

The History and Future of State and Regional Floodplain Management Associations



August 2002

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Foreword

I volunteered to compile this history of state and regional associations because I thought their contribution to floodplain management in the United States had been important. I also thought it should be done while the founders of the early associations can remember the beginnings. Finally, I thought the associations would benefit from getting their histories down on paper.

I was right about the contributions of these associations. The Arizona Floodplain Management Association is celebrating its 20th anniversary during the ASFPM conference in Phoenix. Reading the summary of their accomplishments (pp 9-10) shows the impact they have had on floodplain management in Arizona, the southwest, and the United States. The accomplishments of the other associations are equally impressive.

Sure enough, it was difficult for some of the state associations to remember details of their early years. I hope that those who went through the exercise of summarizing their histories agree that it needed to be done. Those that haven't done so yet are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

The authors of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association history were amazed at what has been accomplished in seven years. The list of achievements on page 24 shows just how far they have come. I am sure other had the same feeling.

The summaries that start on page 9 were edited for font, style and length. However, they are in the words of each association. They are surprising in their diversity. Each serves the needs of its members, and each is different from the others. That is the strength of state and regional associations.

I envy the new associations just getting underway in Florida, Minnesota and Wisconsin. You have recognized the need for an organization to meet the special needs of your community floodplain (and stormwater and coastal) managers. You perceive problems that are not being addressed uniformly across your states. You wonder if there is enough interest to form an association. You don't really have the time for this, but it seems important.

You will send out a newsletter and organize a conference. You'll be surprised at how enthusiastic everyone is to participate. You will see old friends and make new ones. You will be surprised that some large communities don't really know what is going on, and at how sophisticated some smaller communities are.

Then you will have a conference wiped out by a blizzard or a hurricane. You will have an officer resign because she took a different job. You will be frustrated because the committees are not accomplishing much.

However, after five years, you will look around during a conference or a Board of Directors meeting and realize how professional everyone is. Your committees will have started to really get things done. Half of the people in the room will be Certified Floodplain Managers.

You will have written your own chapter in the history of floodplain management.



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ASFPM Support for State Associations: Since 1984, ASFPM has supported state associations in numerous ways. For years, ASFPM sent its newsletter, *News and Views*, to all members of state associations. ASFPM officers have attended state association meetings to offer guidance and support. Members of state associations that host ASFPM conferences get significant discounts on conference registration fees.

Today, ASFPM offers a number of services to state Chapters at cost. These include providing *News and Views* to state members, maintaining mailing lists, and hosting state chapter websites on the ASFPM web site.

ASFPM also provides the following support for Chapters:

- Voting member status in the Association, represented by one or more Chapter Directors on the Board of Directors;
- Representation on issues of state and local concerns at the national level with federal agencies, the Congress, and other organizations with common interests;
- Opportunities to obtain education, technical assistance and professional services by state and local floodplain managers;
- Accurate and timely information about national level issues affecting local floodplain managers through the Association's member newsletters, web site and information bulletins;
- Education of federal, state and local policy makers and the general public about flooding and flood risk reduction issues important to local floodplain managers;
- Participation in the Association's Certified Floodplain Manager program which recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhance the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers;
- Access to national office resources provided on a cost basis that include administration of local conferences and workshops and membership management; and,
- Awards and recognition from the national level of exceptional local floodplain managers and programs.

State Chapter Support for ASFPM: The state chapters, in turn provide the following support for ASFPM.

- Opportunities to identify issues of concern to local floodplain managers and to measure the impact of proposed initiatives and policies undertaken at the national level by Congress and federal agencies;
- Increased public awareness of floodplain management issues at the local level;
- Broad-based, grass roots support for the Association's policies, programs and initiatives;
- Opportunities to educate Members of Congress that enhance the Association's ability to build support at the national level;
- Most chapters encourage their members to join ASFPM;
- State chapters have made important monetary contributions to ASFPM and the ASFPM Foundation;
- State chapters have cosponsored most ASFPM conferences since 1985. When the ASFPM conference has been in a state with no chapter, support has come from non-chapter state associations (i.e., NEFSMA cosponsored the ASFPM conference in



Portland, ME) and from chapters in nearby states (i.e., IASFM cosponsored the conference in Milwaukee, WI);

- Six state chapters have ASFPM accredited CFM programs; and
- Three Chapter Directors provide leadership to ASFPM by serving on its Board of Directors.

State Association Activities:

State Floodplain Management Chapters play a key role in reducing flood losses in the nation. By providing information on the effectiveness of federal and state programs when they are implemented at the local level, those programs are improved. Many local officials cannot travel to workshops or meetings beyond the state borders, but can get together with their peers within their state. Discussing how their peers in state meet the combined federal and state programs is the most useful information to them. It further gives them a network of professionals to contact for assistance and information. That local network of professionals can provide a strong voice to state agencies and legislatures to improve the state laws and rules for flood loss reduction.

The 25 state associations have provided a wide range of services to their members and to floodplain management over the last 20 years.

- At least five state associations have introduced and/or supported better state legislation and state funding for floodplain management.
- Eighteen state associations provide newsletters to their members and others.
- All state associations have at least one statewide floodplain management conference each year.
- Six state associations have developed accredited certification programs for floodplain managers.
- Fifteen state associations have developed web sites.

In addition, the state associations have provided technical workshops for floodplain managers, insurance agents, lenders, building officials, surveyors and others, brochures and other literature, and the networking that results from having a state association.

Of about 1,000 certified floodplain managers (CFMs) in the United States, over 500 are in the fifteen states with ASFPM chapters, led by Texas, with 187 nationally accredited CFMs. The six states with ASFPM accredited CFM programs (Arkansas, Illinois, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Texas) have about 400 CFMs. The New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association was successful in getting the NM statutes revised to require that all communities with floodplain management ordinances must have a CFM review floodplain permits.

Basic information on the state associations is presented in Table 2. Some of this information was provided during 2001, while some is for 2002. This table gives a reasonable picture of the state of the states.

In addition to at least one statewide conference each year, most state associations also have one or more regional or topical conferences, workshops or other training opportunities. Table 2 shows only the statewide conferences. The other training opportunities offered by state associations total 100 or more each year.



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Organization	Members	Conferences per Year	Newsletters per Year	Web Site
AzFMA	295	2	2	www.azfma.org
ArFMA	100	2	4	www.arkansasflood.org
AFMMs	63	2		www.memaorg.com/nfip/2002AFMMelections.htm
CoASFM	450	1	2	www.casfm.org
FMA	400	2	6	www.floodplain.org/
FIFMA	50	1	4	www.candleinthedark.org/ffma
IIAFSM	365	1	4	www.IllinoisFloods.org
InAFSM	227	1	4	www.geology.iupui.edu/Outreach/INAFSM/
KsAFM	30	1		www.kafm.org/
MiSFA	110	1	4	
MnFMA	17	1		
MoFMA	140	1	1	
LaFMA	250	3	4	
NEFSMA	71	1	3	www.nefsma.org
NMFMA	141	2	4	www.nmfma.org
NYSFSMA	202	1	2 - 4	
NCAFPM	145	1	4	www.ncafpm.org/
OhFMA	140	1		
OkFMA	300	2	10 - 12	www.okflood.org/
NORFMA	104	1	2 - 3	www.norfma.org/
SCAHM	67	1		
TxFMA	686	2	4	www.TFMA.org/
UtFMA	80	1		
VaFMA	35	1	2 - 4	
WiAFSCM	28	1	3	
Totals	4,492	34	69 - 76	

Table 2. Information on State and Regional Associations for 2001 or 2002.

