



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2012-2013 Newsletter

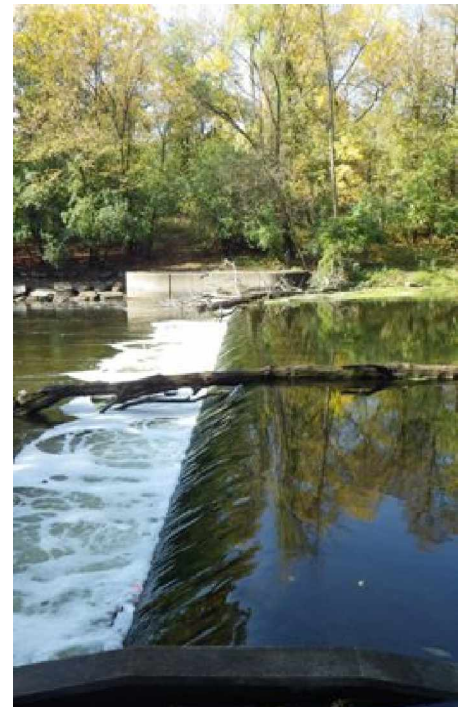
Governor's Dam Removal Initiative

~Rick Gosch, Chief IDNR/OWR Engineering Studies

On October 26, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn announced an initiative to remove or modify 16 low-head dams throughout the state over the next few years. The goal of the initiative is to improve water quality, aquatic habitat and recreational safety. This initiative is being funded through the Governor's "Illinois Jobs Now!" Capital program.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources/Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is the lead state agency for this initiative. The following dams have been identified for removal or modification:

Dam	Stream	County
Winnetka Road	North Branch Chicago River	Cook
Chick Evans Golf Course	North Branch Chicago River	Cook
Tam O'Shanter	North Branch Chicago River	Cook
River Park	North Branch Chicago River	Cook
Fairbanks Road	Des Plaines River	Cook
Hofmann	Des Plaines River	Cook
Armitage Avenue	Des Plaines River	Cook
Dam 4	Des Plaines River	Cook
Touhy Avenue	Des Plaines River	Cook
Dempster Street	Des Plaines River	Cook
Dam 2	Des Plaines River	Cook
Dam 1	Des Plaines River	Cook
Blackberry Creek	Blackberry Creek	Kendall
Danville	Vermilion River (Wabash)	Vermilion
Ellsworth Park	Vermilion River (Wabash)	Vermilion
Buzzi Unicem	Vermilion River (Illinois)	LaSalle



Touhy Avenue dam on the Des Plaines River is scheduled for removal / modification.

Fairbanks Road Dam, Hofmann Dam and Armitage Dam have recently been removed by the Corps of Engineers with IDNR/OWR acting as the non-federal local sponsor. Seven dams owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) (Dam 4, Touhy Ave, Dempster Street, Dam 2, Dam 1, Winnetka Road and Chick Evans Gold Course) will be

Inside This Issue

Dam Removal Initiative	Page 1
FEMA's Regs Stopped Sandy	Page 3
Major Flood Insurance Changes	Page 4
Passage of DNR Funding Bill.....	Page 5
FEMA Rev Policy on Zone A BFEs	Page 5
New FEMA Elev & Floodproof Certs .	Page 6
Online LOMCs Coming Soon	Page 6

NOAA Sea Grant Fellowship	Page 6
From the Chair	Page 7
IAFSM Election Nominations.....	Page 7
IAFSM Award Nominations	Page 8
Bring Floodplain 101 to your County ..	Page 9
FEMA EMI Class Schedule	Page 9
Sponsors and Exhibitors for Conf.	Page 10
Important Stuff	Page 10

removed or modified through a cooperative endeavor between FPDCC, Corps and IDNR/OWR. The FPDCC is providing land rights and funding to the Corps of Engineers for planning level and pre-design activities through the Corps' Planning Assistance to States Authority. IDNR/OWR will be providing the hydraulic analysis, final design analysis, contract advertising and letting, construction supervision and project funding.



