could be acted on – notably an extension of Farm Bill programs and authorization of drought disaster assistance. Some interesting measures are being considered in the House, but will not very likely be taken up by the Senate until, at the earliest, the lame duck session following the elections. Those include a bill tasking FEMA with studying the feasibility of community based group flood insurance policies and a FEMA authorization bill providing authorization language for a number of FEMA programs, primarily focused on response and recovery.

Committee hearings are continuing, notably a hearing scheduled for September 20th in preparation for introduction of a Water Resources Development Act. That could occur during the lame duck session to begin movement on the next WRDA.

While the date that the Congress will recess is unclear, it is looked increasingly likely that the recess would begin the week of September 24th. Due to Rosh Hashana, legislative action was not scheduled until Wednesday, September 19th. The focus during October will be on the upcoming elections on November 6th. Many unfinished items of legislative business have piled up for consideration during the lame duck session in November and possibly December.

Appropriations and Budget

The House passed the Continuing Resolution (CR), H.J. Res. 117, on September 13 by a vote of 329-91. The CR funds government programs for six months, until March, 2013. It essentially continues most programs at FY 2012 levels with some restrictions on grant-making, so for most agencies, funding during the first six months of the fiscal year will be at higher levels than if regular FY 2013 bills were enacted. Republican leadership reportedly agreed to the short term higher levels with the expectation that significantly deep cuts can be enacted for the second part of the fiscal year. Interestingly, however, talk is beginning about taking action on FY '13 appropriations during the lame duck session after the elections, rather than waiting until March.

All of this will be affected by action taken or not taken during the lame duck session on the so-called “fiscal cliff”. If automatic sequestration takes place, the budget numbers will be significantly altered.

Farm Bill

There is a political dance underway involving consideration of the House version of the Farm Bill (H.R. 6083). The bill was reported out of the House Agriculture Committee in July. The Senate has already passed its Farm Bill. Although expectations were high in July that the Congress would pass emergency drought disaster assistance, that did not occur.

There is pressure from some sectors to pass a one year extension of farm programs (which otherwise expire on September 30) including drought disaster assistance. Conservation programs would bear much of the cost of that

assistance. As the close of the short September session quickly approaches, it appears less likely that a one year extension will be taken up. Those opposed to the one year extension would prefer action on the full five year authorization during the lame duck session.

Group Flood Insurance Study

A bill (H.R. 6186) tasking the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with studying the feasibility of various forms of community based group flood insurance policies passed the House by a vote of 364-11. A provision for such a study had been included in the original version of the flood insurance reform bill passed by the House, but was not included in the final version that became law in July.

The bill was introduced just before the August recess and brought to the House floor on the first legislative day after the recess, September 10. It was introduced by Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) and cosponsored by Chairman Bachus (R-AL) of the House Financial Services Committee, Chairman Biggert (R-IL) of the Subcommittee and Ranking Member Waters (D-CA). In remarks on the House floor, Rep. Moore noted that group policies could be helpful in addressing concerns about affordability of flood insurance.

The measure has been referred to the Senate Banking Committee for consideration.

FEMA Reauthorization

A bill (H.R. 2903) reauthorizing several FEMA programs will be taken up on the House floor on September 19. The measure will be considered under Suspension of the Rules, a procedure requiring a vote of 2/3 of the House, used for non-controversial legislation. The report of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is H.Rept. 112-674.

The bill reauthorizes Urban Search and Rescue, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact grants (EMAC) and FEMA management and administration.

WRDA Hearing

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) will hold a hearing on September 20th in preparation for introduction of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). ASFPM testified at an earlier such hearing last October.

Development of WRDA legislation is long overdue, but has been complicated by changes in Congressional treatment of earmarks. There is consideration of inclusion of levee risk management elements in a new WRDA. At the request of committee staff, ASFPM has engaged in discussions and submitted suggestions.

All legislation referenced can be found by going to: <http://thomas.loc.gov> and typing in the bill number or subject.



September is National Preparedness Month

[Pledge to Prepare by joining the National Preparedness Coalition now!](#)

Empower yourself and help coordinate preparedness activities for your family, neighbors and co-workers.

Remember, [Turn Around, Don't Drown](#), and remind your friends! Many people drown during flooding because of underestimating the incredible power of water. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs.

General News & Information

Around the World

United Kingdom

The worst September storm for thirty years has left river levels dangerously high and placed thousands of homes in danger of flooding. [See more here](#).