The Future of State Associations:

This very brief summary of the first 20 years of state associations gives a convenient basis for a look into the future. Why are state associations starting and growing? Why are they important to their members? What can they accomplish?

The ASFPM provided a forum for, first, state floodplain managers, and later, all floodplain managers to seek information, to develop and gain support for new concepts, to shape federal legislation and federal rules, and to help each other shape state legislation and state floodplain management programs.

Everyone who attends an ASFPM conference learns from it. They meet others who are dealing with the same problems they face, and learn how they are dealing with them. They learn new techniques for floodplain mapping, new approaches to management, new concepts in flood hazard mitigation. The modern era of floodplain management started with the enactment of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968; it has come of age in the 25 years since the ASFPM was founded.



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However, day-to-day implementation of floodplain management, subdivision by subdivision and building by building happens in 20,000 communities. A relative handful of these communities are wealthy enough and have sufficient foresight to send their floodplain managers to ASFPM conferences. They benefit greatly from this, but the other 18,500+ communities do not. The combined efforts of 100 or 150 state floodplain management specialists and a similar number of FEMA regional staff can not provide the ongoing training and education needed by community floodplain managers.

State floodplain management associations fill this gap. State associations are universally formed to educate local floodplain managers and help them to do their jobs better. Most of the 20,000 communities in the US that manage floodplain development are small communities with few staff. The vast majority of community floodplain managers have other responsibilities. They are building inspectors, planners, engineers, village clerks, etc. For the vast majority, floodplain management is only one of their responsibilities, and often a minor responsibility.

State associations provide training for community staff persons who are aware that they do not know enough to do their jobs right. They are hesitant to ask their state or FEMA region for help, because that will expose their ignorance. They are much more likely to attend a meeting of their peers and seek advice from them. They may attend three conferences before they ask a question or venture an opinion. They will learn what they need to know to do their floodplain management jobs better.

State associations provide these training opportunities at a low cost. Most state and regional associations charge less than \$100 for community floodplain managers to attend a one or two day conference which is usually held at less expensive meeting sites. Annual dues are generally less than \$100, and often less than \$50.

The impact goes far beyond training and educating community floodplain managers. Each state has a different flood history, different attitudes and different floodplain management needs. State and regional associations can address these differences in ways a national organization cannot. State associations have already changed statutes, gotten state funding for floodplain management and adopted higher floodplain management standards.

If a state association gives community floodplain managers what they need at a reasonable cost, they will come back, and floodplain management in that state will improve over time.

How does an association reach out to its floodplain managers? Every state and regional association with more than 100 members has a newsletter. This is probably the most effective way to reach all community floodplain managers in a state or region. With a volunteer editor, it is also inexpensive. Another way associations are reaching and serving local floodplain managers is through web sites. Ten years ago, few people had heard of the internet. Today, at least one third of all communities have access to the internet and most state associations have websites.

All older, larger state and regional associations except AzFMA and CoASFM have executive directors or executive secretaries. Others probably receive some assistance of this type from their State NFIP Coordinators. Having an executive director or secretary gives an association a permanent address and phone number, a repository for files and an overall focal point.



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Finally, the older, stronger associations have delegated responsibilities to a large number of members through the development of committees. The first committees formed are usually membership and conference committees. From there, committees are developed to meet the growing needs of the organization and its members.

The next 20 years should see exponential growth of state and regional floodplain management associations. By 2012, or 2022 at the latest, there should be a state or regional association available to every local floodplain manager in the country. Thirty-two states now have associations, including the Northwest Floodplain Management Association, serving Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, and the New England Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association, serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. AzFMA has an annual meeting on the Arizona-Nevada state line that is attended by many Nevada floodplain managers. The Wisconsin association is so new that they have no members yet.

State and regional associations currently have almost 4,500 members. If one third of those members are from the private sector and state and federal agencies, state associations have about 3,000 community floodplain managers. Those 3,000 members represent probably fewer than 2,000 of the 20,000 NFIP communities in the United States. That leaves a lot of room to grow.

Imagine 60 state floodplain conferences each year, with 15,000 total attendees. Imagine 40 state and regional newsletters and a similar number of websites. Imagine 200 specialized workshops for community floodplain managers each year. State and regional associations will make it happen.

Summaries of State and Regional Associations:

Following are summaries provided by several state and regional associations.



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Arizona Floodplain Managers Association

AFMA Mission: The purpose and objective of AFMA is to provide a means of local representation on a state-wide basis regarding policies and activities dealing with floodplain management within the state of Arizona. This includes promoting the common interest in flood hazard mitigation, enhancing cooperation between the various related private, local, state and federal agencies, and encouraging and ensuring new and innovative approaches to managing the state's floodplains.

- 1982 AFMA forms as a state organization.
- 1983 AFMA participates in review of Arizona flood control legislation; 3-day Open Channel Hydraulics short course; AFMA recommends changes in LOMA procedures to FEMA, AFMA membership 80.
- 1984 AFMA provides valuable input to FEMA regarding problems with Flood Insurance Rate Maps; AFMA receives an ASFP award, Excellence in Flood Hazard Mitigation; AFMA becomes the first state chapter of ASFP; membership 109.
- 1985 AFMA's Les Bond elected Vice Chair of ASFP; Rainfall-Runoff Modeling workshop hosted by AFMA; AFMA asks the ASFP Mapping and Standards Committee for assistance with standardization of Floodplain Delineations Along Irrigation Canals; Membership 140.
- 1986 Peggy Bowker is elected Associate Director of ASFP and Chairs the Membership Committee; AFMA's Dave Smutzer becomes Chair of ASFP's Arid West Committee.
- 1987 AFMA sends position paper to US Army Corps of Engineers on 404 Regulatory Program; AFMA endorses Rio Salado Project; AFMA hosts a workshop on Managing Debris Flow Hazards; AFMA produces an analysis of Alluvial Fan Flooding; AFMA thanks FEMA Region IX for expanding their floodplain management services in the NTIS Division; AFMA's Terri Miller named Chair of the ASFP Arid West Committee; AFMA cosponsors Arid West Conference in Las Vegas; Membership 200.
- 1988 AFMA Strategic Plan adopted; AFMA membership introduced to the subject of riparian habitat protection; Membership 106.
- 1989 AFMA co-hosts ASFP annual conference in Scottsdale, AZ; AFMA's Jim Morris is the ASFP Conference Director; AFMA sends FEMA comments on rule changes for manufactured homes; AFMA sends FEMA comments on rule changes for alluvial fans; AFMA and FEMA introduce Arizona communities the CRS Program; AFMA Regulatory Committee sends letters to the Army Corps of Engineers addressing frequent concerns from public and private agencies regarding Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; AFMA cosponsors Arid West Conference; Membership 123.
- 1990 AFMA develops a 30 second Public Service Announcement on Flash Flood Hazards in Arizona; AFMA publishes Technical Abstracts on ADOT reports for "Effects of In Stream Mining on Channel Stability", and "Sizing Riprap for the Protection of Approach Embankments and Spur Dikes and Limiting the Depth of Scour at Bridge Piers and Abutments, Vol. II: Design Procedures"; AFMA reviews materials for ADWR State Standards Workgroup; AFMA holds a panel discussion on "Floodplain Disclosure Practices In the Real Estate Industry"; AFMA Spring meeting focuses on the Community Rating System (CRS).



