



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Conference Highlights

-Sharon Østerby, CFM, Conference Chair On Behalf of the IAFSM Annual Conference Committee and IAFSM Board

Greetings members! As the dust settles on what has been another exciting Annual Conference, we want to take a moment to extend our thanks to you, our conference attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors. Your support, dedication, and involvement were integral in making this year's annual conference a success.

Over the span of two days, we were privileged to host an unprecedented downstate gathering with 485 participants! The majority of attendees originated from Illinois, showcasing strong local participation. Yet, our event also drew a diverse crowd from numerous other states, adding to the richness of the experience. The dynamic interchange of ideas across various domains and regions has undoubtedly laid the groundwork for innovative partnerships and projects, promising exciting developments ahead for the IAFSM community.

Highlights from the Conference:

- Keynote Addresses: We were honored to host two keynote speakers, who shared their expertise on mitigating flood risk, protecting flood-damaged homes, and preserving historic structures through elevation. Julie and Rod not only challenged our perceptions about elevations but also inspired us to expand the limits of what can be achieved in Illinois. Read more about Julie Nucci's experience elevating the first house in the national register of historic places at <https://jnucciconsulting.com/>. Learn more about structural elevation and flood mitigation at Rod Scott's website <https://floodmitigationsolutions.net/>.
- Presentations: The 60 presentations this year showcased the latest insights from professionals, industry leaders, and scholars, both emerging and established. Thank you to everyone who shared content and helped pave the way for climate adaptation and for advancing floodplain and stormwater management resilience.
- Annual Awards Luncheon: We were thrilled to celebrate and honor this year's annual awards recipients for their exceptional contributions and achievements within our IAFSM Community. Our award winners and their accomplishments are highlighted on the next few pages of this newsletter.
- Social Events: Beyond the formal agenda, the Tuesday evening social gathering offered a chance for attendees to relax, enjoy the beautiful weather, explore exhibitor booths, and build professional connections. The lighthearted and friendly atmosphere plays an important role in making the conference enjoyable and memorable for all attendees.

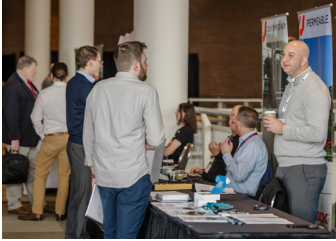
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Looking Ahead:

I encourage you to keep the momentum going: reach out to those you met, explore the ideas that sparked your interest, and continue to engage with the IAFSM community until we meet again at the 2025 Annual Conference in Tinley Park, Illinois.

Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to make our Annual Conference even more impactful in the years to come. If you have not already, please take a moment to share your thoughts and suggestions through our post-conference survey at [this link](#). We look forward to welcoming you to our future conferences and to sharing the ongoing impact of the work we have accomplished together!



Ron Davis, IDNR/OWR – 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.

Ron Davis is a seasoned professional in the field of disaster mitigation with a career spanning over three decades. He has made an incredible impact on the approach to hazard risk reduction and community resilience in the State of Illinois. Ron started with IEMA in 1995 in the aftermath of the Great Flood of 1993. In 2003, he earned the title of State Hazard Mitigation Officer and held that title for 15 years before taking a position at IDNR to run their mitigation program (2018).

His work has significantly advanced the state's capacity to mitigate the impacts of natural and man-made disasters. As a leading figure in Illinois' mitigation efforts, Ron's contributions have not only safeguarded communities but also propelled the state into a position of national leadership in disaster mitigation and resilience planning.

Ron was instrumental in the development and promotion of Illinois' State Hazard Mitigation Plan, a cornerstone document that guides the state in reducing risk from natural hazards through proactive planning and action. Under his guidance, the plan has evolved to include climate adaptation strategies, making Illinois one of the first states to integrate climate change considerations into its hazard mitigation framework. This forward-thinking approach has served as a model for other states grappling with similar challenges.



Dallas Alley, IAFSM Chair, presents Ron Davis with the Excellence in Mitigation Award



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Paul Kendzior, PE, CFM, Village of Libertyville – Floodplain Manager of the Year

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.

Paul Kendzior has worked in the field of floodplain and stormwater management for the past 36 years. Paul started his career at RJN Group completing Location Drainage Studies for various waterway crossings in IDOT’s District 1. He then transitioned to the public sector with the Village of Northbrook in 1995, leading the Village to Class 7 after initiating their application into the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). While at Northbrook, Paul also led the development of the Village’s first Master Stormwater Management Plan and two Addendums. All recommended capital flood reduction projects were funded by the creation of a stormwater utility fee. One example project is the award-winning Wescott Park Storage which involved the installation of a 23-acre-foot underground stormwater detention vault.

After arriving in Libertyville in 2015 as the Director of Public Works, Paul led the effort to apply for CRS program and ultimately elevated Libertyville to a Class 6 rating. At Libertyville, he also initiated the Village’s first Master Stormwater Management Plan in 2017. The Master Plan contained 10 capital flood reduction projects at an estimated total cost of \$54 million. Once again, Paul assisted in the development and approval of a stormwater utility fee to fund the projects, of which three have been completed.



