

## NeFSMA Helping Protect the Good Life

### 2013 Newsletter Volume 1

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

From Lori Laster

If you attended the 2012 Annual Conference in Kearney you may have seen a flood model demonstration by the Department of Natural Resources. This isn't a flood model like we hear about to help us draw floodplain maps. This is a 3D, real life flood model. Complete with a river, mountains, and a host of other items such as houses, parking lots, levees, and wetlands. These models can be used to simulate rainfall on different environments and to demonstrate the effects of runoff and flooding.

The photo below was taken at Omaha's World O! Water festival in August. DNR's Becky Groshens and Natailya Lys showed groups of kids how the model worked. They are then able to add homes to the floodplain, build levees, etc. to see how those things change flooding patterns. There are many other things that can be demonstrated with the model, but the key is allowing the participants to manipulate the natural environment and visually see the effects.



Since forming in 2005, NeFSMA has primarily focused on educating Nebraska's floodplain and stormwater professionals and keeping up with current issues. However, it is important that we also make sure that our children are educated about water issues as well.

The NeFSMA Board will be volunteering at the Omaha Children's Museum on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have the model set up so that children will be able to manipulate the landscape to see what the effects of development and flood control have on a river system. This is our first time with the model (and with children!), but if all goes well we are hoping that we can do more volunteer outreach in the future. If you're interested in volunteering your time for events such as this or know of a place or event where we could set up the model, please let me know.



## Summary of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 By Bill Jones, CFM

On July 6, 2012, Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The primary purpose of the Act was to extend the authority of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years, until September 30, 2017. The financial security of the NFIP along with an effort to implement actuarially based flood insurance rates for all at-risk structures was also a prominent purpose for the legislation. The NFIP, as originally conceived, was to be a self-sustaining program that paid for claims with policy premiums. It included a provision to “borrow” from the U.S. Treasury if losses exceeded available funds. The borrowed funds were to be repaid with interest from policy premiums. Due to several large flooding disasters that have occurred in recent years, the NFIP has been forced to borrow treasury funds multiple times in order to continue to pay claims. The Act requires that FEMA address these catastrophic losses from Hurricane Katrina and other major disasters that had forced the NFIP to borrow around \$18 billion (not including super-storm Sandy in 2012), and to devise a plan for repayment within ten years. Due to this, lawmakers desired to modify certain aspects of the NFIP and the flood insurance premium structure in order to improve the sustainability of the NFIP in the future.

A goal of the NFIP is to reduce future flood losses by requiring communities that participate in the program to adopt regulations and enforce building requirements within the 1% annual chance floodplain. These requirements are intended to ensure that new development will not be damaged by flooding at the 1% annual chance, or base flood, level. The original program was developed to provide a special allowance for older buildings, such as those constructed before floodplains were mapped and regulations for development were in place. These types of buildings are typically referred to as Pre-Flood Insurance Rate Map (Pre-FIRM) structures, as long as they have not been substantially damaged or improved since their original construction. Insurance policies on Pre-FIRM structures have historically received subsidized premiums of approximately 45% of their actuarial liability, which means policy holders paid less in premiums than they would have if the premiums were based on actual risk of flooding. Claims history has shown that a significant portion of NFIP claims payments have gone to properties covered by these types of subsidized policies.

The Act will revise the way that the NFIP has done business in the past. The Act authorizes premium adjustments of up to 20% per year vs. the previous cap of 10%. It also addresses, more aggressively, subsidized premiums for Pre-FIRM structures. Most Pre-FIRM rates will be increased 25% per year until they are no longer subsidized. Currently, the only exception is certain primary residences that have maintained continuous coverage since before the Act. Additionally, Pre-FIRM residential structures that are not primary residences lost all subsidies effective January 1, 2013. In order to be defined as a primary dwelling, the owner must reside at the property 80% of the policy year. Other Pre-FIRM policy categories that will experience increased premiums during late 2013 include policies for commercial buildings and new residential policies issued on a property for any reason including a change in ownership or a lapse in coverage. Pre-FIRM rates are not available if a structure is substantially damaged or improved.

In addition to subsidized premiums for Pre-FIRM structures, the NFIP has traditionally allowed a process called ‘grandfathering.’ This process may have applied to certain Post-FIRM buildings that were built in compliance



according to the FIRM in effect at the time of construction. Some of these structures may now be in the floodplain or have a higher effective Base Flood Elevation (BFE) due to updates to the information shown on the FIRM. For these types of structures, under grandfathering the insurance rating could be done based on the flood zone or flood elevation in effect at the time the building was constructed. As a result of the reform legislation, grandfathering will be phased out and eventually will no longer be possible. Structures in these situations will have flood insurance rates that are based on the actual risk of flooding, which will be based on the effective flood zones and BFE's at the time the policy is rated.

In summary, due to the Act most Pre-FIRM subsidized rates and grandfathered rates will end for all NFIP policies over the course of the next five years and premiums on flood insurance policies will likely increase at an accelerated rate.

Owners of Pre-FIRM buildings impacted by these changes will have two flood insurance rating options. These include the new Pre-FIRM premium rating structure, or Post-FIRM rating, which is available, if it benefits the policy holder. Post-FIRM rating compares the lowest floor elevation to the BFE and premiums are based on the difference between the lowest floor and the BFE. Post-FIRM rating will require an elevation certificate. When Pre-FIRM subsidies end for a property, Post-FIRM elevation rated premiums for buildings with their lowest floor below BFE may be significantly less than a Pre-FIRM rating which is based on unknown risk. For current policy holders, your insurance agent should have additional information for you at policy renewal.

For more information, see the following resources:

ASFPM summary and implementation timeline of the NFIP Reform Act of 2012:

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=651>

For more information on flood insurance reform and insurance rates, see the following resources:

<http://nhma.info/nhma-biggert-article/>

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>

<http://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance-manual>

### **BCA Training Announcement**

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sponsoring a training event that will cover FEMA's Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) and its application to flood mitigation projects. This class is a field deployed version of EMI's E-276 course and a full description can be found in the course catalog on EMI's web site <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>. This training requires basic familiarity with FEMA's mitigation programs and the purpose of the BCA process. It also requires knowledge of basic math and ability to use a computer to run



the BCA software. It will cover the recently released BCA v4.8 software and participants will be required to provide a computer with the BCA software installed. For more information on FEMA's BCA software, see <http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis>. The two-day training is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Papio NRD in Omaha; for more information on the NRD's location see [www.papionrd.org](http://www.papionrd.org). The training is limited to 20 participants. If you are interested in signing up for this training, please contact John Callen with the DNR at (402) 471-3957 or [john.callen@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.callen@nebraska.gov) by March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Living with Floods: Interdisciplinary Flood Institute for Teachers**

By Carrie Romero, P.E., CFM

The Iowa Water Conference was held last week at the Iowa State University Campus. In addition to a great morning plenary session and several presentations on some exceptional urban stream restoration projects, there was one presentation that really caught my attention. It was called "Living with Floods: Interdisciplinary Flood Institute for Teachers."

The presenter, Leslie Flynn from the University of Iowa, introduced the audience to the concept of [STEM Education](#). STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. [STEM Education](#) is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where academic concepts are coupled with real world lessons. [STEM Education](#) attempts to make connections between school, community, work, and global enterprise. The goal of [STEM Education](#) is to develop 21st century skills in today's students.

Another program on-going in Iowa is the [Living with Floods](#) project, which "aims to partner with Iowa communities to commemorate recent floods, celebrate progress towards recovery, and raise awareness of strategies to mitigate floods as well as of the interconnectedness of our environment and watershed." [Living with Floods](#) is utilizing STEM Education and has developed the Interdisciplinary Flood Institute for Teachers. Basically, the topic of flooding is being used to teach students in several communities about science, technology, engineering, and math and how those subjects relate to the real world. How cool is that?!

[Living with Floods](#) has targeted seven partner communities across Iowa to take part in this educational opportunity. They are Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City and Muscatine - all communities impacted by flooding in recent years. In the Fall of 2012, the Interdisciplinary Flood Institute for Teachers trained educators from the targeted communities. The middle school teachers were trained in the lingo and subjects related to flooding, and this spring they are utilizing the information in their lesson plans. They are designing classroom projects relating to flooding through art, music, history, science, math, and language arts. When available, they are using experts from the community to help with lesson plans and to speak to students. This summer, the New Orleans Preservation Hall Jazz Band is visiting each targeted community and giving a free concert in conjunction with events related to continuing education on flooding.



