

Minutes of the IAFSM Board of Directors Meeting November 19, 2009

The November 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Managers was held in Morris, Illinois at the Grundy County Government Center on November 19, 2009. Those attending the meeting included:

Kerry Behr	Erik Gil	Sally McConkey	Stuart Richter
Mike Cothard	Sarah Harbaugh	Bob Murdock	Jeff Wickenkamp
Terry Reuss Fell	Tom Kehoe	Paul Osman	Loren Wobig
Amanda Flegel	Jennifer Maercklein	Lillian Prince	

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Board Chair Jeff Wickenkamp.

1.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Recent correspondence included:

- October 6, 2009 letter to IEMA, offering to provide assistance in training activities throughout the state.
- October 26, 2009 comment letter, to Senator William Haine, regarding Senate Bill 2484, which supercedes Executive Order 2006-05 on floodplain management. The letter sent by IAFSM frowned upon lessening flood protection that would put critical facilities, such as nursing homes, at great risk. IAFSM Board members have also been forwarding the letter to groups such as AARP, Illinois Nursing Home Task Force and Illinois Aged Center, as well as, state planning and zoning representatives.
- Letter received from Kidzeum, thanking IAFSM for concept and design input for an exhibit demonstrating watershed issues. The concept is undergoing refinement and is scheduled for construction in 2010.

2.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Jeff Wickenkamp moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting. Terry Reuss-Fell seconded the motion and the motion passed.

3.0 OFFICER REPORTS

3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT – Loren Wobig

Treasurer Loren Wobig distributed the latest budget report and account balances. He reported that we have spent approximately \$20,000 since the last meeting, as there have been some big-ticket items recently purchased. These debits included the first payment of two of the university grants, payment of the two "water table" exhibits, and deposits at the facilities for the upcoming BMP Seminar and the 2010 Annual Conference. Jeff Wickenkamp moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Erik Gil seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

3.2 OTHER OFFICERS

No email votes occurred since the last Board meeting.

Treasurer Loren Wobig suggested a possible Board meeting site in Ottawa at Starved Rock, in the case that the facility in Morris is booked, or if the Board members would like to try the new location.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 CRS COMMITTEE – Mary Lou Kalsted, Chair

Mary Lou Kalsted was unable to make it to the meeting, but had emailed in her committee report. A committee meeting will be scheduled in January. The meeting will be set up with a

phone connection, so those for whom it is too far to travel, or they don't have the time to travel, can participate in the meeting via phone. Scott Cofoid will also be invited to participate in that meeting.

Mary Lou would also like to set up a webpage as a CRS Coordinator's Users Group, to have an online forum for questions to each other and to host sample documents that CRS communities can share (for example, a standard operating procedures memo for drainage system maintenance, or an emergency flood warning plan). Lillian Prince is our current Web Site Information Director, and she will work with Mary Lou on this.

The CRS Committee is in contact with FEMA to try to put together a workshop on common violations that disqualify communities from joining CRS, how to clear the violations, and how to move along with an application to join CRS.

Paul Osman reported that three new Illinois communities are expected to be joining CRS in the next month. The City of Ottawa looks to be joining CRS as a Class 5.

4.2 CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE – Matt Wahl, Chair

No report from Matt. Jennifer Maercklein mentioned that the upcoming CFM exam dates would be posted in the next newsletter. Now that the Illinois CFM exam will be the same as the national exam, suggestions to the Board are welcome for what this committee should focus on moving forward.

4.3 LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – Kay Whitlock, Chair

No report from Kay. Paul Osman mentioned he had again recently spoken with Kay regarding Illinois House Resolution 163, which passed on April 22, 2009. HR 163 creates a task force to study local government development standards and processes and their effect on watershed, wetlands and floodplains. Kay was asked by Tom Cross' office to send in her resume for consideration to be a part of the task force. As of this meeting, nothing has been heard back on this. The task force is supposed to report its recommendations to the General Assembly by January 1, 2010. Paul Osman and Loren Wobig will look into this. It would be nice to have a report from the task force at the March conference.