Dam 1 on the Des Plaines River

The modification of the North Branch Chicago River Dam at River Park is a joint endeavor between the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and IDNR/OWR. An Intergovernmental Agreement between MWRD and IDNR/OWR is currently being developed. This agreement will result in preliminary designs for the dam modification.

Tam O'Shanter Dam is owned by the Nilens Park District. The removal/modification of this dam will be the responsibility of IDNR/OWR. The analysis of this dam removal/modification is in the very initial phase.

Blackberry Creek Dam is owned by the Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District. The timeframe for the removal of this dam has been accelerated due to the rapid deterioration of an abutment that the dam shares with a county road. Phase 1 of the removal project, notching the dam by two feet to lower upstream pool stages, has been completed. Phase 2, complete removal of the dam and upstream channel restoration, is under contract and should be complete by early spring of 2013.

The Buzzi-Unicem Dam is a privately owned dam on a privately owned reach of the Vermilion River near Oglesby, Illinois. This reach of the river is a destination for whitewater enthusiasts because of several large whitewater features on the river. The State of Illinois is currently leasing this stretch of the river from the owners in order to provide recreational opportunities for boaters and rafters. Phase 1 and 2 of the dam removal/modification involved installing enhanced warning signs to inform boaters of the presence of the dam, and the placement of large concrete blocks in the scour hole below the dam to decrease the strength of the submerged hydraulic jump. Phase 3 design is in progress and will depend on the future water needs of the dam owners.

Both the Danville Dam and the Ellsworth Park Dam are owned by the City of Danville. IDNR/OWR is finalizing a strategic planning study of the options for removal/modification of these two dams. IDNR/OWR

will review the results of this study with the City of Danville to select an option for removal/modification.

Many lessons were learned during the process of removing Hofmann Dam that will be applied to the remaining 13 dams on the Governor's list. The removal of 13 dams in the next few years will be an exciting challenge that will set the framework for more dam removals in future years.



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What Stopped Sandy: How FEMA's Regulations Saved Windanseas

~Ken Serrano, *Asbury Park Press*, reprinted from *APP.com*

Branin's Wharf stood on the Highlands [New Jersey] waterfront, overlooking the Shrewsbury River and Sandy Hook, little more than a seafood shack when Dan Shields bought it with a partner in September 2000 for \$690,000.

They began tearing it down to renovate and that's when the trouble started — trouble Shields is now thankful for after Sandy overwhelmed the borough.

Shields and his partner, Robert Higgins, a chef, expected to spend \$300,000 to spruce it up. But surprise after surprise arose in the guts of the old building. And because the demolition devoured more than half of the existing structure, officials stepped in.

Shields and Higgins had to complete the job under the new building code and that meant meeting Federal Emergency Management Agency standards. The additional cost: more than \$1 million. "We were trying to improve something on the ground with the lowest possible cost. I'll never forget when they issued the stop work order," he said. "I felt like I was victimized, like FEMA was trying to prove a point, trying to flex their muscles and trying to take it out on a little guy like me."

Shields would jokingly call the restaurant a fortress when speaking to a FEMA official he kept in close contact with, he said. Now he uses that word with pride.

For where Sandy ravaged other restaurants and homes in Highlands, the Windanseas largely escaped Sandy's wrath.

This is a story of how FEMA's regulations saved a pair of restaurant owner's dreams. To read the full story, visit <http://www.app.com/viewart/20121128/NJNEWS/311280028/What-stopped-Sandy-How-FEMA-s-regulations-saved-Windanseas>




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Major Flood Insurance Changes

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed the Biggert-Water Flood Insurance Reform Act. The Act was partially intended to stop the major financial losses taking place in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP is now \$18 billion dollars in debt and Hurricane Sandy damages could reach another \$12 billion.

