



THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Newly Signed Legislation Related to Flood Issues

Governor Pritzker recently signed two pieces of legislation that addresses flood issues in Illinois. Both laws will be effective on January 1, 2025.

The first bill, Senate Bill 2601 (Public Act 103-0754) amends the Landlord and Tenant Act and requires every landlord to clearly disclose to each of the landlord’s tenants in writing prior to signing the lease for the rental property that a rental property is located in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area and if the landlord has actual knowledge that the rental property has been subjected to flooding and the frequency of such flooding. The new law provides that if a landlord fails to comply with these requirements and the tenant subsequently becomes aware that the property is located in the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area the tenant may terminate the lease by giving written notice of termination to the landlord, and the landlord is then required to return all rent and fees paid in advance no later than the 15th day after the tenant gave notice.

Additionally, the law requires every landlord who leases a lower-level unit to clearly disclose to each of the landlord’s lower-level unit tenants in writing prior to the signing of the lease for the lower-level unit if the lower-level unit or any portion of the real property containing the lower-level unit has experienced flooding in the last 10 years and requires disclosure of the frequency of the flooding. The law provides that if a landlord fails to comply with either of these provisions and flooding occurs that results in damage to the tenant’s personal property, affects the habitability of the leased property, or affects the tenant’s access to the leased property, the tenant may: (1) terminate the lease by giving written notice to the landlord no later than the 30th day after the flood occurred and the landlord shall return all rent and fees paid in advance no later than the 15th day after the tenant gave notice; and (2) bring an action against the landlord of the property to recover damages for personal property lost or damaged as a result of flooding. The sample written disclosure that is included with the new law includes language that addresses flood insurance for renters.



Basement flooding photo credit: [BlockClubChicago.org](https://www.blockclubchicago.org) courtesy of Camila Pechous

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The second bill, Senate Bill 2681 (Public Act 103-095) amends the Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act. This law requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to ensure that all State agencies comply with the National Flood Insurance Program requirements, and requires that all State agencies obtain a special flood hazard area development permit before undertaking any development activity on State-owned property that is located in a special flood hazard area. The DNR must adopt an administrative rule setting forth a State special flood hazard area development program to ensure that specified conditions are met for the issuance of permits prior to any State agency development within a special flood hazard area. This rule must meet the minimum federal standards for the NFIP. DNR was also granted authority to adopt an emergency rule to implement this new permit program.

Additionally, the law specifies that State agencies that administer grants or loans for financing a development within a special flood hazard area are responsible for regulating or permitting a development within a special flood hazard area. If they cannot be responsible for that, then they must engage in planning programs or promoting a development within a special flood hazard area to cooperate with DNR to ensure that participants in their programs are informed of the existence and location of special flood hazard areas and of any State or local floodplain requirements that are in effect in such areas.

DNR is currently working on draft rules to implement this new program.

You can see the full text of these laws at: [Illinois General Assembly Home Page \(ilga.gov\)](http://ilga.gov)




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IDNR Mitigation Funds for Property Buyouts

July flooding impacted jurisdictions all over the state. The good news is that previous acquisition projects removed several hundred structures from the floodplain in communities such as Belleville, East St. Louis, and Rockford. Homeowners who were previously bought out were able to avoid the damaging floodwaters and the City officials had a greatly diminished workload because the flooding inundated vacant lots instead of family homes.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources / Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) currently has funding by the State legislature for additional buyouts. This buyout program has been active since the late 1970's, but the funding varies depending on what is allocated by the legislature.

These funds can only be used for the acquisition and demolition of flood prone structures which are deed restricted to stay open space in perpetuity. The funds cannot be used for elevations or structural projects. All communities that are in good standing with the NFIP are eligible to apply for these funds.

To apply for funding, a community must first submit a Notice of Intent, which is a very simple form that requests how many properties you are applying to purchase, how many are substantially damaged, how many are repetitive loss properties, and the anticipated costs. IDNR will review the NOIs and then request full applications. This will prevent communities from spending resources on a full application if they do not get funded.

This program can fund 100% of the costs associated with the project and can be used to provide match for a Federally funded acquisition project. This program is a reimbursement program, so a jurisdiction is responsible for purchasing the properties and can apply for reimbursement after they are demolished.

