



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

*Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Spring 2025 Newsletter

## What a Conference!

IAFSM welcomed at least 690 attendees – our largest conference to date – to the Tinley Park Convention Center in March. The conference included excellent plenary and workshop presentations, opportunities to speak with and learn from vendors and exhibitors, and wonderful social and networking events. Thank you to all the Conference Sponsors who contributed financial support to make the conference happen; please take a moment to view the profiles of those companies inside this newsletter. And congratulations to all the Award recipients; details of each award winner are also listed inside. If you have not done so, please complete the Post Conference Survey. You can find it in the app (under your profile), or you can use this link: <https://cvent.me/wkRzgm>. We truly value your opinion and appreciate your time to take the survey. Thank you and see you again in Springfield in 2026!



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## What can IAFSM members do about cuts to FEMA programs?

~P. Kay Whitlock, P.E., BC.WRE, F.ASCE, CBBEL, IAFSM Legislative Chair

As we all know, FEMA's budget is controlled by Congress. The Legislative Committee has discussed various actions for members to influence federal funding levels. Because elected officials appreciate hearing directly from voters in their districts, our top recommendation is for you to email your Representative. Tell your community's compelling story.

The website for the United States House of Representatives has a quick and helpful tool where you can find your Representative by simply entering your zip code and street address. Here is the link: [Find Your Representative | house.gov](#)

Click on your Representative's name and you'll land on their own website. My Representative's site is set up with a "Contact" link in the top line. From there it's easy to send an email. My Representative also has an option to "Request a Meeting".

### Specific suggestions:

- List ways that FEMA programs helped you, your family, your municipality, your region. Be as specific as possible.
- Ask them to provide funding for specific beneficial FEMA programs.
- Ask them to protect funding for FEMA in general.

It's also a great idea to communicate your support for FEMA programs to Illinois' Senators: Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin. The U.S. Senate website has a similar easy path to email our U.S. Senators. They will also appreciate hearing about your FEMA story.

Please reach out to me with questions: [kwhitlock@cbbel.com](mailto:kwhitlock@cbbel.com).



The screenshot shows the official website of the United States House of Representatives. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the House logo and the text "UNITED STATES HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES". To the right, there is a "FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE" section with a search box labeled "Enter your zip code:" and a "LOOK UP" button. Below the navigation bar, there are several tabs: "REPRESENTATIVES", "LEADERSHIP", "COMMITTEES", "LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY", and "THE HOUSE EXPLAINED". The "REPRESENTATIVES" tab is selected. On the left side, under the "Resources" heading, there are links to "Directory of Representatives", "Leadership", "Committees", and "Site Map". On the right side, under the "Find Your Representative" heading, there is a text box that says "Not sure of your congressional district or who your member is? This service will assist you by matching your ZIP code to your congressional district, with links to your member's website and contact page." Below this, there is a link to "Please review the frequently asked questions if you have problems using this service." and a search box labeled "Enter your ZIP code:".

## ASCE 24-24 Delivers Major Update to Flood Resistant Design Standards

A new national standard could significantly change how communities mitigate flooding. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has released Flood Resistant Design and Construction, ASCE/SEI 24-24, an update to its widely used standards for structures in flood hazard areas. See what's new and what ASCE is doing to make it easier for communities to adopt the standards. [Read more here.](#)

