

Minutes of the IAFSM Board of Directors Meeting May 11, 2011

The May 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Managers was held at the City Hall building in the City of Ottawa, IL. Those attending the meeting included:

Mike Cothard	Amanda Flegel	Sarah Harbaugh
Mary Lou Kalsted	Jennifer Maercklein	Jeff Wickenkamp
Loren Wobig	Lillian Prince	Mike Sutfin
Emily Anderson	Erik Gil	Thomas Kehoe
Matt Wahl	Andrew Braun	Glenn Heistand
Kerry Behr		

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Mike Cothard.

1.1 CORRESPONDENCE

None

2.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Mike Cothard moved to approve the March 10, 2011 meeting minutes. Mary Lou Kalsted seconded the motion and the motion passed.

3.0 OFFICER REPORTS

3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT – Lillian Prince

Lillian Prince presented the Treasurer's report showing cash flow from March 7, 2011 through May 11, 2011 of \$-50,224.03. This figure includes most conference registrations but does not yet include all deposits. Net worth as of May 11 is \$156,002.30.

Association taxes are being prepared and filed. A time extension might be needed, but no cost or need for action yet. A new accountant will be obtained after 2010 taxes are finished. Looking for new CPA, and hoping to find one by next meeting, who specializes in small not-for-profits. Prince asked the group if anyone has any leads or suggestions for the new CPA. No suggestions were provided during the meeting.

There are questions concerning new tax laws for non-profits. We don't know when or if the changes will take effect. The ASFPM chapter meeting in Louisville might discuss these tax issues. Jeff Wickenkamp will check into "Illinois' Association of Associations" to see what they have to offer in terms of tax advice and the issues of running an association. Prince will contact ASFPM to see if they have any advice about these tax issues.

Chase Bank may allow association membership management, through "123 Signup", which would enable IAFSM to accept membership dues (or other) payments by credit card. Sarah Harbaugh is checking into it.

Officer liability insurance has been renewed.

ASFPM silent auction items are due by noon on Monday. IAFSM has not purchased or donated any items yet, but will today or tomorrow. Mike suggested IAFSM should spend \$50 - \$60 on coffee-table picture book (Illinois Rivers) by a local author (speaker at 2010 IAFSM conference). Maybe the author could sign the book(s). Money for the purchase could come out of the chair or past-chair budget. No formal motion or vote, but group seems to be in consensus with this plan.

A record retention policy still needs to be developed and Lillian will be working on this. Loren Wobig had previously inquired with ASFPM about IAFSM's data back-up and storage. ASFPM had said we could send them a CD with any data that we want them to store.

Lillian Prince moved for the Treasurer's Report to be approved, Mike Cothard seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

3.2 CHAIR'S REPORT - Mike Cothard

Mike provided IAFSM 2011 conference survey summary hand-outs, followed by discussion of the member feedback from the questionnaires. Overall member response to conference location and content was very positive and no real problems or complaints were voiced. Member feedback revealed several suggestions, including a desire for more field visits as part of the conference, getting politicians to attend the conference, moving the conference days to Thursday-Friday, and keeping food and refreshments available for longer periods of time. The Board discussed the location for the 2012 conference and settled on the Intercontinental Hotel in Rosemont, IL. Loren Wobig will confirm the conference event and dates with the hotel.

Discussion was heard regarding the potential regional conference. The board decided to put off the potential regional conference (no specific date established), because of logistical and organizational challenges that can't be resolved in a timeframe that will allow for a successful conference.

Loren will check with Kidzeum in Springfield, IL about their projected opening schedule. This will be a consideration for the downstate 2013 conference planning.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 CRS COMMITTEE – Mary Lou Kalsted

Brief CRS meetings were held during the Bloomington conference. The committee might meet again in July or September. A workshop on Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) software will be held at the meeting, presented by Paul Osman.

4.2 CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE – Matt Wahl

The next ASFPM Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) meeting is Monday, May 16, 2011 at the ASFPM conference in Louisville, KY (flyer provided to the board). Items to discuss at CBOR meeting include: 1) Update on Reliability and Validity testing recommendations and next steps (Ohio State University comments and findings), 2) CFM's Core Competency, 3) Training and CEC's, 4) Accredited States' concerns or issues.

CBOR is asking for State's input and ideas. ASFPM might request to take over the exams as a whole. If states give up rights for the test, they give up charter for certification and the state's accredited program "goes away" and dissolves into the national program. Mike Cothard doesn't think IAFSM should give up its charter, and wants to keep the CFM exam state-controlled. As a chartered organization, IAFSM has more say in things like exam fees and when or where exams are offered. ASFPM thinks they are losing a lot of money to the states (unrealized gains, not actual lost money). IAFSM is saving Illinois people money on the cost of the exam by allowing IAFSM members a discount on the exam fee.

