



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for  
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2019 Newsletter



Attendees at the Midwest Flood Conference discuss forming the Quad Cities alliance.

## Midwest Flood Conference Spurs Formation of a Quad Cities Flood Alliance

~Michele Mihalovich, ASFPM, Reprinted with permission from ASFPM's News & Views, December 2018

Sometimes a conference convenes, but not much comes of it. That's not the case after River Action's 11th annual Upper Mississippi River Conference held in October.

About 175 people turned out for the conference focused on agriculture, manufacturing, navigation, tourism, the environment and flood resiliency and control in the upper Mississippi watershed. Engineers, environmental scientists, public works and other city administrators, floodplain managers, and other river stakeholders from five states were in attendance.

The conference included a workshop on formation of a regional flood resiliency alliance for the Quad Cities area. Inspired to keep the effort going, River Action sent invitations to workshop attendees and other potential alliance members asking people with a stake in the Mississippi River and the Upper Mississippi watershed to meet Nov. 29 in Riverdale, Iowa to continue the discussion on forming a flood coalition, and reviewing FEMA's 10-step plan for forming a successful regional coalition, and introducing its Community Rating System.

Of course, forming a coalition could help identify and remediate or mitigate flood hazard areas and take actions or create policies to improve CRS ratings and qualify for reduced flood insurance rates. But other benefits include:

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## Midwest Flood Conference Cont.

- Knowing interagency counterparts before the hectic times of a disaster — pre-flood conference calls across the area can pay dividends in calming fears and securing resources.
- Utilizing others' communities as resources to fight floods as a group instead of separate communities — cities upstream where the flood has already passed may have resources they no longer need and can pass them downstream to communities in need.
- Leveraging the combined power of the alliance to secure grant funding for flood preparation, flood mitigation, prevention, etc.

The turnout was amazing! “And I was very impressed... with the general desire to learn more and improve the region in terms of floodplain management,” said **Anthony Heddlesten**, a water resources planner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Rock Island, Illinois.

He listed some meeting highlights:

- We did a brief highlight reel on what a flood alliance is and why it's valuable;
- The Bi-State Regional Commission presented on a transportation resiliency project (a planning effort, not a construction effort); and
- Discussed what sort of presentations might be of interest for future meetings (tentatively, the plan is to meet quarterly as a group, with our next meeting to be held in late February or early March) to discuss with National Weather Service Quad Cities spring flood predictions, possibly with USACE on its spring flood preparations, and attempt to bring in a “Floodplain Management 101” speaker to help get everyone speaking the same language.

Heddlesten said later alliance meetings could feature a presentation on how to join CRS and a roundtable discussion with cities and counties in the region that have already joined, to see what they've done and how it can be replicated by other communities and counties.

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# Growth of Regional Flood Resiliency Alliances

~Mike Sutfin, CFM, City of Ottawa

The Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance (IVFRA) formed after the 2013 flooding. Sen. Sue Rezin, 38th Senatorial District, approached IAFSM's Floodplain Management Chair for help following that devastating flood. Her district received more than 150 million dollars in flood damages, yet one community had virtually no damage. She wanted the river communities to join and share information and knowledge to lessen losses from future floods. Since that time 22 communities along the Illinois & Fox Rivers joined together and began the process of learning how to become CFMs, join the CRS, join the IAFSM and adopt and enforce higher regulatory standards.

Through quarterly meetings the communities brought in the FEMA E-273 course and now have 23 CFMs in the flood alliance district. Most communities have adopted higher regulatory standards and have flood fighting plans. Many are working on entering the CRS.

In 2018 the USACE received funding from the Silver Jackets program to create a template based on the success of this alliance, so that other districts/watersheds can duplicate the process. We share this product with anyone interested. Prompted by the success of the IFVRA, three new alliances have formed:

- Senator Chuck Weaver from Peoria initiated a flood resiliency alliance in the Peoria area, after learning of the IVFRA's success first-hand.
- Representative Tom Bennett has worked to form an alliance in the Iroquois county area, including both Illinois and Northwest Indiana communities.
- In November, the Quad Cities had their first formal alliance meeting in Riverdale, Iowa. This will be the fourth regional alliance formation.

The floodplain management committee of IAFSM continues, with the USACE and IDNR, to support regional collaboration of local authorities to collectively manage their floodplains for resiliency and sustainability.