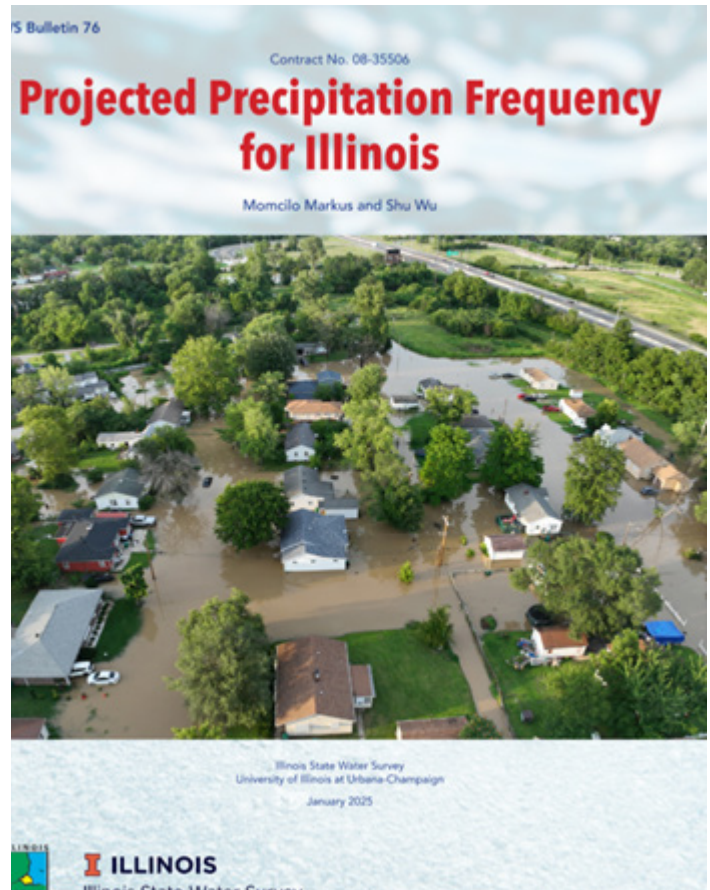


## Bulletin 76 – Projected Precipitation Frequency for Illinois

~ Terra McParland, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR

Bulletin 76 - Projected Precipitation Frequency for Illinois has been published which outlines Illinois' regional precipitation projections for years 2050, 2075 and 2100! According to the 2023 National Climate Assessment, modeling projections suggest that not only has heavy rainfall increased, but it is also expected to continue rising in the future (USGCRP, 2023). This increase is especially noticeable in the Northeast and Midwest, including Illinois. In a changing climate, relying on current precipitation frequencies for designing long-term infrastructure is becoming progressively unsustainable. What is considered safe and adequate today may not hold true in the future.

The Precipitation Frequency Study for Illinois (Bulletin 75, 2020) provided updated precipitation frequencies throughout Illinois for a range of event durations and for a variety of recurrence intervals. While Bulletin 75 accounts for increased rainfall in recent years, the analysis relies on historical rainfall events, so it does not account for the increases projected in the future due to climate change. As recommended in Bulletin 75 and the IL State Water Plan (2022), OWR and ISWS have collaborated to develop a recently published guide (Bulletin 76) to provide appropriate rainfall data for today's models and designs to be able to withstand future impacts. Illinois is one of the first states to develop rainfall predictions to incorporate climate change impacts. Although use of Bulletin 76 rainfall will not be regulated by the IDNR, it can be used in projects as a valuable planning and design tool. View Bulletin 76 here: <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/items/132431>



## CEC Education & Training Opportunities

Looking for training opportunities? FEMA training is currently paused; ASFPM is exploring opportunities to expand its training programs. Additional opportunities are listed below. 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 May 18-22, 2025 New Orleans, LA
- See separate article to join waitlist for IAFSM H&H Training

### **Webinars**

- ASFPM webinars – <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>
- ASFPM On Demand Learning seminars [On-Demand Learning \(floods.org\)](https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/)
- Additional at-home training courses: <https://floods.redvector.com/>



# A Standing Ovation: Thank You and Happy Retirement to Sarah Harbaugh

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

The association is going to miss our departing longtime executive secretary, Sarah Harbaugh, who is retiring at the end of this year. Sarah has been so many things to the association, and many would consider her the lifeblood that keeps us moving forward. Sarah has personally served as a mentor, guide, therapist, and friend and I will miss our conversations. Sarah, we wish you the very best as you embark on your retirement.



