



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Summer 2019 Newsletter

Illinois Association for Floodplain & Stormwater Management Wins 2019 ASFPM Outstanding Chapter Award

-Published by ASFPM, June 2019

Congratulations to Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management for being named ASFPM Outstanding Chapter for 2019. The outstanding chapter award recognizes an ASFPM chapter for their exemplary practices and activities that deserve national recognition. It seeks to acknowledge distinguished works by a chapter in going above and beyond its mission that can be shared and replicated by other ASFPM chapters. The Outstanding Chapter Award is not given to any individual leaders, but to the chapter as a whole to recognize their abilities to promote sound floodplain management through teamwork. And although we emphasize that the activity is replicable, there are few chapters which have brought their work more directly to the doorstep of a community in need.

This year, the outstanding chapter award went to the nation's oldest and one of the largest professional floodplain management associations. In an effort to assist communities after a flood, and recognizing that many NFIP communities are small with limited staff, in 2015 IAFSM created the Rapid Assistance Flood Team, or RAFT, to provide volunteer assistance with post-flood activities including substantial damage determinations. These response teams are all active chapter members, all CFMs, and represent local, state and federal government as well as private sector and other professional disciplines. All RAFT team members are volunteers who have agreed to assist communities in times of need. Since its creation in 2015, RAFT has been deployed 4 times. In 2018 they developed the Rapid Assistance Flood Team Guidance document which helps local officials understand



how to request assistance from IAFSM's RAFT program and helps the community better understand their responsibilities. The guidance document is available [online](#).

Also marking the 25th anniversary of this chapter's largest mitigation effort following the Great Midwest Flood of 1993, IAFSM developed a video which documents their efforts and points out that their work is not done. The video was presented in the opening plenary of the 2018 IAFSM annual conference in Tinley Park, Illinois and was followed by a panel discussion of local, state, USACE and FEMA officials



L-R: Ajay Jain, Bryan Martindale, Glenn Heistand, Molly O'Toole and Dallas Alley (all members of IAFSM) accept the Outstanding Chapter Award in Cleveland, Ohio.

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Flood? What Flood?

~Paul Osman, CFM, IDNR-OWR

Many states in the Midwest are once again suffering through major flooding. Media images highlight the human toll and suffering. However, it's different in Illinois. While Illinois' rivers and streams are also at record flood stages; the media is largely silent.

Flooding is a natural event. There is nothing we can do to stop floods. However, flood damages are caused by humans and we can eliminate them. Following the 1993 flood, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Water Resources and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) set upon a course to reduce and eliminate flood damages through strong regulations and proactive mitigation programs. The results have been astonishing.

Nearly every community in Illinois has now adopted strong regulations which prevent new development in flood prone areas. Nationally, Illinois has the highest percentage of community-adopted floodplain regulations. Virtually all of these local ordinances go above-and-beyond minimum Federal requirements. These communities, in partnership with the state, strictly enforce development in the floodplain to minimize future flood damages. Today, Illinois is ranked #1

in the nation for the fewest number of flood damage claims on new buildings. New structures are simply not being built where they will flood.

At the same time, proactive mitigation programs have bought out or elevated nearly 6,000 of the state's existing flood prone structures. On the Mississippi River, from East Dubuque to Alexander County, every community has taken advantage of programs to mitigate their most flood prone buildings. The same is true in over 100 other communities along Illinois' rivers and streams. Today, the state is ranked #1 in the nation for overall reduction of repetitively flooded structures.

In Illinois, floods will continue to happen. Climate change will likely worsen flooding. However, flood damages in Illinois have now decreased to the point where most floods are a non-event. While our neighboring states have had multiple Federal flood disaster declarations, it has been over five years since Illinois has been considered for a Federal flood declaration (despite major rainfall). Communities which once were the focus of national media coverage now pass floods unscathed. The media no longer reports on flood damage in Illinois. Silence has become the norm. It is the measure of our success.



Flooded homes in Grafton during the 1993 flood.



The same location today is an open city park where flooding causes minimal damage.



The Ottawa "Flats" with dozens of homes destroyed by flooding.