Anyone interested in forming or joining a regional flood alliance can contact Michael Sutfin, CFM at [msutfin@cityofottawa.org](mailto:msutfin@cityofottawa.org), Anthony Heddlesten at [Anthony.D.Heddlesten@usace.army.mil](mailto:Anthony.D.Heddlesten@usace.army.mil) or Paul Osman at [Paul.Osman@illinois.gov](mailto:Paul.Osman@illinois.gov)

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## Floodplain Management Success is Highlighted in Illinois Bicentennial Podcast Series

The Bicentennial of Illinois statehood in 2018 offered an opportunity to celebrate the manifold legacy of Illinois. In collaboration with organizations and communities across the state, the Illinois Humanities Council celebrated this anniversary by reminding residents of events that shaped our past and are impacting our future – both in Illinois and the country as a whole - through a series of Illinois Turns 200 Podcasts.

The Illinois Turns 200 podcast series looked at the past, present, and potential futures of seven Illinois communities that arose along rivers, railroads, and significant roads. The podcasts tell their stories through live interviews, dramatic readings, archival material, and musical performances. Live podcast events were held in Alton, Vandalia, Atlanta, Peoria, Galesburg, Ottawa, and Chicago.

The Illinois Turns 200 podcast held at Tangled Roots Brewery in Ottawa explored early settlement and trade along the rivers, the impact of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, the early years of Old West legend Buffalo Bill, and the tragic story of the Ottawa Radium Girls. The series also featured IAFSM members Mike Sutfin, CFM and Paul Osman, CFM discussing the state's role as a national leader in floodplain management, and how Ottawa has become a model for flood control and prevention for the entire country. For their role in the podcast, Mike and Paul were given an honorarium which was donated to IAFSM.

Watch for the seven-part series which will be played on NPR-affiliates across Illinois. The series is also available for downloading on the Illinois Humanities website at: <https://www.ilhumanities.org/program/illinois-bicentennial/>



## Correction to Statewide County Stormwater Authority Article

The Fall 2018 newsletter described a new bill which provided statewide county stormwater enabling authority. Previously, only a select number of counties had the authority to enact stormwater regulations in Illinois. The article incorrectly stated that the new bill extends stormwater enabling authority to all counties in Illinois with a population center greater than 50,000 people. The article should have said that the bill gives authority to all counties in Illinois that did not previously have stormwater enabling authority.

Counties that have a population center greater than 50,000 people may exercise this new stormwater authority without passing a referendum. Other counties in our state may also perform countywide stormwater management if voters in those counties pass a referendum allowing their County Boards to exercise this authority.

IAFSM and IDNR are planning workshops to present this information to interested counties around the state. Stay tuned for announcements of these workshops, or reach out to Shauna Urlacher, [shauna@urbanhydroeng.com](mailto:shauna@urbanhydroeng.com), for more information.

IAFSM regrets the publication error.

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## From The Chair

~Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM, ISWS

As we enter another new year together, IAFSM continues to make a difference in the realm of floodplain and stormwater management, made possible by the great volunteers who form our fourteen committees and by those who support and attend our annual conference each year. Because of you, our organization is financially strong and our influence continues to expand.

Several of our committee chairs have shared in this edition about the work they have helped accomplish which advances the mission of IAFSM. Since 1986, our objectives are to: 1) Promote the common interest in floodplain and stormwater management, 2) Enhance cooperation among various local, state, and federal agencies, and 3) Encourage effective and innovative approaches to managing the State's floodplain and stormwater management systems. IAFSM's actions bring value to you professionally, and bring value to the citizens of Illinois, whether they know it or not. The problem with doing a good job in floodplain and stormwater management is that avoidance of risk and loss is less recognized than non-avoidance. It's when we are not doing our jobs well that others take notice. Keep up the great work, team!

The 2019 IAFSM Annual Conference is just around the corner. The March 13-14, 2019 conference will be in East Peoria, next to the Illinois River. I look forward to another opportunity to network, learn, and share as my final term as Chair ends. IAFSM Board elections this year at the conference will establish new officers in each position, as each current officer will be termed-out of their role. I also encourage everyone to attend the upcoming ASFPM annual conference in Cleveland, OH on May 19-24, 2019.



## Congrats to our New CFMs!

Congratulations to everyone who passed the exam and became a Certified Floodplain Manager in the State of Illinois in 2018!

