



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Coming Soon: 2023 Annual Conference!

The IAFSM Annual Conference will be Tuesday and Wednesday, March 14-15, 2023, at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL.

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/ubDxi4pUV7n7nTbe6>. The deadline is October 31, 2022. Presenters will be notified of their acceptance or denial by January 13, 2023. IAFSM intends for the 2023 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/ubDxi4pUV7n7nTbe6>.

Inside This Issue

Coming Soon: 2023 Annual Conference!	Page 1
IAFSM Committee Chair Vacancy:	
Floodplain Management	Page 2
FEMA Region 5 Updates	Page 3
Does Illinois Have the Nation's First	
Floodplain Mitigation Project?	Page 4
Illinois Floodplain Buyouts – Your Help is Needed	Page 4
New State Floodplain Manager	Page 5
From the Chair	Page 5
Nominations for Our Next IAFSM Secretary	
due November 1, 2022.....	Page 5

IAFSM Annual Awards	Page 6
IAFSM Launches Website for Community Officials and Property	
Owners	Page 7
Preliminary Floodplain Maps are out for Bond,	
Effingham, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties.....	Page 7
IAFSM Young Professionals Committee Invites You.....	Page 8
Stormwater Committee Updates	Page 9
In the News: Flood Insurance	Page 9
Managing Your Community's Floodplains Webinars	Page 9
Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter	Page 10
IAFSM Officers & Committee Chairs.....	Page 11

Coming Soon: 2023 Annual Conference! (continued)

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/2023_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/2023_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, or Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at iafsm@illinoisfloods.org.



IAFSM Committee Chair Vacancy: Floodplain Management

If you would like to help promote better floodplain management across the state, this is a perfect opportunity for you. The Floodplain Management Chair works closely with IDNR/OWR in helping promote floodplain management throughout the state. The Chair coordinates the Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT) volunteers, training, and deployment. The Chair monitors changes in floodplain regulations and general floodplain management guidance and policies. If you are interested in becoming the IAFSM's Floodplain Committee Chair or would like more information, please contact Steve Altman, Steve.Altman@illinois.gov.



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FEMA Region 5 Updates:

HMA Office Hours:

Wednesdays, beginning August 10, 2022, ending January 25, 2023, from 9-10am CT. Occurring every Wednesday, with the exception of October 26, 2022

<https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1606635144>

Meeting ID: 160 663 5144, Passcode: HMA

One tap mobile: +16692545252,,1606635144# US (San Jose)

Upcoming FEMA R5 Webinars:

Region 5 Technical & Qualitative Criteria, October 12, 2022, 2-3:30pm CT

This webinar will describe the technical and qualitative evaluation criteria that will be used in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) national competition, along with potential data sources.

<https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1603570451> Passcode: BRIC

Region 5 Building Code Activities, October 19, 2022, 10-11:30am CT

Building code adoption and enforcement are important risk reduction tools. This webinar will cover the basics of building codes and types of building code projects that are eligible for funding under Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC).

<https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1616640880> Passcode: BRIC

Region 5 Capability & Capacity Building Activities, October 24, 2022, 2-3:30pm CT

This webinar will discuss opportunities in the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program for applicants and subapplicants to apply for funding to help them increase their capacity and capability as it relates to natural hazard mitigation.

<https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/1601263351> Passcode: BRIC



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Does Illinois Have the Nation's First Floodplain Mitigation Project?

A recent study by Diana Yates at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign suggests that it might! The north 'plaza' in the ancient North American City of Cahokia, built in the floodplain of the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, was likely inundated year-round, and not used for communal gatherings as previously thought. Read the study [here](#) to learn more.

Cahokia Mounds is the largest archeological site in North America. The mounds were settled around 1050 AD and abandoned around 1400 AD. Monks Mound is largest mound at 100 feet in height. Not only did the site have a designated wetland but also Illinois' first mitigation project: our first elevated buildings.



Photo: The study focused on the north plaza, an expanse at a low elevation that is almost always inundated with water.

