



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Summer 2022 Newsletter

## Reduce Flood Risks: New Online Resource for General Public

~ Courtesy of ASFPM, May 26, 2022

At the ASFPM Annual Conference last month, the organization launched a powerful new tool to help property owners, particularly those in flood-prone areas, understand their flood risk and the most effective flood mitigation strategies for their particular property.

Reduce Flood Risk (<http://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org>) is an interactive flood mitigation resource library that aims to demystify flood protection for the general public.

To the average property owner, flood risk mitigation can feel like an overwhelming task. We've all seen it way too often ... People don't know where to start, so they put it off until it's too late. One of the goals of Reduce Flood Risk is to put people on a path toward understanding their flood risk and arming them with the knowledge they need to reduce that risk.

At the heart of Reduce Flood Risk is a decision-making engine that guides property owners through a series of questions to help them understand their current flood risk and the specific steps they can take to better protect their home or business.

The mitigation options on Reduce Flood Risk can be filtered by key attributes, such as cost, complexity, and level of required maintenance. The site also features a variety of resources on flood risk, flood insurance, financial assistance options, who to contact with questions, and links to more in-depth information and guidance.

ASFPM would appreciate help in building awareness of [ReduceFloodRisk.org](http://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org) by sharing the resource with your networks and in your community.



They have created the following tools to support any outreach efforts:

- A [social media toolkit](#) with draft posts and image options
- A [promo video](#) to include in your social media posts or presentations
- A [press release](#) that you can publish in or pull from for your newsletter or website
- [PowerPoint slides](#) to use in relevant presentations
- [Trifold brochure](#) to print and bring to meetings or events
- [Postcards](#) for local governments to send out as part of mass mailings, pre-disaster
- [Door hanger](#) for local governments to print and hang as staff complete post-disaster damage assessments

In addition to being linked above, ASFPM encourages you to bookmark the entire toolkit for easy access at: [ReduceFloodRisk.org/faq/outreach-toolkit](http://www.ReduceFloodRisk.org/faq/outreach-toolkit).

Thanks for joining ASFPM in this important effort! Please don't hesitate to contact them if you have any suggestions for how we can continue to grow the site.

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# Illinois Dam Removal Program

The IDNR/Office of Water Resources (OWR) continues to collaborate with other governmental agencies to remove dams throughout the state. The IDNR/OWR [Safety at Dams](#) webpage provides details on the program. Recently OWR removed thirteen dams including:

- MacArthur Woods and Wright Woods dams on the Des Plaines River in Lake County
- Armitage, Hoffman, and Fairbanks dams on the Des Plaines River in Cook County
- Blackberry Creek Dam in Yorkville;
- Ellsworth and Danville dams on the Vermillion/Wabash rivers
- Winnetka Dam on the Skokie River

In 2021, Dam 4 and Touhy Avenue Dam, both located on the Des Plaines River near Rosemont, and the Buzzi Unicem Cement Plant Dam, located near Ogelsby on the Vermilion River, were removed. Removing Dam 4 and Touhy Avenue Dam significantly improved the health of the waterway, increased the diversity of fish and aquatic life, eliminated costly maintenance, and improved safety for boaters. The Buzzi Unicem Cement Plant Dam was a historically deadly dam that was originally constructed to supply water to the cement plant. The lower reach of the Vermilion River is very popular for whitewater recreation and removal of this dam provides a much safer condition on the river for public canoeing and kayaking.



*Dam 4 Removal – photo courtesy IDNR*

In 2022 the OWR will continue design work for the removal of the Tam O’Shanter dam on the North Branch of the Chicago River in Niles. Design work is also nearing completion for the removal of the Riverside Park and Color Plant dams on the Sangamon River in Springfield. Removal of these three dams is anticipated to begin in 2022. Design work will also continue for the 2023 removal of the Chick Evans Golf Course dam on the North Branch Chicago river in Morton Grove. OWR is also partnering with the Forest Preserve District of Kane County on the removal of the Carpentersville Dam in the fall of 2022.

The OWR will continue to collaborate with other governmental agencies for additional dam removal opportunities. Presently, collaboration efforts are ongoing with the Villages of Montgomery, North Aurora, and the City of Batavia on the Fox River. Additionally, a dam safety study will also be initiated to investigate opportunities at the Sears and Steel dams on the Rock River in Rock Island County.



