



# THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for  
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2015 Newsletter

## 2015 Conference Recap

Another year, another great conference! Field Trips continued to be popular and received great reviews, and the 435 conference attendees enjoyed the great plenary speakers and breakout sessions. Save the date for the 2016 conference: March 9 & 10, 2016, in Tinley Park.



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## 2015 Conference Recap



## 2015 IAFSM Awards

~Sarah Hunn, P.E., DuPage County Stormwater Management

The following awards were presented at the 2015 Annual Conference in Bloomington-Normal.

**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.*

Dallas Alley is the Floodplain Manager for St. Claire County. He has been with the County since 2005 and has committed himself to improving Floodplain Management in the unincorporated areas of St. Claire County. In addition to overseeing the development within the floodplain areas, he has been building the County's Community Rating System program. In recognition of his efforts, he was named Floodplain Manager of the Year.



● ● ●  
*Dallas Alley receives the Floodplain  
Manager of the Year Award from  
Loren Wobig*



**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.*

Amanda Flegel received the Outstanding Service Award. She served IAFSM as the Education and Outreach Chair from July 2007 to August 2014, organizing local official scholarships, planning approximately 30 workshops, and providing members with CEC/training opportunities in each newsletter. During the last six months, as Inter-organizational Chair, she assisted with the Illinois Flood Risk Symposium and coordinated IAFSM's participation in the upcoming 2016 ASFPM conference. She also currently serves as a co-chair to the Cooperating Technical Partners sub-committee of the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee of ASFPM.



● ● ●  
*The Outstanding Service award is  
presented to Amanda Flegel by  
Loren Wobig*



**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.*

V3 Companies of Illinois exhibits cross disciplinary capacities in stormwater management, wetland & ecological restoration, and civil engineering. V3's Natural Resources Division has proven that improvements to stormwater management and reductions to urban flood risks can be done with integrity and honesty to better serve the people of the State of Illinois. V3 is a deserving recipient of this award.



● ● ●  
*On behalf of V3 Companies, Greg  
Wolterstorff accepts the Stormwater  
Management award from Loren Wobig*





**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.

Located along the Lower Salt Creek just beyond the confluence with Springbrook, the City of Wood Dale has experienced disastrous flooding over the years. Working with multiple agencies to purchase flood prone properties, the City now owns and/or maintains over 30 flood prone properties, most of which were once residential homes that have now been restored to open space. Additionally, the City of Wood Dale maintains a CRS rating of 5. Congratulations to the City of Wood Dale for earning the 2015 Mitigation Award.

**Journalism or 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.

This award was presented to Mary Mitros, the Public Outreach Coordinator for DuPage County Stormwater Management. In the three years she has worked at DuPage County she created the 'Love Blue. Live Green' campaign for water quality, created several Public Service Announcements which are played on local public access channels, and revitalized the Department's monthly newsletter 'Currents' which has over 1900 subscribers.

**Legislation** - 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.

Senator Sue Rezin represents the 38th District, which includes over 100 miles of the Illinois River and 40 miles of the lower Fox River. Communities in her district have been repeatedly devastated by flooding from these rivers and their tributaries. After the flooding in the spring of 2013, she worked with other area legislators and asked communities in her district what steps could be taken to reduce flood losses. Senator Rezin spearheaded the formation of a coalition of five counties and 18 communities from the 38th District to prevent, fight, and mitigate flooding. Coalition meetings have been held quarterly, and Senator Rezin has attended each of these meetings.

**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.



Bill Blecke receives the Mitigation award on behalf of the City of Wood Dale



Mary Mitros accepts the Journalism - Public Outreach award from Loren Wobig



Senator Sue Rezin receives the Legislation award from IAFSM



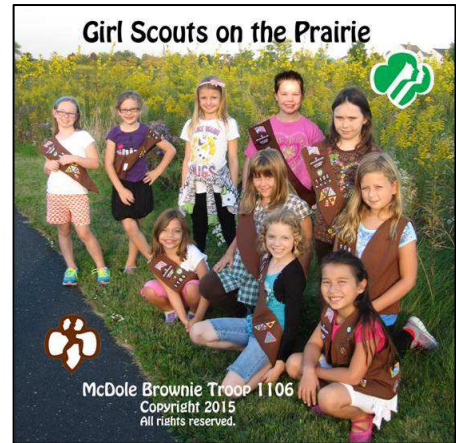
Amanda Flegel and Loren Wobig present Sally McConkey with IAFSM's Lifetime Achievement award



