



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2014-2015 Newsletter

Be a Hero and Borrow our Water Table!

~Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM, ISWS

When his daughter's third grade field trip was cancelled, IAFSM member Tim Sumner called Sarah Harbaugh to see if the IAFSM Floodplain Simulation Model was available for him to borrow. A few days later, with model-in-tow and his daughter's paternal pride on-the-line, Tim, a project manager at Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Engineers & Consultants, arrived as "Field Trip Plan B". As Tim recounted, "I offered to bring the floodplain simulation model in to talk to her class and the other two 3rd grade classes. All three classes enjoyed the model and participating in the flooding simulation. Everyone wanted a try at pouring the water. We talked about houses in the floodplain, impervious surfaces and using native plantings to reduce runoff. The kids saw instantly the benefits of leaving development outside of the floodplain. There were more questions than time allowed. I believe the kids made a connection between their world and the impacts of stormwater."



In November, IAFSM demonstrated the Water Table as an educational tool at the first Mississippi River Watershed Education Symposium, organized by the National Great Rivers Research & Education Center.

Crisis averted. "I don't know if I saved the day..." Tim recalled, but the kids got a hands-on, educational experience typical of a field trip. Small acts of heroism just like this are repeated 15 or 20 times a year by IAFSM members who check out and use one of the table top models available through IAFSM.

History and Development of the Water Table

IAFSM has Mark Walton, CFM, and the Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association to thank for such an awesome tool to communicate the message of responsible watershed and floodplain management. Recently retired, Mark spent his career with the National Weather Service at the Weather Forecast Office in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Like many of us, Mark was approached by a teacher to come to his class and discuss basic hydrology, flood risk, and flood forecasting.

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“When I was done,” as Mark recalls, “the high school science teacher kindly remarked that while my presentation was good (death by PowerPoint), it was not very interactive, nor did it engage his students very well. He asked a very probing question: ‘Doesn’t the Weather Service have some sort of hands on, interactive hydrologic model that would engage my students and highlight the importance of what you do?’” Mark started thinking of ideas to meet the teacher’s needs.

Like most of us in the Floodplain Management community, Mark was often frustrated to see the continuing tragedy of flood related disasters. This frustration also played a part in developing this simple model, as Mark explains, “We all know, that in spite of past efforts, flood damages (and risks) are increasing. If we can reach the students (future decision makers), maybe we can reverse this trend of increasing flood damages (and risks). A more informed public would in turn be more likely to support public policies that reduce flood risks, and take personal actions which would reduce the risks of flooding to themselves and to others.”

Mark Walton partnered with Okemos High School Science Teacher David Chapman and developed the “Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System”, marketed by Ward’s Natural Science. IAFSM commends Mark and Dave for development of the model and for the preparation of an accompanying curriculum. Additionally, Ward’s donates 10% of all proceeds from each model sold to the Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association Scholarship Fund, in appreciation of Mark and Dave’s efforts.

The Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management purchased two Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System’s from Ward’s Natural Science in 2010, shortly after they were on the market. Since then the models have made over 70 appearances at fairs, schools, city council meetings, intern training, even the Museum of Science and Industry, and National Night Out Against Crime. As one might expect, all that use took a toll. When the plastic ground and river bed kept floating up and blocking the outlet, we knew that some repairs were needed. IAFSM thanks the Illinois State Water Survey, which understands how helpful the model is in achieving our outreach goals and authorized the repair of the model by their shop at no cost to IAFSM.

Borrow IAFSM’s Water Tables

IAFSM has two “Stormwater Floodplain Simulation Systems” 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. It always draws a crowd at summer fairs and is popular with kids and adults. IAFSM keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois.

Contact Sarah Harbaugh at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements to borrow the model. You are responsible for picking up and returning the model, which is large. A van or truck is recommended, but we will try to help you get the table to your destination. Our goal is to get the model out there for watershed and floodplain education.

Available Curriculum and Outreach Ideas

The Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System is a wonderfully versatile educational tool. IAFSM members often use it at open forums where it is usually a big hit with both kids and adults. It is possible to do a 10 minute presentation that covers basic concepts, and repeat the presentation several times an hour to reach a large number of people. It is also possible to go much deeper with the model in a classroom setting.

