



Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.

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Association of State Floodplain Managers 2011-2012 Chair Report Sally A. McConkey, P.E., D. WRE, CFM

Greetings!

As I write this I am looking forward to sunny, warm weather in San Antonio and to ASFPM's 36th Annual National Conference. Reflecting on the past year as Chair, I feel we have a good deal to be proud of as an organization. The success of ASFPM is a credit to our Executive Office staff and the generous contributions of hundreds of hours of time from our Board Members, Committee Co-Chairs, POD facilitators, and committee members. It is a great privilege to work with such a distinguished group. Thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment, insights, energy, and unrestrained use of "reply all," which has yielded some lively e-mail exchanges.

A measure of our success is the progress towards meeting our Goals and Objectives. Last year we adopted an ambitious list, as we do each year. The annual reports from our Policy Committees, Executive Office, Legislative Liaison, Chapter Directors, and Regional Directors will document efforts and illustrate the wide-ranging activities of ASFPM with greater detail, but I would like to review some of the highlights.

The first ASFPM goal is "**Identify and address new critical issues facing flood loss reduction in the nation.**" ASFPM has actively tracked legislation and other program actions, notified members and chapters, and provided input through testimony, letters, and formal comments. ASFPM submitted outside witness testimony on the 2013 FEMA Budget and Hazard Mitigation and Risk Identification Programs and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Technical Assistance Programs. ASFPM sent a letter expressing concern about the level of funding for FEMA's Risk MAP program in FY 2012 to all members of the House and Senate explaining the importance of risk identification and a mapping effort that can produce timely, updated data and assessment. On March 8, 2012, ASFPM issued a statement on the Draft FFY 2013 Budget. A letter was sent to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure expressing concern over Senate bill S.2039 that would allow construction of levees on land purchased with federal dollars and deed restricted as open space. These are just a few samples of ASFPM's activities to inform decision makers and promote reduction of flood losses in the nation through policy.


The second goal is "**Refine existing programs and services to improve floodplain management in the nation.**" ASFPM leadership has tirelessly tracked NFIP reform legislation, provided congressional testimony, and met repeatedly with congressional staff to promote reform and avoid another lapse in the NFIP. Thank you to those ASFPM members who went to Washington DC for in-person meetings. Articles in the *News and Views* and the *Insider* informed members about legislation and encouraged individuals and chapters to contact their representatives. ASFPM provided comments on FEMA's *Levee Analyses and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levees: Proposed Approach for Public Review* (LAMP) and participated in meetings and provided comments on the frameworks formulated under the

National Preparedness Goal pursuant to the Presidential Policy Directive 8. ASFPM representatives meet regularly with FEMA staff in a number of venues including a newly established periodic meeting with Mitigation program staff, Operating Partners Meeting with NAFSM, and the Interagency Flood Risk Management Committee with the USACE. ASFPM has representatives serving on numerous committees and coalitions such as the National Floodplain Functions Alliance and the National Mitigation Alliance. Larry Larson serves on the National Advisory Council and Chairs the subcommittee on Flood Insurance and Mitigation. ASFPM promotes professional recognition for CFMs, and the ASFPM website under *Training and Education* is a hub of information on a variety of training opportunities. In addition to the annual conference, the 5th National FloodProofing Conference was held in Sacramento, CA, Nov. 28 to Dec. 1, 2011. It was hosted by ASFPM, the USACE National Nonstructural Floodproofing Committee, and FEMA. Again, this is just a few examples of ASFPM's efforts.

The third goal is **“Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the ASFPM Operation and Management.”** In 2011 there were several new names added to the already outstanding Executive Office staff roster: Chad Berginnis, Associate Executive Director; Ingrid Danler, Associate Director of Operations; Jason Hochschild, GIS Analyst and Applications Specialist; Katrien Werner, Technical Editor; and Bob Geenen, Financial Manager. ASFPM operations have had a “make-over” with new technology employed to track finances and programs. Staff followed up on many of the recommendations from the long-term financial workgroup appointed by former Chair Greg Main. I have established a standing ASFPM Board Committee to consider long-term financial trends and planning. Our outreach and chapter interactions have expanded with WebEx's, webinars, webcasts, chapter alerts, and presentations at chapter conferences. ASFPM is growing! We have added three new chapters this year: Iowa, Kansas, and Tennessee, and now have 33 chapters! The demand for chapter services is growing, and the Board is forming a committee to review our chapter services and chapter coordination. A quarterly call for State Floodplain Managers and State Hazard Mitigation Officers and their staff has been initiated to provide a forum for exchange of information and practices and identification of issues that ASFPM should take to FEMA.

My heartfelt thanks goes to the dedicated staff of the Executive Office and to the tremendously talented volunteers who make this organization outstanding.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally McConkey".

Sally A. McConkey, P.E. D.WRE, CFM
Chair, ASFPM Board of Directors