Thailand

Nearly one year after floodwaters inundated much of Thailand, the Royal Thai Government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have launched a new initiative to boost the capacity of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), the central agency in Thailand responsible for coordinating disaster response and disaster risk reduction, to better respond to large-scale floods and other natural hazards. [Read further here](#).

Stateside

ASFPM Weighs In On Farm Bill

September 12 – ASFPM joined 30 organizations in a [letter urging Congress](#) to pass the long-term Farm Bill without cutting conservation programs. For a list of the participating organizations, and to read more, [please click here](#).

Building Better Flood Risk Maps: Lessons Learned From the Electric Car

Bob Freitag, David Carlton, and Joseph Hamman recently contributed an article to the September 2012 issue of the Natural Hazards Observer. It presents an argument in support of scenario based floodplain maps, and addresses the problem of static maps in dynamic environments. Some watersheds and the communities they serve are reasonably static, such that the existing approach works. Others, however, are anything but static. This is their solution to those 'anything but' communities. To read further, please continue to page 8 of the [September 2012 Natural Hazards Observer](#).

FloodSmart Co-Op Ad Program Undergoing a Comprehensive Redesign

Effective September 20, 2012, the FloodSmart co-operative (Co-Op) advertising program will be suspended temporarily to undergo a comprehensive redesign. FloodSmart will re-launch the program in spring 2013 with new creative, new media options including online advertising, more comprehensive guidance for the use of the program, and a new system for requesting approvals and managing Co-Op accounts.

All of the current materials will be available for agents to access, customize and use while FloodSmart works to enhance and improve the Co-Op advertising program; however, pre-approval requests for Co-Op advertising will be suspended. Previously approved ads that are submitted with proper documentation within 90 days of the run date will be honored.

Over the years, the Co-Op advertising program has helped more than 1,300 agents across the country promote the benefits of flood insurance. We've heard many success stories that are directly attributable to the Co-Op program. In addition, we have received numerous suggestions from agents on ways to make the program even better. We listened! We are taking your suggestions to heart, and we are working to provide you with new and improved marketing tools that will help you sell flood policies. Watch for the new program to be launched in spring 2013.

Questions or suggestions? Call the FloodSmart Co-Op Program Support line at 703-539-6621 or email us at info@nfipfloodsmart.com.

Swiss Re Releases New Publication and App

Swiss Re has recently released the publication [Flood – an underestimated risk: inspect, inform, insure](#), as well as the new Swiss Re [Flood Risk App for iPad](#). Assessing proper flood coverage is a challenge, but the information assists greatly toward educating the public on hidden flood risks and making floods insurable. To read further on different flood insurance programs around the world, please see the original Swiss Re article [Insuring floods: a challenge and an opportunity](#).

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

FEMA has announced its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on proposed modifications to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The PEIS will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) environmental regulations at [44 CFR Part 10](#). The Notice of Intent for this EIS has been originally published on May 16, 2012 and closed on July 16, 2012. It has been reopened until **October 9, 2012** and is [available here](#). Comments must be identified by Docket ID FEMA-2012-0012 and submitted by one of the following methods:

Mail: Regulatory Affairs Legal Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal eRulemaking Portal: [Follow the instructions for submitting comments](#). Please note that this notice of intent is not a rulemaking and that the Federal Rulemaking Portal is being utilized only as a mechanism for receiving comments.

Outreach, Videos, and Social Media

Rising Tide in Norfolk, Virginia – PBS Video Online

As part of [The Climate Desk](#), [PBS](#) released an interesting piece looking at Norfolk, Virginia, and how the population is approaching the potential for increased flood risk. The video interviews property owners, presenting their logic and rationalization for why they live in areas where their homes flood annually. While the mayor acknowledges his citizens aren't fully ready for the message, he does say that he feels it is time to retreat from some areas of the city. Click through to access the video and [read more here](#).

"There's one area in the discussion of sea-level rise where there's a growing consensus: a growing number of critics sat that the U.S. needs to rethink the policies – like subsidized Federal flood insurance – that they say encourage people to build in areas that will keep flooding over and over again... Environmental groups and coastal scientists have argued for years that the continued development along the U.S. coast is made easier by this subsidized insurance, and that this policy needs to be overhauled. According to The [New York Times](#), now even some prominent climate change skeptics, like [Myron Ebell](#) of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, have joined that chorus. Ebell told the Times, "If people want to build an expensive beach house on the Florida or Carolina coast, they should take their own risk and pay for their own insurance."

ASFPM on LinkedIn and Facebook

ASFPM members continue to weigh in on various discussions posted to the ASFPM LinkedIn page. If you have not yet joined in any of the conversations, you can check them out [here](#).

