

THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Summer 2010 Flooding Breaks Records, Second Costliest Disaster in State History

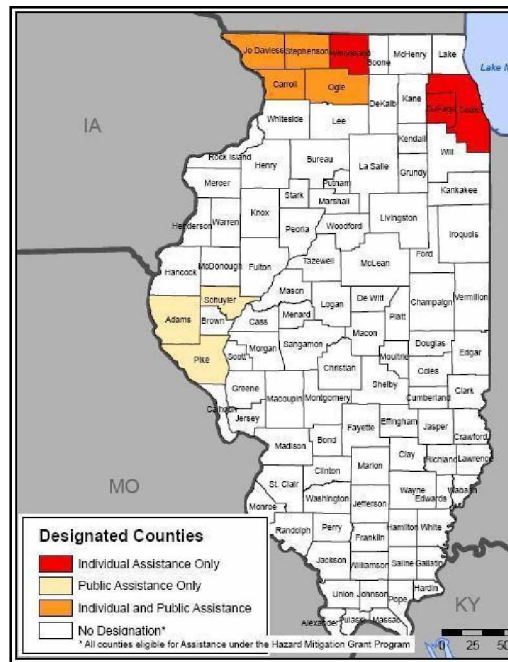
~Joan Tweedale, FEMA

On August 19, 2010, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration (DR#1935-IL) for the State of Illinois from damage sustained during severe storms and flooding from July 22nd to August 7th, 2010. During this event, up to 7.02 inches of rain fell in one day and up to 12.10 inches were recorded over two days. Precipitation records were broken across the affected area, which included Cook, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Carroll, Ogle, Adams, Pike and Schuyler Counties.

The National Weather Service reported that most of the rivers in the affected area rose to moderate or major flood stage. The Apple River, near Hanover, measured 27.42 feet on July 24, almost breaking the record high of 27.91 feet set back in June 2002. The Pecatonica River at Freeport was over flood stage for eight days and over the major flood level on July 25, 2010. The Rock River at Byron (Ogle County) stayed in flood stage for nine days and was only two inches from reaching the major flood stage mark on July 25, 2010. By August 7, 2010 all rivers in northern Illinois were below flood stage, according to the National Weather Service.

The majority of damage occurred in Cook and DuPage Counties. Although little structural damage occurred in northeastern Illinois, major damages were caused by flood water and sewer backup in basements and sub-grade areas. Damage costs are still being calculated for the widespread basement flooding. These powerful storms also caused severe flooding that washed out several critical roads and bridges. In the northwestern counties, many homes suffered major structural damage.

Federal Assistance provided to the State includes Individual Assistance to 7 counties and Public Assistance to 7 counties, as shown on the graphic. All counties in the State are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Total FEMA Individual Assistance approved to date (9/20/10) is over \$186,000,000 and over 93,000 people have registered, making this flood the second most costly flood in Illinois, only bested by the 1993 flood.



Inside This Issue

Summer 2010 Flooding	Page 1
Ottawa Enters CRS as a Class 5	Page 2
LOMR Review Delegated to ISWS	Page 3
Mitigation Funds are Available	Page 5
Basement Flooding and Insurance	Page 6
What the Heck is a DRC and JFO?	Page 7
Septic Systems in Floodplain	Page 7
ISWS and U of I Extension Partner	Page 8
From the Chair	Page 9
IAFSM Donation to Kidzeum	Page 10

Borrow our Water Table!	Page 11
CRS Users Group News	Page 11
Free IAFSM Membership	Page 12
More Ways to Stay in Touch	Page 12
Save the Date! 2011 Conference	Page 12
Reminder: IAFSM Call for Speakers	Page 13
ASFPM Seeks Speakers	Page 13
Inter-Organizational Committee	Page 14
CEC/Training Opportunities	Page 14
CFM Exam Schedule	Page 14
Next Board Meeting & Jobmart	Page 14

Ottawa enters CRS as a Class 5

~Scott Cofoid, Insurance Services Office.

The City of Ottawa is scheduled to enter the Community Rating System (CRS) as a Class 5 effective October 1, 2010. This is quite an accomplishment for most communities, and Ottawa had to come quite a ways to get there.

Flooding History

Years ago, Ottawa had a significant flooding problem in one area of town called “The Flats”. Flood waters in this neighborhood reached 8-10 feet high on a fairly regular basis. Recent flooding events have been recorded in 1974, 1982, 1983, 1997, 2007, 2008 (record flood) and 2009. Interestingly enough, the flood of March 2009 resulted in almost no damage recorded.

Two rivers, the Fox River and the Illinois River, converge just south of this area and cause various flooding dynamics for Ottawa. With the diligent work of community officials over time, many of the homes in “The Flats” have been bought-out with only a few remaining. Much of the area has been turned into Fox River Park, featuring water fountains for kids, a Frisbee golf course, a basketball court, a large array of playground equipment, a picnic shelter, a public boat launch and boat docks.