*IAFSM's 2024-2025 Executive Board: Executive Secretary Amanda King, Secretary Jenny Loewenstein, Chair Dallas Alley, Executive Secretary Sarah Harbaugh, Past-Chair Steve Altman, Vice Chair Sharon Osterby, Treasurer Mary Richardson.*

Dear IAFSM Members,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to have worked with all of you. It has truly been my pleasure to work alongside such devoted, caring, thoughtful people. I am touched by all the notes, sentiments, and gifts you all shared with me.

It is hard to let go of this part of my life because of all of you. I know I am leaving you in good hands. If you ever need anything from me, please don't hesitate to reach out. I wish you all the very best.

Sarah



## **Congrats to the 2025 IAFSM Award Winners**

### **Excellence in Mitigation: Brittny Gipson, Village of Dieterich**

*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.*

Brittny Gipson was raised in rural Altamont, Illinois, attended Eastern Illinois University, and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. From 2004 to 2008, Brittny worked with the Chicago region of Pulte Homes in new home construction, giving her valuable customer relations and building science skill sets. In 2009, she began her career with the Village of Dieterich as the Village Clerk and Economic Development Coordinator. She also serves as the Village TIF Administrator and grant writer, securing over \$7.9 million in grant funding for the Village to make beautification, infrastructure, flood hazard mitigation, and park improvements possible for Dieterich.

On August 1, 2022, Dieterich experienced a historic flooding event when rainfall exceeded 7 inches and Dieterich Creek swelled out of its banks. Nine homes and one apartment building were severely damaged, and none of the structures had flood insurance. As weather patterns and farming practices have changed over the last few decades, Dieterich Creek cannot handle these severe events. Dieterich is a small, rural, and close-knit community with a population under 1,000. Brittny personally knew every homeowner affected by this flooding and wanted to do everything in her power to help them recover from this disaster.

The IDNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant (FHMG) program proved to be the perfect fit for the community. Brittny organized a community meeting in September 2022 so IDNR (Ron Davis) could come to Dieterich and personally address the devastated homeowners. Having answered all their questions, the homeowners agreed they would like to move forward with the FHMG buyout program. On January 8, 2024, a Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant was secured for \$1,404,000. As of today, six homes have been acquired with more planned in the coming months. By completing home buyouts in high-risk areas, Brittny is not only investing in a safer, more resilient Dieterich, but she is ensuring those who were affected have a reduced risk of future flood impacts.

*“Of all the grants I have had the privilege of working on, this one is the most special to me because of the profound and positive impact it has had on our local families. Seeing community members regain their sense of security and hope after enduring such hardship is truly invaluable. This grant is about people, about families who deserve safety, stability, and a future without fear of the next flood. – Brittny Gipson.”*

Brittny is an active member of the Dieterich Community Development Corporation (DCDC), Dieterich Ruritan Club, Dieterich Festivals & Events Committee, and she volunteers as a coach for the Dieterich Park District. In 2011, she was recognized as one of the Top 20 Under 40 Effingham County Community Leaders. She lives in Dieterich with her husband, Nick, and their sons, Logan (14), Owen (11), and Jackson (8). Brittny’s only free time is spent on the sidelines of a court, diamond, or field cheering on her boys.



# Floodplain Manager of the Year: Eric Brandt, CFM, City of Watseka

*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.*

Eric Brandt's official job title is Building Inspector for the City of Watseka, Illinois, a position he has held since September 2019. His other duties, which go above and beyond this official title, include Floodplain Administrator, Zoning Administrator, Code Enforcement, Rental Housing Administrator, CRS Coordinator, Monitor and Maintain Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, and Project Manager for IDNR Acquisition/Demolition Project.

The City of Watseka has experienced three major flood events in recent history (2008, 2015, and 2018), with two of these events classified as catastrophic or 100-year floods, resulting in significant portions of the city limits being inundated with floodwaters.