Paul Kendzior receives the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award from Dallas Alley

 A collage of images including a flooded residential area, a green stormwater pond, a colorful flood risk map, and a stormwater detention structure. A central logo features a stylized 'V3' inside a circle.

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 A graphic advertisement with a stylized orange and grey logo for CiorbaGroup. The text reads 'CONSULTING ENGINEERS' and 'LET'S BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER'. A list of services is provided, and the website www.ciorba.com is at the top right.

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 A landscape image of a river with a dam and greenery. The logo 'exp.' is prominently displayed in white. Below it, the text 'EXPONENTIAL POSSIBILITIES' is written in all caps. At the bottom, a list of services and the website exp.com are shown.

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 A graphic advertisement featuring a blue and white color scheme. The logo for Farnsworth Group is at the top left. The text reads 'WHEN THE STORM COMES, YOU CAN TURN TO FARNSWORTH GROUP'. A list of services is at the bottom.

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Julie Lomax, CFM, P.E., CRS Committee Chair – Floodplain Manager of the Year

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.

Julie Lomax has been the Chair of the Community Rating System (CRS) Committee for the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (IAFSM) since 2015 and is the leader of the Illinois CRS Users Group. As the CRS Chair, Julie has been instrumental in driving forward initiatives that have significantly improved floodplain management practices across Illinois. Her leadership has not only enhanced the participation of Illinois communities in the CRS program but also increased their access to reduced flood insurance premiums.

She has developed training programs, workshops, and resources aimed at local officials, professionals, and the general public, demystifying what it takes for a community to be part of the CRS program. Julie credits much of this success to the vast resources available to her through her IAFSM contacts and peers as well as pandemic creativity.



Julie Lomax, recipient of the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award, with Dallas Alley

With the rise of virtual meetings and the 2021 Addendum to the CRS User’s Manual providing topics for meetings, it was now possible to get people together from the entire state via Zoom. Julie used this opportunity to invite subject matter experts to be guest presenters on various CRS topics at the CRS Users Group meetings. Additionally, Julie has been able to assist in the hosting of two field-deployed CRS training courses – one in 2019 and another in 2023.



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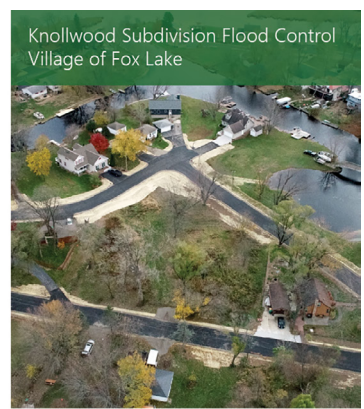



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City of Batavia – Stormwater Management Award

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 City of Batavia has taken a proactive approach to stormwater management over the last 10 years, investing time and resources to improve its stormwater management and assets. This has been the most evident within the Mahoney Creek Watershed. The City has been working on planning and implementing projects to holistically manage stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and improve water quality.

In 2021, Batavia started the development of the Mahoney Creek Watershed-Based Plan. The Watershed-Based Plan was written to include the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) nine key elements required to improve water quality. The planning documents identified numerous projects within the City of Batavia. Project implementation has already begun with the City investing nearly one million dollars to design and construct a project to create wetland detention at the Mahoney Creek Tributary's headwaters.

In 2022, the City constructed the Kirk Road Stormwater Management Basin which created 7.6 acre-feet of wetland detention and cut the 100-year critical flow to the Mahoney Creek Tributary in half. After construction, the City noted a reduction in roadway flooding along the tributary and reduced yard flooding along the stream.



Dallas Alley presents the City of Batavia with the Stormwater Management Award. Representing Batavia, left to right, are Andrea Podraza, Laura Newman, and Gary Holm.

Erin Conley, CFM & Marilyn Sucoe, CFM, P.E., IDNR/OWR – Journalism or Public Education Award

This award is generally given to a media outlet that has produced floodplain or stormwater management special features during the year. The award can include individuals or agencies who have contributed to public awareness of floodplain or stormwater management issues.

The state began issuing the quarterly e-newsletter, The Flood Record, in September 2020 to the 896 NFIP communities in Illinois. Marilyn Sucoe created the first email list from FEMA's community contact database and the first email had over 400 failures. After weeks of phone calls to libraries and even volunteer fire departments, Marilyn was able to compile a successful email list. Erin and Marilyn have now grown the list to over 1700 email addresses. To date, there have been 15 issues of The Flood Record that cover everything floodplain-related including regulations, permitting, mapping, grants, and training opportunities. Some of the articles are even reprinted in The IAFSM Current. One Mayor called to say he was republishing an article concerning establishing Base Flood Elevations in Zone A floodplains in the town's newsletter.

Starting last year, their outreach efforts expanded to include a series of webinars held most months of the year. These webinars have covered topics including elevation certificates, enforcement, floodway permitting, flood insurance, and substantial damage/improvement. While most of the webinars are only an hour long, longer webinars are being added to allow for a more in-depth discussion on some topics. The webinars provide credits for CFMs and PEs. Attendance at the webinars often reaches 100 or more.