Ward's Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System comes with an eight unit classroom curriculum which covers everything from pre-lab planning through assessment of student understanding. The curriculum is geared towards grades 4-6 but can be modified to older and younger grades. Each of IAFSM's models includes a CD containing the User's Guide / Curriculum as well as other resource materials.

Now is a particularly strategic time for IAFSM members to reach out to educators in their communities, and offer to bring the model. In the 2016-2017 school year science education standards in Illinois will change from the National Science Education Standards (the basis of the original curriculum) to Next Generation Science Standards. The Next Generation Science Standards emphasize three dimensions to learning science. In addition to learning the disciplinary core ideas in science, students will also learn scientific and engineering practices as well as the crosscutting concepts that have common application across many fields. The Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System is perfect to foster the independent investigation that the new standards demand. IAFSM members should anticipate that their insights in science and engineering may be in greater demand in the class room.

Please feel free to contact Brian Chaille, bchaille@illinois.edu, the IAFSM Youth Outreach Chair, if you would like to discuss an event that you would like to bring the floodplain model to. He can help you develop approaches to presentations / teaching at your event. Other resources to help you plan your event include:

- A model overview on Ward's Home Page, www.wardsci.com and search "floodplain"
- A Ward's video of the model in use: <http://youtu.be/E5Zl-55J9V8>
- <https://www.facebook.com/floodriskeducation> for tips, videos, and articles about model use.

At the recent Mississippi River Watershed Education Symposium, event chair Natalie Marioni said, "We understand that to reach a broad spectrum of audience members with river and watershed focused messaging that is both rooted in sound science and results in a more informed and more involved citizenry, you need to bring educators together with other watershed stakeholders." We couldn't agree more. IAFSM members are a perfect fit to team with educators. Destiny awaits, you can be a hero too! Talk with teachers, think about those upcoming events, and contact IAFSM to borrow our table!

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38th District Flood Coalition Collaborates to Reduce Flood Losses

~Mike Sutfin, CFM, City of Ottawa

An April 2014 Civil Engineering magazine article titled *Flood Risk Management: The Need for Sound Policies and Practices* states that “Flood risk management provides for: Collaborative risk sharing and risk management at all levels of government and by all stakeholders.” This collaboration is occurring in the Illinois River watershed, where Senator Sue Rezin has formed a coalition of communities that works together to reduce future flood risk within the 38th Congressional District.



Over 40 coalition participants attended “Flood Fighting School” in November.

After record flooding along the Illinois River in the spring of 2013, Senator Rezin, Representative Frank Mautino and Congressman Adam Kinzinger asked their communities what steps could be taken to reduce future flood losses. Working with the IAFSM Floodplain Management Committee, Senator Rezin formed a coalition of communities in her district to work together and develop watershed-wide strategies to reduce future damages. The coalition primarily includes the 38th Congressional District, which has over one hundred miles of the Illinois River and forty miles of the lower Fox River inside its boundaries.

The mission of the newly formed coalition is fourfold: 1. Have someone in each community become certified as a floodplain manager, 2. Join the Community Rating System, 3. Join and participate with the IAFSM and 4. Adopt and enforce higher regulatory standards.

Since its formation in 2013, five counties and 18 communities from the 38th District have participated in quarterly organizational meetings, which were also attended by state legislators.

The coalition defined their top priority mitigation “hit list”. Most of the communities identified their waste water treatment plants as the top priority. Other mitigation priorities include hospitals, nursing homes and water treatment facilities. Senator Rezin has pledged support at the state level to seek funding mechanisms for the communities who collaborate in this collective endeavor.

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Presentations from IDNR, Office of Water Resources, the Community Rating System, IEMA, IAFSM and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have offered educational opportunities for the participating communities.

For example, in November the USACE and IDNR presented a “flood fighting school” to the coalition communities. Attended by more than 40 participants, Hesco Systems and Flood Break offered a hands on demonstration of flood protection systems that can be rapidly deployed, easily removed and re-used over and over. Currently, efforts are being made by Senator Rezin and Representative Mautino to have a centrally located supply of emergency flood protection materials for use during a flood event.



