



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2017 Newsletter

2017 Conference Recap

2017 was another great conference year! It was our first time (in recent memory) in Springfield, and was a wonderful opportunity to welcome Kidzeum to our social reception. The Springfield children’s museum director provided an update on the water-themed museum exhibit that IAFSM sponsored. Nearly 440 people attended the Annual Conference. They were greeted by President Abraham Lincoln, heard several excellent plenary speakers, and attended over 50 workshop sessions and a field tour. New this year were a special roundtable discussion for municipal members, and a demonstration of an extreme event game simulation. A HUGE thank you is owed to our Conference Chair, Glenn Heistand, for his hard work and commitment to this year’s conference. Thank you, Glenn.



Inside This Issue

2017 Conference Recap.....	Page 1	From the Chair.....	Page 8
IAFSM Awards.....	Page 2	IAFSM Legislative Committee.....	Page 9
IAFSM Project Award Recipients.....	Page 5	2017 Conference Sponsors.....	Page 10
Thank You from French Wetmore.....	Page 6	New CFMS.....	Page 11
IDNR Update	Page 7	CEC Education & Training.....	Page 12
		Important Stuff in Every Newsletter	Page 13

IAFSM AWARDS

Outstanding Service: Matt Wahl, Peoria County

Matt Wahl received the Outstanding Service award in recognition of his service to IAFSM, including his work to create and manage the Illinois Certified Floodplain Manager program which certified over 500 floodplain managers in the state. He is the Director of Planning and Zoning for Peoria County with more than three decades of progressive community development experience. Mr. Wahl was instrumental in the development of the multi-jurisdictional Illinois River Flood Mitigation Program which included a floodplain acquisition program of hundreds of repetitive loss properties. He developed the County's first building code program and for that initiative was able to receive a Class 5 CRS Rating from the Insurance Services Office. He has been honored with multiple awards in his career including the Larry R. Johnston Award from the ASFPM as national floodplain manager of the year in 1997.



Matt Wahl, recipient of the Outstanding Service Award, celebrates his retirement from Peoria County

Public Education: Anthony Heddlesten, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District

Mr. Heddlesten is a civil and environmental engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District. He is the lead flood engineer for an area that covers the Illinois River and all its tributaries from the Fox to the La Moine. Through the flood area engineer program, Anthony has responded to numerous floods in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Mississippi. For those in central and north-central Illinois, Anthony maintains "the list" of floodplain, emergency management, community and levee district officials. He frequently communicates the most current methods and ideas in flood response and preparation to these officials. He encourages you to email him to be added to his outreach list! Anthony also participates in the Silver Jackets program, leading the Mobile Information Collection Application (MICA) pilot project, and is working on the effort to define, document and replicate the Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance throughout the state. Mr. Heddlesten is the recipient of this year's Public Education award in recognition of these efforts.



Stu Richter (center) presents the Floodplain Management award to Doug Moslehi (left) and the Public Education award to Anthony Heddlesten (right)

Legislation: Illinois State Representative Kelly Cassidy; Illinois State Senator Heather Steans

This year, IAFSM presented two Legislation awards, to the lead sponsors of the Urban Flooding Awareness Act in the State Senate and House of Representatives. Representative Kelly Cassidy was the lead sponsor for the Urban Flooding Awareness Act in the House and represents the Illinois 14th District at the Illinois General Assembly. Rep Cassidy is a member of the Green Caucus and has cosponsored several successful measures including significant improvements to both urban and rural composting and growth of wind energy.

Senator Heather Steans was the lead sponsor in the State Senate for the Urban Flooding Awareness Act and has represented Illinois' 7th District in the Senate since 2008. Currently, she also serves on the Environment and Conservation committee as well as various other committees. Steans worked to pass legislation creating commercial composting capabilities.