For the parents and other adults in the targeted communities there will be community forums hosted in partnership with the local public works departments.

The entire presentation was only 20 minutes long, but it got me thinking - could something like this be done in Nebraska? What would it take? I'm not sure I would know where to start, but it would be fantastic if we could encourage education in the sciences while also raising awareness of flood issues among the general public.

## **ASFPM Releases Hurricane Sandy Recovery Actions**

By ASFPM

ASFPM has released a paper developed by our leadership outlining 23 suggested actions that communities, property owners, states, and the federal policy and funding decision makers can take to support a more resilient recovery and rebuilding following Hurricane Sandy. These actions would lead to less damage and suffering in future events, resulting in more resilient communities and reduced federal taxpayer costs. We must rebuild in a way that will reduce vulnerability to flooding, hurricanes and other large storms in the future in order to avoid the human suffering and economic disruption that follows. We know that large events like Hurricane Sandy and Irene WILL happen again.

While the Hurricane Sandy damage throughout the Atlantic Region, New York, and New Jersey coasts and cities is one of the worst the region has suffered, similar large events and the increasing likelihood of similar future events should teach us valuable lessons that we must consider in the days, weeks, and months ahead. There is a need to take this disaster and use it as an opportunity to avoid the next one, not to rebuild in a way that will ensure another disaster, or just have less damage and disruption next time. We should react to this disaster in a different way than in the past. The rules need to change or we will keep repeating our mistakes, proving yet again that we have not learned the lessons of the past.

In the devastating aftermath of a significant event like Sandy, there also exists a window of opportunity for communities and property owners to make wise redevelopment choices that will help support the economic and social vitality for generations to come. While such choices can be politically unpopular in the short term, choosing a better path now can lead to reduced misery, suffering, and hardship for families and businesses alike. It is much harder during a "sunny day", or after the event has been forgotten to make needed changes than it is right now when people are faced with the consequences of the storm and are more receptive to significant, sometimes disruptive actions that can result in effective mitigation. [The full paper can be read here.](#)

The President recently submitted a Supplemental \$60.4 billion funding request to Congress that provides monies for various agencies and programs to assist the recovery from Hurricane Sandy. ASFPM is providing comments to the Administration and Congress on the supplemental funding. We issued a press release on December 12 responding to the President's request for the supplemental funding titled: "Hurricane Sandy aid should support resilient recovery." In the release, ASFPM Executive Director said: "Reconstruction of homes, businesses, and infrastructure is already underway and will continue throughout 2013 with a lot of public support. It would be a huge waste of federal dollars to just rebuild everything as it was before. Mitigation is



about rebuilding in locations and ways that reduce the costs and economic disruption from future storms.”  
[The full release can be read here.](#)

ASFPM encourages members to give us feedback on these papers and ideas for Hurricane Sandy. This process will be ongoing; your suggestions can inform our continued input to the process. Please send comments to [diane@floods.org](mailto:diane@floods.org).

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Education Committee – John Callen, Chair**

The education committee held our first meeting in February in order to kick off our activities for 2013. We have been working on planning our budget for the year as well as developing the educational tracks and the call for abstracts for the 2013 annual conference. Later in the spring, we'll work on abstract selection and notification of selected presenters.

### **Annual Conference Committee – Dan Fricke, Chair**

Planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is in full swing. It is being held Thursday July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge & Conference Center in Nebraska City. This great location has a lot to offer; if you've never been or will be a repeat guest we hope you will enjoy both the Conference and the Farm (additional amenities can be found on their website [www.liedlodge.org](http://www.liedlodge.org)). A room block has been arranged for the night before the Conference; please call the Lodge at 800-546-5433 for reservations under the NeFSMA block. If you have any suggestions for the conference don't hesitate in letting us know.

### **Membership Committee – Rocky Keehn, Chair**

The Membership Committee is working on developing a new logo for NeFSMA. The Graphics team at Olsson Associates has agreed to donate their time and expertise to develop several alternatives. The main objective of the redesign is to create a logo that is easier to reproduce on clothing, letterhead, and promotional materials. We are hoping for a new, simple-yet-eye-catching logo that will convey the purpose NeFSMA. Look for the new logo at the upcoming annual conference in July!

### **Publication Committee – Carrie Romero, Chair**

The Publication Committee has been working hard to keep the blog on [nefsma.com](http://nefsma.com) relevant and up-to-date. We hope that our members have found the blog content diverse and useful. As a reminder, we would love to focus on some local projects and experiences. If you're working on a stormwater or flood management project, we would love to be able to showcase it. Send your submissions to Carrie Romero ([cromero@olssonassociates.com](mailto:cromero@olssonassociates.com)), at any time.



## **New Elevation Certificate Ready**

The ASFPM Newsletter for Chapters announced that the revised Elevation Certificate is available as a fill-able MS Word file and as a fill-able pdf file at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383>. You can download instructions at the same site.

The revised Elevation Certificate used by communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget, with a new expiration date of July 31, 2015. Communities may continue to use the older forms (originally set to expire March 31, 2012) until July 31, 2013. After that, only the new forms will be accepted.

In other Elevation Certificate news, you can now view the EC Made EZ presentation online. Check it out: <http://www.h2opartnersusa.com/ec-made-ez/>

EC Made EZ is an overview of the NFIP Elevation Certificate. It is available online 24/7 with no registration needed. It is recommended for Agents, Lenders, Adjusters, Surveyors, and Community Officials. Please note that there are no credits associated with completing the course.

## **Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC)**

Reprinted from FEMA's Daily Digest Bulletin January 11, 2013

FEMA has launched their new web application – the Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC)! Visit <http://www.fema.gov/online-lomc> to learn more about the new Online LOMC application and to see the new live site. Applicants can use this new website to electronically request a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) instead of Applying for a LOMA using the MT-1 or MT-EZ paper forms. In the new future, the Online LOMC application will be able to process all types of LOMC requests.

## **FEMA Quick Reference Guide: Comparison of Select NFIP & Building Code Requirements for SFHA**

Reprinted from FEMA's Daily Digest Bulletin January 11, 2013

This guide illustrates the similarities and highlights the difference between the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum requirements and the requirements of the International Code Series (I-Codes) and ASCE 24, Flood Resistant Design and Construction (ASCE 24), a standard referenced by the I-Codes. The illustrations highlight some of the key similarities and differences between foundation types, lowest floor elevations, enclosures below elevated buildings, and utilities requirements contained within the NFIP and I-Codes for most residential and commercial buildings (classified as "Category II" structures by the building codes).



## 2013 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS

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## **NeFSMA**

### **Helping Protect the Good Life**

#### **2013 Newsletter Volume 2**

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

From Lori Laster

It's hard to believe that we're only three weeks away from our Fifth Annual Conference.

We've come a long way since the first conference in 2009 in the basement of the State Office Building. I wasn't involved with the planning for that conference, but I do know that nobody expected to have that many people attend. I believe that about 70 people were at that conference. Last year, we tied the record attendance of 99 people first set at the Second Annual Conference in Kearney in 2010.

Our Education Committee and Conference Committee have been working diligently to make this a great opportunity for learning, discussing, and networking. We've switched up the format a bit from previous years to provide more chances to interact with some of our presenters rather than just listening all day.

Our keynote speaker will be Dayle Williamson, former Director of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Mr. Williamson was instrumental in developing Nebraska's floodplain management program and he will be giving us a look back at the program and its evolution through the years.

This year, we would really like to break the 100-attendee mark. Help us meet that goal and make sure to get your conference registrations in soon!

And if all that doesn't get your attention, to celebrate our fifth year, we will be giving away five great prizes, including an iPad Mini!

#### **Flood Mitigation – Current Events**

By John Callen, P.E., CFM

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assists National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating communities and other government entities throughout the State with a wide range of flood mitigation activities. These activities include but are not limited to flood mitigation planning assistance and acting to provide technical assistance to communities regarding the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS)

program. Several recent and ongoing activities under both of these categories provide an overview of DNR's role.

### **Mitigation Planning**

The State of Nebraska has a Hazard Mitigation Plan (State HMP) covering all natural hazards that is updated every three years. The current State HMP, adopted in 2011, can be reviewed at <http://www.nema.ne.gov/pdf/hazmitplan.pdf>. These updates are coordinated by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the next update will be in 2014. The State also has a Flood Mitigation Plan that was originally developed by DNR and published in January 2003. Portions of this plan were used as the basis for the flood sections of the 2011 State HMP. The purpose of a Flood Mitigation Plan is to provide a more detailed focus on flooding risks, the assessment of those risks in terms of potential damages, and potential actions to mitigate flooding risks.

