

# Celebrating the 2023 ASFPM Award Winners

Each year, the ASFPM community celebrates the outstanding contributions made by individuals, agencies, and organizations who are advancing the association's mission to reduce the loss of human life and property damage due to flooding.

At the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual ASFPM Conference in Raleigh, NC, attendees came together to recognize the 2023 ASFPM Award winners. Here are this year's honorees. Congratulations to all!

## **Tom Lee State Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management**

The Tom Lee State Award for Excellence is given annually to recognize an outstanding floodplain management program or activity at the state level.

### **2023 Winner: Missouri State Emergency Management Agency**



Pictured (L-R) ASFPM Board Chair Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM; Lynn Welch, CFM, Missouri Floodplain Management Officer; Karen McHugh, CFM, Missouri State NFIP Coordinator, Linda Olsen, CFM – Missouri Emergency Management Specialist; Lauren Imhoff, Missouri Floodplain Management Officer; and ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis, CFM.

The Missouri Floodplain Management Section helps Missouri communities recover after numerous flooding events by providing guidance on how to break the devastating build, flood, rebuild cycle.



**ASSOCIATION OF STATE  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**

Missouri Floodplain staff's goal is to help build flood-aware, stronger and more resilient Missouri communities.

Missouri has an abundance of rivers, tributaries, streams, and flowing water of all types. Although the state is rich in aquatic resources, it is also rare for the state to have a year without flooding. The floodplain management staff has a strong pre- and post-flooding disaster plan in place.

- **Pre-disaster response:** Floodplain staff developed a Substantial Damage Estimator workshop that is offered in the field to Missouri communities. In the past six years, the SDE 3.0 Workshop has been presented to over 500 attendees who perform post-disaster substantial damage evaluations. This effort has gone a long way to prepare Missouri NFIP-participating communities for post-disaster responsibilities, and floodplain staff sees the effects of the training after disasters have occurred. The Floodplain Management Section has also prepared a one-hour Preparing for Post-Disaster Responsibilities virtual workshop meant to help communities prepare in advance for post-disaster responsibilities. This webinar is presented once every four months during a virtual Lunch and Learn session, and was made into a view on demand video hosted on the SEMA training website.
- **Disaster response:** Immediately following an event, the Missouri Floodplain Management Section staff begins populating a spreadsheet with affected community information. Staff coordinates with the Emergency Management division to keep informed of which Missouri communities have been impacted by the flooding event.
- **Post-disaster follow-up:** After a disaster floodplain staff emails the yearly updated State of Missouri Flood Damage Assessment Packet and the 50% letter from the Missouri State NFIP Coordinator to the chief elected officials and floodplain administrators and follows this up with phone calls to all affected communities, offering help with SDE responsibilities. When a request for help occurs, State Floodplain staff heads out in the field for one-on-one assistance. Details are documented, and communities are contacted once again for follow-up mitigation efforts for structures that were found to be substantially damaged.

However, after many years of helping communities recover after flooding events the floodplain management staff noticed how bewildered many of our Missouri communities were regarding steps to take toward flood recovery. Over time, staff determined that there was not a single all-inclusive document out there to help communities with questions regarding clean up, mold remediation, mitigation grants, and other issues regarding how to rebuild safely and in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. Creating an easily understood, comprehensive booklet would be an ideal way in which the state Floodplain Management Section could really help Missouri communities recover quickly and in compliance with national laws.

In a happy coincidence, the State of Illinois' NFIP coordinator, Paul Osman, retired while this was taking place in Missouri, starting his own consulting business. Missouri's State NFIP Coordinator contacted him, and he agreed to assist in creating the nation's very first After the Flood Quick Guide booklet for the State of Missouri. Missouri's State Coordinator applied for FY21 CAP-SSSE discretionary project funding through FEMA Region VII in Kansas City, Missouri and the project was underway. Osman went to work and soon the "After the Flood Quick Guide" booklet was completed. Missouri tested its effectiveness immediately after a record-breaking flash flooding event hit the St. Louis Metropolitan area in July, 2022. Floodplain staff distributed hundreds of the After the Flood Quick Guide to flood victims immediately after the flood waters receded. The Missouri Floodplain Management program's goal was met: They found a way to help communities be more resilient, build back stronger, and recover faster during this most devastating of times.