The same Ottawa "Flats" today hosts a large community garden and beautiful riverside park. Residents of Ottawa benefit from a 45% reduction in flood insurance costs due to the City's proactive floodplain management program.

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



Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/Illinois-Association-For-Floodplain-And-Stormwater-Management-607922356237945/posts/?ref=page_internal



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Best Presentation at 2019 IAFSM Conference

IAFSM would like to recognize the “Best Presentation” given during the 2019 conference in East Peoria. Selected by member vote, this year IAFSM selected “A Scarlet Letter: NFIP Floodplain Compliance in Illinois” as the best presentation. The presentation was given by Paul Osman of IDNR-OWR and Frank Shockey of FEMA. Paul Osman is the Statewide Floodplain Programs Chief for IDNR-OWR. He coordinates federal, state and local floodplain development regulations as well as the National Flood Insurance Program for nearly 1,000 Illinois communities. Paul is a proud recipient of the Illinois Flood Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Frank Shockey, PhD, CFM, is a Senior Natural Hazards Program Specialist with the FEMA at its Region V office in Chicago, Illinois. He works on compliance issues associated with the National Flood Insurance Program’s floodplain management standards, and oversees regional support for communities in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, serving as the primary contact for communities in Illinois and for tribal nations throughout Region V.

This presentation focused on how violations are identified and documented, floodplain management expectations, events leading up to NFIP violation notices, the impacts of NFIP violations, and how to avoid NFIP compliance issues. Kirkland, Illinois was used as the case study. During the presentation, Paul and Frank reminded us that Illinois has the proud designation of taking floodplain compliance seriously enough such that five Illinois communities have been suspended (kicked out) of the NFIP due to lack of compliance; nationwide, there are only two other suspended communities. Additionally, one community in the nation has been placed on NFIP probation: Kirkland, Illinois.

Congratulations to Paul and Frank for a very crowded and well-received presentation. They will be recognized at our 2020 conference in Tinley Park.



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Welcome Sharon Osterby, New IAFSM Secretary

To those who didn't have an opportunity to attend our Annual Conference, IAFSM would like to welcome and introduce our new Secretary, Sharon Osterby.

Sharon is a knowledgeable and dedicated Water Resource Professional for the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC). At SMC, Sharon plans and manages countywide hazard mitigation projects and stormwater management projects. Sharon has held board and leadership positions with several Northern Illinois organizations including the Illinois Lake Management Association and the NIU Student Subunit of ILMA. Sharon helped to establish the NIU Student Subunit of the Illinois Lakes Management Association (ILMA) at NIU and served as Treasurer and President. Sharon also served on the ILMA board as President and Student Advisor to the Student Subunit of ILMA at NIU. Sharon received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Water Resources from Northern Illinois University in 2014.

Sharon lives in Cary, Illinois and enjoys volunteering for STEM outreach programs, at Illinois Nature Preserve areas in Northern Illinois, and as an Election Site Manager in Lake County. Sharon attended the ASFPM conference in Cleveland in May, and it is clear that she is and will represent IAFSM well. Welcome, Sharon!

New! Young Professionals Committee

IAFSM is pleased to announce the formation of the Young Professionals Committee (YPC). Its mission statement is to help recent graduates and those new to the industry to grow professionally, and to encourage young professional involvement within IAFSM. Among its goals are hosting webinars and regional social / networking events, and encouraging collaboration with young professional groups in other water and engineering professional organizations. Longer term goals include a YPC networking event at the IAFSM Conference, YPC session / roundtable discussions at the IAFSM Conference, mentoring programs, and increasing awareness about IAFSM at the collegiate level.

