

# ASFPM CERTIFICATION BOARD OF REGENTS ANNUAL REPORT

*Annual Conference-Atlanta, Georgia*



Mark Riebau, CBOR President

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As I wrap up my first year as president of CBOR, I am enthusiastic about the future of the Certified Floodplain Manager program, which is growing in numbers – nearly 9,000 – and importance. Under Regent John Ivey's leadership, CBOR completed the five-year update to the CFM exam, last September, as recommended by Ohio State University. This was an important step toward recognizing the CFM exam as reliable and valid.

CBOR is working towards US Department of Labor recognition of "Floodplain Manager" as a recognized occupation. FEMA-EMI is assisting development of core competencies, which is a useful step in the process. Core Competencies will also allow assessment of training gaps for floodplain managers.

Progress toward promoting floodplain management as a profession is assisted by the introduction of a BS and an MS in Floodplain Management. Under the able leadership of Regent Warren Campbell, a BS degree in floodplain management is now being offered by Western Kentucky University, and at CBOR's spring meeting at WKU in Bowling Green, KY in March of this year, Dean of the College of Engineering Cheryl Stevens was able to express, in person, how appreciative she was of ASFPM's support.

The University of Washington recently opened registration for their Master of Infrastructure Planning & Management (floodplain management), allowing students to earn their master's with a focus on the study of coastal and riverine floodplain management. This 45-credit degree program lasts 18 months and launches with its first student cohort in summer 2015.

To support WKU and UW, CBOR revised its policy regarding student members. Beginning this year, full-time students who join ASFPM at the special student rate will be allowed to take the CFM exam at the same discounted rate as a full ASFPM member. While this student membership category does not have all the benefits of full membership, this was particularly important for students in programs such as that at WKU who may choose to take the CFM exam in lieu of a final exam.

In February, after more than a year of consideration, CBOR recommended to the ASFPM board, and they approved, changes in the Continuing Education Credit policy that will make it easier for CFMs to acquire the required 16 CECs per cycle, while still maintaining the high standards of the CFM program. This change reflects a changing environment for training delivery such as online and webinars, which did not commonly exist in the last policy period, as well as the changing technical training needs of our nation's CFMs. This policy will take effect Nov. 1, 2015 with the CFM renewal cycle.

CBOR has also restructured its internal regents, this year, around several key areas into a work plan format similar to the ASFPM Policy Committees. These areas are: exam, marketing/professional status, governance, administration, training and education, and internal communications. We believe that by focusing our energies around these theme areas, we can accomplish not only our own goals, but also fold in the ASFPM Board of Directors' goals and objectives on a yearly basis.

CBOR President Mark Riebau