



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2011 Newsletter

2011 Annual Conference Celebrates the 25th Anniversary of our Organization

The 2011 Annual Conference was held March 8 – 10, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in the heart of Bloomington – Normal, Illinois. The conference was a great success with 460 people attending over 60 workshops and visiting with about 20 exhibitors. IAFSM offered four workshop tracks with topics ranging from dam and levee issues to sustainability to regulatory updates.

In honor and recognition of our 25th anniversary, the conference began with a brief overview of our history. The six men and women who founded our organization were recognized during the Awards Luncheon. Karen Kabbes, Steve Scheffel and Rich Roths were in attendance and were presented with plaques recognizing their efforts 25 years ago. Lou Sidell, Tom Ewers and Tom Pawlowicz were recognized and will receive their plaques in the mail. Herbert Poertner was honored posthumously. To read more about IAFSM's history, visit our website at www.illinoisfloods.org.

Information on the 2011 award winners can be found in this newsletter; photos and presentations will be posted to our website shortly.



Karen Kabbes, Steve Scheffel and Rich Roths were honored as the founders of IAFSM 25 years ago.



Above: Tony Wolff, Patrick Bleck and Justin Bartels enjoy the drinks and apps during Wednesday's social hour. Left: attendees at the morning Plenary session.



Inside This Issue

Conference Celebrates 25 th Anniv.....	Page 1
2011 IAFSM Awards & Recognition...	Page 2
2011 Annual Conference Sponsors	Page 5
Progress w/ Hazard Mitigation Plans ...	Page 6
Ups and Downs of Levees	Page 6
Crossing Flooded Roads	Page 7
Am I in the Floodplain? Mobile App ...	Page 7
PRP Extension: Policy Choices	Page 8

PRP Ext'n: Local Official Guidance	Page 8
Forecasting Potential Floods.....	Page 8
From the Chair	Page 9
CRS Users Group News	Page 10
Local EMI Class on CRS.....	Page 10
More Ways to Stay in Touch	Page 11
Free IAFSM Membership.....	Page 11
2011 CFM Exam Schedule	Page 11
Next Board Meeting & Jobmart.....	Page 12

2011 IAFSM Awards and Recognition

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

During the annual conference in Normal, IAFSM took time to honor our coworkers and colleagues who have supported and encouraged good floodplain and stormwater management here in Illinois.

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.

Michael Sutfin of the City of Ottawa was awarded the IAFSM Floodplain Manager of the Year Award. Sitting at the confluence of the Fox and Illinois Rivers, the City of Ottawa is one of Illinois' most flood prone communities. Ottawa has frequent flood events. Upstream development on both of these watersheds is only going to increase Ottawa's susceptibility to flooding. Following two major floods in 2006, Mr. Sutfin and local officials set about to change the community's exposure to floods. Among other things, Mr. Sutfin and the City have: bought out or mitigated many of the most flood prone structures in town, formed an active local flood committee, held public meetings on flood maps, established a flood warning system, and conducted city wide surveys to better identify flood risk. The City has joined the Community Rating System Program at a Class 5. Ottawa is expected to soon rise to a class 2 community, making it the best in Illinois and #2 in the nation!



Michael Sutfin, City of Ottawa, receives the 2011 IAFSM Floodplain Manager of the Year Award.

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.

This year's Stormwater Management Award winner is the Village of Montgomery. The Village has developed and implemented a stormwater management and biodiversity program that both encourages natural landscapes and helps to reduce flood losses. Montgomery is a rapidly growing community. Like many communities in this part of the state, loss of open space, aquifer recharge, stormwater management, and pollution control are ongoing concerns.

The Village of Montgomery Naturalized Stormwater Management Facility Design, Planting and Management Plan Guidelines has become a model program. The same plan was awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness 2010 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award.



Jeff Wickenkamp presents the IAFSM Stormwater Management award to the Village of Montgomery.

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.

