



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2020 Newsletter

2020 Conference Recap

What a great conference! It's hard to believe that it was just four weeks ago when over 570 of us gathered together to network, learn from each other and celebrate our successes in floodplain and stormwater management. More information on the conference and COVID-19 can be found in Erik Gil's From The Chair inside this newsletter.

Thank you to all who attended and who helped to make this event a success. Special thanks to our Conference Chair Steve Altman and our Executive Secretary Sarah Harbaugh, for their hard work and commitment to this year's conference. Mark your calendars now for the 2021 IAFSM annual conference, to be held at the Bloomington Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on March 10th - 11th, 2021.



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2020 IAFSM Chapter Award Winners

Floodplain Manager of the Year

Cindy Cregmiles, CFM, is the County Code Administrator for Jersey County, Illinois and the historical village of Elsah, Illinois and this year's Floodplain Manager of the Year. Her duties include administration of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, grant writing and enforcement of the County's building codes and ordinances. She manages nearly 30,000 acres of floodplain with most of the structures located on US Army Corps of Engineers leased ground. At one time, Jersey County had 258 repetitive loss structures; today they have 12. Cindy began working for the County in 2006 to assist in the development of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Jersey County applied to join the Community Rating System (CRS) in 2008 and currently is a class 5 CRS community. Jersey County also participates in the ISO's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) and is a class 4 county. She has given presentations to students at local colleges on floodplain mitigation and the importance of building codes. For advancing floodplain knowledge and preparedness in Jersey County, IAFSM is pleased to honor Cindy with this award.



Cindy Cregmiles receives the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award from Erik Gil.

Journalism / Public Education Award

IAFSM is honored to present the Journalism / Public Education Award to Patrick M. O'Connell, a Chicago Tribune reporter who covers a wide array of topics, including the environment, politics, criminal justice and sports. In 2019, he wrote a series of stories that focused on flooding and environmental issues in communities along the Mississippi River. One of the stories focused on the tension between farmers, levee districts and landowners in Illinois and Missouri. Another featured the water woes of the small community of Kaskaskia, located on what is essentially an island surrounded by the river in southwestern Illinois. A third story focused on Dogtooth Bend, a peninsula near the far southern tip of Illinois threatened by a broken levee and a changing river. O'Connell also was a member of the Tribune team that earned national honors for "The Water Drain" series (and he covered the Cubs' 2016 World Series run!) You can find him on Twitter with handle @pmocwriter.



Patrick M O'Connell, recipient of IAFSM's Journalism Award.

Bulletin 75 Published

The ISWS just released Illinois Bulletin 75, which combines the Part 1 and Part 2 updates to Bulletin 70 into a single document. Bulletin 75 is titled Precipitation Frequency Study for Illinois. Illinois State Water Survey Bulletin 75, Champaign, IL and published by James R. Angel, Momcilo Markus, Kexuan Ariel Wang, Brian M. Kerschner and Shailendra Singh.

It can be downloaded from: <http://hdl.handle.net/2142/106653>

Outstanding Service Award

Erik Gil received the Outstanding Service Award for his long tenure of distinguished service to the Association. Erik served as the Floodplain Management Chair between 2007 and 2011 and as Stormwater Management Chair in 2012. In 2013 he was elected Secretary of IAFSM and was subsequently elected into the Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Chair positions and latter of which he is serving in his second year. He helped moderate technical sessions at our conference between 2008 and 2018 and spoke as a presenter five times during that period. He helped organize several dinner seminars such as the IDNR-OWR Permitting seminar and has worked to support our national parent organization, ASFPMP. He was part of the 2016 Local Host Team when Illinois helped co-host the ASFPMP Conference with the Michigan Chapter in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Prior to his current activities with IAFSM, Erik was also very active with the ASCE Illinois Chapter, serving as Awards Chair in 1996 and as Director in 1997-98. Thank you for your service, Erik!



Sarah Hunn presents the Outstanding Service award to Erik Gil.

Mitigation Award

Since 2015 the City of Elmhurst has completed eleven mitigation projects throughout the City, creating more than 112 acre-feet of new storage with construction costs over \$30M, to help over 350 homes eliminate or significantly reduce overland structural flooding risks.