Community officials have also turned around the thinking of residents living in the floodplain, getting them to understand their risks and what they can do about it. The city has held numerous public meetings over the past few years designed to educate, inform, report study findings and most importantly, get input from those most affected.

Flooding Problems

The city has 2 high schools, both affected by past flooding. Marquette High School has its football stadium in the area known as “The Flats”, while Ottawa Township High School was severely flooded in December of 1982 and in the spring of 1997. A levee has since been built around the outer perimeter of Ottawa High School with a secondary flood wall closer to the structure for added protection.

The Ottawa Regional Hospital also sits near the Fox River and experiences regular flooding challenges. Successful flood fighting efforts saved the emergency room from flood damage during the record flood of 2008. Since then, the hospital has constructed a flood protection wall with sluice gates that should eliminate any future flood problems.

Ottawa’s Solutions

Not only did city officials work with the Army Corps of Engineers to provide a levee along the high school, they worked with local businesses and residents to come up with an effective flood warning and response program to help minimize damages and plan for any future flooding situations. Development near the floodplain is steered to other areas of the city. Tougher floodplain development and stormwater regulations were put in place and public outreach has been enhanced. “A critical turning point [was] when the citizens really understood it’s not



Before and After photos of “The Flats.” Top – December 1982. Bottom – Sept. 2008, after buyouts.

IF this happens again but WHEN it happens again. That's the point when real progress was made towards fixing life safety and repetitive loss situations," said Mike Sutfin, Ottawa Building and Zoning Official.

Ottawa and the CRS

Beginning last winter, Ottawa has been working with Scott Cofoid, from the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) on joining the CRS Program. Ottawa is earning CRS credits for their public outreach efforts, site visit assistance for flooding/drainage problems, higher mapping standards, open space preservation, higher regulatory standards, effective stormwater regulations, Natural Hazard Planning, acquisitions (buy-outs) and drainage maintenance.

After fulfilling all the documentation requirements for joining, it was discovered the Ottawa would be joining as a Class 5 with a chance to even improve that rating. "Initially, we just wanted to get in the Program and get started," said Sutfin, "but we are looking to improve that rating in the future." According to Cofoid, Ottawa has a real possibility of becoming the first Class 4 in the Midwest. As of October 1, 2010, there will be only 9 communities nationwide that are a Class 4 or better. If Ottawa reaches that level, they could become one of the top 10 floodplain management communities in the nation. That's quite a testament to the city, considering where they came from and the work they've done to protect their citizens.

MT-2 LOMR Review Delegated to Illinois State Water Survey

~Chris Hanstad, Illinois State Water Survey

Starting September 1, 2010, the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) became the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) delegated reviewers for Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMR) and Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) applications in Illinois.

CLOMR and LOMR applications are the mechanism thorough which individuals or communities revise FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The MT-2 form is used to apply for a CLOMR or LOMR. The form is used as a checklist to assure that all

pertinent data relating to the revision are included in the submittal. The form also ensures that: (a) the data and methodology are based on current conditions; (b) qualified professionals have assembled data and performed all necessary computations; and (c) all individuals and organizations affected by proposed changes are aware of the changes and will have an opportunity to comment on them.

The ISWS Coordinated Hazard Assessment and Mapping Program (CHAMP) assumed the responsibility for evaluating conditional and final map revision requests for the State of Illinois as part of their Cooperating Technical Partnership with FEMA. Illinois is one of six FEMA partners accepted into the LOMR Delegation program, joining the City of Charlotte, North Carolina; Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; the Denver Urban Drainage District; the State of Alabama; and Harris County, Texas.

Several CHAMP staff will be working on outreach, coordination, and technical reviews. Christopher Hanstad is the lead project engineer and Brian Chaille is the principal technical reviewer. Their objectives are to ensure that Illinois' FIRMs are maintained with high quality engineering data, and to provide an efficient and professional process. Be on the lookout for announcements of seminars on MT-2 forms and submittals.

ISWS LOMR Delegation Quick Facts

- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Office of Water Resources must review and approve CLOMR and LOMR applications before they will be considered by FEMA or FEMA's designee (the ISWS in Illinois).
 - MT-2 Application can be accessed from the FEMA web site: www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/frm_frm_form.shtm
 - Mail the MT-2 application for CLOMRs or LOMRs (only) to:
Chris Hanstad
Illinois State Water Survey
2204 Griffith Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
Attn. MT-2 Review
 - E-mail questions to: mt2@illinois.edu
- LOMAs, CLOMAs, and LOMR-F will NOT be reviewed by ISWS. CLOMR / LOMR delegation does not change the process for these applications.

Disaster Declarations

~Ron Davis, IEMA

Floodplain managers typically play a major role in the process of obtaining and managing disaster declarations. After an incident there are multiple needs for information. A floodplain manager must do damage assessments as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements, but they might also be requested to assist the local emergency manager in determining the breadth and severity of the damages. This always causes confusion, as residents are faced with multiple damage assessments, each of which has a different purpose and degree of accuracy.

