

Association of State Floodplain Managers

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ASFPM Chair Status Report



ASFPM Chair Maria Cox Lamm, CFM
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ASFPM CHAIR STATUS REPORT

Annual Conference—Phoenix, Arizona (2018)

Wow it has been quite a year! I will be honest it has been a challenging, but exciting time to be involved in ASFPM. Everyone from our all-volunteer leadership and active members to the staff have had a lot on their plates this year. To assist in focusing all our efforts, the ASFPM Board of Directors develops annual Goals and Objectives that are lined out in a document. This document sets the top priorities for the association for the upcoming year and is used to focus and guide executive office staff and committees on where to focus our efforts.

One of our most important efforts is advocating for good policy at the national level. As we all are aware, bad policy made in Washington D.C. ends up impacting state and locals directly as we are the boots on the ground when it comes to implementation. So, we spend a lot of time educating Congress members about the importance of flood risk management. As part of the education process, we proudly support funding for programs important to floodplain managers. It does not matter if the program lies within FEMA, USGS or the Army Corps of Engineers. If it is important to floodplain managers, we support it.

The FY18 FEMA budget was a welcome sight. The OMNIBUS passed March 23, 2018 includes the following:

- \$416.4 million Flood Mapping Budget, which includes \$153 million from the Federal Policy Fee
- \$249.2 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation
- \$175 million for Flood Mitigation Assistance

Over this past summer, we undertook an unprecedented effort to educate Congress on the need for funding for flood mapping. As soon as ASFPM found out that the February budget agreement added several hundred million in additional funding authority for FEMA, we were quickly in touch with congressional leadership to encourage them to put some of that funding towards flood mapping and mitigation.

Over the past year, another area of focus for ASFPM has been NFIP reform and reauthorization. As a respected voice for sound floodplain management, ASFPM is often called on to provide ideas about reform, partner with other national organizations and provide information to Congress. And this past year was no different. ASFPM has developed the following priorities for reauthorization and reform:

- Reauthorize, fund and enhance the National Flood Mapping Program
- Ensure the already ongoing expansion of private-sector flood insurance does not erode the nation's comprehensive flood-risk management framework already in place
- Address affordability
- Support and enhance Increased Cost of Compliance
- Support pre-disaster mitigation of at-risk structures, especially repetitive loss buildings

More detailed information on these priorities can be found in the [ASFPM Priorities for 2018 Reauthorization and Reform](#) document.

Over the past year many of our members have been directly impacted by life-changing flood events. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria taxed the federal system to respond and assist states. This highlighted the need for states and local governments to rely on each other for assistance to recover from disasters. One area ASFPM is working to right a wrong is reimbursement of floodplain

management services under FEMA Public Assistance. Currently, a 1998 policy prohibits reimbursement of cost for floodplain management services, including mutual aid. This makes it hard for states and communities to assist one another with the tight budgets we are all under.

Our policy committees and executive office staff have also been involved in many other projects. A few of the projects are listed below:

- The Flood Science Center website has been redesigned and can be found at www.floodsciencecenter.org. This is a great resource for floodplain managers!
- ASFPM webinar series that offer trainings on a variety of topics regarding flood risk management.
- National flood barrier testing and certification program.
- Our policy committees do amazing work with collecting comments, submitting comments, created guidance on a variety of issues. Some they have participated in directly are elevation certificate form; revisions of ASCE24, National Mitigation Investment Strategy, and Waters of the U.S. proposed law changes.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the policy committee co-chairs that have stepped down over the past year. Thank you, Ian Hyde (Flood Mitigation), **Larry Buss** and **George Riedell** (Nonstructural Floodproofing) and **Warren Campbell** (Higher Education) for your time and dedication to your policy committees.

I would also like to welcome those who have volunteered to step into the role of policy committee co-chairs: **Mitch Paine** and **Joy Duperault** with the Flood Mitigation Committee, **Manny Perotin** and **Randall Behm** with the Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee, **Jerry Murphy** with the Higher Education Committee and **Jamelyn Austin Trucks** with the Stormwater Management Committee. We are excited to have you on board!

I would like to offer my sincere "Thank You" to all our exiting board members. Our exiting board members are **Karen McHugh**, Treasurer; **Jessica Henry**, Region 1 Director; **Jessica Baker**, Region 6 Director; **Mike Cothard**, Chapter Director District 2; and **Kyle Riley**, Chapter Director District 4. Each one of these individuals has brought their knowledge and passion to their roles. Once again, thank you for your time and leadership during your service to the association.

I truly am been honored to be your ASFPM chair. I am humbled and in awe of all of the hard work that this association has been able to accomplish over the past year.