

ASFPM Chair Annual Report



Ceil Strauss, CFM, ASFPM Chair
April 30, 2017



Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)

2016-2017

We've had another busy year for our volunteer leadership, active members and our staff. There has been a constant stream of new guidance, policies and laws to review and consider for comment. And many areas of the country had major flooding, some directly affecting many of our leaders.

How is ASFPM able to be active on so many fronts? On the board we have regional directors representing members in each of the 10 FEMA regions and five chapter directors who are liaisons with our local chapters, in addition to the officers. We have 14 policy committees, and each of those is headed by co-chairs. Those committees coordinate with four Pod facilitators who serve as liaisons with the board of directors. And our staff continues to do a great job.

Two important documents give guidance to the board and the policy committees. The longer term document is the National Flood Policies and Programs in Review. The [current document](#) was approved by the board in 2015 to replace the previous 2007 version. It is available on our website, and with current technology we intend to have it be more of a living document than in the past. A goal in the next year is to have this overall guidance document be more searchable on our website, and easier to find!

The other shorter term guidance document is our annual Goals and Objectives, the FY 2017 version can be found under the "About ASFPM" tab, and then under the "Board of Directors" tab. The annual G&O focuses on the top priorities for the year. The goals and objectives are grouped into three main areas: identifying emerging issues, refining existing issues and improving ASFPM operations. With so many potential areas for our involvement, this document gives important direction to our staff and leadership on where to focus our efforts. The Goals & Objectives had been getting fairly long, but was streamlined in the latest version to focus on the most current priorities.

ASFPM was asked to testify before the House or Senate four times since last year's annual conference. It is an honor that our members are recognized for their range of knowledge and experience. The association's staff and volunteer leaders are able to give input that is provided from the perspective of our members, the floodplain practitioners. We provided the following testimony:

- June 30, 2016 – No More Hikes: Small Business Survival Amidst Unaffordable Flood Insurance Rate Increases; Senate Small Business & Entrepreneurship (Chair Ceil Strauss)
- March 1, 2017 – Flood Control Infrastructure: Safety Questions Raised by Current Events; Senate Environment and Public Works (Director Emeritus, Senior Policy Advisor Larry Larson)
- March 16, 2017 – Flood Insurance Reform: A Community Perspective; House Financial Service Subcommittee on Housing & Insurance (Executive Director Chad Berginnis)
- May 4, 2017 – Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, Part II; Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs (Director Emeritus, Senior Policy Advisor Larry Larson)

The 2017 National Flood Insurance Program reform has been our biggest focus this past year. As the Sept. 30, 2017 deadline approaches, staff and volunteer leaders have been reaching out to provide input on both the issues of concern to the ASFPM and reviewing the impacts (and unintended consequences) of changes being suggested by others. This has involved many meetings with members of Congress and their staff, and with our partner agencies and organizations. The following shorter documents were prepared this past year to help share ASFPM's input:

- ASFPM Principles for NFIP Reauthorization and Reform (1 page; 7/5/2016)
- ASFPM Detailed Priorities for NFIP Reauthorization and Reform (2 pages; updated 10/14/2016)
- Flood Risk Management in America: Reducing taxpayer costs and building economically stable communities (4 pages; 11/23/2016)
- Congressional Staff Briefing on NFIP (2 pages; 3/24/2016)

Just a few of the other areas our staff and committees have emphasized in our formal comments and discussions with partner agencies included:

- A Memo of Understanding was signed with HUD to help publicize the 203K loan program as a funding source for mitigation. Guidance and informational materials are being developed in coordination with HUD and the National Association of Realtors to promote this program nationwide.
- Disaster Deductible Concept (comments on Supplemental Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)
- Comments on FEMA & HUD proposed rules on the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS)

- Comments on FEMA form updates (i.e., needed corrections to the “new” Elevation Certificate)
- Comments on various technical guidelines

One area the board and policy committees both felt our members should know more about last year was the projects that our science services department staff are working on. There has been an effort to let our members know more about the fascinating and important work they are doing on our behalf via the newsletters, web site, chapter update presentations, etc. To better reflect the types of projects and research they do, their name was changed to the Flood Science Center.

I'd like to say a special thanks to our policy committee co-chairs who have stepped down over the past year. Earlier in the year, Lisa Jones (Regulations Committee) stepped down, while Leslie Durham (Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee) and Warren Campbell (Higher Education Committee) stepped down more recently. In addition, Deborah Mills (Mitigation Committee) and George Riedel (Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee) are stepping down at the end of the annual conference in Kansas City. We are indebted to all of these long-time leaders for the effort and knowledge they brought to these committees and ASFPM in general.

And welcome to the new co-chairs Bill Nechamen (Regulations Committee), Steve Story (Mapping & Engineering Standards Committee) and Jerry Murphy (Higher Education Committee). Steve Samuelson has stepped in as the interim co-chair for the Insurance Committee for a year while co-chair John Gerber is on military leave. Brian Eber stepped in as co-chair for the Stormwater Management Committee but, unfortunately, had a job change and had to step down in less than a year.

A special thanks also goes out to Michelle Burnett, our Region 1 Director who is terming out as a board member, in addition to John Gysling (Region 3 Chapter Director) and Leslie Durham (Treasurer) who did not run for re-election. They have all been active, engaged members who brought unique backgrounds and knowledge to the board. I noted last year that I'd seen a transition over the previous five years that I'd been on the board, and I believe our board continues to challenge themselves and each other to find better ways look at

what is best for our members and good floodplain management, and to thoughtfully look at challenges we see coming in the future.

It has been my honor to serve as your Chair for the past year. I truly appreciate the hard work of so many of our volunteers and staff.