



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2023 Newsletter

Karen C. Kabbes, P.E., D.WRE, CFM — French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement

This award is the IAFSM’s highest honor. It is reserved for outstanding longtime floodplain managers. These individuals’ long-term contributions have made a noticeable impact on floodplain and stormwater management efforts in the State of Illinois. This award is not always given on a yearly basis.

Karen Kabbes was presented with the French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement for her efforts as a founding member of IAFSM and for her work as primary author of the State of Illinois Part 3708 rules: Floodway Construction In Northeastern Illinois.

IAFSM was formed in 1986. IAFSM’s success stemmed from the group of local, state and federal people that came together to form the Association. Karen was the first Vice Chair of IAFSM and the second Chair.

Significant flooding in 1986 sparked the Illinois General Assembly to amend the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act [615 ILCS 5]. Included in the legislation was the prohibition of development in floodways in northern Illinois. The new law required the development of rules and Karen, as the Head of the Illinois Division of Water Resources’ Northeastern Illinois Floodplain Management Unit (then part of the Illinois Department of Transportation), was assigned the job of writing the [Part 3708](#) Floodway Construction In Northeastern Illinois. Perhaps more challenging, she was responsible for implementing the rules.

One of the most challenging (and unpopular) jobs in stormwater and floodplain management profession is writing regulations, yet it is essential to the protection of people, property and communities. Karen built a tremendous team at the Illinois Office of Water Resources (OWR) to work with communities, developers and engineers, and only “appropriate uses” in the floodway is fully accepted in northeastern Illinois. Although the Part 3708 rules apply only to the six-county Chicago metropolitan area, they have influenced OWR decisions, model ordinances and other efforts throughout Illinois.



Molly O’Toole presents the French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement to Karen Kabbes.

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For IAFSM, the 1987 flood in the Chicago area was a watershed event. The 1988 IAFSM conference had huge participation as local officials worked to learn more about regulations, stormwater management and mitigation. Karen helped provide the early leadership in IAFSM to create the organization that it is today.

Karen worked with the OWR's Northeastern Illinois Floodplain Management Unit from 1977 until 1991. She has worked in local and regional government and created Kabbes Engineering, Inc. in 1997. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in civil engineering, and the University of Illinois Chicago with a Masters of Public Administration.

Karen served as a co-chair for Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Mapping and Engineering Committee and the Multi-Objective Management Committee and served on the ASFPM Board of Directors. She has been very involved with the American Society of Engineers (ASCE) on infrastructure issues. Congratulations to Karen!

What a Conference!

We broke our record again at this conference, with 640 registered attendees. Amazing! We hope everyone had a great experience networking with colleagues and learning about the latest things in stormwater and floodplain management. Our keynote speakers were excellent; if you missed it, you can learn more about Jonathan Foley, Ph.D., Project Drawdown, and climate solutions <https://drawdown.org/>, and you can learn more about slow water and order a copy of *Water Always Wins* from [Erica Gies' website](#). If you missed your chance to donate to ASFPM's Future Leaders Scholarship, you can [make a donation here](#). Enjoy these conference photos and recaps of our award recipients, and we'll look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Lake County Stormwater Management Commission — Excellence in Mitigation

This award is given to an individual or community that has encouraged flood hazard reduction through a buyout program, retrofitting, preparation of a mitigation plan, or other similar mitigation efforts.

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) has been a leader in the State of Illinois when it comes to mitigation. SMC has been administering the Floodplain Property Buyout Program since 1998. Since then, SMC has spent over \$24.1 million to acquire over 200 flood-prone properties. This has been done with a variety of funding mechanisms that include FEMA, DECO, IDNR, and of course local property tax funding.

In addition to flood mitigation projects, Lake County SMC utilizes the countywide Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO) with the intent of prohibiting new development from having adverse impacts on existing floodplain or stormwater issues and preventing new problems from arising. The WDO, which is implemented at the local level, establishes minimum countywide standards for stormwater management, including floodplains, detention, soil erosion/sediment control, water quality treatment, and wetlands.