DNR is currently in the process of finalizing an update to the State of Nebraska's Flood Mitigation Plan. This document includes updates to the flooding risk assessment data considered by the previous Flood Mitigation Plan. This was accomplished utilizing current flooding risk data as well as coordination with the risk assessments contained in local HMP's produced by communities, counties, and NRDs across the State. The updated plan also includes an overall assessment of the State's flood mitigation programs and their implementation priority, as well as the authorities under which they can be implemented. The overall goal of the plan is to identify and prioritize programmatic flood mitigation activities at the State level. It is anticipated that the updated flood mitigation data and mitigation actions will be incorporated into the flood sections of the next State HMP update. The Flood Mitigation Plan, when finalized, will be posted on DNR's website under the floodplain section at [dnr.ne.gov](http://dnr.ne.gov).

In addition to assisting with updates to the State Flood Mitigation Plan or State HMP, DNR provides technical assistance to local authorities with development of local HMP's. DNR can provide expertise and technical assistance related to development of flooding risk assessments and flood mitigation alternatives for a local HMP. DNR may also be able to assist with floodplain mapping or flood insurance related data needed for development of a local plan. If your community requires assistance with flood mitigation planning, please contact us for more information on how DNR can help.

### **The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS)**

DNR provides technical assistance to communities regarding the NFIP's CRS program. This program is a voluntary program that awards communities that take extra steps in their floodplain management programs to reduce the risk of flooding. Participation in the program provides the opportunity for property owners in the community to obtain discounted flood insurance premiums. Points are awarded for a range of floodplain management activities. Typically, these activities go above and beyond minimum floodplain management requirements.

However, many CRS activities are minor additional efforts that supplement existing floodplain management activities a community may already be implementing. For example, maintaining correctly completed elevation certificates for new buildings in the floodplain. To become a CRS Class 9 community, 500 points are required. Points are based on activities being completed. Becoming a Class 9 community will provide property owners in

the community that have flood insurance with a 5% discount on flood insurance premiums. For each additional 500 points earned, an additional 5% flood insurance premium reduction is obtained. For more information on CRS classes and the potential flood insurance premium reductions, see the following table developed by FEMA.

CREDIT POINTS	CLASS	PREMIUM REDUCTION SFHA*	PREMIUM REDUCTION NON-SFHA**
4,500+	1	45%	10%
4,000 – 4,499	2	40%	10%
3,500 – 3,999	3	35%	10%
3,000 – 3,499	4	30%	10%
2,500 – 2,999	5	25%	10%
2,000 – 2,499	6	20%	10%
1,500 – 1,999	7	15%	5%
1,000 – 1,499	8	10%	5%
500 – 999	9	5%	5%
0 – 499	10	0	0

\*Special Flood Hazard Area

\*\*Preferred Risk Policies are available only in B, C, and X Zones for properties that are shown to have a minimal risk of flood damage. The Preferred Risk Policy does not receive premium rate credits under the CRS because it already has a lower premium than other policies. The CRS credit for AR and A99 Zones are based on non-Special Flood Hazard Areas (non-SFHAs) (B, C, and X Zones). Credits are: classes 1-6, 10% and classes 7-9, 5%. Premium reductions are subject to change.

The State of Nebraska currently has six communities that participate in the CRS and DNR is interested in facilitating applications for additional participants. For a typical community, reaching CRS Class 9 may not require much additional effort beyond floodplain management activities that are currently being implemented. Since the State of Nebraska completes certain floodplain management activities and has minimum State standards for floodplain management programs that go beyond FEMA minimum standards, communities in the State will receive a minimum number of credit points based on State activities. Depending on the Natural Resources District (NRD) a community is in, NRD floodplain management activities may also qualify for points. Therefore a community may be able to reach Class 9 or beyond relatively easily.

Joining the CRS will help your community focus on floodplain management activities that are being completed and how those activities can be improved or expanded to reduce flooding risks. In addition, due to the NFIP Reform Act of 2012, it is anticipated that flood insurance premiums will increase steadily over the next few years. Joining the CRS will provide the opportunity for property owners to mitigate these increases via the available policy discounts. DNR is available to provide technical assistance with the CRS application process as well as with CRS participation questions.

For more information regarding the CRS program, see the following web sites:

<http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/community-rating-system>

<http://www.crs2012.org/>

Communities interested in participation in the CRS can contact John Callen for more information.

## National LID Symposium

The 2013 International Low Impact Development (LID) Symposium is being hosted in the Midwestern United States through a collaborative effort between many states, [universities](#), and organizations. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Watershed, every state in the Midwestern United States is addressing urban water quality issues from combined sewer overflows to stormwater runoff. The 2013 International LID Symposium will bring together over 1,000 professionals to share their research, implementation, policy, financing, and education strategies to build and restore cities while protecting our environment.

If you are looking to carpool, please email Katie Pekarek at [kpekarek2@unl.edu](mailto:kpekarek2@unl.edu).

For more information about the National LID Symposium, you may contact Katie or visit

<http://www.cce.umn.edu/2013-International-Low-Impact-Development-Symposium/index.html>

This is a great event with 12 concurrent tracks of cutting edge information!

## Omaha Green Infrastructure Tour

By Carrie Romero, P.E., CFM

Last Thursday, several dozen participants were treated to an informative tour of green infrastructure sites throughout the Omaha Metro Area. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Omaha Green Infrastructure Tour!

The stops included

- Bioretention at UNO
- Bioretention at Metro Community College
- The Florence Streetscape
- Bioretention at 58<sup>th</sup> and Maple
- Green Roof at Farm Credit Services
- Bioretention and Rain Gardens at the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home
- Porous Concrete at the Southeast Police Precinct
- Porous Concrete and Bioretention under construction at 50<sup>th</sup> and Pine Street

At each location, speakers elaborated on the design of the BMP in place, and took questions on the projects. The tour provided a great opportunity to get out and see a variety of BMPs in action.



Bioretention Garden at UNO



Visiting the Green Roof at Farm Credit Services

The Lincoln Green Infrastructure Tour is coming up on Thursday, September 12, 2013. Save the date! The tour is currently in the planning stages, but if anyone has a project they would like to see as part of the tour, please contact Katie Pekarek at [kpekarek2@unl.edu](mailto:kpekarek2@unl.edu).

## **ASFPM Report: Cost of Flood Mapping the Nation**

By ASFPM

The need for accurate, updated flood mapping couldn't be greater considering the trends of larger and more numerous disasters as well as the unsustainable cost of flooding to the nation. Congress recognized this and the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) authorized a comprehensive flood mapping program as part of the NFIP. The Association of State Floodplain Managers has developed an estimate, based

on a careful analysis, of the total cost to provide floodplain mapping for every community in the nation based on the parameters specified in the BW-12. The report explaining the study and cost estimates can be found on the ASFPM [NFIP page](#).

For years ASFPM has been asked by decision makers and others: “When will we be done mapping the entire nation’s flood risk areas?”, “How far have we gotten and what needs to yet be done?”, and “What would it cost and how long would it take to provide accurate flood mapping for every community in the nation? Once this round of mapping for all communities is done, what is the annual cost of maintaining and updating those maps in the future?” This report addresses those questions. We believe this information will be useful to communities, states and federal agencies, national policy and other decision makers, including Congress and the Administration.

We trust you will find this report of interest. ASFPM would welcome and appreciate any feedback you might have. Comments and feedback on the report should be directed to Larry Larson, Director Emeritus & Senior Policy Advisor, ASFPM at [larry@floods.org](mailto:larry@floods.org) or by calling 608-828-3000.

### **Overview of Legislative Bill 517**

At the conclusion of the legislative session, the Legislature gave Final approval to LB517 and Governor Heineman signed the bill. This bill develops a task force to develop a list of water projects and related funding needs. The proposed Water Funding Task force will consist of the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, Director of the Department of Natural Resources and eleven (11) additional members to be appointed by the governor. These members will represent public power and irrigation districts, irrigation districts, municipalities, agriculture, wildlife conservation, livestock producers, agribusiness, manufacturing, metropolitan utilities district and outdoor recreation users. This bill requires the task force to provide recommendations for a strategic plan which prioritizes programs, projects, and activities in need of funding related to water issues in Nebraska. The associated bill, LB516, will then be requesting special funding for these projects in the approximate amount of \$50 million per year in the 2014 legislative session.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education Committee – John Callen, Chair**

The education committee reviewed abstracts submitted for the 2013 annual conference and met in April to discuss the conference program. The committee then finalized the program for the recent conference announcement flyer. The committee will continue to support the annual conference committee as needed. Our next focus will be on developing a program for the membership meeting, which is typically held in mid-fall. If anyone has ideas for the membership meeting program that you would like to share, please contact John Callen.



