



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

*Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Fall 2021 Newsletter

## IAFSM Renames Lifetime Achievement Award

The founders of the IAFSM had an unstoppable and not-so-secret weapon that organized meetings, set policy, conducted training, wrote newsletters, and built the IAFSM into what it is today. That not-so-secret weapon? French and Mary Lu Wetmore!

At the July 2021 IAFSM Board meeting, the IAFSM Officers voted to officially change the name of the lifetime achievement award to the French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement. This award is IAFSM's highest honor and the [award winners](#) are an impressive collection of people who have forever changed the floodplain landscape of Illinois.

French and Mary Lu Wetmore helped form the IAFSM and eventually ran the operation of IAFSM for nearly 20 years. French led IAFSM's technical work and Mary Lu ran the administrative functions, making sure the IAFSM grew. During their time running IAFSM, French and Mary Lu:

- Managed IAFSM's first office,
- Attended well over 100 meetings (likely twice that number),
- Did the legwork for nearly 20 conferences,
- Ran dozens of twilight seminars and training workshops,
- Edited the newsletter and wrote hundreds of articles,
- Created the first floodplain desk reference (still in use today),
- Developed Illinois' Certified Floodplain Manager program (CFM).

In 2007 the Wetmores moved to Washington State and Board President Stu Richter was left trying to navigate a boat with no rudder. It was not an easy job but Stu persevered. He created the framework for today's IAFSM and was awarded for his efforts.



Some may recall that in 2017 the Lifetime Achievement Award was renamed the "French Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement". When French heard of the award name, he was honored but also said: "You forgot the most important reason. I wouldn't have done half of what I've been recognized for without Mary Lu. Anything I did, Mary Lu was a part of it. We are a team." French also noted that every award should include recognition of the spouse and family who worked in the background. Of course, French is right and the IAFSM Board (while a little ashamed) could not agree more.

The motion to re-name the Lifetime Achievement Award to the French and Mary Lou Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement passed unanimously and without any debate. We are certain that anyone who knows French and Mary Lu would agree with the new name!

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# Risk Rating 2.0 Is Here

*-Modified from the Spring 2021, Minnesota Water Talk Newsletter*

FEMA is rating flood insurance premiums in a new way. Starting October 1, 2021, all new policies will be subject to the new rating methodology and renewing policies will be eligible to take advantage of any discount. On or after April 1, 2022, all remaining policies will be phased into the new rating methodology on their renewal.

## What are changes coming?

Some of the overall goals for the new rating methodology include:

- Reducing complexity:
  - Eliminating Elevation Certificate requirement to write the policy, but can be used to set a better rate
  - Simplifying information needed from the agent to write the policy (will use different rating factors)
- Promoting investment in mitigation:
  - Expanding mitigation credits such as elevating a building, elevating machinery & equipment above the BFE, or installing proper flood openings
  - **Expanding Community Rating System discounts (discounts now for all policies)**

- Addressing inequalities:

- Leveraging more location-specific information
- Reflecting prior claims

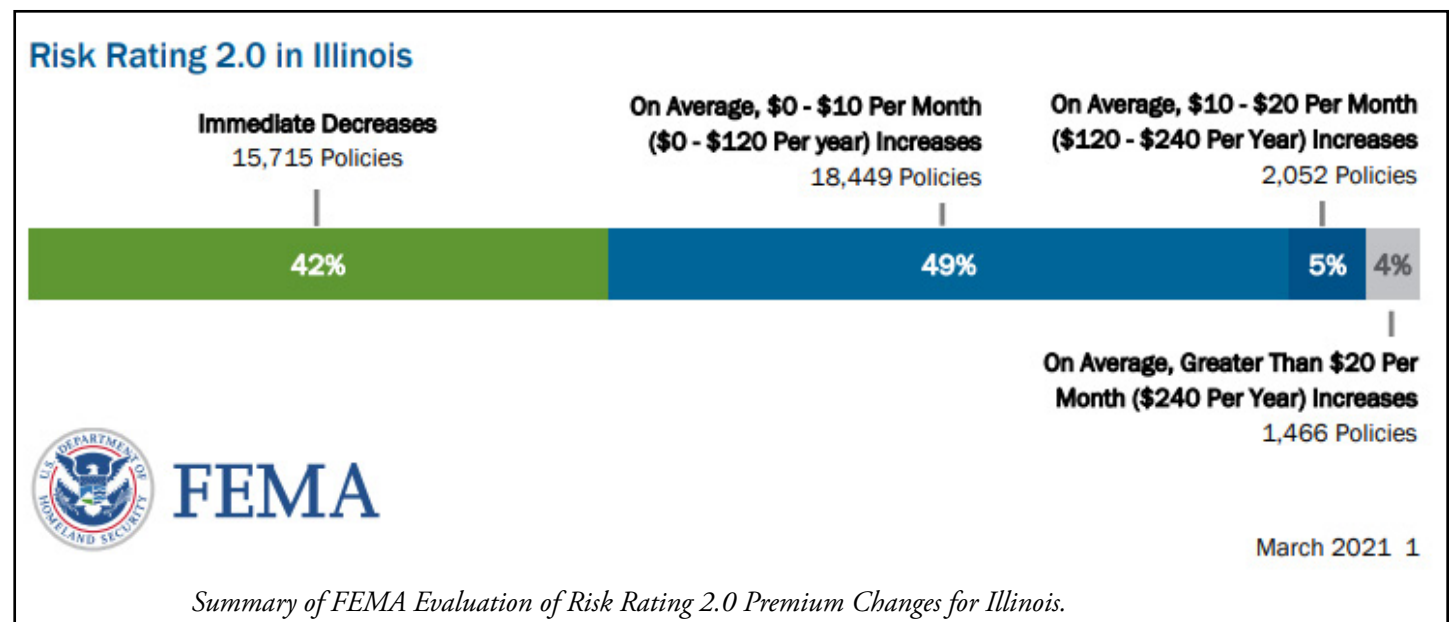
- **Factoring in replacement costs**

- **Not charging higher rates for first \$60,000 of coverage**

## What the changes mean for Illinois

Based on FEMA analysis of Illinois' current flood insurance policies, we expect the following changes in premiums:

- **42%** (15,715 policies): **Immediate decreases with 11% discounted \$100 or more**
- **49%** (18,449 policies): **\$0 - \$10 per month (\$0 - \$120 per year) increases**

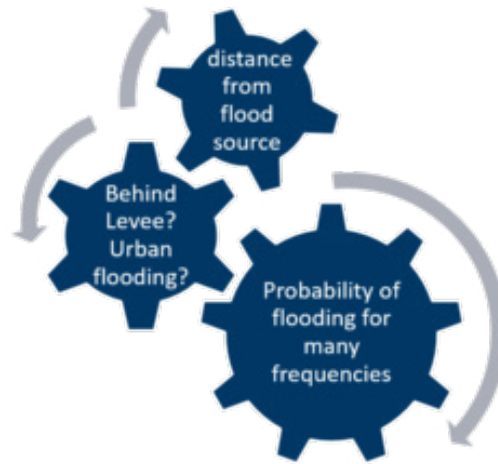


## Risk Rating 2.0 Is Here (continued)

- 5% (2,052 policies): \$10 - \$20 per month (\$120 - \$240 per year) increases
- 4% (1,466 policies): **Greater than \$20 per month (\$240 per year) increases, 2% increase between \$20-\$30, 2% increase of \$30 or more, and only 48 policies increasing \$100 or more;**
- See [Illinois profile](#) for more detailed summaries at the county and zip code level

### What's staying the same?

- FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps will continue to be used to determine Mandatory Purchase requirements and for local floodplain management ordinances.
- Only those in communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) are eligible to purchase the federally backed NFIP flood insurance.
- Letters of Map Amendments and Letters of Map Revisions will still be issued to amend or revise the maps.
- Increased Cost of Compliance assistance will continue.
- Discounts for those in Community Rating System will continue and expand to all policies.
- Limits on annual premium increases such as 18% per year on individual rates will remain, phasing in the increases in rates.
- Can still transfer better rates by assigning flood insurance policy when property changes ownership.



### What are the new rating factors?

The current flood insurance premium ratings (for newer buildings) rely mainly on the FEMA map zone, and lowest floor elevation versus the Base Flood Elevation. The Risk Rating 2.0 rating engine will consider many different factors, including:

- Distance to flooding source.
- Flood type (riverine or Great Lakes).
- Building replacement cost.
- Building foundation and construction type.
- First floor elevation.
- Ground elevation (lowest adjacent grade).
- Considering urban flooding and whether behind levee.
- Probability of damage for more flood frequencies below and above 1% annual chance flood elevation, including up to 10,000-year flood (depending on data available in that area).