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- 1991** AFMA approves \$2,500 for Flood Safety Driving video production; AFMA hosts a 2-day HEC-I workshop; AFMA hosts a 2-day HEC-II workshop; AFMA conducts CRS workshop; AFMA develops a position paper to Governor's Riparian Task Force; AFMA proposes full disclosure of floodplain status for real estate transactions in Arizona; Membership 155.
- 1992** AFMA participates in State Standards Workgroup, AFMA distributes "Flash Flood Driving Safety" video to AZ high schools; Membership 200.
- 1993** AFMA hosts the Governor's Flood Symposium; AFMA hosts HEC-II workshop; AFMA hosts Two Dimensional Flow Modeling workshop on FLO2D.
- 1994** AFMA submits a position paper on House Bill 2200 to establish a statewide Flood Warning System; AFMA conducts workshop on CRS credit for flood warning.
- 1995** AFMA holds joint meeting with Arizona Association of Civil Engineers; AFMA Tech Session focuses on GIS Applications for Floodplain Managers; Floodplain Management 101 workshop hosted by AFMA; AFMA hosts Sediment Transport workshop; AFMA hosts Governor's Flood Symposium in cooperation with ADWR and ADEM; Membership 221.
- 1996** AFMA's Jan Farmer serves as Program Chair for ASFPM Annual Conference in San Diego; AFMA's Terri Miller elected Vice Chair of ASFPM; AFMA's Bob Davies becomes Chair of ASFPM's Arid West Committee; AFMA hosts two 3-day HEC-RAS short courses; AFMA provides \$3000.00 support for ASFPM Conference.
- 1997** AFMA cosponsors an Arid Regions Conference; AFMA hosts a one-day field trip river rafting on the upper Salt River to observe the high water marks of the 1993 flood, paleoflood evidence and classic geomorphic features; AFMA prepares "Guidelines for Developing Comprehensive Flood Warning," receives ASFPM Tom Lee State Award for Excellence; AFMA sponsors the first Arizona Stormwater Storage Symposium.
- 1998** AFMA's Terri Miller elected Chair of ASFPM; HEC-I training seminar hosted by AFMA; AFMA surveys the membership to ensure AFMA is meeting their needs; AFMA hosts field trip to the Tortolita Alluvial Fan near Tucson; AFMA contributes \$1000.00 to the ASFPM Foundation; AFMA website goes online; AFMA participates in the public education video, "Oak Creek: Gentle Stream to Raging River."
- 1999** AFMA hosts short course on Sediment Transport/ Geomorphology for Floodplain Managers; AFMA cosponsors ASFPM Arid Regions Floodplain Management Conference; AFMA starts work on a web page "Help Line"; AFMA has 6 CFMs; Membership 213.
- 2000** AFMA hosts a 2-day short course on Geomorphology for Floodplain Managers; AFMA offers CFM exams at biannual conferences; AFMA hosts River Management and Restoration conference; AFMA provides \$5,000 support to AZ State Standards Work Group.
- 2001** AFMA hosts two 3-day Watershed Modeling System (WMS) short courses; AFMA hosts a 2-day Hydrology 101 short course; AFMA sponsors a panel discussion on Statewide Emergency Training Exercise; AFMA sponsors a Substantial Improvement/Damage Workshop; Membership 270.
- 2002** AFMA sponsors the ASFPM conference "Breaking the Cycle of Repetitive Loss", in Phoenix; AFMA college scholarship program begins; AFMA's Floodplain Management Library section opens at Gateway College in Phoenix; AFMA hosts 5-day HEC-RAS training; Membership 295.



Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers

The Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) initial organizational meeting was held on July 27, 1989 at the Colorado Water Conservation Board offices in Denver Colorado. Ideas exchanged included promoting public awareness; promoting professional status; legislative activities; hosting workshops; and hosting the 1991 ASFPM Annual Conference. Bylaws were adopted later that year on October 18, and the State of Colorado issued a Certificate of Incorporation a month later on November 21. The initial elected Board of Directors were Dan Bunting, Bill DeGroot, and Bob Kistner. The First Annual CASFM Conference was held May 17-18, 1990 in Vail Colorado.

CASFM is an organization of professionals whose members are involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, stormwater management, the National Flood Insurance Program, and flood preparedness, warning, and recovery. CASFM has grown to be a respected voice in floodplain management practice and policy in Colorado. CASFM represent the interests of flood hazard specialists from local and state government, the research community, the insurance industry, and the fields of engineering, hydrologic forecasting, emergency response, water resources, planning, and others.

CASFM Policy Statements:

1. To promote those plans, projects, legislation and ordinances that reduce the threat to the health and safety of the people of Colorado due to flooding and stormwater, decrease existing flood and stormwater hazards, and mitigate future flood and stormwater damages.
2. To support comprehensive floodplain and stormwater planning by an interdisciplinary team approach that is designed to achieve optimal integration of structural and non-structural flood damage reduction techniques that are realistic, feasible, practical, and sensitive to natural system forces.
3. To promote basin-wide planning for solving flooding and stormwater problems that transect political boundaries and jurisdictions.
4. To promote interstate coordination of flood damage and stormwater abatement projects, programs, and ideas.
5. To disseminate scientifically based information on floods, flood damage reduction and urban and rural stormwater management to the public and decision makers and provide for a greater awareness of risk among existing and prospective floodplain users.
6. To promote the free and open exchange of ideas between the many disciplines and special interest groups that comprise the Association.
7. To objectively review proposals for flood damage reduction and stormwater management and recommend changes to those aspects of the plan which encourage unwise use of floodprone areas which will result in greater future flood losses.
8. To encourage cooperation and coordination among all occupants of floodprone lands so that flood damage reduction techniques will not adversely impact adjacent communities and individuals.



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9. To encourage more detailed mapping and study of floodprone areas including the identification of areas in the floodplain that are significantly more hazardous using specific criteria such as depth of flow, velocity, rise or any combination thereof.
10. To advance the exchange of information, concepts, and approaches for innovative techniques in flood damage reduction and stormwater management through the proper and effective coordination of activities of various agencies, Federal, state and local, involved in flood related studies or work.
11. To provide and promote training and assistance programs to aid local governments in the development of rational, long term flood damage reduction and stormwater management plans and programs.
12. To provide information in terms comprehensible by the general public.
13. To encourage the development of consistent floodplain regulations in regions of the state that have mutual concerns.
14. To encourage applied and basic research directed at understanding flood and stormwater processes and problems in Colorado.