IAFSM is pleased to honor Sally McConkey with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Sally started her first job in watershed management over 30 years ago. The past 23 years of her career have been dedicated to various aspects of project management for floodplain and watershed projects with the Illinois State Water Survey, including: Manager of Floodplain Information Services, Project Coordinator for the Fox River Watershed Investigation, Map Modernization, FEMA Cooperating Partner and MT2 Reviews. Additionally Sally has held a board or committee position with either IAFSM or ASFPM since 1995. Congratulations, Sally!

**Youth Award** - New in 2015, this award is given to a student or student group (K-12) for outstanding efforts in leadership or education of floodplain or Stormwater Management issues.

Girl Scout Brownie Troop #1106 is the recipient of the Youth Award. The Troop worked together to film a public service announcement about prairies and wetlands and the important role they play in stormwater management. Link to the PSA can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLtrFricnDg>



Brownie Troop 1106, recipients of IAFSM's first Youth award



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## 2015 Project Awards

~Shauna Urlacher, P.E., CFM, CPESC

For the first time, IAFSM was pleased to recognize projects that excel in stormwater management across the State of Illinois. A brief summary of the award winners is listed below. Additional details and information will be provided in a separate publication from IAFSM.

### Flood Reduction Award

Project: West Branch DuPage River Restoration/Hydraulic Improvement

Summary: This Project lowered flood elevations 1.5 feet and protected nearly 150 properties from future flooding

### Sustainability Award

Project: Space to Grow: Greening Chicago's Schoolyards

Summary: Redeveloped four school properties in the City of Chicago using a variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs)

### Stormwater Master Planning Award

Project: Glenview Flood Risk Reduction Program

Summary: The Village of Glenview appointed a 16-member Stormwater Task Force to develop a Sustainable Stormwater Management program. They identified 80 flood-prone areas and categorized them based on severity.

### Public Education and Outreach Award

Project: SCARCE Watershed Model Workshop

Summary: SCARCE works with middle schools in DuPage County to carry out environmental education to students. They also train at least two teachers from each school on using the model.

### Public Education and Outreach Award

Project: McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance Comprehensive Revision

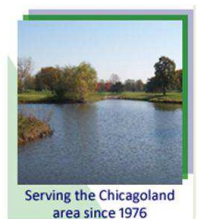
Summary: McHenry County invited the public to provide comments on the revision to their stormwater management ordinance. They held nine meetings and received 687 comments, which were considered in the revision.



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## Member Help Needed – Write Three Sentences to your State Legislators!

~ P. Kay Whitlock, PE, D.WRE, F.ASCE, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

Background: In May of 2014, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Urban Flood Awareness Act (sponsored by Senator Steans and Representative Cassidy). The legislation tasked the Department of Natural Resources to provide a report to the Illinois General Assembly by June 30, 2015 on the topics of urban flooding, green infrastructure, and jurisdictional stormwater boundary issues. The report will be very helpful in informing the Illinois General Assembly about the challenges of urban flooding in Illinois. The report will recommend potential actions necessary to promote awareness of urban flooding and reduce urban flood risk in Illinois communities.

**IASFSM members are encouraged to write a short letter to your Illinois State Representative and Illinois State Senator with the simple request that they review the report when it is submitted at the end of June.**

If you do not know the names of your legislators, there is a “Legislator Lookup” on the Illinois General Assembly webpage at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

The letters should be short, sweet and to the point, such as: “The urban flooding report was requested. The report is being prepared now and will be released in June. Please review the report.” Send your letter to both your Senator and Representative indicating your home address so the legislators know you are in their voting district. Your signature should include your CFM and PE credentials as applicable.

COPIES: Please send a copy to Loren Wobig at IDNR (Loren A. Wobig, P.E., CFM; IDNR Water Resources; 1 Natural Resources Way; 2nd floor, Room 81; Springfield Illinois 62702-1271) and copy IAFSM at [IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org).

If you have any questions, please call the IAFSM Legislative Chair, Kay Whitlock, at 847-823-0500.