4.4 NEWSLETTER – Jennifer Maercklein, Chair

Jennifer Maercklein requested to know why the newsletter stopped publishing a list of the new CFMs. Jennifer will contact Anita Larson at ASFPM and French Wetmore for information regarding this. If there is not a standing reason for not listing the new CFMs in the newsletter, Jennifer will do so in the next edition, and every January edition will list the new CFMs.

Jennifer reported that the next newsletter will be published in January. Jennifer needs everyone's submittals by December 18. The newsletter will include information on the Annual Conference, awards and election nominations. To keep the format of the newsletter to a readable length, articles that run long will be posted in the future on the IAFSM website. The article will be printed to a maximum in the newsletter, and then there will be a link in the newsletter to the website in order to finish the story in its entirety.

4.5 EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Amanda Flegel, Chair

Amanda Flegel reported that the Floodplain 101 seminar was cancelled due to low enrollment. IAFSM will end up paying \$260 for the room, which may be able to be used as a deposit for another time if the venue is willing to hold it. There was some discussion on other upcoming potential uses for the room for known seminars that are in their preliminary stages. Amanda and Paul will discuss further, and the Board will also consider reducing the fee for the Floodplain 101 course when offered again, in order to encourage attendance by communities.

Amanda is on the ASFPM Training and Outreach Committee, and she has volunteered to be the Region V liaison to get responses from the Region for a training survey. She will be contacting people in Region V about this next week. For IAFSM, she is hoping to plan some additional courses for the summer in advance for announcement at the conference in March.

4.6 FLOOD MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Erik Gil, Chair

Erik Gil distributed the budget and accounting from the recent MWRDGC seminar. He said that this seminar as well as the LOMR seminar were each slightly profitable. Survey results showed that people generally liked the seminar and the venue. Erik stated that the seminar attendance lists will not be distributed. Hosting a potentially week-long EMI floodplain training seminar is being discussed.

4.7 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Bob Murdock, Chair

Bob Murdock reported that the BMP Design workshop was successful. He stated he is not sure on the accounting yet, but the budget had based on attendance, which was fulfilled. Due to its success, another “hands on” workshop will be scheduled.

The Stormwater Committee wants IAFSM to provide input at an upcoming IEPA meeting on December 8 that will be a forum for stormwater experts. Bob has been in contact with Hal Sprague on this. Either Bob or Jeff Wickenkamp will attend the IEPA meeting.

4.8 MITIGATION COMMITTEE – Terry Reuss Fell, Chair

Terry Reuss Fell reported that she is searching for committee members. IAFSM members are highly encouraged to contact our Committee Chairs and get involved as much as possible. The Committee Chairs are listed on our website on the Board of Directors page, http://www.illinoisfloods.org/board_directors.html.

Terry is trying to assemble a committee with a broad base, and will try to build opportunities from federally funded mitigation planning such as FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). To reiterate from last meeting, Terry would like to relieve burden on IEMA and IDNR/OWR. Whether this is through volunteerism, public education, outreach, etc., Terry’s committee will find a way.

4.9 WETLANDS COMMITTEE – Tom Kehoe, Chair

Tom Kehoe attended a webinar on the new supplemental manuals that the US Army Corps of Engineers is publishing. These manuals will include description on a new process for wetland delineation. The new process seems to require more data collection and the delineation result will not change, but the wetlands report will be more defensible.

4.10 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – Paul Osman, Chair

No report.

4.11 AWARDS COMMITTEE – Paul Osman, Chair

Paul Osman stated that information on the awards will be in the next newsletter.

4.12 INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE– Kerry Behr, Chair

Kerry Behr has been in contact with the American Planning Association. She sent them a list of possible topics that IAFSM would be available to present on at their next conference.

Kerry suggested giving a scholarship (or free pass) to another organization’s Board member, for them to attend our conference. Jeff Wickenkamp motioned to offer two scholarships to Board members of up to three other associations (first-time attendees only) to attend both days of the IAFSM Annual Conference. This would be a total of six scholarships for the March 2010 conference. Stu Richter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

4.13 YOUTH OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Mark Hoskins, Chair

No report from Mark. Loren Wobig reported that two of the table-top stormwater management models (“water tables”) have been purchased. One will be sent to IDNR in Springfield, and one to Bartlett. These are only the starting locations for these two models, and there are already a couple of members interested in borrowing a table. One of the water tables will be on display at the Annual Conference.

