



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Floodplain Mapping in Illinois

Of Illinois' 102 counties, the majority have modern, digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that can be viewed from your computer on FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer. However, 23 counties still have paper only maps!

The Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) and IDNR/Office of Water Resources are working with FEMA to achieve statewide digital flood hazard mapping. The map shows the status of countywide mapping projects in Illinois as of August 2020. Flood studies are in progress in 12 counties, which is just the first step toward preparing updated maps. Information about current projects can be found at <https://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org/>.

When an area is rapidly urbanizing or a new flood risk is mapped, this mapping is issued as a Physical Map Revision. Information on the river basins that are being studied can be found on the [ISWS's Destined for DFIRMs](#) webpage.

You can help the mapping effort. Input from zoning administrators, floodplain managers, emergency managers, engineers and other community leaders is essential to produce the best and most accurate information. Communities are sent a letter and asked for their input as the initial plans for new maps are being prepared. Once initial studies are complete, communities are given the information and again asked to review and comment. After community comments are resolved, Preliminary Maps are issued and the formal comment and appeals periods are held as we move toward final products. **Please take the time to review and comment on the mapping to help ISWS and IDNR develop the best maps for your community.**



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DHS OIG Releases NFIP Recommendations

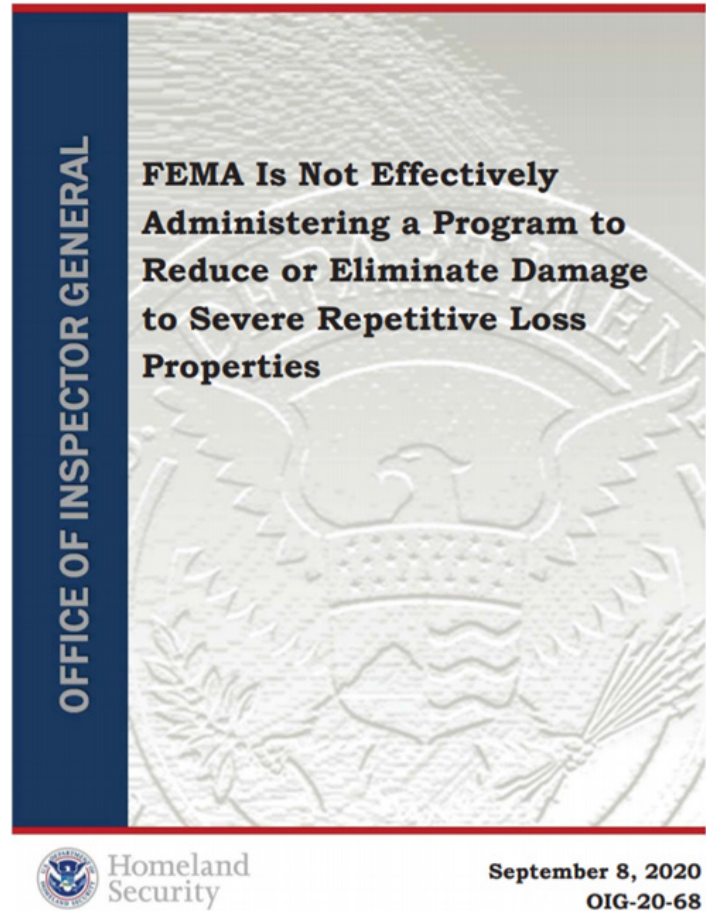
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a report this week titled, [FEMA is not Effectively Administering a Program to Reduce or Eliminate Damage to Severe Repetitive Loss Properties](#). The OIG found that FEMA has not established an effective program to reduce or eliminate damage to severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties and disruption to life caused by repeated flooding because FEMA does not have reliable, accurate information about SRL properties. OIG also found that FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), which aims to mitigate flood damage for NFIP policyholders, provides neither equitable nor timely relief to SRL applicants because of FMA grant application requirements and inadequate enforcement of grant requirements.

The OIG is recommending that:

- FEMA devise a plan to strengthen its management of SRL properties and ensure the accuracy of the SRL list;
- FEMA revise its approach to ensure equitable and timely distribution of mitigation funding; and
- FEMA strengthen its approach for mitigating SRL properties by promoting communities' use of the Increased Cost of Compliance repetitive loss provision available under NFIP.

FEMA concurred with all recommendations.