### **Annual Conference Committee – Dan Fricke, Chair**

We are quickly approaching the 5th Annual Conference on Thursday July 11th at the Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge & Conference Center in Nebraska City. Our conference theme is “2013: Floodplain, Stormwater, and Everything In Between” which is appropriate given the interesting presentation and roundtable discussion topics across three different tracks. Please visit the NeFSMA website for the conference agenda as well as registration information. The Lodge has extended the hotel room block reservation cutoff date until Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup> so please take advantage of the discounted rate by calling 800-546-5433. If you will be there the night before the conference, please join us in the hospitality room at 7 pm to socialize with other NeFSMA members and conference attendees. As this is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, we have five great prizes for those in attendance including an iPad mini and a Kindle Fire. Great informational resources and great prizes, what more could you want?!? We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!

### **Membership Committee – Rocky Keehn, Chair**

The focus of the membership committee the last quarter was to work on a new logo. The board members all helped by reviewing several alternatives and with input by all, a new NeFSMA logo is a reality. The new logo has a much more modern look but we also kept a few of the graphic concepts from the old logo. Kudos to the Olsson Associates graphic department for all their help designing the new logo. The new logo will be on the webpage, letterhead and all promotional material plus something new: NeFSMA clothing, hats and other fun things to help promote our organization. We will also be having a special treat at the 5th Annual Conference, as we will be celebrating this important milestone for our organization.

### **Publication Committee – Carrie Romero, Chair**

The Publication Committee continues to work hard to keep the blog on [nefsma.com](http://nefsma.com) relevant and up-to-date. We hope that our members have found the blog content diverse and useful. As a reminder, we would love to focus on some local projects and experiences. If you’re working on a stormwater or flood management project, we would love to be able to showcase it. Send your submissions to Carrie Romero ([cromero@olssonassociates.com](mailto:cromero@olssonassociates.com)), at any time.

## **RedVector Training through ASFPM**

Through [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) (ASFPM’s website), individuals can access RedVector Online Training. RedVector provides online learning courses for the design and construction industries. They have more than 1,200 courses in the course catalog, including live webinars. ASFPM has approved almost two dozen RedVector courses for Continuing Education Credits (CECs).

Visit [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) and select “Training and Education” from the menu on the left side of the page. From there you should be able to select the option “Online Training – RedVector.” You must register with RedVector.com before you can take courses and receive CEC credit. A promo code is available on the [floods.org](http://floods.org) site, which will provide a 10% discount on the RedVector courses.

If you are in need of additional CECs in order to maintain your CFM certification, take a look at the available online courses. It is a convenient way to further your education and maintain certification.

### **UPDATE: Online Letter of Map Change (LOMC) FEMA**

The week of June 9<sup>th</sup>, FEMA announced that the Online LOMC Tool now processes both Amendment (LOMA) and Revision (LOMR) Requests.

Requestors may now submit both Amendment and Revision applications through Online LOMC, The convenient web tool is now an alternative to the paper MT-EZ, Mt-1, and MT-2 forms.

There are many benefits to applying for a LOMC online:

- Submit, pay, and upload supporting documentation for all LOMC requests through one single online platform
- Applicants may save information online and finish applying at their convenience
- Clear and intuitive interface makes applying user-friendly
- Frequent applicants can manage multiple LOMC requests online
- Applicants can check their application status in real-time
- More efficient communications with LOMC processing staff

For more information about Online LOMC, visit [www.fema.gov/online-lomc](http://www.fema.gov/online-lomc)

If you have questions, please contact [outreach@riskmapcdfs.com](mailto:outreach@riskmapcdfs.com)

### **Record Keeping for Floodplain Administrators**

From the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's Floodplain Administrator Guidebook  
Reprinted from OFMA Newsletter, The B.F.E., Winter 2013 Edition

Record keeping is an extremely important part of a floodplain board's and floodplain administrator's responsibility when participating in the NFIP. The following records must be kept on file and open for public inspections:

A complete and up-to-date copy of the floodplain ordinance, the flood map (FBFM or FIRM) and the Flood Insurance Study should be on hand. If a study has not been completed, the community should obtain and maintain the best flood hazard data available for the area and use it in guiding floodplain development.

NFIP regulations specifically require that communities obtain and maintain the elevation of the lowest floor (including the basement) of all new or substantially improved structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area. For floodproofed structures, the elevation to which they have been floodproofed must be obtained and recorded.

Floodplain administrators must require developers to provide elevation and flood proofing certifications to meet this NFIP requirement.

A project file containing the following items should be kept for each development permit application:

- A copy of the permit application
- A copy of the permit review checklist
- A copy of all the engineering data (i.e., plans and specifications and hydraulic and hydrologic analyses used to document a development's compliance with the NFIP floodway and encroachment standards.
- A copy of the engineering analyses submitted for watercourse alteration projects
- Copies of all pertinent correspondence relating to the project
- Any variance or appeals proceedings
- Documentation of inspections of the development
- Base Flood Elevation data for subdivisions of five acres, 50 lots or larger;
- Elevation for floodproofing certifications indicating the lowest flood proof floor elevation
- Elevation certificate indicating the lowest floor elevation and lowest adjacent ground elevation

A file should be kept for the Biennial Reports that are submitted to FEMA. The floodplain administrator may want to keep the following in this file:

- Elevation certificates indicating the lowest floor elevation and lowest adjacent ground elevation
- Copies of previous years' annual and biennial reports
- A running total of permits and/or variances granted in the flood hazard area
- Maps of new annexations or other boundary changes
- Census data
- Records of any major natural or man-made changes affecting flooding patterns

## 2013 NeFSMA SPONSORS





## 2013 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS

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**Vice Chair:** Rocky J. Keehn, P.E., CFM [rkeehn@sehinc.com](mailto:rkeehn@sehinc.com)

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- David Shelton [dshelton2@unl.edu](mailto:dshelton2@unl.edu) • Nate Hartman, REHS, CCIS [nhartman@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:nhartman@lincoln.ne.gov)
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- JB Dixon [JBDixon@lpsnrd.org](mailto:JBDixon@lpsnrd.org) • Ellen Wright [ewright@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:ewright@lincoln.ne.gov)

**Visit NeFSMA on the web at:** <http://nefsma.com>

[Visit NeFSMA on LinkedIn](#)

## **NeFSMA**

### **Helping Protect the Good Life**

#### 2013 Newsletter Volume 3

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

From Lori Laster

I'm sure you've all been following the news from our neighbors to the west, especially as floodwaters have reached Nebraska. The South Platte River experienced catastrophic flooding in September. Some in Colorado are calling this a "1000-year" flood, which puts [this Omaha World-Herald article](#) into perspective.

Many residents affected by this flooding were told they weren't in the floodplain, therefore didn't need flood insurance. Are we as professionals truly identifying flood risk? Are we doing our part to make our communities more resilient?

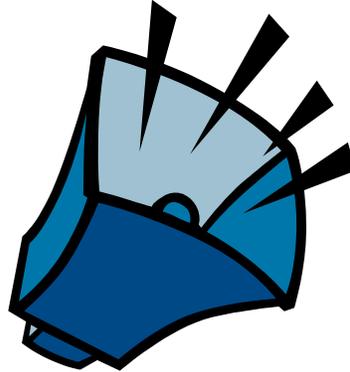
My hope is that NeFSMA is doing its part to help educate our members, who then help to educate their communities. We try to offer multiple training opportunities throughout each year. We are now also doing our part, with help from Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, to educate the public. We've completed two of three public outreach events this fall. Both were well attended and many people showed interest in our message.

Looking towards the rest of the year, we have one more public outreach event scheduled for October 18 and 19 at the Omaha Children's Museum. We are still in need of a couple of volunteers. If you are interested, [you can sign up here](#).