CASFM has grown to a membership of nearly 500 since its formation in 1989. Today, in our efforts to hold to the policy statements above, bi-monthly general meetings are held at different locations, usually in the greater Denver area; workshops and training classes are held several times each year; field trips occur as projects dictate; and an Annual Conference is held each fall.



The Floodplain Management Association

The spark leading to formation of the Floodplain Management Association was an article in the *Golden State Floodlight* newsletter published by the California Department of Water Resources. The article noted the need for a statewide association of floodplain managers in the state and listed the names of a few people who had expressed interest in the idea of such a group. Mr. James Owen telephoned those listed who were from Northern California and asked them to attend a meeting at the Alameda County Public Works Department on September 24, 1990, to explore the possibility of organizing a group representing all aspects of floodplain management. About a dozen people responded to the invitation. The early discussions were productive and a number of follow-up meetings were held at the same location to work out the many details of bringing an association into being. The Constitution of the Association was adopted on October 24, 1990 and the By-laws on November 13, 1990. Initial officers and directors were appointed by consensus of the founding members following adoption of the By-laws.

One of the persistent issues in launching the Association concerned the frequency of meetings. Initially, the Association attempted monthly meetings featuring a technical session and a short business meeting. It was at these meetings that the Association began recording and preparing videotapes of technical presentations for inclusion in a videotape lending library.

The schedule of monthly meetings proved too ambitious and it was decided to limit meetings to an annual conference and additional technical meetings on specific subjects as might be desired. Another activity explored during the first year was the distribution of an Association newsletter. The first two issues were prepared for the Association by the California Department of Water Resources and distributed for the Association by the Department. The Association began its own regular publication of the newsletter with issue number 3 in January 1992.

One of the more difficult problems addressed by the Association's first Board was how the Association could best fulfill its objectives and provide its services in a state as large as California. The attractiveness of dividing the Association into Northern and Southern chapters competed with the concept of one strong statewide organization. Numerous arguments were made on each side and the issue was debated at length.

The Association's inaugural year concluded with the organization's first major conference. The conference was a success in every way, establishing the Association as a credible organization, bringing in new members, and furnishing the revenue to put the Association on a sound financial footing. During this first conference, Association members from Southern California were asked their opinion as to whether separate Northern and Southern chapters should be formed. The unanimous opinion expressed was in favor of a single statewide organization.

With the inauguration of the first elected Board at the conference, it was decided that the Board would meet monthly through a conference call and limit face to face meetings to conferences. The new Board also decided to have two conferences annually, a Fall Conference in Northern California and a Spring Conference in Southern California.

A new service to members, the Publications Distribution Program, was adopted early in 1992. The objective of the program was to provide members copies of the best publications and articles related to floodplain management.



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Other activities early in the 1991-1992 year included the start of planning for an expanded format for the *Directory* and for a set of *Goals and Objectives*. Also, during 1992, the Association began regular publication of a newsletter, the *FMA NEWS*, in odd numbered months. Later in the year, the Board approved a statement of *Goals and Objectives*.

A key change to the By-Laws was also made during 1992, shifting from a procedure of electing one director from each category of membership to a procedure of electing two directors each from the northern and southern regions of the State. For purposes of representation, the dividing line between Northern and Southern California was set as the series of county boundaries beginning between Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties and running eastward to the state's boundary with Nevada.

The Board also recognized during 1992 that a "central office" function was necessary for the efficient operation of the Association and for providing continuity and appointed Mr. James Owen as Executive Director of the Association.

The question of whether the Association should apply to become a chapter of the ASFPM had been debated from time to time since the Association's formation and each successive Board favored keeping the Association independent. At the meeting of the Board on October 13, 1993, the question was again discussed and a decision made to publish "pro" and "con" articles in the newsletter and conduct an opinion poll. The members' response to the opinion poll favored the Association remaining independent and a subsequent vote by the Board of Directors favored continued independence.

At the 1994 Spring conference, a motion from the floor to have a vote of the entire membership on the matter of chapter status passed. Ballots were subsequently distributed and the vote counted at the 1994 Fall Conference. The vote of the membership favored remaining an independent organization by more than 2 to 1.

Major activities in early 1995 included adoption of an Association logo and revision of election procedures in recognition of the Association's growing membership from outside the state of California. Rather than Board directors representing either northern or southern California, members from any geographic area were made eligible to serve with one new director to be elected at each semi-annual meeting.



Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Since the mid 1970's, several agencies had sponsored an annual conference to post everyone in the Chicago area about the progress of various flood control programs. The leaders in this effort were:

- Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago (later renamed the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago)
- Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Water Resources (which became the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources)
- U.S. Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

By the mid 1980's, their watershed plans were completed and their construction programs were well underway. Conference attendance started to drop. They recognized that there needed to be a shift in the conference's focus from structural projects which were now essentially an administrative duty, to non-structural issues, which were concerning more and more people. The conference also expanded to include downstaters.

In the Spring of 1986, Larry Larson, Executive Director of ASFPM, was invited to speak to the conference on, among other things, creation of a state association of floodplain managers. In his talk, he asked the assembly, "Sure you have some great state programs, but do you want to rely on Springfield and Washington to tell you what you need?"

After the conference adjourned, fifty or so attendees met to discuss the idea of a state association. They appointed Lou Sidell, head of planning and zoning for Peoria County, to chair a meeting to iron out the details. The meeting was held on June 27, 1986.

After several more meetings, this group adopted a Constitution and Bylaws and appointed an interim board: They named the association the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management. The name and the make up of the founding committee and the first board show three key characteristics of the Illinois Association:

1. There is a blending of federal, state, local and private members. It is an association of professionals, not people representing special constituencies.
2. Stormwater management is equally as important as floodplain management. As noted by one member, "You don't solve a flood problem by working at the bottom of the hill."
3. While the entire state is represented, the majority of the members are from the Chicago area.

Initially, the emphasis was on activities by the Floodplain Management Committee and the Stormwater Management Committee. Each pursued their own concerns and even hosted separate workshops. However, as time went on this differentiation declined as members realized that they needed to know more about all aspects of the field. There are now eight technical committees including Wetlands, Certification, and Community Rating System.



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These committees held workshops and twilight seminars, drafted position papers, and wrote articles to disseminate technical information. They did the legwork for the Association's many resolutions in support of or opposition to state and federal legislative and regulatory moves. The major issues have been mapping standards, State regulatory programs, State and Federal funding, and statutory authority for local stormwater management programs. While the Association has not always been successful, its members have been active speaking out at meetings, passing resolutions, publishing articles, providing technical assistance to other communities and residents, meeting with legislators, and even testifying before Congress.

Historically, IAFSM was focused in the metropolitan Northeastern Illinois area where 75% of the members lived and worked. This was largely due to the fact that smaller downstate communities lacked the staff and travel budgets to attend the annual conference. In addition, many smaller communities lacked the technical capabilities to keep up with the proactive floodplain management efforts and stormwater management orientation of the Chicago suburbs.

One solution was having two separate annual conferences, one in the Northeast and one downstate, more oriented to floodplain management and the National Flood Insurance Program. Due to the workload this placed on volunteer conference directors, this practice was replaced in 2000 with one annual conference held in Peoria. Since then, the conference site has alternated between a downstate and Chicago location. In 2003, IAFSM will co-sponsor the national conference in St. Louis.