Marilyn Sucoe (center) and Erin Conley (right) receive the Journalism and Public Education Award from Dallas Alley

Senator David Koehler - Legislative Award

This award honors Illinois law makers or local officials for their efforts in floodplain issues. The award can also be given to an individual who makes extraordinary efforts to encourage the passage of legislation or to a community that has adopted unique local regulations that promote floodplain management or flood damage reduction.

In 2022, State Senator Dave Koehler played a pivotal role in introducing the “Clean Sweep” program in Peoria and Fulton County. With an eye towards water quality, this initiative facilitated the responsible disposal of unwanted agricultural pesticides for a diverse range of stakeholders, including farmers, retired farmers, nursery owners, private pesticide applicators, structural pest control applicators, and landowners.

Continuing the commitment to environmental stewardship, the senator successfully passed Senate Bill 3790. This landmark legislation led to the creation of the Renewable Energy Component Recycling Task Force, tasked with exploring sustainable options for recycling and end-of-life management of renewable generation components and energy storage devices.

This year, Senator Dave Koehler is taking the lead on several critical initiatives. Foremost among these is Senate Bill 1556, advocating for the adoption of a clean transportation standard in Illinois. This bill aims to empower the Environmental Protection Agency to establish rules for a credit marketplace for low-emission fuels, with the goal of reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector by 20% within a decade of adoption.

Additionally, the Senator is spearheading Senate Bill 2628 to grant the Illinois Department of Natural Resources the necessary authority to define procedures ensuring state agency compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. Recognizing a current deficiency in enforcing NFIP procedures for state agencies and state-owned properties, this bill aims to rectify this gap.



Senator David Koehler with his Legislative Award



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Chris Hanstad, CFM, P.E., ISWS – Young Professional of the Year

This award is to recognize the professional contributions of younger members. The IAFSM Young Professionals Committee established the IAFSM Young Member of the Year Award for the first time in 2024.

Chris Hanstad serves as the Senior Hydraulic Engineer in the Coordinated Hazard Assessment and Mapping Program (CHAMP) at ISWS, leading their hydraulic and hydrologic engineering team of seven engineers with unparalleled dedication and expertise. In the last several years he has successfully overseen data development projects totaling over \$5 million. Notably, these projects were completed meticulously, adhering to FEMA specifications, and were both within budget and on schedule.

In addition to his role as a project leader, Chris has excelled in various capacities. He serves as the Principal Investigator for the MT-2 LOMR Review grants, successfully submitting grant applications and providing quarterly reports to FEMA. Chris's meticulous review and processing of MT-2 cases showcase his commitment to ensuring the highest standards in his work.

Chris's dedication also extends beyond project management. He contributes significantly to CHAMP outreach efforts for Floodplain 101 training and Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) mentoring tasks. His ability to communicate complex technical information effectively is well demonstrated through internal presentations at ISWS and externally at IAFSM conferences. In 2021, Chris earned IAFSM's Best Presentation award at the annual conference.

Despite facing challenges such as tight project deadlines, Chris has demonstrated exceptional resilience and leadership. His ability to mediate conflicts, coupled with his open communication style, has contributed to a positive and collaborative work environment.

Chris's management and leadership of his team have been exemplary, especially with the challenges of remote work and hybrid schedules. Bi-weekly H&H team meetings, which he leads, have played a crucial role in organizing the team responsible for completing FEMA data development projects and increasing informal interactions among team members.



Chris Hanstad, recipient of the Young Professional of the Year Award

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Sarah Wenzel, CFM, P.E. – Outstanding Service Award

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.

Sarah Wenzel joined IAFSM in 2018 as one of two founding members of the IAFSM Young Professionals (YP) Committee. She has played an active role in growing the YP Committee from the ground up since 2018. For the last 3 years, she has served as the YP Committee Chair. During her time at IAFSM, she has succeeded in increasing IAFSM name recognition and visibility in universities, increasing young professional engagement with IAFSM, and expanding IAFSM offerings to young professionals. Sarah passionately strives to bring fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm to IAFSM.

Sarah was a driving force in the creation and consistent year-over-year expansion of the IAFSM YP Conference Scholarship. The YP Conference Scholarship program has expanded under her guidance to include every University with stormwater, floodplain, and civil engineering programs in Illinois and prominent universities in surrounding states.

Sarah proposed the addition of the IAFSM Young Professional of the Year Award to promote the achievements of early and mid-career IAFSM professionals. This award will be recognized for the first time in 2024.





Sarah Wenzel receives the Outstanding Service Award from Dallas Alley

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When is a LOMR Required?

A Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) is required when the mapped floodway location is changed or there is an increase or decrease in the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Communities are responsible for obtaining or requiring a LOMR be obtained by a property owner if a development causes a change in the BFE. This could be due to a new road, channel modification, or a flood control project. The BFE could change at the project site but also could change upstream or downstream of the project. Floodplain modeling must extend upstream and downstream to confirm no change to the BFE. The federal regulations, 44 CFR 65.3, explains that a community must maintain the accuracy of their floodplain maps and submit the corrections within six months. **The community will ultimately be held responsible if they do not require the LOMR through their permitting process.** Some type of surety bond or letter of credit should be required that includes the cost of the LOMR, as-built drawings, and floodplain modeling required to secure the LOMR.

