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Flood Zone

- **From the Chair**
- **Turn Around Don't Drown Signs Available**
- **FEMA News**
- **Summary from ASFPM's 42nd Annual National Conference**
- **ASFPM Floodplain Management Best Practices & Case Studies Compendium**
- **Mark Your Calendars**
- **Honors and Awards**

From the Chair



Welcome to the end of another great year! The Arkansas Floodplain Management Association had 2 great conferences this year. In the spring we hosted the annual training in Jacksonville, Arkansas. We had a number of good topics and speakers as well as professional development hours. We also had our fall conference in Eureka Springs this year. Along with an adventure around the city touring all of the city's floodplain and magnificent area, we had topics from basic floodplain to advanced floodplain.

As you may know a new board is elected every 2 years. I am your chairman for the next two years, and look forward to serving you as chairman to take this organization to continue its success. I would like to thank our Past Chairman, Lee Beshoner, for all of his hard work and dedication. Without his guidance over the past 2 years, our organization would not be in the great position that we are in right now. We also have new board members to welcome. New regional representatives and some familiar faces have come together to form the new AFMA board.

In a bit of change this year, we will be holding the Spring Conference in El Dorado this year. The date has been set for April 26-27, 2019 in the Griffin Building in downtown El Dorado. We hope this new venue is exciting to our AFMA members. I believe a new location in southeast Arkansas will be an attractive venue. As always, we will strive to not only have the newest in floodplain management strategies at the conference, but continue to teach the basics for our members.

Let's continue our push to be the best in floodplain management as we move forward in 2019.

Sincerely,
Jay Whisker, PE, CFM
Chair, AFMA, Inc.



Flood Zone

Turn Around Don't Drown Signs Available!!!

Each year, flooding causes more deaths than any other weather hazard. Most of these deaths could be prevented as they occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roadways. Many other lives are lost when people walk into or near flood waters. This happens because people underestimate the force and power of water, especially when it's moving.



The Arkansas Floodplain Management Association, Inc. (AFMA) is pleased to partner with the National Weather Service in Little Rock to provide a limited number of "Turn Around Don't Drown" signs to communities in Arkansas. These signs are to be deployed at locations where the incidence of flooding is high, the onset of flooding is rapid, and/or it is not practical to deploy signage in a timely manner. These signs comply with Federal Highway Administration (FHA) standards and is intended for deployment as a permanent road sign.

If your community would like to obtain these signs, please contact Tabitha Clarke at tabitha.clarke@noaa.gov or Jay Whisker at chairman@arkansasfloods.org.

FEMA News

Increased Cost of Compliance Policy Rate Increase April 1st

In recent memoranda announcing program changes, FEMA originally announced that there would be no changes to ICC premiums. However, after further consideration, FEMA is increasing ICC premiums, effective April 1, 2018, according to a bulletin from David Maurstad, FEMA's assistant administrator for federal insurance. Per the memo, ICC premiums have remained constant for several years. To maintain program integrity and stability, FEMA has determined that ICC premiums must increase to keep pace with increased costs due to inflation over the years.

<https://nfip-iservice.com/Stakeholder/pdf/bulletin/w-17068.pdf>

FEMA Region 6 "Virtual Brown Bags"

FEMA Region 6 has developed a suite of monthly training sessions on flood risk data and how communities can use these tools to increase resiliency, plan for future development, prepare for emergencies, help residents understand their risk, and make informed choices. These training sessions are free. FEMA encourages local officials, staff, citizens, and stakeholders to join them each month for these interactive, live demonstrations. To view upcoming sessions and to register, go to

<https://r6virtualbrownbag.eventbrite.com>



Summary from ASFPM's 42nd Annual National Conference

by

Lee Beshoner, PE, CFM

Past-Chair, AFMA, Inc.

This year, the National Conference was held in sunny and warm Phoenix, AZ. I saw sunny and warm, as it was routinely 100 degrees at 10:00 in the evening. Unlike last year at the annual conference, the State of Arkansas was not experiencing extensive flooding. I will continue to say this, if you have not had an opportunity to attend this event, I encourage you to do so. The amount of floodplain knowledge is very impressive and can be very overwhelming, as the days start early and run late.

There continue to be a lot of important items continuing to take shape. These include future direction on the National Flood Insurance Program, Flood Insurance Rating, etc. In addition to attending the conference, Whit Montague and I represented AFMA, Inc. at all of the official State Chapter functions. These included the Certified Board of Regents (CBOR) meeting and the Annual Chapters meeting. At these meetings, the topic of the CFM® program was at the forefront. To date, AFMA, Inc. has been working hard to continue providing the Certified Floodplain Managers in Arkansas with the best opportunities possible, and we have continued to maintain our status with ASFPM with regards to our membership and CFM program, which is a very big deal.

A few of the big things that were taken away from the conference were the 2018 long term reauthorization of the NFIP, flood insurance, and the two FEMA moonshots. FEMA has its continued focus on the NFIP and its outreach to the public through various channels. FEMA has been requesting budget increases for many years, with some success. It is also important to note that FEMA has been heavily promoting pre-disaster mitigation activities and measures in hopes that this will limit the overall impacts of flood related disasters. With the number of flood related disasters that our country has been experiencing, it is unclear how this will impact funding for the mapping and mitigation programs.

