

Minutes of the IAFSM Board of Directors Meeting January 11, 2012

The January 2012 meeting of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Managers was held at Starved Rock State Park Visitor's Center near Oglesby, IL. Those attending the meeting included:

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|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Amanda Flegel | Mike Cothard | Loren Wobig |
| Paul Osman | Kerry Behr | Sarah Harbaugh |
| Jeff Wickenkamp | Bob Murdock | Scott Cofoid |
| Tom Kehoe | Brian Eber | Andrew Braun |
| Matt Wahl | Glenn Heistand | Christine Gaynes |

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Mike Cothard.

1.1 INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS

1.2 CORRESPONDENCE

None

2.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Kerry Behr moved to approve the November 9, 2011 meeting minutes. Amanda Flegel seconded the motion, the motion carried.

3.0 OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT – Lillian Prince

Lillian Prince reported (via email) that not much has changed in the accounts since November. Several bills were paid (e.g. October seminar), several deposits were received (e.g. conference sponsorship).

3.2 CHAIR'S REPORT – Mike Cothard

None

3.3 SECRETARY'S REPORT – Glenn Heistand

None

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 CRS COMMITTEE - Mary Lou Kalsted

Paul Osman reported that Illinois is a stand-out state in the CRS program compared to other Region V states. The newsletter should run a story to highlight this fact. New CRS manual changes are coming, as soon as April, but more likely in July.

4.2 CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE - Matt Wahl

Matt Wahl reported that payment is due to ASFPM (\$300) to recertify the IAFSM CFM program. CBOR is making changes to the CFM exam to follow the Ohio State University recommendations. True/false questions will see the biggest change, as they will be sharply reduced in the exam. Other exam changes are in content areas; increases and decreases in the number of questions in each section. IAFSM does not need to do anything to adopt the new exam, it will happen by default. These changes became effective in September 2011.

Matt Wahl will attend ASFPM national conference in May 2012 as a CBOR representative. Each state is required to send a representative. IAFSM will sponsor Wahl, up to \$2,000, as previously discussed and approved by the Board.

4.3 LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - Kay Whitlock

Loren Wobig reported that IDNR funding is at risk of additional dramatic cuts and legislative help may be needed. A draft bill would position IDNR to be self-sufficient by instituting user-fees for parks, permits, etc. Wobig suggests that the Association may be able to help make a difference in the association by contacting legislators. The committee will be contacted about this situation.

4.4 NEWSLETTER - Jennifer Maercklein

Jennifer Maercklein reported (via email) that the winter 2011-2012 newsletter was sent out in early January via email with a link to the website. Rod Johnson (webmaster) is tracking downloads. No report yet about the winter newsletter download statistics, but the fall newsletter was viewed/downloaded a total of 55 times, with most downloads (19) occurring the day after the newsletter was sent out.

The spring newsletter will be distributed in early April. The deadline for article submittals is Friday, March 23 (one week after the conference). The lead article will be a re-cap of our conference, with a description of the award winners.

A brief questionnaire will be included in the Conference Packets to ask our members what their preferred method of newsletter delivery is (email with an attachment, versus email with a web link). Maercklein will also ask for general feedback on the newsletter and solicit ideas for articles. If anyone has a newsletter-specific question to include, please get that to Maercklein soon so it can be include in the questionnaire.

4.5 EDUCATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Amanda Flegel

Amanda Flegel reported that pre-conference workshops are being planned for March 13 at the InterContinental Hotel in Rosemont. Specific offerings are still tentative, but are expected to include; 1) Floodplain 101 (full day), 2) RiskMAP for Mitigation (half-day), 3) Sediment Transport (half-day), 4) Dam Safety. The Dam Safety workshop is the most tentative, and is awaiting response from OWR about providing an instructor for the workshop.

The Local Official's Scholarship was discussed and confirmed that 10 scholarships were previously approved in the budget and are available this year. An announcement of the scholarship opportunity will be distributed to IAFSM members via email and circulated at the annual conference. Suggestions of specific scholarship recipients are welcomed.

The Board discussed the idea of inviting state legislators to attend the IAFSM annual conference at no charge (and no scholarship), capitalizing on the inevitable no-show registrant vacancies. Legislator participation and accessibility would be very useful and important to IAFSM. Free admission to invited legislators would give fewer excuses to avoid attending and would fit their usual preference of dropping in for a short period without committing to a large amount of time. The Board is in general agreement with this concept, but no formal motions were made. This idea is something that the legislative committee should be tasked with.

4.6 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Erik Gil

None.

4.7 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - Robert Murdock

Robert Murdock reported that it is time for him to step down as committee chair and that he will begin helping the association to identify suitable candidates for his replacement. Murdock still intends to be active with IAFSM, but is pursuing other responsibilities that will prevent him from serving as chair of the committee.

4.8 MITIGATION COMMITTEE – Molly O'Toole

Chris Gaynes reports (on behalf of Molly O'Toole) that the committee is planning to have a mitigation session at the annual conference. Paul Osman reports that Ron Davis (IEMA) has compiled several preliminary grant applications for mitigation buy-out money. The State of Illinois is flush with mitigation money and needs to find more mitigation projects to fund.

The Cook County regional hazard mitigation plan is still not started. Many communities within Cook County need a mitigation plan so they can qualify for mitigation funds for buy-outs and other mitigation projects.

These communities don't know if they should make their own plans or wait for Cook County. Cook County has been planning to initiate a county-wide report for at least one year, but without further direction from Cook County, communities are encouraged to create their own mitigation plans and not wait for Cook County any more. Ron Davis will be contacted by Paul Osman to work out the possibility of opening a discussion with local government officials about individual vs. county-wide mitigation plans at the IAFSM annual conference and to hear opinions on the best path forward.

