



# Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.

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It has been an honor to serve this organization for the past year as your Chair. It is completely mind boggling how much is going on. A mere mortal cannot keep up with it all, and I certainly can't. However, 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 saw a great deal of turnover going into the past year and the current Board is one of the most active that I've ever seen.

Major flooding events continue to influence national policy while moving the debate about risk. While the northeast continues to recover from Superstorm Sandy, Colorado was hit by major flooding, which moved rivers and caused a great deal of damage outside of mapped flood risk zones. The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 began to take effect, leading to the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. It has been an extremely active year, with no end in sight.

Each year, the Board of Directors passes an annual set of Goals and Objectives. This creates a "road map" for Association activities for the following year. The Goals and Objectives may be reviewed at [http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/Officer\\_Reports/ASFPM-FY14-Goals\\_Obj.pdf](http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/Officer_Reports/ASFPM-FY14-Goals_Obj.pdf). The Goals and Objectives are divided into critical new issues, refining existing programs and services, and increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of ASFPM operations and management. Given the importance of this document, we embarked upon a somewhat different way of developing it this year. At the February Board Retreat in Madison, a brain storming session was held to come up with priorities. A temporary Ad Hoc committee was formed, led by Terri Turner, to draft the Goals and Objectives and word smith the document, which will be voted on during the Board meeting in Seattle.

At the February Board retreat, ASFPM staff and the POD facilitators presented a progress report on the FY-2014 Goals and Objectives. Activities included numerous Congressional and Agency outreach visits, developing and delivering influential testimony to Congress, participating with the President's Council on Environmental Quality with respect to climate change and flood and water policy, a new and successful webinar series, input into flood mapping issues, participation in meetings regarding implementation of NFIP reform legislation, working on the Water Resources Development Act, working with FEMA and the EPA on proposed revisions to the International green Construction Code, development of NAI How-To Guides for planning and training/outreach, further review of the CFM including development of a proposed revised Certification Board of Review (CBOR) charter, investigation of website upgrades, and completion of a successful ASFPM financial audit. This is really a partial list. As you can see, there is a great deal going on.

A longer term document that establishes where we feel the nation should be going over the coming years is presented as the National Flood Policies and Programs in Review. The last revision was in 2007. In the coming year, representatives of the Board, the Committees and staff will develop a revision to the 2007 document. This will be a big work load which will ultimately require Board approval. We welcome your input as that project gets underway.

I want to focus on a few key items. Last year, ASFPM developed the “Flood Mapping for the Nation” report that 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. This report is gaining considerable traction in Congress and ASFPM has been urged to update it annually. FEMA admits that it is barely treading water with respect to maintaining existing mapping data. As Chair, I will be asking for your help to provide evidence of local and state requests for updated flood maps and mapping data. I believe that such information when presented with the “Flood Mapping for the Nation” will help generate needed support for the increases in flood mapping budgets that we need to better plan for current and future risk.

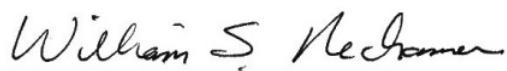
The ASFPM board has also expressed considerable concern with the future of the Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) program, in which states and local governments partner with FEMA to advance flood mapping in their areas. With the recent cuts in mapping budgets, CTPs have been struggling to maintain active partnerships with FEMA. I’ve named a temporary Board committee to develop language for the Board to show its strong support for the CTP program.

Another major concern is the financial stability of ASFPM. After building a “rainy day fund” in the 2000’s, we’ve recently seen a lot of rain, resulting in several years of deficit spending. The Association is not in any immediate financial danger, but it is time to stabilize our long term finances. The first step was taken last year as the Board approved multi-year modest increases in dues and the Association took steps to reduce expenditures and increase revenues. A major part of that has been the webinar series which has been a major success and has shown the need for getting timely and accurate information out there. The webinars are a low-cost way of getting some of your CFM credits while staying up to date. The demand for the courses verifies the need for an organization such as ASFPM. I’ve since formed a permanent ASFPM financial committee to assist the Treasurer and ASFPM staff with financial review and planning.

Last year, Sally reported on the growth of our chapter structure. That growth has created some growing pains on the Board itself. There are five chapter director positions on the Board, each of which is responsible for being a liaison with the chapters in two FEMA regions. The problem is that the number of chapters is not represented equally in each chapter region. An ad-hoc committee, led by Valerie Swick, has been meeting to suggest possible By Law changes so that chapter director work loads are spread more evenly.

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, the Board, the Committee leadership and the members make ASFPM a truly unique organization, and it’s an honor to serve you as Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Nechamen".

William Nechamen, CFM  
Chair, ASFPM Board of Directors