Lake County SMC also strives to provide reduced flood damages through flood hazard mitigation projects, implementing Best Management Practices, developing watershed management plans, and enforcing effective floodplain and stormwater management regulations. These practices are applied with a focus on natural resource protection and restoration by utilizing a mix of funding sources and partnerships to restore and enhance the natural drainage system.








Steve Altman presents the Excellence in Mitigation award to Sharon Osterby and Kurt Woolford on behalf of Lake County SMC.



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Village of Wilmette — Stormwater Management Award



Steve Altman with Brigitte Berger-Raish, who accepted the Stormwater Management Award on behalf of the Village of Wilmette.

Awarded to a floodplain manager, an individual, a group of individuals, a consultant, or an agency who improved stormwater management or reduced urban flood risks through creative engineering, regulatory measures, or other approaches. The award can also be considered for someone who struggles to implement flood hazard reduction at the local level in the absence of sophisticated programs and support.

The Village of Wilmette has long battled issues with urban flooding. The Village recently completed the Neighborhood Storage Project, the largest Capital Improvement Project in the Village of Wilmette's History. The total project cost was approximately \$64.1M and took 10 years to complete from the initial studies in 2013 to the completion of construction at the end of 2022. This project significantly transformed the quality of life on the entire west side of the Village, which had a long history of urban flooding. To provide the necessary flood relief, the Village installed 14.4 million gallons of underground stormwater storage at 3 prominent parks and 5 miles of storm sewer under streets throughout the west side of town.

The Village's Public Works Department lead a full team effort that required cooperation and participation from consulting engineers, the Village Board, Park District, School District, neighborhood organizations, and most importantly, understanding and patience from Village residents.

Emily Grimm, CFM — Floodplain Manager of the Year



Emily Grimm accepts the Floodplain Manager of the Year award from Steve Altman.

This award recognizes outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level. The award honors an individual responsible for the development of a distinguished local program or activity, or someone who struggles to implement flood hazard reduction at the local level in the absence of sophisticated programs and support.

Emily Grimm is the Assistant Village Engineer and Stormwater Manager for the Village of Winnetka. The Village of Winnetka joined the CRS program in 2015 and currently ranks in Class 6. A large portion of the Village is in the 100-year floodplain, encompassing approximately 1/8 of the residential properties, making floodplain management a top priority for the Village. In her past work as an engineering consultant for Baxter & Woodman, Emily managed CRS programs for multiple municipalities, including Glenview and Niles. Now that she is working in Winnetka, she strives to incorporate knowledge and ideas from other communities into Winnetka's existing CRS program. Emily has modernized outreach materials and updated the Village's Flood Hazard Protection Regulations. She also continues to maintain the high floodplain and stormwater management standards for new development and has started examining the regulations along the lakefront to determine if stronger development regulations are needed in that area.

Emily has also assisted in managing the Village's Stormwater Vision Project. Last year, the Village broke ground on its Stormwater Vision Project, which, in total, includes over 160 acre-feet of new stormwater storage and several conveyance projects to mitigate flooding on the west side of the Village. This project relies on intergovernmental cooperation and requires IGAs and organization with four governing bodies, including the Cook County Forest Preserve, to complete. This project is just getting started and will take multiple years to complete but will equate to an 87% reduction in flooded parcels for a 100-year storm event once complete.

Dallas Alley, CFM — Outstanding Service Award



Dallas Alley, recipient of the Outstanding Service award with Steve Altman.

Awarded to an IAFSM officer, a Federal, State, or Local Official, or a consultant who has gone above and beyond normal expectations and duties to promote or encourage IAFSM goals. This award may also be given to an agency that has inspired floodplain management efforts or implemented unique programs that encourage flood reduction.

