



# IAFSM NEWSLETTER

Illinois Association for  
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2008

## What if We Relaxed the Regs?

*-Bruce Maki, Jon Steffen, and Lillian Prince,  
Engineering Resource Associates, Inc.*

Around the 1940s, commercial and residential development began its influence on the growth of infrastructure in Illinois. In the 1980s, state stormwater management regulations came to the forefront during relatively good economic times. Since then, local and county stormwater ordinances have evolved to include protecting new developments from flooding, abating potential damages to offsite properties, and reducing negative impacts to water quality. Over the years, development has been strong while the stormwater regulations have been helpful in preventing flooding, as well as providing a level of security for property owners and community officials. However, these days there is severe competition for budget and the regulations are under examination to determine if they need to be scaled back to encourage local economic growth.



*A stormwater management facility in a development built to comply with stormwater and floodplain regulations*

Stormwater management regulations are written for the benefit of preventing increases in flood, environmental, and emotional damage due to land development. However, these benefits are not immediately realized with the construction of a stormwater management facility for a given development. In fact, the benefits may never be perceived, since an effective stormwater regulation program will prevent future flood damages. Protected development will not flood and thus contributes to the notion that flooding is just a concept and not a reality. Subsequently, there is a public perception that regulations are not needed. The lack of perceived benefit results in the developer entity (who is asked to shoulder the stormwater management costs) often questioning whether the costs are necessary, fair, or can be deferred or transferred to another entity.

Such questions are answered through the process by which regulations are promulgated. Partly due to unregulated development and consequential major flooding events in northeastern Illinois in 1986 and 1987, state legislation was enacted to allow counties in northeastern Illinois to develop countywide regulations. Since then, stormwater management regulations have developed and continue to evolve by drawing upon sound

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science and engineering; model ordinances and guidance developed by Federal, State, and other public agencies; legal precedence; local knowledge and experience; and public involvement through the political process.

Still, it is right to question the cost to comply and who bears the cost, as historically the regulations have proliferated due to Federal and State mandates. It is a fact that stormwater management is expensive. Public officials may start wondering if it is cost effective to comply with the regulations as written, as opposed to the alternatives of later mitigating or doing nothing and incurring repeated losses. As Aldous Huxley wrote, "Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." One stormwater management fact that cannot be ignored is that any development affecting stormwater runoff is associated with real costs that society must bear - either through compliance with the regulation, or through mitigation of the resultant flood damages, or a combination of both.

### **Cost to Comply with Stormwater Management Regulations**

In the majority of instances, government regulation of any type can be associated with cost. Stormwater management is no exception. As can be expected, those who must shoulder compliance costs may object to tightening regulations. A developer who bears the direct costs of stormwater regulation compliance may have to pay for permitting fees, designing, constructing and maintaining stormwater facilities, and usually must dedicate a portion of the land being improved for the location of stormwater management facilities. The developer may also lose the ability to fully develop land associated with a severe flood hazard. Some costs, such as time spent to comply and a reduction in tax base, are not easy to quantify. These compliance costs also affect public improvements such as roadways, schools, and parks. As a result, development costs increase due to regulatory stringencies, and the current times of economic hardship are bringing the regulations into negotiation.

Areas with high land value and strong development pressure are particularly sensitive to regulation. DuPage County, which is located approximately 30 miles west of Chicago and underwent rapid development between 1950 and 1990, has looked at compliance costs for development. As part of the implementation of a countywide stormwater ordinance to prevent future damages due to development, the County developed a per acre cost to provide detention, dependent on the location within the County.

The cost to comply with stormwater detention requirements is in the range of \$81,000 to \$133,000 per acre-foot of detention and includes design, construction, maintenance, and land costs. Accordingly, in counties that have lower land value, the range of stormwater management compliance costs would be lower.



*The cost to comply with regulations and build stormwater facilities is far less than damage or mitigation costs.*

### **Cost of Flood Mitigation**

Mitigation is a post-development flood-disaster reduction strategy. Mitigation strives to manage the effects of flooding, instead of preventing it in the first place. It has the intent to reduce risk to human life and properties and can be assessed pre- or post-disaster. Disaster recovery assistance is provided through several state and federally administered programs which are funded by your tax dollars. These programs are important, of course, to help to rebuild lives and communities that have been impacted by a major disaster, and to reduce the impact of probable future disasters through mitigation.

