



THE INSIDER

May 2024

An exclusive publication for ASFPM members

'A Win for Flood Resilience': HUD Rolls Out New Flood Standard

By Mary Bart

In a huge victory for flood mitigation advocates and communities across the country, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has taken a major step in addressing future flood risk and ensuring the safety of HUD-assisted residents and federal investments.

In its final rule for Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) [published in the Federal Register](#) on April 23, HUD is requiring any new or rebuilt HUD-funded homes to be elevated 2 feet above the local flood level and enlarges the flood zones where the elevation requirement applies.

ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis praised the new rule and said he expects that states, counties and municipalities will work to adopt stronger elevation requirements to match HUD's new standard.

"This rule is a win for the country and a win for flood resilience," Berginnis told E&E News. "We have got to change the trajectory of losses in the country, and it's only by having higher standards that we're going to get there."

(Continued on page 3)

Join ASFPM in Salt Lake City!

Where can you connect with more than 1,500 colleagues from across the United States and abroad? Share best practices, learn from each other's experiences, and build lasting relationships? The answer is, of course, Salt Lake City, Utah!

Next month, ASFPM heads to Salt Lake City for our 48th Annual Conference and we're on pace to break another attendance record. We hope you'll be among those joining us — either in person or online — for the world's largest gathering of flood risk management professionals.

And it's all happening in a state whose official slogan couldn't be more fitting: Life Elevated®

(Continued on page 5)



The Insider

The members-only newsletter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). Published 6X/year (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., Nov.)

ASFPM Executives

Chad Berginnis, CFM
Executive Director
cberginnis@floods.org

Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM - retired
Director Emeritus, Sr. Policy Advisor
larry@floods.org

Jeff Davis
Director of Operations
jdavis@floods.org

Editorial

ASFPM welcomes articles and news announcements from our members and partners. We reserve the right to edit articles for space, grammar, punctuation, spelling, and clarity. We encourage you to include artwork with your article in the form of photos, charts, and illustrations. If the artwork is not yours originally, you must include expressed, written consent granting ASFPM permission to use the art in our publications.

Please send all submissions to:

Mary Bart at mary@floods.org

Copyright© Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASFPM Board of Directors.

ASFPM

8301 Excelsior Dr.
Madison, WI 53719
608-828-3000
www.floods.org



▶ Inside this issue:

'A Win for Flood Resilience': HUD Rolls Out New Flood Standard	1
Join ASFPM in Salt Lake City!	1
FFRMS Final Rule Webinar Series:	4
Building Resilience Together: FReDx Workshop in San Juan, Puerto Rico was a Great Success	6
Fun Facts About Salt Lake City	9
Salem, Oregon Achieves Class 3 CRS Rating	10
Get Social Media Images for #ASFPM2024	10
Stormwater Management Challenges in the Face of a Changing Climate	11
Book Review of Seek Higher Ground: The Natural Solution to Our Urgent Flooding Crisis	13
Floodplain Manager's Notebook	14
Washington Legislative Report	16
May is Building Safety Month	18
FEMA News	19
News Briefs	21
Welcome New Members	23
Editorial Guidelines	24

(HUD, continued from page 1)

The rule also establishes a preference for (but does not yet require) use of a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA) to determine the floodplain of concern for HUD-funded projects, when possible. The floodplain identified using CISA provides the elevation and flood hazard area that results from using a climate-informed science approach based on best-available, actionable hydrologic and hydraulic data.

“In updating flood risk standards, HUD is providing communities the flexibility to calculate their true risk. People of modest means are more likely to live in a flood-prone place and have a longer time recovering when disaster strikes,” said **Marion McFadden, HUD’s Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development**. “This rule will ensure HUD supported properties have the best chance of being undisturbed when flooding occurs. It is the responsibility of the federal government to ensure that taxpayer investments are built to withstand foreseeable risk — and has the added benefit of reducing the cost of flood insurance for property owners.”

HUD estimates approximately 10% of new Federal Housing Administration (FHA) single-family homes constructed each year are within the 100-year floodplain, and many of those homes are already located in areas where state or local standards are higher than HUD’s previous standard. The updated standard reduces FHA homeowners’ exposure to losses caused by flooding, reduces insurance costs, and most importantly protects the risk to life faced in areas of greater flood risk.

“After many years in the making, this is the best possible standard that HUD could have issued,” said **Shana Udvardy, senior climate resilience policy analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists**. “For decades, the federal government has been relying on a standard based on the past climate. This rule will change that business-as-usual practice, which wasted taxpayer dollars, put people in harm’s way, and allowed for the limited affordable public housing stock to be flooded, in some cases again and again. This puts an end to that foolhardy cycle.”

Flooding is the most common and costly weather-related disaster in the United States costing taxpayers billions of dollars a year in economic losses, health impacts, and funding to recover damages and rebuild or repair property. In 2023, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the expected annual flood damages in 2020 to homes with federally backed mortgages were \$9.4 billion and projected to increase to \$12.8 billion annually by 2050. The impact on individual and multifamily homeowners is estimated to be equally staggering, with just 1 inch of floodwater resulting in losses ranging from \$10,000 to \$27,000 depending on the size of the home. When the elevation and floodproofing standards required by the rule are applied, HUD estimates the total combined benefits for each year of construction will result in approximately \$56.4 million to \$324.3 million in savings over the lifetime of the properties (40 years). These savings are a result of cost reductions due to decreased flood insurance premiums, reduced flood damage to buildings, cost avoided for homeowners and tenants, reduced expenses associated with relocation or temporary housing, and loss of income due to flooding events.

Some industry groups, including the National Association of Home Builders and the Mortgage Bankers Association, raised concerns about the new elevation standard when HUD proposed it in 2023. The NAHB issued a statement that they are “disappointed” in the final rule.

New Flood Standard Revisions

The final FFRMS rule includes the following revisions to the proposed rule based on public and interagency comments received, including [comments ASFPM submitted last June](#):

(Continued on page 4)

(HUD, continued from page 3)

- **Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA)** - HUD revised the rule to indicate that the Department's adoption and intent to require use of any federal tool to implement CISA will include an additional, subsequent publication of a Federal Register notice explaining the intent to do so and soliciting public comment. Grantees can, however, use a federal tool on a voluntary basis prior to publication of the FR notice. The rule was also revised to more clearly allow local CISA tools and resources on a voluntary basis, if local data is available, actionable, and meets certain criteria as defined in the rule.
- **Substantial Improvement Elevation Requirements** - HUD removed the substantial improvement trigger for elevation from Part 200 to alleviate concerns that the low-funding threshold could frequently trigger "substantial improvement" in particular communities. HUD wanted to avoid limiting homeowner eligibility for rehabilitation mortgage insurance programs to address necessary improvements such as roof repair in areas with lower home values. Part 200 continues to require a two-foot elevation for those newly constructed homes within the 100-year floodplain as was proposed in the draft rule. The FFRMS elevation requirements continue to apply to substantial improvement and new construction under all HUD programs subject to Part 55.
- **Manufactured Housing Elevation** - HUD revised the Part 55 section of the rule to include manufactured housing in the definitions of substantial improvement and new construction to explicitly identify new siting of manufactured housing units as subject to elevation requirements when Part 55 compliance is required. Note: The Part 200 section of the rule does not apply to manufactured housing except to implement installation requirements at 24 CFR part 3285.
- **On Site Floodways** - HUD revised the rule to expand the incidental floodway provision to allow rehabilitation of existing structures located in the floodplain when there is also a floodway on the property/parcel. This revised provision expands eligible activities to include rehabilitation within the footprint of an existing structure but maintains the longstanding requirement of obtaining a permanent covenant to preserve all floodplain areas from future development and new construction on the parcel.