The idea behind the After the Flood Quick Guide was envisioned by the Missouri State Coordinator and her staff, written by Paul Osman, and illustrated by graphic artist Karen Birky, who did a fantastic job with the artwork. The Missouri State Coordinator's request to Paul Osman was that the

Quick Guide be written in layman's style: Easy to read and understand! The result is an "After the Flood Quick Guide" that is straightforward yet comprehensive, with attractive and instructive graphics that relate closely to the topic. These elements work together to keep the reader's attention while instructing them on how to recover in the best way possible. The booklet serves as an example of the powerful collaboration between individuals, agencies, and the State of Missouri Floodplain Management Section.

The State Floodplain Management Section's disaster and post-disaster substantial damage response was tested in July and August 2022, when three rounds of flooding events began along the I-70 corridor affecting the St. Louis metropolitan area with historic flooding. The Missouri Floodplain Management Staff was ready with its response to the communities by helping with substantial damage responsibilities and handing out hundreds of the "After the Flood Quick Guides."

### **Larry R. Johnston Local Floodplain Manager of the Year**

This award is designed to honor an individual responsible for the development of a distinguished local program or activity, or one who struggles to implement flood hazard reduction at the local level in the absence of sophisticated programs and support.

### **2023 Winner: Patrick Varga, CFM, Carroll County, Maryland, Bureau of Resource Management**

Patrick Varga has been the Carroll County, Maryland Floodplain Manager for the past eight years. During that time, he has single-handedly reviewed all subdivision and site plans as well as individual building permits for compliance with the applicable code provisions. His rewrites of County Code Chapters 38 "Floodplain Construction" and 153 "Floodplain Management" increased the freeboard requirements for new and substantially improved repetitive loss buildings in floodplains. Additionally, provisions for compensatory storage and a total prohibition on filling and building structures in floodplains was created or strengthened. Varga's continuing enforcement and code improvements led to the County being upgraded from a CRS community rating of 8 to 7 in 2018 and from a CRS 7 to a 6 in 2022.



Patrick Varga (center) with ASFPM Board Chair Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM; and ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis, CFM

In addition to his job responsibilities, Varga created the county website commemorating the 50-year anniversary of Hurricane Agnes. This included Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) mapping and videos of eyewitness interviews. He also assisted the Army Corps of Engineers "Silver Jackets" by creating their Agnes website and providing content. He also organized and presented at a Maryland chapter meeting at the Flood Zone Brewery (a converted hardware store inundated by Hurricane Agnes).



Varga has been an active member of the Maryland Chapter of ASFPM. He started as the co-chair of the Mapping and Technology Committee and has risen to Vice President of the organization for the last five years. He has also coordinated all social media outreach for the past seven years. Along with these activities he has been tasked with overseeing all environmental review staff at Carroll County Government.

Below are several links related to websites, Facebook pages, and GIS Story Maps that Varga has created, developed, and maintained.

Army Corps Silver Jackets [Agnes 50th Anniversary](#) project: Created website and helped with content. Carroll County storymap: [Agnes 50th Anniversary](#) and [YouTube video](#) Conducted video interviews, voiceover, pictures, some content creation. [MAFSM website](#) and [Facebook page](#), and Carroll Country Environment [Facebook page](#).

### **John R. Sheaffer Award for Excellence in Floodproofing**

This award is presented to an individual, private organization, governmental unit or agency that has completed work involving a particular project, work, research, design or publication that exhibits the incorporation of accepted procedures, practices and constraints of floodproofing, or promotes the field or knowledge of floodproofing by enhancing the awareness and use of new procedures, methods, designs and/or products.

#### **2023 Winner: Tom Little, CFM, president of Floodproofing.com**

Tom Little is a change maker dedicated to solving complex flood proofing problems. He oversees projects and develops solutions to significantly reduce flood damage through the implementation of nonstructural floodproofing products and technology.

