

THE INSIDER

A Publication for Members - July 2012

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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S.2039 – Why All the Fuss?

As the ASFPM Member Alerts and [Hot Topics](#) posts indicated, S. 2039 was a piece of legislation that was of great concern to ASFPM (see the [Washington Legislative Report](#) for more on how the bill was ultimately defeated in the U.S. House of Representatives). It is important that ASFPM members understand the issues surrounding the bill and its potential ramifications.

[S. 2039](#) would have allowed North Dakota to build permanent levees and redevelop properties that were already relocated using taxpayer dollars under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This contravenes longstanding federal policy that would still apply to 49 other states that requires that once FEMA mitigation funds are used to relocate communities and buildings out of floodplains, the land will be dedicated and maintained in perpetuity for a use that is compatible with open space, recreational, or wetlands management practices.

In [February](#), ASFPM analyzed the bill and [identified specific concerns](#).

[Read further to review the concerns.](#)

ASFPM Testimony before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) was pleased to offer our thoughts related to the value of hazard mitigation to the nation as it relates to reducing natural disaster costs, as well as to specifically offer our recommendations as they relate to building codes. Given that flooding is the nation's primary natural hazard and that ASFPM's mission is to reduce flood losses in the nation, we commend the committee on its leadership in examining this important issue.

[Read further](#)

Conference Wrap

Mission Mitigation – Success!

ASFPM broke numerous records at our 36th Annual National Conference. With nearly 1200 registrants and their guests, our total participation number reached 1,344. Attendees were present from all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 5 foreign nations. Texas brought an astounding 290 participants followed by Virginia at 125.

The numbers were as follows:

General Registrations: 1053
Exhibit Booth Registrations: 77
Exhibit Booth Representative Registrations: 38
One-Day Registrations: 16
Workshop-Only Registrations: 7
Registered Guests: 153

Please read further for [conference photos](#), [award](#) and [election information](#), [plenary and concurrent session presentations available online](#), our first ever use of [social media at a conference](#), and more!

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Associate Director - Operations Report - Ingrid Danler

May 25th marked the end of our 36th Annual Conference ending with our highest attendance to date. With over 1,344 attendees from all 50 states and 10 international nations represented, attendees responded that the wide variety of workshops, speakers, and networking events, made this our most successful conference yet. August begins with our team meetings for the 2013 Conference in Hartford, CT, and we promise to continue to develop and offer opportunities for the quality training, networking, and professional development that our attendees have come to expect. In moving from Texas to New England, we hope that our 2013 conference will provide a new and vibrant venue. Frankly, this Midwestern gal can't wait for a dozen of those real Connecticut oysters!

It gives me pleasure to be able to state that:

**Mission Mitigation is a resounding success!
And the State of our Association is Strong!**

--Ingrid D. Danler, Associate Director Operations

Many of our members don't realize that most of our leadership arrives the weekend before the conference for the face-to-face Board and Committee meetings that are at the heart of our annual strategic planning. Reports from the Board of Directors and our thirteen policy committees can be found through [this page](#) which will take you to the shortcut for [2012 ASFPM Annual National Conference Reports](#). Volunteers are always welcome, and we would encourage anyone that has a particular interest to get involved!

A very special part of the Conference this year was to honor Larry Larson's many contributions to the Association and his transition from Executive Director to Director Emeritus and to announce the appointment of Chad Berginnis, as the new Executive Director, effective July 1, 2012, to lead ASFPM into the next evolutionary step of the Association. With Larry Larson agreeing to stay on as Director Emeritus of National Policy, the ASFPM Board of Directors created an Executive Management Team, that I am proud to be a part of, to retain all the best traditions of the Association while preparing the Association for the next generation of floodplain management.

As we close out our fiscal year 2012, and have entered into a new fiscal year as of July 1st, our financial status is stable and continues to grow with the growth in membership and CFM's nationwide. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you. If there are any suggestions that can make your membership more valuable, I would like to hear them.



Pictured from left to right: Chad Berginnis, Ingrid Danler, and Larry Larson.

S. 2039..... [Continued from page 1](#)

[ASFPM's concerns](#) with [S.2039](#) are as follows:

- This bill would have opened the door for levees and other development on over 37,000 parcels that have been acquired under the FEMA buyout programs to date. Right now, these parcels assure a permanent and more sustainable open space land use, eliminating disaster assistance costs, storing flood waters, improving the environment, and even enhancing the neighborhoods around them. It is nearly always true that lots next to open space sell at a premium due to proximity to that desirable amenity.
- The Federal taxpayer has already paid once to mitigate this land. This bill would have created a backdoor way for the federal government to fund construction of local levees and to then fund future maintenance and repair costs. Levee costs can be broadly separated into three areas: land acquisition, design/construction, and maintenance. Under this bill, land purchased using Federal taxpayer funds would be used to leverage levee construction. Then, while the bill only allows state and local design/construction of the levee, once complete, the levee can be enrolled into the Corps of Engineers Rehabilitation and Inspection Program where it would receive taxpayer support at a level of 80% federal funding for rehabilitation or repair after the next flood event. Presently, these buyout properties cost the federal government zero dollars for ongoing maintenance.
- US taxpayers have already purchased mitigation measures that will result in 100% reduction in future flood damages on these properties. This bill would have allowed levee construction on these properties which cannot ensure 100% reduction in future damages and will lead to increased consequences of flooding due to increased area development because of perceived “protection”. Regardless of how well a levee is constructed, there will always be [residual risk](#) with the developed land behind the levee. Why should the US government allow development of more exposure to disaster costs for the federal taxpayer on land already mitigated by those taxpayers?
- The bill would have had a chilling effect on existing, highly successful FEMA mitigation programs. Because FEMA's buyout programs are voluntary, property owners who may have lived on those properties their entire lives want to know what can and will be done with the land if they volunteer to sell their damaged house after being told they cannot rebuild. They accept that the land will be permanent open space, but are wary and often hostile to any concepts that would imply future redevelopment of land they have given up. Owners would likely less likely to participate in the program knowing that their property might be redeveloped.