HUD has created a webpage with [additional guidance/FAQ](#) on the new rule that we encourage ASFPM members to review. You can also sign-up for the webinar listed below.

FFRMS Final Rule Webinar Series: Part 55 Overview and Compliance

May 30, 2024 | 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

This HUD webinar provides an overview of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) and comprehensive guidance on changes made to 24 CFR Part 55, including HUD's FFRMS approach, limitations on HUD assistance in floodplains, exceptions to the rule, and the eight step decision making process. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A..

You will learn how to implement and comply with the new 24 CFR Part 55, how the FFRMS Floodplain is defined and other new terminology, and hear examples from the field of how changes to the new Final Rule will affect the environmental review process. [Register on HUD Exchange](#)

(**CONFERENCE**, continued from page 1)

This is the last issue of The Insider before the 2024 Annual Conference, so we wanted to share just a few of the highlights and special events on tap in Salt Lake City. Speaking of things on tap, there are some misperceptions about drinking alcohol in Utah. Rest assured, you won't have any trouble finding an adult beverage while you're in Salt Lake. Just keep in mind that due to the city's higher elevation, alcohol may affect you more strongly. Be sure to stay well-hydrated by drinking plenty of water throughout your stay.

The 2024 ASFPM Conference takes place at the Salt Palace Convention Center. We have contracted hotel room blocks with three hotels all within walking distance to the convention center. The [City Creek Center](#) has many dining and shopping options and is just steps from our downtown location.

Here's what you can expect at #ASFPM2024

On Sunday, June 23, the Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (UFSMA) invites attendees to the Salt Palace Convention Center for **Welcome Fest**. At the annual conference kick-off event, colleagues can gather, mingle, and reconnect. This year's theme is "Adventure Awaits in Utah" and guests will get to sample many of the food and drinks the great state of Utah is known for, all while participating in a range of fun activities, including a climbing wall, putt-putt course, winter sports, and yard games. The highlight of the evening will be a live dueling piano show. Bring your favorite song requests and best singing voice. But pace yourself, the conference is just getting started!

Monday features a number of important meetings, including a discussion led by our policy team on key legislative issues, as well as meetings for all the policy committees and regions. These meetings are often a mix of update presentations and discussions of issues, priorities, and recommendations and are a great way for conference attendees to hit the ground running, share ideas, and gain fresh perspectives. On Monday, you can also sit for the CFM exam (pre-registration is required). If this is your first ASFPM conference, we encourage all conference newbies to swing by any of the quick but informative first-timers orientation sessions offered on Monday and Tuesday. At 5:00 pm on Monday, it will be time to head to the exhibit hall for the grand opening. We have more than 70 exhibitors eager to chat with you and showcase their latest flood risk reduction technologies, products, and services.

Tuesday we hit the heart of the conference — three days of learning and inspiration — starting with a morning plenary session titled **Tomorrow's Flood Codes and Standards**. Presenters are: Daniel Cox, Doug Bellomo, Derrick Hiebert, and Kristin Fontenot. The plenary is followed by a full day of training workshops and concurrent sessions, and concludes again in the exhibit hall.

On **Wednesday**, it's time to lace up those sneakers for the **Running of the Chapters 5K Run/Walk**. Transportation to and from the conference center is provided. After the race, it's back to learning and networking with a morning plenary on **Partners = Total Flood-Risk Management** with presenters Lori Cary-Kothera, Marla Stelk, and Sunny Simpkins. The day wraps up with a plenary presentation from FEMA.

The final plenary of the 2024 conference occurs **Thursday** morning and will showcase local floodplain management success stories. (Stay tuned for more details.) And while we're talking about success stories, don't miss the annual awards luncheon where we shine a light on the exemplary work being done by individuals, organizations, and agencies to keep our nation safe. Finally, later that evening we head to Utah's Hogle Zoo for the closing reception, which runs from 6:30pm-10:30pm.

There's still time to register for the conference. Whether you attend in-person or online, you get on-demand access to the session recordings and the opportunity to earn up to 12 CECs. **Go to [ASFPMconference.org](#) to secure your spot.**

Building Resilience Together: FReDx Workshop in San Juan, Puerto Rico was a Great Success

By Sara Belligoni, University of Central Florida, and Necolle Maccherone, AtkinsRéalis

The Flood and Resilience Dialogue Expedition (FReDx) initiative, a subcommittee of ASFPM's International Committee, was created to serve as a platform for local, regional, and federal officials, academics, and practitioners to explore flood risk management from perspectives outside the continental United States. The most recent FReDx occurred in Puerto Rico in March. Multi-day workshops were graciously hosted by the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



ASFPM delegation at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, PR.

The goal of FReDx Puerto Rico was to learn about flood risk management from the perspective of an island territory outside the continental United States. Discourse occurred throughout the event that shared challenges and discussed policies and practices at play in Puerto Rico. The FReDx event fostered relationship building, understanding of existing and future flood risks, and discussion for potential solutions. It included many professional practitioners from Puerto Rico and the continental United States, each who have an interest in enhancing future practices, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and technology, and promoting professional collaborations. A recap of the full event, facilitated by David Powers (CDM Smith), follows.

During the first day, insightful technical presentations were provided by:

- Lynette Cardoch (Moffatt & Nichol)
- Ivette Colon Mendez (Puerto Rico Planning Board)
- Luis E. Lamboy Torres (Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture)
- Sandra Torres-Villanueva (Institute for Building Technology and Safety)
- Fernando Pabon (Caribbean Center for Rising Seas)
- Ruperto Chaparro (Puerto Rico Sea Grant)
- Ariel Lugo (International Institute of Tropical Forestry)

After the technical sessions, Ariel Lugo and Sandra Torres-Villanueva led a field tour of the Rio Piedras watershed. The delegation learned about riverine flood risk management in metropolitan San Juan, and the impact of extreme weather events on the island and underserved communities. Ariel Lugo shared that because of Puerto Rico's size, "every resident is a coastal resident," and most are subject to the risks from coastal, riverine, and rainfall-driven floods. Many residents are often reluctant to leave high-risk areas and it is vital to take a 'whole community' approach to resilience planning. He recommended that solutions be co-

(Continued on page 7)



On day 2, the ASFPM delegation visited the levee in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico.

produced with the affected communities to ensure that leaders and residents not only approve plans but contribute to their implementation.