Credit: Caitlin Rankin

Illinois Floodplain Buyouts – Your Help is Needed

IDNR/OWR is working on a database and map of all floodplain buyouts across the state. Our data includes over 4,200 properties that were mostly those funded by IDNR or FEMA grants. We are missing buyouts that were locally funded or done as part of regional flood control facility. If your community has completed any buyouts, please contact Ron Davis and ron.davis@illinois.gov. Ron will share what we have for your community and add any missing parcels. Thanks for your help.





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New State Floodplain Manager

On July 1, 2022, Erin C. Conley joined the floodplain management team at IDNR as the State's new Floodplain Manager. Erin is a long-time resident of Springfield and has worked for the State of Illinois for 24 years. In that time, she has worked at the Pollution Control Board, at the State's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, and most recently at the Illinois Department of Public Health. As Erin becomes more familiar with the program, Marilyn Sucoe, Northeast Illinois Floodplain Manager, will continue assisting with downstate communities. Erin can be reached at Erin.C.Conley@Illinois.gov or 217.782.4428.

From the Chair

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

Now that the summer is over, we can all look forward to the Fall activities that we all enjoy like football, pumpkin spice lattes, taking the kids out trick-or-treating, and submitting an abstract to the IAFSM 2023 conference! We are excited to get back to Tinley Park in 2023 and we would love to include presentations that our membership has been working on.

We are also encouraging members to participate on a committee and/or the board. We currently have a vacancy on the board (Floodplain Management Chair). Contact me (Steve.Altman@illinois.gov) if you are interested. Also, we will be electing a new secretary to the board at the 2023 conference (contact Mark Hoskins, if interested). Thank you!

Nominations for Our Next IAFSM Secretary due November 1, 2022

~Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR, IAFSM Nominations Committee Chair

IAFSM is looking for nominations for Secretary. IAFSM is a premier floodplain management association. Being active on the Board is awesome, interesting, challenging and rewarding. As Secretary, then moving towards IAFSM Chair, you will see firsthand evolving policies and outreach programs that strive to better protect Illinois from future flood events. You'll love helping out.

If you are interested, please nominate yourself and let me know by November 1, 2022 at Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov.



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IAFSM Annual Awards

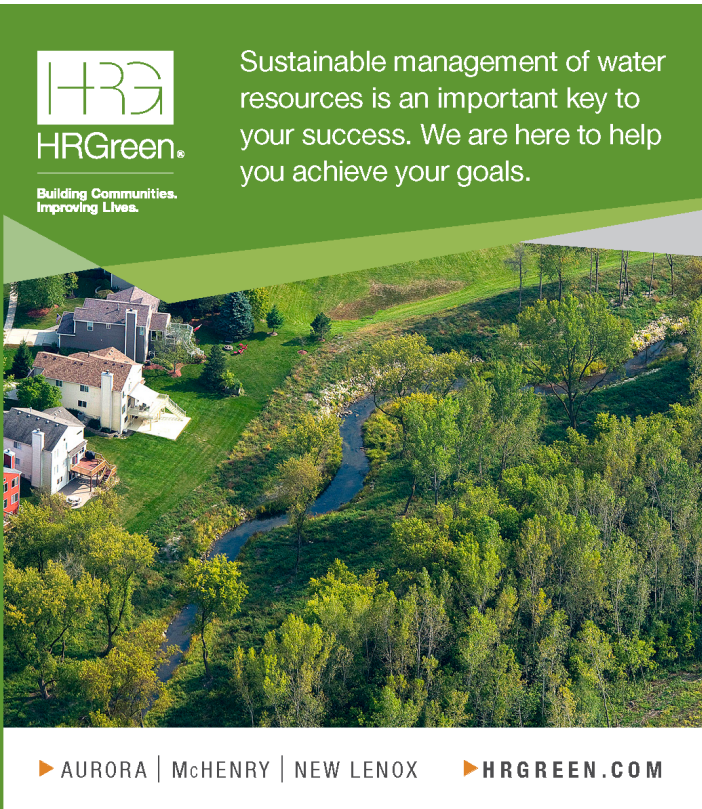
Awards Season is upon us! Nominate Your Peers and Colleagues for Stormwater and Floodplain Management Awards!