YEAR	Association Landmarks
1986	The Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management founded
1987	IAFSM becomes a chapter of ASFPM
1988	Initiation of quarterly newsletters; First financial contribution to ASFPM – \$1,000 toward the new Floodplain Management Resource Center; First honorary member: Lou Sidell
1989	First twilight seminar – dinner sessions on a specific technical issue
1990	Three IAFSM members testify before three Congressional committees on different floodplain and stormwater management topics
1991	Board contracts for executive secretary to provide office services, a permanent address, continuity, and a phone number to call.
1992	First Association representation on a state-wide committee, the Governor's Water Resources and Land Use Priorities Task Force
1995	Second honorary member: Illinois' native son, Frank Thomas
1996	High school essay contest started to encourage teachers and students to learn more about the dangers and damage of flooding.
1997	IAFSM provides \$12,000 to fully fund three floodproofing open houses following severe flooding in Northeastern Illinois
1999	First national challenge as IAFSM donates \$5,000 to the ASFPM Foundation and another \$5,000 to match other chapters' contributions.
2000	With funding support from the State and FEMA, IAFSM publishes the massive, all-inclusive <i>Floodplain Management Home Study Course</i> ; Illinois Floodplain Manager Certification Program begins
2001	Establishment of real website, www.IllinoisFloods.org ; Second ASFPM Foundation challenge grant of \$5,000



Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

The Louisiana Floodplain Management Association serves as a forum for parish and municipal employees, state and federal officials, and the private sector to meet and share experiences, ideas, and solutions to common flooding problems. As a grassroots effort, we assist and support each other when confronted by flooding. Essentially, we have become an extended family who enjoy and look forward to seeing each other on a regular basis. As such, we are more than another professional organization.

In 1983, representatives from regional planning commissions, parishes, municipalities, state agencies, and the private sector met in Lafayette to discuss the need for an organization focusing on flooding damage reduction issues, the potential for success, and the goals of an association. As a result of this meeting, Lake Charles hosted the first conference of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association in 1984. After voting to formally organize, the participants established a constitution, bylaws, and set of policies. In summary, these policies state that we:

- encourage plans, projects, and legislation for flood damage reduction in Louisiana;
- support comprehensive floodplain management;
- will work for free and open exchange of scientific information to the public and decision makers;
- provide and promote training and assistance to local governments; and
- advocate coordination among all levels of government and existing programs.

Flood damage reduction can best be achieved through floodplain management, that is, a balanced combination of corrective measures and preventive actions. Corrective measures include levees, pumps, dams, channelization, diversions, and detention/retention ponds. Of equal importance, preventive actions encompass flood insurance, voluntary relocation, local codes, emergency preparedness, and mitigation plans. We strive to save the community time and money when confronting a flood while at the same time protecting the health and safety of emergency workers and flood victims.

Membership in the Louisiana Flood Plain Management Association includes representatives from all levels of government, the private sector, and the university community. Full members, any public or private professional or elected official involved in flood management, may vote on Association issues, serve on committees, and receive discounts on Association activities. Student members are full or part-time students with an interest in flood management. Although students cannot vote, they may participate on committees.

The Louisiana Floodplain Management Association undertakes many activities:

- Annual State Conference each Spring in a different community;
- Serve as an interface with the Association Of State Floodplain Managers to whom we pass your ideas and concerns for ultimate presentation to Congress and other states;
- Present workshops where we share Louisiana experiences and information by traveling to you when invited;
- A network for our members to discuss problems, share solutions, or exchange ideas; and



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- Give recognition and attention to our members and community leaders for outstanding or exemplary achievements.

Our strength lies in a diverse membership representing a cross-section of people from and about Louisiana. We, therefore, include all regions in our decisions, operations, and functions. In addition to a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, the Board of Directors seats eight representatives from the planning regions of the state. The Regional Representatives work with the board on the Annual Conference and workshops; volunteer as speakers at local meetings; help develop responses to issues when the board chooses to comment on issues of state or national concern; distribute information to their regional members; and bring ideas from the region to the board.



Association of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi

The state's flood protection community had recognized the need for a professional organization for many years. On August 25, 1999, a letter was circulated among the local Floodplain Administrators that called for an organizational meeting to be held in Jackson on September 22, 1999. On that date, officials from thirty-two (32) jurisdictions formed the Association of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi (AFMM). The association was formed as a potential chapter of the nation-wide group, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM).

The AFMM based its mission statement around both perceived and stated needs of the state's NFIP communities. A few examples of the benefits envisioned by this mandate are listed below.

- To provide a better perception of the state's floodplain management efforts and to develop a more cooperative and harmonious relationship through participation in AFMM activities.
- Expedite the process of gathering and dispersing current and new information intelligently, and efficiently conduct the business of floodplain management on a statewide venue.
- Provide a forum for local Floodplain Administrators who are experiencing similar problems in dealing with floodplain issues, and provide a variety of possible solutions.
- Furnish a vehicle for members to transmit a uniform position on current concerns, rule changes, local programs, and other issues impacting floodplain management.
- Promote fellowship between groups and individuals, who may represent opposing viewpoints, leading to negotiation on issues regarding floodplain management, not deadlock.
- Provide collective input to state legislators interested in or proposing legislation regarding floodplain management issues.
- Furnish a means to address specific flood hazard issues unique to the state.
- Provide a unified leadership role in future floodplain / flood mitigation activities in the state.
- Provide a unified voice on state National Flood Insurance Program issues.
- Promote public awareness of the state's flood hazards.

History and Accomplishments

Education of the local Floodplain Administrator was deemed the first priority by the association and a comprehensive schedule was established and completed within the first fourteen (14) months. In addition to conducting two (2) scheduled membership conferences, two (2) training workshops were also conducted. A 2-day retrofitting workshop was conducted in the city of Jackson, and a "Sister States" workshop was held in Tunica County with officials from the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee attending.

The state instituted its first and second annual "Flood Awareness Week" in 2001 and 2002, under the joint sponsorship of AFMM and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Using this forum, the availability of flood insurance has been promoted to the citizens of the state, as well as proper floodplain management.



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The association's promotion of the Certified Floodplain Manger certification test has resulted in fifteen (15) certified professionals within the state. This number places Mississippi within the top twenty (20) states in regard to certified floodplain administrators.

The association has also developed Flood Damage Assessment Teams to deploy to communities, which have suffered flood damages. The team deployed once in 2001 and again in 2002. The team consists of CFM qualified personnel who assist the local Floodplain Administrator with substantial damage estimation.

Future Projects

The association plans to expand its membership base and visibility through a series of outreach projects and workshops. Partnering with the Community Assistance Visit (CAV) efforts of both FEMA and MEMA during the four (4) Presidential Disaster Declarations in 2001, the AFMM has scheduled training workshops for the impacted communities.

This effort is also being coordinated with the State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Mitigation workshops are being conducted with his office and the staffs of the state's ten (10) Planning and Development Districts to implement the DMA 2000 planning requirements. AFMM is providing instructors for the follow-on floodplain management workshops.