The Village of Machesney Park was recognized for their efforts in obtaining grants to acquire flood-prone structures and convert the property into open space. The Village received a grant of \$3 million from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to acquire 36 properties and \$1 million in matching funds from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. The Village has submitted a request for an additional \$1.6 million from IEMA to acquire additional properties.

Special recognition was given to Tammy Scott, of McMahon Associates, for her excellence in preparing the applications; to Karen Lemmons, Community Development Director, for her overall management of the project; and to Jack Peterson, land acquisition agent, for his role in implementing the project.

The Village has fought hard to represent the interests of the property owners.



Ron Davis presents IAFSM's Mitigation Award to the Village of Machesney Park.

Journalism and 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 year's Journalism award goes to the Ottawa Delivered. Ottawa Delivered is a 15,000-circulation weekly interactive newspaper and daily online news service covering Ottawa, IL and its surrounding communities. They publish a daily internet paper with constantly streaming stories. Once weekly they publish a paper version of all important news of the week. In addition to their own web based media delivery they use the publicly available media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. They can broadcast news almost as fast as it becomes news.

Ottawa Delivered has attended every Flood Commission meeting in the City of Ottawa. The paper has been instrumental in developing and implementing the City Flood Threat Recognition and Response Plan. The editor now has the ability to send out an alert via all social media systems including emails the 7000 email auto subscribers.

The paper is very accurate in their reporting of flood activities in the community. The City has used the paper to reach out to the public to inform them of significant changes in the floodplain maps. Ottawa Delivered did a stellar job in reaching the public with very accurate information.



Greta Lieske accepts the Journalism and Public Education Award for the Ottawa Delivered.

Board of Directors' Special Award

In appreciation of his outstanding service to the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management, as a long-time Committee Chair, and presenter at seminars and annual conferences, and for his devotion to furthering good floodplain management practices throughout the State of Illinois, a special award was presented to recognize and honor Paul Osman of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Water Resources.

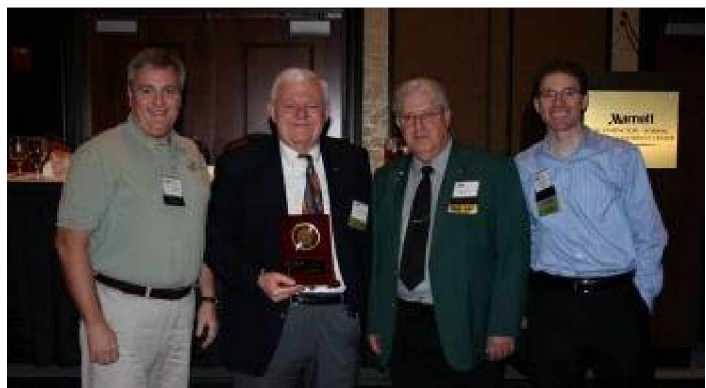
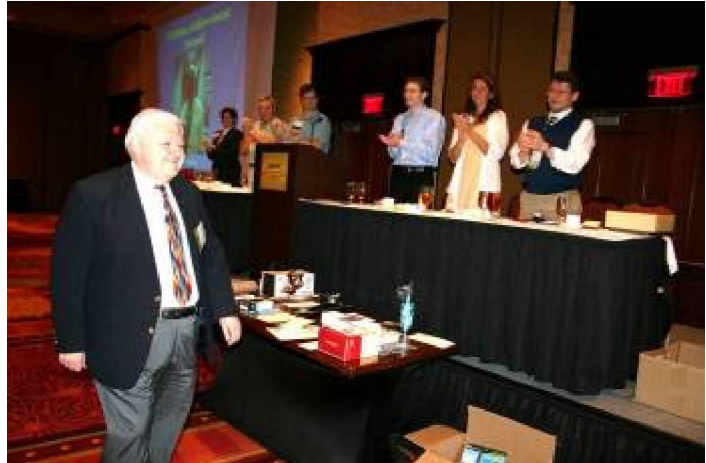


Paul Osman, IDNR-OWR, recipient of the Board of Directors' Special Award.

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.

