



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

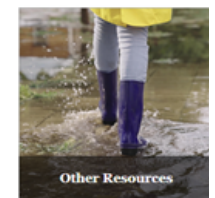
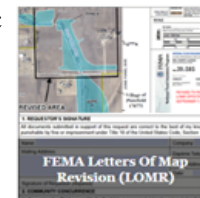
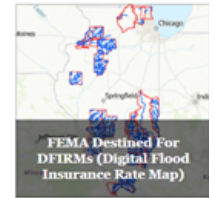
Fall 2023 Newsletter

Check Out the New Illinois State Water Survey Illinois Flood Maps Website

In June 2023, the Coordinated Hazard Assessment and Mapping Program (CHAMP) at the ISWS launched its redesigned website: IllinoisFloodMaps.org. The website improves communication between ISWS, local communities, and other project stakeholders. The updated format makes the website easier to use on a phone or tablet and you will more easily find information on the floodplain mapping activities across the state.

The tiles on the updated Home Page include:

- Resources by County, with a state map of counties where you click on a county to see the flood map resources for each county. (See FEMA Mapping Status article for an image of the map.)
- FEMA Letters of Map Revision provides help on the flood map revision application process.
- FEMA Destined for DFIRMs includes a map displaying areas of current hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) studies to eventually be incorporated into DFIRMs.
- Topographic Wetness Index, mapping that can be used to indicate areas of ponding due to local topography.
- Watersheds provides information for watersheds across the state, with links to projects in eleven watersheds including the Chicago, Kishwaukee, Upper and Lower Fox, Lower and Middle Wabash, and Lower Rock rivers.
- Building Footprints
- Mitigation & Planning includes information for county hazard mitigation plans currently in progress at ISWS and provides links to two password-protected databases related to flood risk for buildings in the floodplain and floodplain buyouts.
- Other Resources provides links to over fifty federal, state, and other agency websites.



If you have feedback or questions on the website redesign, please contact Zoe Zaloudek at CHAMP-ISWS@illinois.edu.

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NEW Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate Released

The new certificates are available at [National Flood Insurance Program Underwriting Forms](#). Use of the previous forms has been extended to November 1, 2023, after which the new forms must be used.

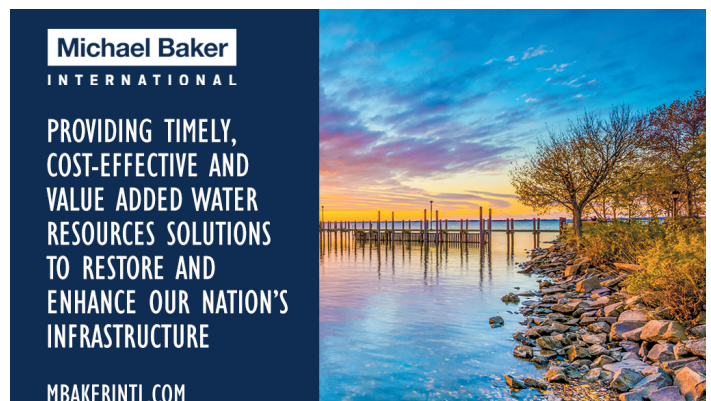
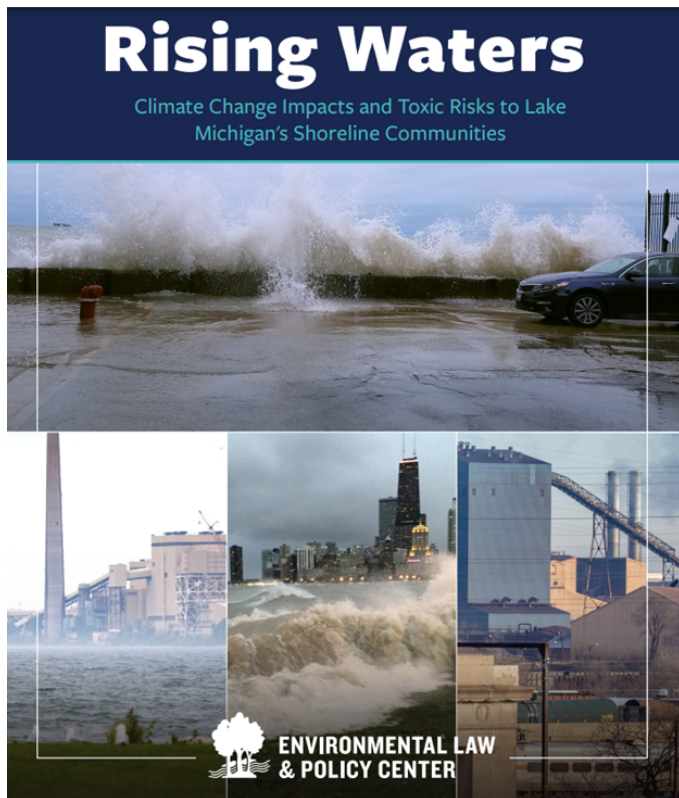
If you have had trouble opening the new Elevation Certificate (EC) form, use the following steps to open and save the form:

1. Go to the link above and scroll down to the Elevation Certificate form.
2. DO NOT SELECT DOWNLOAD, instead right click on the Download File link, and choose Save Link As.
3. SAVE to your computer as a PDF and ignore any Download folder pop up.
4. Go to the folder where the file is saved and OPEN the PDF.

Training for using the new EC will be provided (see webinar dates below). Also, there is a review checklist at the Community Rating System website that anyone can use to insure completeness and accuracy: EC Review Checklist.

Here are few important things to know about the new certificates:

- ECs are NOT required to get a federal flood insurance quote. They help to get an accurate quote but are no longer required for any building.
- A surveyor, engineer or architect is not required to complete the EC for submittal for flood insurance purposes. Sections A, B, E, F and H may be completed by a property owner or their representative.
- Photos are required now for all ECs; front, rear, left, and right.
- Completing Section G is recommended (but not required) by all communities.
- Community Rating System communities are required to complete Section G and provide name, signature, and date.
- When completing Section C, the current form does not accept N/A where an elevation does not apply. The comment section should be used.
- The Comment section must be used for detailing the machinery and equipment detailed in the instructions for Item C2.e.



FEMA Disaster Relief Funds Approaches Exhaustion

- Excerpt from ASFPM announcement, August 29, 2023

On August 29, [FEMA announced](#) the implementation of Immediate Needs Funding (INF). This happens when FEMA stops all projects other than those associated with life safety, and is due to the failure of Congress to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). FEMA has been sounding the alarm on this issue for some time now.

In its announcement, FEMA said “the current disaster environment with a major fire and multiple hurricanes make it necessary to implement INF immediately. This will allow FEMA to continue its focus on response and urgent recovery efforts without interruption.”

Being in INF status means that things that aren't immediate needs, could be delayed. However, ASFPM did confirm with FEMA that the current DRF circumstances will have no bearing on the ability for NFIP claims to be paid since they are funded through the National Flood Insurance Fund.

According to the FEMA announcement, “When INF is implemented, funding will continue for Individual Assistance, Public Assistance essential for lifesaving and life-sustaining activities, state management costs, mission assignments and critical ongoing disaster operations.

Under INF, there will not be new obligations for Public Assistance not essential for lifesaving and life-sustaining activities, permanent work and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Obligations for these activities will be paused until the DRF is sufficiently funded. However, FEMA will continue to accept and process Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grant applications even in categories where the obligations are paused.”

ASFPM has signed onto a [coalition letter](#) with several other national organizations calling for the immediate replenishment of the DRF. The letter was sent to Congressional leadership on August 29.




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Impact of Sackett v. EPA on Wetlands and Flood Risk Reduction

- Tom Kehoe, Wetlands Committee Chair, CBBEL

A recent decision by the United States Supreme Court has curtailed the ability of the Federal government to protect wetlands in the US. The case argued before the Court, *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, challenged the limits of Federal jurisdiction of wetlands under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Since 1972, the CWA has been the primary protector of aquatic resources in the US, requiring review and permits for impacts to “waters of the United States.” Wetlands are an integral part of aquatic resources and their functions and values in promoting water quality and flood water attenuation are well documented. The limits of Federal jurisdiction over aquatic resources, as spelled out in the Clean Water Act, have always hinged on just what exactly meets the definition of a “water of the United States.”



Prior to the decision rendered in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, the definition of “waters of the United States” was relatively broad, encompassing many water bodies such as streams, ephemeral tributaries, and adjacent wetlands within the watershed. Now, the limits have been reduced to only waterways with at least a relatively permanent flow regime and wetlands that connect at the surface with these waters. Wetlands lacking a “continuous surface connection” to adjoining waterways are not “waters of the United States” and therefore are no longer regulated under the CWA.

Historically, wetland protection at the Federal level has relied on the definition of “waters of the United States.” With the new revised definition and subsequent reduction of Federally protected waters now, many wetlands lack protection under the CWA. The future of wetland protection must now rely on the existing and future legislation and ordinances at local and state levels.

