

## 2020 Annual Report

(Jan. 1—Dec. 31, 2020)

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Foundation serves as the catalyst for ASFPM, its chapters and members to advance projects, education and policy initiatives that promote reduced flood risk and resilient communities.

2020 has presented many challenges that have impacted nearly every aspect of how we approach our personal and professional lives. Never before have we been forced to look at how we get through our daily routines with a much different perspective from where we were just a year ago. With these challenges came opportunities, and the Association of State Floodplain Managers Foundation has proudly accomplished a great deal because of individuals, ASFPM Chapters, and companies that have supported us both financially and with their time. Because of this generosity, the Foundation continues to take important steps to realize our mission: **To advance education, policy initiatives, and projects that promote reduced flood risks and resilient communities.** 

With so many competing priorities over the last year, ASFPM Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to a more resilient future through its planning and execution of many important initiatives that can only be sustained through your continued support, for which we would like to extend heartfelt thank you.

This 2020 Annual Report serves as a reminder of all of the efforts the Foundation has undertaken to accomplish its mission, which could not have happened without the continued support of our donors and sponsors.

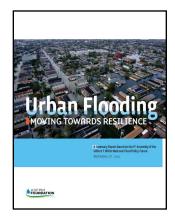
**Impacts** 

## Expanding discussions on flood policy and future flood risk across the nation & the world

#### **URBAN FLOODING**

In February 2020, ASFPM Foundation released its report titled "Urban Flooding: Moving Towards Resilience," a summary report documenting important discussions by world-class experts who attended the Foundation's 6th assembly of the Gilbert F. White National Policy Forum. The report showcases the in-depth engagement on urban flooding issues by more than 100 experts from local, state, and federal agencies; professional associations; environmental groups; and private organizations. The report describes time-critical events that are taking place now and will help prepare for conditions which are increasingly inevitable in the future – impacts on urban environments because of sea level rise and global warming are at the forefront of issues that require our immediate attention.

The report offers practical suggestions for obtaining better data and information, involving low income, minority populations that are most impacted and need to have a seat at the table in the decision-making process. The report also explores funding and financing opportunities to help advance solutions to the urban flooding problem. Finally, it summarizes policy and program recommendations focusing on integrated approaches and immediate next steps, including organizing an urban flooding summit in 2022. Planning for the summit is underway, which includes a series of listening sessions with key stakeholders in 2021 and early 2022 and culminates in bringing world-class thought leaders together to address challenges and chart out the best path forward to overcome them. The report can be downloaded from the <a href="ASFPM">ASFPM</a> Foundation website.



## **Impacts**

## Supporting the education of future flood risk management professionals

#### **FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP**

ASFPM Foundation announced the award of its 2020-2022 Future Leaders Scholarship to Elizabeth Lacey at ASFPM Virtual Conference in June 2020. Elizabeth is entering her third year in the Civil Engineering Honors Program at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. She and her family lived through Hurricane Katrina where she saw first-hand the social and financial devastation caused by that catastrophic event. Her personal experiences, coupled with her coursework, have led her to pursue a career in floodplain management. Elizabeth is the second person to receive this





scholarship and <u>her acceptance message</u> can be found on ASFPM Foundation website. Heartfelt congratulations go out to Elizabeth for a job well done – she already is emerging as a true leader in floodplain management through her support of the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers.

We are also happy to report that the Foundation's inaugural Future Leaders Scholar, Jesus Mulgado, received his Masters in Biosystems Engineering (*cum laude*) this year. Jesus had received his BS in Biosystems Engineering (cum laude) in 2019 – both degrees were awarded by the University of Arizona. During the summer of 2019, he completed an internship in the DC with Dewberry. Jesus is now employed full-time with Atkins Global in Phoenix, Arizona where he is a practicing water resources engineer.

#### STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

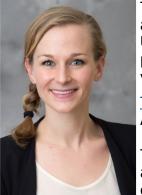
ASFPM Foundation hosted the **10th Annual Student Paper Competition** at ASFPM Virtual Conference in June 2020. Annually, the Foundation brings the nation's brightest college students together to complete and present research on a floodplain management- related topic.

Since 2011, ASFPM Foundation has sponsored a student paper competition as a way to engage the next generation in the important conversations pertaining to our profession. Three finalists are invited to present their papers at the conference where they will also have to opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics relevant to their future career.

First prize (\$1,000) was awarded to **Hanna Spero, Boise State University**, for her paper titled, "Modeling the Downstream Consequences of the 1976 Teton Dam Failure and Resulting Flood by Validating the GeoClaw Software with Historical Data." Second prize (\$500) was awarded to **Mahasweta Chakraborty**, **Tata Institute of Social Science Mumbai**, for her paper titled Dealing with the Deluge of







Waste: Flood Waste Management in a Two-Tier City of India." Third prize (\$250) was awarded to **Meg Zuercher, St. Louis University**, for her paper titled, "Does predator presence affect stream hydrology via trophic cascades?"

<u>Their winning papers</u> can be found on ASFPM Foundation's website.

The <u>full event</u> including their presentations and follow-up questions can be viewed on our YouTube channel.