Representative Kelly Cassidy, recipient of the Legislation Award, with IAFSM Committee Chair Sarah Hunn

Stormwater Management: RainReady Program

RainReady is a program of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) that has successfully implemented a “no one-size-fits-all” approach to helping urban and suburban communities in becoming RainReady. RainReady’s program works with the municipal trustees, other government agencies, and residents to develop multi-pronged flood plans for communities. A video showing some of RainReady’s efforts can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwpsxftGC8c>. In recognition of their efforts to improve stormwater management, especially in urban and suburban communities, IAFSM presents the Stormwater Management award to CNT’s RainReady program.



Illinois State Senator Heather Steans receives the Legislation Award from Sarah Hunn

Floodplain Management: Doug Moslehi, Rock Island County

The State of Illinois is fortunate to have numerous floodplain managers that do excellent jobs. This year’s winner is Doug Moslehi of the Rock Island County Office of Building & Zoning. Doug is one of two CFMs in the office and juggles administration of the Building Code, the Zoning Ordinance, the floodplain management regulations, and storm water regulations. Doug previously worked as a floodplain manager in Madison County and began his career working for both the states of Illinois and Missouri in their mitigation sections. In his long career as a floodplain manager, Doug’s efforts have resulted in hundreds of elevated structures and buyout projects throughout the state. Doug received this award in recognition of his always maintaining high standards and requiring things being done the right way. Doug is a true and vocal believer in the benefits of both proper floodplain management and mitigation.



Stu Richter presents the Center for Neighborhood Technologies with the Stormwater Management Award for their RainReady program

Mitigation: Village of Oquawka and City of Keithsburg

Although these two “Mississippi River Small Towns” have a combined population of just over 2000 residents, the local officials for these towns have successfully enforced floodplain and zoning rules for their entire communities, despite the fact that most of the staff serves on a part time basis. Being a river community that has virtually eliminated all structures from the floodplain is no small task and both of these communities have experienced this success.



Flooding in downtown Keithsburg, prior to mitigation efforts



An elevated home during last winter’s flood in Oquawak

Lifetime Achievement Award: Paul Osman

Paul Osman was presented with the IAFSM Lifetime Achievement Award. Paul is the Statewide Floodplain Programs Manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) and is the Illinois State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator. He has worked with the NFIP program for over 25 years and continues to work with the nearly 1,000 Illinois communities that participate in the NFIP program.

If you've had the good fortune to interact with Paul you know that he is a walking book of knowledge on flood insurance, flood regulation, floodplain mapping, flood disaster response and flood mitigation. He has contributed to federal, state and local floodplain policy that has benefited our country and other countries.

Twenty-five years ago, at the onset of Paul's career with Illinois floodplain issues, Illinois ranked 5th highest in the country with respect to repetitive flood damaged properties. Today, as a result of Paul's work, Illinois has created the greatest reduction in repetitive flood damaged properties in the nation. Through his promotion of flood mitigation, Paul has saved the tax payers millions of dollars by reducing flood damages and educating about floodplains. Paul has also generously shared his time and energy to further the missions of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and IAFSM. Illinois has benefited from Paul's work, but so have many other states and countries with which Paul has shared his knowledge and experiences.

In addition to his mastery of the technical side of his job, Paul is a tireless advocate and problem solver for our local floodplain managers. From his late night public meetings where he has often mellowed an unruly crowd, to "standing FEMA up" for some ill-thought policy decision, Paul's intentions have always been about making floodplain management better for Illinois, resulting in communities with more livable and enhanced green space. Any of the communities which routinely call on Paul for assistance will say that Paul's work ethic, personal involvement with the communities and love for his job are nothing short of "incredible." Paul has equally advocated for the property owners who are hurt by floods and for those who live in harmony with floods. He is a voice for them, a voice for us, and a voice in everyone's ear.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the IAFSM's highest honor. It is reserved for outstanding longtime floodplain managers who 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. The Award was last presented in 2015. In recognition of Paul Osman's impact on the state, country and abroad, Paul Osman is the recipient of IAFSM's 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.