Has your organization released flood safety videos or recently launched an innovative use of social media?

If you would like to see these efforts shared in the ASFPM newsletter, please contact Katrien at katrien@floods.org

About www.floods.org – ASFPM Website Tips

Need a Job? Need to Advertise a Job Vacancy? Check ASFPM's Job Corner!

The ASFPM website has a page for job postings. Check out the Job Corner to view floodplain management positions available throughout the country or post your vacancy. There is no charge to view or post jobs. To view available job openings click on the Job Corner tab on our website menu. To advertise a vacancy within your organization or state, click the link at the top of the [Job Corner page](#) or go to <http://www.floods.org/n-jobpost/post.asp>. You fill in all the relevant details about your job opportunity, ASFPM reviews and posts live after approval. Advertising your job posting is free of charge!

Chapter Corner

Utah is the 34th ASFPM Chapter!

Welcome Utah!

Please join us in welcoming Utah as the 34th ASFPM chapter! The ASFPM Board approved the Utah application for chapter status during their board meeting this month. Utah is the third ASFPM chapter in Region 8! Our newest Chapter brings the national membership to 14,000 members with 34 Chapters and 5 states with existing floodplain management associations (not yet chapters). The Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (UFSMA) was formed in 1993 and joined ASFPM as a chapter in 2012. UFSMA has just under 200 members.

[UT Chapter Website](#)
[ASFPM Chapter Page](#)



Chapter Renewals are Coming Soon

As we enter into the early fall season, it's again that time of year when ASFPM is preparing to send ASFPM chapter membership renewals out to our chapters. This process may be old hat for some chapters, but with elections and leadership changes, the process might be new to some of our chapter leaders. ASFPM chapter membership renewals are sent in November to the two primary chapter contacts on file for the chapter. Renewals to maintain your ASFPM chapter membership status are due back by **Dec. 31, 2012** along with your chapter membership fee of \$200.

The two primary chapter contacts are determined by the Chapter's Chair upon election, or by the previous year primary contacts at the renewal period. The two contacts must be chapter board officers or directors and should be persons who can respond to ASFPM requests and communications in a timely manner as well as have the authority to answer questions on behalf of the chapter. These two contacts receive all ASFPM member newsletters as well as any ASFPM Chapter Alerts and communications that are sent out to chapters.

What comes with your renewal paperwork? ASFPM will ask you some basic information about your chapter board and key members (directors, committee chairs, and webmaster), statistical information about your chapter membership (number of members, membership fees, # of newsletters & conferences, etc.), administration information (tax-exempt status, insurance coverage, incorporation status, election cycle and officer/director terms).

A "Chapter Re-cap Sheet" will provide a list of data and documents ASFPM has on file for your chapter to aid you in assessing what updated information should be shared with ASFPM. We will also include CFM status updates, a list of ASFPM Chapter Membership benefits, and occasionally a survey to collect frequently requested chapter information from other chapters.

We want to make this process as seamless and painless for chapters as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact Kait Laufenberg, ASFPM Training & Chapter Coordinator at Kait@floods.org or 608-274-0123 with questions or concerns. I'm here to help!

News from the Chapters – Kansas & Colorado

Kansas Chapter Provides Unique “Gift” to Conference Attendees

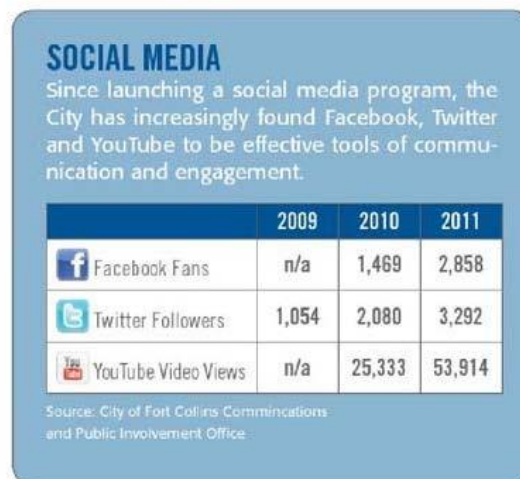
At this year's Chapter Conference, the [Kansas Association for Floodplain Management, Inc. \(KAFM\)](#) provided a unique gift to their conference attendees. Each attendee of their conference received an 8GB flash drive with lanyard pre-loaded with a treasure trove of floodplain management references and resources for their members. The flash drive carries copies of regulations from FEMA, NFIP, and the Kansas State office that include: flood safety information, forms, insurance, items of interest, FEMA Technical Flood Bulletins and training materials ([click here to view the complete list](#)).