It is important to understand:

- A local permit is always required for work in the floodplain regardless of any state floodway permit.
- A LOMR is not a federal permit. There is no federal floodplain permit.
- A LOMR is an official change to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), typically requested by a community or property owner.
- The local community must require the LOMR as part of the local permit if the BFE changes.
- The State Floodway Rules may not require a LOMR, even when the BFE changes. The state floodway rules are not necessarily NFIP compliant and are used to ensure compliance with state laws only.

A Conditional LOMR (CLOMR) is a letter from FEMA typically commenting on whether a proposed project's floodplain modeling and design will, if built as proposed, result in the desired map change. A CLOMR is required if the floodway is being changed (44 CFR 60.3 d 4). For proposed encroachments in the regulatory floodway, any increase in the BFE requires a CLOMR from FEMA. The federal law does not require a CLOMR for proposed encroachments in the floodplain where a regulatory floodway has not been mapped and adopted.

Recent county-wide floodplain mapping and other Letter of Map Change requests have found numerous cases of new development in the floodway, channels enclosed in a storm sewer or new road crossings. The community will now be responsible for securing the LOMR. If communities have questions about LOMCs, they may reach out to IDNR at Erin.C.Conley@illinois.gov.

44 CFR 65.3 Requirement to submit new technical data

A community's base flood elevations may increase or decrease resulting from physical changes affecting flooding conditions. **As soon as practicable, but not later than six months after the date such information becomes available, a community shall notify the Administrator of the changes by submitting technical or scientific data in accordance with this part.** Such a submission is necessary so that upon confirmation of those physical changes affecting flooding conditions, risk premium rates and flood plain management requirements will be based upon current data.

Illinois & FEMA Floodplain Management Webinars

The Illinois and FEMA monthly webinar series continues. Please share this information with your building inspectors, permit staff, engineers, and public works staff. Use the links below to register and add to your calendar. IDNR webinar attendance will be submitted to ASFPM for CFMs. IDNR will provide certificates for PEs and CFMs for your records.

- 4/9/24, (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Issuing Permits for Development in Floodways and Zones A/AE Without a Floodway](#)
- 5/29/24, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Increased Cost of Compliance](#)
- 6/26/24, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Floodplain Management Higher Standards](#)

NWS Site Updates

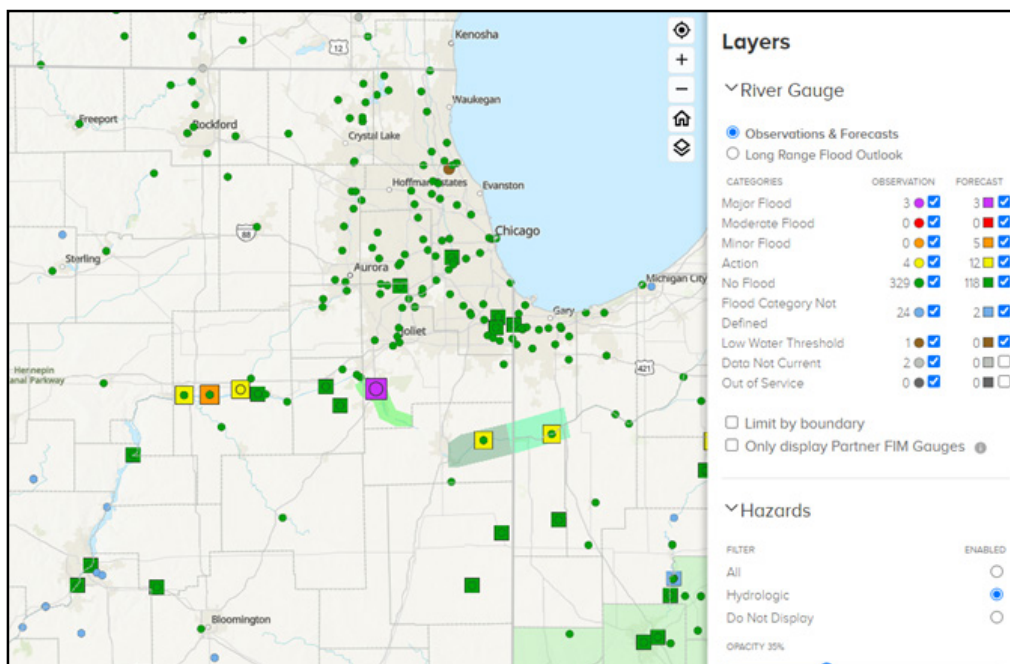
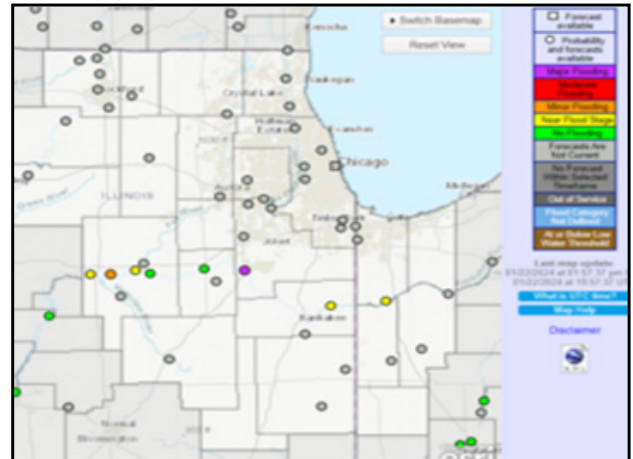
- Craig Schmidt, Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service in Chanhassen, MN