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## New Fee Schedule for FEMA Map Changes

~Chris Hanstad, P.E., CFM, ISWS

Every several years FEMA updates the fee schedule for processing map change requests to keep up with the costs of reviewing and processing these revisions. These change requests include Letters and Conditional Letters of Map Revisions (LOMR and CLOMRs), fill based map changes (LOMR-F and CLOMR-F), and Conditional Letters of Map Amendment (CLOMAs). On February 20, 2015, a new fee schedule was published and can be viewed on FEMA's website using the following link:

<https://www.fema.gov/forms-documents-and-software/flood-map-related-fees>

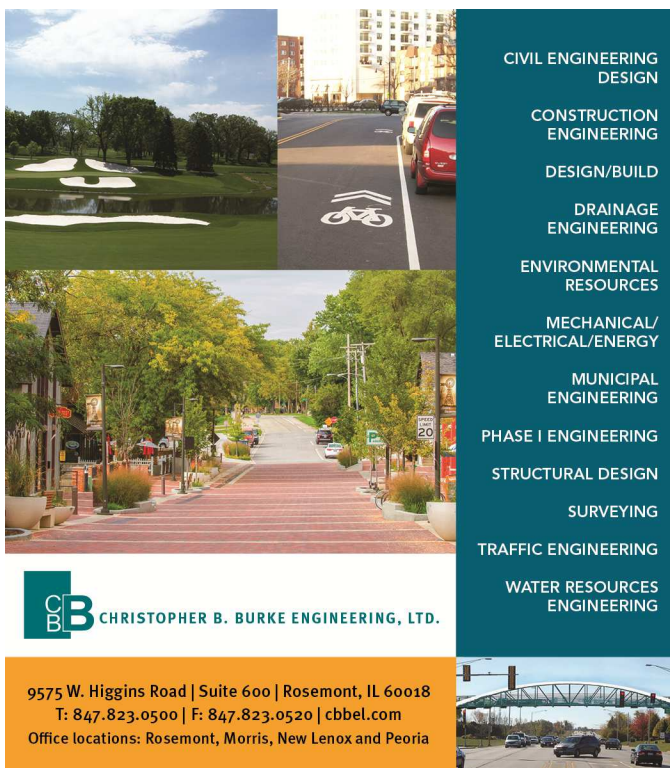
There are some notable changes from previous fee schedules. First, FEMA is encouraging applicants to submit their request via FEMA's online portal by offering slightly reduced fees for online submittals. Hard copy submittals are still accepted, but will require the higher paper form review fee. Applicants can submit a digital application for any type of map change online at:

<https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/onlinelomc/signin>

Another noteworthy change applies to large-scale revisions known as Physical Map Revisions (PMRs). Previously, review fees for small-scale LOMRs and large-scale PMRs based on a physical project would have had the same review fee. Now, project-based PMRs will require a flat review fee plus an additional fee for every map panel revised.

As a reminder, the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) still reviews and processes map changes that require the MT-2 application forms. These map changes include CLOMRs, LOMRs, and PMRs. Map changes that require MT-1 application forms should still be sent to FEMA's LOMC Clearinghouse. These changes include LOMR-F, CLOMR-F, LOMA, and CLOMAs.

Visit our webpage <http://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org/lomr.aspx> to find helpful resources such as hydrologic and hydraulic modeling checklists, FEMA links, and other useful information related to MT-2 map changes. If you have any questions about FEMA map changes, particularly MT-2 type map changes, feel free to contact Chris Hanstad, [hanstad@illinois.edu](mailto:hanstad@illinois.edu).



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## **From The Chair**

Dating back to ancient civilizations, potters would use wax to cover over cracks and imperfections in their pottery. When a piece of pottery was created without cracks or imperfections, it was called “sincere,” meaning “without wax”. Sincere is also one of the many words I would use to describe the group of individuals who make up the board and committees of IAFSM. Time and time again over my 8 year tenure as an officer on the IAFSM Board of Directors, I have been impressed by the dedication, commitment, enthusiasm, energy, and insight of all the IAFSM volunteer officers, board chairs and committee members. IAFSM is sincerely an association of professionals devoted to the education and advancement of sound floodplain and stormwater management both in Illinois and across the nation. The Association plays a key role in providing continuing education, promoting youth outreach, stimulating professional certification, advocating good legislation, questioning questionable legislation and policies, supporting Community Rating System participation, encouraging mitigation, and facilitating debate on floodplain and stormwater issues all due to the continued selfless efforts of the IAFSM volunteers.