IAFSM's most prestigious award was presented to Richard J. Roths. Rich's professional work started in planning in Winnebago and then DeKalb Counties. Rich went on to work at the state level as a local floodplain programs field advisor. Rich was instrumental in helping local officials better understand floodplain management. Rich also worked for Northern Illinois Planning Council, adding to their credibility as a floodplain management agency. Rich was one of the seven founding members of the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management. Rich also helped design the Association's Certified Floodplain Manager program in 2000. Rich moved on to the six states in FEMA Region V. With experience in floodplain management and planning, Rich was a natural leader in planning activities and mitigation projects. Finally Rich moved on to work for URS, an international consultant on mitigation.



Rich Roths accepts his Lifetime Achievement Award; Loren Wobig, Rich Roths, Stu Richter and Jeff Wickenkamp.

Rich was presented the Lifetime Award as he retires from years of service to the State, the NFIP, and the professions of both floodplain management and planning.



A standing ovation for the 2011 IAFSM Award Recipients.

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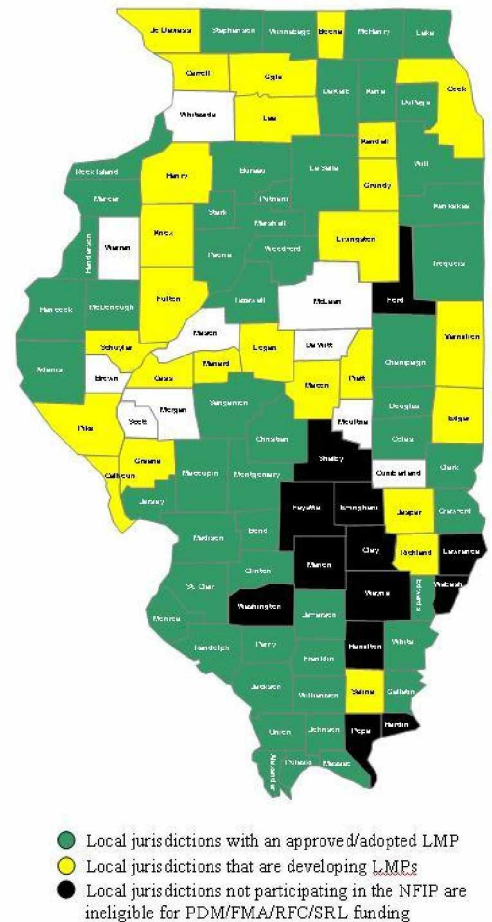
Counties Make Impressive Progress with Hazard Mitigation Plans

~Jared Owens, IEMA

Mitigation planning in Illinois continues to show very impressive progress. The 2008 flooding events exposed the need to develop mitigation plans if a long term recovery was going to be successful. In just the last three years the State has seen a 300% increase in approved plans. In 2008, 17 Counties were ineligible for hazard mitigation grant funding because they did not participate in the NFIP. Illinois has decreased that number to 13, and all four counties that recently joined the NFIP are in the process of getting hazard mitigation plans approved.

Three years ago, 43 counties were not pursuing mitigation planning. Through a partnership with Federal, State and Local governments, as well as Floodplain Management groups and Emergency Management Agencies, 33 of those 43 counties have begun the initiative. By 2012 we expect to have approved County Hazard Mitigation plans for nearly 80% of the State. Our goal going forward is simple: every county should have a hazard mitigation plan. I am pleased to say that we are very close to meeting that goal.