If damages are beyond the capabilities of the local government, the local Emergency Manager can request State assistance. If there is widespread or severe damage, the State can make a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). Teams made up of representatives of FEMA, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), and sometimes the Small Business Administration (SBA) meet with local officials and inspect the damaged areas to see if there is enough damage in uninsured losses to request a Presidential Declaration. Presidential Declarations may be made for the Individual Assistance (IA) program and/or the Public Assistance (PA) program. Each program has different criteria to receive a declaration.

The Individual Assistance program provides assistance to property owners to recover from the disaster. The primary forms of assistance are SBA loans, temporary housing (rent and lodging expense) and repair costs. There are many factors going into an IA declaration beyond the direct damages, including the impact to the community, the number of low income and unemployed people, and the number of shelters needed. The damages must be uninsured losses, which is why it can be very difficult to receive a declaration following a tornado, as most people carry homeowner's insurance. If a jurisdiction does not participate in the NFIP, the property owners are not eligible to receive any funds for permanent repairs.

The Public Assistance Program provides Federal disaster assistance to State and local government organizations for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the permanent restoration of public facilities. Certain private non-profit organizations that provide services of a governmental nature may also be eligible for assistance. The PA Program can reimburse eligible applicants for up to 75% of their costs. FEMA uses per capita impact indicators to assist them in determining the need for PA funding. In general, a state must have uninsured damages and costs of \$1.29 per capita for PA to be included under a declaration. Each county also must have uninsured damages and costs of \$3.23 per capita for the county to be designated under the declaration. These damages and costs are associated with state and local government organizations and certain private non-profit organizations only, and do not include damages to individual property owners. This means that Illinois must have at least \$16,654,427 in statewide uninsured losses to receive a declaration with PA funding.

The Public Assistance Program has mitigation funding available under Section 406 of the Stafford



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Act. Under this Section, cost effective mitigation measures may be approved as part of the repair to an eligible facility.

There are many rules and regulations that go with these programs. This article is intended to provide a very cursory review, and is by no means inclusive. More detailed information is available on the Public Assistance program at <http://www.state.il.us/iema/disaster/pa.htm>

Mitigation Funds are Available

~Ron Davis, IEMA

The current disaster, FEMA DR-1935, is the second largest in our State's history. Almost 100,000 people have applied for FEMA individual assistance. Even though grants are only averaging about \$2,000 each, approximately \$200 million has been paid out. IEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program receives funds equal to 15% of grant funds spent by FEMA on the disaster. IEMA anticipates receiving more than \$30 million in mitigation funding. The largest disaster in the State's history (in terms of FEMA spending) was the Great Flood of 1993, when the FEMA assistance programs spent \$225 million.

This year's disaster is very different than most disasters, in that the severity of the damage is less. In most declarations there are a large number of homes that are repetitive loss structures, or that have been substantially damaged. IEMA's priority is to spend mitigation funds to acquire or elevate these structures. However, it is expected that fewer will be found with this disaster, and IEMA expects to have funds for other types of projects.

Minor localized flood reduction projects are eligible for mitigation grants. FEMA guidance says, "These projects may include the installation or modifications of culverts and floodgates, minor floodwall systems that generally protect an individual structure or facility, stormwater management activities such as creating retention and detention basins, and the upgrade of culverts to bridges. These projects must not duplicate the flood prevention activities of other Federal agencies and may not constitute a section of a larger flood control system." All projects must be permanent or long term solutions to reduce future flooding and all of the funds require a 25% local match. IEMA is also considering seismic retrofit projects in earthquake prone areas.

In early October a letter will be mailed to the impacted jurisdictions requesting a preapplication or Notice of Intent. This is a very simple form to indicate what type of project(s) a jurisdiction is interested in. Private property owners are eligible for grant assistance but must apply through their jurisdiction. There is an interagency committee that will meet and determine from which jurisdictions a full application will be requested. Projects must pass an environmental review and have a positive benefit cost (B/C) analysis. IEMA staff can conduct most environmental reviews and the B/C analysis, but if a jurisdiction can conduct their own B/C analysis, it assists IEMA and reduces delays.

These funds can be used statewide, but the jurisdiction must participate in the NFIP and the jurisdiction must have a Mitigation Plan. In Cook County, only four jurisdictions have a Plan: Calumet City, Chicago, Des Plaines, and Glenview. IEMA provided funds to the Cook County Emergency Management Agency to develop a countywide Plan, and the County expects to put out a RFP in the near future. IEMA's policy is to fund mitigation plans on a countywide basis because it is the most economical way to develop plans and it encourages dialogue between jurisdictions.

Five percent of the mitigation funds can be used for educational outreach. IEMA discussed potential projects with IASFM and is open to other suggestions. Suggested ideas include developing an application for smart phones that would identify if a location is in the floodplain, developing a first rate web page to educate the public on flooding issues including basement flooding, and hiring a part-time employee to organize seminars.

Visit IEMA's website for more information: <http://www.state.il.us/iema/planning/planning.htm>.