### For More Information

See Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action | [FEMA.gov](#)

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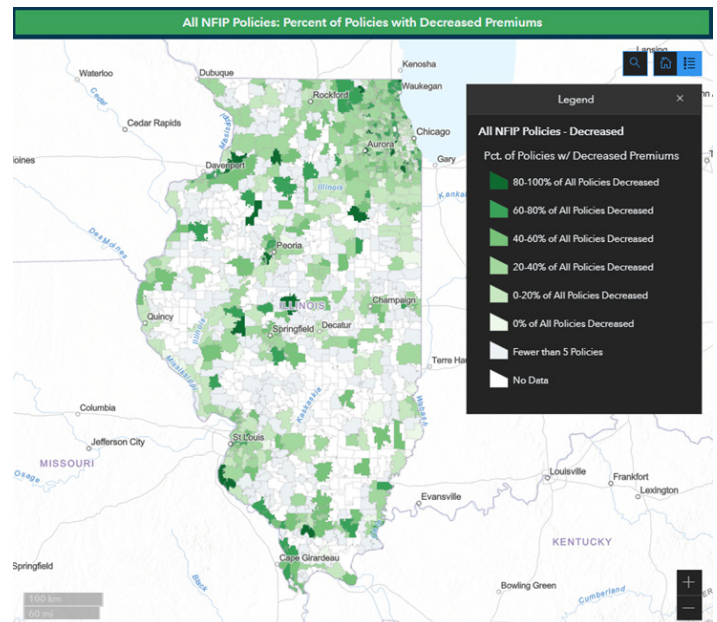
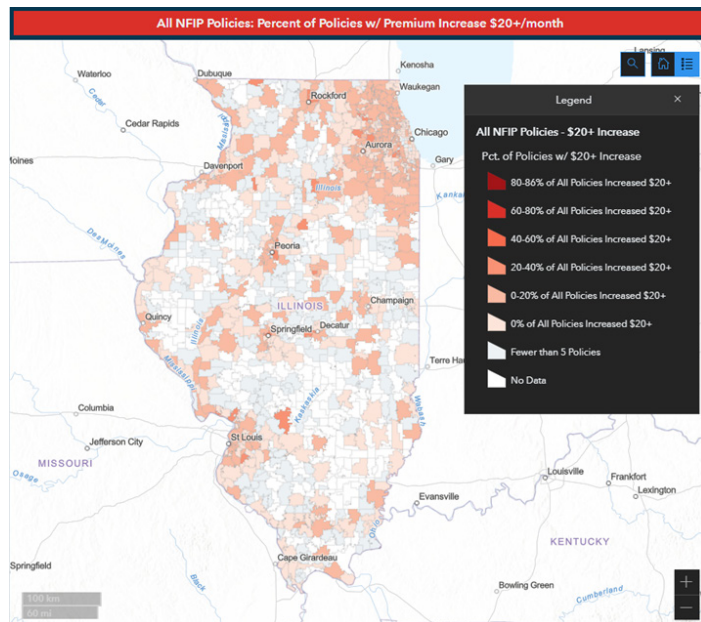


# Interactive Maps Show FEMA Risk Rating 2.0 NFIP Premium Changes

~Excerpted from ASFPM Press Release, September 21, 2021

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), in collaboration with The Pew Charitable Trusts, produced interactive maps that show where flood insurance rates are expected to decrease, increase, or remain the same — and by how much — under FEMA Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action.

Users can zoom in to view changes at the zip code level for existing single-family home policies at [no.floods.org/rr2sfh](https://no.floods.org/rr2sfh) and for all existing NFIP policies at [no.floods.org/rr2all](https://no.floods.org/rr2all).



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## Floodway Permitting in Northeastern Illinois

The floodway permitting staff in Bartlett handles floodway permitting for the six northeastern counties in the state. William Boyd is the Northeastern Illinois Regulatory Section Chief and supervises four permit engineers; Bruno Athmanathan, Kevin Hoobler, Mark Hoskins, and Heather McGowan.

If you have permit questions, go the [Water Resources Permitting](#) webpage. There you will find links to the 3700 and 3708 Rules, statewide permits, Regional Permit #3, and a [Contact Us](#) webpage. You may also leave a voice message at 847.608.3116 or send an email to [dnr.dwr@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.dwr@illinois.gov). Please include the community name where the project site is located and an address or the latitude/longitude of the proposed development. If sending an e-mail, a copy of the floodplain mapping should be included.