The graphic at right shows the status of Local Mitigation Plans (LMPs) as of February 1, 2011. All approved County Hazard Mitigation Plans are on IEMA's website at: <http://www.state.il.us/iema/planning/MitigationLinks.asp>



The Ups and Downs of Levees:

GPS-Based Change Detection, Middle Mississippi River, USA

~Andrew Flor, Nicholas Pinter, and Jonathan W.F. Remo, Department of Geology, Southern Illinois University

ABSTRACT: Changes in levee-crest elevations were measured along 328 km of Mississippi River levees between St. Louis, Missouri, and Cairo, Illinois, in 1998 and 2007. We also compared 1998 and 2007 survey data with 50 yr flood elevation profiles to assess levels of levee protection. Levee heights, stability, and safety are nationwide concerns, especially since Hurricane Katrina and floodwall failures in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2005. The majority of surveyed levees were stable at the centimeter to decimeter level during the 9 yr measurement interval. Change was measured in other areas, including increases of as much as 1.49 m and decreases of as much as 1.26 m between 1998 and 2007. The increases corresponded to local crevasse repairs, small scale road maintenance, and larger levee-raising projects. Decreases in levee elevations are interpreted as small-scale surface erosion and larger compaction or subsidence of levee and/or foundation materials. Levee crests in 2007 were locally as much as 2.0 m below the 50 yr floodgrade elevations. Levee degradation reduces protection levels for floodplain residents, often without easily visible symptoms. Intentional levee raising without necessary studies, engineering, or permitting has a range of potential negative impacts including both a false sense of security and the potential for exporting flood risk to neighboring levee communities. Regional surveying of levee elevations and change over time can provide a preliminary tool for assessing levee conditions, stability, and compliance with levee regulations.

The complete study can be read online at:

<http://geology.geoscienceworld.org/cgi/content/full/39/1/55?ijkey=QFYoyYfY3BZ0k&keytype=ref&siteid=gsgology>

Why Did the Chicken Cross the (Flooded) Road?

Despite all the public outreach and advertisements warning against crossing flooded roads (such as the “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” campaign), every year people die when driving through flooded streets.

University of Arizona graduate student Ashley R. Coles sought to understand the reasons why people choose to cross flooded washes, and found that most people in her study who crossed had made a calculated, rational decision. The results of her study can be found here: <http://uanews.org/node/37950>



Am I in the Floodplain? There’s an App for That!

~Source: PBS&J Press Release

The first-ever FloodMap Mobile app for smartphones instantly summarizes flood risk information from FEMA, giving users a full suite of tools that will allow them to assess a property’s flood hazards to help keep businesses, family and property safe.

Developed by PBS&J, FloodMap Mobile relies on the smartphone's GPS to pinpoint where a person is standing or allows the user to type in an address. The app opens a map of the area's FEMA-defined floodplains and summarizes additional data about estimated flood insurance costs, links to insurance agents, USGS and NOAA stream gauge records and links to critical FEMA information.

Josh Price, senior project manager for flood hazard management at PBS&J, says, "Federal, state and local governments have spent years creating detailed flood maps designed to create greater community awareness and prevent or mitigate potential disasters. With FloodMap Mobile, we've put the data and analysis on a smartphone so users can evaluate risk anytime from the phone that is already in their pocket."

FloodMap Mobile is available in the Apple AppStore and in the Android Market. For more information: http://www.pbsj.com/Press_Room/Press_Releases/Pages/FloodMap%E2%84%A2MobileSmartphoneApp.aspx

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PRP Extension: Homeowner Policy Choices

~Rich Roths, FEMA Region V

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) offers three different cost-saving flood policies for property owners, each with a slightly different purpose. However all three policies – Preferred Risk, Preferred Risk Extension and Grandfathered – have a few things in common. All three provide rates at a reduction from the average flood insurance premium, and agents must verify that a policy holder is eligible. Property owners may want to know which of three NFIP policies fits their needs. An article on our website provides explanations: http://www.illinoisfloods.org/documents/PRP_Article_II.pdf

PRP Extension: Guidance for Local Officials

~Rich Roths, FEMA Region V

From the time FEMA or your State contacted you concerning their efforts to update your Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), you knew that changes were coming. The new maps could result in areas being taken out of or put into the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Up until now, except for legal notices that go into newspapers, many communities waited until the new maps became effective or for lenders to notify people about flood insurance requirements. But with the advent of the new Preferred Risk Policy Extension (PRPE), communities may have to be proactive and spread the word about flood risk and insurance before maps become effective. Residents will thank you for the savings your actions will garner them. A recommended procedure for community officials regarding the PRP extension and Flood Insurance Rate Maps can be found on our website at: http://www.illinoisfloods.org/documents/PRPE_Article_III.pdf

