

ASFPM DISTRICT 1 CHAPTER DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia



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District 1 encompasses the following states and territories within FEMA regions I and II: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, US Virgin Islands and Vermont.

ASFPM State Chapters in District 1:

- Connecticut Association of Flood Managers
- New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management
- New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association
- Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association

Connecticut Association of Flood Managers

The mission of the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers is to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future flood losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains – all without causing unreasonable adverse impacts.



WELCOME! The Connecticut Association of Flood Managers became the 36th state chapter of ASFPM in February 2015. Between the initial organizational meeting in December 2013 and submittal of a chapter application to ASFPM a year later, CAFM accomplishments included:

- Prepared a constitution and bylaws;
- Was incorporated by the state of Connecticut;
- Formed committees;
- Undertook a successful membership campaign, attracting members from 32 NFIP participating communities and other organizations;
- Designed a logo;
- Published a two newsletters;
- Set up a website (www.ctfloods.org);
- Conducted a very successful first conference on the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, which was attended by 104 people, including 61 of the 77 CAFM members;
- Offered the Certified Floodplain Manager exam; and
- Elected officers.

CAFM also hosted the four-day class, “Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program,” and sponsored another CFM exam. This is one of several workshops that CAFM has planned for 2015.

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management

The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management is dedicated to reducing loss of life and property damage resulting from floods and promoting sound floodplain management.



As New Jersey continued to recover from Hurricane Sandy, NJAFM commemorated its 10th year with a successful 10th conference in October 2014. Plenary and concurrent sessions covered a broad range of relevant topics, including local engagement, risk communication, hazard mitigation, mapping, stormwater management, planning, land use and other topics. The association offered scholarships to promote increased participation by local officials. The conference was their largest yet, with more than 300 attendees!

NJAFM continued to promote professional floodplain management by conducting a CFM review course and exam opportunity three times during the year. The training was free for NJAFM local official members and has been certified as continuing education training for Professional Land Surveyors. The state now boasts more than 250 CFMs. In addition, NJAFM has redesigned its website, adding a “Jobs Page” and other member benefits.

Efforts to educate the public about flood risks included the use of social media, interviews by reporters, NJAFM partnership with FEMA through their new coastal study, and NJAFM representation on a panel discussion titled, “Eyes Wide Open ... or Shut? Integrating Climate Risks into Decision-Making” at a New Jersey Future Redevelopment Forum. NJAFM member, John Miller, demonstrated the effective use of Twitter in an ASFPM plenary talk about post-Sandy activities, in which he told the story using Tweets. NJAFM has partnered with various other state partners in co-sponsoring events and trainings throughout the state, including a seminar on flood proofing existing non-residential structures and an interactive presentation on the Community Rating System at the League of Municipalities conference.

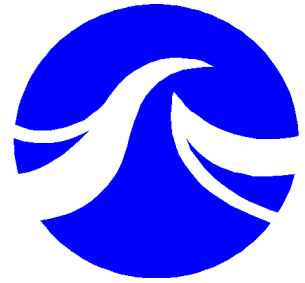
NJAFM continues to be actively involved in numerous state and national policy issues through representation on boards, oral testimony and written comments. NJAFM members also visited the Rhode Island Emergency

Management Agency's Hurricane and Preparedness Conference, Pennsylvania Association of Floodplain Managers conference, and Passaic River Symposium VI and participated on the Urban Water Solutions Network, New Jersey Resiliency Network Advisory Board, and New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance. The committee chair shared these successful strategies at the ASFPM conference, where he co-instructed a workshop about legislative activities with Merrie Inderfurth of ASFPM.

New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

The New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association:

- *Promotes floodplain and stormwater management as a means of reducing flood damage and protecting, restoring and enhancing water quality;*
- *Enhances cooperation between various related private, local, state and federal agencies; and*
- *Encourages and ensures effective, new and innovative approaches to managing NYS floodplain and stormwater systems.*



The 14th annual NYSFSMA conference included three days of training, information sharing and networking about a wide range of floodplain and stormwater management topics. The association continued the tradition of offering a bus tour of local projects, in addition to plenary presentations, workshops, breakout sessions, exhibits, CFM exam, NYSFSMA annual meeting, and an evening social. This year's conference also included a meeting of the recently-formed statewide Community Rating System Users Group.

NYSFSMA hosted ASFPM G273, a field deployed four-day floodplain management course. Demand for this training far exceeded the course capacity, so the association is applying to offer it again in the upcoming year.

Flood education efforts by NYSFSMA members were recognized by the Flood Risk Education campaign at the ASFPM chapter meeting at the 2014 conference. This award was given for creative use of the Ward's stormwater-floodplain tabletop model, which is owned by the association and used throughout the state by NYSFSMA members.

The New York chapter is actively engaged in flood policy issues, educating elected officials about the policies that they craft and vote on. The Public Policy Committee chair participated in a congressional briefing on stream gauges and, along with the ASFPM Washington liaison, met with congressional staff on Capitol Hill. She reports:

"I discovered that Congressional staff are not intimidating people. But they are busy people and each is responsible for providing his/her boss with relevant information about numerous issues. Subject matter experts – like you and I – can help them understand how the policies debated on Capitol Hill affect people back home in their districts. Those who I met seemed to be genuinely appreciative of this information."

Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association

The goal of the Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association is to form a network of associates who can bring their ideas and experiences to a forum for people to share and learn from. The result of the association is a network of floodplain managers who can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all aspects of floodplain management in the State of Rhode Island.



The theme of the April 2015 RIFMA conference was, “Learning from the Past, Living in the Present, and Preparing for the Future.” The conference began with Rep. Lauren Carson of the Rhode Island General Assembly, who described her proposal for a commission to study the economic impacts of flooding and sea level rise. This was followed by presentations about a variety of floodplain management and hazard mitigation issues, including climate trends in Rhode Island, flood inundation mapping, changes to the National Flood Insurance Program, ASFPM, flood resilience efforts, flood risk communication, a flood education project that used role-play simulations and more.

Highlights of additional chapter activities include:

- Twilight Seminar – Coastal Property Guide
- RIFMA board members attended and presented at the ASFPM national conference
- RIFMA board members attended and presented at first chapter conference of the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers
- Training and Education Committee formed and surveyed membership about training needs
- RIFMA co-sponsored outreach events, such as the evening stakeholder meeting, “How Can Coastal Engineering Contribute to Resilient Coastal Communities?”
- Applied for the four-day course, “Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program,” in 2015