The acquisition program both reduces the flood damages and provides funds for flood victims to move forward with their lives. Properties are purchased for pre-flood fair market value minus any duplication of benefits.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Ron Davis at 217-524-7200 or ron.davis@illinois.gov.

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Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO)

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is seeking proposals for projects to construct green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate, or reduce stormwater runoff, reducing localized or riverine flooding in Illinois' rivers, streams, and lakes. Projects that implement treatment trains (multiple BMPs in series) and/or multiple BMPs within the same watershed are encouraged as they may be more effective and efficient than a single large green infrastructure BMP. BMPs may be located on public or private land.

For the purposes of GIGO, Green Infrastructure means any stormwater management technique or practice employed with the primary goal to preserve, restore, mimic, or enhance natural hydrology. Green Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, methods of using soil and vegetation to promote soil percolation, evapotranspiration, and filtering or the harvesting and reuse of precipitation.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), localized and riverine flooding will likely become more frequent. Localized flooding happens when rainfall overwhelms the capacity of the drainage systems, while riverine flooding happens when river flows exceed the capacity of a river channel. By reducing stormwater runoff, detaining water away from impacted areas, and reconnecting streams to their floodplains, GIGO can help reduce the number and duration of both localized and riverine flood events.

Eligible GIGO projects, through the construction of BMPs, will decrease stormwater runoff prior to release into rivers, streams, and lakes, and include: 1. reconnection of a stream with its floodplain (e.g., two-stage ditch, daylighting); 2. flow control of stormwater runoff at sites directly upstream or downstream of an impervious area that currently impacts rivers, streams, or lakes through stormwater runoff discharge; and/or 3. flow control of water generated from impervious surfaces associated with existing urban land use (such as roads and buildings).

The application deadline is November 20. You can get more details about the grant and the application procedures at: [Environmental Protection Agency - Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities \(FY 2025\) \(amplifund.com\)](https://www.epa.gov/gigo)



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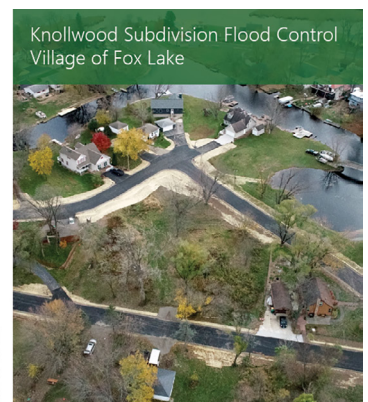
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From the Chair

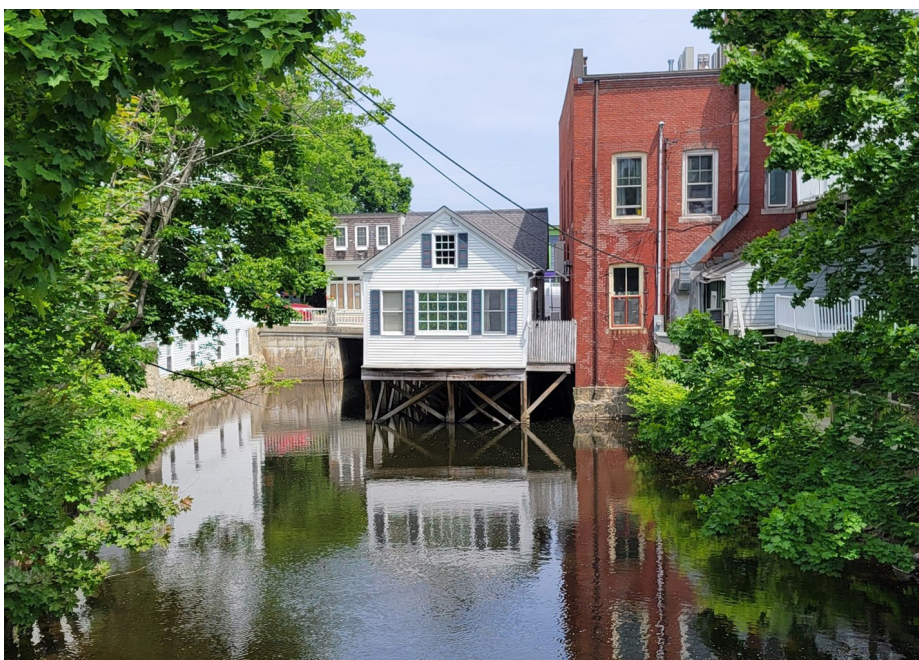
-Dallas Alley, CFM, City of Fairview Heights