Complex flooding issues usually necessitate that multiple mitigation tools be used. The bill does point to the ongoing need to coordinate where two of the more common mitigation methods are used - acquisitions and levees - and plan carefully for accommodating both.

Tracking history is available [here](#).

Further background on how ASFPM has [engaged](#) in this issue is available [here](#) and [here](#).

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

A Review of Building Codes & Mitigation Efforts to Help Minimize the Costs Associated with Natural Disasters

July 24, 2012, Chad Berginnis, Executive Director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, presented testimony before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

The testimony addresses the following key issues:

- The rise of disaster losses in the nation
- The nation's need for a coherent, robust and multi-faceted mitigation effort to reduce disaster costs
- Mitigation as an investment of taxpayer funds to save taxpayer funds
- The effectiveness of non-structural mitigation tools including building codes

Read more [here](#) or click [here](#) to access video of the [testimony](#).

ASFPM 2012–13 Board of Directors

This election year, two of our Officers reached their term limits: John Crofts (Treasurer) and Alan Giles (Secretary). Thank you, John and Alan, for your years of service on the board. Many thanks also go to outgoing Chapter Directors representing District 2 (Regions 3 & 5) and District 4 (Regions 7 & 8) – Jerry Robinson and Brad Anderson -- who served on the ASFPM board as Chapter Directors for the last six years. Additionally, we'd like to thank our outgoing Regional Directors: Laura Tessieri (Region 2), Heidi Carlin (Region 6), and Jeff Sickles (Region 8) for their years of service on the ASFPM Board.



Seated L-R: Joe Ruggeri, PE, CFM, Treasurer, NJ; Bill Nechamen, CFM, Vice Chair, NY; Sally McConkey, PE, D.WRE, CFM, Chair, IL; Chad Berginnis, CFM, ASFPM Associate Director; Larry Larson, PE, CFM, ASFPM Executive Director; Ingrid Danler, CFM, ASFPM Associate Director-Operations. **Standing L-R:** Paul Woodward, PE, CFM, Region 7, NE; Diane Calhoun, CFM, Chapter District 3, TX; Jim DeAngelo, CFM, Region 2, NJ; Alison Meehan, CFM, Region 3, VA; Brian Varrella, PE, CFM, Region 8, CO; Ceil Strauss, CFM, Region 5, MN; Alisa Sauvageot, CFM, Region 9, AZ; Kyle Riley, PE, CFM, Chapter District 4, IA; Michael Dopko, CFM, Chapter District 1, NY; Valerie Swick, CFM, Chapter District 5, AZ; Mike Cothard, PE, CFM, Chapter District 2, IL; Terri Turner, AICP, CFM, Region 4, GA; Bob Freitag, CFM, Region 10, WA; Jessica Baker, PE, PMP, CFM, Region 6, TX; Michelle Burnett, CFM, Region 1, RI. **Not pictured:** Joy Duperault, Secretary, FL

ASFPM Annual National Awards for Excellence

Media – **Indianapolis Museum of Art**

LRJ Local Floodplain Manager of the Year – **Steve Parker**, City of Dallas, TX

Sheaffer Floodproofing – **John Ingargolia**

Ivey Certification Award – **Mike Parker**

Tom Lee State Award – **Arizona Floodplain Management Association**

James Lee Witt Local Award – **San Antonio River Authority**

Honorary Membership – **Wallace A. Wilson**

Louthain Award for Distinguished Service – **Siavash Beik**

Meritorious Achievement – **Scott Edelman**

Special Recognition for 30 Years as ASFPM Executive Director – **Larry A. Larson**

Previous ASFPM Annual National Award recipients are listed on the [ASFPM Awards Page](#).



ASFPM Foundation

ASFPM Foundation Completes 2nd Annual Student Paper Competition

We are pleased to announce the results of the second ASFPM Student Paper/Presentation Competition. Two students among those who submitted abstracts were selected to attend the 2012 national floodplain management conference in San Antonio as the guests of the ASFPM Foundation, in order to present their papers in a professional environment. In addition to hosted participation in the full conference, scholarship money was awarded to the winning students. Please join us in congratulating them, and may they have bright shining futures in Flood Risk Management!

1st Place – Arian Lessani, University of Maryland

2nd Place – Marshall Kent Tidwell, University of Pennsylvania School of Design

Please see the [ASFPM Foundation Website](#) to access the submitted student papers.

ASFPM Foundation Raises Record Amount at Conference Live and Silent Auctions!

Each year the ASFPM Foundation conducts their most successful annual fundraiser at the national conference via a Silent Auction and an exciting Live Auction. This year we broke the record on both! The Silent Auction raised \$5,818 while the Live Auction brought in a whopping \$8,200! Thanks so much to all who participated in these fun and important events. Your support helps ensure that the nation's floodplains and watersheds are wisely and safely managed.



2012 – 20123 Foundation Board Members

Foundation Donors mingle at the Appreciation Reception and Live Auction



Founding Director Wally Wilson, retiring from the Foundation Board, receives a standing ovation for his many contributions over the years.