Here in Illinois, Repetitive Loss structures have been a priority for a long time. In the 1990s the state paid a contractor to go through the entire FEMA rep loss list for Illinois and clean the data. Since then, IDNR has used the State's list rather than FEMA's list to focus our compliance and mitigation priorities. As a result, Illinois now leads the nation in overall RL reduction.



Actions You Can Take to Protect a Flood-Prone House or Business with a Crawlspace



The ASFPM Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee recently prepared and released a guide for reducing flood damage and flood risk to homes and businesses containing a crawlspace. This guide provides a step-by-step decision-making process for home owners and business owners who want to reduce their exposure to flood damage and potentially lower their flood insurance premiums.

While it is advisable to consult with your local floodplain management administrator on regulatory and flood insurance requirements, this guide is intended to provide basic flood risk reduction advice for structures containing a crawlspace.

This guide can be found and downloaded from the ASFPM Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee webpage by [clicking here](#).

Say it Ain't so, Paul Osman has Retired!

If you haven't heard, Paul retired on August 31, 2020 from his role as the State's NFIP Coordinator. He worked for over 30 years with the State of Illinois, helping the nearly 900 Illinois communities that participate in the NFIP program. If you had the good fortune to interact with Paul, you know that he is a walking book of knowledge on flood insurance, flood regulation, floodplain mapping, flood disaster response and flood mitigation. He has contributed to federal, state and local floodplain policy that has benefited our country and other countries.

At the onset of Paul's career with Illinois floodplain issues, Illinois once ranked in the top five worst states for repetitive flood damaged properties. Today, Illinois has one of the greatest reductions in repetitive flood damaged properties in the nation. Paul attended hundreds of public meetings across the state to help communities understand damages assessment, the rules that govern good floodplain management and to help them make the hard decisions in enforcing their regulations.

Paul has also generously shared his time and energy to further the missions of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and IAFSM. He was the recipient of IAFSM's French Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2017 and was very recently awarded FEMA's first Floodplain Management

Lifetime Achievement Award, among numerous other awards at the state and national level. Illinois has benefited from Paul's work, but so have many other states and countries with which Paul has shared his knowledge and experiences.

Although Paul is irreplaceable, IDNR/OWR staff are up for the challenge. Many of you have turned to Paul over the years as the one-stop-shop for all things floodplain in Illinois. Please use this list to better direct your questions for the answers you need:

- NFIP, floodplain management, flood insurance, elevation certificates and other local assistance: Marilyn Sucoe at 847.608.3181 or Marilyn.Sucoe@illinois.gov
- Downstate floodway permits: Bill Milner at 217.524.1458 or Bill.Milner@illinois.gov
- Northeastern Illinois state floodway permits: 847.608.3116 or DNR.Dwrm@illinois.gov
- Mitigation and IDNR buyouts: Ron Davis at 217.524.7200 or Ron.Davis@illinois.gov
- LOMRs and flood studies: Liana Winsauer at 847.608.3166 or Liana.Winsauer@illinois.gov
- Dam Safety: Paul Mauer at Paul.Mauer@illinois.gov
- Levees, Disaster Assistance and all other issues – Steve Altman at 217.524.1028 or Steve.Altman@illinois.gov

New FEMA Contact

Ashley Reimann is the new primary contact for Illinois communities for FEMA-related floodplain management questions or concerns. Ashley has worked at FEMA for one year prior to taking on this new role. She has previous

experience working in local community development and building code research and reform. Ashley can be reached at Ashley.reimann@fema.dhs.gov or (312) 841.2816.



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When Is a State Floodway Permit Required?

A state floodway permit is generally required when **any development occurs in and along the lakes, rivers and streams of the state**. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) specifically has jurisdiction over BOTH:

- Mapped or designated floodways in a Zone AE floodplain
- Unmapped floodways in a Zone A floodplain

When the drainage area in an urban area is one square mile or more or in a rural area is 10 square miles or more.

An individual permit is required unless the development can meet the conditions of one of the [Statewide permits](#) or [Regional Permit No. 3](#). These permits are meant to cover routine, minor construction activities such as overhead and underground utility crossings, small boat docks, bridge and culvert replacement and streambank stabilization. A local government's floodplain administrator can review the project and issue the local permit without state approval, if it meets the special conditions listed.