*Paul Osman, recipient of IAFSM's
Lifetime Achievement award, with Stu
Richter*

IAFSM Project Award Recipients

IAFSM's project awards recognize excellent projects across the state where a team has been assembled to accomplish a specific task. The 2017 award winners are:

Flood Reduction Project Award: Glenview Floodway Buyouts

The Flood Reduction Award recognizes an outstanding flood reduction project in Illinois. This year's award recipient was a collaborative venture between the Village of Glenview, MWRD and IEMA which permanently solved the frequent and long-standing flooding endured by 17 homes built in the floodway along the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. This collaboration overcame numerous legislative and regulatory hurdles encountered after MWRD took over countywide authority of stormwater management in Cook County. Despite these obstacles, each agency stepped up to push the project forward. MWRD advocated for changes to its state authority and allowed the Glenview project to be a countywide pilot project establishing new documentation and protocols. IEMA funded the difference between the initial grant award and the final appraisals. Glenview handled the local project management, including coordination with the 17 homeowners, appraisals, closing, demolition and ongoing maintenance. In the end, the buyouts were a 1.65 positive benefits-cost solution. As a result of the buyout program, two new 4-acre open spaces were created in Glenview, the flooding risk was eliminated and the floodway was returned to the river corridor.

Sustainability Project Award: Carpenter Creek Bank Stabilization

The Sustainability Award recognizes an outstanding project that effectively demonstrates sustainability in at least one subject area (stormwater reuse, water conservation, groundwater recharge, water reclamation, true source control or green infrastructure). This year's award recipient was the Carpenter Creek Bank Stabilization project. Carpenter Creek is approximately 2.6 miles of perennial stream with mapped floodplain tributary to the Fox River. Portions of Carpenter Creek were severely eroded with several residential structures at risk. The project received funding through the USEPA Section 319 grant program. The Village of Carpentersville also secured developer fee-in-lieu funds to pay for its local match. The project was completed as a Design-Build project with HR Green and Applied Ecological Services (AES). The project included 2.6 miles of streambank stabilization with a meandering two-stage channel, wetland pools, riffles, grade control structures, and native vegetation. In addition to the channel improvements, this project also removed 43 properties from the floodplain. Installation of rain gardens in an adjacent park through which portion of the creek traverses provides education opportunities. Through the project, the Village achieved its objective to help residents reduce flood insurance while also being a responsible steward of environmental sustainability.

Innovation Project Award: Stormwater Master Plan Pilot Study: Using Green Infrastructure to Solve Urban Flooding

The Innovation Award is given on the occasion that a project demonstrates exceptionally innovative design elements. This year, the Innovation Project Award was presented to the Stormwater Master Plan Pilot Study: Using Green Infrastructure to Solve Urban Flooding. This project was a study conducted by Geosyntec Consultants as consultants to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, and was performed within a primarily residential 17-square mile wide area located on the south side of Chicago. The study objectives were to evaluate how best to scale up green infrastructure (GI) within the ultra-urban landscape of Chicago to eliminate flooding due to sewer backups into basements and to alleviate street flooding. This pilot study is the first innovative application of a cloud-based optimizing software to evaluate GI over a large area for storms up to the 100-year rainfall event. This software allowed 70,000 scenarios and 315 million options to be analyzed in a few weeks. The work validated the need for minimum gray infrastructure but showed that optimal placement of GI provides a similar level-of-service and cost savings of around 40%, compared to a policy of implementing GI wherever it is feasible.

IAFSM Project Award Recipients Continued



*Glenview Floodway
Buyouts
project team*



*Carpenter Creek Bank
Stabilization project team*



*Stormwater Master Plan
Pilot Study: Using GI to
Solve Urban Flooding
project team*

Thank You from French Westmore

To the Members of IAFSM:

When Stu Richter announced at the Springfield conference that IAFSM Lifetime Achievement Award was getting a new name, I said nothing. The reason is that I was truly surprised and speechless. That does not mean that I don't want to say thank you. Having an award named after one is indeed one of the finest things an organization can do to recognize a fellow professional. Being the first such award by IAFSM makes it even more significant. I've been thanked by clients and FEMA and other organizations for my work, but that does not compare to having my name on the Association's highest award. Thank you IAFSM.