Summary

Since its inception, AFMM has strived to serve the needs of the floodplain management community within the state of Mississippi. Through the continued efforts of its membership, the stated goals of the association will be achieved, and invaluable aid and assistance to the citizens of Mississippi will be accomplished.



Missouri Floodplain Managers Association History and Purpose

On September 17, 1996, a small group of floodplain administrators from the State of Missouri met in Jefferson City to lay the groundwork in forming a statewide association that would work with floodplain management issues. It was decided at the September 17th meeting that a steering committee would work to adopt the association's by-laws and guidelines. This committee met again in December 1996, to finalize the association's by-laws and guidelines for membership. The Missouri Floodplain Managers Association (MFMA) was formed after the December 10, 1996, meeting.

Purpose of the MFMA is to:

Foster a sense of professionalism on the part of its members, make available educational opportunities to sharpen floodplain managers skills, develop public education campaigns and materials to inform the elected officials and the public about efforts and heighten their awareness, and support the need for floodplain regulations. The MFMA will also provide to its members assistance in the performance of their duties and provide a uniform interface with our Federal counterparts.

- The MFMA meets once each quarter.
- The MFMA sponsors one general membership meeting each year.
- The general membership meeting is held every year in the month of May in Jefferson City.
- Today the MFMA membership totals over one hundred and twenty-five (125).
- The MFMA has been instrumental in sponsoring a number of technical floodplain management workshops throughout the State of Missouri.
- The MFMA sponsored training during 2001-2002 on the elevation certificate.
- The MFMA works to support the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has sponsored several basic "NFIP-101" workshops.
- The Missouri Floodplain Managers Association became a chapter of the ASFPM in 2001.
- The MFMA has been a major supporter of the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Managers exam and sponsors the exam in the State of Missouri twice a year.



New England Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Inc.

The New England Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Inc. (NEFSMA) was formed in 1991. We are not a chapter of ASFPM. We have 57 voting members.

NEFSMA has one annual meeting/seminar and multiple topical workshops

NEFSMA held its 10th annual meeting and seminar on November 2, 2001 in Mystic, Connecticut. Over its history, NEFSMA has held numerous smaller workshops around New England, including a workshop on hydrologic methods and an overview of cost-benefit analysis for flood loss reduction projects. Our 1999 annual conference included sponsorship of an NFIP seminar for insurance agents. NEFSMA has sponsored a half-dozen more such seminars since then.

During the 2000 annual meeting, NEFSMA offered the first Certified Floodplain Manager examination in New England. Our region now boasts six CFMs, and hopes to have more after an exam in November 2001.

Early in 2001, NEFSMA sent copies of the ASFPM "National Flood Programs in Review 2000" to the U.S. Senators and Congressmen representing all of the districts in the six New England states.

In 2001, NEFSMA sponsored workshops in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island on the new Elevation Certificate, to standing-room-only audiences of local officials, surveyors and engineers. NEFSMA is a proud co-sponsor of the ASFPM Stream Restoration Workshop, along with the new New York association. This year also marks the group's first sponsorship of a Coastal Construction workshop, to be held in Connecticut in October.

NEFSMA publishes a semiannual newsletter, *NEFSMA News*, and we maintain a website at www.nefsma.org. Contact Michele Steinberg at micheles9@aol.com for more information on the newsletter. NEFSMA has been incorporated as a nonprofit in Massachusetts since 1993, and the Association became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2000.

The NEFSMA Board of Directors includes officers and representatives from each of the six New England states. The terms last through the end of calendar year 2002.

Mission and Goals

NEFSMA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to promotion of sound floodplain and stormwater management practices in New England. Founded in 1991, the organization is modeled after the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). NEFSMA was created for the following purposes:

To promote public awareness of sound floodplain and stormwater management practices and to develop the professional status of, and interaction between, individuals concerned with floodplain and stormwater management.



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- To encourage the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences relative to floodplain and stormwater management, as well as to provide educational opportunities and the dissemination of general and technical information to the public and professionals.
- To inform individuals of pending legislation and other related floodplain and stormwater management matters, as well as studying and supporting legislation pertinent and necessary to the effective implementation of sound floodplain and stormwater management regulations.
- To promote environmentally and economically sound solutions to floodplain and stormwater management problems.

Member Benefits

NEFSMA membership is open to organizations and individuals in the six New England states (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT). Members receive *NEFSMA News* three times per year, discounts on NEFSMA-sponsored programs, as well as partner discounts for programs of the New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association.



New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

Nine-member Board of Directors (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past Chair, four Regional Directors).

Eight Board meetings each year.

Two membership meetings each year.

Two conferences each year.

Newsletter published quarterly.

Operational committees (Conference, Legislative, Membership, Training and Education, Technical).

Certification Board.

Accredited CFM program; 55 CFMs; exam offered at least two times each year.

Executive Director.

Web site: <http://www.nmfma.org/>

2002 membership: 141.

Highlights in the History of the NMFMA

August 1995:	NMFMA incorporated.
April 1996:	First NMFMA conference.
November 1996:	First election of officers.
Spring 1997:	First NMFMA newsletter published.
December 1997:	First committees established.
April 1998:	Board of Directors expands to nine members.
November 1998:	Executive Director appointed.
January 1999:	First NMFMA legislation introduced; failed.
February 1999:	Executive Office established with permanent address and telephone number for NMFMA; web site established.
March 1999:	NMFMA becomes a chapter of ASFPM.
August 1999:	NMFMA sponsors workshops on flood insurance and elevation certificates.
April 2000:	NMFMA CFM program accredited by ASFPM. First NM floodplain managers become CFMs.
September 2000:	First joint conference (NMLZO); 13 resolutions passed to improve floodplain management in NM.
February 2001:	NMFMA cosponsors ASFPM Arid West Conference; second NMFMA legislation introduced.
March 2001:	Legislation adopted requiring NM communities to have CFMs.
April 2002:	Floodplain managers from more than 50% of all NM NFIP communities are NMFMA members.

NMFMA Objectives

1. All NFIP communities in New Mexico should be represented in NMFMA.
2. All NFIP communities in New Mexico should have CFMs.
3. Half of all NFIP communities in New Mexico should be in the Community Rating System.



Summary of 2000 and 2001 NMFMA Resolutions

00-1: All NM communities with identified flood hazards should adopt floodplain regulations **(Seeking in 2003)**

00-2: All communities with floodplain regulations must have floodplain permits reviewed by a CFM **(Passed by Legislature in 2001)**

00-3: DPS¹ should be recognized as the state agency with primary responsibility for floodplain management **(Passed by Legislature in 2001)**

00-4: DPS¹ should have two additional staff **(Seeking in 2003)**

00-5: DPS¹ should have funds appropriated for floodplain map revisions **(Seeking in 2003)**

00-6: DPS¹ should determine need for additional stream gages for floodplain management purposes **(Seeking in 2003)**

00-7: DPS¹ should develop a method for managing unmapped floodplains **(Seeking in 2003)**

00-8: The CFM Board should be named as CFMs **(Done by resolution)**

00-9: CID² and MHD² should follow statutory requirements for floodplain management

00-10: People who live in floodplains should purchase flood insurance

00-11: FEMA should perform CAVs on all NFIP communities by October 1, 2003

00-12: FEMA should reexamine all non-identified communities

00-13: All state funded development in floodplains should comply with statutes **(Seeking in 2003)**

01-1: DPS¹ should recognize NMFMA CFM program

01-2: All communities should have CFMs by 12/31/02

02-1: Community floodplain managers should assist in emergency planning within their communities

02-2: Owners of High and Significant Hazard Dams Should Prepare Emergency Action Plans

¹ The New Mexico Department of Public Safety is the State NFIP Coordinating Agency for New Mexico.

