



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2013 Newsletter

2013 Conference Recap

Another year, another great conference! Field Trips were introduced at last year's conference and continued by offering two field tour options at the 2013 conference. One tour took participants to the Boneyard Creek flood control project on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This project, located in the City of Champaign, was built to control flooding in the Campus Town area and also provide recreational and aesthetic improvements. A second field trip visited three projects in the Peoria area: the Peoria Riverfront flood control improvement project, the Chillicothe Mitigation project, and the East Peoria Downtown Levee District.



This year's conference had a fun new addition: The Totally Un-Normal Team Challenge, which took place after Wednesday's social hour. Four teams, each comprised of a mix of consultants, local, state and federal officials, braved the cold and snow and completed a series of fun challenges around town, including taking a team photo in the Beatles' Abbey Road pose, having a drink with a stranger, finding something that starts with the letter W, and other bonding experiences. Teams YYYYX, No Names, Tyra Banks Unstable Models, and Mystery Mitigators earned points for completing each activity. The Mystery Mitigators scored the most points and won t-shirts, award medals, and IAFSM fame and glory. Congrats to team members Kerry Behr, Andrew Braun, Amanda Flegel, Jeff Wickenkamp, Lillian Prince, Jenny Loewenstein, Bruno Athmanthan, and Jen Boyer.



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You asked, and we listened! Another new addition this year proved quite popular. For the first time, nine in-depth sessions and one in-depth workshop on HEC-GeoRAS were offered during the main conference. These sessions were provided in response to comments from past Conferences, and allowed speakers the opportunity to present more information to conference-goers than could be provided in our traditional 30-minute time-slot.

On Wednesday night, IAFSM showed the movie *Chasing Ice* at the Normal Theater. This was offered free of charge to conference-goers as well as students in ISU's geology and insurance departments. Several students took advantage of this IAFSM youth outreach activity.

In total, IAFSM offered four workshop tracks with a wide range of topics including case studies, modeling, planning, and regulatory updates. Over 400 members attended 42 workshops and visited with 21 exhibitors.

Information on the 2013 award winners can be found in this newsletter; photos and presentations will be posted to our website shortly.



2013 IAFSM AWARDS

~IAFSM Awards Committee: David Schein, Ron Davis, Stu Richter, Scott Cofoid, Brian Eber, Paul Osman

Outstanding floodplain managers and exemplary programs were presented with IAFSM awards at 2013 conference in Normal. This year, the following awards were presented:

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.

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) was awarded the 2013 IAFSM Floodplain Manager of the Year Award. The Lake County SMC has revised and updated its existing Watershed Development Ordinance to comply with changes in the development and regulatory landscapes. Federal and state mandates now encourage a Watershed based approach in ordinances for floodplain management. During the Watershed Development Ordinance Update, every effort was made to encourage the participation of stakeholders and members of the general public. This was done through the website, survey, newsletters, the brochure, workshops and meetings. Over 70 meetings during a 5 year period were held with over 100 participants to discuss and develop an ordinance that will be referenced on a National basis. The Ordinance, combined with the Technical Reference Manual and on-going coordination efforts, demonstrates SMC's hard work to articulate in words their vision for a smart sustainable watershed development strategy for Lake County. Approval of a new Floodplain Ordinance is a multi-agency process that involved Public, Municipal, State and Federal support.



Juli Crane, Kurt Woolford, and Glenn Westman of the Lake County SMC.

Outstanding Service

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.

In 2007, Mary Lu Wetmore, who had served as IAFSM's Executive Secretary from the association's beginning, announced she was moving to the West coast. With some long distance guidance from the Wetmores and the assistance of our Board members, we prepared a job description and began our search for a new Executive Secretary. Sarah Harbaugh applied for the position. The Board relied on the recommendation of Mike Cothard, who knew Sarah and felt that she was a person who could take over for Mary Lu. Sarah, of course, didn't know what she was getting herself into. When Mary Lu's boxes of IAFSM information started to arrive, Sarah looked stunned. The board held its breath. We found that we could not have gotten anyone more capable. She took over the job like the proverbial dog took to water, and began making it her own. We soon found, at her first IAFSM



Mike Cothard and Sarah Harbaugh

Conference, that Sarah was very resourceful. Since that first conference, Sarah has gone on to perform miracles, such as on-line registration, and has seen to it that all IAFSM activities go well. IAFSM is proud to present the “Outstanding Service Award” to our own Sarah Harbaugh.