Hands-on demonstration of flood protection systems during “flood fighting school” in November.

Without the political support and collaborative risk management by all stakeholders, the success of this regional coalition would be minimized. Participating communities now understand that their own actions have a direct impact on sister communities up and down stream. Collectively they can make a positive difference.

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Unsteady Modeling Subcommittee Update

-Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM, ISWS

Approximately twelve months ago, a subcommittee was formed under the IAFSM Floodplain Management Committee to study common concerns and challenges associated with unsteady hydraulic modeling, specifically focusing on the HEC-RAS platform. The goal of the subcommittee was to help Illinois engineers develop robust and stable unsteady models that would be well suited for regulatory use, and to facilitate resolution of technical and administrative challenges to the use of unsteady models in Illinois.

The group of private and public sector experts, consisting of 9 core members, began by compiling information from around the country about modelling requirements and best practices used by local and state regulators. A QA/QC checklist was developed that could guide users in utilizing consistent parameters, testing model sensitivity, and producing well documented models. In addition, the subcommittee investigated regulatory, technical, and practical impediments to the use of unsteady hydraulic models for regulatory use, including issues pertaining to establishing FEMA floodways.

The subcommittee will present their findings, including the draft QA/QC checklist and draft guidance paper, during an interactive session at the 2015 IAFSM Annual Conference in Bloomington-Normal in March. It is anticipated that an unsteady modeling user's group will be established after the conference to test and refine the checklist. Those interested in participating in the user's group should plan to attend the session.



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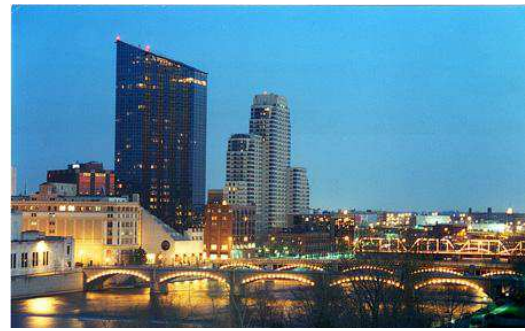
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What's in Grand Rapids?

~From the Chair, Loren Wobig, P.E., CFM, IDNR

Art, parks, beaches, benches, biking, beer, shopping, sports, museums and more are found on the banks of the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Located on Michigan's largest inland waterway, Grand Rapids is the former home of the 38th President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford.



*Grand River and Grand Rapids skyline.
Photo from experienceGR.com.*

Fast Company magazine claims Grand Rapids is "America's Greenest City".

Grand Rapids was the first city in the U.S. to add fluoride to its drinking water in 1945.

Once known as America's Furniture Capital for its fine residential furniture, Grand Rapids is better known today as the center of cubical furniture manufacturing.

Grand Rapids is Michigan's 2nd largest city, with a metro-area population of 1.3 million.

Why all the facts about Grand Rapids, Michigan? What's in Grand Rapids, Michigan? Answer: We are - the 2016 ASFPM National Conference, IAFSM and you.

IAFSM has accepted an invitation to co-sponsor the 2016 Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) National Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 19-24, 2016 in partnership with the Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association. IAFSM's co-sponsorship of the 2016 Conference will:

- Provide a national floodplain and stormwater conference close to Illinois;
- Allow Illinois floodplain and stormwater managers the opportunity to attend a national conference at a reduced conference sponsor registration;
- Allow IAFSM a voice in the development of the 2016 ASFPM National Conference.

Co-sponsorship of the National Conference in June of 2016 by IAFSM WILL NOT change or replace the annual 2016 IAFSM State Conference already scheduled for March 9-10, 2016 in Tinley Park, Illinois

As a co-sponsor, IAFSM leaders, appointed by the Board of Directors, are fully engaged in all the planning and development of the national conference and are specifically involved in the conference Welcomefest and Annual State Chapter 5K Fun Run. Our own Chapter Treasurer, Glenn Heistand, remains the reigning (and undefeated) champion of this auspicious 5K event. IAFSM is not responsible for the conference facility in Grand Rapids and will not be soliciting Corporate Sponsors for the national conference in lieu of sponsoring the IAFSM 2016 state conference. IAFSM is not required to provide a vast array of conference volunteers, but any Illinois volunteers are welcome to participate.