For our members, we have the Annual Membership Meeting coming up on November 14. Once again, we are offering this meeting at no cost to our members. And we are also excited to announce that we will be co-hosting FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Course E 273 "Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP" in December. More information on these events can be found throughout our newsletter.

What do you think? Is NeFSMA doing enough? Are there things we could be doing differently? What other activities could NeFSMA do to educate not just Nebraska's professionals, but Nebraska's residents also?

## Save the Date – Annual Membership Meeting!



WHEN: NOVEMBER 14, 2013  
WHERE: NEW WORLD INN  
COLUMBUS, NE  
RSVP: [nefsma@hotmail.com](mailto:nefsma@hotmail.com)

The Annual Membership Meeting will once again be offered free of charge to current NeFSMA members. If you are not a current member or you know someone who would like to attend, the cost is our yearly membership fee - \$35.00. The agenda will be available soon!

## NeFSMA Board Nominations

As our Annual Membership Meeting is approaching, it is time to start thinking about our Board of Directors election. NeFSMA's board is elected yearly and consists of 5 officer positions and 10 at-large positions. Officer positions are limited to 2-year terms, but are elected each year.

This year, we have two officers who have reached their term limits; chair and vice chair.

At this time, we are accepting nominations for the Board. Feel free to nominate yourself or a colleague that you feel would be willing to support the mission and growth of NeFSMA in the coming year. Typically the Board meets four times per year and each Board member is required to participate on one of our committees.

Submit nominations to Lori Laster ([llaster@pacionrd.org](mailto:llaster@pacionrd.org)) no later than October 4, 2013.

## **Training Opportunity – “Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP”**

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) and the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NeFSMA) are co-sponsoring a training event that will cover the FEMA Emergency Management Institute course ‘Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP’. This class is a field deployed version of EMI’s E-273 course and a full description can be found in the course catalog on EMI’s web site at <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>.

This training covers introductory floodplain management and is highly recommended for any community official whose responsibilities include floodplain management. The four-day course is planned for December 2-5, 2013 and will be held at the Papio-Missouri River NRD at 8901 S. 154<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha. The training is limited to 35 participants and will be provided at no cost. Registration priority will be given to local floodplain managers and government officials.

An opportunity to take the CFM exam will also be provided on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the same location; a separate registration and fee are required to sit for the CFM exam.

If you are interested in attending the course please contact Bill Jones at NDNR at [bill.jones@nebraska.gov](mailto:bill.jones@nebraska.gov) or (402) 471-3932. For more information about the CFM exam, contact Bill Jones or go to <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=426>.

## **2013: Floodplain, Stormwater, and Everything In Between**

A Recap of the Fifth Annual NeFSMA Conference

By Carrie Romero, P.E., CFM

July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were busy days for the floodplain and stormwater professionals of Nebraska. The annual conference has become a great tool for NeFSMA members to learn about new legislation and regulations, processes, and projects completed over the last year, as well as earn Continuing Education Credits. We were lucky enough to hold the conference in beautiful Nebraska City, at the Lied Lodge. This year the Nebraska Silver Jackets joined with NeFSMA to offer a one-day Levee Safety Outreach Workshop, to disseminate important information to those who on, operate, regulate, and work on levees.

The Levee Safety Outreach Workshop began the morning of July 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Nebraska National Guard Building in Nebraska City. Presentations during the morning included the Shared Responsibility of Flood Risk (Shuhai Zheng, NDNR); Concept of Risk (Tony Krause, USACE); Levee Failure Modes (Don Moses, USACE); and USACE Levee Safety (Bryan Flere, USACE). Shandi Teltschik, from FEMA, spoke on Mitigation through Transfer as well as the how levees and the NFIP interact.

After lunch, presentations on treating risk continued. Mitigation through Consequences Alternation (Nonstructural) and Mitigation through Probability/Performance Alteration (Structural) were completed by Randy Behm, USACE and Colleen Horihan, USACE, respectively. These presentations presented alternatives and process by which risk could be reduced through the use of Levees, Floodwalls, Dams, and Channels (Structural) as well as Elevation, Relocation, Acquisition, Floodproofing (Nonstructural) measures.

The afternoon wrapped up with presentations on common hurdles to completing levee projects and reducing the risk associated with them. Marlin Peterman, Papio-Missouri River NRD, presented on Financial Hurdles. Amanda Simpson with the USACE presented on issues with Real Estate. And finally, Technical Hurdles were discussed by Lalit Jha, JEO.

They day ended with a post-test. Knowing the population in attendance, I am sure that everyone scored well!

On the evening of July 10<sup>th</sup>, a hospitality reception was held at the Lied Lodge from 7pm-9pm for all those who planned to attend the Annual Conference the following day. The reception was a great time to meet new people and catch up with those who you may not have seen since last year. Some great food (and a couple of drinks) were enjoyed by all!

July 11<sup>th</sup> was the day of the annual conference, and after registration was completed attendees were welcomed to the conference by Lori Laster, Chair of NeFSMA. From there, the conference was split into three tracks: Stormwater Quantity, Flood Risk Mitigation, and Floodplain Risk Management and Mapping. The agenda of the day can be viewed [here](#). Most of the presentations can be obtained by contacting one of the board members. Among the presentations:

- Bob Carnazzo, NDOR, presented on the Nebraska Department of Roads Floodplain Analysis and Permitting Procedures.
  - Recent permitting changes include that the NDOR no longer permits small projects such as street sweeping, road striping, signage, and crack repair.
- John Peterson of JEO Consulting Group presented on the Upper Prairie/Silver/ Moores Creek Flood Control Project
  - The project seeks to remove 1,500 homes and businesses in Northwest Grand Island from the 100-year floodplain
  - The project began in 2005 and will be ongoing through 2017
  - The NRDF provided 52% of the project funding
- Dane Baily with the Kansas Division of Water Resources presented on the push to included Kansas communities in the Community Rating System (CRS) program.
  - There are currently 16 CRS communities in Kansas; by October 2014 that number is expected to increase to 30+

- The benefit for the State of Kansas is that once a community joins the CRS, the State knows that the floodplain administrator will be informed and knowledgeable in the NFIP and floodplain development regulations, therefore becoming an ally in reducing flood risk in the community.
- Dane pointed out that the State of Nebraska saves the most (approximately \$500,000 per year) in insurance of all the states in Region 7; this is primarily because the City of Lincoln has achieved a Class 6 rating.
- The MO-KAN CRS User Group shares information between Missouri and Kansas CRS communities, which is valuable to the CRS participants. Contact Carrie Romero if you would like more information on the user group.
- Katie Ringland from the NDNR gave a presentation on the new Interactive Floodplain Map that is going to be available on the NDNR website. Features of the Map will be implemented over time and will eventually include
  - LOMCs
  - BFEs
  - Request for BFEs will be taken
  - FIRM Panel Indexes
  - FIRM Panels
  - Flood Insurance Studies
  - Community Boundaries (extraterritorial jurisdictional limits)
  - The DNR will be able to provide floodplain shapefiles for County GIS needs

In addition to these presentations, another two dozen took place throughout the day. After lunch and a great keynote presentation by Dayle Williamson, participants settled into roundtable discussions. The discussions were split into three distinct groups – Developing a Stormwater Utility, Approaches to Mitigation Projects and Selling the Benefits, and the Biggert Waters Act of 2012 and NFIP Reform. The day wrapped up with the highly anticipated Give Aways – a few lucky attendees walked away with an iPad Mini, a Kindle Fire, an iPod nano, a Lied Lodge Gift Card, or a NeFSMA-themed gift bag.

It was a great event overall and we hope to continue to with our momentum and make next year's event even better. Thanks to all who attended and presented!

## **NAI How-To Guides**

ASFPM

The long awaited and highly anticipated No Adverse Impact (NAI) How-To Guides are hot off the presses!

After two years in the making (one in planning and one in implementation) the first two NAI How-To Guides are available on the ASFPM website. The intent of these How to Guides it to expand on the knowledge base within the original No Adverse Impact Toolkit and to provide specific tools for incorporating NAI floodplain management into local regulations, ordinances, requirements, design, standards and practices.

Mitigation and Infrastructure are the first two (of eight - the seven original building blocks and legal) NAI building blocks to be published into How-To Guides. Each How to Guide features an introduction and background on NAI, five of the many NAI level tools that can be utilized under the particular building block being featured (Mitigation and Infrastructure), and a War Stories section of what worked, and in some cases, what didn't. There is tons more useful information within each of the two How to Guides, but I don't want to spoil the surprise. Go online and check them out for yourself!