Loren mentioned that the first payment of the grants has been sent out to two of the universities, and when they produce their progress reports, we will pay them the remainder of the grant money. The paperwork for the third university grant is expected shortly. Students have been asked to man an exhibit booth with poster presentation at the conference in March. Terry Reuss-Fell suggested that there should be a banner above the students’ exhibit booths that reads something to the effect of “2009 Scholarship Recipients”. The students who attend the conference will receive a one-day (exhibits day) free pass to attend, but no drink tickets. It was discussed that Mark Hoskins should contact the universities to remind them of their poster presentations and let them know they will have one 8-foot table each. Jeff Wickenkamp will follow up with Mark on this and on what to include about this in the newsletter.

Loren Wobig added that Kidzeum is a part of a new park in Springfield, and IAFSM will have continued input to the ongoing process.

4.14 ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE – Mike Cothard, Chair

The conference dates are March 10 and 11, 2010. Presentation abstracts have been received. Mike Cothard distributed the abstracts and presented a draft conference schedule for consideration and editing by the Board. The Board discussed the schedule, potential future speakers, conference logistics and assigned moderators for the conference technical sessions. Moderator instructions will be provided by Mike Cothard soon.

On March 9 (the day before the conference), we have 3 extra rooms reserved. These rooms hold approximately 50 people each. Seminars will be scheduled for these rooms, and Amanda Flegel will coordinate this. These seminars might get labeled “pre-conference”, but they will be just like other seminars offered by IAFSM throughout the year, and conference attendance will not be required in order to attend the “pre-conference” seminars. There will be separate registration for the March 9 seminars. Loren Wobig is also working on the logistics of offering a field trip opportunity that day.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Constitution and Bylaws

A signature page is needed and Jeff Wickenkamp stated he will coordinate this for the next meeting.

5.2 Donations Policy

Tabled.

5.3 Awards Exchange and Special Presentation

The Tom Lee Award was received by IAFSM in 2009. The award itself will be held for now at the ISWS office, and then will be transferred later to IDNR.

Board Chair Jeff Wickenkamp presented a gift to Past Chair Stu Richter of behalf of French and Mary Lou Wetmore.

5.4 Online IAFSM Community

Tabled.

5.5 IAFSM Logo Apparel

Stu Richter attended today's meeting sportily clad in a very nice hat he'd had made with the IAFSM logo on it as a prototype. Paul Osman is in the process of ordering men's and women's polo shirts with the IAFSM logo, and he will get a quote from the printer that Stu used. Paul will also have t-shirts printed with a "Big Flood" cartoon graphic. Paul stated that the shirts will, in total, cost around \$2,000. Loren Wobig made a motion to allocate \$2,000 for development of polo shirts and t-shirts to have for sale at the March conference. Mike Cothard seconded the motion and the motion carried.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Government / Public Agency Exhibitor Fees

The attendance of the agencies we work with on stormwater and floodplain management is a crucial element of the conference. The logistics of this, including exhibitor space allocation, conference responsibilities and cost for the agencies to hold an exhibit booth was discussed by the Board. It was decided that we will extend a free exhibit space to the agencies, but their conference attendance would not be free. Should space become limited, we may need to start charging the agencies for the exhibit space. It was also decided that agencies that have free exhibit booths at the conference will not be added to the raffle card. (Adding them to the raffle card would require conference attendees who wish to enter the raffle to visit their tables and get a signature, but the list on the raffle card is typically for vendors, who pay for the exhibit space.)

7.0 RATIFICATION

Loren Wobig moved to ratify and affirm all delegated and authorized acts of the Board of Officers, Chairs and staff for and on behalf of the Association. Jeff Wickenkamp seconded the motion and the motion carried.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Jeff Wickenkamp moved to adjourn the meeting of the IAFSM Board. Paul Osman seconded the motion and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next IAFSM Board Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. (to end at 12:30 p.m.) on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Illinois Waterway Visitor Center, 950 North 27th Road, Route 1, in Ottawa, Illinois.

Respectively submitted,

Lillian B. Prince, PE, LEED AP, CFM
IAFSM Board Secretary