² The Construction Industries Division and the Manufactured Housing Division permit buildings and manufactured housing placement in many New Mexico communities. NMFMA questions their enforcement of local floodplain ordinances.



New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

The New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NYSFSMA) was formed in September, 2000. At our September 2001 annual meeting, we voted to become a chapter of ASFPM. We have not yet filed the paper work with ASFPM, however.

We have 72 voting members representing 202 people. Organizational and professional memberships may include up to ten people.

NYSFSMA has one statewide conference per year. We also have a number of regional symposia or workshops. In 2001, we had three regional symposia, and we sponsored a Coastal Construction workshop in Long Island.

Our goal has not been achieved for quarterly newsletters. More realistically, until we get a regular newsletter team, we should accomplish two newsletters per year.

We are in the early stages and have not yet developed any of our own publications.

We reached a formal agreement with the New England Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association on reciprocal membership benefits. Our association members will be entitled to member rates at each other's events.

In the next year, we'll get our web page off the ground, develop additional newsletters and an internet based discussion forum, receive our tax exempt status, hopefully have additional regional symposia and workshops.



North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers

- North Carolina Association of Floodplain Managers - NCAFPM
- Formed in 1989
- Became a chapter of ASFPM on April 19, 1990
- Incorporated in 1992
- 145 Members (2001)
- We hold one conference per year (usually in the spring)
- Quarterly Newsletter – “Flash Flood News”

Accomplishments:

- Produced Home Study Course for local floodplain management officials titled “Carrying Out Floodplain Management in Your Locality” This was in cooperation with FEMA region IV and NC Division of Emergency Management. Ninety-nine people have completed the course and passed the exam. The course is excellent preparation for the CFM exam.
- Developed North Carolina Certified Floodplain Manager Program in 2000; 40 People are NC CFMs
- Each year several workshops are held in conjunction with NCEM. Topics include CRS, NFIP, Hazard Mitigation, Elevation Certificate, etc
- Sponsor HEC-RAS, HEC-1, HEC-HMS every two or three years in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Hosted the 1990 ASFPM conference in Asheville and the 2001 conference in Charlotte
- Web Site – www.ncafpm.org/



Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) was formed in November 1990. We became a chapter of ASFPM March 14, 1993. We have 224 voting members.

We have two conferences per year, a one-day Spring conference and a Fall conference. The Fall conference is the annual conference. OFMA has co-sponsored a Spring Flood Forum the past two years along with FEMA, the Oklahoma Insurance Department and sponsoring community. This is in addition to the Spring and Fall conferences. We will continue to do this Flood Forum.

We have been trying to publish *The B.F.E.* monthly. In the year 2000, OFMA produced 10 issues.

OFMA produces an annual directory of members. OFMA also obtains a very extensive data base of CFMs, NFIP Communities and floodplain officials and its members. Part of this database is for maintaining records for the required Continuing Education Credits for the CFM program. OFMA compiles a Fall Conference notebook that is a valuable reference tool for floodplain officials. It contains the constitution, bylaws, and most of the power point presentations made at the fall conference. It also contains the awards information and bylaw changes. OFMA has a general membership brochure and a CFM program brochure.

OFMA also has a web site, <http://www.okflood.org>

OFMA lead the charge for HB 1841 in 1999 (the first state flood mitigation program). This amended the Civil Emergency Management Agency enabling legislation, created the 13 member state hazard mitigation team, created a flood mitigation account and set out criteria for mitigation projects.

OFMA co-sponsored HB 1329 this year with the Association of County Commissioners that amended the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act to allow floodplain boards to set administrative fees to offset program costs. Governor Keating signed this into law April 1, 2001.

OFMA lead the charge for HB 1949 this year (2001) to fund the flood mitigation account for \$1M. This bill passed the House 96 to 2 but did not make it out of the Senate committee. It was not put in appropriation bill.

OFMA has held legislative receptions from 1998 through 2001 in the state capitol. The reception in 2000 was a joint reception held with the Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association. Also, the USACE, Tulsa District set up the Corps Riverine Flood Model in the Capitol rotunda on the 4th floor for 3 days around the 2000 OFMA Reception. OFMA has brought floodplain management first hand to our legislative leaders in Oklahoma these past 4 years.

The Oklahoma Flood Forum is an event to brag on as it targets the property and casualty agents in Oklahoma to become more familiar with the flood insurance program. The purpose is to educate Oklahoma's insurance agents to the NFIP so they can sell more flood policies. Insurance Commissioner Carroll Fisher is a big proponent of the flood forum concept and training agents about flood insurance. He says, "How can an agent sell something they know nothing about?"



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The Flood Forum is intended to correct this. This past April the Flood Forum trained over 100 insurance agents as over 140 folks attended the 2001 Flood Forum. OFMA helped pick up the tab for the luncheon for this one-day event.

OFMA has adopted resolutions on a Partnership with the Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association in 1995. The next resolution it adopted pertained to supporting Hazard Mitigation legislation, it also adopted a resolution in 2000, supporting FEMA's Map Modernization Program and this past year OFMA adopted a resolution for supporting predisaster mitigation. <http://www.okflood.org/Pre-Disaster.jpg>

OFMA supports the ASFPM Foundation. OFMA has contributed \$500 two years in a row and now supports it with an annual \$1,000 contribution.

OFMA is doing a joint conference this year with their emergency management brothers and sisters. It will be held in Tulsa in September 2001. Attendance has been planned for over 300.

OFMA is now providing training at annual Municipal League conferences and Association of County Commissioners training. We also partner with the Oklahoma Land Surveyors Association.

OFMA received the prestigious John Ivey Award this year in Charlotte from ASFPM for its CFM program. Oklahoma has 12% of all CFMs and only 2% of the NFIP communities and this program was first nationally accredited program in the nation. OFMA also shares the Tom Lee Award for Excellence in flood hazard management awarded to the State of Oklahoma this year in Charlotte by ASFPM.

OFMA purchased a very professional booth and the Board had training in booth set up for trade shows. This booth is set up at most of the conferences and associations OFMA partners with annually. Many of the association members joined by obtaining information obtained at this booth.

OFMA joined the American Planning Association. OFMA offers an annual \$500 Scholarship Award. OFMA has a Strategic Plan, which is visited and updated annually. OFMA has monthly Board meetings usually the third Thursday of each month and are posted on the OFMA web under calendar of events.



Texas Floodplain Management Association

TFMA helped facilitate and cosponsor a statewide symposium on the aftermath of the October 1998 floods. The symposium: "Aftermath: Addressing the South Central Texas Floods of October 1998" was held in April 1999.