In Illinois, there is no comprehensive wetland protection law in place. The Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989 regulates wetlands for state funded projects. In some instances, units of County government, such as the collar counties around Chicago, have taken steps to enhance stormwater management ordinances to include protection for wetlands. The vast majority of wetlands in Illinois are now unprotected from development, however.

Without a doubt, loss of wetlands will result in negative impacts both to water quality as well as the ability to manage excessive water quantity safely and effectively. The ability of wetlands to store and absorb stormwater is obvious. This Supreme Court decision will result in increases in flooding due to the additional loss of wetlands that is certain to come. [This link](#) provides additional details on the ramifications of the Supreme Court’s decision.



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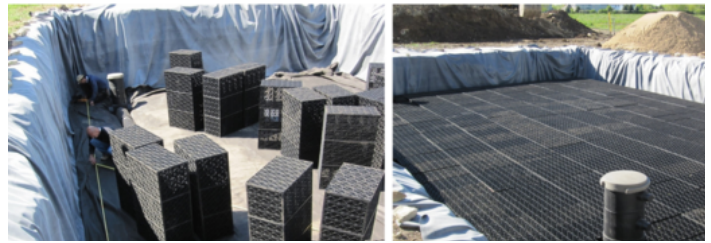
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Rainwater Harvesting System 13 Years After Construction

- Excerpted from DuPage County Currents newsletter, August 2023

A few weeks ago, DuPage County Stormwater Management (SWM) Chairman [Jim Zay](#) toured [The Conservation Foundation's \(TCF\) McDonald Farm](#). TCF President Brook McDonald led Zay through the Farm's sustainable and water-quality friendly features, including green roofs, solar panels, native gardens and more. The crown jewel of stormwater management for the Farm however, lies completely invisible between two barns. Just beneath the ground sits a 25,000 gallon rainwater harvesting system, built in 2010 by Aquascape Designs with funding from SWM. The system, one of the largest of its kind in the Chicagoland area, collects 100% of rainwater from four nearby buildings into a 35'x35' reservoir filled with interlocking Aquablocks for structural support. The water then gets pumped out to irrigate the Farm's 60-acre organic vegetable farm. The system has been such a success that they hardly ever use the backup water well. With additional rain barrels and a secondary smaller harvesting system, TCF captures all onsite rainwater runoff, demonstrating practical water conservation and sustainability principles to visitors.



The Conservation Foundation President Brook McDonald and DuPage SWM Chairman Jim Zay pose next to an educational sign on the benefits of rainwater harvesting. Bottom left-In 2010, staff members begin installation of over 780 Aquablocks that make up the rainwater harvesting system. Bottom right-The rainwater system with all Aquablocks locked in place, before being backfilled and regraded.

Illinois Floodplain Management Webinars

Illinois has added webinars to the remaining FEMA monthly webinar series. We hope that some of these one-hour virtual training sessions will fit into your schedule. Please share this information with your building inspectors, permit staff, engineers, and public work staff. Use the links below to register or add to your calendar. Webinar attendance for FEMA-led webinars will be submitted to ASFPM for CECs for CFMs.

- 10/24/23 (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Floodplain Permits and Ordinance Administration](#)
- 11/14/23 (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Enforcing your Ordinance, Variances and Violations](#)
- 12/12/23, (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Web-Based Maps and Other Resources](#)

An advertisement for Hanson Inc. The top part has a dark blue background with the text "TRUSTED PARTNERS. PROVEN RESULTS." in white. Below that, it says "Hanson is your trusted advisor for innovative engineering solutions." in white. At the bottom, it lists "Offices serving Illinois: Springfield, Peoria, Lisle, McHenry, Frankfort, Murphysboro, Indianapolis and St. Louis" and the Hanson logo with "HANSON | HANSON-INC.COM". The right side of the ad features three images: a colorful topographic map, a bridge over water, and a construction site with large pipes.

An advertisement for Pinnacle Engineering Group. The top part has a grey background with the text "PINNACLE ENGINEERING GROUP" in large, bold letters. Below that, it lists "Civil Engineering | Surveying | Landscape Architecture | Land Planning" in orange. A QR code is on the left. On the right, it provides contact information: "Chicago: 847.551.5300", "Milwaukee: 262.754.8888", and "www.pinnacle-engr.com". The bottom part has a dark grey background with the text "CHICAGO // MILWAUKEE // NATIONWIDE" in white. The background of the ad shows an aerial view of a city with a large building.