KAFM is able to offer this to their attendees for the low cost of about \$7.00 per flash drive (150 quantity) which includes double-sided screen printing of chapter's logo, website, lanyard, preloading of files, and shipping. Chapters who are interested in offering a similar gift to their members or conference attendees can contact [CFGear](#) out of Sioux Falls, SD to request a quote.

Colorado Chapter Explores Social Media Committee

After the [City of Fort Collins, CO](#) (see graphic) demonstrated a highly successful public information and outreach program using [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). The City was also able to secure low-cost access to video production resources via their local cable access station in support of their efforts to create videos to post on their [YouTube channel](#). In light of their success, the [Colorado Association of Stormwater & Floodplain Managers \(CASFM\)](#) decided to explore a new chapter committee on social media to identify and launch a successful social media strategy and resource for their members and communities. The committee is in the early stages of formation and is looking for ideas and collaborators. If your chapter has social media experiences and resources to share, please send them to Kait@floods.org and she will make them available to all our chapters.

In support of CASFM's initiative, ASFPM is offering to host a topic-specific conference call / web meeting for our chapters on social media if there is enough interest from the chapters. If your chapter would like to participate in a topical call on social media, please send an email to Kait@floods.org to express interest. The call would cover the basics of social media, provide resources, with a focus on allowing chapters to discuss the topic and share resources with one another.



Get involved!

ASFPM is looking to highlight Chapter successes, challenges, and learning lessons, so that others may also benefit from the efforts. Many minds are better than one. Is your Chapter engaged in noteworthy action that may be of interest to readers elsewhere in the nation? If so, please contact Kait at kait@floods.org and Katrien at katrien@floods.org so that we may share your story!

Need CECs? Check out the Online Events Calendar for State Chapter Conferences being offered this Fall!

ASFPM Chapters frequently host their conference in the fall of the year. If you need your CECs and can't get out of state, check out our online [Event Calendar](#) to see if your state chapter is hosting a fall conference. You can look just at Chapter Conferences by selecting the "Chapter Conferences" category from the drop down list at the top of the calendar.

The next All Chapters conference call is **November 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. Central Time.**
All Chapter Board and Committee members are invited to participate.
Please contact Kait at kait@floods.org to submit agenda items & RSVP.

Outreach Process Partners Sponsors Purchase of 3D Flood Model & Case for Qualifying Chapter



Each year for the last two years Outreach Process Partners (OPP) has generously sponsored the purchase of a 3D Flood Simulation Model and case valued at \$1,800 for a qualifying ASFPM Chapter as part of their "Flood Risk Education in Our Local Schools" campaign. Chapters were invited to apply for consideration.

For more information about the "[Flood Risk Education in Our Local Schools](#)" campaign, please check out their [Facebook](#) Page, [Google Map](#) of model locations (nationwide), [YouTube Channel](#), and [Twitter](#). Existing outreach materials and ordering information can be found on the [ASFPM Outreach Library](#).



ATC-SEI Advances in Hurricane Engineering Conference

Advance Registration Fees Expire **October 12**

The [ATC-SEI Advances in Hurricane Engineering Conference](#), held **October 24-26, 2012** at the JW Marriott Marquis Miami in Miami, Florida, is the first conference to focus exclusively on wind and flood topics of interest to professionals who design, engineer, regulate and build projects in hurricane affected areas.

If you haven't registered and made your hotel reservations, you can still do so and save!

- [Register](#) for the conference before October 12 to get the advance registration rate.
- Make your [hotel reservations](#) before September 28 to take advantage of the special room rate.

Announcing Friday's Keynote Speaker

We are thrilled to announce the addition of **Richard Knabb, Ph.D., Director of NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami**, as our Keynote Speaker on Friday, October 26. He will discuss the Future of Hurricane Forecasting, Preparedness and Mitigation and how, as a technical community, we must come together to reduce losses from hurricane events. He will provide insights into what we must learn to make loss reduction from these events a reality and joins an impressive list of [conference keynote speakers](#).

Join Colleagues and Peers at this Thought-provoking Event

[View the technical program](#) and see why the educational sessions and speakers make this a program not to be missed. [Post-conference workshops](#) allow for more in-depth discussions of key topics, while post-conference tours take participants to interesting local sites including the new Miami Dolphins Stadium, the RWDI wind tunnel, the National Hurricane Center and the Wall of Wind at Florida International University.

Post-conference events require additional registration.

Exhibit space and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Visit the [conference website](#) to see the most recent list of companies who are supporting our industry at this event.