The question here is: what is the cost of procrastinating stormwater management? Reducing the cost of compliance by not implementing stormwater management or relaxing the regulations to encourage the local economy is asking for disaster to happen. This would result in retroactive management of inevitable flooding, and then blaming disaster for the cost incurred. Over the past 20 years, county governments in northeastern Illinois have been authorized to spend millions of tax dollars to resolve regional flooding that resulted from previous lack of comprehensive stormwater management. Local municipalities have spent \$100,000s annually

to mitigate and to maintain local drainage remediation projects. The costs of protection rise as more people and property are protected. On top of the good efforts to fix the problems, there are lasting annual maintenance costs compounded with inflation.

While it is true that mitigation is more expensive than regulatory compliance, in the long run it is less expensive than doing nothing and incurring repeated damages. Mitigation to reduce repeat losses is encouraged, but developing in compliance with regulations to minimize flooding in the first place is preferred. Meanwhile, we learn from our mistakes of developing unsafely and strive to protect future development from such potential damages.

### Cost of Flood Damages

Once flooding happens, not only do you need a plan for future mitigation, but you must first recover from the damages. In DuPage County, some of the costs to mitigate flood damages for the lack of stormwater regulations have been quantified, using the Lower Salt Creek Watershed as an example (a watershed found in eastern DuPage and western Cook Counties). The watershed was largely urbanized before comprehensive stormwater management regulations were in force, resulting in substantial catastrophic flooding from a storm event that occurred in 1987. That flood alone had estimated flood damages of over \$150 million (1987 dollars) to residents, businesses and public utilities in DuPage County. Assuming a “do nothing” option and incurring repeated losses would mean another \$150 million every flooding event in this case. Instead, countywide capital improvements have been instituted since 1990 to protect against a similar flood event at a cost of approximately \$120 million. In addition, an annual maintenance cost of approximately \$300,000 has been required for these projects.

### Conclusions

As we’ve stepped through the various costs involved, from the up-front prevention to the back-end mitigation of damaging impacts, the logic is clear that the cost to comply is less than the cost to mitigate. Not only does it cost less in the long run, but it would be government negligence to reduce regulations, compromise stormwater engineering and floodplain management expertise, and test your community’s flooding fate. When damages do occur it’s wise to mitigate to reduce potential for future damages, but meeting regulations is the best approach to prevent/reduce damages in the first place. Some have been pushing to relax the regulations, but it is crucial to maintain diligence in a poor economy. Flooding will worsen if regulations are not enforced, resulting in costly flood mitigation in future years.

With the benefit of hindsight, the regulations have been written. With regulations in place and safely built development, the need for mitigation measures such as large capital improvements for flood control may be phased out over time, saving millions of tax dollars as well as private citizen dollars. Regulations now will reduce costs in the future and over time will mitigate the past damages. There is a cost to comply, but the benefit of compliance far exceeds the initial cost. Regulation ultimately saves taxpayers and private property owners money in the long run, as the cost to comply is far exceeded by the cost to recover from flood damages. Flooding is unpleasant. Responsible government should be up-front with handling stormwater issues and enforcing regulations to avoid flooding, prevent the need for costly mitigation, and develop safely, as it is the much less expensive alternative.



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## Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan: Bigger Levees Prove Hard To Justify

During the flooding of 2008, levees once again filled the headlines. Over 25 levees along the Upper Mississippi River failed. Here in Illinois, levee failures in Lawrence County, Keithsburg, and Gulfport caused widespread damage. These areas have not yet recovered.

Timing is everything. Earlier this year, the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan (UMRCP) was released. This study was authorized in 1999 and led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The study evaluated a range of alternatives for mitigating flood risk along the Upper Mississippi River floodplain. The study concluded that existing flood risk management systems currently prevent 95-97% of the potential average annual flood damages on the river system.

However, the Flood of 1993 and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita clearly showed that even low residual risk may not meet the Nation's expectations with regard to public health and safety. The study revealed that if a levee or floodwall was overtopped, a catastrophic loss could result. Just as the study was released, the Mississippi River herself, almost by design, broke several levees and revealed the same conclusion. Levees can and do fail. Catastrophic losses result.