IDNR Office Hours

IDNR staff will continue to host monthly virtual Office Hour sessions on the dates listed below (second Wednesday of the month). All Office Hour session start at 10:30 am. Save the links below to your 2023 calendar and join us with any floodplain related questions. No registration is required.

- [Wednesday September 13, 10:30-11:30](#)
- [Wednesday, October 11, 10:30-11:30](#)
- [Wednesday, November 15, 10:30-11:30](#)
- [Wednesday, December 13, 10:30-11:30](#)

From the Chair

-Dallas Alley, CFM, City of Fairview Heights

For most of our members, autumn kicks off the annual conference preparatory work, but for the Board and especially the Conference Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Sharon Østerby, conference planning is a perennial activity. By now, members should have received emails from our Executive Secretary, Sarah Harbaugh: a call for abstracts and a call for award nominations. I'm hopeful that many of you will be responding to one or both emails. Ever wonder how we review your submittals and make decisions? The Conference Committee Chair organizes and oversees the entire abstract selection process. The entire Board reviews every abstract, and several of the Committee Chairs provide specific input and recommendations for presentation selections related to their committees. Based on the submittals, particular topics may surface which then help group the remaining selections together in ninety-minute break-out sessions. Depending on the number and variety of submittals, the Board also strives to provide maximum diversity of topics, divide the selections equally between the public and private sectors, and provide opportunities to first-time presenters. We encourage presenters to emphasize unique aspects of their projects or studies, rather than an overview. The technical break-out sessions are the back-bone of our conference and the Board recognizes that it's your efforts that ultimately provide the quality to our conference. Please consider submitting an abstract.

Every year we know that there are regulators, engineers, and environmental scientists that have achieved a milestone or helped a municipality stand out in the field of floodplain and stormwater management. For more than 30 years, our awards program has recognized these individuals and units of government. Sarah Hunn, our Awards Committee Chair, has a group of people in her committee who assist her in collecting and reviewing nominations. We believe that there are more excellent floodplain managers and communities than are typically submitted for nomination and would meet the threshold for a nomination. Preparing an award nomination is not trivial, but our awards program is important to IAFSM and recognizing outstanding effort among our membership should be highlighted. If you have an award-worthy person or community in mind and are not quite sure how to approach the award nomination process, please contact Sarah Hunn. She will gladly make suggestions if you want to proceed with a formal nomination submittal.



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FEQ Training Course

DuPage County Stormwater will be offering a stormwater modeling class using FEQ. This three-day FEQ class will provide attendees a step-by-step process by which any FEQ-based hydraulic project may be approached. Included with the workshop elements are complementary discussions detailing the capabilities of FEQ and FEQUTL, covering software basics and tips for beginners. Attendees will gain an understanding of data requirements, model development, computational methods of the software, and interpreting results for a variety of applications. Training topics will include modeling of bridges, culverts, weirs, and channels.

This course will also cover:


- How to read an FEQ schematic,
- How to find critical input/output information quickly,
- How FEQ hydrology is determined and how to make needed hydrologic adjustments on established models,
- How to prepare an FEQ file and table structure that is compact and compatible with project objectives,
- How to troubleshoot and debug both the FEQUTL and FEQ model runs, and
- How to approach and process results comparing existing and proposed data.

Each participant will get hands-on experience working through examples with the help of experienced instructors. The course will provide 16.5 PDH hours for the Illinois PE license and 12 CEC's towards CFM renewal.


The class will be held Tues/Wed/Thurs November 7-9 from 9am to 4pm. The class will be conducted at DuPage County's Office of Emergency Management conference room at 418 N. County Farm Road at the DuPage County complex in Wheaton. Coffee between 8:30 and 9:00 each day. The course will include morning and afternoon breaks and snacks, and a lunch will be provided during an approximate 1-hour lunch break.

There are 20 available spots that will be filled on a first come first serve basis at a cost of \$150/person. Registration for this class can be completed through October 31, 2023 at the following link: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/meetings/register/options/1029>

For additional details and course information, you may contact Rob Covey at Robert.Covey@DuPageCounty.org or Meredith Nika at NikaEngineering@att.net.



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Coming Soon: 2024 Annual Conference!

The IAFSM Annual Conference will be Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12-13, 2024, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, 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/rCwjKKYKbHswqULP7>. The deadline is October 31, 2023. Presenters will be notified of their acceptance or denial by January 13, 2024.