This Act will result in major changes to the NFIP. Policy holders in Illinois will be impacted. Among other things, the Act:

- Removes subsidized premium rates (resulting in much higher premiums) for:
 - Non-primary residences,
 - Certain repetitive loss properties,
 - Substantially damaged properties,
 - Structures improved more than 30%,
 - Business properties,
 - All new flood insurance policies,
 - Policies where an owner has refused HMGP (mitigation) offers.
- Increases premiums (at 20% per year up to full limits) when structures are mapped into the floodplain.
- Increase lender penalties for failing to require flood insurance on certain loans.
- Requires FEMA to identify and map areas behind levees and dams.
- Requires FEMA to notify all residents when they are mapped in or mapped out of a floodplain.
- Requires FEMA and USACE to develop a consistent levee policy within one year and have this policy functioning within 2 years.

A complete summary of the NFIP Reform Act can be viewed at the ASFPM website;

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/2012_NFIP_Reform/2012_NFIP_Reform_Act_ASFPM_Summary_of_Contents.pdf

Currently, Illinois has about 50,000 flood insurance policies in effect. The average premium in Illinois is about \$778 per year. Due to the NFIP reform, this premium could increase considerably. In addition, lenders will become much more diligent in making sure borrowers carry flood insurance when required. In Illinois, our top twenty policy communities are shown below, followed by the number of policies:

1. Des Plaines	2,230	8. Joliet	835	15. McHenry County	611
2. Prospect Heights	1,106	9. Wheeling	801	16. Oak Lawn	611
3. Lake County	949	10. Madison County	737	17. Watseka	575
4. Chicago	906	11. Calumet City	733	18. Rolling Meadows	555
5. Aurora	872	12. Cook County	730	19. Addison	510
6. Bellwood	845	13. DuPage County	722	20. East St. Louis	498
7. Will County	840	14. Granite City	705		



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Passage of DNR Sustainability Funding Bill

-from IDNR Press Release, November 28, 2012



On November 28, 2012, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Marc Miller made the following statement about that day's passage of Senate Bill 1566, a crucial funding bill for the IDNR:

"This vote is a victory for conservation and the environment in Illinois; it is also a victory for the economy and communities across the state that use and rely on the services the IDNR provides on a daily basis. I commend State Representative Frank Mautino and State Senator Toi Hutchinson for their leadership and hard work leading up to today's action. I also want to thank the members of Illinois' General Assembly who supported this bill, which will allow us to meet the needs of constituents, including those who use our state parks in the years to come," said IDNR Director Marc Miller.

"While it's important to remember that capturing these new funds will take time, we will work as quickly as we can to put the new revenues toward their intended purpose. Passage of this bill will help us hire critical staff to maintain state parks, fix aging infrastructure, speed up regulatory functions and make a bigger difference in the lives of everyone we serve," added Miller.

Senate Bill 1566 passed the Illinois Senate by a vote of 39-11 and was signed into law by the Governor on December 7, 2012.

FEMA Revised Policy on Base Flood Elevations for Unnumbered A Zones

In October 2011, the NFIP Flood Insurance Manual was revised requiring local community officials to provide written concurrence when the base flood elevation (BFE) for an unnumbered A zone (an unstudied floodplain) was developed from other sources.

FEMA has recently received several inquiries from local officials that this requirement is too restrictive and unnecessary. As a result, FEMA has revised the Flood Insurance Manual, effective January 1, 2013, stating that the BFE for unnumbered A zone may be provided by Federal, state, or local government agencies, such as USGS, US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation or Division of Water Resources, without requiring written concurrence from the local community officials.

If the surveyor is providing the BFE from one of these sources, he/she must provide the information in Section B, item 11 of the Elevation Certificate. The surveyor may also use the Comments Section to explain the source of the BFE or the surveyor may attach a letter from a Federal, State, or local government agencies, if that is provided.



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New FEMA Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate

New Elevation Certificates (FEMA Form 086-0-33) and Floodproofing Certificate for Non-Residential Structures (FEMA Form 086-0-34) are now available. FEMA will permit a “phase-in” of the revised Elevation Certificate on a voluntary basis. During the 12-month transition period beginning August 1, 2012, FEMA will accept either the new form or the old form. This voluntary transition period will allow for sufficient time for coordination and training of all affected NFIP stakeholders. Elevations certified after the last day of the transition period must be submitted on the new Elevation Certificate form with the expiration date of July 31, 2015. They may be accessed online as shown.

