



# **Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc.**

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## **Association of State Floodplain Managers 2011-2012 Vice Chair Report William Nechamen, CFM**

As I prepare to complete my year as Vice Chair, I realize just how much the ASFPM does, and how many people it takes to do it. I can only thank the Pod Facilitators and committee co-chairs for all of their work, as well as my fellow Board members and the ASFPM Executive Office Staff.

The primary responsibility of the Vice-Chair, besides serving as part of the Board officer team, is to interact regularly with the Policy Committee Co-Chairs, at the August retreat and through bi-monthly conference calls. The policy committees are where a great deal of ASFPM's heavy lifting is accomplished. The committees represent ASFPM on various national interagency boards and committees and develop specific policy positions for Board review and approval. The committees also help ASFPM respond quickly to requests for comments on regulatory changes and other federal activities. For ASFPM members who want to have an impact, the committees are the place to be!

Among the issues that Committees have been working on in the past year were a detailed review of FEMA's proposed revised levee mapping process, comments on the FEMA recovery policy with respect to demolition of private structures, development of a white paper on FEMA 404/406 funding, responses to FEMA's proposed National Preparedness Mitigation Framework, a "higher floodplain standards" reference guide, review of draft CRS guidance, responses to federal IRS guidance that would treat mitigation funds for private property from entities other than FEMA as taxable income, investigation of mandatory ethics training for CFMs, identifying regional contacts in FEMA regions for training and outreach, working with the Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee on a shared communications initiative, work on an alluvial fan discussion paper, work on a coastal NAI toolkit and work on updating the NAI toolkit, comments on the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, development of a Natural and Beneficial Functions brochure, comments on a national strategy to respond to climate change impacts on fish, wildlife and plants, and tracking EPA's stormwater regulations. And this is only a partial list.

The August retreat in Madison provides an opportunity for the Co-Chairs to discuss Committee work plans and policy issues in detail and to work with other Co-Chairs on cross cutting issues. In addition to committee reports, there is an opportunity for training and detailed policy discussions. The Pod Facilitators also attend. Their job is to coordinate the Committee work with the Board and the Executive Office. Each Pod facilitator interacts on a routine basis with three or four policy committees.

This year the retreat was August 22-24, 2011. The agenda included a review of ASFPM 2011 goals as well as the draft goals for 2012, a review of the ASFPM communications plan, legislative and

policy updates, and updates on the CRS Task Force. The committee Co-Chairs reviewed the activities of the past year in light of how they relate to achieving the ASFPM Goals and Objectives. One objective of the ASFPM communications plan is to establish a link between the ASFPM policy committees and state chapter committees. While ASFPM is unable to intervene in all state issues, state chapters have a crucial role in communicating how national issues decisions affect their states, and to bring to ASFPM's attention state issues that may have national ramifications. So a two-way communication process between the state chapters and the ASFPM policy committees is extremely important.

During the course of the year the Co-Chairs hold conference calls with their committee members and the number of participants on these calls is excellent, some committees having more than 30 regular participants. The Board has developed updated procedures for White Papers and Discussions Papers. Discussion papers are broader presentations of issues and possible solutions, while White Papers develop specific approaches and, when approved by the Board, become the official policy of ASFPM. As a result of this distinction, Committees have more freedom to explore issues via the Discussion Paper format. For example, the Insurance Committee began to address the issue of the use of LOMA's as a routine flood hazard determination tool.

One change with the committee structure is in the role of committee liaisons. You may have noticed that the Board Sheet no longer contains a line for committee liaisons. That is because different committees have different needs for liaisons. For some, they need someone to work with another committee on a common issue. For others, a liaison may be a committee representative to an interagency policy committee. In order to provide the committees with more flexibility, committees can appoint as many liaisons as they need for committee purposes.

As Vice-Chair, I also had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC to meet with governmental and non-governmental organizations. I can say first hand that ASFPM is highly regarded and respected at the highest levels of not only FEMA but other federal agencies and leading professional associations.

It has been an exciting year for me to get more involved in ASFPM's day to day operations and policy issues. Once again, I can only thank the ASFPM executive office staff, my fellow Board members, the many people active in policy committees, and the membership for allowing ASFPM to accomplish so much.

Respectfully submitted,

William Nechamen, CFM