IAFSM intends for the 2024 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/rCwjKKYKbHswqULP7>.

Exhibitor and Vendor Registration

Companies and organizations are invited to exhibit their products, services, and activities at the IAFSM conference. For more information: [Early Exhibitor Flyer](#)

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: [Early Sponsorship Flyer](#)

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 Sharon Østerby, Conference Chair, at SOsterby@lakecountyil.gov, or Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at iafsm@illinoisfloods.org.

Photos from 2022 & 2023 IAFSM Annual Conference



IAFSM Annual Awards

Awards Season is approaching! 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 2, 2024. Please visit <https://www.illinoisfloods.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.
- French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for 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.

CRS Committee Updates

The CRS Guide for NFIP's pricing methodology is now available - agents.floodsmart.gov/sites/default/files/fema-nfip-crs-guide-2023.pdf. The document can also be found at [Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action | FloodSmart](#), along with other pricing methodology resources.

The new Elevation Certificate has been released and must be used: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/find-form/underwriting>

The CRS Users Group will be hosting virtual meetings this fall/winter. Topics include: Repetitive Loss Area Assessment (RLAA), Program for Public Information (PPI), BSEGS, Substantial Damage Management Plan. Contact CRS Chair Julie Lomax (jlomax@downers.us) for more information.

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The IAFSM Floodplain Committee is up and running again! One of the objectives of the Floodplain Committee is manning the **IAFSM RAFT**. **RAFT** is the **Rapid Assistance Flood Team** and is an all-volunteer crew that sails in to assist communities, conducting door-to-door damage assessments in times of flooding.



We're updating our **RAFT** volunteer list and looking for new crew members! This is a great opportunity for volunteering your time and expertise when needed the most, while gaining hands-on floodplain management experience during a flood disaster. If you meet the following criteria, please consider joining the **RAFT** team to assist communities post-flood events:

- ✓ RAFT members are all Certified Floodplain Managers.
- ✓ RAFT members represent local, state and federal government, the private sector, and other professional disciplines (current or retired).
- ✓ RAFT members have experience and training in post-flood responsibilities or a willingness to learn.
- ✓ RAFT members are all volunteers and have agreed to assist communities in times of need.

What is required of RAFT Volunteers?

- Attending bi-annual training to be prepared for damage assessment response.
NOTE: The first training session is scheduled for the March 2024 IAFSM Conference in Peoria.
- Maintains IAFSM membership and Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) license.
- Provides equipment (digital camera, clip board, etc.) and clothing (boots, mask, etc.) necessary to conduct damage assessments.
- Provides digital damage assessment files to be left with the host community.
- Provides a vehicle for transport to the host community.
- Conducts damage assessments with RAFT teams of 2-4 members.
- Personal photo identification badge to wear during inspections (IAFSM will provide if needed).

Still Interested?

Existing and new members please complete the [Voluntary Agreement and Membership Profile Questionnaire](#) and [Waiver](#) forms.

Return to dawncos@illinois.edu

Have further questions?

Contact Dawn Cosentino, IAFSM Floodplain Committee Chair at dawncos@illinois.edu



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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:

- IAFSM Annual Conference: March 12 and 13, 2024, Peoria Civic Center, Peoria, IL
- ASFPM Annual Conference June 23-27, 2024 Salt Lake City, Utah

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 through the NFIP- Oct 30 – Nov 2, 2023 and Feb 12 – Feb 15, 2024
- E0278 NFIP/Community Rating System – Feb 26-29, 2024

Webinars

- ASFPM Webinars: <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>
- AFPM is offering additional at home training. For information: <https://floods.redvector.com/>
- ASFPM has On Demand Learning seminars: [On-Demand Learning \(floods.org\)](https://www.floods.org/on-demand-learning/)
- Refer to the Illinois Floodplain Management Webinar article in this newsletter for additional opportunities

CRS Training

- CRSResources.org has training resources - both live and pre-recorded. See <https://crsresources.org/training/> for more information.

Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

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-Greg Chismark, PE, President

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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2024 IAFSM Conference

The 2024 Annual Conference is being planned for March 12 and 13 in Peoria. Save the date!

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>

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 to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15 at 9:00 am at V3 Companies in Woodridge. This is our big 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 Exams

Beginning in 2023, exams are only 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. For information, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



Sarah Wenzel brought the IAFSM water table to St. Thomas Middle School's Science Palooza event in Peoria Heights and demonstrated to students and parents how different surfaces can affect water runoff in an interactive exhibit.



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Summer 2023 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.

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