Throughout the second day, discussions focused on flood hazard related technology and legislation; two tools needed to support resilience given that trends for flood occurrences show increasingly more frequent and more destructive events. Sessions shared ways technology can support flood risk reduction and described how legislation can help streamline the coordination process across agencies.

Puerto Rico delegates frequently noted that many issues remain, and recovery is still ongoing as a result of Hurricane Maria (2017). Barriers to full recovery still exist, ranging from accessing information to applying for post-recovery funds to receiving assistance. These and more are prevalent long after many on the continental US have moved on from Maria.

Presentations were provided by:

- Naomi Pérez-Sánchez (Michael Baker International)
- Barney Austin (Aqua Strategies Inc)
- Juan González-Moscoco (FEMA)
- José Valenzuela (AtkinsRéalis)
- Kiomy Lamb (USACE)
- Paulina Seguinot Figueroa (PR Departamento de la Vivienda)
- Antonio Rios Diaz (PR Department of Natural and Environmental Resources)

After the sessions, there was a field tour to the Town of Barceloneta. The delegation was hosted by town officials who explained how the levee, built by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and maintained by the town, successfully protected Barceloneta from flooding during the major flood event of Hurricane Fiona (2022).

(Continued on page 8)

(PUERTO RICO, continued from page 7)

The third day of the workshop was hosted by the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust's Caribbean Center for Rising Seas. Discussions centered around tools, communications, and programs to address flood risk, both on the island and from the continental US.

Presentations were provided by:

- John Englander (Rising Seas Institute)
- Necolle Maccherone (AtkinsRéalis)
- Francisco Peña (Galt Group Inc.)
- Jennifer Marcy (AtkinsRéalis)
- Nick Martin (RESPEC)
- Maria Loinaz (Collective Water Resources)

In the afternoon, delegates traveled to Salinas. They witnessed first-hand the hard work and reconstruction efforts to recover from flooding due to Maria (2017) and Fiona (2022) as well as the flooding challenges still faced by many small communities. A heartfelt thank you to Wanda Rios Colorado, Executive Director of Cooperativa de Energía La Margarita-Abeyno Co-op for sharing the harrowing story of the neighborhood of La Margarita. Her unwavering commitment to finding solutions that allow the residents in her community to live safely moved us all.



Wanda Rios Colorado, Executive Director of Cooperativa de Energía La Margarita-Abeyno Coop in Salinas, PR.

The final day of FReDx focused on academia and flood risk management in Puerto Rico. Research, teaching and workforce development were recognized as much needed components to build the body of understanding of flood hazards and grow the workforce of practitioners.

Presentations were provided by:

- Walter Silva (University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez)
- Raúl Zapata López (University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez)
- Mike Blakely (Chatham County, GA – Retired)
- Garret Tam Sing (California Department of Water Resources)
- Ricardo Pineda (ASFPM Higher Education Committee)
- Jerry Murphy (ASFPM Higher Education Committee)
- Thomas Ruppert (Virginia Coastal Resilience Collaborative)
- Sara Belligoni (University of Central Florida, Puerto Rico Research Hub)
- Dr. Felix Santiago-Collazo (University of Georgia)

The participants in FReDx Puerto Rico look forward to continuing conversations with delegates from Puerto Rico to foster collaboration and exchange ideas about flood risk management. The Puerto Rican delegation expressed a desire to increase CFMs on the island and strengthen their relationship with ASFPM.

This event was made possible by the collective efforts of several organizations. The ASFPM International Committee would like to acknowledge the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) at Mayaguez and Rio Piedras,

(Continued on page 9)

(PUERTO RICO, continued from page 8)

FEMA Region 2, the Puerto Rico Sea Grant, the Caribbean Center for Rising Seas at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology, and Research Trust, the Institute for Building Technology and Safety, the Puerto Rico Planning Board, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, the Puerto Rico Sea Grant, Michael Baker International, AtkinsRéalis, the Puerto Rico Research Hub at the University of Central Florida, and the USACE Task Force for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Members of the delegation from both the continental US and Puerto Rico are looking forward to participating in the annual ASFPM Conference in Salt Lake City in June. We encourage all conference attendees to learn more about these dialogues at the International Policy Discussion on Monday, June 24 from 9:30am-11:30am MST. Stay tuned for further updates and on this and the next expedition!

A special thanks goes to Francisco Peña (International Committee Co-Chair) and David Powers (Education and Outreach Pod Facilitator) for their leadership in making FReDx Puerto Rico a huge success!

Fun Facts About Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City, Utah provides a beautiful backdrop for the 2024 ASFPM Conference. Here's some fun facts about the city and state.

- Salt Lake City sits at an elevation of 4,330 feet.
- The state slogan is Life Elevated®
- The city is surrounded by the Wasatch Mountains to the east and north, and the Oquirrh (pronounced "oaker") Mountains to the west.
- The area was once covered by Lake Bonneville, a massive Ice Age lake that was about 325 miles long, 135 miles wide, and had a maximum depth of over 1,000 feet.
- The city's streets are defined by a numbered grid system based on their distance from the LDS Temple.
- Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics in 2002.
- The world's first Kentucky Fried Chicken was opened in Salt Lake City.
- Salt Lake City has the highest JELL-O consumption (per capita) in the world.
- Ready for some outdoor adventures? Salt Lake is the perfect starting point for exploring some of the world's most spectacular and scenic parks and forests, including [five national parks](#) all within the state borders.



Salem, Oregon Achieves Class 3 CRS Rating

Congratulations to the City of Salem, Oregon for recently attaining a Class 3 rating in the Community Rating System (CRS) program. Salem joined the CRS in 2008 and has continued to upgrade its rating through improvements to its floodplain management program. In late 2023, FEMA upgraded Salem from Class 4 to Class 3. As a result, residents will receive a 35 percent discount on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) premiums issued or renewed on or after April 1, 2024.

Remarkably, Salem is now ranked among the top one percent of the more than 1740 communities nationwide participating in the CRS program.



FEMA Region 10 Administrator Willie G. Nunn recently recognized the city's efforts and presented a plaque to Mayor Chris Hoy and other city officials.