Little is an active member of ASFPM's Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee, Flood Mitigation Committee, and Flood Insurance Committee. He is also on the technical advisory council of the Federal Alliance of Safe Home, and recently was a founding member of the Flood Mitigation Industry Association. As a professional in the private industry, he has proven to be a trusted voice, and is often called upon to provide unbiased perspectives on flood mitigation, insurance, grants, construction, and building codes.



Tom Little, CFM (center) with ASFPM Board Chair Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM; and ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis, CFM.

Little has delivered nonstructural mitigation training to the USACE National Nonstructural Committee and participated in FEMA committees in an effort to support both agencies with their flood risk management missions. He and his team have provided major commentary to the FEMA resources related to Elevation Certificates, Technical Bulletins, and Risk Rating 2.0.

## Larry Larson Meritorious Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes individuals who, throughout their career, have achieved success in a significant aspect of floodplain management. These efforts may include policy, outreach, implementation, education, government, research, litigation or other actions that demonstrate the advancement of flood loss and risk reduction within the nominee's professional realm.

**2023 Winner: Dave Canaan, former director of Mecklenburg County, NC Storm Water Services.**



Pictured (L-R) ASFP Board Chair Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM; Larry Larson, P.E., CFM (retired); Dave Canaan; and ASFP Executive Director Chad Berginnis, CFM.

After beginning his career in the federal government and private sector, Dave Canaan found his calling in local government when he joined Mecklenburg County, NC in 1992, one year before the County's Storm Water Services program was formed.

Over a 30+ years career on the front lines, Canaan built a first-class storm water program from the ground up. As Storm Water Director, he led the program through numerous improvements and program expansions — all while addressing the impacts from extreme weather events and substantial land use changes due to unprecedented growth across the County.

Here are just a few of the truly transformative programs created during Canaan's career:

- Mecklenburg County's buyout program is recognized nationally and is responsible for removing more than 450 buildings from the floodplain. Canaan was responsible for looking beyond reliance on federal grants to mitigate by creating a locally funded buyout program that has

acquired property every year for over 24 years now. He also created a rainy day “Quick Buy” reserve fund that has purchased nearly 100 flooded buildings within months of flooding before repairs were made.

- Future Conditions floodplain mapping and higher standards are a Mecklenburg County hallmark created with his vision for long-term resilience. These elements have kept new development reasonably safe from future flooding and no new construction has come close to flooding over the past 20 years since implementation of these forward-looking standards.
- Canaan championed one of the nation’s first real-time flood notification systems implemented in an urban flash flood environment. It is the functional equivalent of having smoke detectors in the most hazardous creeks and has saved lives.
- The county developed a local grant program offering financial and technical assistance to property owners that want to implement flood risk reduction measures.
- Canaan was instrumental in setting goals, securing funding, and demonstrating risk reduction results. He led a three-year partnership with the Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) which resulted in 75 additional flood sensors deployed along floodplain, real time inundation maps, tools to estimate damages and losses avoided within hours of floodwaters receding, and a dashboard to manage flood risk at the community level.

### **Service to ASFPM and the Floodplain Management Profession**

Many of the advancements within ASFPM and our floodplain management world have some tie or influence from his work. Canaan worked tirelessly to improve water resources policy, create cutting-edge programs, and build partnerships for sustained success. Leadership, innovation, hard-work, calculated risk taking, and building strong coalitions are some of the hallmarks of his career and ASFPM involvement.

He became engaged in chapter and national floodplain conferences in the 1990’s and began volunteering for various roles in ASFPM. The late 1990’s-early 2000’s was a critical time for the association’s long-term sustainability and success, and he played a key role in ASFPM’s strategic direction and foundational floodplain management policies, assisting with items like creating the CFM program and No Adverse Impact. He also served on ASFPM’s Board of Directors and became an important policy advocate.

Although Canaan retired from local government in 2022, he continues to use his knowledge and passion to help guide other communities into a safer, more resilient future.

### **The Outreach/Media Award**

The Outreach/Media Award acknowledges exemplary efforts by an individual, private organization or governmental unit or agency to increase information and/or awareness of flood issues with the general public.