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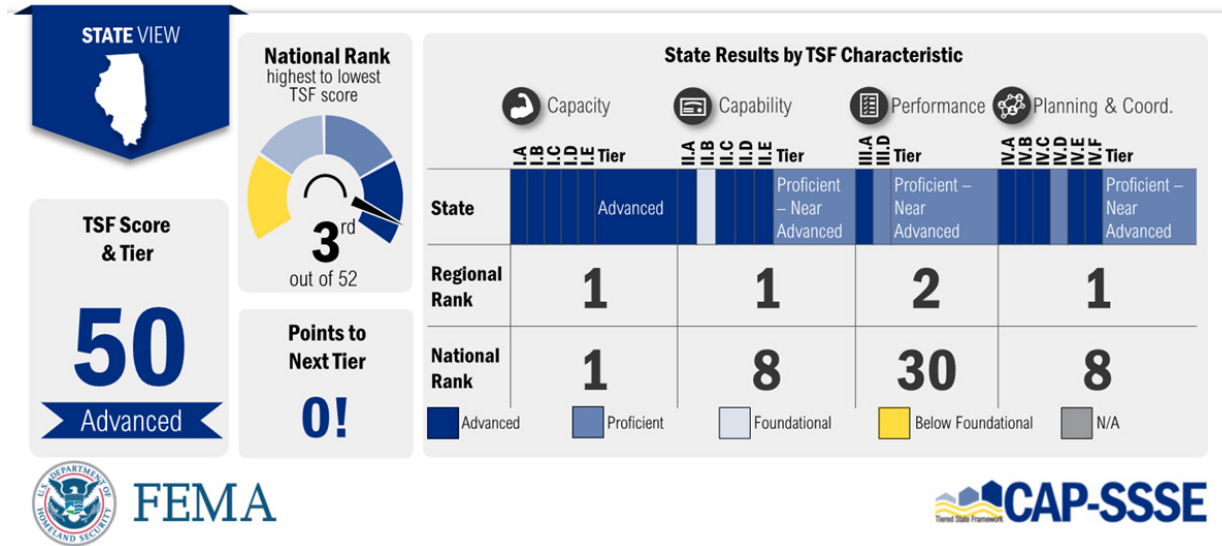
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Illinois achieves Advanced Ranking from FEMA

FEMA recently performed a “grading” of state floodplain management programs, referred to as the Tiered State Framework (TSF). FEMA will use the grade as one of the criteria for future grant dollars. Illinois was awarded one of the highest scores in the nation and categorized as an “Advanced State”. Congrats to all the State and Local officials who have worked so hard to properly manage our floodplains and protect Illinois from flooding over the years.



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From the Chair: Digital CFM Exams, Virtual Conference & Board News

-Erik Gil, P.E. CFM, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

It looks like 2021 is shaping up to be one of perceptible change for IAFSM: the CFM exam will be going digital and the IAFSM conference will be virtual.

IAFSM regrets not being able to hold CFM exams since our pre-conference exam, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The digital CFM exam is expected to become available within a matter of months. This is planned to be a permanent change and more information will be provided once it is available for prospective CFMs.

We hope that the conference going virtual will only be temporary. One of the main advantages of holding an in-person conference is the opportunity afforded to our 600+ members to network and interact with other professionals across the state; we are hopeful that 2022 will be back to normal. Steve Altman and Sarah Harbaugh are putting in extra hours this year to have our 2021 virtual conference be an engaging event with opportunities to connect and network, even though we're attending remotely. Please make sure to read conference announcements which describe our upcoming virtual conference and how our presentations will be managed. We are hoping to receive more abstract submissions this year since travel will not be required to present on a topic.

The evolution of the CFM Exam and IAFSM conference aren't the only changes happening. During our September meeting, the Board confirmed the appointment of Steve Bicking from HR Green as our new Stormwater Management Chair.

Steve specializes in hydrologic and hydraulic analysis and floodplain and stormwater regulations. Steve is a Certified Stormwater Engineer Review Specialist for Kane County, an Enforcement Officer in Lake County and a member of the Lake County Municipal Advisory Committee. He is also Chairman of the McHenry County Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee and was on the Kendall County Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee. He will bring his knowledge, expertise and connections to the Stormwater Chair position. Welcome Steve! IAFSM would also like to extend a big thanks to Shauna Urlacher, past Stormwater Committee Chair, not only from our Board but from the many professionals that benefited from the numerous workshops that she brought to our programs.