ASFPM Conference Update

ASFPM 36th Annual National Conference | Mission Mitigation San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter | San Antonio, TX



ASFPM broke numerous records at our 36th Annual National Conference. With nearly 1200 registrants and their guests attending, our total participation number reached 1,344. Attendees were present from all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 5 foreign nations. Texas brought an astounding 290 participants with Virginia coming in strong at 125. See the following numbers:

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2012 ASFPM Annual National Conference Plenary and Concurrent Session Presentations Posted

ASFPM has posted all available [Plenary and Concurrent Session presentations](#). More presentations will be added as we receive them. If you are seeking a specific presentation not currently listed online, please feel free to contact the presenter directly. Conference Plenary and ASFPM Awards Ceremony videos are being processed at this time and will be posted once production is complete.

▶ Conferences & Events	ASFPM Annual National Conference
▶ Training and Education	The 5th National FloodProofing Conference and Exposition
▶ Committees	Additional ASFPM Events
▶ Chapter and State Contacts	Calendar
▶ State/Local Resources and Tools	Exhibit Information
▶ Flood Maps & Data	Past ASFPM Events
▶ National Policy and Programs	Sponsor Information

▶ 2012 ASFPM Annual National Conference
2011 ASFPM Annual National Conference
2010 ASFPM Annual National Conference
Flood Risk Management: 2009 Flood Risk Summit
2009 ASFPM Annual National Conference
Flood Risk Management: 2008 Levee Safety Summit
National Floodproofing Conference IV

Plenary and Concurrent Session Presentations posted from previous years are available through the website. See figure.

Conference Proceedings are available [here](#).

ASFPM 37th Annual National Conference | Remembering the Past – Insuring the Future Connecticut Convention Center | Hartford, Connecticut

June 9-14, 2013

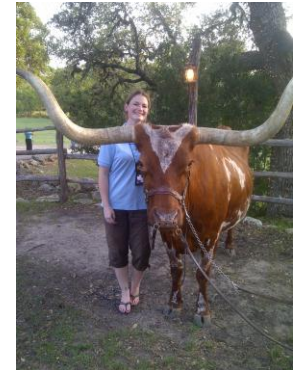
The Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association, Connecticut floodplain managers, and our members from throughout New England are working to deliver a successful conference next year in Hartford! Your patience is appreciated as we redesign our [conference website](#). More information to come!



Look for the **Call for Presenters** in September, with an **October 31st deadline** to submit your presentation. If you would like to see what we asked for last year in our submissions click here for [workshops](#) (2-4 hours) and here for [concurrent session presentations](#) (20 minutes). In 2012, ASFPM also developed a [brochure](#) to demystify the presenter selection process and provide tips on how to increase your chances of being selected to present.

Mission Mitigation - Conference Snapshots







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

Every spring and summer, people who live and work in hurricane-prone and flood-prone areas should pay attention to various public service announcements, special recognition months, hurricane season predications, flood safe and hazard awareness initiatives, and the latest NFIP FloodSmart campaign.

But what about your local government? For many ASFPM members, that means your employer. Let's take a few minutes to consider some "get ready" things your community might want to do in the coming months, if you haven't already done them.

First, let's talk about buildings owned by governmental entities – public buildings. Used here, "public buildings" includes everything: municipal office buildings, emergency operations centers, libraries, schools, fire stations, police stations, vehicle maintenance shops, park visitor centers, etc. For the purpose of this discussion, we can also include buildings owned by private nonprofit entities, such as hospitals, community clinics, halfway houses, homeless shelters, and food banks. You get the picture: these are the buildings where, every day, the work that helps our communities and citizens get done what needs to be done.

In my opinion, one of the most productive parts of helping communities undertake the hazard mitigation planning process is having them identify vulnerable public buildings. Every one of the 20 or so plans I've facilitated includes this step. Occasionally there were some big surprises when we compared building locations to the mapped special flood hazard area and discovered some pretty significant and important facilities exposed to flooding.

In those communities that have flood-prone public buildings, I encouraged them to include a mitigation action to further examine vulnerability. Just knowing a building is "in" the mapped special flood hazard area doesn't give you enough to know whether there is, indeed, a vulnerability that puts the building and its function at risk. You really need to look at each building individually to answer some questions, such as what is the base flood elevation compared to the ground elevation (depth of flooding), what is the type of building and foundation, can water actually make its way into the building, how is the building used and how vital are the contents, and other questions. The best resource to help answer these and other important questions is the vulnerability checklist found in FEMA's Risk Management Series. The most recent is in FEMA P-424 (don't let the fact that it is written for schools put you off – the chapter on flooding is applicable to any building, regardless of occupancy).

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?fromSearch=fromsearch&id=1986>

There's something else I encourage local governments to do after they have a sense of the degree of vulnerability of their public buildings: check their property insurance coverage. The same advice goes for private nonprofit organizations.

Did you know that neglecting to have adequate insurance coverage for flood damage could end up "costing" your community a million dollars? It flows from the Stafford Act (Sec. 406(d)), the federal law that governs disaster assistance administered by FEMA. This quotation comes from the *Public Assistance Policy Digest* (FEMA 321, see below): "In a flood disaster, FEMA will reduce public assistance grants by the maximum amount of insurance proceeds an applicant would receive for an insurable building located in an identified floodplain that is not covered by Federal flood insurance." In plain language: it's like having a million dollar deductible if your government-owned building (or building owned by private nonprofit) is in a mapped special flood hazard area but is not covered by flood insurance. The million dollars is a combination of the NFIP's \$500,000 max coverage available for nonresidential buildings plus the \$500,000 max coverage for contents of nonresidential buildings.