Given the importance of outreach in building flood risk awareness and preparedness, we are pleased to have not one, but two worthy programs this year.

### **2023 Winner: Charleston County Floodplain Management, a Division in the Building Inspection Services Department**

In March 2022, the Charleston County Floodplain Management Division released an 11-episode TV series developed to educate residents about such flood topics as sea level rise, flood zones, hurricane preparedness, stormwater management, and more. Despite the seriousness of the content, the episodes were hosted by local comedians who incorporated a twist of humor to help educate and engage viewers.





Luz Agudelo, CFM Floodplain Management Coordinator with Charleston County and colleagues Isabella Causey and Sean Dove, CFM pose with ASFPM's Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM and Chad Berginnis, CFM.

Dubbed [\*\*HAzard: Prepare. Prevent. Prevail\*\*](#), the series aired on the local CBS station every Saturday at noon for 11 weeks in July through September 2022 as well as the county's YouTube channel. Supplemental educational materials were made available to accompany the series, which were sent as a package to schools, churches, and other organizations upon request. It will be aired again during 2023 hurricane season. This program was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Charleston County Government.

The TV Series was conducted by the CCFPM Division staff in collaboration with several Certified Floodplain Managers inside and outside the County; the extremely valuable video-production work of [Show Your Story Media](#), the Charleston County's Public Information Office (video assistance) and Public Works (technical expertise in Stormwater); local engineering consultant Woolpert, Inc, which reviewed technical accuracy of the TV Series; and many others such as faculty from the College of Charleston and the Coastal Conservation League.

In addition to the TV series, the CCFPM Division of Building Inspection Services conducted and attended multiple outreach events in the past year, which are part of their annual outreach activities. Staff visited twelve (12) library locations over six (6) days to distribute literature and speak with citizens about flooding issues, flood insurance, and general preparedness. Staff also attended multiple expos, including the James Island/Folly Beach Hurricane Expo and the Black Expo.

Additional outreach events included career fairs at the College of Charleston, speaking engagements at Charleston Green Drinks, and news segments with Live5 News. Staff also hosted a town hall in conjunction with Councilman Middleton to promote flood insurance and spoke at multiple round tables for Councilwoman Johnson. There was a focused effort to assist Repetitive Loss Structures with one-on-one site visits and meetings with homeowners on pursuing grant opportunities for buyouts and elevations.

In addition, 15 property owners came forward in response to the 101 outreach letters sent to Repetitive Loss property owners in November 2021 to promote structure elevation grants. Seven property owners qualified to be included in a Hazards Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) application package submitted in January 2022, which is in the pre-award stage waiting for FEMA approval.

### 2023 Winner: [Floodproofing.com](https://www.floodproofing.com)

Our next Outreach/Media award recipient is a manufacturer and supplier of disaster mitigation products used in the design-build industry to minimize risk and meet FEMA compliance regulations for projects in the floodplain.

But Floodproofing.com is more than just a full-service flood mitigation company, for 25+ years it has worked to educate communities, builders and architects on the codes, standards and available options in the floodplain. The team also conducts community outreach initiatives and education programs on flood insurance (including demystifying Risk Rating 2.0).

With a team of more than 40 mitigation specialists nationwide, many of which are CFMs, the company regularly educates more than 10,000 professionals per year with Lunch and Learns, conference presentations, and a monthly calendar of national webinars dedicated to floods. And, for all those CFMs out there, many of the company's webinar offerings, are approved for Continuing Education Credits. [Examples of projects](#)

Floodproofing.com CEO Mike Graham, CFM and President Tom Little, CFM along with ASFPM Board Chair Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM and Executive Director Chad Berginnis, CFM.





## James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management

The James Lee Witt Local Award recognizes outstanding programs or activities at the front lines of floodplain management — local programs where “the rubber meets the road.”