Here are a few examples of floodplain management and flood mitigation activities performed by the city:

- Conduct outreach efforts to increase awareness of flood issues in Salem and provide [information about protecting yourself, your family and your property from flooding](#)
- Maintain staff that are trained as Certified Floodplain Managers and able to provide assistance to the community with floodplain and [flood insurance](#) related inquiries.
- Improve [flood map](#) information and accessibility
- Provide detailed review by floodplain management staff of all [development proposals in the floodplain](#) to ensure areas prone to flooding are not affected by the development activity
- Require safe building practices to reduce future flood damage
- Operate a [drainage system maintenance program](#) that includes annual inspections and regular maintenance of creeks, streams and ditches in Salem to reduce the risk of flooding
- Conduct flood response exercises and [encourage community engagement in early warning and response efforts](#) in the event of a flood

Kudos to everyone who played a role in helping the city reach this milestone!

Create some buzz!



Get your social media images for #ASFPM2024!
Download @
[ASFPMconference.org](https://www.asfpmconference.org)



Stormwater Management Challenges in the Face of a Changing Climate

By Christopher Taormina, CFM

More frequent and intense rain events are overwhelming the nation's aging infrastructure, including our stormwater management systems. A 2023 report from the RAND Corporation describes the challenges today's extreme precipitation poses to stormwater management agencies and explores how to translate complex climate projections into actionable information for designing and implementing resilient stormwater management solutions.

For the report [*Turning Climate Information into Action for Stormwater Management in the Mid-Atlantic Region*](#), authors Michelle E. Miro and Krista Romita Grocholski spoke with climate and stormwater professionals, engineers, and policy makers. Based on those interviews, they identified three main barriers to climate-informed stormwater planning and policy: (1) climate communication and uncertainty, (2) varying community priorities, and (3) infrastructure and regulatory constraints. The report then presents recommendations for how those barriers can be removed.



Bridging the gap between climate projections and practical solutions

Those who work to mitigate the effects of climate variability generally are not climate scientists, and the report dives into the difficulty in converting unprecedented data into practical solutions. In particular, engineers and stormwater managers are faced with the challenges of designing large-scale and costly projects while using one of many projected climate models. Which model to use presents its own consideration. What future economic conditions, emission, and policy scenarios are being referenced to generate the model? Which data points are collected and which are speculated? Professionals on the ground are required to digest and dissect these theoretical models, choose the best one, and hope that particular dataset isn't invalidated before the project is completed. These decisions have a strong impact on cost, as well as getting necessary buy-in. Anyone who works in floodplain management knows the challenges of communicating technical data to (typically) laymen decision-makers, but throw in conceptual environmental projections and it can be a nightmare. The report relates that the stormwater professionals need independently produced guidelines on how to best select climate models and better educational materials to inform not only policymakers, but constituents and clients.

Critically, the report touches on the differences in what each community seeks to accomplish by the policy they're implementing. All stakeholders must weigh the pros and cons of each proposed action, and some

(Continued on page 12)

may be more well received than others. Overburdened communities are less likely to “experiment” with new rules when there is no guarantee of improvement. Those surveyed expressed a desire for more modern rules to be adopted by higher authorities, like state or federal government agencies, who have a greater capacity to troubleshoot any policy shortcomings. Additionally, stormwater professionals noted these policies should be supported by data and analysis, rather than speculation, and further spoke on how new flood maps could change the effective range of regulation. Those interviewed also noted that case studies are especially helpful when trying to overcome resistance in their communities as well as the need for independent organizations to provide commentary and research on the effectiveness of planning and the cost of inaction.

Infrastructure and its shortfalls have been a trending topic of debate in recent years and its effects on flood hazard mitigation are certainly a major concern. Large-scale aged infrastructure is not only falling into disrepair, but was designed for a climate we no longer have. These systems simply cannot handle the capacity of current rainfall trends, and some systems that were designed without environmental oversight can actually prove detrimental. Today, most stormwater control systems are produced with regulatory compliance in mind; that is, most systems adhere to the minimum standards. Managers expressed that there is no motivation to proceed beyond the compliance guidelines. The report notes, “One group gave an example in which attempts to work with other regional entities to respond to increasing storm sizes were dismissed because such increases were beyond regulatory requirements.” Stormwater professionals spoke about their concerns that there is little support from state or county leadership. Without the blessing of higher authorities, local leadership may be more reluctant to accept costly stormwater alterations.

What are the next steps for stormwater managers?

Climate change has already begun to wreak havoc on existing drainage infrastructure and render policies obsolete. Clearer, more approachable regulatory guidance is necessary to begin mitigating these problems. The report puts it best, “Stormwater entities need support in clarifying objectives, analyzing options, and illuminating trade-offs — all in the service of enabling a better understanding among constituents of the values at stake and facilitating better choices by decision makers.” The report also calls chiefly for independent research think-tanks to begin a deep survey into the types of data points professionals will find most useful, and to develop best-available tools and guidance in facing climate related challenges.

Specifically, the determination on how to select the best climate models is critical. Further, local engagement is paramount to better involve community stakeholders in the selection of stormwater solutions. Difficulties in educating policymakers require better materials that illustrate the benefits of better infrastructure and the high cost of doing nothing. Crucially, stormwater managers should have detailed and varied case studies to help better understand the lessons some communities have already learned when regulating and enforcing control methods.

The most important thing for all communities to understand is that adapting to extreme weather variability is not as easy as a succinct, technical implementation. Whatever policy is adopted, it is almost guaranteed that such regulation will need to be eventually altered to face an unpredictable climate. With this in mind, stormwater professionals, policymakers, and communities should work together to better understand what their particular region needs, and cooperate to ensure that it happens.

[Download *Turning Climate Information into Action for Stormwater Management in the Mid-Atlantic Region*](#)

Christopher Taormina, CFM is the Director of Planning for the Borough of Lincoln Park, NJ.

Seek Higher Ground: The Natural Solution to Our Urgent Flooding Crisis

By Larry Larson, ASFPM Director Emeritus

When Hurricane Agnes tore through the Northeast in 1972, Tim Palmer was working as a county planner in northcentral Pennsylvania — one of the hardest hit areas of what was, at that time, the costliest hurricane the United States had ever experienced. Coincidentally, I was vacationing in the region at that time and spent the week running supplies to communities in need.

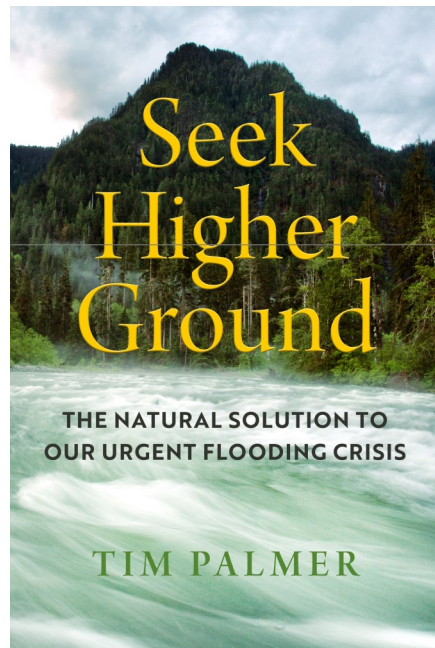
In the 50 years since Agnes, flooding continues to cause widespread destruction, and it's only getting worse. In fact, among the 17 most-damaging hurricanes in US history, 15 have occurred since 2000. Clearly, our nation's approach to flooding isn't working.