The recent Illinois Flood Risk Symposium is a prime example of the kind of successful professional endeavors made possible by the collaborated efforts of many IAFSM volunteers under great volunteer leadership (Amanda Flegel).

The symposium brought together 90 individuals from academia, non-government organizations, insurance industry, real estate industry, state elected office, consulting engineering, and local, state and federal government to focus on urban flood risk. These attendees wrestled with how to identify urban flood risk, how to reduce urban flood risk and how to pay for urban flood risk reduction both in topic specific workgroups and as a collective. A number of excellent insights and ideas were generated by this collaboration and will be shared in an Illinois Flood Risk Symposium Report expected to be completed in April. The success of this symposium will likely be used as a catalyst for future floodplain and stormwater management IAFSM symposiums.

The attributes of the IAFSM volunteer members noted above continue to drive new and exciting opportunities in the Association including the opportunity to be active on a Rapid Assessment Flood Team (RAFT), or participate in a discussion related to the advancement of stormwater utilities in Illinois, or inspire our youth to learn more about floodplain and stormwater management. Your Association is alive and well with dedicated leadership and volunteers – use it, grow with it, and enjoy it.

Sincerely,  
Loren A. Wobig, P.E.,CFM  
Outgoing IAFSM Chair

## The Importance of IAFSM Conference Sponsors

Thank you to all of the 2015 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 2015 IAFSM Conference sponsors for helping IAFSM to fulfill its stated objectives to the membership.

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### Thanks to our 2015 Conference Sponsors!

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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.

### IAFSM Sponsored Training

**IAFSM Stormwater Utility Seminar: Navigating Towards Effective Stormwater Program Funding.** Learn from experienced public works directors from Northbrook, Downer Grove and Rock Island. Meet national expert Dr. Warren Campbell. Participate in a panel discussion. For more info, view the full workshop description at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences.html> or contact [Mark.Hoskins@mbakerintl.com](mailto:Mark.Hoskins@mbakerintl.com).

- WHERE: Willis Tower (downtown Chicago),
- WHEN: May 21, 2015, 9:00am to 4:00pm,
- REGISTER: \$50 registration includes lunch. To register, go to <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=yrfjm>
- MORE INFO: <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences.html>

### National Conference

The ASFPM annual conference is being held in Atlanta, Georgia May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 5th! See the website for more information. <http://www.asfpmconference.org/>

### Additional Training Opportunities:

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

### Webinars/ Online Training:

- STARR/FEMA, [atkinsglobalna.webex.com](http://atkinsglobalna.webex.com) and search by title, free-registration required
  - **Determining Base Flood Elevations**, April 16
  - **CRS Webinar Series: Intro to CRS**, May 19th
  - **CRS Webinar Series: CRS and Natural Floodplain Functions**, June 17
- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), **Lender Based Flood Zone Determinations: Essentials for Floodplain Managers**, April 16, \$40 members, \$70 non-members, 1:00 – 2:30pm
  - [http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/uploads/FloodDetermin\\_4.16.15\\_Webinar\\_Promo.pdf](http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/uploads/FloodDetermin_4.16.15_Webinar_Promo.pdf)
- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) **Developing and Implementing Dam Removal Projects**, September 24th, \$50 members, \$80 non-members, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
  - [http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/uploads/DamRemovals\\_Webinar\\_Promo\\_9.24.2015.pdf](http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/uploads/DamRemovals_Webinar_Promo_9.24.2015.pdf)


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

### Save the Dates! 2016 IAFSM Conference and National Conference

The 2016 Annual Conference will return to Tinley Park and be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 9 and 10, 2016, at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The 2016 National Conference will be held in our region next year, on June 19 – 24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### 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 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@illinoisfloods.org](mailto:IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org) to make arrangements.

### Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Ottawa. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. See you there!

### 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](mailto:IAFSM@sbcglobal.net).

### 2015 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2015 exam dates and register, visit [www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html](http://www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html).



- Floodplain / Floodway Studies
- Stormwater Master Planning
- Stormwater System Design, Review and Permitting
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# THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for  
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