Stormwater Management

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.

DuPage County Stormwater Management was awarded the 2013 IAFSM Stormwater Management of the Year Award. DuPage County has revised and updated its existing countywide Stormwater Ordinance to bring it up-to-date and to comply with changes in the development and regulatory landscapes. Federal and state mandates now require stormwater for redevelopment sites, which did not readily fit into the County’s previous ordinance structure. During the Stormwater Ordinance update process, every effort was made to encourage the participation of stakeholders and members of the general public. This was done through a website blog, survey, newsletters, brochure, and meetings. Development of the National Ordinance Review Technical Memorandum demonstrates the County’s effort to familiarize itself with programs that are at the forefront of sustainable and environmentally sensitive stormwater management elsewhere in the country, and incorporate appropriate national practices into the update of the Ordinance.



Anthony Charlton, Jim Zay and Karen Daulton Lange accept DuPage County’s award.

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.

This year’s mitigation award recognizes a type of project that is under-recognized by the committee. Typically the award goes toward a non-structural project, but this year the award is presented to the City of Champaign in recognition of the structural flood control measures constructed on Boneyard Creek on the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign. The project was constructed in two phases that cost \$25 million and \$18 million, largely self-funded by the City in recognition of the importance of flood mitigation. The results were a solution that controls flooding in the Campus Town area, beautified the city, and provided recreational opportunities. Many of the attendees at this year’s conference took a field trip and received a guided tour of the project site.



Pete Vanderkloot and Eleanor Blackmon from the City of Champaign, and Ron Davis from IEMA.

Public Education Award

This award is generally given 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 2013 IAFSM Public Education award was given to River Action. The organization shows passion, dedication, commitment, and, most importantly community admiration. Everyone in the Quad Cities knows about River Action. They are everywhere. Their statement sums up what they do: they Connect People to the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River could create a natural barrier between the communities of Rock Island, Moline, Davenport and Bettendorf, but River Action has taken that natural barrier and turned it into a binding and unifying force. The river is a unique natural resource that ties all these communities together. They recognized that living with the river means accepting floods and learning to live with floods. River Action has connected the region to the river and worked to make “living with the river” and reducing flood losses a reality.



Dr. Norman Moline (Augustana College) accepts the Public Education Award on behalf of River Action, presented by Mike Cothard.

Lifetime Achievement

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

This year, IAFSM was proud to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Patrick J. Glithero. Pat has a long history of floodplain management in Illinois. He started his career as a local official in Illinois and Indiana. He joined FEMA and oversaw the 1993 flood recovery mitigation process, and went on to hold a number of other positions in FEMA until his current position leading FEMA's mitigation division. Although quiet and humble, Pat's work, influence and professionalism have helped form the respected flood loss status Illinois enjoys today. Under Pat's guidance following the Mississippi River flood of 1993, hazard floodplain mitigation made many strides--all uphill (no pun intended) away from the river. Pat and the entire mitigation team turned local officials into "born-again" mitigators, and his team's efforts to "clear the floodplain" earned the respect of the Governor's office and legislators. Pat's commitment to flood mitigation, his accomplishments following the Flood of 1993, and his long-standing partnership with the State of Illinois and Illinois communities have earned him this award.



Molly O'Toole presents Pat Glithero with a framed historic map of the Upper Mississippi River watershed in recognition of IAFSM's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Cost to Flood Map the Nation

~Reprinted from ASFPM Chapter Alert

The need for accurate, updated flood mapping couldn't be greater considering the trends of larger and more numerous disasters as well as the unsustainable cost of flooding to the nation. Congress recognized this and the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform act of 2012 (BW-12) authorized a comprehensive flood mapping program as part of the NFIP. The Association of State Floodplain Managers has developed an estimate, based on a careful analysis, of the total cost to provide floodplain mapping for every community in the nation based on the parameters specified in the BW-12. The report explaining the study and cost estimates can be found on ASFPM's NFIP page on our website or downloaded here:

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/2012_nfip_reform/flood_mapping_for_the_nation_asfpm_report_3-1-2013.pdf

CRS 2013: Significant Changes Coming

~Scott Cofoid, ISO/CRS Specialist

The 2013 *CRS Coordinator's Manual* has just been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The new *Manual* will be implemented by FEMA beginning on April 1, 2013. A copy of the *Coordinator's Manual* is also available for download at www.CRSresources.org. Not only have some new items been added and credits shuffled around a bit, but also some new requirements will soon take effect.