Driven to seek answers where we went wrong and what we can do differently, Palmer presents a compelling case that the only way to truly avoid catastrophic flooding is to get out — and stay out — of the way, and give water the room it needs. In *"Seek Higher Ground: The Natural Solution to Our Urgent Flooding Crisis"* Palmer leads readers through a fascinating historical narrative about flooding and our solutions to date — including a chapter on why our attempts to control nature with dams and levees has been so unsuccessful and a chapter on the National Flood Insurance Program which, despite original intentions, did not put an end to new development in floodplains.

But *"Seek Higher Ground"* also contains success stories from those municipalities with effective programs for keeping people out of harm's way, including Charlotte, NC and Tulsa, OK, and ASFPM members will see a number of familiar names both in this chapter and throughout the book. Palmer was meticulous in his research and interviewed many in the ASFPM family, including myself, Chad Berginnis, Dave Fowler, Dave Canaan, Gerald Galloway, Roger Lindsey, Eileen Shader, and Tim Trautman.

On the book's jacket cover, Berginnis had this to say: *"Seek Higher Ground* is the most comprehensive and compelling book written on the history and challenges of floodplain management and is a must-read for anyone concerned about flooding. Anchored in fact and science, Palmer's engaging narrative boldly and correctly proclaims that the age of increased flooding is here. His account tells us what we've done wrong — and right — and it tells us what we must do now to prepare for the floods of the future."

Throughout the book, Palmer argues that we need to change the way we think about floods and start to see them as a beneficial part of the natural world. It is important to manage floodplains in a way that protects both people and the natural environment. I think readers will find the book compelling as it aligns with so many of ASFPM's core values. Publisher's Weekly called it "an encouraging guidebook for community leaders



(Continued on page 18)



By Rebecca Quinn, CFM

NFIP Rule Changes and the Concept of Non-Conforming

I spent my high school years complaining about all the required history classes – one every semester of every year, starting with 6th grade! I don't really know when I changed. These days, most of what I read is the history of science and various public works (Erie Canal, Brooklyn Bridge, and others). I've also developed an interest in the history and evolution of the National Flood Insurance Program regulations (44 CFR Part 60, Criteria for Land Management and Use).

There haven't been changes in the minimum requirements for development in flood hazard areas since the late 1980s. That could change in coming years, when FEMA emerges from the "behind closed door" phase of rulemaking after soliciting input in 2021. Changes in construction requirements will make it even more important that we pay attention to the concepts of **conforming** and **non-conforming**. Every now and then I get asked a question that has me diving into regulations history. Past issues of the *Federal Register* make interesting reads.

Federal agencies publish proposed rules with explanations for the changes, which are available for public comment. Then the agency must publish responses to public comments and explain whether the comments prompt changes to their original proposals. This is a good time to remind our readers that it will be very important to pay attention when FEMA proposes changes and submit comments. ASFPM is our leading advocate, but we all have a responsibility to engage when proposed rules are available for public comment.

Non-Conforming Case in Point: Flood Openings

Some people who are relatively new to floodplain management may not realize that the NFIP regulations didn't always require flood openings. In the **March 28, 1986**, *Federal Register*, FEMA proposed to revise the basic performance statement in Section 60.3(a)(3)(i) to specifically state that the concern is that flotation, collapse, or lateral movement (which was the extent of the original language) occur due to the effects of hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads, including the effects of buoyancy. At the same time, FEMA proposed adoption of a requirement to achieve that performance through the use of flood openings in enclosure walls to allow for entry and exit of floodwater to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls. This regulation spelled out two options: engineered (certified openings) and non-engineered (1 sq in/sq ft). Those changes, along with others, were finalized in the **August 25, 1986**, *Federal Register* and effective on October 1, 1986.

Some people see an elevated building on a perimeter wall foundation or with an enclosure underneath and think there was a violation because there are no flood openings. When a building with an enclosure that lacks

Non-conforming buildings were constructed in compliance with a community's floodplain management requirements that were in effect when the buildings were initially issued permits. These buildings do not conform to the community's current floodplain management requirements or the current flood zone or Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or flood depth where the buildings are located.

Conforming buildings were not required to comply with a community's current floodplain management requirements, but they happen to conform to those requirements.

(Continued on page 15)

(**NOTEBOOK**, continued from page 14)

flood openings (or any other noncompliant element) is identified as part of Community Assistance Visit, usually there are discussions about whether the community must pursue corrective action. What can be missing in that conversation is whether the building is non-conforming or non-compliant.

Of course, when a building built **after** the flood openings requirement was adopted lacks openings, then there's a compliance problem and corrective action may be warranted. However, when a building was built **before** the flood opening requirement was adopted by the community, it is **non-conforming** with current requirements. There is no basis to require corrective action. However, the owner of that non-conforming building may be happy to discover retrofitting could result in some mitigation "credit" on their NFIP flood insurance premium.

NFIP Changes, Local Ordinances, and Building Codes

There are still plenty of old and out-of-date local floodplain management regulations out there. I occasionally find communities that haven't updated their ordinances to include flood openings. It's more common to find ordinances that don't define "substantial damage," which was added to the NFIP regulations in 1989. If I recall correctly from my time with Maryland's state floodplain program, FEMA said local ordinances didn't have to be revised right away because the substantial damage concept (but not the term) was embedded in the definition for substantial improvement.

Obviously, it's a massive undertaking to revise floodplain management regulations of more than 22,600 communities that participate in the NFIP. However, given the steady rise in flood losses and increasing risks associated with climate change, it'll be a worthwhile effort if the anticipated changes to the rules lead to more resistant buildings. I'm probably not the only floodplain manager hoping that CFR changes will make it easier for communities to fulfill one of the NFIP's original goals: guide development to less hazard-prone areas.

Check whether your state or community adopts building codes based on the International Codes (I-Codes). FEMA engages in the development of the flood provisions in the I-Codes. When the I-Codes are amended to pick up any new changes to the NFIP rules for buildings, the individual communities may not have to amend their ordinances. However, if the NFIP rules for development other than buildings change, then each community will have to adopt amendments.