*Touhy Ave Dam Removal – photo courtesy IDNR*



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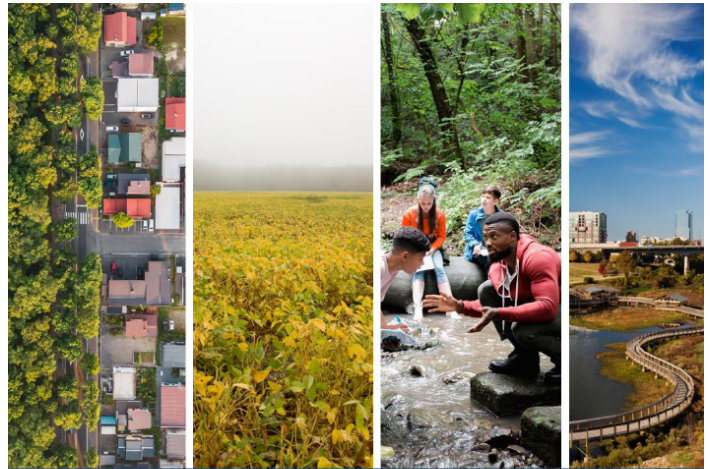


## FEMA Updates State and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides

FEMA has released updates to the State and [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides](#) (policies) to improve and better support communities in meeting the federal requirements for mitigation planning. A few of the 2022 local policy changes include:

- Requires local governments to include the effects of climate change and other future conditions in the risk assessment.
- Recognizes the important role of adopting and enforcing building codes and land use and development ordinances in the local government's ability to improve mitigation capabilities.
- Defines who local governments must include in the planning process. This includes representatives from a broad range of sectors, community lifelines, the public and community-based organizations that support underserved communities.

The updated policies become effective April 19, 2023, providing a one-year transition period for local governments to meet the new requirements for plans in process and new plans. For a full list of updates download the [Summary of Changes](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. Also visit FEMA's [Policy Update](#) web page.



## Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

FP 206-21-0002

Released April 19, 2022, Effective April 19, 2023

OMB Collection #1660-0062



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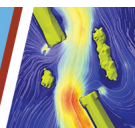
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## From the Chair

~Steve Altman, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR

First off, thanks to everyone who participated at the 2022 Conference! It was great to see everyone in person this year. Dallas and Sarah did a fantastic job working with the conference center to provide the best experience possible. Dallas is working on next year's conference which will be back at Tinley Park.

Now that we are back to meeting in person again, be on the lookout for IAFSM sponsored trainings in the late summer and fall. It looks like IAFSM will be holding a FEMA 273 class in the Metro East later this summer. Our Education Outreach Chair (Diane Bouckaert) and Stormwater Management Chair (Steve Bicking) are also evaluating options for classes and are open to suggestions.

We are also able to offer a few more in-person CFM exams through the duration of 2022, after which exams will only be offered digitally.

Have a Great Summer!



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## Consider Being Our Next IAFSM Secretary

~Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR, IAFSM Nominations Committee Chair

Looking for all IAFSM members who are interested in becoming the next IAFSM Secretary. As you may know, there will be an election to select our next Secretary at the March 2023 annual IAFSM conference. If you are interested, please nominate yourself and let me know by November 1, 2022 at [Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov](mailto:Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov)

When you are elected as Secretary, then you progress every two years upward as follows:

Secretary > Treasurer > Vice Chair > Chair > Immediate Past Chair.

All of these officer positions comprise the IAFSM Board of Directors. You will also meet quarterly with IAFSM Committees such as: Stormwater, CRS, Legislation, Mitigation, Education and Outreach, CFM Certification, and more.





## Consider Being Our Next IAFSM Secretary (continued)

### IAFSM Board of Directors Position Responsibilities (from the IAFSM Constitution)

- a. Chair.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall see that orders and resolutions of the Board are carried out.
- b. Vice Chair.** The Vice Chair shall act in the place and stead of the Chair in the event of absence, inability or refusal to act, and shall exercise and discharge such other duties as may be required by the Board.
- c. Secretary.** The Secretary shall record the votes and keep the minutes of all meetings and proceedings of the Board and of the membership meetings, and shall perform such other duties as required by the Board. The Secretary shall prepare and mail notices of all meetings of the Board and general membership.
- d. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have the custody and control of the funds of the Association, subject to the action of the Board of Directors, and shall report the state of the finances of the Association at each meeting thereof. The Treasurer shall also perform such other services as the Board may require from time to time. The treasurer may issue payments over \$250 and not exceeding \$2,000 that have been either budgeted, approved by the board at a previous meeting, or been approved by the Executive Committee before payment is issued. Payments over \$2,000 must be voted upon by the entire Board before payment is issued. The Treasurer and Chair shall be bonded at the discretion of the board.
- e. Immediate Past Chair.** The Immediate Past Chair shall act as an advisor to the Board of Directors. The Immediate Past Chair shall discharge such other duties as may be required by the Board

It is commonly known that IAFSM is a premier floodplain management association. Being active on the Board is awesome, interesting, challenging and rewarding. As Secretary, then moving towards IAFSM Chair..., you will see firsthand evolving policies and outreach programs that strive to better protect Illinois from future flood events. You'll love helping out.

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## Is a State Floodway Permit Required? You Must Check the Drainage Area

A state floodway permit is generally required when any development occurs in and along the rivers, lakes, and streams of the state. Specifically, the state has jurisdiction over a watercourse when the drainage area in an urban area is 1 square mile or more or is 10 square miles or more in a rural area, REGARDLESS OF FLOODPLAIN MAPPING.

