

# Chapter District 4 Annual Status Report



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## Introduction

The ASFPM Chapter District 4 includes chapters based in the states of FEMA Regions VII and VIII. There are currently seven ASFPM Chapters: [Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association](#), [Kansas Association for Floodplain Management](#), [Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#), [Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#), Colorado Association of [Stormwater and Floodplain Managers](#), [Association of Montana Floodplain Managers](#), and [Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association](#).

## Key Accomplishments

The chapters in District 4 have been successful in continuing their missions throughout the pandemic. Each chapter has been able to offer some virtual learning opportunities to make up for events and conferences canceled due to the pandemic.

Additionally, chapters have made progress with adoption of strategic plans, committee structure, and use of social media to engage members. Key accomplishments of the chapters include:

- Transitioning some training events and conference to a virtual environment;
- Improving chapter websites and newsletters to offer additional value to chapter membership; and
- Membership has remained near the same for chapters throughout the pandemic.

## ASFPM Engage!

This year, two chapters in District 4 had the opportunity to work with ASFPM. The Association of Montana Floodplain Managers (AMFM) worked with ASFPM to develop a template letter to oppose a Joint Resolution between the State House of Representative and the State Senate. Montana SJ-6 declares that an engineering analysis is not necessary to design a restoration project that keeps the rise in the 100-year flood levels as close to zero as practically possible to ensure structures are not impacted by flood waters. This does not meet the minimum floodplain management standards as required for participation in the NFIP. As of April 9, 2021, the joint resolution is still in the approval process.

In Utah, House Bill 98 would allow local entities to exempt certain building codes and permits in the event of a natural disaster. The bill was passed quickly, however the Engage! tool was used to draft a letter urging the governor to veto the bill. The governor vetoed the bill on March 24, 2021.

## Challenges

Due to the large geographic areas that chapters in District 4 cover, reaching all potential stakeholders in floodplain and stormwater management is difficult. The rural nature of large areas in each state does not allow for easy access to needed training.

Other challenges include:

- Growing and/or maintaining membership;
- Providing affordable and attainable training for all who need it and ensuring that all Certified Floodplain Managers can get Continuing Education Credits; and
- Engaging members in committee and leadership activities.

## Priorities

All chapters prioritize education and training opportunities for their members and other stakeholders within their states. Specifically, chapters are working to:

- Continue to provide opportunities for CFMs to obtain CECs at a low cost;
- Promote NFIP and CRS participation in small/rural communities;
- Grow chapter membership; and
- Provide opportunities for professionals to network and exchange ideas.

## Recommendations

Chapters in District 4 appreciate the frequent updates on relevant topics from ASFPM. The association's executive office should continue to provide information regarding legislative topics, policy and procedure updates, and events relevant to floodplain and stormwater managers. Chapters would also like to see more assistance to administer the CFM exam and have an update on conversion to a digital exam.

ASFPM should provide some clarifications and other guidelines regarding pre-approved CECs for events. Specifically, clearer language regarding online events, a timeline for submittal of agendas, and a template of what should be submitted after an event would be helpful for chapters to ensure efficient and timely approvals.