Levee construction alternatives occupy a major part of the UMRCP. One major finding of the plan was that **none** of the levee alternatives on the Upper Mississippi were shown to be cost beneficial.

For the eight alternatives evaluated, benefit-to-cost ratios (BCR) were below 0.1 for each of the levee alternatives. Critics of the plan point out that the plan ignored most non-structural solutions in favor of massive levee construction, despite a BCR of 0.05. For every federal dollar spent on levee construction, the public can expect 5 cents of benefit. (Projects typically require a benefit-to-cost ratio greater than 1.0 prior to construction approval).

Despite these findings, the plan has recently been formally endorsed by the Mississippi River Commission and the Governor of Illinois. Floodplain management experts are confused why the Governor of Illinois has endorsed an option almost entirely focused on big and expensive levees. In this state, non-structural mitigation projects have shown a benefit of \$4 for every dollar spent, for a BCR of 4.0. After the 2008 flood, the benefits of mitigation were obvious. Towns with failed levees suffered massive losses, whereas towns that implemented mitigation through non-structural measures after the 1993 flood suffered little or no damage in 2008.

IAFSM wrote a letter to the Governor of Illinois expressing our concern with the Governor's endorsement of a plan that focused on levees rather than recognizing the proven successes Illinois has shown using a more holistic floodplain management plan (using both structural and non-structural floodplain management solutions).



*The Mississippi River rages after overtopping a levee near Meyer, Illinois in June 2008. Photo by EPA/Steve Pope.*

## Flooded Communities Clean Up and Plan for the Future

-Meghan Stromberg, Planning, August/September 2008

By early July, a few rivers in the Midwest were still rising, but the worst of the previous month's flooding looked like it had past. Now, communities are cleaning up from the record-breaking floods and trying to move on. In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where more than 1,200 downtown city blocks were under water, city officials are on their second round of inspections of flooded structures. There, a green tag means a building is safe, yellow means "enter at your own risk," red indicates serious damage, and purple tags warn that a building should be demolished.

"We're finding that more of them are changing from red to purple," Christine Butterfield, the city's community development director, said at a July 1 press conference.

Chad Sands, AICP, lives in Cedar Rapids, and neither his house nor office suffered damage. But as a senior planner with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments – the regional agency that handles planning for small towns and rural communities in a three-county area – he has seen plenty of flooding in the last few weeks. Palo, Iowa (pop. 893), "got the worst of it," he says. "Ninety-plus percent of the town was completely under water."

In many towns, the immediate concern was protecting the water supply. "In the long term, for Vinton and Anamosa (pops. 5,214 and 5,653, respectively), with sewer plants located at the lowest part of town, we'll need to come up with a better way to keep floodwater out of there," Sands says.

In the short term, communities are cleaning up and beginning the application process for funding. There are concerns that the needs of bigger cities will overshadow smaller communities. "We all know that's what's going to happen – a big chunk is going to Cedar Rapids," says Brian Tapp, executive director of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission. But, adds Tapp, "in 1993 we got great support from FEMA. They know it's a vital area." Part of that vitality is due to the recent expansion of a biofuel plant, he says. With thousands of acres of farmland under water, the health of the regional economy in the near future is a big question mark.

### Good news

With bad news flowing freely down the rivers of the Midwest, it's hard to imagine any good news. But, says Paul Osman, manager of statewide flood programs at the Illinois Office of Water Resources, "communities that have good planning, have done open space preservation, and have good floodplain management are going through the flood without a whole lot of concerns."

"The communities that area really having flood problems are those that haven't recognized the floodplain or planned appropriately – or the ones behind the levees that have had a whole-hearted belief in their levees," he says.

One success story is Grafton, Illinois (pop. 609 in 2000). Following flooding in 1993, 113 houses were bought out, decrepit buildings along the riverfront were demolished, and much of the



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floodplain became open space. City administrative manager Carol Wallace says that just 16 buildings were damaged in this latest round.

Another is Rock Island County, Illinois (pop. 147,545), which in June suffered its third major flood in nine months. "We've got yards and roads that have been under water for four months straight," says Ray Nees, the county's director of zoning and building, referring to flooding caused by an ice jam on the Rock River in March.

But the county has been elevating and buying out houses for 15 years, he says, "and in areas where we've done the work, there's virtually no damage."

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## No Adverse Impact – in your face!