It Happens Over and Over: Basement Flooding and Insurance

~Rich Roths, NFIP Region V Program Manager

The more time goes on, the more it stays the same. The July storms that swept across northern Illinois not only filled rivers and streams, but overwhelmed sewer systems in the Chicago metro area. By overwhelming the sewer systems, a large number of basements suffered flooding due to sewer back-up. Not only were the basements a casualty of sewer backup flooding, but many more homes were flooded when they lost power for 16 to 24 hours, making sump pumps useless. Many of these basements were used as family rooms, second living areas, or rented out as apartments.




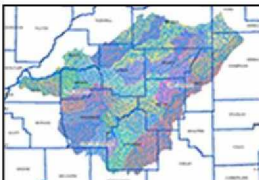
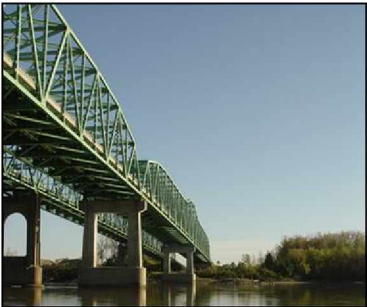
In addition to washing away parts of people's lives, the storms again uncovered two problems we've seen before:


July 2010 basement flooding in Westchester. Chicago Tribune photo by Chuck Berman.

- Residents haven't been told that they can obtain sump pump failure and sewer back-up insurance; and,
- Those that are not in a Special Flood Hazard Area haven't been told that they can obtain a Preferred Risk Policy (PRP). The PRP is available only for residents who are located outside of the floodplain (B, C, or X zone) and have no previous history of flooding, or only one disaster assistance claim.

We can point fingers at a lot of people for why the residents didn't know about these forms of insurance, but that won't do anyone any good. Do you remember when you were little and you were told that when you pointed your finger at someone, your thumb was pointing at you? Well, I'm taking the tact that when each one of us doesn't tell our constituency about B, C, and X Zone policies, Sewer back up coverage, or PRP policies, we should be pointing our fingers at ourselves.

It is time to do a service for the people of our communities and let them know about these policies. While you're at it, let the insurance agents know as well.




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What the Heck is a DRC and JFO?

-Zerek Schwartz, FEMA

Following the severe storms in northern Illinois in late July, a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration was issued (named DR-1935). Subsequently, five Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) were opened to assist residents and a FEMA/Illinois Joint Field Office (JFO) was established in Downers Grove.

- DRCs are an office where applicants may go for information about disaster assistance programs, disaster-specific recovery/rebuilding information, and education materials. For example, many Chicagoland residents experienced basement flooding, so the DRC provided information about preferred risk flood insurance, elevating utilities, cleanup from mold and mildew, and the differences in coverage provided by flood insurance and sewer backup coverage.
- A JFO is a temporary Federal facility that provides a central location for the coordination of Federal, State, tribal, and local governments and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations. The JFO provides disaster-specific planning and recovery strategies as well as information to mitigate the effects of future hazard events. Some projects underway for disaster DR-1935 include conducting outreach and training with insurance agents, working with non-participating NFIP communities to join the program, providing FEMA floodplain management training for local officials, and soliciting Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications from local communities.

Although each disaster is different, a strong FEMA/State partnership is required to coordinate resources to implement short and long-term cost-effective mitigation solutions to reduce damages during future events. Illinois is well positioned to take advantage of these resources and reduce the chances for future disasters.

IDPH Notifies County Health Officers on Septic Systems in the Floodplain

In a long-awaited letter to County Health Directors, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has provided guidance to counties regarding septic systems located in floodplain areas.

The number of properties and septic systems that are affected vary from county to county. Most counties in Illinois, as part of their local floodplain ordinances and under the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have regulations which will not allow traditional septic systems in a floodplain.



Septic field in floodplain with pipe outlet at river.

The letter to County Health Officers, dated October 30, 2009, reiterates and clarifies how the Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act (225 ILCS 225) and Code (77 IL Administrative Code Part 905) impact the use of private sewage disposal systems in areas subject to flooding or having surface water flowing over the private sewage disposal system.

It is a violation of the state code if measures, such as those stated within the Code, are not utilized to minimize the flow of surface water over a private sewage disposal system located in an area prone to surface water. It is also a violation of the code to install a new private sewage disposal system, or to repair an existing system or component of a system, that will be affected by flooding (i.e. located in the floodplain). A conventional private

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sewage disposal system is considered to be in a state of failure when it is covered by surface water, as documented by numerous evaluations and studies. Therefore, when a septic system is flooded, a new or replacement system must be installed which meets current state regulations.