4.9 WETLANDS COMMITTEE - Tom Kehoe

Tom Kehoe reported that plans are underway for a wetlands field trip in late June. The wetlands committee is meeting next week to discuss the logistics of the field trip. Wetland banks are one of the four options that are being evaluated.

4.10 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE - Paul Osman

Paul Osman reported that this year's election is the "roll-over" year when incumbent officers commence their second term, unless opposed. No challenger nominees have been submitted.

4.11 AWARDS COMMITTEE - Paul Osman

Paul Osman reported that there are no nominations to report.

4.12 INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE - Kerry Behr

Kerry Behr reported initiating contacts with the following individuals and organizations: 1) Hala Ahmed of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to investigate future collaboration, 2) U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) regarding information sharing, cross-advertising in newsletters, and future collaboration.

The Illinois Building Commission (IBC), part of the Illinois Capital Development Board, contacted Behr about inviting Paul Osman to speak at their upcoming training. Osman will coordinate with IBC.

The Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) contacted Behr about inviting an IAFSM representative to attend their Annual Conference & Training Event (April 19-21, 2012) to give a talk about floodplain management or related issues. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites Conference Center, East Peoria, IL.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) approached Behr about partnering with their upcoming social event. The Board discussed the merits of participating and concluded that IAFSM would be willing to post advertisement of the event on the interagency section of the IAFSM website, but no financial support or formal involvement with the social will

be offered. IAFSM members are encouraged to attend the event for their individual enjoyment.

4.13 YOUTH OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Andrew Braun

Andrew Braun reported that he received a check for the unused balance of \$13.19 from the \$3,000 IAFSM grant given to Northwestern University in 2009, as the project has reached completion. The project, titled “Aeration Channel Along the North Shore Channel”, aimed at improving water quality in the MWRDGC North Shore Canal along McCormick Boulevard to the Wilmette Locks. The check will be provided to Lillian Prince for deposit to IAFSM accounts.

4.14 ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE – Loren Wobig

Loren Wobig distributed the latest (draft) conference schedule and tours for review and approval. The Lt. Governor is still scheduled to be a plenary speaker. The O’Hare expansion project presentation will take the place of the Lt. Governor’s speech if she becomes unavailable. The first-day lunch speaker will be Bryan Martindale, who will give a light-hearted, non-technical talk about floodplain management in Australia. Two tours will be offered each day: 1) O’Hare expansion project (using 2 airport busses), 2) Des Plaines River floodplain tour (using 2 tour busses). The final conference flier will be distributed to members and posted on the IAFSM website next week. A field trip coordinator was requested and Kerry Behr volunteered for one of the days, along with Mike Cothard who will coordinate the O’Hare tour if needed.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.1 WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT RFQ UPDATE– Jeff Wickenkamp

Jeff Wickenkamp reported that Molly O’Toole and Todd Reifenrath (Webitects) have been getting an application put together for the project’s grant funding. Jeff has been reviewing their work as needed. IAFSM needs to provide a letter of acknowledgement for matching funds as part of the grant application. The letter should state that IAFSM can commit up to a 25% grant match, with half of this coming from cash contributions and half from in-kind services. Wickenkamp suggests that the project budget be raised to \$200,000 to allow for an expanded project scope that includes general enhancements to the website that will support IAFSM’s mission. This amount may be conservative, but will allow for some flexibility going forward. Paul Osman motioned that IAFSM will provide the needed (up to) 25% match for the project; Mike Cothard seconded the motion, the motion passed by majority vote. Paul Osman volunteered to be on website subcommittee with Wickenkamp, Heistand, and Flegel. Content and features of the future website are being discussed and it is anticipated that a meeting (or website display booth) will be formed at the IAFSM annual

conference to discuss these issues with a small group of the general membership.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE – Loren Wobig

Loren Wobig reported...see section 4.14 above.

6.2 Damage Assessments (Ohio)– Paul Osman

The Ohio Floodplain Management Association (OFMA) has developed a method of facilitating emergency assistance for communities that are in the initial stages of recovering from a large flooding event. Generally, floodplain administrators, especially in smaller communities, are overwhelmed with the tasks associated with damage assessments and permit processing for structures that are affected by a major flooding event in their jurisdiction. An inter-jurisdictional agreement process (mutual aid agreement), similar to those used by police, fire, and emergency managers, could be employed to assist floodplain managers during a flood emergency. OFMA has initiated “Regional Recovery Response Teams” to assist in these situations, especially with the damage assessment process. Qualified personnel (preferably ASFPM Certified Floodplain Managers) from nearby communities would travel to the flooded community and assist with floodplain management responsibilities until the emergency subsided. One benefit to quickly performing the damage assessments is to establish structures that are substantially damaged prior to owners beginning recovery/repair efforts. One problem in the past has been that property owners receive flood insurance adjustments from FEMA before official damage assessments are performed and before proper permits are issued, leading to situations where substantially damaged structures are repaired without being brought into compliance with local floodplain development standards and Increased Cost-of-Compliance (ICC) insurance coverage is delayed or unavailable, or fresh repairs need to be re-done to meet code. Osman suggests that Illinois should consider a similar program. Osman will find out more information from Christopher Thoms at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

7.0 RATIFICATION MOTION

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. Glenn Heistand seconded the motion and the motion carried.

8.0 ADJOURN

Time: 12:45 pm

Next Meeting is Thursday, March 15, 2012, 7:30 AM, at 2012 IAFSM Annual Conference, InterContinental Hotel, Room Cassatte C.

Respectively submitted,

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