Finally, as you read in this newsletter, Paul Osman just retired from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Water Resources as Chief of the Statewide Floodplain Programs. For over 20 years, Paul served on the IAFSM Board, with his last formal position being the Awards Chair. More recently and up until his retirement, he served in an advisory role to IAFSM as the State's NFIP Coordinator – a role that Marilyn Sucoe will now be filling. Paul wrote many articles in this newsletter over the years and though it is difficult to prioritize Paul's many contributions, the Board perhaps most appreciated his role in bringing many quality technical and plenary speakers to our Annual Conference each year. We wish Paul many productive years in his retirement, as we all know he's not just going to go fishing.

Why should I Join ASFPM?

IAFSM is a state chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Management (ASFPM). If you are a member of IAFSM, you are not automatically a member of ASFPM. While IAFSM primarily focuses attention on Illinois issues, ASFPM focuses attention on the national level. Illinois communities directly benefit from the efforts of ASFPM in policy development, legislation and published resources. Therefore, IAFSM encourages our members to become members of ASFPM. Individual and Partner membership options exist at various levels. As an ASFPM member, you gain the opportunity to provide input to national leaders on issues important to you, your community, state, agency or company. Other benefits include:

- Bi-monthly newsletter: The Insider.

- Free, half-hour webinar every month bringing you up-to-date on the most pressing national policy issues impacting the programs you deal with every day in floodplain management.
- Discounts on ASFPM webinars.
- Discounts on ASFPM conference fees.
- Access to the ASFPM Member/Partner Directories.
- Voting rights in elections of the ASFPM Board of Directors and all issues presented to members for vote.

For additional information and instruction on becoming a member of ASFPM, please visit:

<https://www.floods.org/membership-communities/start/join-renew/>

2020 “Best IAFSM Conference Presentation” Award

In the post-conference survey, attendees of the 2020 IAFSM Annual Conference were asked to choose their favorite presentation. The 2020 award is presented to Garrett Litteken and Steve Brown of Hanson Professional Services Inc, for their presentation titled “2D Mobile Bed Hydraulic Modeling: Man-Made Impacts on the Floodplain of a Highly Erodible Stream.” The runner-up was Jennifer Maercklein, V3 Companies, with her presentation “Creating 160 acre-feet

in a Fully-Built City to Address Urban Flooding: MWRD’s Melvina Ditch Reservoir Expansion.”

Thank you to everyone who presented at last spring’s conference. IAFSM continues to produce a high-quality event for our attendees. Consider submitting an abstract to participate as a presenter in next year’s virtual conference. [Click here to submit an abstract](#) by the October 31 deadline

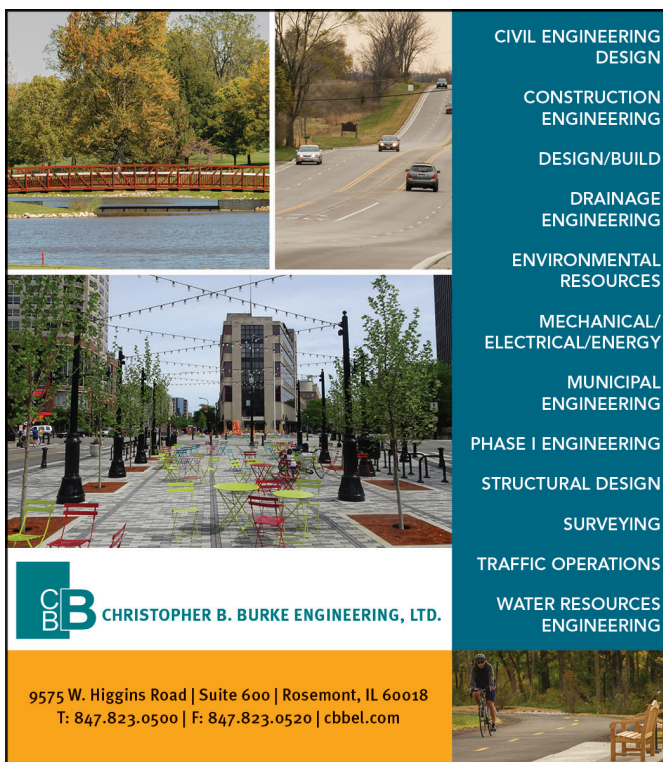
2021 & 2022 Annual Conference Announcements

The IAFSM conference is going virtual in 2021! The dates of the conference stay the same as previously published: March 10th and 11th, 2021. The conference will operate similarly to prior conferences, with large group plenary sessions and small group breakout sessions. All presentations will be pre-recorded with our selected contractor and live Q & A will follow after completion of each presentation.