Even though we heard complaints about us leaving in 2007, Mary Lu and I knew that the Association and the Board would do just fine. That proved to be the case, as witnessed by the excellent and well-run conference in Springfield. The Association is in good hands and I trust the Board to give the French Wetmore Lifetime Achievement Award only to deserving floodplain and stormwater managers. (I must say the name of the award sounds better every time I hear it.)

Thank you all again. See you in Kansas City, I hope.

French Wetmore, CFM
Steilacoom, Washington
(formerly Park Forest, Illinois)



IDNR Update to Part 3700 Rules

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources will soon upload a Draft of revised Part 3700 Rules (Construction in Floodway of Rivers, Lakes and Streams). It will be accompanied by a Summary of Changes document to spotlight the updates.

Major changes include rescission of existing 3700 Rules-related Statewide Permits, levee standards, new General Permits, and more detailed language regarding Violations and Enforcement.

The Draft of the Rules and accompanying Summary of Changes Document will be located at:
https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Documents/Part3700AdministrativeRules2017_ChangesSummary.pdf



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From the Chair

~E. Stuart Richter, CFM, Whiteside County

This will be my last ever “From the Chair.” I am sitting in my kitchen the weekend after our conference in Springfield. What a conference it was. I finally got to see Paul Osman get his due as he received the coveted “Lifetime Achievement Award”. Unfortunately, circumstances allowed him to figure it out before the awards luncheon on Thursday. In the past he had kept such awards hidden so well as past Awards Chair, but the sudden presence of his wife and David Schein tipped him off.

As my last official act as Chair, I looked down from the podium to see the very first Lifetime Achievement Award winner, French Wetmore (1998), sitting across the table from the very last winner of the same award, Paul Osman. On behalf of the IAFSM Board, I was privileged to announce that in the future, members could receive the “French Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement”. It was a pleasure to see the emotion on his face change as the realization of that statement dawned on him. Then, got a standing ovation from the entire membership. To top it all, the idea came from Paul Osman. How fitting.

We provided nine scholarships to local officials for this year’s conference. A tenth was provided by Molly O’Toole who unfortunately was unable to attend. We missed you, Molly. Several of the officials who took advantage of the scholarships were members of our state association of county zoning officials. Attendance from this group has dwindled in recent years, but we have a host of new zoning officials this year and it was great to meet them at the conference.

Our election this year saw three candidates for the Secretary slot. The winner, Dallas Alley, comes to us from St. Clair County in the East St. Louis area. It will be a trip for him to attend Board meetings which are held in the north half of the state. We are glad to welcome him to the Board and know he will get all the assistance he may need from the other Board members.

We also welcomed three new Committee Chairs. Our longtime friend and the Association’s only Certification Chair, Matt Wahl, is retiring from Peoria County at the end of March. He received the Outstanding Service Award (second time) for years of guiding IAFSM in our CFM relationship with ASFPM and the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR). You will be missed both at IAFSM and at ASFPM. Greg Thorpe, Rock Island County, will fill his shoes as the next Certification (CFM) Chair. Other new Committee Chairs are David Buckley, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., as Mitigation Chair and Julie Lomax, Village of Downers Grove, as new CRS Chair.

These are my thoughts after the conference. It was a great one and I am happy to have been a part of it. It has been an honor to serve as Chair of IAFSM for a second time. I thank the Board for their hard work and cooperation with the “old guy”. Now I can relax, sit back and heckle at meetings for 2 years. Thank you to all the members of IAFSM for the opportunities you have provided to me. And French, Mary Lu: IAFSM is in good hands!