### 2023 Winner: The City of Norfolk Virginia, Ohio Creek Watershed Project

As one of the largest populations at risk for sea level rise in the United States, the City of Norfolk’s Ohio Creek Watershed Project has transformed the Chesterfield Heights Historic District and Grandy Village neighborhoods that frequently faced coastal flooding due to sea level rise and major rainfall events. The project is located in a low-lying portion of Norfolk that surrounds Ohio Creek, a tributary to the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Norfolk’s south-central sector. This project not only addresses major flooding concerns, but improves connection to the remainder of the City, deconcentrates poverty, and strengthens the neighborhood community. This HUD-funded project was funded through the National Disaster Resiliency Competition (NDRC) and meets the climate equity and environmental justice actions identified in Norfolk’s 2014 Resilience Strategy.



Kyle Spencer, deputy resilience officer with the City of Norfolk, accepts the James Lee Witt Award from Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM; and Chad Berginnis, CFM.

The project is remarkable in being the largest HUD-funded resilience project in Virginia’s history and has been delivered within schedule and under-budget. The project provides a system of coastal levees, floodwalls, tide gates and pump stations, in addition to natural and nature-based features constructed throughout the historically marginalized African American community, bringing green and blue elements deep within the neighborhood. The project exceeds minimum stormwater quality requirements by converting most street verges into holding areas for stormwater and replacing significant portions of the street network with pervious pavement that matches the rich cultural history of brick streets within the community.

The Ohio Creek Watershed Project is unique even amongst NDRC resilience projects, providing significant contributions to the following aspects of flood risk management through pursuit of various co-benefits:

**Social Justice and Healthy Living** - The project showcases the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) priorities of Norfolk’s Resilience Strategy by incorporating community amenities that have been lost through generations of neglect (fishing pier, share-use paths, shoreline walking trail, BBQ pits, picnic tables, chess tables, playground with children and adult exercise equipment, improved and well-lit ADA-accessible path to light rail station).

**Innovative Stormwater and Park Improvements** - The Resilience Park multi-use field doubles as a stormwater retention facility - underdrains have been installed that allow rainfall to be kept out of the streets conveyance system, and accommodate quick infiltration to allow soccer and other field activities to resume more quickly.

**Reconnecting Communities** - The Resilience Park is located and designed to reconnect the Chesterfield Heights community and Grandy Village assisted-housing community. These two communities have historically been divided by multiple barriers, road closures, and built environmental features aimed at separating the public housing residents from the homeowners and residents in the historic Chesterfield Heights community. The Resilience Park reconnects these two communities, while providing a flood risk reduction centerpiece for both communities.

**Ecologic Integrity** - Levees are constructed with slopes to accommodate migrating shorelines that allow for wetland vegetation to migrate upland as seas rise.

**Adaptability** - The project is designed to be adaptable to changing climate conditions, sea level rise scenarios and changing risk tolerances. Floodwalls and levees are designed in ways that accommodate additional freeboard in future decades, pump stations are designed to accommodate additional pump capacity.

**Historic Preservation** - Created a Pattern Book to assist residents with ten methods for historic properties to retain rain and reduce flood risk in ways that follow historic preservation guidelines from the National Park Service. Development of Resilience Tools for Residents – the project has produced tools that provide site specific recommendations for properties based on soil types to guide residents on the best stormwater management techniques (store and release vs. infiltrate).

**Coastal and Pluvial Resilience** - The project drastically reduces flood risk to residents from various sources; the coastal levees and floodwalls protect residents from tidal storm surge flooding, while the integrated blue and green stormwater features store, retain and infiltrate precipitation flooding and reduce strain on the pluvial conveyance system and provide two new pump stations for control of extreme rainfall events. This is a holistic approach to flood risk reduction and living with water.

### **Outstanding Chapter Award**

The Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes an ASFPM chapter and their exemplary practices and activities that deserve national recognition. It seeks to acknowledge distinguished works by a chapter in going above and beyond its mission in a way that can be shared and replicated by other ASFPM chapters.

### **2023 Winner: Virginia Floodplain Management Association**

The Virginia Floodplain Management Association (VFMA) was founded in 1994 to serve the floodplain management community that knows the blessings and curses of being a coastal state with nine major river systems and countless creeks and streams. Being surrounded by so much water, VFMA would collaborate with a state lakes and watershed non-profit for an Annual Water Conference.