Scholarships, Grants

[Campus RainWorks Challenge](#)

EPA & Stormwater: Giving it the “College Try”

Registration Deadline: October 5, 2012

The [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) has announced, a design competition, the [Campus RainWorks Challenge](#), for university students to promote and discover innovative stormwater management solutions. With a faculty adviser, undergraduate and graduate students will work together as a team to incorporate green infrastructure principles into their proposed designs for campus improvement. Key factors for judging the contest will be the incorporated use of vegetation, soils, building materials, and natural processes in design elements. EPA's goals for the contest include successfully introducing students to the technical and economic potentials of green infrastructure solutions; providing a hands-on, interdisciplinary learning experience which could benefit their future careers; and promoting the use of green infrastructure practices. A winner will be chosen from both a large university and a small university category. A university falls under the category of large or small depending on the amount of federal funding the university receives for research and development. Winners in each category will receive a \$1,500-\$2,500 cash prize for the student team. In addition, the faculty advisor will receive \$8,000-\$11,000 to conduct research on green infrastructure. The competition will open registration on **September 4, 2012** and will close on **October 5, 2012**.

[AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams \(SDAT\)](#)

Technical Assistance American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Deadline: Two review cycles; upcoming due date is October 12, 2012

The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program focuses on the importance of *developing sustainable communities through design*. The American Institute of Architects' Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for a collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. Awarded communities will receive pro bono services from a multidisciplinary team through the program, and the AIA commits to funding up to \$15,000 for each project to cover team expenses.

ASFPM Issues Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for No Adverse Impact (NAI) How-To Guides

Proposals Due: October 19, 2012

The ASFPM has issued two RFPs to NAI “How-To” Guides for Infrastructure and Mitigation Actions. See more information in the Job Corner or [click here](#).

[Southeast Environmental Education Alliance Mini Grant Program](#)

Request for Proposals Now Open

Deadline: November 1, 2012

The [Southeast Environmental Education Alliance](#) (SEEA) is partnering with the professional environmental education associations across the southeast to provide small grants in support of programs and projects that support and advance environmental education (EE) and environmental literacy in the region. Grant requests must not exceed \$5,000 and require a non-federal match of 25% of the total project cost. Proposals may be submitted electronically to director@kaee.org by November 1, 2012. Hard copy submissions will not be accepted. For the full RFP and application, please visit www.kaee.org/grants/.

[2013 Conservation Innovation Grant](#)

United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Deadline: March 6, 2013

NRCS provides [funding opportunities](#) for agriculturalists and others through various programs. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-Federal governmental or nongovernmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the Nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. NRCS administers CIG.

More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Job Corner

ASFPM Issues Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for No Adverse Impact (NAI) How-To Guides

ASFPM is seeking a qualified consultant to lead the development of two NAI “How-To” Guides for Infrastructure and Mitigation Actions. Proposals are due **October 19, 2012**. ASFPM’s NAI approach to floodplain management embraces the “do no harm” principle. For the last decade, ASFPM has been developing tools, materials, and other information related to NAI. One of the most popular publications, the *NAI Toolkit*, identifies seven “building blocks” on which a local NAI program can be built.

It is envisioned that the “How-To” guide development process will include the consultant working collaboratively with a volunteer group of subject matter experts from ASFPM’s NAI and other policy committees. The final deliverable is due **May 1, 2013**.

For the complete [Mitigation Actions RFP](#), please [click here](#).

For the complete [Infrastructure RFP](#), please [click here](#).

For more info and to see the most up-to-date job listings, please visit the online [ASFPM Job Corner](#).

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

For a full nationwide listing of Chapter, State, and Partner training opportunities, please take a moment to visit the [ASFPM Online Calendar](#).

Are you looking for training opportunities to earn CECs for your CFM? If so, be sure to check out our web calendar, which already has LOTS of training opportunities listed for 2012! You can search the calendar by state using the directions below. Or you can use the category drop down menu to search by 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 (training, conferences, etc.) that are currently listed on the calendar for your state. What a great way to find upcoming training for CECs! The only events without a state listed in the event title are EMI courses which are all held in Emmitsburg, MD.

Upcoming ASFPM Events – Mark your Calendar!

- June 9-14, 2013 – ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference – Hartford, CT
- June 1-6, 2014 – ASFPM 38th Annual National Conference – Seattle, WA
- May 31 – June 5, 2015 – ASFPM 39th Annual National Conference – Atlanta, GA

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Copyright © ASFPM.

Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors.

Reproduction, with credit, permitted for individual ASFPM-authored articles. Please contact katrien@floods.org