The National Weather Service (NWS) has unveiled a replacement for the decades-old river information web page called Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS). It has been replaced by the National Water Prediction Service (NWPS), a dynamically updated and much more detailed way to view river and water information.

Some examples of how things changed are summarized below.

Map Updates

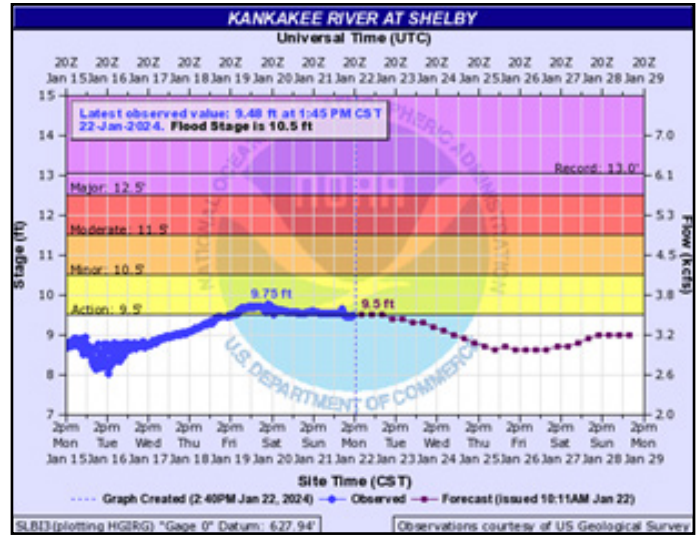
- The maps in the previous Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) - see example to right - are replaced by the new format shown below.
- Observation/Forecast flood status in same icon (circle portion shows current observation and surrounding square shows forecast, if forecast site).
- Robust search and filter capabilities.
- Functional legend to create specific displays for your situational awareness.
- New Hazard Map - get all details for any watch/warning in effect (nationally).



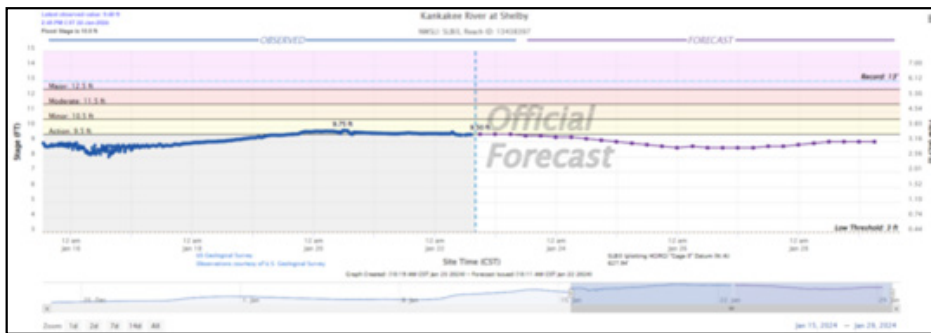
New National Water Prediction Service (NWPS) map format

Hydrograph Updates

- The hydrographs in the previous Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) - see example to right - are replaced by the new format shown below.
- Much faster updates. Hydrographs are produced with up to the minute data every time you click.
- One click for quick view. Second click for full details. (No mouse over yet.)
- Can look back at 30 days of observations (versus only seven days in prior AHPS).
- Probabilistic graphics now on main hydrographic page (instead of separate tabs).
- New experimental National Water Model guidance. (Has a ways to go before it should be used in operations, but it is available for evaluation.)



Previous AHPS



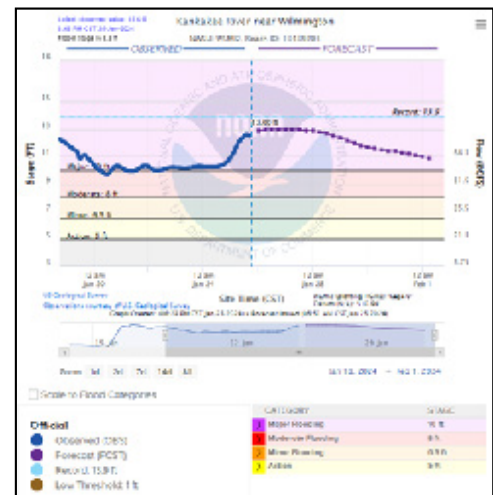
New hydrograph format in National Water Prediction Service (NWPS)

Example: New Format for Gage Near Peak

Here is one more example of the new hydrograph at a gage with forecasting. Note in this example they are near the forecasted peak which is close to the record peak at that gage.