Evan Baczek, DuPage County, IL  
Emily Campbell, Geosyntec Consultants  
Randall Carr, Bono Consulting,  
Shiyi Chen, Bono Consulting  
Dustin Erickson, TERRA Engineering, Ltd.  
Sarah Fahy, Environmental Design International, Inc.  
Lucy Fitzpatrick, DuPage County, IL  
Jose Garcia, Milhouse Engineering & Construction  
Richard Hall  
Alex Harsted, La Salle County, IL  
David Hilty, Epstein Civil Engineering, Inc.  
Alyssa Huff, Hoefflerle-Butler Engineering, Inc.  
Tyler Huffman, Oates Associates  
Gary Jereb, Illinois Dept. Natural Resources  
Addison Jobe, Illinois State Water Survey  
Michael Krzywinski, Bollinger, Lach & Assoc., Inc.  
Taylor Leahy, CDM Smith  
Siamak Malek Mohammadi, TERRA Engineering

Michael McLaughlin, Christopher B. Burke Engineering  
Tyler Meyer, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.  
Constance Mihalache, Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
District of Greater Chicago  
Susan Novak, Trotter & Assoc., Inc.  
Pedro Ortiz, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of  
Greater Chicago  
Diane Polydoris, H.W. Lochner, Inc.  
Daniel Powers, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
Lucas Roat, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of  
Greater Chicago  
Brandon Tonarelli, Village of Woodridge  
Gregory Ulreich, Village of Carol Stream, IL  
Raymond Ulreich, Village of Glen Ellyn, IL  
Krystian Ustupski, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago  
Minkai Wang, Bono Consulting  
Sarah Wenzel, Prairie Engineers

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## New CRS Users Group in Southern Illinois

*~Dallas Alley, CFM, Village of Swansea*

In September of this year a new Community Ratings System (CRS) Users Group was formed in Southern Illinois. While Illinois currently has a statewide CRS Users Group, it was felt that since Illinois is such a large state it would be beneficial to have two groups. The SO ILL CRS Users Group welcomes all CRS communities as well as those interesting in joining the CRS program. Meetings are held quarterly and are held in the Metro St Louis and Springfield areas. Currently from Springfield to the south there are seven CRS communities and the Group hopes to recruit five new communities.

If you are interested in joining the group, or have questions you can email Dallas Alley at [dalley@swanseail.org](mailto:dalley@swanseail.org).

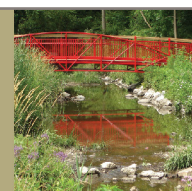


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## Join us for the 2019 IAFSM Conference

The IAFSM Annual Conference will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, March 13-14, 2019 at the Embassy Suites - Peoria Riverfront Conference Center in Peoria, IL, and may include a pre-conference workshop on March 12. A CFM exam will be offered the night before the conference on March 12, 2019. We are also looking to offer one or more field tours that will be scheduled during the conference hours. When these tours are confirmed, we will send an email to members with this information.

### Conference Registration

Conference registration is now open! A full flyer including the workshop topics will be distributed to members via email, and displayed on our webpage, in January. To register: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/event/3/7/2019-conference>

### Exhibitor and Vendor Registration

Companies and organizations are invited to exhibit their products, services, and activities at the IAFSM conference. For more information: [https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2019\\_exhibitor\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2019_exhibitor_flyer.pdf)

### Sponsors Invited

We invite you to be a sponsor of the annual conference, or to donate a door prize. All sponsors will be identified in the conference program, at plenary sessions and during the awards luncheon. For more information on sponsorship levels and benefits, please visit: [https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2019\\_iafsm\\_sponsorship\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.illinoisfloods.org/content/documents/2019_iafsm_sponsorship_flyer.pdf)

### Lodging

Lodging is available at the special conference rate of \$139 per night, through Feb 18. A limited number of government-rate rooms is available for those who qualify. Please call the hotel for further details. Visit [www.embassysuiteseastpeoria.com](http://www.embassysuiteseastpeoria.com). Enter the arrival and departure dates in the upper right corner, click “more options”, and enter OOD in the group code box. Then, click the blue button to check rooms and rates. Room types with the \$139 rate should appear for selection. The government rate is not available through our group code box, and you may need to call the hotel directly.

### Mobile App

The CrowdCompass mobile app will be used again this year, providing smart content and increased engagement opportunities to enhance your conference experience. The event URL and the app download URL will be provided before the conference.

### For More Information

For more information, visit <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences-workshops/iafsm-annual-conference> or contact Erik Gil, Conference Chair, [egil@cbbel.com](mailto:egil@cbbel.com), or Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, [iafsm@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:iafsm@illinoisfloods.org).



## Borrow our Water Tables: We have eight located all over Illinois!

*~Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM, ISWS, IAFSM Youth Outreach Chair*

If you've been around IAFSM for very long you've probably at least heard about the "floodplain models". Did you know that the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management has six (6) "Stormwater Floodplain Simulation Systems" 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.? It always draws a crowd at summer fairs and is popular with kids and adults. Contact Sarah Harbaugh at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements to borrow our models.