### Alleged punch on river leads to felony charges

*-Jillian Duchnowski, Northwest Herald, July 24, 2008*

A 46-year-old Johnsbury area man will appear in court next week after allegedly punching a neighbor who photographed him filling in a flood plain.

Joseph J. Tyrcha, of 4512 N. Riverdale Drive, allegedly was bringing in truckloads of dirt to fill in a flood plain along the Fox River near Pistakee Lake when he saw a neighbor photographing him from a boat on June 28, Sgt. Michael Cisner said.

"He went out there on his Jet Ski and punched him," Cisner said. He also took the 62-year-old man's cellular phone, apparently not realizing that he had been using a digital camera.

Tyrcha was charged with robbery and aggravated battery and posted 10 percent of his \$50,000 bond after turning himself in to McHenry County Jail Monday. If convicted of the most serious charge, a Class 2 felony, Tyrcha could be sentenced to between three and seven years in prison.


The county's Planning and Development Department is investigating issues related to the flood plain, Detective Robb Tadelman said.

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## It's Our River Day

On Saturday September 20, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn's office sponsored It's Our River Day, a celebration of Illinois Rivers through education, recreation and conservation. The event is held annually on the third Saturday of September to boost awareness of rivers by offering hands-on conservation activities as well as lively recreational opportunities.


Celebrations were held state-wide featuring dozens of activities and events to promote recreation, conservation and education about Illinois Rivers. For more information on this event, or to view other Clean Water Initiatives sponsored or supported by the Lt. Governor's office, visit <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/index.php>



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## New Levee Outreach Toolkit

Levees are built to provide a specific level of flood protection. However, recent events have shown how storms can bring floodwaters that exceed that level, causing levees to overtop or fail. The flood losses that occur due to a levee failure can be devastating and have even a greater impact on home and business owners who do not carry flood insurance. It is important for residents living and working near levees to know about their flood risk and their insurance choices.


The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FloodSmart have recently created a new *Levee Outreach Toolkit* that contains materials developed specifically for outreach in communities with levees. The materials in this toolkit provide various audiences, including floodplain managers, with templated, flexible materials to adapt and use in addressing flood risks behind levees and the flood insurance implications of levee status changes, as well as flood risk zones and Special Flood Hazard Areas that are being remapped or revised.

### Communication Tips for a Successful Process

The following tips will help ensure that the overall approach to conducting community outreach is on target. Keep these tips in mind to make communications around levee and map changes in your area a smooth - and successful - process.

- **Start early.** Getting started on outreach efforts as early as possible will allow you to identify and address key issues and obstacles and secure the broad-based support needed prior to the rollout of new maps.
- **The media will tell the tale - engage them.** Local and regional media outlets have an interest in this issue and will want to know how map and levee changes affect the average citizen. Providing the press with access to good information in advance of the release of new maps will help ensure that they have a solid understanding of the process.
- **Reach out to representatives from affected industries.** Representatives of the insurance, realty and lending industries will all be affected by the changes that new maps bring. Keeping them updated about developments in the map change and levee review process, getting their feedback on outreach materials and using them to disseminate information to their colleagues are key to a successful communications effort.
- **Residents and business owners need clear messages about flood risks - as well as cost-saving options for protection.** Providing the public with messages and materials that stress both risks and available cost-saving flood insurance options can make the need or requirement for flood insurance more palatable.
- **Make sure you communicate often with all audiences.** Open, transparent and repeated communication goes a long way to building consensus and garnering buy-in in your community. Holding open houses or town hall meetings gives residents and business owners an opportunity to raise issues and concerns in a friendly, educational setting.
- **Get key decision makers on board.** Local elected officials and county board members will ultimately be responsible for adopting ordinances that make new flood maps official and effective throughout the area. If the area around the levees is going through a map change, make sure key officials clearly understand the map change process, insurance implications and overall project benefits.

Please email us at [info@femafloodsmart.com](mailto:info@femafloodsmart.com) to request a copy of the Levee Outreach Toolkit. Please continue to visit [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov) and [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov) for information about map changes, levee status changes and flood insurance.



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## From the Chair

- E. Stuart Richter, CFM, Chair, IAFSM

Have a seat here by the fireplace and we can chat a bit. The fire feels nice since it is FREEZING around her again. It has been quite a year so far with the Spring flooding in Southern Illinois followed by the flooding on the Mississippi River. Did it flood near you? Did it do any damage? Better not have or Oz will kick your ... never mind. This has kept some of us very busy and it is time to take a moment and rest. So just relax.