For More Information

- Learn more by viewing the [informational story map](#).
- The site is available at water.noaa.gov.
- Feel free to send any questions or comment to [Craig Schmidt](#).



New hydrograph at a gage

Spring Flood Tool Kit and Fliers Available for Your Website & Newsletter

FEMA provides several tools for a community's outreach program. Go to [Spring Flooding Toolkit | FloodSmart](#) for links to graphics and videos, including [What is Flash Flooding? \(youtube.com\)](#) and [FloodSmart | Metropolitan Flooding Chicago](#).

FEMA also has developed a one-page information sheet [Fast Facts on Floods & Flood Insurance](#) and an [updated flood damage flyer](#).

From the Chair

-Dallas Alley, CFM, Chair, City of Fairview Heights

The 2024 IAFSM Annual Conference on March 12-13 in Peoria was a great success! With over 480 attendees at the conference, IAFSM is strong and vibrant. Our conference chair, Sharon Østerby, and executive secretary Sarah Harbaugh orchestrated an amazing lineup of sessions, speakers, and food. I was honored to be able to introduce all the hard-working board members and committee chairs at lunch. IAFSM is a strong and successful association because our leaders and members are engaged.

With the annual election of the executive members of the board, the entire group of incumbents will start the second, and final, year in their respective positions. Jenny Loewenstein – Secretary, Mary Richardson – Treasurer, Sharon Østerby – Vice Chair, Dallas Alley – Chair, and Steve Altman – Past Chair. Each of these board members are dedicated, conscientious, and experts in their fields, just like you would want for a strong team, and now, after a year of experience in their current roles, they are making some major strides in advancing the association. Thank you to our members for giving us the honor of serving the association. I encourage all of our members to consider serving on a committee or even the executive board; we welcome anyone who is willing to volunteer.

This June the executive board will be traveling to Salt Lake City to represent IAFSM at the ASFPM Annual Conference, where we will meet with our partners in other state associations as well as the ASFPM leadership. I have been honored to be nominated to run for election to the ASFPM Chapter District 2 Director position and encourage any member of ASFPM to vote for me. One of my primary goals, if elected, is to make sure that the members of IAFSM and all of the other state chapters in District 2 are fairly represented at the national level. I also encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend the ASFPM conference to do so. This conference is an excellent chance to experience what innovative practices other floodplain and stormwater managers around the Country (and around the globe for that matter) are doing.

For those interested, our next board meeting will be held May 8th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm via zoom. All members are welcome to attend the board meetings. Contact Sarah Harbaugh for the zoom link.

New Young Professionals Committee Chair

-Sarah Wenzel, P.E., CFM, Past YP Chair

I am excited to announce the Executive Board has appointed Alana Rosenbaum as the new Young Professionals Chair. Alana has been a member of the Young Professionals committee for several years and has spearheaded some of our most ambitious events. I am confident she will lead this Committee with passion, organization, and vision, and I am excited to see what this Committee can accomplish with her leadership.

As the YP Committee transitions to a new generation of leaders, I'd like to acknowledge the YPs past and present who built this Committee from scratch and helped it to thrive: Adam Blumstein, Evan Braun, Emily Campbell, Ivan Cuervo, Melissa Duyar, Jose Garcia, Kelsey Gattone, Jackie Gutman, Derek Luna, Andie Maertens-Pizzo, Jingyun Sun, Ranjita Tiwari, Corey Van Dyk, Aaron Vandermus, and Ben Zhang.



Young Professionals Chair Alana Rosenbaum recognizes scholarship recipient Benjamin Bodus.

Inaugural IAFSM Young Professional of the Year Award

The Young Professionals are proud to have worked with the IAFSM Awards Committee to introduce a new annual award to IAFSM, the IAFSM Young Professional of the Year Award. Read about the award winner on page 9 of this newsletter!

Young Professionals Conference Scholarships

The YP Committee awarded four conference scholarships to deserving students studying floodplain and stormwater management or related topics. Read more about the 2024 scholarship recipients and a post-conference reflection from Mario Marrugat Rodriguez, one of the recipients, below.

“The IAFSM Conference was a gateway to the latest in floodplain and stormwater management. These sessions not only highlighted the power of collaboration and innovation in our field but also showcased sustainable practices through green infrastructure, underscoring the balance between development and ecological preservation.

Inspired by the dedication I witnessed, I am more eager than ever to apply this knowledge to real-world challenges. I am excited to begin my professional career and am thrilled about the opportunities to contribute to high-impact projects and to continue to grow in this dynamic field. The conference has truly paved the way for future ventures in floodplain and stormwater management.”

2024 Scholarship Recipients:

Benjamin Bodus – Ph.D. student at Marquette University. Studies focus on green stormwater infrastructure design and regulations and water resource management.