Many cities obtain eligibility for federal funding for mitigation projects by implementing their county's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. However, Iroquois County (in which Watseka is located) did not have this critical plan in place. Therefore, in November 2020, Eric successfully developed and adopted a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the City, making them eligible for federal funding to implement mitigation projects aimed at reducing the impact of future natural disasters. (Since then, Iroquois County developed their own plan, adopted in 2025.)

Additionally, as the CRS Coordinator and Zoning Administrator, Eric has worked to bring Watseka into the CRS Program, achieving a Class 8 CRS Community Rating.

Through the IDNR Acquisition/Demolition Project, the City of Watseka has been able to secure funding to purchase and demolish 75 of the 120 properties identified as substantially damaged.

Prior to his employment with the City, Eric was a residential basement and foundation concrete contractor/homebuilder. He, his partner Kim, and his son Nicholas enjoy many outdoor hobbies together such as biking, camping, gardening, and garage projects.





## Stormwater Management Award: Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

*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 Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH) has utilized their portion of the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to re-invest in stormwater initiatives that benefit communities, residents, and businesses throughout the County.

Through a collaborative process, Cook County DoTH secured \$20 million in funding for the ARPA Stormwater Management Project Implementation Program. This program aims to build resilience against climate events in more communities across Cook County.

Cook County DoTH engaged with key partners, including the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the Cook County Department of Emergency Management, to identify 26 projects throughout the County, with an emphasis on supporting under-resourced communities.

While Cook County DoTH administered the program and implemented many projects, several projects were carried out through partnerships with MWRD and local municipalities. To date, the program has reduced or eliminated flooding risk for well over 100 homes, with dozens more to be protected going forward.



*Remic Ensweiler, John McNelis, Anitha Dasappa, and Adam James accept the award from Dallas Alley on behalf of Cook County DoTH.*

## Young Professional: Andrea Meartens-Pizzo, P.E., CFM

*This award is to recognize the achievements of IAFSM professionals and graduate students under the age of 35.*

Andie Maertens-Pizzo is a Senior Water Resources Engineer at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) with over 10 years of experience in her field. As a Professional Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager, she has worked on an expansive range of projects, from creek daylighting and restoration, stormwater management system designs for large utility companies, to reviews of new developments for municipal clients to ensure compliance with stormwater and floodplain regulations.

Andie is an active member of both the IAFSM Young Professionals Committee and the Legislative Committee.

She graduated with a Bachelor's in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's of Ecological Sciences and Engineering from Purdue University, bridging CBBEL's friendly intracompany rivalry between the two universities.



## Outstanding Service: Jenny Loewenstein, P.E., CFM

*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.*

Jenny has gone above and beyond in her role as Secretary for IAFSM's Executive Board.

Rather than settling for the status quo, Jenny has always looked for ways to improve the organization, be more efficient, and support the IAFSM membership as a whole. She has been pivotal in organizing the executive board, ensuring that knowledge and information is not lost as we transition to new committee chairs, new executive board members, and a new Executive Secretary.

After Sarah Harbaugh announced her upcoming retirement from Executive Secretary, Jenny worked closely with Sarah to understand the full scope of her responsibilities, drafted a job description, lead candidate interviews, and facilitated the hiring process of a new Executive Secretary, Amanda King, ensuring a smooth transition.

Additionally, Jenny was part of the team charged with hiring a new accountant, revamping and modernizing the IAFSM accounting system, updating and creating a new budget, and migrating to QuickBooks Online, which will improve financial collaboration and reporting.

She also developed a process to make IAFSM board meetings more efficient through use of standardized templates for committee reports. She works closely with committee chairs to assist them with their initiatives and provide necessary support.

Jenny's energy, efficiency, and organizational skills are unmatched and will ensure IAFSM is on steady ground moving forward.