There are many changes coming. A quick summary of what the 54 current CRS communities in Illinois—as well as those who are thinking about joining—should know about the new *Coordinator's Manual* can be found on the IAFSM website at: <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/news.html>.

Remember, Illinois has a CRS User's Group that holds meetings to discuss how to best implement better floodplain management activities and share success stories between communities as they relate to the CRS Program. Information regarding CRS is shared by this group via meetings, email, and workshops. CRS member communities are always welcome. For information on the next meeting date, please contact Mary Lou Kalsted, Staff Engineer/Stormwater Administrator, Village of Lisle at (630) 271-4107 or mkalsted@villageoflisle.org.

If you need further information on the CRS Program itself, more detail on the 2103 *Coordinator's Manual* or how to join CRS, please contact Illinois' ISO/CRS Specialist, Scott Cofoid, at (815) 220-1002 or scofoid@iso.com.

DuPage County Stormwater Management Celebrates 25th Anniversary

DuPage County Stormwater Management is proud to celebrate 25 years of regional stormwater management throughout the DuPage County area. To commemorate the accomplishments achieved by both DuPage County and its partner municipalities in each of the five program areas – watershed planning, water quality, operations and maintenance, regulatory services and floodplain mapping – the County has released a 25th anniversary booklet. The booklet is available for download on DuPage County Stormwater Management's webpage at http://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Stormwater_Management/Docs/Brochures_and_Applications/40036/ For a printed version, please contact the County at 630-407-6706 or stormwatermgmt@dupageco.org.

From The Chair

~Loren Wobig, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR

While you're at it...

While it's "hats off" to the 2013 IAFSM Conference Planning Committee and the other Association Committees for a job well done at the conference, the real success of the conference is owed to the 400-plus planners, engineers, vendors and floodplain managers from all levels of government who presented, attended and participated in the 2013 IAFSM Conference last month. The sharing of knowledge, the questions, and the discussions on varying points of view - these are the things that make for a successful conference – all thanks to actively participating Association members. Ok, having great chocolate cake and a fajita bar or two helps make for a great conference too.

While the conference sponsors generously provide the additional funding to allow special IAFSM events like the conference tours to take place, it is the dedication and determination of individuals serving on IAFSM committees that make these events happen for the good of the Association's members and the profession.

While the IAFSM conference is only two days long, the activities of the Association's committees go on all year long. These committees continue to discuss on-going issues in floodplain management and stormwater management highlighted at the conference, track key bills, rules and legislative activities related to floodplain and stormwater management, and continue the sharing of knowledge through seminars, workshops, and tours.

While IAFSM membership provides a unique opportunity to communicate and share ideas with fellow professionals in private industry, municipal government, and state and federal agencies, most of those opportunities are best found in the committees of the Association.

While the IAFSM Board of Directors oversees and coordinates the activities of the Association, the real mission of the Association is accomplished within the committees. This is where the true value of the Association shines; through the collaboration and interactions of the members of the committees.

While there are many committees and many opportunities to serve in IAFSM, it does not have to become "one more thing to do" or an all-consuming life commitment. We all have plenty to do, but we also have plenty to share in our professional experiences. Participation can be as simple as participating in committee meetings via an occasional conference call or sharing an outreach or education idea with one of the committee chairs. Travel and in-person participation in committee activities is not required.

Try participating in one of your Association's committees this year by simply contacting any of the IAFSM committee chairs listed in this newsletter. You might just grow in your profession, meet some new people, enjoy the experience, and have fun **while you're at it**.



IAFSM 2013-2014 Executive Board: Erik Gil, Secretary; Glenn Heistand, Treasurer; Loren Wobig, Chair; Lillian Prince, Vice Chair; Mike Cothard, Immediate Past Chair.