ASFPM Foundation again partnered with FEMA Region VIII and Earth Force to sponsor the 2020 Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge (RMEHC). RMEHC is an annual competition that combines project-based learning with the latest research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Student

teams from schools all across Colorado submitted projects that apply real-life solutions to addressing local natural hazard risks in their communities.

Nine projects from Coloradan middle and high schools were submitted for the 2020 competition. Blevins Middle School of Fort Collins, Colorado took first place in the 2020 Challenge. Their entry proposed a community awareness event to encourage students and their families to create a family emergency plan in the face of an imminent disaster.

Blevins Middle School received a \$1,000 prized for their project, and the five finalist schools also received prizes. ASFPM Foundation Projects Committee Chairperson Brad Anderson with Anderson Consulting Engineers, Inc. served as a judge during the final phase of the competition, and all prize money was donated by the Foundation.



**Impacts** 

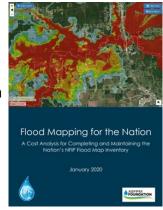
# Supporting the education of current flood risk management professionals

### Flood Mapping the Nation



Since 1969, the United States has invested \$6.6 billion (\$10.6 billion in 2019) in flood hazard mapping, resulting in nearly \$22 billion in losses avoided. But, we are far from completing the job as only one-third of the nation's stream are currently mapped.

In the **Flood Mapping for the Nation Report** prepared and released by the ASFPM Flood Science Center in 2020, the estimated cost to complete flood mapping in the US is anywhere from \$3.2 billion to \$11.8 billion. The cost to then maintain accurate and up-to-date flood maps ranges from \$107 million to \$480 million annually. We know that floodplain mapping (as well as understanding associated risks leading to mitigation actions) is a sound investment that saves lives, reduces flood losses, and keeps communities thriving, all at a 2 to 1 cost benefit for taxpayers. ASFPM Foundation provided



funding for and partnered with the Flood Science Center to develop this report, which can be found on the ASFPM FSC website.

### Understanding and Managing Flood Risk: A Guide for Elected Officials

Floods are the leading cause of natural disasters in the United States, and understanding the vulnerability of people and the built environment is an important first step to minimize the impacts from the next inevitable flood.

The ASFPM Flood Science Center completed and released a three-part comprehensive guide for elected officials in 2020 which walks an elected official through key information they need to fulfill the responsibility of understanding and managing flood risk in their communities. ASFPM Foundation provided funding for and partnered with the Flood Science Center in the development of the guide, which can be downloaded from the ASFPM FSC website.



## **Annual Fundraising Activities**

ASFPM Foundation would like to express our deep gratitude to all of our generous donors. Without our donors, none of this work would be possible.

Over the years, ASFPM Foundation has hosted a Silent Auction and a Donor Appreciation Reception with Live Auction during the ASFPM Annual National Conference. While these events are meant to help fund Foundation activities, they also provide ASFPM Conference attendees with the opportunity to network and socialize with one another. Because of the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were not able hold these events in 2020. In their place, we hosted a "Not a Silent Auction/Live Auction Event" during the ASFPM Virtual Conference, which raised \$26,625 for the Future Leaders Scholarship.

The #GivingTuesday campaign in December raised over \$20,000 for the Future Leaders Scholarship and tripled the number of individual donors over last year. Matching gift donations provided by Dewberry and an anonymous donor helped us reach and exceed our goal of raising the equivalent of one-year's scholarship funding.

### **Special Thanks for ASFPM Chapters**

Recognizing that 2020 has presented a whole host of challenges on many different fronts that often times felt nearly impossible to overcome, we would like to thank the ASFPM Chapters who have partnered with us to spread the word about ASFPM Foundation activities and fundraising campaigns. We are grateful to each chapter's commitment, generosity and support of ASFPM Foundation's mission and vision for

The following chapters have collectively donated over \$15,000 this year:

- Alabama Assoc. of Floodplain Managers
- Arizona Floodplain Management Assoc.
- Arkansas Floodplain Management Assoc.
- Colorado Assoc. of Stormwater & Floodplain Managers
- Florida Floodplain Managers Assoc.
- Georgia Assoc. of Floodplain Management
- Illinois Assoc. for Floodplain & Stormwater Management
- Indiana Assoc. for Floodplain & Stormwater Management
- Iowa Floodplain & Stormwater Management Assoc.
- Kentucky Assoc. of Mitigation Managers
- Maryland Assoc. of Floodplain and Stormwater Management
- Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Assn.
- Minnesota Assoc. of Floodplain Managers
- Assoc. of Floodplain Managers of Mississippi

- Missouri Floodplain & Stormwater Managers Assoc.
- Assoc. of Montana Floodplain Managers
- Nebraska Floodplain & Stormwater Management Assoc.
- New York State Floodplain & Stormwater Managers Assoc.
- North Carolina Assoc. of Floodplain Managers
- Northwest Floodplain Management Assoc. (NORFMA)
- Ohio Floodplain Management Assoc.
- Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Assoc.
- Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Assoc.
- South Carolina Assoc. for Hazard Mitigation
- Texas Floodplain Management Assoc.
- Tennessee Assoc. of Floodplain Managers
- Virginia Floodplain Management Assoc.

### **Income and Expenses**