The Guides ultimate goal is to have communities take a different approach - a NAI based approach - to managing all development in the community that can contribute to an increased flood risk and incorporate the NAI concept into all ongoing local community activities. These Guides identify just a few of the many ways a community can accomplish lessening flood risk within their community now and working toward reducing flood risk in the future.

The NAI How-To Guides can be found at:  
<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=460>

## Rainfall Recurrence Intervals enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

By Jon Lefers, P.E.

Reprinted from the August 2013 WAFSCM Newsletter

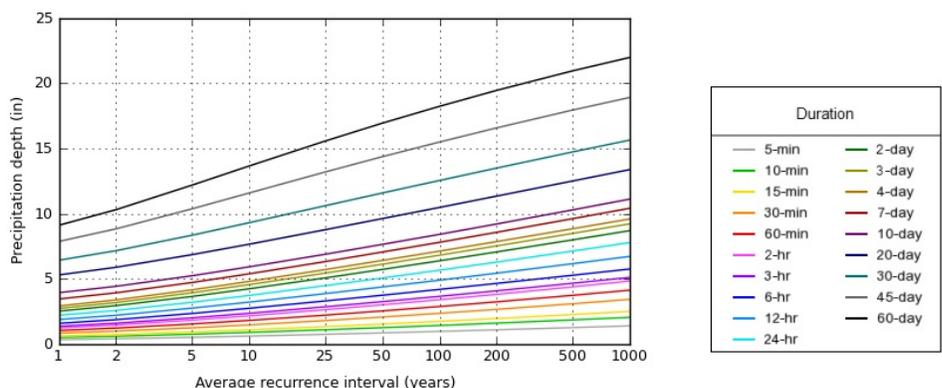
*\*Editor's Note: This article comes from the Wisconsin Association's newsletter and details rainfall in Wisconsin; however, Atlas 14 is available for locations in Nebraska, as illustrated in the example following the article.*

Unlike classic cars that get better with age, rainfall recurrence data just gets dustier and dustier with age. And so it was with Technical Paper 40, which was published before the audiocassette was invented. After many years of work, the National Weather Service has finally published Atlas 14, which is an online database where rainfall recurrence intervals can be extracted for most locations in the nation. The recurrence intervals

available are the 1- through 1000-year events, and the durations are 5 minutes through 60 days. The database can be found

<http://dipper.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/>. What's even more

fascinating for statistics geeks is that Atlas 14 also publishes the 90% confidence interval for each value, which provides an



indication of the uncertainty in the values. For example, in Madison, WI, the 100-year, 24-hour rainfall depth is listed as approximately 6.6 inches with a 90% interval ranging from 5.1 to over 8.2 inches!

Despite the uncertainty which most certainly was worse in the TP-40 publication, in general, 100-year rainfall depths are higher in Atlas 14 than in TP-40. Near Superior, WI, the TP-40 100-year, 24-hour rainfall depth was 5.5 inches. The Atlas 14 rainfall depth is now 6.85 inches! In Milwaukee, the 100-year rainfall used to be 5.5 inches, and now it is 6.0 inches. In summary, Atlas 14 is a long awaited update to extreme rainfall depths.

#### NEBRASKA EXAMPLE:

##### Atlas 14 vs. TP-40: Lincoln, Nebraska

- Lincoln, NE TP-40: 6.7 inches for the 100yr, 24-hr storm
- Lincoln, NE Atlas 14: 7.28 inches for the 100-yr, 24-hr storm (confidence interval from 5.65 to 9.2 in)

### ASFPM Sends Letter to President Obama on the need for Flood Mapping Funding

By ASFPM

ASFPM is concerned about the reduction in support for production and maintenance of flood data and flood maps, which could impact the 22,000 flood prone communities across the nation. We believe flood mapping to be a key piece to the President's recently unveiled Climate Action Plan and we advocate that the President support adequate funding for the NFIP flood mapping program beginning with the FY15 budget proposal. The following letter was recently delivered to the President:

Dear President Obama:

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and its 35 Chapters represent more than 15,000 state and local officials and other professionals engaged in all aspects of managing and mitigating flood risk to reduce the loss of life and property from floods. We are writing to express our concern for the reduction in support for producing and updating flood data and mapping for the 22,000 flood prone communities in the nation.

Local communities have the most effective tools for reducing flood risk: land use authority and building codes. But to effectively use those tools they need to first know which areas in their community are subject to flooding. Only 7% of the nation's land area is in the 1% annual chance floodplain (often called the 100 year floodplain), but flooding is the nation's most frequent and costly natural disaster, averaging well over \$10 billion annually. Just two major flooding events, Sandy and Katrina cost federal taxpayers over \$200 billion for disaster relief while putting the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) \$25 billion in debt. Add to this the



continual flooding on rivers and coasts through the nation and it is clear we need to do better. If we hope to reduce these taxpayer costs an appropriate and cost effective federal role is to provide communities accurate flood maps to guide new development, and guide rebuilding after major flood events.

The ASFPM is so concerned about the cut in funding over the past few years (from \$220 million in FY 2010 to \$84 million in FY 14) that we performed an analysis to produce a report called "[Flood Mapping for the Nation](#)". It demonstrates that modern, accurate maps can be produced for all 22,000 flood prone communities if the \$400 million/year authorized by the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 NFIP is appropriated for the next 10 years. If we continue to provide only the FY 14 funding of \$84 million, we will actually lose ground, with more flood maps becoming outdated. Accurate mapping must be available for all communities, so they can guide development away from the highest flood risk areas, and ensure that development in moderate flood risk areas is properly elevated or otherwise protected. Accurate, up-to-date flood maps are the key to reducing taxpayer disaster relief and human suffering.

In light of the recent unveiling of your Climate Action Plan, this issue is especially important. Climate change will cause more people, homes and communities to be flooded: and flooded more often. Among the initiatives in the Plan, three interrelated ones: Building Stronger and Safer Communities and Infrastructure, Protecting our Economy and Natural Resources, and Using Sound Science to Manage Climate Impacts, are closely tied to flood hazard management, but this will require that we know what the flood risk is. Flood risk changes over time and climate change only exacerbates this trend. Communities must have accurate up to date maps to help them address climate change and flood risk. A study commissioned by FEMA and recently released indicates that some flood hazard areas in the United States could increase by 45% by the year 2100. Investments on our nation's flood map inventory fully and integrally supports the vision of your Climate Action Plan.

We urge you to support adequate funding for the NFIP flood mapping program beginning with your FY 15 budget proposal.

Mr. President, you have the opportunity today to ensure that part of your legacy for the 22,000 flood prone communities in the nation have the data they need to become resilient and sustainable, so they are prepared for the next catastrophic flood event and future changing conditions. We stand ready to provide assistance through our members, Executive Office and policy team in Washington, D.C. We can be reached through our Executive Director, Chad Berginnis, at 608 828-3000; and via email to [cberginnis@floods.org](mailto:cberginnis@floods.org). Please feel free to contact us anytime we can be of service.

Thank you for your support for a safer America today and for future generations.

Sincerely,  
William Nechamen, ASFPM Chair  
Chad Berginnis, ASFPM Executive Director

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Education Committee – John Callen, Chair**

The education committee has been working on development of the meeting program for the annual membership meeting planned for November 14<sup>th</sup> in Columbus. Committee members are working on all aspects of meeting preparation, including booking the meeting location and developing the program for the meeting. We have several great speakers and topics lined up covering both floodplain and stormwater management. The committee also recently assisted NDNR and NeFSMA with submitting a joint application to ASFPM to be considered for hosting FEMA's 'Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP' training course in Nebraska.

### **Annual Conference Committee – Dan Fricke, Chair**

Thank you to all the attendees, speakers and volunteers who helped make the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NeFSMA Conference a success! There were 111 in attendance, which continues the increasing attendance trend from previous conferences. We are looking to build on this momentum with next year's conference which is already being planned. We love feedback, so if you haven't yet please take the survey which is still open at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FP3RHSW>. Thanks to everyone again and we look forward to seeing you all again (as well as additional attendees) next year!

### **Publication Committee – Carrie Romero, Chair**

The Publication Committee continues to work hard to keep the blog on nefsm.com relevant and up-to-date. We hope that our members have found the blog content diverse and useful. As a reminder, we would love to focus on some local projects and experiences. If you're working on a stormwater or flood management project, let us showcase it. Additionally, if you have attended a regional or national conference that would be of interest to our members, we would love to hear about it. A short recap with a few pictures is a great way share information and gain interest about current events in the industry. Send your submissions to Carrie Romero ([cromero@olssonassociates.com](mailto:cromero@olssonassociates.com)), at any time.