## Stormwater Management Award: Matthew Moffit, P.E., CFM

*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.*

Matt served as the Chair of the IAFSM Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model Review Committee. This committee investigated, researched, and published a white paper for IAFSM members which evaluated software options that could replace XP SWMM, providing a more seamless transition from the predominant tool for urban drainage studies in Illinois.

This effort aimed to promote consistency in modeling, streamline regulatory review and approval processes, and save time and resources by building consensus on a unified path forward for modeling software.

Under Matt's leadership, a diverse group of committee members collaborated effectively, and the resulting white paper was presented at a breakout session during a recent IAFSM conference. The recommendations in the white paper have significantly influenced the software choices of regulatory agencies and engineering consultants in Illinois, leading to greater consistency and efficiency in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling.

Matt's leadership and dedication will help ensure that we continue to use effective and efficient tools for stormwater management.



## All Outreach is Good Outreach

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

Public “buy-in” is one of the biggest challenges to increasing resilience across our communities. Recent research indicates that youth outreach activities have the potential to effectively influence often polarized adults with quality education through interactive tools, in conjunction with focused curricula for their children. Dramatic results from research at North Carolina State University in 2019 show that educating children about climate change has a great impact on their parents’ attitudes about these issues.

The Extreme Event interactive simulation game was included as a session in our 2024 Conference for this reason. LabX and the National Research Council collaborated to create the Extreme Event as one of the “creative—sometimes even unorthodox—approaches designed to reach diverse audiences” with the message of their 2012 “Disaster Resilience” report. Anyone can play the game. Through the fast-paced live action role playing, participants feel the need for resilience and begin to understand the key concepts that may help increase their community’s resilience to disasters.



*2025 IAFSM Conference: Players plan, strategize, and build coalitions to help their communities survive “The Extreme Event” game, which is one of the three major outreach tools available for IAFSM members to use for free. For more info: [bchaille@illinois.edu](mailto:bchaille@illinois.edu)*

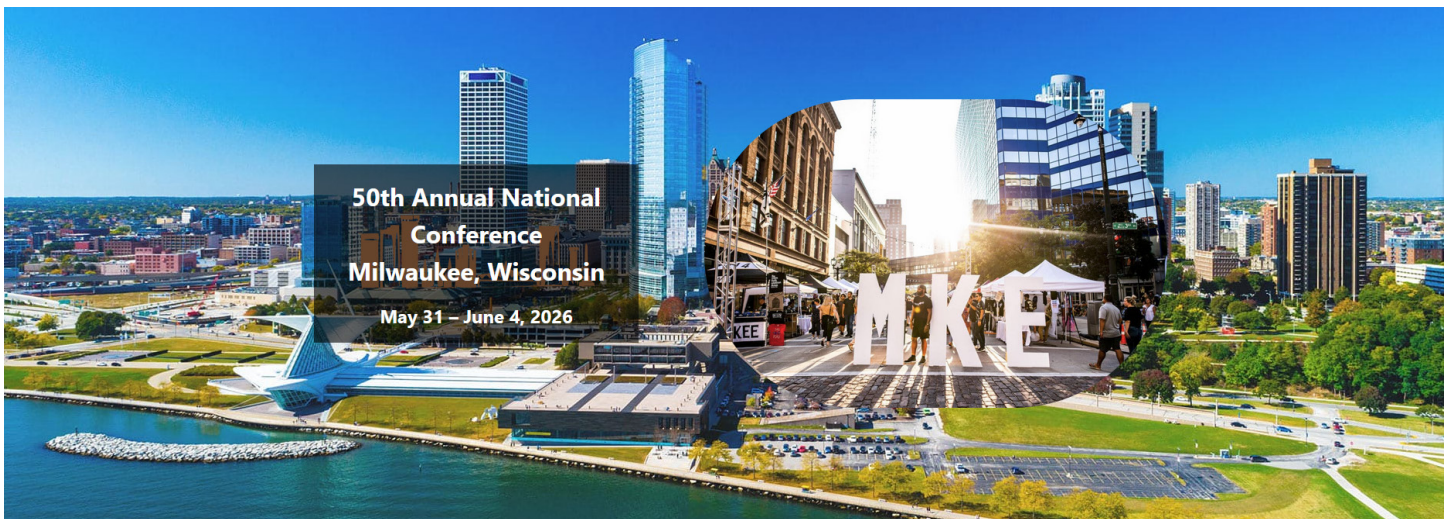
# IAFSM to Co-Host the 2026 National ASFPM Conference in Milwaukee