Remember, regardless of the state's floodway permit requirements, **a local floodplain permit is always required for development in the floodplain, including the floodway.** This includes all local culvert projects completed by public works crews and township roadway commissioners. Part 3708 exempts the repair, remodeling, and maintenance of building, fences, roads, culverts, and bridges in existence as of November 18, 1987. If you're not sure if the proposed work meets this exemption, the conditions for Regional Permit #3, or a statewide permit, check with the Bartlett Office.

**Delegated Communities** A Delegation letter is now required for all work in a floodway that meets the state's jurisdictional limits. An application must be sent to the Bartlett office and if the project is eligible, a delegation letter will be sent. The application review fee for delegating permits is \$230.

**Zone A – Part 3700 Rules Work in floodplain** (with a drainage area greater than one square mile in an urban or urbanizing area) with no designated floodway falls under the Part 3700 Rules. If the proposed work meets the conditions listed in one of the 13 statewide permits, no state review or submittal is required. Please require a plan set that shows that the special conditions have been addressed in the design. Your inspections and final permit close out must include ensuring that all statewide permit conditions are met. If the work does not meet the conditions of a statewide permit at any point in the process, an application must be sent to the Bartlett office for an individual state floodway permit. You must wait until the state floodway permit has been issued before you issue the local floodplain permit or stop any work not in compliance.

**Zone AE Floodways - Regional Permit #3** If the proposed work meets the conditions listed in Regional Permit (RP) #3 you may issue a local permit. Please document the use of RP#3 in your permit file, note how the permit conditions have been met in the design, and inspect the site for compliance with RP #3 conditions.



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# Elevations Certificates: Excellent Compliance Tool but Check for Accuracy

*-Adapted from December 2020/January 2021 NFIP/CRS Update newsletter*


Under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) a community is required to obtain the elevation of the lowest floor of the building, the machinery and equipment, and the base flood elevation to confirm compliance with your ordinance. **An Elevation Certificate (EC) is an excellent tool to document compliance for a BUILDING, but it must be checked for accuracy.** In my personal experience more than half of all ECs have errors. The EC instructions, available on the FEMA website, take you step by step through each line of the form to help with your review.



I encourage you to use these instructions, but for more help, the Community Rating System (CRS) Program has just released eight videos that cover training on the EC. Use this link to [watch the EC videos](#). The videos describe each section of the EC and explain the most common errors seen on the forms and how to avoid them. They are intended to serve community officials, but please feel free to share these videos with the surveyors, engineers, and architects in your community.


The videos are titled:

1. How To Fill Out Section A For CRS Purposes
2. How to Fill Out Section B For CRS Purposes
3. How to Fill Out Section C & D For CRS Purposes
4. How to Fill Out Section E & F For CRS Purposes
5. How to Fill Out Section G For CRS Purposes
6. General Issues, Part 1
7. General Issues, Part 2
8. How To Correct an EC



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## From The Chair – CFM Exam and New Young Professionals Chair

~Steve Altman, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR

Happy Fall IAFSM! As an organization, we are making small steps to be able provide a similar level of service we did pre-pandemic. By the time you read this newsletter, IAFSM would have already held the first CFM exam since the 2020 IAFSM Conference and IDNR will have held an NFIP 101 class. Another in-person CFM exam will be held in October. In addition to the in-person CFM exam, the exam is now available online. Contact Greg Thorpe, Certification Chair for details. Watch for the Call for Speakers for the IAFSM 2022 conference, which will be held (fingers crossed) in person in Normal.

IAFSM has recently appointed a new Young Professionals chair, Sarah Wenzel, to the Board. Sarah has been a part of the Young Professionals group since its inception. Welcome Aboard Sarah!

## Young Professionals Group Updates

Adam Blumstein, founding member of IAFSM's Young Professionals Group, has stepped down from his position as Young Professionals Chair. Adam inaugurated many of the Young Professionals Group events during his time as chair, including a series of free webinars and the annual IAFSM Young Professionals Scholarship Competition, which awards conference admission to collegiates studying water-related subjects. Although the group is sad to him leave, we congratulate him and wish him the best of luck in his new position!

Sarah Wenzel will replace Adam as the new Young Professionals Chair. Sarah is a consulting engineer for Prairie Engineers, and a member of the IAFSM Young Professionals Group since 2018. "I'm excited to expand what our YP group can offer for professionals in the first stage of their career and increase our visibility among prospective collegiate members".

If you are interested in learning more about the IAFSM Young Professional's Group, please contact Sarah at [swenzel@prairieengineers.com](mailto:swenzel@prairieengineers.com).