At the September 10, 2008 meeting of the IAFSM Board, I sat in awe as we went through the agenda and I listened to our Committee Chairs discuss the work of their committees. I could remember all the meetings, during my service to the Board as Secretary and Vice Chair, where there were no reports from committees. At one point in time, a former Chair of this Board was working on a plan to eliminate some of the committees that, at the time, seemed questionable in their value to the organization. At the time, it seemed a good idea.

I realize that chairing a committee sounds like a great idea until you get into the job. It was my feeling that the greatest failures came from people trying to be a "one-person" committee. I am certain that when the organization was founded and the committees were established, that wasn't our founding fathers'/mothers' intent. After our Vice-Chair's call for members to become active with the various committees, at the March conference our membership stood up and is participating. That pleases myself and the Board to no end.

Our Board has done a great job for IAFSM over the years, and are now hitting on all cylinders. Now we are getting ready for the 2009 conference in Champaign. It is a new location and a brand new hotel. Our Vice Chair, Jeff Wickenkamp, has done a wonderful job again of preparing for this conference. He has come up with a number of ideas over the past year and a half for making the conference better. This year the newly formed Local Officials Training Work Group is going to work with Jeff to put together a track for local officials with an eye toward taking it on the road at a later date. Very innovative and I know that they can accomplish it.

We still need work on drawing together our organization and the Illinois Chapters of APA and ASLA. Our Inter-Organizational Chair, Rebecca Bicksler, has been working on this and it isn't the easiest job to tackle. Here is an opportunity for members who have ties to either of these groups to join Rebecca's committee and give her a hand in this effort. I would like to see more educational opportunities for these groups with regard to floodplains and their regulation.

I will cut this dissertation short and once again exhort the membership to get active. It at least keeps you warmer. I will sit down again with you by the fireplace for another chat in January. Until then, brrrrrrrr.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.



*Attendees at IAFSM's Stormwater Committee's workshop on Sustainability and Stormwater Master Planning and Design*

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## McHenry County Proudly Hosts CRS Workshop

-John Lentz, IDNR

McHenry County proudly hosted a Community Rating System (CRS) workshop on September 29, 2008. Ten attendees representing 11 communities were informed of the Benefits of the program to the local community and their residents. In addition, an explanation of the CRS Quick Application and the Technical Assistance available to communities was provided by Scott Cofoid, Insurance Services Office(ISO)/CRS Specialist.

***The Case Study: Lake in the Hills CRS Program*** presented Fred Mullard, Public Works Director for Village of Lake in the Hills (a Class 7 CRS Community) was of particular interest to all in attendance. Lake in the Hills is the first community in McHenry County to participate in the CRS program. Fred provided three reasons to participate in the Community Rating System Program. First, participation leads to community pride as a community acknowledges increased benefits of flood awareness and safety. Furthermore, the community is awarded a plaque in recognition of its efforts in exceeding the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Second, residents receive cost savings by being a CRS community. Specific details on the dollar amounts of savings (because insurance premiums are reduced in CRS communities) were shared with all the attendees. Third, the simplicity of the application process was shared with the other communities. State laws almost get all communities to a Class 9. McHenry County communities can easily reach a Class 8, if not Class 7, by adding the points available for adopting the County's Stormwater Management Ordinance. The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) make the process painless and the preliminary visit with ISO took less than a day.



*Fred Mullard describes three great reasons to participate in the CRS Program.*

As always, we encourage any community with flood insurance policy holders to attend future seminars and to learn more about CRS. Participation in CRS is voluntary and will make your community more flood safe.

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### Illinois CRS Update: 7<sup>th</sup> in Nation!

Currently, Illinois ranks 7th in the nation with total number of communities participating in the Community Rating System Program. Only Florida, North Carolina, California, Colorado, New Jersey and Texas have more participating communities; Illinois is tied with Louisiana (as of 10/1/08).

From 2000 through October 1, Illinois added 13 communities eligible to participate in CRS. Only three states added more participating communities in that timeframe: Florida added 20, California added 19 and Oregon added 18. Communities recently interested in joining the CRS Program include Glen Ellyn, Rockford, Kane County, Frankfort, Champaign, Port Barrington, Franklin Park, Gurnee, Marengo and Woodstock.