IAFSM is excited to co-host the 2026 National ASFPM Conference alongside the Wisconsin chapter (WAFSCM) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from **May 31 – June 4, 2026**. This will be a milestone event, celebrating ASFPM's 50th anniversary and bringing together nearly 2,000 participants for a week of learning, networking, and professional growth.

As a co-host, IAFSM will be supporting the conference by providing volunteers to assist with various roles. To encourage participation, IAFSM will be expanding its scholarship opportunities, offering reimbursements for conference expenses such as registration and lodging for those who volunteer. More details on this opportunity will be announced soon. If you're interested in learning more about volunteering, **sign up here:** <https://forms.gle/dhwFBR1r5jsANuJh7>.

With hundreds of presentations covering floodplain and stormwater management from across the country, this is a must-attend event for CFM professionals in the field.

We look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee!



## Save the Date! 2026 IAFSM Annual Conference

The 2026 IAFSM Annual Conference will be held in downtown Springfield on Tuesday, March 10 – Wednesday, March 11 at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre (700 E Adams St, Springfield, IL 62701).

Join us for a special Tuesday evening event to celebrate IAFSM's 40th Anniversary at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. This memorable evening will provide a unique opportunity to explore the museum while connecting with colleagues and celebrating this milestone.

We look forward to seeing you in Springfield!

## Interested in H&H Modeling Training from IAFSM?

The Stormwater Management Committee is planning to organize at least one hydraulic or hydrologic modeling class this year. Last year IAFSM successfully hosted SRH-2D and HEC-RAS 2D. In 2023 we hosted PC-SWMM and FEQ. If you are interested in H&H Software Training, please complete the linked form to indicate the specific software interest and join the waitlists for IAFSM-hosted training in summer/fall 2025. More information to follow. Contact Steve Bicking, IAFSM Stormwater Committee Chair, with questions: [SBicking@hrgreen.com](mailto:SBicking@hrgreen.com).

Click here to indicate your interest and join the waitlists: <https://forms.gle/uRVzxFNzLnXPA6YE8>



## From the Chair

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

Spring has taken its first breath here across the great state of Illinois. This annual ritual means flooding along our waterways, which reminds us at IAFSM that nature is in control. While nature takes its course and time moves on, I am at a crossroads, recognizing that this is my final “From the Chair”. While watching a storm in my back yard and watching the flood waters that I have grown to respect I feel that this “sunset” is truly a “sunrise”. The sunset of my IAFSM board career has begun and as past chair I fully expect to be the ancient voice that speaks of “back in my day”. Reflecting on the past eight years I am proud of the amazing things our great association has accomplished. My influence at IAFSM may be fading, but I will continue to be an active member and serve as a liaison between IAFSM and ASFPM. With the growing uncertainty of the Federal Government, strong partnerships between non-governmental organizations are extremely important. All members of IAFSM have a responsibility to act as responsible stewards of the land we have been tasked to protect.

I want to welcome two new faces to the IAFSM Board: Joseph Kratzer, incoming Treasurer and Sarah Wenzel, incoming Secretary. They will both be great additions to the board and will help lead our organization in these uncertain times. While welcoming them I also have to say farewell to past chair Steve Altman and Treasurer Mary Richardson. Many thanks to Steve and Mary for their years of service to the association, you will both be greatly missed. The association is also going to miss our departing longtime executive secretary, Sarah Harbaugh. With Sarah's departure we welcome Amanda King as our new executive secretary. Amanda, be prepared, we are a needy group.