- Elevation Certificate – <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1383>
- Floodproofing Certificate – <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1600>

Coming Soon to a Computer Near You: Online Letters of Map Change

FEMA’s Online LOMC is an internet-based tool that allows applicants to easily request a LOMA. It is a convenient way for applicants to upload all MT-EZ information and supporting documentation and check the status of their application online.

Coming soon, the Online LOMC will be able to process all types of LOMC requests. Once all functionality is phased into the tool, the Online LOMC will be an alternative to the paper MT-1 and MT-2 forms in addition to the MT-EZ.

Visit FEMA’s website for more information: <http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-flood-hazard-mapping/change-flood-zone-designation-online-lomc>

NOAA Coastal Management – Sea Grant Fellowship

Applications for a NOAA Coastal Management Sea Grant Fellowship are being accepted through January 25, 2013. The Coastal Management Fellowship was established to provide on-the-job education and training opportunities in coastal resource management and policy for postgraduate students and to provide project assistance to state coastal zone management programs. The program matches postgraduate students with state coastal zone programs to work on projects proposed by the state and selected by the fellowship sponsor, the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

Please visit the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant website for more information.
<http://www.iiseagrant.org/fellowships.html>

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From the Chair

- Michael D. Cothard, P.E., CFM

Happy January 2013. I hope everyone is rejuvenated from a wonderful holiday season and looks forward to the New Year ahead of us.

We have ended another year which included a disaster. While I do have sympathy for the people who lost loved ones and possessions due to Hurricane Sandy, I wonder how much of our tax dollars will go to allowing or even causing the reconstruction of housing and infrastructure within the destroyed areas with the same risk of disaster in the future? How much of New Orleans has been rebuilt at the same elevation as it was prior to Katrina? I wish that just once, rather than presenting the heartbreak each of the impacted citizens are going through, the news would instead report the amount each tax payer is paying to set ourselves up for a repeat during the next disaster.

As Albert Einstein put it “Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” I am beginning to wonder if this is actually human nature. I understand this is not an easy situation, but it is time to begin looking at disaster relief in a different light.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Bloomington-Normal this March at the Annual Conference.

IAFSM Election Nominations

Who should be on the Board?

The Board should include representation from a variety of sectors and disciplines (state, local, private, etc). Board members should have experience dealing with floodplain and stormwater issues and have shown, at a minimum, a commitment to IAFSM through membership and event attendance.

Who should get nominated?

Nominations may be made by any IAFSM member. The nominations committee is charged with securing nominations for the various elected officers positions that provide representation from the various sectors and disciplines. Only those nominees that meet the minimum requirements will be listed on the ballot.

When are elections??

Officers are elected annually for two year terms. Elections are held at the IAFSM annual conference. Nominations must be submitted by the conference registration deadline for consideration, no write-in candidate will be considered. Only IAFSM members may vote and all ballots must be signed. Nominations should be sent to: paul.osman@illinois.gov

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We Need Nominations for IAFSM's Annual Awards!

Once again, it is your opportunity to recognize the best. Send your nominations to the awards committee. The awards categories are:

Floodplain Manager of the year

Recognizes outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level.

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.

Stormwater Management

Awarded to an individual or group who have improved stormwater management or reduced urban flood risks through creative engineering, regulatory measures, or other approaches.

Mitigation

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.

Journalism or Public Education Award

Given to a 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 outreach and public awareness of floodplain or stormwater management issues.

Legislation

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.

Lifetime Achievement




This award is the IAFSM's highest honor. It is reserved for outstanding longtime floodplain managers. These individual's 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.


And our newest award category:

Natural Selection Award

This "fun" award is given to the most unique, outrageous, or completely stupid floodplain activity identified in the past year!

Please email a brief description of the person or program and the award category to: paul.osman@illinois.gov. **Deadline for the awards submittal is February 1, 2013.** The awards committee may request additional information to support any submittal. The awards committee will review and vote on each nominee. Awards will be presented during the Annual Conference awards luncheon on March 7.