During the last Board meeting, we had an opportunity to meet several highly enthusiastic members of the new committee, which will be chaired by Adam R. Blumstein, PE, CFM, from Burns & McDonnell. We will be updating our website with the new committee information next month. In the meantime, young professionals are welcome to contact Adam to get involved: arblumstein@burnsmcd.com



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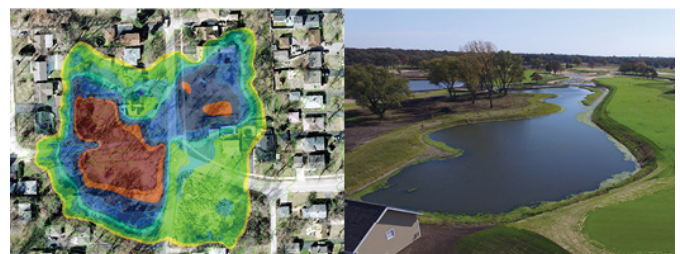
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From the Chair

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

Before we get to the fun part of this section, I wanted to further highlight our chapter's big announcements mentioned in separate articles in this newsletter. First, and in no particular order, ASFPM awarded its Outstanding Chapter Award for Excellence to IAFSM during the national conference that took place in May, in Cleveland, Ohio this year. Every year you will no doubt notice a significant level of activity from our Board and our membership, and this award is the recognition of many years of professionals putting in hundreds of hours beyond their day jobs. Second, I'd like to welcome and introduce our new IAFSM Secretary, Sharon Osterby, to those that didn't have the opportunity to attend our conference. Further adding to our chapter activities will be a newly formed committee within IAFSM, the Young Professionals Committee (YPC). Finally, but not least, I would like to recognize Paul Osman, IDNR, and Frank Shockey, FEMA, as recipients of the "Best Presentation" during the 2019 conference in East Peoria.

After back-to-back record-breaking rainfall in the month of May (2018 and 2019), which unfortunately resulted in flooding in some areas, our typically short summer is here. As the now retired State Climatologist Jim Angel pointed out during last year's IAFSM conference keynote lunch presentation, Illinois is not seeing the temperature changes that other parts of our country are seeing – so we will continue to have short summers. However, during this year's plenary session, Mr. Angel further explained that rainfall depths have increased in Illinois and that the trend is towards further increases in the future. Our feature article in the Spring newsletter provided a brief summary of his presentation and a link to the Updated Bulletin 70 that makes good summer reading, and many communities and counties have already begun to adopt the new rainfall in their ordinances. To "welcome" the trend that we've all seen coming with increased rainfall and flooding, my boss, Chris Burke, who is also a professor at UIC, thought this is a good opportunity for a pop quiz.

Enjoy your short and wet summer.

Question #1: Most Urban Flooding is caused by:

- A) The gates at Lake O'Hare being opened.
- B) Lack of rain gardens.
- C) A secret valve on the MWRD (or City of Chicago) interceptor being closed.
- D) El Nino or La Nina.
- E) A multitude of complex factors including but not limited to: insufficient storage to offset previous urbanization; filled floodplain and wetland without offsetting mitigation; regional topographic conditions; etc.

Question #2: What year was the phrase "I never saw the water get this high!" uttered?

- A) 2013
- B) 2011
- C) 1997
- D) 1996
- E) 1987
- F) 1986
- G) 1972
- H) 1957
- I) 1954
- J) 1910
- K) All of the above.

Question #3: Why the General Public gets confused about the issue of flooding:

- A) Every year a flood event is called "The 100-Year Flood."
- B) They saw the Jerry Springer episode on "The Secrets of Flooding."
- C) Engineers and Planners are generally doing a poor job at explaining the issue during public hearings.
- D) They know someone has to be causing the problem, they just aren't sure who.
- E) All of the above.

Question #4: Proven ways to cause Flooding:

- A) Forget that "water runs downhill" (i.e. "build in the bowl" concept).
- B) Fill wetlands, floodplain, and depressional storage areas without mitigation or compensation.
- C) Forget the 400 acres of upstream drainage area. (AKA "let it flow over the road concept").
- D) Keep the entry point buildings nice and low to take advantage of the vista. (AKA "The Architect Problem").
- E) All of the above.

From the Chair (Continued)

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

Question #5: Proven ways to solve Flooding:

- A) Detention.
- B) Flood Control Reservoirs.
- C) Channels.
- D) Wetlands.
- E) Buyouts or Floodproofing.
- F) All of the above, but make sure the channels aren't too big and the wetlands are large enough.

Question #6: Which type of Flooding should we spend money trying to solve?