I would be remis if I didn't invite all of the IAFSM member to the annual ASFPM conference in New Orleans from May 18th to 22. The executive board will be there to represent our association and if you are able to make it to New Orleans for the conference, please be sure to seek out the IAFSM executive board members. If you find me ask me to buy you a beignet or some crawfish.

Fairwell IASFM members, I will see you all from the cheap seats from now on. It was a pleasure serving as your chair.

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## IAFSM Floodplain Committee Updates

The mission of the Floodplain Management Committee is to monitor changes in floodplain regulations at the Federal level (FEMA), state level (IDNR-OWR), and the local level (IL counties and municipalities). Here's a quick rundown of regulatory changes in what's a busy start to 2025!

### FEMA Updates

- A White House FEMA Review Council was formed to assess the existing ability of FEMA to capably and impartially address disasters occurring within the United States. The Council will provide a report, tentatively due October 21st, 2025, with recommended changes to FEMA. (Executive Order 14180, Council to Assess the Federal Emergency Management Agency). <https://www.dhs.gov/federal-emergency-management-agency-review-council>
- A short-term funding bill was passed by the House and Senate on March 14, 2025 to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2025.
- FEMA halts implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS).
- All upcoming FEMA floodplain and mitigation trainings have been canceled.

### IDNR Updates

- IDNR Notice of Emergency and Proposed Rules: Floodplain Development Requirements for State Owned Properties 17 Ill. Adm. Code 3710. Published in the IL Register on February 14, 2025 [Illinois Register Issue 7](#). Comment period runs a minimum of 45 days from second publishing.

Upcoming IAFSM Training – Watch your emails for IAFSM Sponsored HEC-RAS Training.

The Floodplain Committee would love to hear from our local floodplain managers!

Contact us at [floodplain@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:floodplain@illinoisfloods.org).

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Engineering Resource Associates, Inc. (ERA) is a consulting firm providing civil engineering, structural engineering, environmental science, and surveying services to clients throughout Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Our diverse clientele includes municipalities, park districts, forest preserves, sanitary districts, county agencies, state agencies, and private development.

Resolving issues and planning for the wise use of water resources often requires balancing multiple and sometimes conflicting demands and needs. Flood control, water supply, water quality, development, recreation, population growth and urbanization all have potentially long-lasting impacts to water resources. ERA has 35 years of experience identifying and working on a wide variety of water resource projects. Our staff of professionals includes licensed engineers, structural engineers, surveyors, environmental scientists, certified floodplain managers, and CAD/GIS specialists.

ERA provides technical expertise for your stormwater and floodplain project needs. We utilize hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for the design of infrastructure like bridges, culverts, storm sewers, dams, control structures, and open channels. Projects are designed to comply with regulatory requirements at the local, state, and federal level for streamline permitting. Our experience leads to proven designs that are feasible and constructable.



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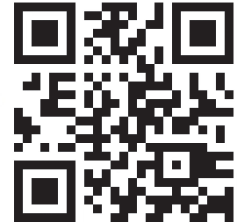
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Hey and Associates, Inc. is a professional engineering, ecological consulting, and landscape architecture firm founded in 1976 to deliver comprehensive solutions to complex water resources and natural resources challenges. Over the last 49 years, the firm has grown to offer a full range of professional services. Our engineers, scientists, and landscape architects collaborate to identify opportunities, design creative solutions, and implement projects that are grounded in the fundamental principles of water resources, environmental science, and sustainability. In addition to our specialized water resources and wetlands capabilities, Hey also provides professional services for natural areas management, lakes and fisheries management, parks and open space design, site development, transportation projects, and construction management.