But in 2021, the chapter felt its members would be better served with a standalone conference dedicated exclusively to floodplain management, but an in-person meeting wouldn't be possible due to Covid. And so, they went the virtual route. It was a huge success and paved the way for the chapter's first stand-alone in-person conference in 2022. There attendees were able to immerse themselves in flood-focused content, such as riverine and coastal flooding, floodplain mapping and modeling, climate change and future conditions, CRS, and more.

A dedicated flood conference was an easier sell for attendees to get their manager's approval to attend. As a result, in 2022, attendance was up and the camaraderie that developed at the 2021 conference grew even stronger. From the board to the various committees, everyone pitched in to

help with planning, promoting, and volunteering their time on-site at the conference.

In addition, membership in VFMA has grown in numbers and in engagement. Participation in quarterly all-member calls has increased, people are more willing to serve on various task forces and committees, and interest in serving on the Board of Directors has increased.



Outstanding Chapter Award: Pictured (L-R) ASFPM Board Chair Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM, VFMA Treasurer Brad Winters, PE, CFM; VFMA Secretary Kevin Donnelly, P.E., GISP, PMP, CFM; VFMA President Kristin Owen, AICP, CFM; and ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis, CFM.

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### **Louthain Award for Distinguished Service to ASFPM**

This award recognizes individuals who, through their long-term efforts, have clearly supported and advanced the work of the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

#### **2023 Winner: Sean Roche, CFM**

Every organization needs that one person who keeps things moving forward — quietly, methodically, and persistently — despite challenges, a worldwide pandemic, and the enormity of his own professional duties. That's Sean Roche. And he does it without calling attention to himself because his only goal is to make a difference.

Roche, a project manager for Michael Baker International, has coordinated the No Adverse Impact (NAI) Lunch-and-Learn Series jointly for the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management NAI Committee and the ASFPM NAI Committee since its inception in 2011.



Since that time, he has organized more than 50 NAI Lunch-and-Learn, which now average well over 200 people per event. Not only does he moderate the series, but he works with the speakers, handles promotion and registration, troubleshoots any tech issues, and coordinates the rehearsals with the featured speakers. In short, without him, there would be no NAI Lunch-and-Learns.

No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management is a philosophy that looks at the impacts of land use decisions, identifies adverse impacts and mitigates them through a variety of actions NAI involves more than local floodplain managers — planners, public works officials, zoning officials, development officials, regulatory (review) agencies, stormwater professionals, wetland managers, environmental engineers and environmentalists, emergency responders, disaster preparedness coordinators, hazard mitigation specialists, design professionals and design engineers, architects, landscape professionals, local officials, governing bodies, politicians and the public at large — the “whole community” — all have a role. Through NAI, flood losses can be reduced, property can be protected and lives can be saved. Through the NAI Lunch and Learn Series, all of these practitioners are reached, valuable information on flood-risk-reduction is disseminated, and the mission of both ASFPM and NAI are advanced.

Roche embodies Jerry Louthain’s lifetime of committed and dedicated volunteer service supporting and advancing ASFPM’s work. For the past 35 years, he has dedicated his professional career to advancing the cause of sound floodplain management. He is intent on making a difference in the realm of sound floodplain management and floodplain stewardship, and he truly cares about furthering No Adverse Impact floodplain management goals and objectives.

### **The Margaret A. Davidson Award for Excellence in Climate Change Adaptation**

This award was established in 2022 to honor Margaret A. Davidson, a visionary leader in coastal management issues. Recipients of this award should reflect Davidson’s commitment to address complex environmental challenges, engage diverse communities, increase resilience among overburdened and underserved populations, advance floodplain policy through broad partnerships, and advocate for more women and people of color in the floodplain management profession.

#### **2023 Winner: Janelle Kellman, Mayor of Sausalito, California**

After being elected to the City Council and eventually becoming Mayor of Sausalito, a small coastal town on California’s San Francisco Bay, Janelle Kellman quickly realized that her city had no climate or coastal resilience plans, no resources dedicated to these areas, and no flood mitigation plans, even though Sausalito has experienced severe “sunny day flooding” for several years due to rising sea levels. Mayor Kellman wanted to take real and immediate action but realized she did not know what to do, nor who to consult with for the help she needed. She soon found out that many elected officials and local decision makers (LDMs) in coastal communities around the US were in a similar situation. As a result, she took decisive action and founded The Center for Sea Rise Solutions (CSRS), an NGO focused on helping LDMs develop and implement coastal resilience plans.