- A) Overbank flooding of homes (basements) and businesses.
- B) Flooding of major roadways and interstates.
- C) Sanitary or combined sewer backup.
- D) Flooding of low points in side streets.
- E) Side, front, and/or rear yard flooding.
- F) All of the above if you are an elected official who is not supporting term limits.
- G) Only A through C, maybe D.

Question #7: Who has lots of extra money available to solve your local flooding problems?

- A) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- B) Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).
- C) Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).
- D) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- E) (Your) County.
- F) Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP).
- G) None of the above.

Question #8: When will the next flood hit the region?

- A) The weekend that your community schedules the summerfest.
- B) The next time the Western Open is held on a golf course located along Salt Creek.
- C) The day of the IAFSM Conference titled "Floods - Why we don't have them anymore."
- D) I don't know but we will have a major flood before most of us retire.

Question #9: What to do if you have a catastrophic flood:

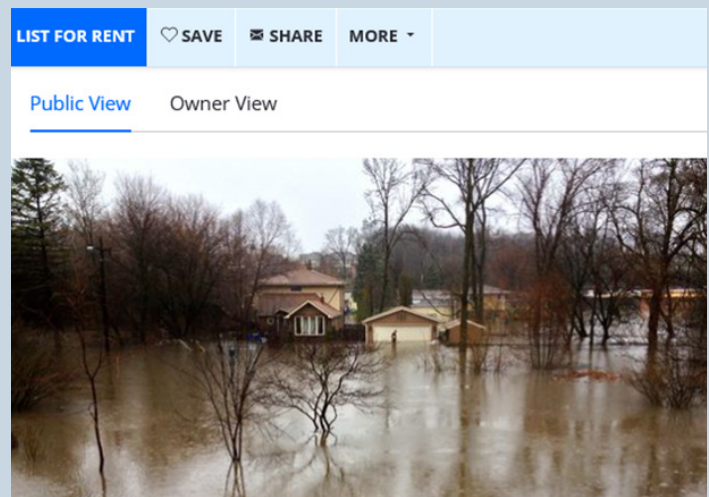
- A) If you haven't done anything since the last one, immediately call it a 500- or 1000-year event.
- B) Blame it on the gates.
- C) Observe how well the mitigation measures constructed during the last decade performed.
- D) Use the event to finally get long planned projects constructed.

Question #10: What has to be done now?

- A) Stop blaming developers, adjacent community, adjacent County, regulating agencies, etc. for flooding.
- B) Establish stormwater management ordinances that meet the expectations of the community.
- C) Enforce drainage and flooding easements - do not hesitate to enforce the recorded rights.
- D) Develop a prioritized plan for addressing existing problems and get it funded.
- E) Plan for resilience and changing rainfall patterns.
- F) All of the above.



Check This Out!



A recent property lookup on Zillow discovered this listing in suburban Chicago. If only all real estate disclosures regarding a property's location in the floodplain were this obvious. Fortunately, this property was purchased by the Village of Winfield.

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:

- October 4 – Fall 2019 CFM Exam
- October 7 – L278 NFIP/Community Rating System Class, Downers Grove, Illinois

Additional Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training. See article in this newsletter! EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website: <http://training.fema.gov/emiacourses/> Upcoming classes include:

- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP – August 26-29
- E0282 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II - July 15-18

Webinars

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

- None listed at this time

Conferences

- September 4-9, 2019 – INAFSM Annual Conference, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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

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IAFSM TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

L278 NFIP/Community Rating System

The Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) is pleased to sponsor this 4-day training course for the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS). This is the field deployed version of the class conducted at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD.

Class Dates:

October 7-10, 2019

Location:

**Downers Grove Public Works
5101 Walnut Avenue, Downers Grove, IL**

Course Description:

The course describes activities eligible for credit under the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual, how a community applies and how a community modifies an application to improve its classification. The CRS Program underwent significant changes in 2013 and 2017. This course will assist communities prepare for new applications, as well as, cycle verification.

Target Audience

Local officials, regional planning officials, NFIP state staff, FEMA regional office staff, and others interested in learning about the CRS program.