If you have specific questions, I encourage you to contact your AFMA Board or Regional Representative for more details.



Flood Zone

ASFPM Floodplain Management Best Practices & Case Studies Compendium

by

George Riedel, CFM |

ASFPM Foundation Donor Coordinator



Best practices and case studies are effective tools to highlight State and local initiatives to reduce flood risks at the local and regional level. The ASFPM Floodplain Management Best Practices and Case Studies Compendium catalogues best practices and case studies in a searchable format for online viewing; this will increase accessibility and usefulness to the reader. This project, funded by the ASFPM Foundation, was completed a few months ago and is now ready for prime-time use!

ASFPM's Flood Science Center collected twenty-five best practices and case studies that comprise the compendium. This project created a typology that established the means to organize and index case studies associated with best practices. Sources included the ASFPM's No Adverse Impact (NAI) How-to-Guide; "The Nature Conservancy's Naturally Resilient Communities Project;" and the FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) mentoring project.

- **NAI How-to-Guides:**

To further ASFPM's No Adverse Impact™ initiative, ASFPM developed a series of No Adverse Impact How-to-Guides. These How-to-Guides were developed for each of the Building Blocks in the publication entitled "No Adverse Impact: A Toolkit for Common Sense Floodplain Management."

- **Naturally Resilient Communities:**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) contracted with ASFPM to assist in developing a guide and case studies for the mainstreaming of natural infrastructure, such as comprehensive planning, education of developers, relocation of property, the raising of infrastructure, and floodplain regulations, to address coastal and riverine flooding.

- **CTP Support:**

FEMA contracted with ASFPM to help support the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP). The CTP Program is a partnership between FEMA and participating NFIP communities, regional agencies, state agencies, tribes, and universities that have the intent and capability to become a more active participant in FEMA's mapping program. The project involved documenting best practices and providing training, such as automatic engineering tasks.

These best practices and case studies can be important and very useful at the State and local levels in designing programs or projects to reduce their flood risks. The Best Practices and Case Studies Compendium can be found at the ASFPM Flood Science Center by [clicking here](#).



Flood Zone

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Spring AFMA Workshop
April 25-26, 2019
Murphy Arts District
El Dorado, AR



Fall AFMA Conference
September 22-25, 2019
Best Western Inn of the Ozarks
Eureka Springs, AR



ASFPM's 43rd Annual National Conference

Save these dates now!!

May 19-23, 2019 for

[ASFPM's 43rd annual national conference in Cleveland](#)
["FLOOD FEST 2019: The Mitigation & Resilience Tour"](#)

The ASFPM annual conference is recognized as the most important floodplain conference in the United States year after year. With more than 120 speakers and 1,200 participants, they are the national conferences all community, state and federal floodplain managers plan to attend. And because of that, many of the most important consulting firms and product vendors associated with floodplain management attend.

In recent years, the attendance has had about an equal number of private, local, state and federal participants from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries.



HONORS AND AWARDS

With the completion of the 2018 Fall Conference, we at AFMA wanted to take the following section to congratulate and honor our members receiving awards. Those receiving awards are as follows:

New CFMs



Congratulations to our new CFMs, including Jay Whisker (AFMA Chair) and Whit Montague (State NFIP Coordinator), and Gavin Smith, Anna Keogh, Jennifer Oakley, Aaron Burroughs, Carl Cooney, Steven Beavers, David Forstrom, Sam Kreimeyer, Jaysson Funkhouser, Mark Rickett

Members celebrating Certified Floodplain Management Milestones

5 Years



Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Chair), James Geurtz, Sonia Blankenship, Paul Ross, and Veronica Villalobos-Pogue.

Not pictured: Christy Caskey and Dennis Dunn



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10 Years



Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Chair), John Thornton, Daniel Phillips, and Ellen Norvell
Not pictured: Travis Fischer, Craig Light, Terry Carpenter, Jeanette Hale, Van McClendon, Ben Peters, and Brad Peterson

15 Years



Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Chair), Ben Kittler, David Mackey
Not pictured: John Burton, Jeff Ward, Mark Yardley



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Small Community Award Winner (Population < 2,000)

City of Bay

Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Chair) and Mayor Darrell Kirby



Medium Community Award Winner (Population 2,000 – 10,000)

City of Trumann

Pictured: (L to R) Jay Whisker (AFMA Chair) and Mayor Barbara Lewallen





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Floodplain Manager of the Year

Ms. Tina Thompson



Battreal Lifetime Achievement

Michael Borengasser (posthumous)
December 16, 1944 – January 24, 2018



Pictured: (L to R) Conrad Battreal (AFMA Executive Director), Angela Williams (Mike's daughter), Marylynn Borengasser (Mike's wife of 50 years), Stephen Borengasser (Mike's son), and Sarah (Stephen's wife).

Not pictured: Matthew Borengasser (Peng Li), David Borengasser (Tiffany), and Daniel Borengasser (Tomoko), and Bart Williams (Angela's husband).