ASFPM and CBOR would like to make changes to "how and who" administers the CFM testing and credentials. Illinois could lose its CFM charter under those changes. In order to maintain some power and control over the Illinois CFM program, Mike Cothard motioned to avoid making changes to the existing arrangements of the Illinois CFM program, Mary Lou Kalsted seconded, and the motion passed.

4.3 LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – Kay Whitlock

Emily Anderson gave the committee report for Kay Whitlock, who was absent. The committee is working to issue "policy positions", so that when questions and issues arise, a standard IAFSM answer is available. Approximately 8-10 issues or positions will be drafted by the committee and brought to the board for approval.

Next legislative season, the committee will begin following other organizations and news articles, being proactive instead of reactive to the political landscape. As legislation develops, one committee member will be assigned to follow it through, give summary reports

to the group, and follow up with letters and communication with legislators. Whitlock has been going to legislator functions and fundraisers to keep in contact and keep the IAFSM presence visible, but would like more involvement from additional IAFSM members. The committee will try to pair-up members with appropriate legislators (including local officials and mayors, etc.) to get familiar and stay connected with them so that they know IAFSM. Legislators might be more receptive to input by IAFSM if they know our “face”. Focus of the committee will be first on the Illinois political scene, second on the national scene. By building legislator relationships and informing IAFSM members of the issues (and encouraging members to vote at elections), IAFSM will gain a voice in the legislative processes that affect floodplain and stormwater issues. If any members have suggestions for which legislators to contact, or if anyone would like to volunteer to start cultivating the legislative contacts, please let Whitlock know.

Discussion from the board followed the report. Comments about Upstate vs. Downstate issues and competing ideology within the state will make it difficult to develop standard issues or positions. For example: levee issues in St. Louis area (Metro East). Metro East is not a good example to follow for statewide floodplain management. It was discussed that maybe separate position statements need to be developed for different parts of the state, plus whole state positions.

Committee members include: Emily Anderson, Matt Raleigh, Dale Jeffers (Tinley Park public works).

Questions left unanswered: Should IAFSM have a “Legislative Day” in Springfield? Hire a Lobbyist? The answers to these questions depend on the establishment of IAFSM positions first.

4.4 NEWLETTER – Jennifer Maercklein

The next IAFSM newsletter goes out in July. June 24 is the newsletter deadline. Send any articles to Jennifer Maercklein.

Pictures of southern Illinois flooding would be useful to include in the newsletter. If anyone has such pictures, please provide them to Maercklein.

Advertisers (silver and bronze) are now included in the newsletter. This inclusion added many more pages and increased the file size of the newsletter. Therefore, Maercklein suggested that only the newsletter web-link will be distributed by email, instead of attaching

the file to the email. The board agreed with this suggestion (no motion necessary).

Maercklein announced that the Beaver image will be removed from the newsletter.

4.5 EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE– Amanda Flegel

Amanda Flegel reported that an annual Realtor convention is scheduled in October, and she wondered if someone from IAFSM should attend the convention or present at the convention. The board agreed that it would be a good idea. Attending or Presenting at the realtor convention will expand on what Paul Osman has done in past at such functions. Flegel will get more details about the convention.

Flegel will be at the ASFPM conference (Louisville) next week and will attend outreach meetings.

4.6 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Erik Gil

Eric Gil discussed IAFSM's desire to improve Illinois' floodplain permitting process. It is reported that the State has trouble regulating the existing program effectively and changes need to be made. It is suggested that the improvements should focus on the theme of "No impacts to others, no impact to self". IAFSM is an appropriate entity to put the pressure on the State to make changes to the permitting process and floodplain development rules. The committee needs to form a workgroup to develop what the regulation improvements should be. The State DNR is not in a position to push this agenda, so IAFSM should be the advocate to make changes. One issue to address is "fill in floodplain", which is still allowed, and which reduces flood storage and increases impact upstream and downstream. Appropriate use and compensatory storage issues are different between upstate and downstate regions. Paul Osman suggests that IAFSM be the vehicle to recommend these changes. Gil will come back with more information from Osman at the July board meeting. A taskforce within the Floodplain Management committee may be formed to investigate issues.

4.7 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Bob Murdock

No report.

4.8 MITIGATION COMMITTEE – Molly O'Toole

No report.

4.9 WETLANDS COMMITTEE – Tom Kehoe

Tom Kehoe suggests that IAFSM should organize wetland field trips. A field trip later this year may be possible to gauge interest. The Board suggested possibly having a wetland field visit associated with the next annual conference. Field trip themes could include 1) Regulatory guidance for wetland construction, 2) Jurisdictional issues, 3) handling special conditions associated with permits, 4) soil erosion and sediment control measures.

Kehoe would like to establish a Wetlands Committee users group on LinkedIn.

4.10 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE - Paul Osman
No report.

4.11 AWARDS COMMITTEE – Paul Osman
No report.

4.12 INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL – Kerry K. Behr

APA has requested that we discontinue sending them our IAFSM newsletters. They will not provide materials to their membership unless it is an APA sponsored event.