Some municipal insurance policies (or self-insurance programs) may already cover flood. Years ago, in Maryland, a representative of one of the municipal insurance pools told me they covered flood damage – but only above the maximum coverage available from the NFIP. This is where your community's risk manager should get involved to find out about existing coverage and to look at vulnerability and probability of flooding. That way, an informed decision can be made about whether to purchase NFIP flood insurance policies or take the risks associated with going without.

There's another way local floodplain managers can help protect communities with public buildings at considerable risk of flooding. FEMA grant programs can be used to fund eligible and cost-effective mitigation projects to protect flood-prone public (and nonprofit) buildings. The four most obvious are: Flood Mitigation Assistance and Repetitive Flood Claims (for buildings with NFIP insurance); Pre-Disaster Mitigation (if funded this year!); and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (available after major disasters are declared). The Severe Repetitive Loss program can't be used because it is limited by statute to one- to four-family residential properties that have received a specific number and value of claims (and multi-family properties, if defined by FEMA).

FEMA's mitigation grant programs can fund retrofit dry floodproofing of existing buildings. But remember, you'll need a structural evaluation, careful design, and consideration of how feasible it is to implement any measures requiring "human intervention." Again, a good resource to help figure all this out is FEMA P-424, but building owners should also seek advice from a structural engineer who has experience with floodproofing projects. There are other types of activities that reduce future flood damage that may be feasible depending on the size, location and type of building, including elevate-in-place or relocation. Check with your State Hazard Mitigation Officer to learn more about the grant programs.

Another FEMA program that isn't thought of as a source for mitigation funding is FEMA's Public Assistance program (often referred to as "PA" or "Section 406" funding). Public Assistance is activated when the President declares major disasters. Most of the time PA funds are used solely to repair and restore damage to public and nonprofit facilities and buildings. (PA covers much more public damage than just buildings, but for the purpose of this article, that's enough.) I don't know all the details, but it is possible to obtain funds to help pay for mitigation, in addition to what's required for repairs to restore buildings to their pre-damage condition. It seems to me that if a community has already examined vulnerability of flood-prone public buildings – especially if done by a structural engineer – that community would be in a pretty good position to take advantage of Section 406 mitigation funds. Learn more by contacting your State emergency management agency.

Public Assistance Policy Digest

FEMA 321 / January 2008

Post-Disaster Public Assistance. Keeping up with FEMA's Public Assistance policies may not be high on your list of things to do – but when that next flood hits your community you may be scrambling to learn more. A summary of Public Assistance program policies is the *Public Assistance Policy Digest* (FEMA 321). More detail is in the complete *Public Assistance Guide* (FEMA 322). And when the water is lapping at your door, reach for the *PA Applicant's Handbook*

(FEMA 323). State emergency management agencies are on the front line to help communities deal with all of the post-disaster requirements <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/policy.shtm>.

Look for flood-related topics including:

- Mitigation under Public Assistance (Sec. 406) – see above
- Flood insurance requirements – see above
- Eligibility of facilities for replacement (50% rule)
- Rehab assistance for levees and other flood control works

Flood Insurance. What's 5,553,095 and counting? You got it – the number of NFIP flood insurance policies in force as of the end of April. As far as insurance companies go, that makes the NFIP one of the largest – if not the largest – property insurer in the U.S. But those of us on the ground know it's a far cry from the total number of homes and businesses that are in mapped flood hazard areas and at-risk of flood damage. A theme in the current FloodSmart campaign is "What could flooding cost me?" An interactive tool allows online users to see the cost of flood damage "inch-by-inch." The numbers reflect damage to typical single-family homes, so it isn't the best tool to estimate expected impacts to public buildings – but it's still sobering to see how costly even just a few inches can be. www.floodsmart.gov





Disaster Safety & Mitigation Week. Every year, the International Code Council, joined by FEMA, the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, and other sponsors promote May as Building Safety Month. This year, one week was dedicated to disaster safety and mitigation. Of course, floodplain managers consider every day a good day to mitigate against future flood damage. Unfortunately, as disaster-related losses continue to rise, it'll take more than one week or one month to change how most people think about protecting their families, businesses and properties.

<http://www2.icc-foundation.org/bsm>

[RCQ]

Risk MAP to Launch Third Annual Survey: Survey Recipient Participation Encouraged

Starting in late July and continuing over the next few weeks, Risk MAP is conducting its third annual survey of chief elected local officials and Tribal officials to:

- *Understand their flood risk awareness*
- *Identify the steps they've taken to reduce their communities' flood risk*
- *Determine how they share flood risk information with their constituents*
- *Understand how FEMA can make it easier for them to communicate about flood risk.*

This year, FEMA has added questions on riverine flooding, multi-hazards, and new questions on flood insurance. The resulting information will allow FEMA to continue to refine its communications and outreach efforts. We encourage you to mention the survey to your CEO's and Tribal officials and stress the importance of their participation. The more responses FEMA is able to collect, the better able it will be to help improve communication about flood risk nationwide. See the [Risk MAP homepage](#) for more.

FEMA Adds New "Recovery Lessons Learned & Information Sharing" to FEMA.gov

The new FEMA.gov website has added a new page, "Recovery Lessons Learned & Information Sharing" for information exchange from the disaster recovery community. FEMA outlines the focus of the page as:

This page will serve as a national online network for the exchange of ideas surrounding the Disaster Recovery Community. We encourage feedback and contributions to help develop a "one stop shop" for those involved in planning, capacity building and disaster recovery operations. Please submit your comments or materials via the email address to Kevin.Burr@fema.dhs.gov.