Dallas W Alley, the Director of Land Use and Development for the City of Fairview Heights, IL, joined Fairview Heights in 2021. Since that time, he has committed himself to improving the community’s quality of life and revitalizing the business corridor within the City. He is currently working to update the Development and Building Codes for the City and has recently implemented a new Floodplain Development Code. In addition to overseeing development projects, he administers the TIF districts within the City of Fairview Heights. Dallas has continually worked to improve compliance with the Fairview Heights Building, Zoning, and Code Enforcement Ordinances, improving property conditions, and coordinating with other governing agencies.

Prior to working for Fairview Heights, he worked for Swansea, IL from 2017 to 2021 where he managed all aspects of land use, construction, economic development, and revitalization. From 2005 to 2017, Alley was awarded multiple demolition grants and oversaw the demolition of over 250 dilapidated structures through State and Federal grant programs for St. Clair County, IL.

Currently, he serves as the Vice-Chair of the Illinois Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers, and has planned the past two annual conferences. Being a lifelong environmental advocate has contributed to his desire to preserve the natural functions of the floodplain and wetlands of Southwestern Illinois, as well as restore habitat for native pollinators.

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IAFSM Young Professionals Conference Scholarship Recipients

Each year the IAFSM Young Professionals Committee grants multiple “conference scholarships” to college students studying topics related to objectives of IAFSM. The scholarship prize includes conference attendance and a one-night hotel stay. Congratulations to our student winners! In addition to the winners shown below, honorable mentions were bestowed upon **Emily Doke** from Southern Illinois University and **Alexis Plowe** from Purdue University.



Evan Lemberger is a junior studying civil and environmental engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. He’s a part time employee at the Illinois State Water Survey, where he’s working with floodplain maps in ArcGIS and HEC-RAS software. He’s very thankful for the opportunity to learn from everyone presenting at this conference.



Brian Shanahan is a Chicagoland area native, current master’s student at the University of Iowa and recent undergraduate student of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Program. His focus includes sustainability management, and he holds certifications such as Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) and EcoDistricts AP. In the future, he hopes to obtain a further degree relating to financial management for sustainable development projects and then gain real-world projects experience.



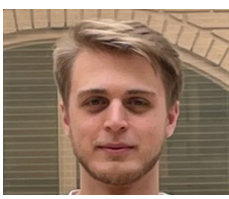
Anjanette Francisco is currently a student at the College of DuPage and will be a transfer junior in the fall at the University of Illinois Chicago. She is majoring in civil engineering and planning to specialize in environmental, hoping to work in green infrastructure. She had internship experience with the City of Aurora engineering division last summer 2022 and looks forward to getting more experience in the field.



Halle Bechtold, originally from Jerseyville, IL, has been studying civil engineering at Bradley University for two years. At school, in addition to CE coursework, she is heavily involved in Bradley’s ASCE chapter and currently serves as the captain of the Concrete Canoe Team. She is also pursuing a minor in sustainability and hopes to apply this to her career. She is particularly interested in the interactions between the natural and built environment.



Eddith Encho Endack Eyanyeh is an undergraduate student at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, majoring in civil engineering with a focus on the environmental (water resource) section. She is passionate about anything related to water - from the discharge of dirty water, how it is cleaned for direct consumption purposes, how it is managed, and how water might cause a flood. She applied to the IASFM conference scholarship to gain more knowledge and experience in the floodplain and stormwater management, and she is grateful for the honor of being selected.



Maverick Davids is currently a student at the College of DuPage, transferring to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for civil engineering in the fall. He is interested in structural engineering but open to exploring different branches within civil engineering. He is looking forward to an internship with WSP this summer.