The IDPH letter goes on to state that the Department of Public Health is working to provide alternatives or options to the use of conventional subsurface private sewage disposal systems that can be affected by flooding. The alternative private sewage disposal system must be designed and constructed so that it will not be impacted by the hydraulic pressure of the surface water or discharge the contents of the system into flood waters. These alternative options may allow for the use of incinerator toilets, compost toilets, or sealed water tight holding tanks or other sealed watertight tanks that will not be impacted by surface waters. The Department of Public Health is open to the review of alternatives and technologies to achieve compliance. If a system can be designed and certified by an Illinois licensed Professional Engineer, the Department of Public Health can issue an acceptance on a case-by-case basis

ISWS and U of I Extension Partner to Reduce Flood Risk

~Sally A. McConkey, Illinois State Water Survey

The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) within the University of Illinois (U of I) Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability and the U of I Extension Service are teaming up to help Illinois communities better understand and reduce flood risk. Starting in the fall of 2010, a series of meetings will be held in various communities to initiate an ongoing exchange of information about flood hazards and options for reducing exposure to flooding.

FEMA is funding these efforts. FEMA has initiated the Risk MAP plan to improve flood-prone area Mapping, Assess flood risk, and encourage communities to Plan for reducing their exposure to flood losses. Flooding is the most predictable natural disaster, yet flood losses continue to increase. Maps showing areas prone to flooding (having a 1% chance of inundation each year) are produced by FEMA, but these Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) become out of date and often are wrongly interpreted. Many people and communities do not fully appreciate their flood risk and fail to take steps to reduce their exposure to flood loss.

Through the Risk MAP program, the ISWS and Extension will reach out to communities to obtain input on flooding issues and technical information, while providing a variety of new map and report products that show additional information beyond the traditional flood maps such as flood depths and potential flood costs. Information will be collected on a watershed scale to provide a comprehensive picture of flooding issues, identify areas that require additional or new flood studies, and provide information that can be used to prepare mitigation plans. The first watersheds to be visited are the Lower Fox, Middle and Lower Wabash, Saline, and Upper Sangamon.

By partnering, the U of I Extension and ISWS will ensure that their programs maximize the benefits of their combined investments in our communities. Local Extension staff will coordinate and facilitate meetings within the watersheds, collect data, and record local input. Extension and ISWS will work together to identify opportunities to better coordinate their programs and encourage information sharing and review processes to facilitate better-informed, educated decisions within the communities they serve.

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From The Chair

~Jeff Wickenkamp, Hey & Associates

I hope everyone had a great summer and is enjoying the pleasant fall! By now you should have received our call for speakers for the 2011 conference in Normal. If not, look for the reminder in this newsletter or on the website. The IAFSM board held its July meeting at the Normal Marriott to preview the conference facility. It is a beautiful new hotel with a wonderful meeting space that is the perfect size for IAFSM. It is also just steps away from the Amtrak station, so we hope some of you might find this a convenient and fun way to travel to the conference.

Green infrastructure, what is it? You can find various definitions but here's one that I like: "An interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas that naturally recharges aquifers, improves water quality and quantity, and provides recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat." This definition says that green infrastructure has many functions and includes plain old open spaces like a meadow or a forest.

In June of this year, a report was prepared for IEPA to meet the requirements of The Illinois Green Infrastructure Act of 2009. The draft report, including IEPA Director Douglas Scott's recommendations to the General Assembly and public comments is available at:

www.epa.state.il.us/green-infrastructure/docs/public-act-recommendations.pdf

The most significant recommendation made by Director Scott is that IEPA is receptive to the establishment of statewide green infrastructure standards. Director Scott also recommends the establishment of a workgroup that includes stakeholders from all sectors to help identify appropriate standards, structure, logistics, phase-in and applicability. IAFSM will continue to monitor this effort and bring you news about its progress and opportunities to participate.

The stormwater management benefits (volume reduction) and water quality benefits (pollutant reduction) of green infrastructure are generally recognized, but can green infrastructure really prevent flooding? I believe the current consensus among engineers and floodplain managers is "not really." It's easy to identify cases where green infrastructure could solve nuisance or lot-level flooding. It's hard to envision a case where correctly implemented green infrastructure could actually do harm. It's downright difficult to think of a case where green infrastructure could solve a significant flooding problem without being part of a more comprehensive flood control plan. I don't know of anyone that is intentionally promoting it as such. However, the problems come in when facts such as "green infrastructure reduces runoff by 50% to 70%" are presented to the public without any obvious caveats. The public says "great, that's what I want to fix my flooding problem, certainly a 50% reduction in runoff should do the trick." Meanwhile the engineer is saying: "What storm event? Which part of the hydrograph is controlled? How much area is upstream of the green infrastructure?" And so on...

In talking with IAFSM members, I have come to believe that the entire spectrum of views and opinions on green infrastructure is represented by our membership. Please continue to make them heard. If you have further thoughts or ideas on green infrastructure that you would like to share, feel free to contact myself or Bob Murdock, our Stormwater Management chair.