Haribansha (Harry) Timalsina – Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois. Studies focus on green infrastructure, soil and water conservation, and hydraulic and hydrologic modeling.

Mario Marrugat Rodríguez – Master’s degree student at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Studies focus on Hydrology, Project Management, Water Works.

Mayank Aggarwal – Sophomore in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois with focus on water resources, sustainability, and hydrology.



Left to right: Haribansha Timalsina, Benjamin Bodus, Mario Marrugat Rodriguez. Not pictured: Mayank Aggarwal

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CRS Update

Illinois has a new CRS Specialist! Welcome Eloise Burnham! If you are not already on the CRS User Group email list, please send an email to jlomax@downers.us to be added. We will have a User Group meeting this spring to introduce Eloise. If you have a CRS topic you'd like to learn more about, send that as well.

Interested in H&H Software Training?

Fill out these forms to indicate interest and join the Waitlists for IAFSM-hosted training in summer/fall 2024. More info to follow.

- SRH-2D workshop: <https://forms.gle/eLANFKAE6i75kDLD7>
- HEC-RAS 2D workshop: <https://forms.gle/Nt2kc6GsZh9smSd76>

Young Professionals Group Event Updates

Upcoming Events – Save the date and join us at Chicago-area and downstate events this spring.

Elmhurst Quarry Tour – DuPage County, IL:

Learn how DuPage County utilizes the 8,300 acre-foot Elmhurst Quarry as a first line of defense for flood control. Event will include a guided tour of the Elmhurst Quarry followed by an opportunity to network with peers.

May 17th, 2024 at 2:00 – 4:00 PM
131 Kingery Hwy, Elmhurst, IL 60126
Networking Happy Hour to follow

Space is limited, register now!

Register [HERE](#) for the Elmhurst Quarry Tour
A virtual tour of the quarry can be viewed in advance of the event [HERE](#).



Elmhurst Quarry

Jupiter's Pizzeria & Billiards – Champaign, IL

Join the IAFSM Young Professionals for appetizers, pool, and networking at Jupiter's in Champaign.

June 7th, 2024 at 5:30 – 7:30pm
39 E Main St., Champaign, IL 61820
RSVP [HERE](#) for the downstate networking event.

Contact Alana Rosenbaum at arosenbaum@baxterwoodman.com with any questions about these events and/or the IAFSM Young Professionals Group.

Recent Events Recap:

Thanks to everyone who attended our successful Minigolf and Tamales Networking Event in Chicago, IL and our Post-Conference YP Social Event in Peoria, IL!



February 2024 Minigolf Tamales



March 2024 Conference YP Networking Event



IAFSM Legislative Committee Update

~Steve Scheffel, P.E., CFM, IAFSM Legislative Committee, Stephenson County

Recently, the Legislative Committee embarked upon a rigorous and exhaustive selection process to find a committee member to pen a new and recurring newsletter article. Eventually, the steely gaze of Intrepid Leader Kay Whitlock found its way to me. Now, I've known Kay literally from the very beginning of my sojourn into the netherworld of civil engineering in the mid-1980's. Our paths have crossed many times over the years culminating in the tractor-beam-like request that brought me into the IAFSM Legislative Committee fold a few years ago. Whether it was her memory of my putting together the very first IAFSM newsletters, late in that decade of hair-metal dominance (motto: "If it's too loud, you're too old!"), and deciding that sufficient penance on my part had not yet been paid for that affront. Or, the fact that other committee members were already engaged in ceaseless but honorable toil providing informative and entertaining content for the annual conference presentations the result was that Kay "asked" me to do it. It was at that moment that I paused to recall one of life's great truths. One does not simply "politely refuse" Kay, if one has even modest hopes of approaching actuarial lifetime expectancy limits.

With that epiphany, I became your humble correspondent for all things Legislative Committee-ish. Sure, the pressure of meeting newsletter deadlines is tough. But it's worth it if it keeps you in Kay's good graces and, accordingly, gives you a little more time above-grade, terra firma-wise.



So, let's start at the beginning (a very good place to start, according to the venerable Dame Julie Andrews). Crafting legislation is the process of an established governing body, underwritten by constitutional authority, taking an idea, and turning it into words that become the rules that a populace uses to guide the actions of living and commerce. Legislation is enacted at various governing levels: federal, state, county, and municipal/township. The IAFSM Legislative Committee is interested in monitoring the legislative initiatives that occur at all levels of government; however, for now, we'll focus on what is occurring at the State of Illinois level because states have a unique role in governance. The United States Constitution established a system of "dual sovereignty" wherein power (authority) is apportioned between the States and a central Federal Government. The States ceded some (but not all) of their authority to a central Federal Government and the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that any powers that are not specifically defined in the Constitution as belonging to the federal government, belong to the states themselves (think about that for a moment!). Therefore, the legislative endeavors at the state level play a distinct and important role in the lives of the citizenry. IAFSM, being a state-wide organization, is uniquely positioned then to be a valuable resource for Illinois lawmakers in advancing good floodplain and stormwater management policy and practices in the state.