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Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. (GHA) is a multi-disciplinary civil engineering, surveying and consulting firm. We offer a wide range of professional services, serving clients in both the private and public sectors. This includes partnerships with municipal, county, and state agencies, transportation authorities, stormwater commissions, and townships. We currently serve as the full-time municipal engineer for 13 Chicago-area municipalities and are the preferred engineer for 22 municipalities.

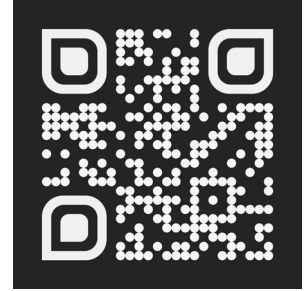
The competing concerns of site drainage, offsite impacts, and preservation of water quality must all be addressed in compliance with overlapping and sometimes conflicting federal, state, and local regulations. We guide clients through the complex range of requirements relating to regulated areas. On each project, we seek opportunities to apply best management practices and sustainable design - and whenever possible, we facilitate the incorporation of sustainable design elements through grant funding. Whether considering rain gardens, restoring natural areas, or installing permeable pavement, we focus on achieving effective, sustainable benefits without sacrificing site functionality. Our strategies blend proven stormwater management approaches with innovative naturalized systems to reduce both the volume and rate of stormwater runoff and enhance water quality.

As an employee-owned firm, GHA is dedicated to crafting solutions that deliver lasting value across all our service lines. GHA consistently creates designs that blend functionality and cost-effectiveness with the conservation of natural resources, ensuring both public appeal and regulatory approval. Our commitment to sustainable design extends beyond adhering to ordinances and best management practices; it is rooted in our dedication to positively impacting the world around us.



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RES is the nation's largest dedicated provider of Nature-based Solutions, restoring lands and waters across all scales. From wetlands, prairies, and species habitats to floodplains, streams, and coastal systems, we rehabilitate ecosystems with long-term success in mind. Our integrated team designs, builds, and guarantees the performance of each project. With a presence in every major eco-region, our experts are deeply connected to local biodiversity and water resource challenges, backed by a proven track record of impactful restoration.



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## **V3 Companies**

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Tatiana Papakos

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<http://www.benesch.com/>  
Eric Dean

Since our founding in 1946, we been driven by one goal - improving communities large and small. Comprised of multidisciplinary experts including planners, hydrologists and civil and hydraulic engineers, the Benesch Team is committed to implementing sustainable solutions, putting cutting-edge technology to the test and helping reimagine what is possible for our clients as they tackle their resiliency challenges.



<http://www.ciorba.com/>  
Tony Wolff, PE, CFM, VP Water Resources  
P: 773.355.2961  
C: 847.910.2082

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Angie Smith

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. is an award-winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Over 75 experienced firm members including licensed professional civil engineers, land surveyors, and support team members provide a full range of services for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects, funding assistance and municipal consulting.

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<https://geosyntec.com/>

Rebecca Helfrich

Geosyntec is a consulting and engineering firm specializing in solving complex challenges for private and public sector clients related to the environment, natural resources, and civil infrastructure.

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Bill Perry

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

## 2026 IAFSM Conference (Springfield) & National Conference (Milwaukee)

The 2026 Annual Conference will be held March 10-11, 2026, at Wyndham Springfield City Centre in downtown Springfield. IAFSM is co-hosting the 2026 National Conference in Milwaukee, May 31 – June 4, with expanded scholarship opportunities and reimbursements for those who volunteer. Save the dates!

## Wanted: Newsletter Ideas & Articles

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at [newsletter@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:newsletter@illinoisfloods.org) 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 Summerfield, Champaign, Bartlett, Woodridge, and Swansea. Contact Sarah Harbaugh at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

## Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held via zoom on May 14. Join us! All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Amanda King for the zoom link: [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org).

## Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at [illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html](http://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 Amanda at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto: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](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html).



*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.*





# THE IAFSM CURRENT

*Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management*

Spring 2025 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 [newsletter@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:newsletter@illinoisfloods.org).

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