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IAFSM Makes Donation to Kidzeum “Healthy Earth Gallery”

~Loren Wobig, IDNR

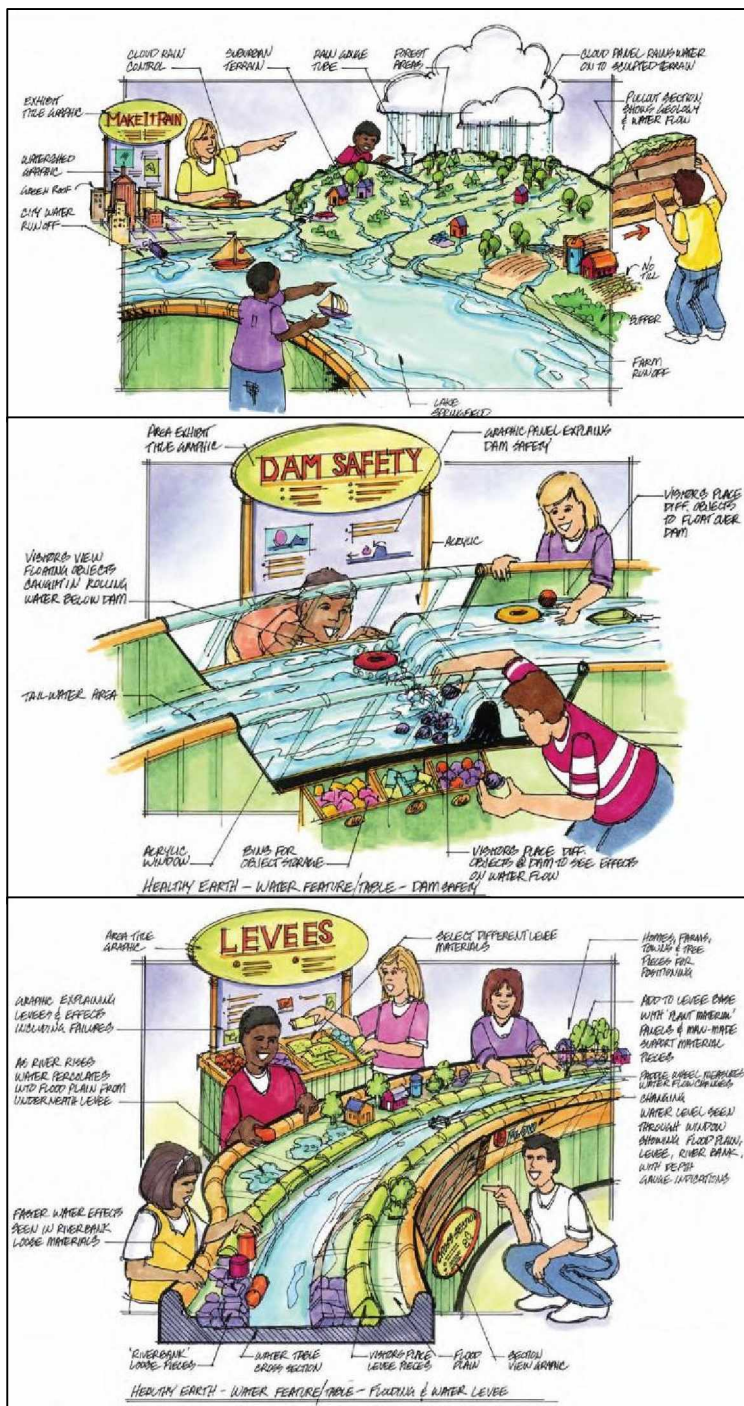
“Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember.
Involve me and I understand.”

- Chinese proverb

To provide a practical means to promote the common interest in floodplain and stormwater management to young and young at heart alike, IAFSM entered into an agreement with the Children’s Museum Foundation Corporation on September 15, 2010, to support the fabrication, installation and operation of a one-of-a kind hands on floodplain and stormwater management outreach exhibit. Through this agreement, IAFSM will support the “Healthy Earth Gallery” inside the new Kidzeum of Health and Science Children’s Museum (Kidzeum) being constructed in Springfield. Kidzeum will be a two-story 15,000 square foot facility in Southwind Park dedicated to teaching children (and adults) about health and science through discovery and play. In addition to developing and promoting environmental awareness in the Healthy Earth Gallery, Kidzeum will also house three other galleries including Healthy Body, Healthy Community, and Healthy Environment.

The Healthy Earth Gallery, which includes a very large interactive watershed/waterway table exhibit, will occupy a large portion of the second floor of the museum. Among other opportunities, the interactive watershed/waterway table exhibit will provide opportunities to play with, and learn about, the rainfall/runoff process, wise and unwise floodplain uses, levees, dams, public safety at dams, stormwater systems, and wetlands. IAFSM members have been integrally involved in the development of this exhibit. The IAFSM partnership with the Children’s Museum Foundation Corporation provides funding for the floodplain and stormwater portions of the educational watershed/waterway table exhibit.

IAFSM has agreed to provide \$57,000 over a 5-year term. The agreement also indicates that the IAFSM donations may be used as local match funding, if necessary, to secure additional mitigation grant funding for the Healthy Earth Gallery from other agencies if such funding is available. As part of this partnership, IAFSM will be recognized in the Founder’s Foyer of the museum entrance, on the Kidzeum website, and in the Foundation’s annual reports. The Children’s Museum Foundation Corporation will update IAFSM on the progress of construction of Kidzeum which will be available on the IAFSM website (www.illinoisfloods.org).