Be sure to save the link and share your own disaster recovery lessons learned.



October 2012 Revisions to the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual Posted Online

The revisions to the *NFIP Flood Insurance Manual* that will become effective on October 1, 2012, have been posted for your reference to the [NFIP website here](#).

Washington Legislative Report

By: Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison

Rapidly Moving Happenings

Suddenly, after waiting for Senate floor consideration of flood insurance reform legislation, we have a flood insurance bill passed and signed by the President. Despite the expectation of floor debate and consideration of amendments, it was passed as part of the Conference Report on surface transportation legislation with no debate and no consideration of amendments.



We have also seen the surprise appearance on the House of Representatives' calendar, of Senate passed legislation to allow construction of permanent levees on FEMA buy-out, deed-restricted land. After a major effort by a number of groups to raise questions about the bill, it was pulled from the calendar, but reappeared the following week, the week of July 23rd. After the diverse collection of groups opposed redoubled their efforts, and Congressmen Blumenauer (D-OR) and Carnahan (D-MO) spoke eloquently on the House floor, the bill was soundly defeated.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers was asked to provide testimony on July 24th at a hearing entitled, "A Review of Building Codes and Mitigation Efforts to Help Minimize the Costs Associated with Natural Disasters." The hearing was held by a subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis [presented ASFPM's testimony](#).

On appropriations matters for FY2013, which begins on October 1, speculation and rumors are flying about the path forward. One scenario would involve the House Leadership proposing a Continuing Resolution before the August Recess begins on August 3rd to provide funds through December or the early months of calendar 2013. The December speculation would toss the appropriations issues to the expected Lame Duck session after the November elections. The early 2013 speculation would involve delay until a new Congress takes office and would be based on House Republican Leadership betting on a new Republican majority in the Senate.

The Congress will be in recess for five weeks. During that time the Republican and Democratic Conventions will take place. When the Congress reconvenes in September, only a few weeks will remain before the end of the fiscal year.

More on Passage of the Flood Insurance Legislation

Process

On the one hand, a flood insurance reauthorization bill that contains a number of reforms has been signed into law; on the other hand, the parliamentary maneuvering required to get it done meant that no amendments were considered by the full Senate and there was no transparent House-Senate Conference to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills. In fact, the Senate bill never came to the Senate floor on its own. A number of amendments had been developed to be offered on the Senate floor. When Senator Rand Paul insisted that the Senate consider his amendment addressing the question of when life begins, the Senate leadership decided to attach the flood bill (and the student loan bill) to the Conference Report on the surface transportation bill. Conference Reports cannot be amended, so, therefore, no amendments at all could be considered.

When the legislative package was passed by both the House and Senate, it contained some elements from the House flood bill, some from the Senate flood bill and some new elements. The President signed the measure(s) on July 6th, thereby avoiding any lapse in the NFIP's authority which was set to expire on July 31st. The program is now reauthorized for five years.

Next Steps

Now, the contents of the bill must be digested, interpreted and implemented. This is challenging because there are provisions which appear to conflict with one another and others where Congressional intent is not clear. Floodplain managers, Write Your Own insurance companies, lenders, flood determination companies and others

are raising many questions about what aspects of the bill mean and how they will be implemented. ASFPM intends to collect questions raised by members to assist in clarification. More information will be coming very soon as a system for collecting comments and questions is put together.

FEMA has established a tiger team internally to interpret and plan implementation.

The many subsidies removed, the increased deductibles, the higher cap on annual premium increases, the provision for building a reserve fund and the continued pressure for debt repayment will all lead to dramatically increased premiums for many policyholders. There will, no doubt, be understandable negative reactions. While the bill does provide for a study of affordability issues, it does not actually address affordability. A floor amendment prepared by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) would have established a pilot program of means-tested assistance through vouchers for lower income policyholders. It will be important during this next phase, for ASFPM to share comments and questions with FEMA and to stay in close contact with their progress on interpretation and implementation.

Levee Construction on Deed-Restricted Land (Hoeven bill)

Last fall, Senator Hoeven (R-ND) sought comments on legislation to allow levee construction on FEMA bought-out, deed-restricted land nationwide. ASFPM provided a detailed explanation of the numerous concerns associated with such a proposal. When a bill was actually introduced on January 26, 2012, it was written to apply only to North Dakota and to require that the levees be built with state or local funds, not federal funds. The apparent motivation for the bill was the frequent construction of temporary levees on the deed-restricted land and the need to take them down and later build them again. This is a classic example of legislation which appears reasonable to many at first glance, but which would establish a precedent and carry many policy ramifications regarding public safety, long-term costs, questionable use of federal taxpayer mitigation funds and support for short-sighted floodplain management. It established a pilot program, clearly intended to be replicated elsewhere.

The bill ([S. 2039](#)) was brought up on the Senate floor the same day it was introduced under “Unanimous Consent”, a Senate procedure designed for non-controversial legislation. It passed and was sent to the House where it was referred to Committee but no hearings were held. On [July 17th](#), the measure appeared on the Suspension Calendar for the House floor. “Suspension of the Rules” is the House procedure for non-controversial legislation.

With only a day and a half, an interesting constellation of environmental groups, taxpayer concerns, fiscal conservatives and ASFPM sent email messages to every Member of the House either objecting to the bill itself or making the point that this bill could not be considered non-controversial and should not be considered under Suspension of the Rules. By mid-afternoon, the bill had been pulled and Representative Berg (R-ND) and the North Dakota Senators indicated they needed time to educate House Members about the bill.