Since founding CSRS in 2021, Mayor Kellman has led the organization in convening a number of highly successful workshops with LDMs around the US to assess and clearly articulate their needs, and to advocate for key structures that will empower them to take more effective coastal resilience actions. She is using these workshops in Savannah, Providence, Tampa, Mobile, and Sausalito to help her design three support pillars of CSRS: 1) a US coastal resilience Community of Practice, 2) Regional Advisory Boards, and 3) LDM “Boot Camps”. Her overarching goal of the workshops is to find effective ways to deliver coastal resilience “wayfinding” leadership and tools to help direct LDMs from point to point and confirm their progress along the way.

Through her efforts, Mayor Kellman has also acquired a vast network of international LDMs, critical interdisciplinary operators, and key stakeholder groups to help support this great challenge. She has put together key partnerships and working relationships with an array of highly influence international climate-related organizations, including Ocean Visions, France's Ocean and Climate Platform, Waves of Change, Climate Mayors, the City of Aspen, Resilient Cities Catalyst, Guy Carpenter, and the US Embassy in France.

Mayor Kellman is a tireless champion of engaging women in the daunting challenge to achieve coastal resilience. In this arena, she proposed a panel discussion at the 2023 Waves of Change Forum in Biarritz, France in June titled, "Female Officials Driving Real Climate Action". This approved and funded panel discussion, which she'll lead, will have enormous impact by engaging the Forum's 200 attendees from 19 different countries. Mayor Kellman is also a strong champion of engaging people of color in coastal resilience. Her recent Coastal Resilience Workshop in Mobile, Alabama focused heavily on helping underserved communities meet their coastal resilience challenges.

### **John Ivey Award for Superior Efforts in Certification**

This award was established by the ASFPM Board of Directors in 2001 to recognize exceptional efforts to promote the professional certification of floodplain managers.

### **2023 Winner: Amy J. Miller, CFM State NFIP Coordinator, State of Tennessee**

Amy Miller coordinates the statewide education initiatives for TEMA and the Tennessee Association of Floodplain Managers, largely taking on the development of course material for a regular monthly webinar, which is then maintained for access through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. She is tireless about efforts to educate the community, especially working through pushback and adversity in the role. Not everyone is positive for floodplain management, but Miller is....and she is exceptional in her role here in Tennessee.

Miller has also implemented a very successful Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS) Program in the State of Tennessee, modelled after the State of North Carolina's program, that has resulted in the teaching, administration of examinations, and the certification of more than 60 CFS's across the state. With support from the State of North Carolina, she has created and maintains the course material on a continuous basis, ensuring that the course is consistent with Tennessee State Law. She has built a team of supporting teacher/trainers who are able to assist in the teaching of the course for first-time test takers, as well as conducting annual refresher courses which are necessary to maintain certification.

Another very important accomplishment over her nine years on the job, is to successfully lead the state's NFIP communities through several major flooding disasters, including the 17" rain event that affected McKuen and Waverly Tennessee communities. Miller has demonstrated a great ability to help an understaffed and unexperienced community assemble a team of disaster response evaluators, enabling those communities to maintain their standing in the NFIP Program, and to lead them toward getting their communities well into the process of recovery and then mitigation for future flood events.

Through her role, Miller provides the training and looks for strategic implementation to solve problems in the state through innovative ideas and bridging gaps between professions and districts. She is passionate about the job, very knowledgeable and works towards sharing educational opportunities in strategic ways and to a diverse audience. Her personality is perfect for the job, and she motivates people to make strides in this important program for our community and she is driven to make strides and change. That dedication and skillset is why she was nominated Miller for this award. Tennessee has been hit very hard with flooding over the years, and her resiliency, commitment and integrity in this role are so needed to make a difference.