Save the date for the 2022 conference: March 8th & 9th at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Conference Center. Mark

your calendars! (Note this is Tuesday-Wednesday conference, which is a departure from our typical Wednesday-Thursday conference schedule.)

IAFSM’s call for abstracts for the 2021 conference is expected to be sent in early October with abstracts typically due in late October. Watch your inbox for details.



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Consider Volunteering for IAFSM Secretary

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

Nominations are open for the IAFSM Board position for Secretary. This is an elected position that typically progresses into becoming the IAFSM Chair. If elected, you will serve as Secretary for two years. Typically, Executive Board Members are re-elected to the Executive Board into positions of increasing responsibility as the Treasurer, then Vice Chair, then Chair, then finally Past-Chair. Each office has a tenure of two years.

The Secretary is a great introduction to the IAFSM Executive Board since you discuss, document and draft Board bi-monthly meeting minutes. A Secretary quickly learns about the responsibilities of the various committees and background about Illinois floodplain issues. The Treasurer tallies all the annual member dues and reports the available funding and disbursements back to the Board. The Vice-Chair organizes two annual Spring conferences with close coordination with all the other elected officers and IAFSM Committee Chairs. The Chair and Past Chair offer guidance and remembrances of what worked well and what could be improved at past meetings.

The Illinois Floodplain Association is one of the largest state chapters within the larger umbrella of the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. The mission of ASFPM is to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains - all without causing adverse impacts.

As a new Secretary for IAFSM you will be interacting and promoting better floodplain management in Illinois and learning about many significant national floodplain issues. As our new Secretary, the Board will appreciate your involvement in our activities, which have continued even through this Covid-19 pandemic. The secretary position is both rewarding and fun.

Please send your nomination information to mark.hoskins@illinois.gov before January 15, 2021. Elections occur during the Spring conference.

Local Government IAFSM Members

The IAFSM Legislative Committee is looking for a few IAFSM members who work in local government. The Committee reviews legislation, regulations and policy directives that impact floodplain and stormwater management in Illinois. The committee does its work via a conference call

at 9:30am on Fridays every other week. Upcoming activities will focus on building stronger IAFSM member connections with Illinois State Legislators. If you are interested, please contact Committee Chair, Kay Whitlock at 847.823.0500 or kwhitlock@cbbel.com.

Young Professionals Group Update: Trivia Night

The Young Professionals Group is working hard to plan engaging events for the Fall. We are excited to announce our first Virtual Trivia Night on Wednesday, October 28th from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM! Please check your inbox for an invitation that was distributed with more details, a registration link and team instructions. You can also register at this link: <https://forms.gle/ALcWsC4vtu2FTXj56>

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback from our previous webinars this summer. We are taking your ideas in mind and planning out speakers for later this Fall and Winter.

Lastly, we would like to encourage all YP IAFSM members to submit an abstract for the 2021 IAFSM conference. This is a great opportunity to present on a multitude of topics, especially if it's your first time presenting. The YP Group is working on additional engagement and networking opportunities for the

conference and we will share with our group closer to the event.

For more information on the YP Group or to get involved, contact Adam Blumstein, arblumstein@burnsmcd.com.



The RISE Challenge: What it is, who's involved, where / how will it happen & when will it happen?

~Brian Chaille, P.E. CFM, ISWS



The COVID-19 Pandemic has made 2020 a year of epic challenges and opportunities. Living, working and learning through our computers, socially distanced and masked isn't what we signed up for but here we are!

Amid the weirdness, we are often forced to create something new and sometimes we find that the new thing works pretty well. The RISE Challenge is one of those opportunities and IAFSM needs your help and expertise!

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a huge difference in a time of real need and it just plopped into our laps! It's exactly the kind of collaborative outreach and engagement that I believe will make the most difference in our field over the next 50 years. There has been one RISE Challenge to date, in Colorado (Region 8). Illinois will be the second. RISE Challenge Illinois is sponsored by Earth Force, FEMA, the ASFPF Foundation and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois.

What it is

The Rise Challenge is a student led learning experience which focuses on a natural hazard faced by the student's community with the goal **that students take civic action to reduce that hazard in their own communities.** It follows Next Generation Science Standards, NGSS (which fits well with what we do). Students lead each step in the process: topic initiation, investigation, group decision making, design and execute research (analysis and interpretation), research policy and community practice research, problem statement, solution development based on argument from evidence and civic action planning and communication.