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Remembering Mike Sutfin, 1949-2023

Our floodplain management world lost a star earlier this year. If you've been with IAFSM for a while, you may remember Mike Sutfin, the Building Official and Floodplain Manager at the Village of Ottawa. When Mike began working in his role for Ottawa (which is at the confluence of the Fox and Illinois Rivers and had been subject to frequent flooding) he was unfamiliar with floodplain management. He joined IAFSM, educated himself and learned from others, and then began working tirelessly to protect people and property from flood damage. Ottawa joined the Community Rating System (CRS) and through Mike's leadership, reached a CRS class 2 rating, one of only ten communities in the nation and the only one in Illinois to achieve this status. He helped Ottawa obtain flood buyout grants to remove many houses and a school from the floodplain, and through his actions, Ottawa receives significantly less flood damage today. Mike was active in our organization, serving as Floodplain Management Chair for many years, and helping to establish the Rapid Assistance Flood Team (RAFT) to assist communities in times of flooding. He was awarded Floodplain Manager of the Year by IAFSM in 2009 and the Award for Outstanding Service in 2019. To honor his commitment to floodplain management and the positive impact he had on his community, the state, and on our organization, IAFSM renamed one of our local scholarships after Mike, which will be presented to a local official to allow them the opportunity to travel to and attend our conference. For more information on Mike's legacy, [you can read his obituary](#) and [learn more about his life on the ASFPM website](#).



Mike Sutfin received the IAFSM Award for Outstanding Service from Glenn Heistand in 2019.

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Thank You Corporate Sponsors

Thank you to all of the corporate sponsors who participated this year at the Gold, Silver or Bronze level. A special Thank You to the corporate sponsors who have supported the IAFSM conference for at least 15 years: Hey & Associates; Molly O'Toole & Associates; Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd; CMT; Baxter & Woodman; and Engineering Resource Associates.



YP Conference Recap



The Young Professionals Committee hosted a happy hour after the conference's social hour and recognized conference scholarship recipients from local colleges and universities, who are pictured below. If you'd like to become involved with the Young Professional planning committee, please reach out to Sarah Wenzel at swenzel@prairieengineers.com.

From the Chair: Thank You

~Steve Altman, P.E., CFM

Please join me in congratulating IAFSM's Chair-Elect, Dallas Alley, who will be assuming the Chair role in May. His hard work putting together the last two conferences (the latest being the largest attended ever for IAFSM!) should be a good sign for the future. Our new Vice Chair Sharon Osterby has a hard act to follow! There is no doubt that she is up to the task. Mary Richardson will move into the Treasurer position and experience the joy of all of the committees and executive board asking to pay/reimburse them, which serves as good training to prepare for the Conference Chair in the future. And last and certainly not least, welcome to Jenny Lowenstein as Secretary (better known for awarding Door Prizes at the conference). We are looking forward to the energy she will bring to the board meetings!

I would also like to thank the entire Board. We have charged on with Video Conference meetings despite a Chair that takes 10 minutes to get the video conference set up! That will be the first place that Dallas would be an upgrade! All kidding aside, I would encourage everyone in the association to consider joining a committee. It is a great opportunity to make a difference in the association and your contribution will be valued. Next, I would like to thank Erik Gil and Sarah Harbaugh. Erik has been a great source of guidance and had been a great sounding board for my thoughts and ideas for the board. Sarah has been a rock for IAFSM for so many years, taking care of everything from the setup at the conference, to attending meetings with ASFP, and million other things.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of IAFSM. Our association is one of the best (if not the best) state floodplain management associations in the country. We are blessed with membership with different backgrounds and different roles. You are what make IAFSM great, and it has been a pleasure to serve you. Thank you.





Join us for a tour of MWRD's TARP Facilities!

[Register by April 17th](#)

The IAFSM YP Committee invites all IAFSM professionals on a tour of MWRD's TARP ("Deep Tunnel") facilities on **May 12, 2023** from 10:00 AM-12:30 PM. The tour is limited to 30 people.

- Attendees will have the chance to:
- Tour the Mainstream Pumping Station (*located in Hodgkins, IL*)
- Tour the McCook Reservoir
- Earn 2.5 CEC credits
- Network with other members at [Milk Money Brewing](#) after the tour.
Lunch will be at your own cost.