Editorial: Forecasting Potential Floods

FEMA has taken a lot of flak over its new flood zone maps, but they are vital in gauging a community's risk. An editorial in Memphis, Tennessee's *The Commercial Appeal* provides support to FEMA's efforts and argues that the remapping effort shouldn't get caught up in politics. <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2011/feb/09/editorials-forecasting-potential-floods/>



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From the Chair

~Mike Cothard, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.

As part of this year's IAFSM Conference, Stu Richter put together a history of the IAFSM which included a list of the past Chairs. Up to that point I was honored by the opportunity to represent the IAFSM as your Vice-Chair and Treasurer. Having had the privilege to work with, learn from and/or discuss issues with most of the past Chairs, I am humbled even more so. Now that I am starting my tenure as Chair, I look forward to working with the IAFSM membership to continue addressing the mission of the IAFSM as diligently and effectively as our former Chairs. I want to thank Jeff Wickenkamp, who becomes our Past Chair, for his guidance and direction over the last two years and plan to use him as a resource in the future.

In planning the last two annual conferences there were many Board, committee and IAFSM members who volunteered their time, opinions, skills and assistance. Without their help, neither of the last two conferences could have been a success. I give my thanks to each and every one of them. I also believe the conferences have been a success for two more reasons. First, the attendance at each regional conference was the greatest to date. Secondly, there did not appear to be many attendees who skipped the breakout sessions. While this caused some workshop rooms to be crowded, this is an easier situation to address than would be compensating for uninteresting presentations. No conference is perfect and the comments which the attendees took the time and effort to complete are currently being reviewed. Loren Wobig, our new Vice-Chair, will incorporate changes based on the attendants input as he begins planning next year's conference. I am confident he will receive as much, if not more, support in planning the next conference as I did. Planning for the next conference is already underway.

I realize that the annual conference Board meeting is held at 7:30 the morning on the second day of the conference and an evening of socializing may account for the (small) size of the membership turnout, but I would like to remind all members that they are invited to participate at our bi-monthly Board meetings, join committees which address subjects of interest to them, or send me information or comments which you would like presented to the Board and attendees at the next meeting. This is your association. Please let us know how we can assist in making it more accessible and interesting for you. The IAFSM website is constantly updated with the meeting agendas, minutes of meetings and items which are considered of interest to the membership. Please stop by and visit.

I would also like to thank Lillian Prince for taking on the challenges of association Treasurer and welcome Glenn Heistand as our new association Secretary. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to address the issues which are associated with the mission of the IAFSM.

Lastly, please take a moment as I express our sympathies to the people of Japan in the wake of the earthquake, tsunami and subsequent nuclear reactor crisis.



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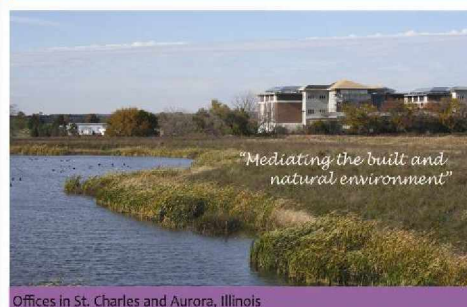
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CRS Users Group News

~Mary Lou Kalsted, Village of Lisle

The CRS Users Group is made up of CRS Coordinators and others who work with the Community Rating System in Illinois communities. The IAFSM Community Rating System (CRS) Committee facilitates the meetings. The Community Rating System is a program that earns flood insurance discounts for residents by a community's actions toward exceeding minimum NFIP requirements and meeting three goals:

1. Reduce flood losses;
2. Facilitate accurate insurance rating; and
3. Promote the awareness of flood insurance.



Members of the CRS Users Group gathered for dinner on Wednesday night during the conference.