Make Your Voice Heard! IAFSM Legislative Committee Update

The work of the Legislative Committee primarily consists of monitoring legislation as it is drafted and introduced. After introduction, the committee will draft position papers or correspondence to be approved by the IAFSM Board and executed by the IAFSM President. As a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, IAFSM cannot lobby. Our role is to inform, explain and educate our legislators regarding the technical aspects of floodplain and stormwater management. With membership across the State of Illinois, IAFSM is in a unique position to understand technical issues from a number of perspectives.

One important aspect of success is the relationship of individual IAFSM members with their legislators. The most successful relationships build over a number of General Assembly and Congressional sessions and years. Elected officials appreciate learning how things work from their constituents. As a result, they get the most benefit when hearing about an issue from experts within their district.

The first step to implement this relationship-building and information-sharing aspect of the legislative outreach effort is for the Legislative Committee to have the home (voting) addresses for IAFSM members. IAFSM can provide willing members with the names of their legislators and tips for reaching out and forming a relationship, so that the constituent can share information directly. If you are willing to be a point of direct contact, please provide your home address to Sarah Harbaugh at iafsm@illinoisfloods.org.

At the 2017 meeting, a number of IAFSM members expressed interest in the committee. There are a number of roles to be filled and goals to be accomplished. Please contact Committee Chair, Kay Whitlock, at kwhitlock@cbbel.com if you are also interested in serving on the Legislative Committee.



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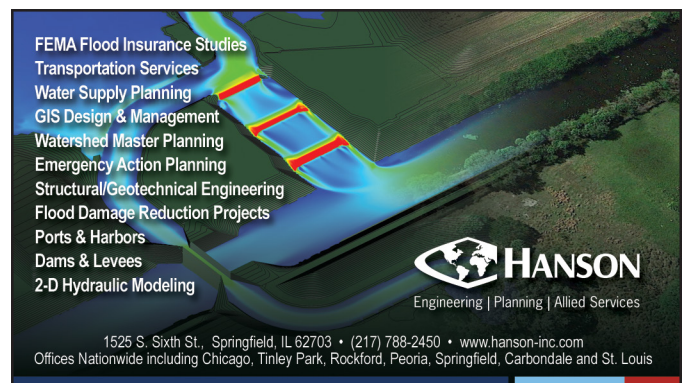
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Congrats to our new CFMs!

Congratulations to the floodplain managers who earned their designation as a Certified Floodplain Manager in Illinois in 2016! For a list of 2017 exam opportunities, visit www.illinoisfloods.org.

Dalila Alvarez, H.W. Lochner, Inc.
Elliot Anderson, Civiltech Engineering, Inc.
Donald Barnes, Knight EA, Inc.
Michael Bauling, City of DeKalb, IL
Laura Berkley, Bi-State Regional Commission
Anthony Bryant, Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc.
Michael Cunico, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Kristopher Dunn, City of Wheaton, IL
Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Timothy Grossi, Village of Lansing, IL
Aida Guido, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Amanda Hasty, FEMA, Region IV
Stephen Haucke, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Linda Hutchins, Huff & Huff, Inc.
Emily Jenkins, Illinois State Water Survey
Kyle Johnson, Village of Buffalo Grove, IL
David Klawitter, Mackie Consultants, LLC
Joseph La Vanne, WBK., Ltd.
Nicholas Leach, Village of Gurnee, IL

Rosanna Lee, Mackie Consultants, LLC
Garrett Litteken, Hanson Professional Svcs., Inc.
Kai Tak Liu, Village of Addison, IL
Robert Lott, Farnsworth Group, Inc.
Amy McKenna, Robinson Engineering, Ltd.
Natalia Mikolajczyk, 2IM Group, LLC
James Mitchell, Knight E/A, Inc.
Peter Monko, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Brendan O'Bryan, V3 Companies
James Patterson, Burns & McDonnell
Charles Pugh, Howard R. Green Co.
Stephen Randolph, Horner & Shifrin, Inc.
Jorge Rueda, 2IM Group, LLC
George Ruppert, Village of Palatine, IL
Sarah Salomon, McHenry Cnty., IL
Keith Schell, EN Engineering
Jacob Seger, Michael Baker Intl.
Andrew Sikich, Ruckert & Mielke, Inc.
Delbert Skimerhorn, Kankakee Cnty., IL
Brian Wesolowski, Gewalt Hamilton Assoc.
Nathaniel Wolf, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago



CFM candidates take the March 2017 exam, which was the last exam proctored by longtime Board and Certification Chair Member Matt Wahl before his retirement.