This is a real competition, with prizes awarded to the top proposals and implementation funding offered to all! Those groups who successfully progress through the steps present their findings at the RISE Summit in late spring.

Who is involved

- Earth Force: <https://earthforce.org/> They have been doing student led learning for 25 years.
- Environmental Education Association of Illinois, EEAI: <https://www.eeai.net/> They have been supporting environmental education in Illinois for nearly 50 years.

- FEMA Region 5, Mitigation Section is providing the majority of the program funding, including implementation money for projects.
- ASFPF Foundation is providing prize money that will be awarded to the top five proposals.
- Students from grades five through nine and the educators or youth leaders who will work with them.
- Scientists, Engineers and Planners who will assist with student learning and project research.
- **Maybe you?** Our membership in IAFSM represents an incredible range of expertise. Your knowledge and experience in understanding, communicating and acting on Natural Hazards could empower a group or groups of students across the state to actually make a positive change in their own communities!

Where / how will it happen?

State wide, but in specific communities as educators and youth leaders come on board. EEAI is leading the recruitment but there is room for IAFSM members to be involved as expert volunteers, community stakeholders to support (not lead) student inquiry and understanding, judges for written proposals and/or presentations, summit participants and educator recruitment help. We should expect that we will do our part virtually given the pandemic, although there is hope for some in-person interaction. This is one of those "you get out of it what you put in" things. Your involvement could range from a few hours of online interaction to quite a lot of time if you are so inclined. (If Dallas Alley's daughter can do it, so can you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63yoX41ShQ8> By the way, share some love and subscribe to her channel. I'd like to see what else she can do!)

When will it happen?

During the current 2020 – 2021 academic year.

Want to learn more or get involved?

Please contact Brian Chaille (bchaille@illinois.edu) if you would like to learn more or join the RISE Challenge Team!

Did you know?

FEMA has loaded all digital products into one centralized location where people can download it. DVDs will no longer be provided to local officials with new mapping. Access the digital database at <https://msc.fema.gov>

Website Update

For the last couple of years, IAFSM has been working hard to develop a website that not only serves the administrative needs of our organization, but one that can also educate our members and that our members can use to help educate their clients or constituents about all things flood related. While the administrative website has been up and running for over a year, it is our pleasure to announce that we have gone live with the educational side of the website.

Please take some time to visit the site and get familiar with all of the content we have provided! I am sure that you will

find it useful and relevant. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to get this going for us, particularly Shauna Urlacher from UrbanHydro. The website can be accessed here: <https://prepare.illinoisfloods.org/>

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for additional information to include on the site. – Diane Bouckaert, Manhard Consulting, Education & Outreach Chair

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.

CRS Training for new 2021 Rules

- CRS Training for new rules effective 2021 - see www.crsresources.org - Training and Videos tab

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/>

- E0172 Hazus for floodplain managers – November 20-25, 2020
- E0194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts – November 2-5, 2020

- E0273 Managing Floodplain development thru the NFIP – November 30 – December 3, 2020
- E0273 Managing Floodplain development thru the NFIP – January 4-7, 2021
- E0278 NFIP/Community Rating System – May 25-27, 2021

Webinars

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

Also...ASFPM is offering additional at home training. For information, visit: <https://floods.redvector.com/>

Conferences

ASFPM Annual National Conference – Raleigh North, Carolina, May 9-13, 2021

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 or Sarah Wenzel at SWenzel@prairieengineers.com



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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2021 IAFSM Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference will be March 10 & 11, 2021, held virtually. Our 2022 conference will be at the Bloomington Normal Marriott and Conference Center, Tuesday and Wednesday March 8 and 9, 2022.

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 at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18th. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. Contact Sarah Harbaugh for the Zoom ID to attend virtually: 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 at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

CFM Exam Schedule

In-person CFM exams have been suspended during the pandemic. A digital exam is being prepared by the national ASFPM organization and should be available within a few months. For more information, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



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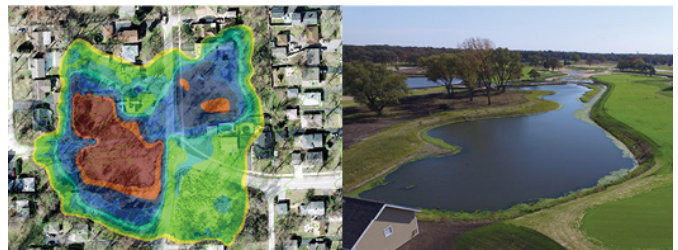
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Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Summer 2020 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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