The CRS Users Group held their third meeting on October 28, 2010 in Ottawa. The group heard presentations on Flood Warning Programs, including South Holland's program which is the highest scoring program of its type in Illinois; Drainage Maintenance Programs; and administration of substantial damage issues by guest speaker Paul Osman of IDNR-OWR.

The group met again during the annual IAFSM conference held recently in Normal. One of the sessions on Thursday morning was designed for the group, covering substantial improvement and substantial damage, and determining when a structure is "reasonably safe from flooding". The group also gathered for dinner on Wednesday evening at the conference.

The next meeting is being planned for mid-2011. Watch the IAFSM web site, on the CRS Committee page, for the date and location. For more information about the CRS Users Group, contact Mary Lou Kalsted, Chair of the CRS Committee, at (630) 271-4107 or mkalsted@villageoflisle.org.

Interested in a Local EMI Class on CRS?

~Scott Cofoid, Insurance Services Office

Are you interested in taking a local EMI class on Community Rating System? Big changes will soon be made to the CRS program. This EMI class describes activities eligible for CRS credit, how a community applies, and how a community can improve its classification. It will be very important for current CRS communities, for communities interested in joining CRS, and for consultants who assist CRS communities.

The EMI class will cover the new CRS program changes in depth. The class is four days in length and provides 12 CECs. If taught on 4 consecutive days, CRS credit may also be given to an attending community. An alternative is to offer the class one day a week for four weeks, without EMI credit but still eligible for CECs. The class will be held in Illinois, in a location to be determined based on the locations of those who wish to attend, and will probably be held in the spring of 2012.

To attend the EMI class, you must be a CFM, or have completed EMI E273, or be a full time floodplain manager with more than 2 years of full time experience. Workshops will be offered later regarding the CRS changes, but they won't offer CRS points and won't cover the subject in as much detail as the EMI class will. If interested, please contact Scott Cofoid, ISO Specialist, at (815) 220-1002 or scofoid@iso.com.

More Ways to Stay in Touch!

As a reminder, in addition to e-mail, IAFSM has more ways to stay in touch with members.

IAFSM now has a LinkedIn Group. Membership in the group is limited to current and past IAFSM members. All official IAFSM communication will continue to come via e-mail, but our LinkedIn group provides a way for committee members to communicate with each other (if preferred over e-mail). It also provides another way to network and stay in touch with other members. Type IAFSM into the group search box on LinkedIn to find us, or click the hyperlink on our homepage at www.illinoisfloods.org.

We also have a new Committee page on our website. Visit our website to learn more about committee activities, check meeting dates, and get involved! www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html

IAFSM Continues Membership Drive in 2011 – Free Membership!

In March 2011, the IAFSM Board voted to extend the membership fee waiver for municipal and county government employees and those who are retired or currently job seeking. Please help us get the word out and encourage your colleagues to join IAFSM by forwarding the link below. There are many stormwater and floodplain managers in Illinois that are not members of IAFSM, but they should be. Others are encouraged to join as well, for a \$20 membership fee. <http://illinoisfloods.org/documents/membership.pdf>

2011 Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam Schedule

- Woodridge: **September 15, 2011** (V3 Companies)
- Champaign: **September, 2011** (Illinois State Water Survey, date TBD)
- Rosemont: **December 7, 2011** (Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.)

As a reminder, IAFSM uses the National Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Exam. The National Exam includes questions on coastal floodplain requirements and excludes Illinois-specific questions. The Illinois Floodplain Management Desk Reference found on our website is a valuable tool for floodplain managers in Illinois, but it is not a comprehensive study guide for the National Exam. To register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



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Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 11, at the Ottawa City Hall, 301 West Madison Street, Ottawa.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great way to learn more about IAFSM and get more involved in the organization! See you there!



The IAFSM Board of Directors gathered for an early 7:30 meeting before the conference on Thursday. Our next meeting isn't quite so early. See you there!

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html. Current openings include:

- Watershed Resource Professional, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- Executive Director, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to IAFSM@sbcglobal.net.

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Illinois Association for
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Spring 2011 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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