The following week, it reappeared on the Suspension Calendar. The interesting collection of groups (National Wildlife Federation, The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, Republicans for Environmental Protection, American Conservative Union, The R Street Institute, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Taxpayers for Common Sense, Taxpayers Union National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, Reinsurance Association of America, National Flood Determination Association, Association of Bermuda insurers and Reinsurers, Association of State Floodplain Managers – to name only some of the groups) sent email messages again. ASFPM sent out an [Alert](#) to members asking those who could to contact their Member of Congress to raise questions about the bill. Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR) circulated a Dear Colleague letter to his fellow Members of Congress. Both Reps. Blumenauer and Carnahan spoke effectively on the Floor and the [bill was defeated](#) by 126 yeas to 254 nays.

It will be important to watch for any other attempts to pass such legislation without going through “regular order” and fully considering the associated issues.

ASFPM Testimony on Building Codes and Mitigation

Executive Director Chad Berginnis presented testimony before the Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 24th. The hearing topic was, [“A Review of Building Codes and Mitigation Efforts to Help Minimize the Costs Associated with Natural Disasters”](#).

ASFPM's testimony took the opportunity to present a comprehensive statement about the importance of hazard mitigation in reducing disaster costs in the nation and about the many component aspects of effective mitigation, including adoption and enforcement of building codes. The testimony benefited from contributions, comments and suggestions from a number of ASFPM Board members and policy committee co-chairs. The full 15 page text is posted on the ASFPM website. For oral testimony, this had to be crystallized into a 5 minute presentation.

Others testifying in a first panel were Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) who sponsored a bill to incentivize adoption and enforcement of state-wide building codes ([H.R. 2069](#)) and Dave Miller, FEMA's Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation. The second panel included representatives of the Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Emergency Management Association, the BuildStrong Coalition, ASFPM and the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the State of West Virginia. All spoke in support of the building code legislation and about the importance of hazard mitigation. Their testimony can be found on the Committee website along with an archived video of the entire hearing. www.transportation.house.gov. Click on the Subcommittee and then on the hearing.

Final Legislative Week Before August Recess

As the final legislative week until after Labor Day approaches, two major matters that could see action would be a Continuing Resolution for FY 2013 appropriations and House consideration of its version of the Farm Bill. Both are looking less likely as the House will be occupied with legislation extending expiring tax cuts.

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

General News & Information



Around the World

China

In anticipation of several approaching typhoons, and given the recent severe flooding in several areas of China, [Wen Jiabao has called for intensifying flood control efforts](#) and ensuring the safety of the public. Jiabao stressed the need for improving the infrastructure, such as with flood control facilities and sewage networks, which have been overlooked in a number of cities. He also highlighted the need for timely evacuations and drawing up emergency response plans to minimize losses.

Philippines

Severe [floods in Manila](#) have displaced hundreds of thousands of residents and [paralyzed](#) the Philippine capital. The deluge that began late on Sunday has been the worst since 2009 when hundreds died in flash floods. See [photos](#) and more news here.

North Korea

Typhoons and torrential rain have damaged 5,000 homes and left more than 60,000 people homeless, with more than 30,000 hectares of land left submerged. It is said that some 300 public buildings and 60 factories have been inundated or collapsed. Click [here](#) for more from the BBC.

United Kingdom

While much of the US has been struggling with a dry summer, much of Europe faced record rainfall from April to July. In a time where costs are rising, supportive funds are being cut back, and yet local authorities still allow building on floodplains, with 20% of developments in areas of risk of flooding – according to the government's climate change risk assessment which stated flooding as the biggest challenge facing the UK. Furthermore, it is estimated that while an approximate 2% of gardens were paved over in 2001, this number had risen to 50% by 2011, leaving no place for water to go during high rains. [Read more here.](#)

Stateside

Cedar Rapids Wants State, Feds to Bend Rules for Redevelopment

City officials and neighborhood leaders are seeking some ability to redevelop in three commercial districts that have seen numerous buyouts. [Click here to read further.](#)

Floodplain Model from Virginia Student Wins 2012 Thacher Environmental Research Contest

The Thacher Environmental Research Contest is held annually by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and challenges high school students to use geospatial tools and data for creating innovative research projects. The [winning model input data](#) from the NASA Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) Global Digital Elevation Model into geographic information systems to create a detailed unsteady-flow model.

NFIP Reform Passes Congress

See the [June News & Views](#) for more and look for a follow-up piece in the August News & Views.

Senate Passes Farm Bill in Bipartisan Vote

On June 21, the Senate passed its farm bill by a 64-35 bipartisan vote. More in the [June News & Views](#)

Outreach, Videos, and Social Media

ASFPM Launches Use of Social Media at 2012 National Conference

Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn – ASFPM used all of the above as another means by which to reach both conference attendees and our members who were interested in keeping up but unable to attend. 2012 marked a bit of a trial approach and the feedback we have received has been very helpful in processing this information, so that we may better serve you next year. Additional comments or suggestions may be directed to Katrien at Katrien@floods.org.

Not yet connected but interested in learning more?

Check out the ASFPM [LinkedIn page](#), [Facebook page](#), and [Conference Twitter account](#). The ASFPM Conference Facebook Event Page is located [here](#). Does your organization utilize these tools? Engage in the discussion [here](#).

LinkedIn As An Additional Means By Which Committees Can More Effectively Communicate

Be on the look-out for increased discussion, as is pertinent to your specific focus area. A common theme throughout the 2012 ASFPM Annual National Conference, was the move toward increased usage of social media and online 'forums' that could help facilitate more effective discussion.