TFMA helped facilitate the NFIP "National Flood Conference" on May 7-10, 2000 in Austin, Texas. TFMA also had an exhibit booth.

TFMA cosponsored the ASFPM 24th Annual Conference in Austin, Texas on June 18-23, 2000. TFMA also donated \$1000 to ASFPM to support the conference.

TFMA cosponsored a regional conference on the aftermath of the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison entitled "A Watershed Event" on 2001. TFMA also donated \$500 to cover some of the conference expenses.

TFMA supported passage of state legislation in 1999 and 2001. HB 1018 (1999) made it mandatory for all Texas communities to participate in the NFIP. TFMA continues to work with non-participating communities to provide them with information and sample floodplain ordinances and court orders. SB396 (2001) gave all Texas cities and counties the authority to go beyond FEMA's minimum floodplain management criteria and provides for the adoption of more stringent development requirements. It also provides for an enforcement and penalty clause, and allows for the charging of appropriate fees.

TFMA gave testimony to the State Blue Ribbon Committee, which was established by legislation in response to the extensive flooding of October 1998. The Committee was charged with studying how the state and federal agencies deliver disaster assistance and how state floodplain management could be improved in Texas. Recommendations contained in the final report did support and facilitate the sweeping floodplain management legislation provisions of SB-936 mentioned above.

The Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee has undertaken an effort to study and evaluate the state's ability to respond to natural disasters and will focus on how to improve coastal and floodplain management. TFMA will continue to provide input and support to this effort. A final report will go to the Legislature in 2003, hopefully along with additional legislation.

TFMA was the first state association to develop a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) program for its members. Developed in 1996, TFMA's CFM program required applicants to pass a Texas CFM exam and document education, training, employment and 2-years of experience. In 2000, TFMA officially applied to ASFPM for recognition as a State Approved National CFM program. At that time, TFMA officially adopted the Texas National Exam and now offers a nationally accredited CFM program. TFMA now has more CFM's than any other state.

The TFMA Executive Director has served a number of years as Chapter Director and as Region VI Director on the ASFPM Board of Directors. Our current Chair serves as Region VI Director and our past Chair, John Ivey, serves as Chair of the ASFPM Professional Development Committee. John and his committee were instrumental in the development of the ASFPM CFM Program, and in 2000, John was awarded special recognition for his CFM contributions. The



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John Ivey Award is now given annually to persons or organizations who exhibit the same kind of commitment and dedication to the training and professional development of the nation's floodplain managers.

TFMA has continued to build and develop partnerships with federal, state and local agencies as well as other professional organizations and associations. Utilizing these partnerships, TFMA has been able to build great diversity and experience into our membership and expand the number of training opportunities for local floodplain managers.

- Promote and participate in Annual State Emergency Management Conference.
- Facilitate several State FPM-101 Courses per year with State NFIP Coordinating Agency (TNRCC).
- Facilitate and co-host at least three per year of FEMA's 4 ½-day floodplain administrator training course – "Managing Floodplain Development Through The NFIP". The TFMA Texas National Exam is offered after each of the courses.
- Cosponsor with Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFC) and Texas Leadership Institute to facilitate several special training courses for floodplain managers.
- Cosponsor with NFIP/CSC Region VI to facilitate a number of Insurance Agent and Lender Workshops and seminars across the state.
- Promote and participate in a number of National Weather Service SkyWarn Storm Spotter Classes.

TFMA supports the ASFPM foundation. TFMA has contributed \$500 to the foundation and this year, the Board will consider a proposal to make an annual contribution to the ASFPM Foundation.

TFMA supports professional development of the state's floodplain managers and promotes the profession of floodplain management. TFMA offers discounted membership fees and conference fees to students pursuing a career in floodplain management or emergency management. TFMA also offers limited scholarships to local floodplain managers to help defray the costs of attending TFMA conferences and training sessions.

TFMA recognizes the importance of building a very diverse association membership with a wide range of experience and expertise. TFMA has reached out to the Private Sector, especially the engineering community and the flood zone determination companies, in an effort to bring the "floodplain management fringe professionals" into our organization.

TFMA offers a Mutual Aid Training Force and a Mutual Aid Disaster Recovery Force. Qualified TFMA members have volunteered to help other communities with hands-on training and providing flood program guidance until the local floodplain manager can attend a formal training class. Other TFMA members volunteer their time and expertise to assist cities and counties in the aftermath of devastating floods. Most of the assistance provided involved permitting the rebuilding or repair of damaged structures and in determining substantial damage.



Virginia Floodplain Management Association

The Virginia Floodplain Management Association (VFMA) was established in October 1994 to serve the floodplain management community. The purpose of the Association is to provide local and state officials along with private-sector professionals involved in various elements of floodplain management with training, information, and discussion forums that will enable them to perform their assigned responsibilities more effectively. The Association promotes sound management of the Commonwealth's floodplains in order to provide for protection of its citizens, public and private property, and its environment from the hazards associated with floodplains. VFMA also recognizes the Commonwealth's floodplains as a natural resource for its citizens to utilize while minimizing any adverse impacts to the natural environment that its use may incur. VFMA seeks to be representative of the diverse political and natural environmental characteristics of its various regions by incorporating in its Board of Directors a directorship from each of the four primary regions of the Commonwealth, the Northern, Coastal, Piedmont, and Southwest regions.

In October 1994, VFMA held their first conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. Similar annual gatherings have been held since then as part of the annual Virginia Lakes and Watersheds Conference. VFMA has sponsored several other regional workshops and symposiums (which have been well attended by 40 or more individuals on each occasion) including the following:

- June 1997 – Floodplain Management Symposium
- October 1998 – Stream Restoration, from Concept through Completion
- June 1999 – Floodplain Management Symposium
- Workshops – 1998 (1), 1999 (3), 2000 (2)

VFMA publishes a newsletter, *Floodplain Currents*, two to four times annually. It is distributed to its membership and free of charge to every municipal government in the state participating the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).



Wisconsin Association of Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Managers

A Letter from our Chair (From *Water Matters*, dated February 2002)

Greetings, My name is David Fowler and I am the interim chairperson for the Wisconsin Association of Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Managers, or WAFSCM for short. Our mission statement is "*Dedicated to promoting sound floodplain, stormwater, and coastal management in the interest of the citizens of Wisconsin.*" The organization was formed just a few months ago by a group of concerned individuals and professionals who felt that the time was right for the state of Wisconsin to have a local organization that deals with issues involving floodplains, stormwater and coastal management.

These three issues may seem unrelated at first glance, but all three involve water issues that usually result from too much of something in the wrong place, or not enough of something in the right place. This is an oversimplification of the issues surrounding these management areas, but I hope it lends understanding to why the organizing committee included all three areas in the name and mission of the organization. The more, the merrier!

If this organization is one that you feel is worthy of support, we welcome your involvement and help. We are in the process of getting organized and could use any help that you might feel inclined to provide. If you are interested, please contact David Fowler by phone at (414) 277-6368 or E-mail dfowler@mmsd.com. At this time we are planning our first annual conference to be held in November 2002. Look for more information on this upcoming event in future newsletters or in the mail.

It is our hope to bring to you the same level of effort and commitment provided by the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). Please let me know how we can be most useful to you!