## CRS Users Group Meetings

**Wednesday, October 6** - Activity 510 and Activity 610 - Substantial Damage and Flood Warning Systems

**Wednesday, November 3** - Activity 450 - Stormwater Management and Watershed Master Plans

**Wednesday, December 8** - Risk Rating 2.0

All meetings at noon, via zoom. Email [jlomax@downers.us](mailto:jlomax@downers.us) for the link or with any questions. 1 ASFPM CEC will be offered.

## Do You Have a Relationship with Your State Legislator?

The IAFSM Legislative Committee is working to strengthen IAFSM's ability to impact floodplain management policy. The Committee is developing a database of members who have working or speaking relationships with Illinois General Assembly contacts. If you have a relationship with your Illinois State Senator or Illinois State Representative, please call or email Kay Whitlock, the Legislative Committee Chair. Kay can be reached at [kwhitlock@cbbel.com](mailto:kwhitlock@cbbel.com) or 847/825-0500.

# 2022 IAFSM Annual Conference Information

## Speakers & Tours Wanted for 2022 Conference

The IAFSM Annual Conference will be Tuesday and Wednesday, March 8-9, 2022, at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott in Normal, IL, and may include a pre-conference workshop on March 7. A CFM exam will be offered the night before the conference on March 7, 2022.

## Call for Speakers

IAFSM invites speakers from municipal, public, and private sectors to present information on floodplain and stormwater management topics. Submit abstracts online: <https://forms.gle/2B3p7AHQch6D1ena8>. The deadline is October 31, 2021. Presenters will be notified of their acceptance or denial by December 20, 2021. IAFSM intends for the 2022 Annual Conference to provide focused/in-depth education and training in the principal committee disciplines of IAFSM, including Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, Mitigation, Wetlands, CRS, and Legislation, and encourages abstract submissions in the areas of water quality / BMPs for MS4s, and urban flooding issues.

## Tours / Field Trips Wanted

Does your community have a floodplain, stormwater, mitigation, or wetland project in the vicinity of the conference hotel that you would like to show to other floodplain managers? IAFSM is considering offering Technical Field Tours again if enough tour sites are submitted to make up a tour. Please submit nominations for potential tour sites at <https://forms.gle/2B3p7AHQch6D1ena8>.

## Exhibitor and Vendor Registration

Companies and organizations are invited to exhibit their products, services, and activities at the IAFSM conference. For more information: [https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2022\\_exhibitor\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2022_exhibitor_flyer.pdf)

## Sponsors Invited

We invite you to be a sponsor of the annual conference, or to donate a door prize. All sponsors will be identified in the conference program, at plenary sessions and during the awards luncheon. For more information on sponsorship levels and benefits, please visit: [https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2022\\_iafsm\\_sponsorship\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2022_iafsm_sponsorship_flyer.pdf)

## For More Information

For the most up to date information, please go to the Annual Conference page on our website at: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences-workshops/iafsm-annual-conference> or contact Dallas Alley, Conference Chair, at [alley@cofh.org](mailto:alley@cofh.org), or Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at [iafsm@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:iafsm@illinoisfloods.org).





## CEC Education & Training Opportunities

Looking for training opportunities? The following opportunities are coming up in the next few months. If you are looking for credits, be sure to review the material and confirm they meet the appropriate requirements.

### IAFSM/ASFPM Sponsored Training Opportunities:

- On Demand Sessions of the 2021 Annual Conference are available for viewing until March 2022. 2021 Conference attendees may view at no additional cost. New registrants may sign up to view the 2021 sessions until March 2022

<https://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences-workshops/iafsm-annual-conference>

### Additional Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training.

EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website:

<http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>

- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP – November 29-December 2, 2021, and January 10 – 13, 2022
- CRS training available at [www.crsresources.org/training](http://www.crsresources.org/training)

### Webinars

ASFPM – <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>

Also ... ASFPM is offering additional at home training. For information, see the link below:

<https://floods.redvector.com>

### Conferences

- March 8-9, 2022 IAFSM Annual Conference - Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
- May 15-19, 2022 ASFPM Annual Conference - Orlando, FL

Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar:

<http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

## IAFSM on Social Media

Follow IAFSM on Facebook and LinkedIn! Please send any time sensitive announcements or ideas for content to Melissa Duyar at [Melissa.Duyar@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Melissa.Duyar@kimley-horn.com) or Sarah Wenzel at [SWenzel@prairieengineers.com](mailto:SWenzel@prairieengineers.com)



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Image by Joel Pett

# “The ASFPM Foundation Works in Partnership with Chapters to Strengthen the Floodplain Management Foundation Nationwide”



The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Foundation (Foundation) was established in 1996 as the charitable arm of ASFPM. Importantly, the Foundation acts as a forward-looking catalyst for ASFPM, its Chapters, and members to advance projects, education, and policy initiatives that promote actions leading to reduced flood risk and resilient communities.