IESMA has a new liaison that we are coordinating with, but no details to report yet.

Illinois Municipal League – no recent communications.

APWA is interested in having a half-day stormwater management seminar or preconference workshop, similar to the preconference workshop “Floodplain 101” for building officials.

The committee has a budget to attend other conferences. The question was posed, “Are there any recommendations or ideas about which conferences to attend?” The upcoming Realtor conference was mentioned in response.

4.13 YOUTH OUTREACH – Andrew Braun

IAFSM’s “Request for Proposal for University Research Grant” did attract a proposal from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Their proposal was for a Campus Sustainability Plan, which includes a goal to capture and retain all stormwater on campus by 2020. Their plan is to evaluate best management practices for stormwater retention and reuse at IIT. Their request is for a \$10,000 grant.

A second grant application, to pay for an internship, was withdrawn by Loyola University.

An unintended consequence of calling this funding a grant (instead of youth outreach or something else) is that it requires the university to take a cut out of the money and changes the rules for how the money is applied to the project. Indirect project costs (tuition, etc) are a stumbling block for IAFSM to approve the grant. The Board would rather see the money go entirely to research instead of the university's overhead expenses. We need to be more explicit with what we want and what we don't want. Andrew Braun will get back with the applicant to provide feedback and to see if there is a way to redo the process and fund only part of the proposal and perhaps get a revised proposal. Adjustments need to be made to the proposed IIT request.

The Board discussed what monetary commitment would be feasible for the grant, in light of the committed donation to KidZeum.

IAFSM expects to get a speaker or exhibit for the annual state conference in exchange for the grant.

Jeff made a motion to support up to \$5,000 toward the IIT project, if it can be made to work without funding the university's overhead expenses, Lillian Prince seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

4.14 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: Loren Wobig

Loren Wobig presented options for the Board to pick out a conference location for 2012. The venue needs to accommodate lunch for 600 people. Venues are interested in filling hotel rooms and have minimum room number criteria. A possible Schaumburg facility is already booked, but can be cancelled. Other locations include: Marriot O'Hare, Tinley Park, Rosemont Convention Center, and the Intercontinental Hotel in Rosemont. A potential field trip during the conference is a factor in the location decision. Tinley Park is the cheapest venue. Price range from all locations is between \$100,000 - \$120,000, plus audio-visual provisions (which range greatly), gratuity 21-22%, and tax 12-14%. Room rates and parking are also factors. The Bloomington-Normal Marriot is offering the same room rates as 2011.

Jeff Wickenamp suggested we should pick a venue that we usually use and suggested that Bloomington would be a good choice.

Budget cuts are going to continue creating travel restrictions for public employees, which should be considered.

Bloomington wouldn't have much in the way of field tours options. Field trips are important, based on comments from membership, so upstate is better for that.

Conference costs are expected to rise for 2012. Mary Lou Kalsted suggested announcing the anticipated cost increases for the conference in the next newsletter and Jennifer Maercklein agreed.

The Intercontinental Hotel in Rosemont is available March 13-15, 2012.

A motion was made by Mike Cothard to book the Intercontinental Hotel in Rosemont, the motion was seconded by Amanda Flegel, the motion passed.

The Board decided to hold-off on the regional conference idea for now, more coordination with other states is needed. It is suggested to attempt a 2013 regional conference, instead of 2012. Loren Wobig recommends forming a committee to work on the regional conference so that the future board isn't saddled with the task.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 IAFSM Website Development Project: Jeff Wickenkamp

Through FEMA, IEMA has money available to fund emergency response, recover, and mitigation efforts to aid the state of Illinois. (See hand-out.) IAFSM could use the money for website development, directed towards being a resource for communities, but would have information that individual property owners could use too.

Possible approach: 1) Prepare IEMA grant application, 2) Obtain engineering consultant for technical assistance, 3) Obtain web development consultant for website development.

Webintex is the firm that Wickenkamp has been working with thus far.

Questions for the Board:

What is the order of events to proceed with this project? Do we do the grant application first, or interact with consultants first? How do we select consultants? Do we need an RFP to select consultants? What is our comfort level moving forward?

Loren Wobig suggested that a proposal selection team should be established. Jennifer Maercklein suggested that consultant selection be based on qualifications received from a request for qualifications (RFQ).

Wickenkamp will work on an RFQ to help select consultant (both engineering and web development consultants). Consultants will help prepare grant application.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 None

7.0 RATIFICATION

Mary Lou Kalsted made the ratification motion and moved to ratify and affirm all delegated and authorized acts of the IAFSM Board of Officers, Chairs and staff for and on behalf of the Association. Erik Gil seconded the motion and the motion carried.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

The next IAFSM Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on July 13, 2011 at the Intercontinental Hotel (Getty Room), Rosemont, Illinois.

Respectively submitted,

Glenn N Heistand, P.E., CFM
IAFSM Board Secretary