Do you know someone who has made notable contributions to furthering the goals and missions of IAFSM? Nominate them now!

All nominations and references are to be submitted online or via email. Nominations are now being accepted for the awards listed below. Nominations for the following categories are due by February 1, 2023. Please visit <https://www.illinois-floods.org/membership/awards> for more information.

- **Floodplain Manager of the Year:** Recognizes outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level in the area of floodplain management.
- **Stormwater Management:** Awarded to an individual or group who have improved stormwater management or reduced urban flood risks through creative engineering, regulatory measures, or other approaches.
- **Mitigation:** Given to an individual or community that has encouraged flood hazard reduction through a buyout program, retrofitting, preparation of a mitigation plan, or other similar mitigation efforts.

- **Outstanding Service:** Awarded to an IAFSM Officer, a Federal, State, or Local Official, or a consultant who has gone above and beyond normal expectations and duties to promote or encourage IAFSM goals.
- **Journalism or Public Outreach Award:** Given to a media outlet that has produced floodplain or stormwater management special features during the year. The award can include individuals or agencies who have contributed to outreach and public awareness of floodplain or stormwater management issues.
- **Legislation:** Honors Illinois lawmakers or local officials for their efforts in floodplain issues. The award can also be given to an individual who makes extraordinary efforts to encourage the passage of legislation or to a community that has adopted unique local regulations that promote floodplain management or flood damage reduction.
- **Lifetime Achievement:** This award is the IAFSM's highest honor. It is reserved for outstanding longtime floodplain managers. These individual's long-term contributions have made a noticeable impact on floodplain and stormwater management efforts in the State of Illinois. This award is not always given on a yearly basis.



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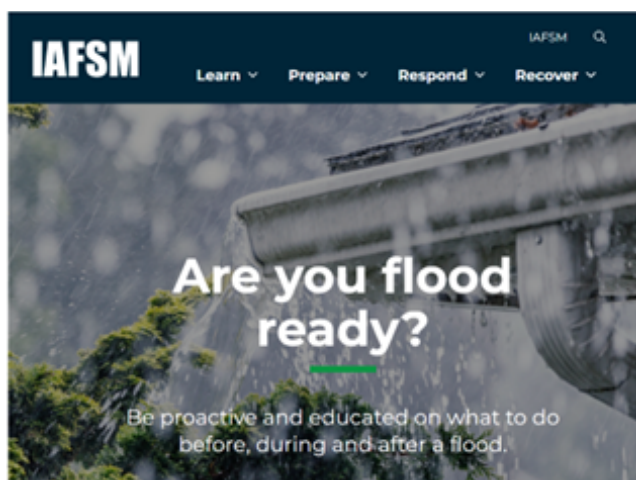


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IAFSM Launches Website for Community Officials and Property Owners