For questions or details on completing a CRS application and scheduling a Community Assistance Visit (CAV), contact Scott Cofoid at 815-220-1002 or scofoid@iso.com.



*Attendees at the CRS Workshop in McHenry County learn about the application process.*

## Development Sustainability Workshop

-Bob Murdock, Baker Engineering, Inc.

On September 23, IAFSM's Stormwater Committee held a one-day workshop on "Development Sustainability and Stormwater Master Planning/Design" in Bloomington, IL. The workshop focused on the benefits and steps to carrying out stormwater master planning both in highly urbanized areas as well as developing or rural communities. Watershed-based approaches were presented wherein the needs of the entire watershed can be considered by communities developing plans for their own jurisdictions. Trends in stormwater management regulations and best management practices (BMPs) were presented through presentations from several speakers from Illinois communities and a representative of the Wisconsin DNR. Financing of stormwater actions through stormwater utilities was also covered. The event was attended by 107 participants and received good reviews. Just as importantly, the participants expressed their desires for future workshops covering stormwater topics, with a particular interest in practical design courses for BMP design and maintenance.



*Workshop participants put their brains to work and developed low impact development designs for a development in a hands-on exercise.*

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## Requests for Qualifications and Proposals on IAFSM Website

IAFSM is pleased to announce the addition of a Request For Qualifications/Proposals section to the IAFSM web site (<http://www.illinoisfloods.org/>).

This section of the IAFSM web site is intended to provide an avenue for agencies and local governments to post requests for consultant qualifications and requests for consultant proposals related to floodplain and stormwater management, and for member firms to be made aware of such requests. Qualifications/Proposals is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a qualifications/proposal request, send complete information to [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net). The information should include a complete proposal/qualifications request and contact information (e.g., contact person, phone/fax numbers, URL).

All Request For Qualifications/Proposals will be posted to the web site for 2 months unless otherwise requested.

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## Save the Date! 2009 IAFSM Annual Conference

The 2009 conference will be held on March 11-12, 2009 at the brand new I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois. The call for speakers for our 2009 annual conference is now available on the IAFSM website. Abstracts are due by October 31. A full conference brochure will be distributed in January 2009.

Lodging at the I-Hotel will be available at the special conference rate of \$119. Space is limited, to reserve your room go to [www.StayAtTheI.com](http://www.StayAtTheI.com) and click on the orange "Attendee Code" then enter the group code AILA. Reservations must be received on or before February 10, 2009. The hotel requires payment for the first night's stay at the time of reservation. Additional hotel recommendations will be available in the near future.

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## **CEC and Training Opportunities**

### **ASFPM National Floodproofing Conference IV**

ASFPM along with co-sponsors U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters & National Non-Structural Flood Proofing Committee and DHS - Federal Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Directorate invite you to participate in the National Floodproofing Conference IV, November 16-20, 2008 at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans. We will highlight the various floodproofing methods, products, techniques, programs, funding sources, and issues that have developed since the first three triennial Floodproofing Conferences in 1999, 2002, and 2005. Elevation, wet floodproofing, dry floodproofing, buyout, acquisition, relocation, and the policies surrounding these issues will be discussed in detail. Please visit [www.floods.org/NFPC4](http://www.floods.org/NFPC4) to download the Conference Brochure, including agenda, as well as the Registration Form. The early registration discount deadline is October 17, 2008!

### **Introductory FEQ Short Course**

IAFSM will be sponsoring an Introduction to FEQ Short Course on November 18 – 21, 2008 in Rosemont, Illinois. The FEQ hydraulic model is a computer program accepted by FEMA for NFIP usage and is the regulatory model of choice for floodplain modeling in DuPage County. This 4-day class will discuss the concepts and theory behind the model and present examples of practical applications. Professional Development Hours certificates will be provided (about 30 PDH). A separate course announcement will be sent to all IAFSM members, so watch your inboxes! For more information or to express interest, please notify Erik Gil at 847/823-0500 or [egil@cbbel.com](mailto:egil@cbbel.com).