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Bring IAFSM and Floodplain 101 to your County

In July, IAFSM worked with Madison County to host a Floodplain 101 seminar. Thirty-four Madison community and county officials were represented at the seminar and more joined from nearby St. Clair County. The county reached out to many floodplain administrators who may not receive announcements about IAFSM events.

We would love to repeat this successful event in your county. If your community or county is willing to host a floodplain management seminar please contact Amanda Flegel, Education and Outreach Chair-aflegel@illinois.edu. The committee will take care of registration, and organize speakers and the county or community will provide the location and invite area officials.

The event is designed for local officials and floodplain administrators as well as a refresher course for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs). The session typically covers floodplain management concepts, basic FEMA mapping, floodway and floodplain regulations, state and local permit requirements, and flood insurance.

FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) FY13 Class Schedule

Applications are now being accepted for any class through the end of September, 2013. Applications are accepted up to 5 weeks before the start of the course. Floodplain Management courses typically fill up quickly so it is not advisable to delay or you may end up on the waiting list. For more information:

<http://training.fema.gov/emi/>

- E273 Managing Floodplain Development thru the NFIP
Mar 11 – 14, 2013, Apr 29 - May 2, 2013, Jun 24 – 27, 2013, Sep 9 – 12, 2013
- E194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts - Aug 26 – 29, 2013
NFIP Floodplain Rules and Regulations in Depth, LOMC - Procedures for Applying and Floodplain Management Implications, Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Floodplain Manager, Preparing for Post-Disaster Responsibilities.
- E282 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II - Mar 25 – 28, 2013
Higher Standards in Floodplain Management, Placement of Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles in the Floodplain, NFIP Flood Insurance Principles for the Floodplain Manager, Hydrology and Hydraulics for the FPM.
- E284 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III - Jul 8 – 11, 2013
Floodway Standards, Disconnects between NFIP Regulations and Insurance, Common Noncompliance Issues, Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage.
- E278 NFIP/Community Rating System
Apr 1 – 4, 2013, May 13 – 16, 2013, Jul 29 - Aug 1, 2013
The CRS program is undergoing significant changes. The updated CRS Manual will be taught in the FY13 E278 CRS courses. Attendees of previous E278 CRS courses may want to repeat this course. Restrictions on repeat attendance at EMI and application of CEC's to CFM requirements have been waived.
- E279 Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Bldgs - May 6 – 9, 2013
- E386 Residential Coastal Construction - Aug 5 – 8, 2013

Sponsors and Exhibitors Sought for 2013 IAFSM Conference

Exhibitors: Companies and organizations will exhibit their products, services, and activities on Wednesday, March 6. Exhibitor cards can be completed by participants. We collect over 200 fully executed exhibitor cards each year. On Thursday there will be a drawing of returned completed cards to select door prize winners.

Sponsors: We invite you to be a sponsor for the annual conference or donate a door prize. All sponsors will be identified in the conference program, at plenary sessions and during the awards luncheon along with newsletter advertising benefits.

Our conference sponsors, door prize donors and exhibitors have always been very important to the success of the IAFSM annual conferences, and we will work to ensure that there is value provided with your sponsorship and exhibitor dollars. Thank you to our past sponsors and donors; we look forward to hearing from you soon. And welcome to our new sponsors and donors; we look forward to having you join us.

Visit http://illinoisfloods.org/13_conference.html to download the sponsor and exhibitor registration forms. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah at iafsm@sbcglobal.net.

Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

2013 Annual IAFSM Conference

The 2013 Annual Conference will be held March 6 – 7 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott. A full conference brochure with a program will be distributed this month – watch your inbox!

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.

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, January 9, 2013 at the Lisle Police Department Training Room, 5040 Lincoln Ave (Rt 53) in Lisle. All members are welcome. 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.

2013 CFM Exam Schedule

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



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Floodplain and Stormwater Management

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Winter 2012-2013 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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