Renderings of the Make It Rain, Dam Safety, and Levee exhibits at the planned Kidzeum. Other exhibits include Erosion, Water Quality, and Water Conservation.

Borrow our Water Table!

Our Water Tables have been a big hit with kids and grown-ups alike! You may have seen our table (or played with it) during the Annual Conference. The table belongs to IAFSM members and is available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This new model offers a real opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain.



IAFSM's Water Table in use at the Crystal Lake City Expo (left) and Mount Prospect Public Works Open House (right).

Through the use of this model, students can explore the value of wetlands and retention ponds in flood management. They can construct their own levees and witness how stream flow is affected and can impact downstream communities during times of high runoff. They can simulate ice damming and other seasonal risks in the floodplain. They can measure runoff volume and construct their own hydrograph of stream flow over time. Most importantly, they will work as a team to find and test solutions to a variety of floodplain problems simulated by the model. An in-depth curriculum guide is available to introduce students to important tools in the management of our critical watershed resources. Curriculum is geared towards middle school and high school students, with adaptations for younger grades.

IAFSM has two models and keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at iafsm@sbcglobal.net to make arrangements to borrow the model.

CRS Users Group News

~Mary Lou Kalsted, Village of Lisle

The CRS Users Group is made up of CRS Coordinators and others who work with the Community Rating System in Illinois communities. The Community Rating System is a program that earns flood insurance discounts for residents by a community's actions toward exceeding minimum NFIP requirements and meeting three goals: reduce flood losses, facilitate accurate insurance rating, and promote awareness of flood insurance.

The IAFSM Community Rating System (CRS) Committee hosted the second meeting of this group on July 21, 2010 in Lisle. Scott Cofoid of Insurance Services Office made a presentation on the annual recertification process, and what documents and information to submit. Communities in the program need to submit their recertifications by October 1, 2010. The group discussed several activities that have been scored high. Some of the activities included benchmarks and drainage system maintenance. Cofoid also discussed the newest repetitive loss sheets that were recently sent to each community, as well as the State of Illinois' independent effort to update their repetitive loss list.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the City of Ottawa. The agenda will include a discussion of high scoring activities for drainage system maintenance and flood warning programs; a discussion of substantial damage/substantial improvement; and there will be a guest speaker, Paul Osman from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources. Anyone not already receiving E-mails from the group who would be interested in attending can call Mary Lou Kalsted, CRS Committee chair, at (630) 271-4107 or mkalsted@villageoflisle.org.

2010 IAFSM Membership Drive – FREE Membership!

In March 2010, the IAFSM Board voted to waive the 2010-2011 membership fee for municipal and county government employees and those who are retired or currently unemployed.

Please help us get the word out and encourage your colleagues to join IAFSM by forwarding the link to our membership page:

<http://illinoisfloods.org/membership.html>. There are many stormwater and floodplain managers in Illinois that are not members of IAFSM, but they should be! Thanks to those members who have already spread the word and encouraged others to join. Keep it up!

More Ways to Stay in Touch!

As a reminder, in addition to e-mail, IAFSM has more ways to stay in touch with members. IAFSM now has a LinkedIn Group. Membership in the group is limited to current and past IAFSM members. All official IAFSM communication will continue to come via e-mail, but our LinkedIn group provides a way for committee members to communicate with each other (if preferred over e-mail). It also provides another way to network and stay in touch with other members. Type IAFSM into the group search box on LinkedIn to find us, or click the hyperlink on our homepage at www.illinoisfloods.org. We also have a new Committee page on our website. Visit www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html to learn more about what each committee is up to, check meeting dates, and get involved!

Save the Date! IAFSM 2011 Annual Conference March 8 – 10, 2011

IAFSM's annual conference will be held on March 8-10, 2011, at the new Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

A Certified Floodplain Manager exam and pre-conference workshops will be held on March 8. The main conference proceedings will occur on March 9 – 10.

Watch your inboxes in January for the conference flyer and registration information.



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Reminder: Call for Speakers for Annual IAFSM Conference

We are looking for presentations that address floodplain and stormwater management issues for our 2011 annual conference. The deadline to submit an abstract for consideration is Friday, October 29. See www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences.html for more info.

ASFPM Seeks Local Floodplain Managers to Present at 2011 Conference

Every year following our national conference, ASFPM receives requests for more local content, topics, and speakers to present. Increasingly, we receive requests for topics which provide locals the tools and ideas that they can implement back in their community. While we make great efforts to provide opportunities for these topics on our conference agenda, we can only consider the presentations that are actually submitted. This year we're challenging our chapters and their members to help us fill this gap!

Do you know a local with great stories who has faced obstacles or opposition on the job and overcame it? What about a floodplain manager who's the "go-to" person on a specific topic or best practice? Have you partnered or collaborated with a local on a specific project, initiative or disaster? Has your experience on the job provided you with "lessons learned" to share with other locals who can benefit from your experience? We urge you to reach out and encourage them to submit a presentation (or better, submit one yourself!) for our 2011 National Conference in Louisville, KY, May 15-20, 2011. Attending the conference as a presenter or workshop instructor is a great way to get buy-in from your supervisor to attend the conference. Locals know better than anyone the daily hurdles other local floodplain managers face.