The Foundation is a premiere advocate for the floodplain management profession and serves as a voice for floodplain management practitioners, suppliers, and service providers nationwide, and in some cases globally. The Foundation has played a key role in the development of the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification program, which is foundational to establishing and maintaining the credibility of floodplain managers across the country. The Foundation continues to support the profession in many ways that bolster the CFM program. The following describes but a few of these important initiatives:

- In February 2020, the ASFPM Foundation released a report titled **“Urban Flooding: Moving Towards Resilience,”** to document important discussions by world class experts who attended the Foundation’s 6th assembly of the Gilbert F. White National Policy Forum. The report showcases the in-depth engagement on urban flooding issues by more than 100 experts from local, state, and federal agencies; professional associations; environmental groups; and private organizations. The report can be downloaded from the [ASFPM Foundation website](#).
- The ASFPM Foundation announced the award of its 2020-2022 Future Leaders Scholarship to Elizabeth Lacey at the ASFPM Virtual Conference in June 2020. Elizabeth is entering her third year in the Civil Engineering Honors Program at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is the second student of what we hope are many more to come to receive this \$20,000 per year scholarship with the goal of developing future leaders in the floodplain management field. Elizabeth’s acceptance message can be found on the [ASFPM Foundation Website](#).
- The ASFPM Foundation provided funding for, and partnered with ASFPM Flood Science Center to develop **“Flood Mapping for the Nation Report”** and **“Understanding and Managing Flood Risk: A Guide for Elected Officials.”** Both of these documents provide valuable information to floodplain management practitioners and can be found on the [ASFPM Flood Science Center website](#).
- The ASFPM Foundation again partnered with FEMA Region VIII and Earth Force to sponsor the 2020 Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge, now referred to as the [Rise Challenge](#). This is an annual competition that combines project-based learning with the latest research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) education.

Donations are the primary source of funding for the ASFPM Foundation. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of your contributions in helping us to sustain our current initiatives and develop new ones. The goal of reducing suffering and losses and improving a community’s ability to become safer and stronger in the aftermath of increasingly catastrophic flooding events is at the forefront of everything we do. Importantly, we also promote sustainable management of the nation’s floodplains and watersheds. For more information regarding the ASFPM Foundation and how you can donate, please contact George Riedel, Foundation Donor Coordinator, at [George@asfpmfoundation.org](mailto:George@asfpmfoundation.org).

## Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

### Save the Date! 2022 IAFSM Conference

The 2022 Annual Conference will be at the Bloomington Normal Marriott and Conference Center, Tuesday and Wednesday March 8 and 9, 2022. We hope to return to an in-person conference experience. Save the date!

### Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com) if there are topics that you'd like us to cover. You don't need to write the article - we just want your ideas! If you're gifted with a pen and would like to provide content, we welcome your written contributions as well.

### Get Involved with IAFSM!

IAFSM Committee Chairs welcome your help and involvement. See the list of chairs on the last page of this newsletter, or visit the committee webpage to learn more about volunteer opportunities. <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html>.

### Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has five Watershed Tabletop Models 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 offers a great opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain. IAFSM currently keeps tables in Springfield, Champaign, Bartlett, Woodridge, and Swansea.

Contact Sarah Harbaugh at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

### Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on November 17, 2021, at 9am. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings.

Contact Sarah Harbaugh for the Zoom ID to attend virtually: [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org).

### Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html> Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. To post an open position, please sign into our website and complete the job listing form. If you have any questions please contact Sarah Harbaugh at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org).



*Tim O'Brien uses the IAFSM Water Table to demonstrate flooding and flood mitigation techniques to local residents at the Village of Niles Public Works Open House in September 2021*

## The Town that Flood-Proofed Itself:

*Ottawa, Illinois learned how to keep its residents out of harm's way. But on the river's edge, safety has often required sacrifice. Visit [circleofblue.org](http://circleofblue.org) for a September 2021 article describing flood mitigation efforts in Ottawa.*





# THE IAFSM CURRENT

*Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Summer 2021 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](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com).

## IAFSM OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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