

# ASFPM District 1 Annual Report



Janet Thigpen, CFM, District 1 Chapter Director

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Annual Conference—Kansas City, Missouri (2017)  
**2016-2017**

**Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, US Virgin Islands & Vermont**



## INTRODUCTION and REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The ASFPM State Chapters in District 1 are:

- [Connecticut Association of Flood Managers](#)
- [New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management](#)
- [New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association](#)
- [Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association](#)

## Key Accomplishments of District 1 Chapters

- Each state chapter holds an **annual conference**, lasting from one to three days. These have all been highly successful venues for training, sharing success stories and networking. The RIFMA conference had an astounding 158 participants this year. Each chapter provides Continuing Education Credits for Certified Floodplain Managers. Some also provide training credits for professional engineers and local building officials. CAFM and NYSFSMA included a local field tour on the agenda. RIFMA repeated the successful student paper contest. The NYSFSMA conference agenda includes the annual meeting of a statewide Community Rating System Users Group.
- Each chapter provided **basic floodplain management training** (ranging from a half day to two days) and opportunities to take the **CFM exam**. New Jersey reached a milestone of 295 CFMs. Seven new CFMs from RI, MA and NY passed the exam administered by RIFMA. NYSFSMA credits the increased number of CFMs with helping to drive conference attendance.
- State chapters provided **additional training opportunities**: CAFM kicked off a Twilight Series with an evening event about "Substantial Damage Estimation, Elevation and Dry Floodproofing: Tools for Administering the NFIP" and offered a tour of the Stratford Reef Ball (a living shoreline project). CAFM also co-sponsored training for architects about "Flood Design Regs and Code Best Practices." NJAFM conducted dinner meetings on the following topics: "Expectations for Floodplain Management during a New Federal Administration," "CRS Saves Lives & Money" and "Benefits of the Certified Floodplain Manager Program." RIFMA co-sponsored a coastal construction class.
- Each chapter informs members and others through one or more **newsletters**. The NYSFSMA newsletter provided 14 pages of detailed information on a variety of topics. RIFMA also keeps members informed about chapter activities and other floodplain management issues through the [RIFMA Facebook page](#).
- NYSFSMA actively **promotes improved legislation and policies**. A letter to the state's senators informed them of potential impacts of a flood insurance bill. NYSFSMA submitted public comments about a US Army Corps of Engineers project on Long Island. NYSFSMA expressed support for the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (based on Executive Order 13690) and commented on

proposed implementation of the FFRMS by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development and USACE. Members were informed about these issues through the chapter's newsletter.

- Some chapters provide training and other support for **Community Rating System Users Groups** and others are considering ways to do this. The NYS CRS Users Group and NYSFSMA submitted suggestions for changing the CRS program and received a thorough response from the CRS Task Force.
- These member services support **increased chapter membership**.

### Challenges for District 1 Chapters

- Reaching out to get new categories of members, such as surveyors, insurance agents and real estate agents.
- Maintaining an active volunteer base from one year to the next.
- Engaging more than the core individuals who seem to end up doing most of the work.
- Providing more information and training to members.
- Need to establish an image within the state. It is currently ambiguous.
- Working on updated bylaws to comply with state laws for non-profit corporations.
- Chapters value the presence of FEMA regional staff at conferences and rely on their experience. It is great when local floodplain managers can connect with FEMA staff. However, FEMA's attendance can be uncertain due to budget issues.

### Feedback to ASFPM and Recommendations

The District 1 chapters are generally happy with the organizational support provided by ASFPM.

- Chapters would like to see a mobile Advanced Floodplain Managers Workshop (moving beyond the L273 training).
- There is an interest in regional programming between chapters.
- The All Chapters Calls, Newsletter for Chapters and Chapters Meeting at the conference have all been helpful means for sharing information about how other chapters overcome similar obstacles.
- One chapter has difficulty with the timing of chapter renewal (due to conflicts with other end-of-year commitments) and has requested renewal materials be sent to the chapter earlier to allow more time for completion.
- Chapters request that FEMA regional staff commit to attending their conferences so that chapters can rely on their participation.



**NEW YORK STATE FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGERS ASSOCIATION**



April 30-May 5, 2017