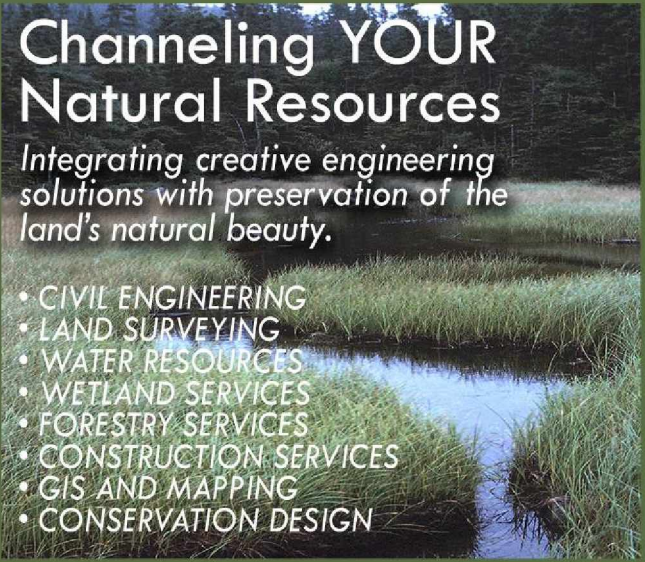
Concurrent Session presentations are 20-25 minutes in length; Workshop topics are between 1 hour and 4 hours in length. More than one presenter can be a part of the presentation – either Concurrent Session or Workshop- so you don't have to do it alone! ASFPM needs the wisdom of your front-line experience to help provide professional development opportunities to other locals – please help us make it possible! Details on how to submit a presentation topic or workshop for consideration are found on the 2011 Conference Page of the ASFPM website at www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=663.

The deadline for the concurrent session abstracts and workshop topic submittals is October 31, 2010.

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IAFSM's Inter-Organizational Committee

~Kerry Behr

The goal of IAFSM's Inter-Organizational Committee is to encourage regular communication between IAFSM and other closely-related professional organizations (APA, ILGISA, IESMA, ILASLA, etc.). The committee encourages members of IAFSM and the partner organizations to share information through conferences and publications. When you've finished reading this issue of The IAFSM Current, consider passing it on to a non-IAFSM member. Encourage someone to sign up to be a IAFSM member and let them know membership is free for municipal and county government employees and those who are retired or currently unemployed, or encourage them to attend our annual conference next spring.

CEC / Training Opportunities

IDNR-OWR Twilight Dinner Seminar

IASFM and the ASCE-EE&WR Group are planning a twilight dinner seminar to discuss IDNR-OWR permitting procedures in Northeastern Illinois, mainly related to Part 3708 Rules. The seminar is intended to be of benefit to engineers and planners new to the process, as well as to those that have been submitting permit applications for a number of years. The dinner seminar will be offered in the Chicago area on November 10. If interested, please contact Erik Gil by e-mail at egil@cbbel.com. A registration form will be e-mailed separately to members.

Floodplain 101

IAFSM is considering hosting a Floodplain 101 seminar prior to the spring conference and CFM exam. Watch your inbox for more information. Our Floodplain 101 workshop is intended to be an at-cost seminar to provide important information on floodplains and floodplain regulations, including Illinois-specific information that may not be presented in other workshops.

2010 Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam Schedule

- Rosemont: **December 8, 2010**, (CBBEL office)
- Normal: **March 8, 2011** (Marriott Hotel)

As a reminder, IAFSM began using the National Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Exam in January 2010. The National Exam includes questions on coastal floodplain requirements that were not previously included on the Illinois exam, and excludes Illinois-specific questions. The Illinois Floodplain Management Desk Reference found on our website is a valuable tool for floodplain managers in Illinois, but it is not a comprehensive study guide for the new National Exam. Visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html for registration and info.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Lisle Police Department at 5040 Lincoln Avenue. Please park in the Park District parking lot across the street. We will be planning our annual conference at this meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great way to get more involved in the organization! See you there!

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html. Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to IAFSM@sbcglobal.net.

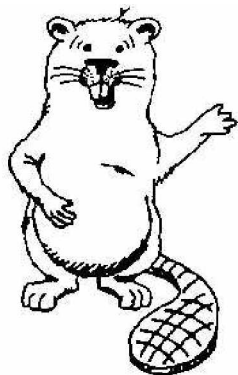


Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

THE IAFSM CURRENT

Fall 2010 Newsletter

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. To advertise in this newsletter (\$100-\$200 per year depending on ad size) contact the association at IAFSM@sbcglobal.net.



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Special thanks to J&J Enterprises for our beaver, the mascot of surface water managers.

For current Job Postings and CEC Training Opportunities, visit our website at illinoisfloods.org.

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Please notify us of address corrections or changes

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