Unsteady State HEC-RAS Modeling Sub-Committee

IAFSM received a proposal to create a Floodplain Management sub-committee that would develop a technical guidance document for unsteady state HEC-RAS modeling. This guidance document would provide recommendations for modeling parameters, processes, and documentation of methodology used by the modeler, which could be used to improve the consistency of unsteady state modeling throughout the state. Additionally, the committee could inventory and address general technical concerns raised by regulatory agencies.

The creation of a sub-committee for this purpose will be discussed at the May 8th IAFSM Board Meeting, which is open to all IAFSM members. If you are not able to attend the Board Meeting and would like your comments/suggestions on this issue included in the discussion, please e-mail them to the IAFSM Floodplain Committee Chair, Shauna Urlacher at shauna.urlacher@clarkdietz.com by May 7th.

The Importance of IAFSM Conference Sponsors

Thank you to all of the 2013 IAFSM Conference sponsors. The donations made by sponsors each year go directly towards the costs of the annual conference, and help to keep conference registration fees affordable for everyone, including local officials. IAFSM sets the conference registration fees as low as possible and truly relies on the sponsors. Again, thank you to all of the 2013 IAFSM Conference sponsors for helping IAFSM to fulfill its stated objectives to the membership.

Thanks to our 2013 Conference Sponsors!

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CEC / 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.

- Association of State Floodplain Managers- Annual conference. June 9th-14th, 2013- Hartford, Connecticut.
 - Stretch your training and travel funds by taking advantage of the Illinois Association's Local Officials Scholarship to attend the Association of State Floodplain Managers annual conference. Email Amanda Flegel at aflegel@illinois.edu for more information.
 - ASFPM conference website: <http://asfpmconference.org/>
- Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Inc.- State conference. April 10-April 12, 2013. Osage Beach MO. Non-member registration \$250.
 - <http://www.mfsma.org/conference>
- THE BIG RIVER MOVES, April 15-16th, 2013. Chicago, IL. Free, but registration required.
 - <http://bigriverworks.org/forums/the-big-river-moves/>
- ASDSO- HEC-HMS, April 16-18, 2013. Oak Brook, IL. \$550 non-member registration.
 - <http://www.damsafety.org/media/Documents/Conferences-Training/Technical%20Seminars/HEC%20HMS%20Flyer%20for%20web.pdf>
- River Rally. May 17-20th, 2013. St. Louis, Missouri. Registration for all 4 days is \$575. Individual day pricing available.
 - <http://www.rivernetwork.org/rally/program>
- EMI- Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts I (Aug26-29), II(Mar25-28), III(Jul8-11)
 - EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website.
 - <http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>
- Dam Information, resources and Training, June 25, 2013, Greenwood, IN.
 - Check Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management website for further information. <http://www.inafsm.net>

Webinars

- FEMA/STARR- Elevation Certificates for A Zones. April 11, 2013. Free, registration required.
 - (link to ASFPM web description) <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/dayevents.asp?id=3539&type=9&date=4/11/2013>
- ASDSO-Tolerable Risk Guidelines for Dams. April 9, 2013. \$95.
 - <http://eo2.commpartners.com/users/asdso/session.php?id=10089#>

Future out of state annual conferences

- Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management, Inc.- State conference. September 11-13, 2013. Pokagon State Park. Registration has not begun. Call for Abstracts ends April 30, 2013.
 - <http://inafsm.net/conference/2013/abstracts13.html>
- Kentucky Stormwater Association conference. August 13-15, 2013. Bowling Green, KY.
 - <http://www.kystormwater.org/>
- Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers conference. September 30-Oct 3, 2013. General Butler State Resort Park. <http://www.kymitigation.org/>

Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2014 Conference

The 2014 Annual Conference will be held March 12-13 at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare in Rosemont.

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

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

Get Involved with IAFSM!

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

Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has two 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 keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at iafsm@sbcglobal.net to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at the City of Ottawa Council Chambers, 301 West Madison St, Ottawa. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html> Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to IAFSM@sbcglobal.net.

2013 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2013 exam dates and register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.

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Spring 2013 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. To advertise in this newsletter (\$100-\$200 per year depending on ad size) contact the association at IAFSM@sbcglobal.net.

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