## **2013 Lincoln Green Infrastructure Tour Recap**

From the UNL Stormwater Management Group

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2013 Lincoln Green Infrastructure Tour!!

Karen Nalow with the Clark Enereson Group led us on a tour of the Centennial Mall renovations including the existing silva cells and bioretention gardens.

Travis Figard of Olsson Associates showed us around the Tierra Park renovations. Carter Hubbard, also with OA, took us on a drive through the Wilderness Ridge curbless development.



Kevin Kruse of JEO and Bill Norris took us through renovations at the Aspen Green Commons Home Owners Association common space including tiered bioretention. Bob Henrickson with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum was also kind enough to share great information about the plant selection process at the site. Kevin also took us through an application of flexi-mat at the North Creek Villa.

Rob Lutz of EA took us through Tyrell Park near 67th and Baldwin which has a completely new stormwater management system since our visit last year.

Luke Rief, also of EA, took us through the wetland at North Star High School. This wetland, and associated pond, not only serve a stormwater function, but also provide an outdoor learning classroom used by North Star.

For more information about any of these sites we visited, please contact Katie Pekarek at [kpekarek2@unl.edu](mailto:kpekarek2@unl.edu). Visit <http://water.unl.edu/stormwater> for more news from the UNL Stormwater Group!

## 2013 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS

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## **NeFSMA** **Helping Protect the Good Life**

### 2013 Newsletter Volume 4

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

From Lori Laster

This is my last chair's column.

At times, it feels like I've been doing this forever. And at others, it feels like I just started.

Looking back over the last couple of years, I'm extremely proud of what NeFSMA has accomplished. We've had some great board members who have put in a lot of time and effort to move NeFSMA forward.

Over the last year especially, we've been creative in partnerships with other groups and agencies to bring more educational opportunities to you.

Earlier in December, NeFSMA teamed with NDNR to host FEMA's E273 class – "Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP." We had 28 students attend the class. And it was a great week! Our instructors were Brian Varella (City of Fort Collins, CO), Wayne Berggren (FEMA-Region VI), and Shandi Teltschik (FEMA-Region VII). All three instructors were impressed with the caliber of professionals in Nebraska and their willingness to learn and participate in class discussions. The week ended with 10 people taking the Certified Floodplain Manager exam, eight of whom work in Nebraska.

It's these types of partnerships and outreach efforts that help NeFSMA accomplish our mission to make sure our professionals are equipped with the knowledge they need to do their jobs, making Nebraska a great place to live. In working with Rocky Keehn, our chair-elect, I know that he feels the same way. He's already working on some new initiatives to keep our momentum going.

So I write this last column confident that NeFSMA will keep moving and growing.

## Incoming Chair Comments

Rocky Keehn

As the new Chair, I am looking forward to continuing the successes of the previous chairs and growing NeFSMA. The new structure of the leadership will allow us to focus our efforts better since the activities we do as an organization are more aligned with each committee. I am looking forward to working with our new committee chairs. In the next year I will be proposing a couple of new initiatives that I think will help grow NeFSMA. The first is on the stormwater side. NeFSMA will take the lead to have a joint meeting between NeFSMA, APWA, AWWA, and other organizations to make a more concise effort to coordinate stormwater seminars and presentations at organizational meetings. On the floodplain managers' side, we will investigate the cost and then hopefully implement over-the-lunch online presentations geared towards floodplain managers for our communities. Many of the City clerks and volunteers work for our communities as floodplain managers and really don't see the value of our organization since the meetings are our key focus and tend not to be very close to their home town. If we can provide online presentation on new regulations, how to raise a house, how to redo utilities and maybe other related topics that may be of interested to our floodplain managers, we can grow our organization. If you have any ideas or would like to participate in one of our committees please contact me via my email at [rkeehn@sehinc.com](mailto:rkeehn@sehinc.com).

## ASFPM Chapter Director: What Is It All About?

Kyle D. Riley, P.E., CFM

My name is Kyle Riley and I am currently serving on the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Board of Directors as the District 4 Chapter Director. Some of you may know exactly what this role entails, but most of you may not be quite sure what all the responsibilities are. This article will be an attempt to educate the people that I represent on what being a Chapter Director is all about. Why you might ask? My philosophy is that if you are more informed on what my role is, then you will be more prepared to contact me if assistance is needed.

My number one responsibility is to be able to fulfill all the obligations of being an ASFPM Board member. That statement might seem trivial, but if I am not able to fulfill these obligations I would not be able to serve as a Chapter Director in the first place. The most important, as well as restricting, requirements are to attend the annual in-person Board Meeting, attend the in-person Board Retreat, and attend the annual ASFPM Conference. These events are usually the only opportunities for the Board of Directors to all meet in person and to fully understand everyone's interests and personalities. Tasks can then be worked through in a more



efficient manner. This is something that may be hard to convey on a conference call. Although I feel attending these meetings are paramount to an effective board, I mentioned they can also be the most restrictive. Everyone on the Board is doing it voluntarily and it takes a big commitment from the person and their employer. Other requirements include attending bi-monthly conference calls, and remain an ASFPM member in good standing.

My second responsibility, which may be defined as more of a parallel first priority, is to represent ASFPM Chapter interests with the Board and ASFPM as a whole. This role can be summarized with a couple examples. First, I had the opportunity to serve on an Ad Hoc committee to investigate the relationship between ASFPM and its individual Chapters and ultimately presented the data compiled to the entire Board. This committee was pivotal in showing that ASFPM should share the cost of doing business with Chapters and should not raise Chapter fees to the point of being restrictive to growth. Second, I had the opportunity to facilitate the addition of the Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association as a new Chapter to ASFPM. These duties included reviewing documents such as their Constitution to make sure it was not contradictory to ASFPM's. Finally, disseminating information on specific issues or concerns raised by individual Chapters to the Board may be the most important role, but is highly underutilized. Chapters often do not think, or worse yet, don't realize they have somebody that will go to bat for them if need be. Hopefully this article will help that cause.

Additional duties include compiling an annual report of Chapter activities for District 4, promoting and encouraging participation in ASFPM and individual State Chapters, and attend Chapter conferences and workshops when able. As a Chapter Director, it is important to target at least one Chapter conference to attend a year in addition to the annual ASFPM conference. Building relationships with the people I represent can be very valuable in solving future problems.

I hope this has helped you understand more of what my role is as a Chapter Director and I also hope to hear from you in the future. Whether you need clarification on my duties or would like to know more about me in general I would love for you to contact me. It truly has been an absolute pleasure representing you on the Board and I hope to continue serving as long as you allow me to.

### **Training Opportunity – ASFPM Webinars**

ASFPM already has some training opportunities available for January 2014. The available webinars are

- **BW-12: Understanding Insurance Impacts and Ramifications of Sections 205 and 207**
  - Thursday, January 9, 2014; 2:00 – 3:00PM Central Time
  - Learn how insurance rate changes will affect property owners in your community
  - 1 Core CEC for CFMs
  - ASFPM Members can use promo code IMBWJ4 to receive the preferred rate
- **Liability and Takings Issues in Floodplain Management**
  - Friday, January 24, 2014; 12:00 – 1:30PM Central Time
  - Understanding current legal risks for floodplain managers and communities

- 1.5 Core CECs for CFMs
- ASFPM Members can use promo code IMLTJB to receive the preferred rate

To learn more about these educational opportunities, go to the [ASFPM Webinar](http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/webinars.asp) page. You can also copy and paste the following address in your web browser: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/webinars.asp>

### Annual Membership Meeting

November 14, 2013  
Columbus, Nebraska

Once again, a successful Membership Meeting was held at the New World Inn in Columbus this year. After check-in and registration, the Morning Session began with a presentation from Carter Hubbard, Olsson Associates. Carter gave an informative presentation on the Lincoln West Haymarket Development from the Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, and Environmental Compliance standpoint. Bob Gregalunas, FRYA Engineering, presented on the 2013 Flooding in Colorado and Dam Breach Analysis.



During lunch, the Membership Meeting was held. Lori Laster presented on the activities of the board and NeFSMA over the last year. These activities included our logo change, public outreach through demonstrations with the 3D Flood Model, and the restructuring of our committees. Additionally the 2014 Board was announced.