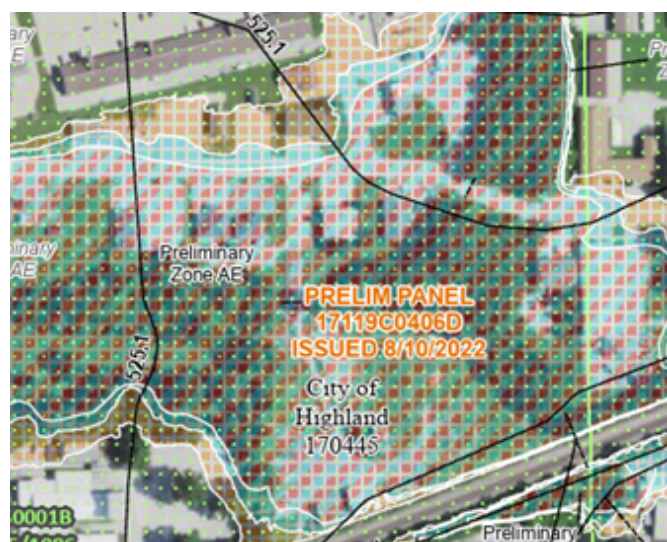


Did you know? The IAFSM website has a secondary page that is full of content designed to help Community Officials and Property Owners understand all things flood-related! Please take some time to familiarize yourself with all of the helpful content that you can use when trying to explain things to property owners, clients, and non-technical community officials. We think you're going to find a lot of great reference material, and that it will really be a helpful tool that you can use in your day to day work. Please go to our website at illinoisfloods.org, and click on the "Are you flood ready" box on the home page, or you can find it here: <https://prepare.illinoisfloods.org/learn/flood-risk>. Let us know what you think, and whether you know of other links that might be helpful to include!

Preliminary Floodplain Maps are out for Bond, Effingham, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties

This is exciting news for these counties, as they have never had a digital flood map and these maps are long overdue. The maps can be viewed at the [Flood Map Changes Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) and you can find instructions on how to use the site at [FEMA's Flood Map Changes Viewer Instructions](#).

Unfortunately, because there are no current digital maps, the map viewer is not able to show how the maps are changing. If you would like to discuss adopting the Preliminary maps and Preliminary Flood Insurance Study, please contact Erin Conley at Erin.C.Conley@Illinois.gov.





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Stormwater Committee Updates

XP-SWMM Subcommittee: The Stormwater Committee's XP-SWMM subcommittee is meeting regularly to investigate alternatives to XP-SWMM for use in Illinois. Please contact Steve Bicking if you desire to attend our meetings and be added to the subcommittee. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 18 at 1pm. We ask that there be one attendee per firm/agency.

HEC-RAS Course: IAFSM and ASCE are in the preliminary stages of planning a HEC-RAS course for winter/spring 2023. Stay tuned for further details and registration information!

Permitting Seminar: IL Section of ASCE EWRI will be holding a permitting seminar on November 16th in Schaumburg, Illinois. Refer to the following for additional information: <https://www.isasce.org/event/il-section-asce-ewri-permitting-workshop/>



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In the News: Flood Insurance

Last month, several news articles reported on the insurance crises in [Louisiana](#) and [Florida](#), following costly natural disasters that drove private insurance carriers out of business. These articles were published just days before Hurricane Ian made landfall, which is likely to exacerbate the situation. Our thoughts are with those affected by Ian as well as those affected by other recent damaging floods, and our appreciation is with those who are working to mitigate against future losses, both in Illinois and elsewhere.

To learn about the National Flood Insurance Program, [visit www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

Managing Your Community's Floodplains Webinars

Registration is open now for the next three monthly, one-hour virtual training webinars for local floodplain officials. They are held on Wednesdays, unless noted, from 9-10 a.m. (CT). Webinar attendance will be submitted to ASFP for CECs for CFMs.

- Topic #10 October 26, 2022: [Higher Standards](#)
- Topic #11 November 30, 2022: [Basement Flooding Mitigation](#)
- Topic #12 December 14, 2022: [No Adverse Impact](#)



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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2023 IAFSM Conference

The 2023 Annual Conference is being planned for March 14 and 15, 2023. We will be returning to the Tinley Park Convention Center. Refer to the first page of this newsletter for info regarding the Call for Speakers, etc. Registration is open (<https://www.illinoisfloods.org/event/3/1026/2023-iafsm-annual-conference>). A detailed event flyer is expected to be sent early in 2023

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at 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>



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.

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 at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16 at 9 am at V3 Companies in Woodridge. This is the conference planning meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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 at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

CFM Exam Information

IAFSM is able to continue offering in-person CFM exams through the end of 2022. One final in-person exam is planned. Beginning in 2023, exams will only be offered online. Online exams can be taken in your home (monitored by an online proctor) or at a testing center; there are many testing centers throughout Illinois. In-person exam dates:

- Dec 7, Rosemont

For information, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



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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.

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