ASFPM Executive Director, Chad Berginnis, Testifies before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management

A Review of Building Codes & Mitigation Efforts to Help Minimize the Costs Associated with Natural Disasters
Interested in seeing the video of the hearing? Read more [here](#) or click [here](#) to access video of the [testimony](#).

July 6, 2012 - ASFPM interviewed, live, on the NFIP reform bill for the Weather Channel.

Executive Director, Chad Berginnis used Skype to present expert analysis and discuss what the bill means to property owners. If you were unable to watch – please look for the shareable interview link that ASFPM will be posting very soon to the website.

FEMA Independent Study Course: IS-42 Social Media in Emergency Management

Social media not only allows for another channel of broadcasting messages to the public, but also allows for two way communication between emergency managers and major stakeholder groups. Increasingly the public is turning to social media to obtain up to date information during emergencies and to share data about the disaster in the form of geo data, text, pictures, video, or a combination of these media. This can allow for greater situational awareness for emergency responders. While social media allows for many opportunities to engage in an effective conversation with stakeholders, it also holds many challenges for emergency managers. The purpose of this course is to share best practices including tools, techniques and a basic roadmap to build capabilities in the use of social media technologies in their own emergency management organizations (State, local, Tribal) in order to further their emergency response missions. [Learn more here.](#)

Course Length: 3 contact hours

CEUs: 0.3

ASFPM Science Services

ASFPM ANNOUNCES LiDAR WEBINAR TRAINING SERIES

ASFPM is partnering with GeoCue Corporation headquartered in Madison, Alabama to present a LiDAR educational series beginning in September 2012. The educational series will consist of four one-hour webinars beginning in September and running through December 2012.



LiDAR (light detection and ranging) can provide very precise, accurate, and high-resolution images of the surface of the earth to determine the ground topography for an area. In addition, the technology can be used to determine the vegetation and buildings on the land.

It is important to properly specify the delivery expectations and data accuracy requirements when ordering LiDAR data development. Quality checks on deliverables can be challenging and need to be conducted within a relatively short time after delivery. The series will provide:

- 1) an overview of LiDAR data,
- 2) information on specifying LiDAR collection projects,
- 3) LiDAR acceptance and quality control, and
- 4) using LiDAR data and advanced topics.

In addition to providing information on using the bare earth data derived via LiDAR for topographic modeling and mapping, advanced topics covering vegetation and building extraction will be provided.



The first of these free webinars will be held at **3:00pm ET - September 10, 2012**. Tentative dates for the remaining webinars include:

- October 22, 2012 @ 3:00pm ET, 1 Core CEC for CFMs
- November 9, 2012 @ 3:00pm ET, 1 Core CEC for CFMs
- December 10, 2012 @ 3:00pm ET, 1 Core CEC for CFMs

[Registration](#) for the training event opens on August 10th. Seating is limited so please register early.

GLCFS Summer 2012 Newsletter Announces Discovery Meetings

Friday, July 20, [Great Lakes Coastal Flood Study](#) released the Summer Newsletter announcing 24 Discovery Meetings for communities along Lake Erie, Lake Michigan and Lake St. Clair. The Discovery Meetings will further engage stakeholders and the public in the Discovery Process. The meetings announced in the newsletter can be found on the [GLCFS EVENTS](#) page. Please access the [newsletter here](#).

Montana Silver Jackets: A Team Approach to a Shared Vision

Recommendations in the ASFPM assessment of the Montana FPM program were used to establish the charter for the [Silver Jackets](#) in Montana. To read more, see page two of the [July 2012 Silver Jackets Quarterly Newsletter](#).

CFM® Corner

The email address for certification questions is cfm@floods.org. 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 at this address in the ASFPM Office.



CFMs- View your submitted CECs online

As a reminder, CFMs who are current members can log on to the members site and can view their certification file for CECs. This site shows how many CECs the person has earned, in what year the CECs were earned, and the type of CECs (Core or Parallel). If you have problems logging on or have questions about your CECs, contact Anita at cfm@floods.org

Member Reflections

Longtime ASFPM member, Dan Accurti, recently contributed a piece emphasizing the importance of actively engaging in organizations whose mission we believe in. This can be found in [The Insider – March 2012](#). His piece served to highlight just a few of the ways in which one devoted person can contribute significantly. Making a difference begins with the dedicated efforts of passionate and engaged members. In keeping with that spirit, please read further.

“No” Can be a Good Thing

Reprinted from White House Blog, July 6, 2012, By Terri Turner

Terri Turner, ASFPM Region 4 Director, NAI Committee Co-Chair and former GA Chapter Chair was recently chosen from a pool of more than 1,500 candidates nominated through the White House web site, was selected as a [Champion of Change](#) for the positive impact she is making in her community. Terri Turner is the Development Administrator, Floodplain Manager, and Hazard Mitigation Specialist for Augusta, Georgia

I came from a family with a strong work ethic. My Daddy used to tell me that if I wasn't giving 100%, that I was cheating someone - I learned very quickly that, most of all, I was cheating myself if I wasn't giving my all, and then some, to those around me. So I was always doing "more," giving "more," trying to be "more." It was quite natural that I ended up in a community service field. For the past 18 years, I have worked for City and County governments as a Planner, Floodplain Manager and Hazard Mitigation Specialist (among a lot of other hats that I just quite naturally wear with my present position as Augusta, Georgia's Development Administrator).