Suggested Prerequisites:

- Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) **OR**
- Have completed the E273, *Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)* course, **OR**
- Be a full-time Floodplain Manager with more than 3 years of full-time floodplain management experience, such as floodplain management, codes enforcement, or building code field and through work specifically related to floodplain management.

Cost to Attend:

\$30.00 – Covers snacks and beverages for morning and afternoon breaks. Lunch will not be provided, food is available from numerous local restaurants.

To Apply:

The course Point of Contact is Amanda Gowans, ISO/CRS Specialist, agowans@iso.com, 443.743.7993

Step 1: Applicants will need a Student Identification (SID) number in place of their social security number. If you do not yet have a SID, visit [Register for a FEMA SID](#) or go to <https://training.fema.gov/apply/> and follow directions to register for your SID number.

Step 2: Complete [FEMA Form 119-25-2 Short Form Application](#)

Step 3: Send your application, via email, to Amanda Gowans at agowans@iso.com. Registration closes September 7, 2019. Class size is limited to 35.

Step 4: You will receive enrollment confirmation from Amanda Gowans with additional information, including instructions for payment of the class fee.

Continuing Education:

EMI awards 2.9 CEUs for completion of this course. ASFPM will award 12 CECs towards CFM continuing education. Students must attend all four days to receive a certificate and CECs.

For general questions contact:

Julie Lomax, IAFSM CRS Committee Chair,
jlomax@downers.us

Marilyn Sucoe, IDNR/OWR, 847.608.3181,
marilyn.sucoc@illinois.gov

Dallas Alley, Southern Illinois CRS Users Group,
dalley@swanseail.org

Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2020 IAFSM Conference

The 2020 Annual Conference will be March 11 & 12, 2020 at the Tinley Park Convention 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 four 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 one in Springfield, one in Bartlett, and one in Woodridge, with the remaining table rotating throughout the state. Contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held in early September. Please visit our webpage at www.illinoisfloods.org for the date and time. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. See you there!

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.

2019 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2019 exam dates and register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html. The next exam is scheduled for October 4, 2019 in Champaign.



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IAFSM OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CHAIR

Erik Gil, P.E., CFM
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
egil@cbbel.com

VICE CHAIR

Stephen Altman, P.E., CFM
IDNR - OWR
Steve.Altman@illinois.gov

TREASURER

Dallas Alley, CFM
Village of Swansea, Illinois
dalley@swanseaill.org

SECRETARY

Sharon Osterby, CFM
Lake County Stormwater
Management Commission
SOsterby@lakecountyil.gov

PAST CHAIR

Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
heistand@illinois.edu

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sarah Harbaugh
Illinois Association for Floodplain and
Stormwater Management
IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org

CONFERENCE

Stephen Altman, P.E., CFM
IDNR - OWR
Steve.Altman@illinois.gov

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM
IDNR-OWR
Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov

AWARDS

Sarah Hunn, P.E.
DuPage County
Stormwater Management
Sarah.Hunn@dupageco.org

CERTIFICATION

Gregory Thorpe, CFM
Rock Island County
Gthorpe@co.rock-island.il.us

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Julie Lomax, CFM, P.E.
Village of Downers Grove
JLomax@downers.us

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Diane Bouckaert, P.E., CFM
Manhard Consulting Ltd
dbouckaert@manhard.com

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Mike Sutfin, CFM
City of Ottawa (Retired)
mike2449@yahoo.com

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL

Ajay Jain, P.E., CFM
H. R. Green
ajain@hrgreen.com

LEGISLATIVE

Kay Whitlock, P.E., D.WRE
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
kwhitlock@cbbel.com

MITIGATION

Ron Davis
IDNR-OWR
Ron.Davis@illinois.gov

NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Maercklein, P.E., CFM
V3 Companies
jmaercklein@v3co.com

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Shauna Urlacher, P.E., CFM
UrbanHydro
Shauna@UrbanHydroEng.com

WETLANDS

Tom Kehoe
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
tkehoe@cbbel.com

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Adam Blumstein, PE, CFM
Burns & McDonnell
arblumstein@burnsmcd.com

YOUTH OUTREACH

Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
bchaille@illinois.edu

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

35W749 Bluff Drive, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

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