Most recently, the City of Elmhurst completed Phase I and Phase II of the Southwest Elmhurst Stormwater Mitigation Project in 2019, which were large-scale infrastructure projects aimed at reducing overland flooding in southwest Elmhurst. These projects added two new detention basins, with a total capacity of 31.2 acre-feet, that will store overland flood waters during extreme rain events and collectively assist 121 homeowners in the southwest side of Elmhurst.

Additionally, the City of Elmhurst is performing engineering design for two additional stormwater improvement projects that will be built in 2020 and 2021. These two projects, assisting the Saylor, Swain, Vallette (2020) and Collegeview (2021) neighborhoods, will provide 100-year level of protection for 98 homes against structural damage resulting from overland flooding and will create an additional 17 acre-feet of new detention storage. When these projects are complete, the City will have reduced or eliminated structural damage from overland flooding for 464 homes and will have created 129 acre-feet of new detention storage since 2015.

In recognition of their efforts to mitigate flooding, IAFSM is proud to present the Mitigation Award to the City of Elmhurst.



On behalf of the City of Elmhurst, Kent Johnson accepts the Mitigation Award from Erik Gil.



Stormwater Management Award

For the last several years, the Village of Glenview has aggressively pursued funding for stormwater management projects in areas prone to flooding. The Village has been able use their taxpayer dollars as local match for state, regional and federal cost-share programs. From 2014 to 2019, a total of \$39.2 million in funding was secured and an additional \$11 million is anticipated for 2020 through 2023.

Recent large-scale projects completed by the Village includes the Lyons School Detention Project, where storage was built under a school parking lot to benefit adjacent neighborhoods without detention; the East of Harms Project, where in-line detention was installed along residential streets; and the Glen Oak Acres Storm Sewer Project, benefiting 100 homes within an area built without storm sewers (planned for the Spring of 2020). Additionally, the Village implemented an overhead sewer cost share program and formed a Residential Stormwater Task Force to allow for its citizens to become vested stakeholders in stormwater management solutions. For these efforts, the Stormwater Management Award was presented to the Village of Glenview.



Adriana Webb accepts the Stormwater Management Award from Erik Gil on behalf of the Village of Glenview.

Thanks to our 2020 Conference Sponsors!

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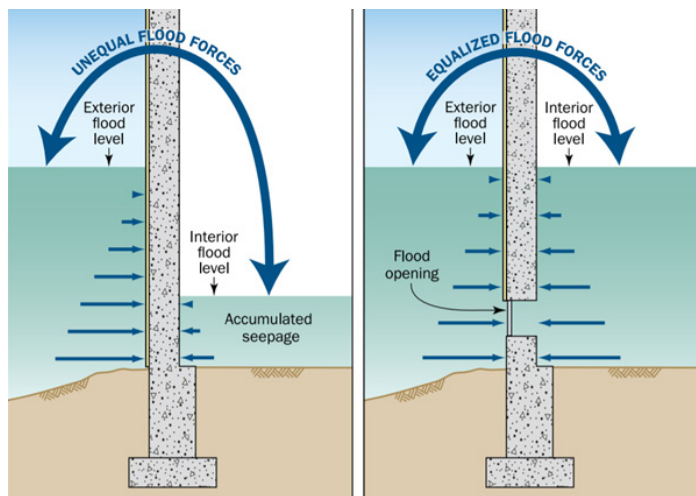
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Updated FEMA Technical Bulletin 1 for Flow-through Openings

On March 24th, FEMA released an updated Technical Bulletin 1 for flow-through openings in foundation walls. The new bulletin is much improved with helpful graphics and simplified language. The Technical Bulletin explains the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements for flood openings in foundation walls and walls of enclosures below elevated buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas. The flood opening requirements are intended to equalize hydrostatic forces (loads or pressure caused by standing or slow-moving water) on walls, thus preventing damage to or collapse of the building, as illustrated in the sketch. The requirements are not intended to reduce flood damage caused by hydrodynamic loads associated with fast-moving water (e.g., faster than 10 feet per second), wave impacts, or debris impacts.

The new bulletin can be found on FEMA's website at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/2644>



RAFT Volunteering & Training

RAFT is the acronym for IAFSM's Rapid Assistance Flood Team. This group of volunteers is ready when called to help communities complete damage assessment after a flood. The assessments are completed during the workday, on a volunteer basis. We typically have enough volunteers to complete the field work in one day. Volunteers are asked to bring just a few simple supplies outlined in the RAFT IAFSM 2020 Guidance.

