

# ASFPM CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT

*Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia*



William Nechamen, Chair

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It has been an honor to serve this organization for the past two years as your chair. I believe that some corners have been turned with respect to ASFPM internal operations and national policy issues. Internally, ASFPM has been facing some financial challenges as the Great Recession, combined with increasing staff responsibilities, led to several years of deficit spending. The board and executive leadership have worked hard to turn it around through measures to increase revenues and by carefully managing expenditures. We are hopeful that even though we budgeted for another year of deficit spending in 2014-2015, we will end the fiscal year in June with close to no net loss. The board is also committed to passing a balanced budget for 2015-2016.

On the policy side, we've seen a redirection in Washington on several fronts. Most notably, the President has proposed a revision to Executive Order 11988. Executive Order 13690 relates to federal agency expenditures in floodplains. The administration has recognized that the 100-year flood standard is no longer sufficient, particularly as the effects of climate change become more obvious. "Floodplains" has been redefined as an area that includes the 500-year floodplain or the floodplain determined by a climate-informed science approach. Federal actions in floodplains must use either a 2-foot freeboard approach, a 500-year floodplain approach, or use of climate-informed science. Critical actions must use at least a 3-foot freeboard. ASFPM has worked to inform its members of the changes and develop supporting comments.

The President has also for the first time in his administration added dollars to the proposed budget for mapping and for pre-disaster mitigation.

While ASFPM cannot be credited for all positive policy developments in Washington, I would argue that those developments would not take place without ASFPM, including the development and distribution of the "[Flood Mapping for the Nation](#)" report. The ASFPM Foundation's Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum back in 2004 discussed whether the 1 percent flood standard is sufficient.

ASFPM has an active committee structure and staff to stay abreast of all relevant activities. The 14 policy committees are represented by four Pod facilitators who serve as liaisons between the committee co-chairs and the Board of Directors. The board itself continues to be active, helped by ad hoc and permanent committees. We've re-established a permanent ASFPM Financial Committee to assist the treasurer and to develop long-term financial trends and goals. We've developed temporary committees to work on the annual "goals and objectives" so that the full board can come up with ideas and not be bogged down in wordsmithing. The five chapter directors have formed a permanent chapter committee. We've also had temporary committees as needs arise. This has helped to foster a more active and involved board.

The annual goals and objectives creates a "road map" for association activities for the following year. They are divided into critical new issues, refining existing programs and services, and increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of ASFPM operations and management. Brainstorming was held at the board retreat in Madison in February. The committee will then present a final document for board action in Atlanta.

Over the past year, a writing team has been hard at work updating the ASFPM "[National Flood Programs and Policies in Review](#)." The last revision was in 2007. Needless to say, a lot has changed. Draft recommendations were presented to the board at the February board retreat in Madison. The board spent an entire day going over the document in detail and making recommendations for final approval. Based on the board's decisions, the document is now being revised and will soon be released.

ASFPM continues to advocate to increase flood mapping efforts in the nation. The 2013 "Flood Mapping for the Nation" report indicated that there is a \$4.5 billion to \$7.5 billion unmet need to complete flood mapping for the nation, and an annual maintenance need of \$116 million to \$275 million. Over the past year, ASFPM has continued to present the report to congressional and agency staff. We believe that has influenced the administration's decision to request additional funding for flood mapping in 2016. ASFPM also periodically partners with the [National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies](#) to meet with FEMA and the Corps as "operating partners" to discuss flood mapping policies. We continue to press the case that many areas in this country remain in need of updated, regulatory flood maps.

ASFPM has been working hard to increase training and information to members. We've established a webinar series that has only been limited by the time needed to develop and run the webinars. They have been hugely successful.

Most of the states in the nation are now represented by single or multiple state ASFPM chapters. The chapter directors on the board continue to work with existing and prospective chapters in their regions. We're pleased to welcome the new Connecticut Chapter. I attended their kick-off conference in October and it did not feel like a fledgling organization running its first event. It was very well organized and well attended. Congratulations, Connecticut!

The ASFPM staff and executive leadership have done an amazing job. I'm thankful each day for the wonderful work that they do. With their help, the board has the information and support to make informed decisions. The staff, board, committee leadership and the members make ASFPM a truly unique organization, and it has been an honor to serve you as chair.

Respectfully submitted,

William Nechamen, CFM

ASFPM Board of Directors Chair