#### 2014 NeFSMA Board

Chair: Rocky Keehn	At Large: Jon Callen
Vice Chair: Nate Hartman	At Large: John Cambridge
Second Vice Chair: Dan Fricke	At Large: Rock Krzycki
Treasurer: Mike McIntosh	At Large: Lori Laster
Secretary: Caroline Romero	At Large: Jonathan Mohr
At Large: Paul Woodward	At Large: Mitch Paine
At Large: Dave Shelton	At Large: Katie Pekarek
At Large: Blayne Renner	



Mike McIntosh provided some information on the 2013 Annual Treasurer's Report. Our new Chair, Rocky Keehn, presented Lori Laster with an outgoing chair award and thanked her for her service to NeFSMA. Thank you Lori!

The afternoon was split into two breakout sections – Floodplain Management and Stormwater Management. Bill Jones and Shandi Teltschik presented on several topics in floodplain management including permitting sheds and outbuildings, ETJs, and a BW-12 Update. Their presentation was followed by a

presentation from Andrew Christenson, NDNR, on the Nebraska DNRs Base Flood Elevation Determinations.

In the Stormwater Management session, Russ George, NEBCO, spoke about EPA Industrial Stormwater Inspections. J.B. Dixon, FHU, presented on the Nebraska H<sub>2</sub>O Partners Stormwater Programs.

Thank you to all our attendees and members!

## FEMA Mitigation Best Practices Search Now Online

ASFPM

FEMA has made available a portfolio of ideas, activities/projects and funding sources that can help reduce or prevent the impacts of disasters. Take a look at what is possible and get ideas for your own situations by browsing through this portfolio and see what others have been doing. Best Practices are sorted by subject and can be filtered based on your needs or by using the Advance Search.

The FEMA Best Practices Portfolio consists of mitigation stories submitted by individuals and communities that describe measures they have taken to reduce the loss of life and property from disasters. These Best Practices are meant to provide ideas and concepts about reducing losses and to encourage others to evaluate their own risk and consider mitigation as a long-term solution to reducing that risk.

Click [FEMA Mitigation Best Practices Search](https://www.fema.gov/bestpractices)

or copy and paste this address into your web browser: <https://www.fema.gov/bestpractices>

## **Silver Jackets Bring Collaboration in Flood Hazard Reduction**

ASFPM

Reprinted from the October 2013 NFIP/CRS Update

The Silver Jackets is an innovative program that brings together federal, state, and frequently tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and apply their knowledge to reduce risk from floods and other hazards. Silver Jackets programs are organized at the state level by the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office. State agency staff, including the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and State NFIP Coordinator, come together on the Silver Jackets team with the federal family of agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others. The team becomes a forum through which the state's flood risk management priorities can be addressed. So far, 40 states and the District of Columbia have active Silver Jackets teams.

As CRS communities know, continuous collaboration among agencies and other entities is critical to successfully reducing the risk of damaging floods. No single agency at any level has all the answers, but often multiple programs can be leveraged to provide a cohesive solution.

Among the Silver Jackets program goals are to

- Create (or supplement) a mechanism to collaboratively identify, prioritize, and address flood risk management issues and implement solutions.
- Leverage information and resources so that states and their communities can benefit from such national programs as FEMA's Risk MAP, the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, and the Corps' Levee Inventory and Assessment Initiative.
- Provide focused, coordinated hazard mitigation assistance to carry out high-priority actions such as those identified in state mitigation plans.
- Identify gaps among agency programs and/or barriers to implementation, such as conflicting policies or authorities, and suggest ways to resolve them.

### **Silver Jackets Website**

The national Silver Jackets instructive website can be found at <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/>. Besides background information and a history of the program, it features lists of "best practices," mitigation success stories, a toolbox of techniques, advice on developing and maintaining an effective Silver Jackets team, and, best of all, lots of stories about how state, local, regional, and Silver Jackets people worked together to develop long-lasting solutions to flood risk problems. The website also has sources of more information, links to relevant entities, and back issues of The Buzz, the Silver Jackets quarterly newsletter. Also, to see if your state has a Silver Jackets team, you can go to this link on the site: <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/state.cfm>.

### **The Community Rating System + Silver Jackets**

CRS representatives and staff have been interacting with the Silver Jackets to identify and capitalize on overlaps in the two programs and thereby improve local flood mitigation and benefit communities in other ways. There

were presentations and discussion about the CRS at last year's Silver Jackets conference, articles about the CRS have appeared in Silver Jackets newsletters, and at least two webinars have been held during which federal partners were able to learn about the CRS and how it and other state and federal programs can complement each other. A one-hour webinar was recorded and can be accessed at <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/p27992959/>.

### **You can help the Silver Jackets and the CRS**

A good way to help the Silver Jackets is by identifying specific examples of CRS communities that have received credit points for using products (evaluations, new data, reports, plans, maps, or others) prepared by federal agencies or in cooperation with federal agencies. For example, a community might have received credit under Activity 520, Acquisition and Relocation, for buildings or facilities that were acquired and/or relocated with federal funds. Or, credit under Activity 530, Flood Protection, might have been received for buildings retrofitted by or with financial or other assistance from a federal agency. If your community—or a community that you know of—has obtained CRS credit for initiatives or products like this, please let the CRS know by emailing [NFIPCRS@iso.com](mailto:NFIPCRS@iso.com). The CRS and Silver Jackets will incorporate these examples into future conferences, presentations, webinars, and other Silver Jackets work.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Education Committee – John Callen, Chair**

The education committee recently wrapped up a busy year with the completion of the program for the annual meeting held at Columbus in November. The committee will now start looking forward to next year – if you have any specific topics you would like to see covered in a future meeting, please let us know. We'll also be looking for committee members for 2014. If you would like to consider joining the committee, please let us know if you are interested! Thank you to the current committee members for all your work to develop the educational programs for our meetings during the past year. I'd also like to thank the many NeFSMA members that provided presentations at our meetings for your assistance with providing a high quality program to meeting attendees.

The first meeting of 2014 is anticipated for approximately late March. Additional information and details regarding the meeting will be developed and sent out during early 2014.

### **Annual Conference Committee – Dan Fricke, Chair**

Planning for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is underway. Contracts have been signed and we will be holding it at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney again on July 17, 2014. We have held the conference at this location in the past and it continues to be a great venue that serves us well. Between my Co-Chair counterpart John Callen and I, we hope to bring a day (and possibly more) of great information and networking! As always, if there are requests/suggestions please let John or I know. Please plan on attending and help continue our successful trend!

### **Publication Committee – Carrie Romero, Chair**

We are currently working on completing the paperwork associated with our ASFPM Chapter Renewal in order to maintain chapter services. This will be completed before the end of December.

As always, the Publication Committee continues to try to keep the blog on [nefsma.com](http://nefsma.com) relevant and up-to-date. We hope that our members have found the blog content diverse and useful. As a reminder, we would love to focus on some local projects and experiences. If you're working on a stormwater or flood management project, let us showcase it. Additionally, if you have attended a regional or national conference that would be of interest to our members, we would love to hear about it. A short recap with a few pictures is a great way share information and gain interest about current events in the industry. Send your submissions to Carrie Romero ([cromero@olssonassociates.com](mailto:cromero@olssonassociates.com)), at any time.

### **UNL Stormwater Management – Past Events Archive**

From the UNL Stormwater Management Group

The UNL Stormwater Management Website (<http://water.unl.edu/web/propertydesign/home>) offers a Past Event Archive where presentations from past workshops and conferences can be viewed.

Check it out if you missed the Post-Construction Stormwater Management Workshop earlier this year!

### **NeFSMA is on Twitter!**

Follow @NeFSMA for updates!





**MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## **2013 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS**

### **Officers**

**Chair:** Lori Laster, CFM [llaster@pacionrd.org](mailto:llaster@pacionrd.org)

**Vice Chair:** Rocky J. Keehn, P.E., CFM [rkeehn@sehinc.com](mailto:rkeehn@sehinc.com)

**Second Vice Chair:** Dan Fricke [dfricke@jeo.com](mailto:dfricke@jeo.com)

**Secretary:** Carrie Romero, P.E., CFM [cromero@olssonassociates.com](mailto:cromero@olssonassociates.com)

**Treasurer:** Mike McIntosh, P.E., CFM [mike.mcintosh@lra-inc.com](mailto:mike.mcintosh@lra-inc.com)

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