However, not content with doing enough to make a difference in my "day job" in Augusta, I ventured out into state and national service via organizations such as the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA). Through these organizations, I have been blessed to be mentored by the best and brightest in the planning, floodplain management, and hazard mitigation fields. I have also been encouraged by these same mentors to build upon my love for these disciplines and venture forth into public speaking, research, and writing endeavors – all in the hopes of managing the natural and man-made threats and hazards that plague our local communities, and lessening the costs and misery caused by flooding and other natural disaster events.

One common thread runs through all of my work – that emphasis is building long-term sustainability and community resiliency through sound floodplain management and hazard mitigation practices. For without disaster resistant homes to live in and disaster resistant buildings in which to work, we are doomed to fail as a community, and ultimately, as a nation.

That is why my work on ASFPM's No Adverse Impact (NAI) Floodplain Management Initiative is so vitally important. Flood damages in the US continue to rise despite all of the money and efforts we have put into combating flooding, with damages averaging over \$6 billion annually, in recent years.

As described on the website of the Association of State Floodplain Managers,

"No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management" is a managing principle that is easy to communicate and, from legal and policy perspectives, tough to challenge. In essence, No Adverse Impact floodplain management takes place when the actions of one property owner are not allowed to adversely affect the rights of other property owners.

"No Adverse Impact principles give communities a way to promote responsible floodplain development through community-based decision making. With the No Adverse Impact approach, communities will be able to put federal and state programs to better use, enhancing their local initiatives to their communities' advantage. No Adverse Impact floodplain management empowers the community (and its citizens) to build better-informed "wise development" stakeholders at the local level and to manage their flood hazards and their development more effectively; thus reducing flood losses and protecting property in the process."

So, you see, "No" is not necessarily a bad thing – especially when it is preventing harmful impacts on others, preserving the rights of everyone in the community, and promoting and rewarding strong water stewardship, all-the-while creating community sustainability and promoting community resiliency. I don't know about you, but it sounds like a win-win to me!

Terri Turner is the Development Administrator, Floodplain Manager, and Hazard Mitigation Specialist for Augusta, Georgia. See the ASFPM NAI page [here](#).

Chapter Corner

2012 Conference Awards Luncheon

Those accepting the new chapter certificates from our three newest chapters included:

Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association - Julie Tallman, Julie-Tallman@iowa-city.org

Kansas Association for Floodplain Management - Don Slone, dslone@bonnersprings.org

Tennessee Association of Floodplain Management - Alan "Mike" Armstrong, razorback1@plansandmorellp.com

Free Webinars for Nonprofits - August

- [How to Captivate & Engage with Your Website](#), 8/14/12 @ 10:30am ET
- [Grant Seeking Basics](#), 8/14/12 @ 2:00pm ET
- [Social Media for Nonprofit Events](#), 8/15/12 @ 3:00pm ET
- [Proposal Writing Basics](#), 8/16/12 @ 1:00pm ET
- [Volunteer Engagement](#), 8/22/12 @ 3:00pm ET
- [Proposal Writing Basics](#), 8/23/12 @ 3:00pm ET
- [Grant Seeking Checklist for Nonprofits](#), 8/28/12 @ 2:00pm ET

News from the Chapters – West Virginia

West Virginia Chapter Instrumental in Adoption of Legislation Requiring Continuing Education for Floodplain Managers

One of ASFPM's newest chapters, the West Virginia Floodplain Management Association (WVFMA), has recently succeeded in getting legislation passed that requires Floodplain Managers in their state to get 6 hours of continuing education in floodplain management each year. The West Virginia Chapter partnered with the State Division of Homeland Security to draft and ultimately secure adoption of the new state legislation. Effective July 2012, local, municipal, county, and state floodplain managers in West Virginia are required to obtain a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education to remain in good standing with the Division of Homeland Security. Floodplain managers who are not in compliance risk suspension until training has been completed.

Charlie Baker and Kevin Sneed from WVFMA were responsible for drafting the language of this bill. Kevin Sneed also met with legislative subcommittees to garner support. Senator John Unger II sponsored the bill before the state legislature which passed with the support of 33 of 34 Senators and 57 of 58 Delegates. ASFPM applauds WVFMA on their efforts!

A copy of the newly passed legislation [can be viewed here](#).

Interested in getting legislation like this passed in your state? Contact Charlie Baker, from the [West Virginia Floodplain Managers Association](#). Phone: 304-822-7018 Email: charlie@hampshirecountywv.org

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!

**The next all Chapters conference call is September 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.**

Scholarships, Grants

[Tidal Hydrology Restoration Funding Opportunity](#)

NOAA Restoration Center and the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant College Programs

Deadline: August 17, 2012

Funding is available for *restoration projects in the Gulf of Mexico estuaries*. The NOAA Restoration Center and the Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant College Programs have announced a request for proposals for a grant competition to *fund tidal hydrology restoration projects*. To be considered, *projects must remove or modify human-built barriers (such as culverts, dikes, and dams) to restore historic tidal estuarine and freshwater exchange to benefit coastal and marine fisheries habitat*. Projects also must be located from Key West, FL to Brownsville, TX. Projects can receive up to \$100,000, and a match of at least \$1 of nonfederal money per \$1 requested is required.

[Smarter Cities Challenge](#)

Technical Assistance IBM

Deadline: September 7, 2012

The Smarter Cities Challenge is designed to *help cities address some of the critical challenges they are facing*, such as energy efficiency and *climate change impacts*. Selected cities will receive assistance from IBM experts from different business units and geographies, who will work on the ground with city leaders and deliver recommendations on how to make the city smarter and more effective.

[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.

[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, visit www.kaee.org/grants/.

Job Corner

ASFPM is seeking a Project Manager.

Applications are due September 1, 2012. Please send your resume and cover letter to kevin@floods.org

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

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