Please contact IAFSM's Inter-Organizational Chair Amanda Flegel (aflegel@illinois.edu) if you are interested in assisting IAFSM's 2016 National Conference Planning Team.

See you on the banks of the Grand River in 2016...



Congrats to the New Certified Floodplain Managers in Illinois!

Congratulations to all the new Certified Floodplain Managers in the State of Illinois. IAFSM has not publicly recognized the new CFMs in a few years; we'd like to take this newsletter page to congratulate all those who became certified in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Great work!

2012 CFMs

Nicholas Becker, R.K. Johnson & Associates
Andrew Billing, Mackie Consultants, LLC
Steven Brendel, Madison Cnty., IL
James Coyle, Greenberg Farrow
Ryan Delves, Stanley Consultants, Inc.
Arthur Duddles, City of Des Plaines, IL
Logan Gilbertsen, HR Green, Inc.
Ben Griffith, City of Rock Island, IL
Brad Hensley, Landmark Engineering
Justin Kirk, MWRDGC
David Kleinwachter, Christopher B. Burke Engr
Gregory Kramer, Village of Northfield, IL
Edward LaBelle, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Mark Landstrom, Landmark Engineering
Marcy Leach, City of Rockford, IL
Matthew Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman
Susan Monte, Champaign Cnty., IL
John Muhs, Austin Engineering Co., Inc.
Krashan Singhal, exp U.S. Services, Inc.
Scott Slemmer, Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C.
Laurie Smith-Kuypers, FEMA
Bruce Sylvester, Village of Niles, IL
Shirley Wolfe, Cook Cnty., IL

2013 CFMs

Stephen Altman, Hanson Professional Svcs., Inc.
Kamel Babaeiveli, University of Illinois at Chicago
Michael Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Dean Chalkey, Chamlin & Associates, Inc.
Sara Dastgheibi, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Raymund Fano, Hey and Assoc., Inc.
Clinton Ferguson, Infrastructure Engineering, Inc.
David Handwerk, Bernardin, Lochmueller & Assoc.
Bradley Holcomb, City of Rockford, IL
Scott Janssen, Farnsworth Group, Inc.
Michael Jesse, Village of Lincolnshire, IL
Brian Killen, Stantec, Inc.
Michael Maslowski, Engineering Resource Assoc.
David Meyer, CH2M Hill
Brian Olson, Hey & Assoc., Inc.
Gary Pike, McClure Engineering Assoc., Inc.
Alicia Weiman, Poepping, Stone, Bach & Assoc.
Joseph Westerbeke, V3 Companies

2014 CFMs

Alex Alejandro, Hancock Engineering Company
Dallas Alley, St. Clair Cnty., IL
Adam Blumstein, Patrick Engineering, Inc.
Bernard Bono, Bono Consulting
Mark Bushnell, Trotter & Assoc., Inc.
Megan Clifford, Argonne National Laboratory
Adam Dow, Ciorba Group, Inc.
Timothy Frisbie, McHenry Cnty., IL
Kerilyn Gallagher, Peoria Cnty., IL
Lee Gong, ESI Consultants, Ltd.
Marie Hansen, Gewalt Hamilton Assoc., Inc.
Jennifer Hintze, DuPage Cnty., IL
Madukhar Karnati, Patrick Engineering, Inc.
Andrew Kustus, Engineering Resource Assoc.
Alexander Lau, EJM Engineering, Inc.
Corey Mase, Trotter & Assoc., Inc.
Ryan Meekma, Illinois State Water Survey
Sarah Mitchell, City of Park Ridge, IL
Amanda Olsen, Trotter & Assoc., Inc.
Erin Pande, Engineering Resource Assoc., Inc.
Lou Ann Patellaro, Insurance Svcs. Office, Inc.
John Perkins, Ciorba Group, Inc.
Rebekah Perkins, Howard R. Green Co.
William Peterhansen, Hancock Engineering
Henry Schmitz, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Brian Smith, Village of South Holland, IL
Courey Stewart, Peoria Cnty., IL
Tristan Tate, Zim Group, LLC
Vinod Thanki, Globetrotters Engineering Corp.
Derek Treichel, Hancock Engineering Company
Hilary Urkevich, exp U.S. Services, Inc.
John Watson, MWRDGC
Brian Witkowski, Thomas Engineering Group
Karen Young, City of St. Charles, IL
Lindsey Zver, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.