In future newsletter articles, we'll cover the floodplain / stormwater related legislative happenings that may be taking place at other levels of government, around the nation and around the state, as they arise. No doubt that many of those future actions will be of general interest to the IAFSM membership as well as having the potential to be cartoon-worthy.

At all levels of government in the United States, the citizen, acting individually or as part of a common-interest group, plays a pivotal role in their own governance. To paraphrase a familiar saying: *An educated and informed citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people.* There are two broad categories of understanding that are needed toward that end:

- Knowing the legislative process and,
- Knowing the avenue(s) available to you to participate in that process.

IAFSM Legislative Committee Update Continued...

My esteemed colleagues on the Legislative Committee put together a very, very good synopsis of the Illinois legislative process that was the subject of a presentation at the 2023 Annual Conference, which can be found [here](#).

I would recommend bookmarking this site and/or printing out the slides and keeping them as a handy-dandy reference. Everyone is different, but I understand things best by getting a handle on the big-picture first and then drilling down into the details that comprise that big-picture later. This presentation does a great job of providing that top-down understanding. A few helpful take-aways for me from this presentation:

- The Illinois General Assembly (the House and Senate) operates on two-year cycles.
- The bulk of the work on legislation (i.e. bills) is done in the January to May part of the year.
- Bills are introduced in February.
- The detailed deliberation of bills is done at the Committee level, one in each chamber, that are composed of subsets of the House membership and Senate membership. The committees gather information and take testimony about a bill. The committees work in the late-February to early-April timeframe.

The last slide in the presentation tells you where to go. Not in that sense but how to find out who represents you. At the Illinois General Assembly level, there are only two: a representative and a senator, which should give you a better shot at remembering. The names of those individuals, and more, can be found at elections.il.gov. Type in your address and voilà, the world of government, government, and yet more government is opened to you.

Finally, a list of floodplain and stormwater related bills currently before the Illinois General Assembly is provided below. Enter the number of the House bill (HB) or Senate bill (SB) [here](#) to see the details and the status of each bill.

HB-4207 / SB-2628: Amends the Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act. Requires all state agencies to comply with the NFIP and obtain a special development permit from IDNR before developing in the SFHA.

HB-5386 / SB-3669: Wetlands and Small Streams Protection Act. Protects wetlands and small streams no longer covered by federal Clean Water Act.

SB-2743: Creates the Water Plan Task Force Act. Requires the task force publish a State Water Plan not less than every 10 years.

HB-5484: Creates the Climate-Safe Affordable Housing Act. Requires a report on the state of affordable housing in Illinois with respect to flood risk and climate change.

HB-5297 / SB-3458: Creates the Resilient Illinois Revolving Loan Fund. The fund shall be used to provide low interest loans to local government and non-profit organizations for hazard mitigation projects. Requires IEMA to apply for FEMA funding under the federal STORM Act.

SB-2589: Amends the Disaster Relief Act. Allows IEMA to provide supplemental grants to those impacted by a federally-declared disaster.

SB-3586: The bill amends the Illinois Highway code to increase the relocation expenses that Illinois can offer to people who are displaced by buyouts. New limit would match the federal limit and would be adjusted whenever the federal limit is adjusted.

HB-4619: Prohibits Homeowner Associations, Condo Associations, etc. from prohibiting rain water collection systems.

SB-2781: Forests, Wetlands, and Prairies Act. Requires the IDNR to maintain and administer a grant plan for local governments to fund (among other things) wetland restoration.

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:

ASFPM Annual Conference June 23-27, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Additional Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training. EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website: <http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>

- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP- April 22-25, 2024, Sept 9-12, 2024
- L0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – May 21-24, 2024

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/>
- Also...ASFPM has On Demand Learning seminars that would be of interest to current and future CFM's. Check it out at [On-Demand Learning \(floods.org\)](https://www.floods.org/on-demand-learning/)
- Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>

Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

2025 IAFSM Conference

The 2025 Annual Conference will be held next March in Tinley Park. Stay tuned for date information.

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas & Articles

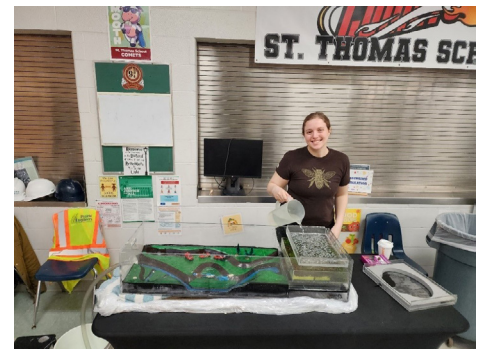
IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at jmaercklein@v3co.com if there are topics that you'd like us to cover. You don't need to write the article - we just want your ideas! If you're gifted with a pen and would like to provide content, we welcome your written contributions 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 Harbaugh at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.



Sarah Wenzel brought the IAFSM water table to St. Thomas 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 8, via Zoom. Join us! All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Sarah Harbaugh for the Zoom link.

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at 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 (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.



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2024 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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For current Job Postings and CEC Training Opportunities, visit our website at illinoisfloods.org