### **APA and ASLA Annual Conference**

The Illinois chapters of the American Planning Association and American Society of Landscape Architects will be hosting their annual Illinois State Conference in Champaign-Urbana, October 29-31. On Thursday, October 30, Sally McConkey and Terry Reuss Fell will be speaking about levees in Illinois. Visit [www.ilapa.org](http://www.ilapa.org) to register.

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## **Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam Hosting**

IAFSM has scheduled CFM exams on a quarterly basis at various locations throughout the state. Organizations that wish to host an additional Certified Floodplain Manager's Exam at their own location may schedule their own exam. Basic requirements for hosting the exam are as follows:

- 1) At least one CFM must be on site to serve as the Proctor for the exam
- 2) Testing location must have acceptable space for individuals to take the exam.
- 3) Exam must be proctored in accordance with IAFSM and ASFPM rules.

Larger groups may require more than one CFM Proctor in order to properly manage the exam process. Organizations and/or Individuals interested in hosting a CFM Exam may do so by contacting Anita Larson at the Association of State Floodplain Manager's Office at (608) 274-0123 or at [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org). The ASFPM will organize and coordinate the CFM exam, however, IAFSM asks that those hosting CFM exams contact Matt Wahl, IAFSM CFM Committee Chair, at [mwahl@co.peoria.il.us](mailto:mwahl@co.peoria.il.us) or 309-672-6915 x4618 as a courtesy. If the organization/individual hosting the exam has capacity for additional applicants, IAFSM will add the exam to the quarterly schedule and notify members on the IAFSM website and newsletter.



## 2008 – 2009 Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam Schedule

- Rosemont: 12/10/08 (CBBEL office)
- Bourbonnais: 12/12/08 (Village Hall)
- Champaign: 3/10/09 (I-Hotel)
- Bartlett: 6/19/09 (IDNR office)
- Woodridge: 9/16/09 (V3 office)
- Champaign: 9/16/09 (ISWS office)
- Rosemont: 12/9/09 (CBBEL office)

For more information or to register, please visit [www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html)

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### IAFSM Committee Reports

**Annual Conference Committee:** The Annual Conference Committee is planning the 2009 conference in Champaign. To volunteer to help, email Jeff Wickenkamp at [jwickenkamp@heyassoc.com](mailto:jwickenkamp@heyassoc.com).

**Education Committee:** To volunteer to help with future workshops, email Amanda Flegel: [aflegel@uiuc.edu](mailto:aflegel@uiuc.edu).

**Newsletter Committee:** To help with future newsletters, to provide comments and opinions on the newsletter, or to provide an article for publication email Jennifer Maercklein at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com)

**Stormwater Committee:** The Committee organized the successful Stormwater Master Planning Course in September in Bloomington, IL. Ideas and volunteers for future workshops are welcome. Please email Bob Murdock at: [RMurdock@mbakercorp.com](mailto:RMurdock@mbakercorp.com).

**Wetlands Committee:** The Wetlands Committee met in August to set committee goals and is developing training workshops to be held during the 2009 Annual Conference. To volunteer with future committee activities, email Tom Kehoe at [tkehoe@cbbel.com](mailto:tkehoe@cbbel.com).

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### Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at [www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html) to view current job openings. Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net).

Current openings include:

- Senior Civil Engineer, DuPage County Public Works Department/Engineering Division
- Water Resource Professional, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

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### IAFSM Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 12, at 9:00 a.m. in the Grundy County Board Room.

**All members are welcome!**

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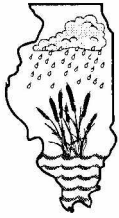
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# IAFSM NEWSLETTER

Illinois Association for  
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

*Fall 2008*

The IAFSM Newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of all members. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to the editor at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com). To advertise in this newsletter (\$100-\$200 per year depending on ad size) contact the association at [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net).



## **IAFSM Officers**

Chair – Stuart Richter, Whiteside County, [srichter@whiteside.org](mailto:srichter@whiteside.org)

Vice Chair – Jeff Wickenkamp, Hey & Associates, Inc., [jwickenkamp@heyassoc.com](mailto:jwickenkamp@heyassoc.com)

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Executive Secretary – Sarah Harbaugh, [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net)

*For current Job Postings and CEC Training Opportunities, visit our website at [illinoisfloods.org](http://illinoisfloods.org).*

**Illinois Association for Floodplain  
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**Please notify us of address corrections or changes**

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