- [Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes: Coordinating Building Codes and Floodplain Management Regulations](#)
- [Flood Resistant Provisions of the 2021 International Codes \(2021\) | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Flood Resistant Provisions of the 2018 International Codes \(2018\) | FEMA.gov](#)
- [HIGHLIGHTS OF ASCE 24-14 Flood Resistant Design and Construction \(fema.gov\)](#)

Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at Rebecca@rcquinnconsulting.com. Comments welcomed! Explore back issues of the [Floodplain Manager's Notebook](#).

The International Existing Building Code and Conforming/Non-Conforming

The International Existing Building Code is the basis for existing building codes in many states and communities. The concept that work must not make a non-conforming building more non-conforming is embedded through the IEBC, although a different phrase is used: work shall not make a building "less complying" than it was before work is undertaken.

Building permits must not be issued if proposed work would make a conforming or compliant building "less complying."

Washington Legislative Report

By Elizabeth Duffy, ASFPM Washington Liaison and David Conrad, CFM, ASFPM Water Resources Senior Policy Advisor

Congress was finally able to pass a spending package to fund the whole government for Fiscal Year 2024 on March 23, 2024, with funding through September 30, 2024. Included in the package was the 30th extension of the NFIP. Also in March, the Biden Administration released its budget request for FY2025. The House and Senate have begun work on the necessary hearings, with FEMA having testified before the House on April 16 and the Department of Homeland Security testified before the Senate on April 10.



The ASFPM policy team held in-person meetings with Senate and House offices on the FY2025 appropriations request, advocating for increased funding to the RiskMAP program to the full authorized amount of \$400 million, sustained support for the Flood Mitigation Assistance grants at \$175 million and requested that BRIC prioritize traditional mitigation activities and increase the state set-aside to support states in mitigation, support, and enforcement activities. The meetings were with both Democrat and Republican offices and the policy team made a strong case for ASFPM budget priorities and came away with strengthened relationships in those offices. The team will continue to meet with additional Congressional offices as the appropriations process moves forward. ASFPM plans to submit written testimony and letters to Committee leadership to stress ASFPM funding priorities for FEMA, NOAA, USGS, US Army Corps of Engineers, and HUD.

On the legislation front, more flood-related bills have been introduced, including a recent bill from Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) to allow for a flood insurance premium deduction from federal taxes, but there hasn't been any progress on the bills seeking NFIP reform. Given the compressed legislative calendar of an election year, the probability of passing a substantive reform bill is slim. The ASFPM policy team will continue to monitor and work with Congress to seek passage of bills that align with the association's priorities and continue to work with Congress and their staff to seek reform and long-term reauthorization of the NFIP. There is concerted interest in seeing the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) passed and enacted, and both the House and Senate are moving in that direction. The focus of this legislation will be more project focused than policy revision-oriented, and the relevant committees in the House and Senate have already held hearings and stakeholder meetings to gather requests and concerns.

OTHER NEWS & UPDATES

HUD FFRMS Rule adopted. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the Final Federal Flood Risk Management Standard rule. It is a very strong rule and one that ASFPM supported when submitting comments on the proposed rule last summer. *(See the full article on page 1)*

Freshwater Challenge. ASFPM signed on as an inaugural member of the Biden/Harris Administration's new freshwater initiative, "The America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge: A Partnership to Conserve and Restore America's Rivers, Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands." Chad Berginnis attended the White House Water Summit on April 22, 2024 where the Administration announced the program. The initiative's goals align with ASFPM's priorities – especially for the protection of floodplain resources, and does so in a way that supports states and other entities initiatives and strategies.

(Continued on page 17)

The America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge supports states and other governments and entities, including Tribes, interstate organizations, cities, and local communities who are advancing their own policies and strategies for conserving and restoring America's freshwater systems. The initiative recognizes that the nation's lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries, and wetlands are fundamental to the health, prosperity, and resilience of communities and sets a national goal to protect, restore, and reconnect 8 million acres of wetlands and 100,000 miles of river and streams. You can learn more about the challenge and see the full list of inaugural members [here](#).

Corps of Engineers' "Agency Specific Procedures' Implementing the Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines for Federal Investments in Water Resources." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has just passed another milestone towards expanding and modernizing their water resources project planning process, particularly by moving towards incorporating "multiple-objective" planning, instead of being guided by the current single-objective of "national economic development" (or NED).

The current planning framework, called the Principles and Guidelines ("P&G"), which aims to "maximize monetized NED benefits" (while meeting the basic environmental requirements), was first adopted in 1983 when it was championed by the Interior Dept. Secretary James G. Watt, as he was acting as the chair of the now largely inactive U.S. Water Resources Council. In the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (Sec. 2031), and again in WRDA 2014, Congress directed the Army Secretary to make major revisions to the P&G, because they are now widely seen as unduly narrow. These changes have been held up for more than 15 years by a range of hurdles; however, some key first steps were taken by the Obama Administration in 2013 with adoption of a new, broader planning framework called the Principles and Requirements, followed in 2014 with adoption of cross-government "Interagency Guidelines." On February 15, 2024, the Corps issued proposed regulations ("ASP's") built on these two more recent documents that would substantially expand the range of benefits available for project or program evaluation benefit-cost analyses, making consideration of economic, environmental, and social effects to be "non-hierarchical," and specifying additional principles to be pursued, including environmental justice, avoiding the unwise use of floodplains, healthy and resilient ecosystems, public safety, using a watershed perspective, and emphasizing sustainable economic development. The public comments period closed April 15.

ASFPM provided comments, broadly approving the proposed rules and their intentions, but also urging more detail be included in the regulations themselves, to give greater clarification and to limit potential for misinterpretation or unnecessary controversy. The rules are meant to apply to most types of projects (and programs) the Corps traditionally undertakes, including navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration and protection, but here, on a prospective basis. The agency received some 52 sets of public comments, with a large number supporting the need for broadening considerations and objectives in planning, including use of nonstructural approaches, and natural and nature-based designs to be considered early in the planning process. Most commenters recognized that the current analyses often exclude or very poorly-serve economically or socially disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities, especially in flood-risk reduction and ecosystem protection. It is the more expensive properties at risk that usually get the most funding and attention.

It is not clear if the Corps will be able to complete the rulemaking process in the next few to several months, but we understand the Corps hopes to keep the process moving forward. The rule's preamble discussion, draft rule and public comments are available on the [Regulations.gov site](#). ASFPM's comments are [available here](#).

May is Building Safety Month!

Building Safety Month is an international campaign celebrated in May to raise awareness about building safety. For more than 43 years, Building Safety Month has reinforced the need for the adoption of modern, regularly-updated building codes, and helps individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create safe and sustainable structures.