Please fill out [the registration form](#) if you would like to attend. The first 30 respondents will receive a follow-up email confirming your availability and with a link to a waiver form required by MWRD. Additional information regarding what to expect/bring to come!

Registration form: <https://tinyurl.com/MWRD-Tarp-Registration>

Questions?

Contact Alana Rosenbaum at arosenbaum@baxterwoodman.com or (815) 444-4487.

Congrats to our Local Officials who Received a Conference Scholarship

You may recall that IAfSM provides scholarships to allow local officials to attend our conference at no cost. Congratulations to these local officials who received a 2023 scholarship, and be sure to watch for the scholarship application announcement later this year to attend the 2024 conference!

Brad Criner - Bond County

Brian Melton - City of Morrison

Eric Otto - Village of Oak Park

Ron Raphael - Village of Elk Grove Village

Bob Darnell - City of Cahokia Heights

Brett Childers - City of Herrin

Illinois Floodplain Management Office Hours

IDNR staff will host monthly virtual office hour sessions on the dates listed below. Save the links below to your calendar and join us with any floodplain related questions. No registration is required.

- [April 13th](#), Thursday, 10 to 11am
- [May 11th](#), Thursday, 10 to 11am

Stormwater Management Committee

The IAfSM Stormwater Management Committee is looking for new members. Please contact Steve Bicking if you are interested in joining! sbicking@hrgreen.com

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:

- 2023 ASFPM Annual Conference May 7-11, 2023 Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2024 ASFPM Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 23-27, 2024 IDNR / Illinois One Day NFIP 101 Virtual Class – April 19, 2023

Are you new to floodplain management, need a refresher course, or planning to take the CFM exam? IDNR is hosting a day-long virtual NFIP 101 class on Wednesday, April 19th, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm with instructors from IDNR, FEMA, and the Illinois State Water Survey. The class will cover NFIP basics including:

- Map reading
- Floodplain mapping and map changes
- State floodway regulations
- Local regulations
- Flood insurance
- Community Rating System
- Mitigation
- Coastal zones

To register go to: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/meetings/register/options/1027>. For registration questions contact Sarah Harbaugh at iafsm@illinoisfloods.org or 630-443-8145. For all other questions please contact Erin Conley at Erin.c.conley@illinois.gov or Marilyn Sucoe at Marilyn.sucoe@illinois.gov. (5 PDHs and 4 CECs)

Illinois and FEMA Floodplain Management Webinar Series

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

- April 18, 2023 (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Illinois Floodplain and Floodway Permitting](#)
- April 26, 2023 (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Development Permitting](#)
- May 2, 2023 (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Illinois Floodplain Mapping 101](#) (including Letters of Map Change)
- May 23, 2023 (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Illinois: Flood Insurance Basics](#)
- May 31, 2023 (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA NFIP Compliance](#)
- June 6, 2023 (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Illinois Community Rating System Overview](#)
- June 28, 2023 (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Insurance is Mitigation](#)

EMI 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/>

- E0213 Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Application Review and Evaluation – July 24-25, 2023
- E0214 Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Implementation through Closeout – July 26-27, 2023
- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – May 1-4 or Aug 28-31, 2023
- E0279 Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Buildings – May 1-4, 2023

Webinars

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

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

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

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

Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

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>



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Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has five Watershed Tabletop Models available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This offers a great opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain. IAFSM currently keeps tables in Springfield, Champaign, Bartlett, Woodridge, and Swansea. Contact Sarah Harbaugh at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.



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

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10 via Zoom. Contact Sarah Harbaugh for the access link. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html> Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. To post an open position, please sign into our website and complete the job listing form. If you have any questions please contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

CFM Exams

Beginning in 2023, exams are only offered online. Online exams can be taken in your home or office (monitored by an online proctor) or at a testing center; there are many testing centers throughout Illinois. For information, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.

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THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2023 Newsletter

The IAFSM Newsletter is published quarterly for members of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of all members. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to the editor at jmaercklein@v3co.com.

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