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.

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/EMI/>

Upcoming courses include:

- June 12-15 – EMI-E0172 Hazuz-MH for Floodplains
- April 24-27 – E0282 – Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II
- May 22-25 – EMI E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP

Webinars:

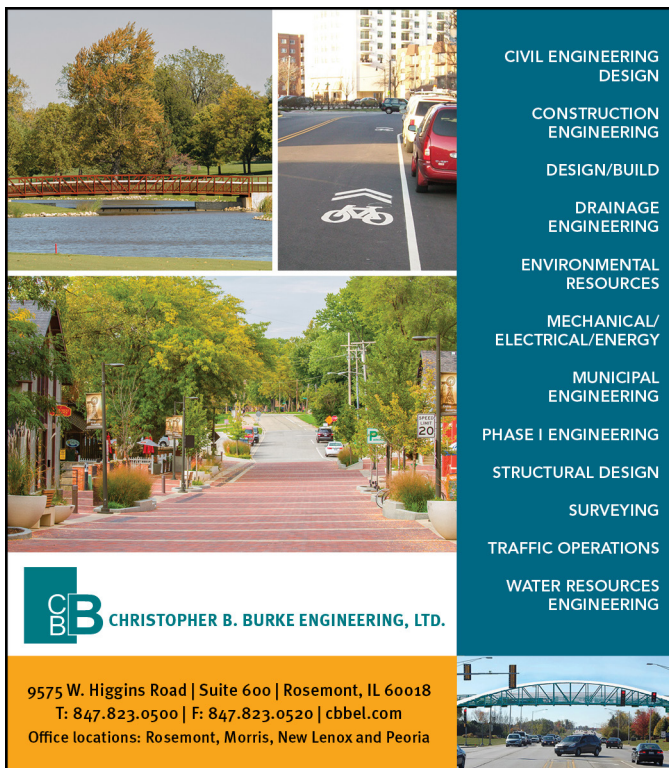
ASFPM – <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/webinars.asp>

- 5/8/17 – Using HEC-RAS 5.0.1 to Model Bridges, Culverts and Floodplains Online Course

Conferences:

- 4/30 – 5/5 – ASFPM National Conference, Kansas City, MO

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



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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2018 IAFSM Conference

The 2018 Annual Conference will be March 14 & 15, 2018, at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

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 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 one in Springfield and one in Bartlett. We are planning for a second table in Bartlett and one in Champaign. Contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.



Elementary students conduct experiments with IAFSM's water table.

Next Board Meetings

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on May 10 at 10:00 a.m. at Starved Rock State Park, Utica IL. 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@illinoisfloods.org

2017 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2017 exam dates and register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.

A graphic for Burns & McDonnell featuring a list of services on the left and a photograph of a bridge over a river on the right. The list includes: Floodplain / Floodway Studies, Stormwater Master Planning, Stormwater System Design, Review and Permitting, Sedimentation and Erosion Control, Best Management Practice Application, Wetland Delineation and Mitigation Planning and Design, NPDES Compliance, and Streambank Stabilization. The company name and address are also provided.

- Floodplain / Floodway Studies
- Stormwater Master Planning
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A graphic for Ciorba Group featuring a list of services on the left and a collage of images on the right. The list includes: roadway, structural, water resources, and construction. The company name and website are also provided.

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Illinois Association for
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Spring 2017 Newsletter

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