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We Need Award Nominations!

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 Outreach 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.

Please email a brief description of the person or program and the award category to: sarah.hunn@dupageco.org. **Deadline for the awards submittal is February 1, 2015.** 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 13.

IAFSM Board 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 be 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: mark.hoskins@mbakerintl.com.

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 Opportunities:

The IAFSM annual conference is just around the corner! See our website at www.illinoisfloods.org for updates.

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/>

Webinars/ Online:

- STARR/FEMA, atkinsglobalna.webex.com and search by title, free-registration required
 - Preparing for a Verification Visit, January 20
 - Flood Warning and Response, January 21
 - Introduction to CRS, February 17
 - Developing Outreach Projects, February 18
- Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/webinars.asp>
 - Developing and implementing Dam Removal Projects, January 22
 - Implementation and Impacts of Flood Insurance Reform Legislation, February 6
 - Nonstructural Flood Proofing Techniques for At-Risk Development, February 12

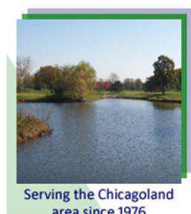
Out of state annual conferences:

- Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association Conference, Lansing, MI, 2/25-2/27
 - <http://mi.floods.org/>



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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Dates! 2015 Conference on THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

The 2015 Annual Conference will return to Bloomington-Normal and be held THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, March 12-13, 2015, at the Marriott Bloomington-Normal Hotel and Conference Center. This is a departure from our typical Wednesday and Thursday conference, so please mark your calendar and plan accordingly.

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

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

Get Involved with IAFSM!

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

Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has two Watershed Tabletop Models available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This offers a great opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain. IAFSM keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on January 14 at 10:00 a.m. at V3 Companies, 7325 Janes Avenue, Woodridge. 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.

2015 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2015 exam dates and register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.

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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.

IAFSM OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CHAIR

Loren Wobig, P.E., CFM
IDNR/Office of Water Resources
Loren.wobig@illinois.gov

VICE CHAIR

Lillian Prince, P.E., CFM
LBP.iafsm@gmail.com

CONFERENCE

Lillian Prince, P.E., CFM
LBP.iafsm@gmail.com

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM
Michael Baker International
Mark.Hoskins@mbakerintl.com

AWARDS

Sarah Hunn, P.E.
DuPage Co Stormwater Mgmt
Sarah.Hunn@dupageco.org

CERTIFICATION

Matt Wahl, CFM
Peoria County
mwahl@peoriacounty.org

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Mary Lou Kalsted, P.E., CFM
mkalsted@comcast.net

TREASURER

Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
heistand@illinois.edu

SECRETARY

Erik Gil, P.E., CFM
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
egil@cbbel.com

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Diane Bouckaert, P.E., CFM
Manhard Consulting Ltd
dbouckaert@manhard.com

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Mike Sutfin, CFM
City of Ottawa
msutfin@cityofottawa.org

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL

Amanda Flegel, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
aflegel@illinois.edu

LEGISLATIVE

Kay Whitlock, P.E., D.WRE
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
kwhitlock@cbbel.com

MITIGATION

Brian Eber, CFM
IDNR/Office of Water Resources
Brian.Eber@illinois.gov

PAST CHAIR

Michael Cothard, P.E., CFM
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
mcothard@cbbel.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sarah Harbaugh
IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org

NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Maercklein, P.E., CFM
V3 Companies of Illinois
jmaercklein@v3co.com

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Shauna Urlacher, P.E., CFM
Smith LaSalle
surlacher@smithlasalle.com

WETLANDS

Tom Kehoe
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
tkehoe@cbbel.com

YOUTH OUTREACH

Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
bchaille@illinois.edu

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR FLOODPLAIN AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

35W749 Bluff Drive, St. Charles, Illinois 60175

IAFSM@IllinoisFloods.org Phone: 630-443-8145 Fax: 630-443-8198

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