Joining the team requires that you are a member of IAFSM, have your CFM, have a valid volunteer waiver on file, and participate in damage assessment training opportunities.

If you missed the opportunity for training at the IAFSM conference, new this year is an online training option through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute Independent Study. The course, IS-285 [Substantial Damage Estimation for Floodplain Administrators](#), teaches you how to conduct a flood damage assessment and how to use FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator 3.0 software. We also provide a quick same day training refresher on the morning of any deployments.

If you are interested in joining, please send an e-mail to Paul Osman at Paul.Osman@illinois.gov.

If your community needs help from RAFT, please send a formal request letter to the IAFSM Floodplain Management Chairman. This letter also serves as a release of liability. A sample request letter is provided in the RAFT IAFSM 2020 Guidance.



From the Chair: Conference & COVID-19, Elections & By-laws

~Erik Gil, P.E., CFM, IAFSM Chair, CBBEL

The 2020 IAFSM annual conference on March 11th and 12th in Tinley Park was a big success! With 570 registered members at the conference, IAFSM remains one of the largest and most vibrant chapters in the country. Our conference chair, Steve Altman and executive secretary, Sarah Harbaugh, were able to produce a top-notch conference. Steve had to deal with unexpected cancellations of keynote speakers and didn't miss a beat in finding engaging replacements. Thank you, Steve and Sarah! Thanks also to Paul Osman for his help arranging a last-minute plenary speaker after the scheduled speaker had to cancel.

During these very unusual times, I am pleased to write that to date IAFSM has not been notified of anyone that attended our annual conference and later tested positive for COVID-19. According to current statements by public health officials, we are past the time where conference attendance could be a COVID-19 concern. Our conference occurred just as the virus epidemic was beginning to ramp up, but clearly, if it had been scheduled the following week, it would have been cancelled. We were very fortunate that we were able to proceed with the conference and continue to offer our members and CFMs those much needed CECs for their certification renewals. Our entire Board would like to thank each one of you for coming to Tinley Park and making the conference a big success.

Thank you, also, to all of you who voted in our annual Executive Board election. The entire group of incumbents was re-elected and will start the second and final year in their respective positions: Sharon Osterby – Secretary, Dallas Alley – Treasurer, Steve Altman – Vice Chair, Erik Gil – Chair. Glenn Heistand will serve another year as Past Chair and my advisor on all things IAFSM. I'm sure I can speak for all of them and express our thanks to the membership for giving us this honor.

As you know, we hold elections every year during our conference; however, our system could be considered a de facto two-year term for each Executive Board position. Our current system of running and voting was established approximately 10 years ago: the new Executive Board member comes in through the Secretary position, the Secretary moves up to Treasurer, the Treasurer to Vice-Chair and the Vice-Chair to Chair. While our by-laws state that each Executive Board position is a one-year term, those that have served in past Boards (not just the Executive positions) agree that our organization functions more efficiently when the Executive Board members serve two years in each position and then run for the next higher position in the next voting cycle. There is a palpable wisdom of continuity that helps our Board with this de facto system.

After years of this system, having a yearly election to vote the incumbents in for their second year seems unproductive. As a result, our entire Board will enter into conversations to possibly change the by-laws to reflect what has actually occurred during the last 10 or so years: change each Executive Board term from a one-year term to a two-year term. Mark Hoskins is our Board Nominations Chair and he will be spearheading our Board meeting conversations regarding this topic. He will evaluate how other chapters conduct their election process and bring us feedback from our members. Therefore, I am inviting you to provide us with ideas and comments about this possible change. Please provide your comments to Mark directly – you can find his email at the end of this newsletter.

On a personal note, I was very humbled and totally surprised by the award I received. Thank you to all and for the efforts of the Awards Committee. Sarah Hunn chairs that committee and will be expecting ideas and award nominations from you this fall. Please share your thoughts with her when we begin that process for next year.



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IAFSM Logo Contest Winner

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2020 Logo Contest, either by creating a logo for consideration, or by voting! We received over twenty entries from members and colleagues. The Board voted for the top four, which were displayed at the conference and included on a member survey. Based on member voting, the logo created by Kai Liu of the Village of Addison, was selected as the member favorite. Kai will receive a \$200 gift card from IAFSM for creating the logo above. Thank you Kai!