This means all work along a watercourse must be checked for drainage area. When a mapped floodway is shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map, it is easy to remember that a state floodway permit may be required. It is critical that you remember to check for jurisdiction along all water courses with unmapped floodplains and unmapped floodways in Zones A and AE. Again, check the drainage area or check with the permit staff in Bartlett and Springfield. Their contact information can be found at: [Water Resources Contact Us](https://www.waterresources.state.il.us/contact-us) (illinois.gov) webpage.

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## Property Buyouts: An Effective Solution

A Pew Report published in April 2022 showed that property buyouts can be an effective solution for flood-prone communities, and improved federal policy on funding and planning would deliver better long-term outcomes. To read the full report, [click here](#).



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## ASFPM Titanium Donor Award

IAFSM received a “Titanium Donor” award at the ASFPM conference last month from the ASFPM Foundation. Illinois is the only chapter to have ever achieved the Titanium level, which is for cumulative donations over \$25,000. Since 1998, IAFSM has donated a total of \$27,635 to the ASFPM Foundation.

“ASFPM Foundation serves as the catalyst for the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc., its chapters and members to advance projects, education and policy initiatives that promote reduced flood risk and resilient communities.”



*Glenn Heistand accepts the Titanium Donor award on behalf of IAFSM*



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## 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.

### HEC-RAS Course

IAFSM and ASCE are in the preliminary stages of planning a HEC-RAS course for fall or winter 2022. Stay tuned for further details and registration information!

### FEMA Webinars

Registration is open now for the next few monthly, one-hour virtual FEMA training webinars for local floodplain officials. They are held on Wednesdays, unless noted, from 9-10 am (CT). Webinar attendance will be submitted to ASFPM for CECs for CFMs.

- Topic #7 July 27, 2022: [Managing Map Changes and Community Acknowledgment](#)
- Topic #8 August 31, 2022: [Coastal Resilience and Floodplain Management](#)
- Topic #9 September 28, 2022: [Resolving Potential Violations](#)
- Topic #10 October 26, 2022: Higher Standards
- Topic #11 November 30, 2022: Basement Flooding Mitigation
- Topic #12 December 14, 2022: No Adverse Impact

### 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/>
- » L0273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP, Wisconsin DNR, Waukesha, WI August 23-26. To register, contact Frank Shockey ([frank.shockey@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:frank.shockey@fema.dhs.gov)) or Brian Cunningham ([Brian.Cunningham@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Brian.Cunningham@wisconsin.gov))
- » E0273 Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP – July 25-28, 2022; December 5-8, 2022
- » E0278 NFIP Community Rating System – Aug 22-25, 2022; November 28-December 1, 2022
- » E0279 Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Buildings – Aug 22-25, 2022

### Webinars

- ASFPM – <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>
- Also...ASFPM is offering additional at home training. For information: <https://floods.redvector.com/>

### Conferences

- 2023 IAFSM Annual Conference will be in Tinley Park, date TBD
- 2023 ASFPM Annual Conference will be in Raleigh North Carolina, date TBD

### Other Training

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

## IAFSM on Social Media

Follow IAFSM on Facebook and LinkedIn! Please send any time sensitive announcements or ideas for content to Melissa Duyar at [Melissa.Duyar@kimley-horn.com](mailto:Melissa.Duyar@kimley-horn.com) or Sarah Wenzel at [SWenzel@prairieengineers.com](mailto:SWenzel@prairieengineers.com).



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

## Save the Date! 2023 IAFSM Conference

The 2023 Annual Conference is being planned for March, 2023. We will be returning to the Tinley Park Convention Center. Watch the next newsletter for announcement of the date!

## Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

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

## Get Involved with IAFSM!

IAFSM Committee Chairs welcome your help and involvement. See the list of chairs on the last page of this newsletter, or visit the committee webpage to learn more about volunteer opportunities: <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html>.

## Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has 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 at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

## Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 20 at 10am via Zoom. Please contact Sarah Harbaugh at [iafsm@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:iafsm@illinoisfloods.org) for the zoom code if you would like to attend. All members are welcome!

## 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](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org).

## CFM Exam Information

IAFSM is able to continue offering in-person CFM exams through the end of 2022. Three dates are planned, and additional locations may be added based on demand. Beginning in 2023, exams will only be 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. In-person exam dates:

- Sept 13, Fairview Heights
- Libertyville, Date TBD
- Dec 7, Rosemont

For information, visit [www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html).



*Tim O'Brien uses the IAFSM Water Table to demonstrate flooding and flood mitigation techniques to local residents at the Village of Niles Public Works Open House in September 2021.*



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Summer 2022 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](mailto:jmaercklein@v3co.com).

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For current Job Postings and CEC Training Opportunities, visit our website at [illinoisfloods.org](http://illinoisfloods.org)