Currently four of the models have homes. They live at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office in Springfield, the IDNR Nature Center in Bartlett, V3 Companies office in Woodridge, and at the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign. Two of our older models are being renovated and will be looking for a home soon. In addition to IAFSM's collection, we have friends with models at the Corps of Engineers, Rock Island Office (contact Anthony Heddlesten) and at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in Alton (contact Natalie Marioni).

That's a total of eight great models located all over Illinois and just waiting for you to add your own personal take on the importance of good floodplain management! When your daughter's fourth grade teacher wants you to tell their class what you do, say, "Yes!" There's a great model waiting to help make you a hero!



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## Nominees Sought for 2019 IAFSM Chapter Awards

Submissions for the 2019 IAFSM Chapter Awards are due! The deadline has been extended to January 31, 2019.

The IAFSM Chapter awards honor the efforts of one person over a career, or an agency over an extended period of time and many projects. If you have a person, group or organization you would like to be considered for an award, please submit your completed entry form by January 31, 2019.

Entry Forms can be found here: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/membership/awards>



## 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.

Please send your nomination information to [mark.hoskins@illinois.gov](mailto:mark.hoskins@illinois.gov) before January 15, 2019.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jlomax@downers.us)

Marilyn Sucoe, IDNR/OWR, 847.608.3181, [marilyn.sucoc@illinois.gov](mailto:marilyn.sucoc@illinois.gov)

Dallas Alley, Southern Illinois CRS Users Group, [dalley@swanseail.org](mailto:dalley@swanseail.org)

## 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:

Floodplain 101 – Tuesday March 12, 2019 9 am to 3 pm. This course is geared toward helping those sitting for the CFM Exam being held later in the day. Details will be announced soon on the website, and with the Annual Conference Flyer.

### Additional Training Opportunities:

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

### Webinars:

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

- None listed at this time

### Conferences:

- March 13 – Michigan Stormwater and Floodplain Association Conference, Ann Arbor, MI
- March 13, 14 – IAFSM Annual Conference, East Peoria, IL

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

Note: Spring 2019 CFM Exam to be held Tuesday March 12, 2019 5pm – 8pm. Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL. A Floodplain 101 Course geared towards those sitting for the CFM Exam will be held earlier that day in the same location, from 9 am to 3 pm.

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## EMI - Training Opportunities for 2019

FEMA's 2019 Emergency Management Institute (EMI) courses are open for enrollment. EMI offers a diverse selection of floodplain and emergency management courses for floodplain and emergency managers. EMI offers resident courses at the EMI campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland, field deployed courses and online, independent study courses.

The resident courses are an excellent way to immerse yourself in the subject of floodplain management, away from the typical day to day distractions. The best part, if you work for a state or local government, you may attend training in Emmitsburg, MD for FREE! FEMA will cover your airfare, as well as providing a dorm style room and bus transportation to EMI. The only cost is your time and your meal ticket.

A full list of resident courses can be found on EMI's website at <https://training.fema.gov/emcourses/>. Floodplain management courses and schedule for 2019 include:

- |        |  |                                 |
|--------|--|---------------------------------|
| • E273 | Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP  | March, June, August             |
| • E276 | Benefit-Cost Analysis: Entry-Level             | April, June                     |
| • L278 | NFIP/CRS in Illinois                           | October (Apply after January 1) |
| • E279 | Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Buildings | May                             |
| • E282 | Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II     | July                            |
| • E284 | Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III    | February                        |

NEW in 2019, IAFSM is hosting the 4-day training course NFIP/CRS (L278). The class will be held October 7-10, 2019 in Downers Grove and will be limited to 35 students. See the separate flyer in this newsletter for information on this course.



# Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

## **Save the Date! 2019 IAFSM Conference**

The 2019 Annual Conference will be March 13 & 14, 2019, at the Embassy Suites East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center.

## **Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles**

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at [jmaercklein@v3co.com](mailto: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 and one in Bartlett, with the remaining two tables at other locations (tbd) throughout the state. Contact Sarah at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

## **Next Board Meetings**

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Embassy suites by Hilton East Peoria. We will also meet on Wednesday, March 14, 2019 at 7:30 a.m. before the conference. 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 [IAFSM@sbcglobal.net](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net).

## **2019 CFM Exam Schedule**

To view 2019 exam dates and register, [visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html)

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Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2019 Newsletter

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