65% of votes were in favor of changing the current logo. The Board will review the member favorite, along with other submitted logos and consider selecting or developing a final logo for future use. As published previously in the contest rules, the final logo may contain elements of different submittals and will be determined by the Board. Thank you to all who participated in the IAFSM 2020 Logo Contest!

The Association of State Floodplain Managers Releases: “Understanding & Managing Flood Risk: A Guide for Elected Officials”

Floods are the leading cause of natural disaster losses in the United States. Understanding the vulnerability of people and the built environment is an important first step to minimize impacts from the next flood. ASFPM has recently published a free three-part comprehensive guide for elected officials. And, while it may seem challenging, flood management boils down to protecting people and property. This flood risk guide walks elected officials through the key information they need to know to meet that responsibility. The ASFPM Foundation partnered with ASFPM in the development of this guide.

The Guide for Elected Officials is broken down into three volumes:

Volume I: The Essentials

Learn the essentials that elected officials need to know about flood risk in their community.

Volume II: Moving Beyond the Essentials

Takes a deeper dive into property protection, flood insurance, managing and strengthening local flood management programs and more.

Volume III: Success Stories

Explore case studies and interviews from a variety of communities nationwide that successfully tackled flood mitigation.

Wise flood management provides the means to address communities' flood problems before, during and after an event as well as create sustainable development for future generations.

The new publication, “A Guide for Elected Officials” can be found on the ASFPM website by [clicking here](#).



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IAFSM Young Professional Webinar Series

We are excited to announce that Karen Kabbes and French Wetmore will kick-off our IAFSM Young Professional Webinar Series on Thursday, April 23rd from 12 pm to 1 pm (CDT). For our first webinar, they will be presenting on the history of IAFSM and floodplain management in Illinois, the future of stormwater and floodplain management in Illinois and the importance of obtaining your Certified Floodplain Management certification.

In order to attend, you must register at the link below. We will provide (1) PDH/CEC for all in attendance.

Please register here: [Webinar Registration Link](#)

We hope you are able to join us for our first webinar. If you have any questions please email Adam Blumstein at arblumstein@burnsmcd.com.

IAFSM on Social Media

Follow IAFSM on Facebook and LinkedIn! You will start to see these pages updated regularly with exciting floodplain and stormwater management related content. 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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https://www.facebook.com/pg/Illinois-Association-For-Floodplain-And-Stormwater-Management-607922356237945/posts/?ref=page_internal



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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 Sponsored Training Opportunities:

None at this time. Contact Shauna with training requests for suggestions: shauna@UrbanHydroEng.com

FEMA EMI Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training. Please note that all training has been cancelled until at least May 10th, 2020, due to precautions taken to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Updated schedules will be provided once they are available.

EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website: <http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>

Webinars and At-Home Training Courses:

ASFPM – <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/webinars.asp>


ASFPM is offering additional at home training for those looking to earn CECs and PDHs during home quarantine. Many of these courses are offered for free.

For information: [training page](#)

Conferences:

June 7th - 11th ASFPM Annual Conference, Fort Worth, TX.


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



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Save the Date! 2021 IAFSM Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference will be March 10th - 11th, 2021 at the Bloomington Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

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 Wednesday, May 13th at 10 am. Location will be posted to our website one week prior. This may be a teleconference meeting. If you are not a Board member and would like to participate, please contact Sarah Harbaugh by May 1st so we can accommodate you in the teleconference: 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.

2020 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2020 exam dates and register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



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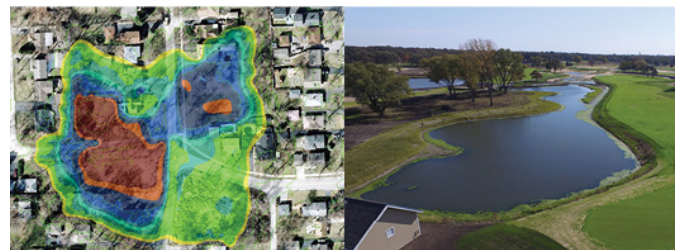
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Spring 2020 Newsletter

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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