The 2024 Building Safety Month theme is "Mission Possible", and each week focuses on a specific topic:

- Week 1 (May 1–5): Understanding the Mission
- Week 2 (May 6–12): Preparing a Building Safety Plan
- Week 3 (May 13–19): Learning from the Pros
- Week 4 (May 20–26): Engaging Your Community
- Week 5 (May 27–31): Celebrating Success in Building Safety

Help spread the word about Building Safety Month on your social media profiles by sharing ICC's premade posts that incorporate Building Safety Month text and images specific to each weekly theme. [Learn more](#)

FEMA is authorized to provide assistance to state and local governments for building code and floodplain management administration and enforcement. This includes inspections for substantial damage compliance and base and overtime wages for extra hires to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of adopted building codes. Download the factsheet on applying for building code administration and enforcement reimbursement through FEMA's Public Assistance Program [here](#).

(BOOK REVIEW, continued from page 13)

and organizers looking for a sensible path forward." For ASFPM members who've been walking that path, it should provide them with further evidence to help make their case that it's time to rethink our approach to flooding.

Palmer concludes: "The story of flooding is one of victims' suffering along with public expense to pay for repeated damage. But this story can be changed whenever we summon the collective will to look in new ways at where and how we live. Tomorrow will bring greater floods whether we plan for them or not. It's our choice to live vulnerably in their path or to seek higher ground."

This statement represents the ASFPM mission and philosophy well. It is the approach all local, state, private sector, and federal flood risk managers must use and implement. We thank Tim for his research and all the work that went into writing this important book.

"Seek Higher Ground: The Natural Solution to Our Urgent Flooding Crisis" is available from [Amazon](#) and other major retailers. Tim Palmer is a plenary speaker at the 2024 ASFPM Conference in Salt Lake City.



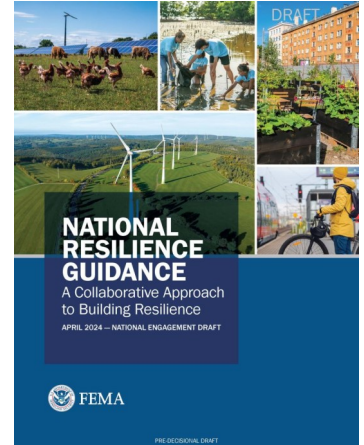
FEMA NEWS

Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

Feedback Needed on National Resilience Guidance

FEMA is seeking feedback on the draft [National Resilience Guidance](#). National resilience is a complex topic and building it requires whole community effort. This Guidance will help everyone understand and fulfil their critical roles related to increasing national resilience.

FEMA will host a series of four 60-minute webinar sessions in May to provide an overview of the National Resilience Guidance and gather feedback from whole community partners. The sessions will include facilitated discussions with stakeholders to help improve the existing draft. FEMA seeks input — especially real-world case studies — that can be incorporated into the Guidance and supporting supplemental materials also under development. In addition, a line-numbered version of the draft guide is available to allow individuals to provide comments on specific areas within the document. This national engagement period will conclude on **May 23, 2024**.



To review the document and learn more about the webinar sessions, please visit the [FEMA website at National Resilience Guidance | FEMA.gov](#)

First Activated States, Allocations for FY 2023 Swift Current

FEMA has announced 17 applicants that have been activated for fiscal year [2023 Swift Current funding opportunity](#). For a list of the states and their allocations visit [FEMA.gov](#). FEMA will distribute funding on a rolling basis as eligible applicants submit applications until the total available funding amount of \$300 million is exhausted. The opportunity aligns with the Year of Resilience theme to build local capacity to withstand tomorrow's hazards.

The applicant must meet the Swift Current activation criteria, including having a major disaster declaration for a flood-related disaster event beginning June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. A flood-related disaster event includes coastal storms, hurricanes, remnants of hurricanes, and floods.

Training Emergency Managers on Climate Change

This fall, FEMA will offer a new Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Certificate Program through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. This certificate program will be an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to lead climate-resilient initiatives in their community on a schedule that suits their professional and personal needs. [Learn more](#)



FEMA NEWS

Updates from the Federal Emergency Management Agency

\$26 Million Awarded for the State Assistance Dam Safety Program

FEMA has announced it will commit \$26.3 million in funding to enhance dam safety efforts across the nation to ensure that communities have the critical infrastructure needed to protect against future disasters like extreme drought and flooding. The grant awards ranged from \$100,078 for Illinois to \$1,762,147 for Mississippi and may be viewed on [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

This investment for the [National Dam Safety State Assistance Grant Program](#) is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This infrastructure funding will help protect communities from flooding, avoid disaster costs, and strengthen resilience to climate change. This announcement aligns with the FEMA Year of Resilience theme to build local capacity to withstand tomorrow's hazards.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is providing nearly \$6.8 billion toward communitywide resilience to reduce disaster suffering and avoid future disaster costs for [five FEMA grant programs](#). FEMA's two dam safety programs received funding over five years to help state, territorial and local governments take action to address high hazard potential dams that pose dangers to life and property if they fail.

National Dam Safety State Assistance Grant Program is available for any state or territory with an enacted dam safety program. These grants establish and maintain effective state programs to ensure dam safety and protect communities from increasing threats from climate change.

The state administrative agency, or an equivalent state agency, is eligible to apply. Each eligible state or territory may submit only one grant application. The application period closed on Feb. 29, 2024. For more information, visit FEMA's dam safety webpage on [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov).

National Mitigation Webinar Series

The latest installment of the National Mitigation Webinar Series will stream on May 9 from 1:00 – 2:30 ET. Mitigation planning and water resource programs share common goals. However, they often exist in silos. By integrating program efforts, you can build resilience. When planners and water resource managers work together, they can advance community priorities, reduce disaster risk and safeguard vital water resources.

How Hazard Mitigation and Water Resource Planning Flow Together will help you navigate the challenges and opportunities of cross-sector planning. You will hear about a watershed approach used in Iowa to reduce flooding and learn of work in Kentucky where the Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has integrated green infrastructure into flood mitigation projects. [Register](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Resources, reports, and the latest curated news

[Homebuilders flex as feds cede wetland oversight to states](#)

The Supreme Court ruling last year in *Sackett v. EPA* exempted tens of millions of acres of wetlands from Clean Water Act protection and put states in the driver's seat to determine how to regulate isolated swamps, bogs and other wetlands for the first time in decades. While some states have expanded protections, others have moved in the opposite direction.

[Biden Administration launches Conservation.gov](#)

The new website will serve as an information hub supporting locally led efforts to conserve and restore our nation's lands, waters, and wildlife. Conservation.gov also houses a beta version of the new American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas.

[Urban flooding is a rising threat. What can cities do to safeguard their futures?](#)

With chronic deluges occurring far more often than decades ago, there's no escaping today's reality: Climate changes and their effects mean that flooding in urban centers can no longer be ignored as rare acts of nature. In the Midwest, cities such as Detroit, Chicago, and Cleveland are grappling with what to do with all the rain.

STATE NEWS

CALIFORNIA

[Time to go big. River Partners gets \\$40m to replicate Modesto-area floodplain](#)

California has granted \$40 million to River Partners to greatly expand the floodplain restoration it has demonstrated at Dos Rios Ranch. Some of the projects will be in the San Joaquin drainage, which is fed by the Tuolumne and other tributaries and flows into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Other projects will be along smaller rivers in Tulare and Kings counties that form their own deltas.

FLORIDA

[Could Tampa Bay flood insurance rise after a hurricane? A warning from Hurricane Ian](#)

Intense blame-shifting has already begun between the Lee County and the FEMA. But beneath the noise, experts say, there are important lessons for Tampa Bay and the rest of Florida about the complex flood insurance system that's supposed to serve as a lifeline for homeowners in an increasingly risky state.

ILLINOIS

[As feds stand down, states choose between wetlands protections or rollbacks](#)

"Illinois did not have a fallback plan," said state Sen. Laura Ellman, a Democrat who is sponsoring the bill to protect wetlands under state law. "We're cobbling one together right now."

[Flooding is Illinois' most threatening natural disaster. Are we prepared?](#)

Flooding is the state's most threatening natural disaster and touches every corner in Illinois, but communities of color and poorer areas often face the greatest risk — particularly in the city of Chicago and greater Cook County. Sewer and stormwater infrastructure can often no longer handle the onslaught of water that comes from these heavy rainfalls.

(Continued on page 22)

NEWS BRIEFS

Resources, reports, and the latest curated news

(Continued from page 21)

LOUISIANA

[The flooding will come “no matter what”](#)

Global migration experts say that what is happening in Louisiana is a textbook case of how climate-driven migration begins: First, people resist their new reality. Second, they make modest, incremental adjustments to where they live. Third, they climb the ladder toward a safer place, rest on a rung for a while, and then continue on, only to be replaced by others worse off than they are, climbing up behind them.

[Louisiana Coastal Authority sends \\$1.7 billion restoration, flood reduction plan to legislature](#)

The annual plan includes the largest amount of money in the 16-year history of annual spending plans for the authority, and about \$90 million more than the current fiscal year. The plan, if approved, begins on July 1.

NEW YORK

[Grants to help small businesses shore up against natural disasters](#)

The NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) has launched a new grant program designed to support small businesses in New York City floodplains become more resilient in the face of natural disasters. With a goal to serve approximately 450 businesses, the new program offers a free risk assessment to identify vulnerabilities and accompanying grants of up to \$5,000.

MAINE

[New state law requires property owners to disclose flood risk to potential buyers](#)

Maine has become the latest state to require property owners to disclose the flood risk of their homes or businesses to potential buyers. The new law goes into effect this summer.

MASSACHUSETTS

[City of Boston invests in enhanced emergency and coastal resilience planning with Floodmapps](#)

Boston has partnered with FloodMapp to provide real-time flood monitoring to enhance emergency preparation, response, and recovery during flood events. The contract supplies the City of Boston's Office of Emergency Management with FloodMapp's ForeCast, NowCast, and PostCast products.

VIRGINIA

[New FEMA certification means Henrico property owners will save on flood insurance](#)

Henrico County property owners will be able to save on flood insurance costs beginning in October with the county's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System (CRS). The county is entering the system with a rating of Class 5* — one of the highest in the state and the highest ever obtained by a municipality in its first year under the current program requirements, according to FEMA.

WISCONSIN

[Pioneering Pre-Disaster Flood Resilience Grant Program becomes law](#)

The new bill signed into law by Gov. Evers requires Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) to create and administer a pre-disaster flood resilience grant program to provide grants for projects aimed at identifying and improving flood vulnerabilities and resilience priorities in local communities.

MEMBER NEWS

The latest news about ASFPM members

Welcome New ASFPM Members!

Adam E. Dohr	Jennifer C. Roberts	Megan I. Scanlon
Alexander S. Kendrick	Jennifer L. Cramer	Melissa H. Pulver
Amanda Peterson	Jessica Lile	Melissa S. Boudrye
Amanda Richardson	Jillian R. Cunha	Michael P. Reiser
Ashley C. Lein	John D. Tahquette	Morgan N. Lozoya
Becca Falk	Joseph Brosnan	Murilo Bizon
Belinda Lester	Kacie M. Malone	Pablo R. Bram
Bryson Price	KC Channakhone	Randall D. Moore
Cameron Ragan	Keri Schmidt	Richard J. O'Leary
Camille F. Hall	Kirsten K. Heerding	Riley R. Stone
Caroline Burger	Kristina Haselier	Roman L. Villasenor
Charles E. Parks	Kyle D. Coolbaugh	Sanjay S. Negi
Christine M. Hall	Lacey Davis	Sara Robben
Clifton L. Bernard	Leif Walde	Scott Baird
Colton Love	Lianne H. Evans	Sharon L. Burke
Curtis Brown	Logan P. Helsley	Sina Vedadi Moghadam
David D. Sulek	Madison Socha	Sonny Bui
Deirdre Kinard-Green	Maria C. Loinaz	Sumantha A. Prasad
Diko D. Alexander	Maria D. Sanchez Recuero	Terrence Tavera
Easton Perkins	Maris A. Barden	Theodore Baumgardner
Eloise A. Burnham	Martin W. Taylor	Timothy Poche
Frank J. Zawadzki	Mary Lehman	Tonie V. Smith
Gwyneth R. Martin	Matthew L. Mobley	Torin T. Bjorklund
Haylee LaTorre	Matthew Schraan	Valeria Hernandez
Jack McFadden	Mckenzie Brocker	Victoria R. Bamford

Make the most of your membership!

If you have questions about your membership, please contact Cate Secora at memberhelp@floods.org. She'll answer any questions and help make sure you take advantage of all your [member benefits](#), such as discounts to our annual conference, CFM exam, and more.

ASFPM Editorial Guidelines

ASFPM accepts and welcomes articles from our members and partners. "The Insider" and "News & Views" have a style format, and if necessary, we reserve the right to edit submitted articles for space, grammar, punctuation, spelling, potential libel and clarity. If we make substantive changes, we will email the article back to you for your approval before using. We encourage you to include artwork with your article in the form of photos, illustrations, charts, and graphs. Please include a description of the art, along with the full name of who created the art. If the art is not yours originally, you must include expressed, written consent granting ASFPM permission to use the art in our publications.

Copyright© Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.

Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of ASFPM Board of Directors. Reproduction, with proper attribution, is permitted for individual ASFPM-authored articles. Please contact Mary Bart at editor@floods.org.



Association of State Floodplain Managers

8301 Excelsior Dr., Madison, WI 53717

Phone: (608) 828-3000 www.floods.org