It's an honor to serve as IAFSM's 20th Chair, and to follow in the footsteps of so many worthy predecessors. Steve Altman has done a great job of leading this organization and I thank him for his dedicated service and vow to harass him with questions and ask him for guidance as he occupies the distinguished position of past-chair. When looking forward to where our organization is heading, we must not forget where we have been. Dwight D Eisenhower once said, "In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable". Since its inception in 1986 when Lou Sidell, Jr. was the first chair, IAFSM has been a leader in stormwater and floodplain management. We as an association believe that we must always be planning for the future of floodplain and stormwater management. We must also keep in mind that our founding members established that the objectives of IAFSM are to:

- Promote the common interest in floodplain and stormwater management
- Enhance cooperation among various local, state, and federal agencies
- Encourage effective and innovative approaches to managing the State's floodplain and stormwater management systems

I feel we have done a great job advancing these objectives, but we should not rest on our previous successes. There is always work to be done. Stormwater and floodplain issues are still significant challenges in many of our communities.

During a recent trip to Maine with my family we discovered several quaint New England homes that were built completely over a fast-flowing creek. The sight of these well-intentioned homes stirred a conversation with my daughter who asked "why would anyone want to live over a creek, won't they flood?". There it was in black and white, a thirteen-year-old has the sense to not build in a hazardous location, but those who should know better do not. We should all strive to think like our inner thirteen-year-old. I am sure that there was an economic reason for building these homes over a creek in the middle of the floodplain, but at what ultimate cost? Sure, these structures were built before floodplain management was regulated by the Local, State, and Federal governments, but where was the planning?



As I begin my tenure as Chair of IAFSM I encourage us all to continue to expand upon the legacy of those before us and to continue to pursue our objectives. I look forward to continued success as an association and on behalf of the IAFSM board I want to thank the membership for your participation. In closing I leave you all with a now famous quote from the late Gilbert White: "Floods are 'acts of God, but flood losses are largely acts of man".

Youth Outreach Committee Update

~Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM, Illinois State Water Survey

The State Fair is over, harvesters are in the fields and the kids are in school. Summer is coming to a close! The Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) certainly had a busy summer, with help from IAFSM. Terra McParland of IDNR-OWR organized their tent at IDNR’s Outdoor World exhibit at the State Fair. They borrowed IAFSM’s EM2 erosion model from August 6th through the 20th and used IAFSM’s floodplain simulation model too. They saw hundreds of people a day! Terra told us,

My husband teaches school in Springfield (1st through 8th grade) and he asked his students if they had experienced the stream table at the fair. He got lots of positive feedback and many said it was their favorite part of the fair! We had parents practically dragging their kids away since the kids did not want to leave. One family told me their kids didn't even want to go on the rides which they had slated next after our tent. We had adults and older kids spending long periods adjusting things at the table and really enjoying the experience. One child played with it for a long time and proceeded to tell me all about the pump system and the features since that is his special area of interest. It was so much fun seeing the kids engaged and cooperating around the table. We don't have a count but the first weekend, another booth counted about 120 groups in just one day. I think this was a really great way to get ideas about flooding and stream morphology out to a large number of people both young and old from all around the state.

Regarding the WARD floodplain simulation table, that too was a hit. Younger kids enjoyed “Making it Rain”. The enthusiasm was incredible, and kids really got the concept of why wetlands and conservation of our natural areas is so important to reduce flooding impacts.

What an incredible experience! Terra and crew put in a lot of hours and hard work. I risk leaving out someone important, but I know that Megan McKinney, Jim Campbell, Rick Pohlman, Kristian Peterson, Wes Cattoor, Steve Altman, and Loren Wobig were all involved. Kids, families and IDNR-OWR engineers all fascinated for hours. How fun!

Outreach is important work though. Floodplain and stormwater management is important and that must be communicated to strengthen appropriate political will and inspire future generations to address these important issues. Terra put it well, “We appreciate IAFSM’s purchase of these tables and the willingness to let us use them. We are confident that the popularity of both tables allowed us to share floodplain management concepts with a large number of people which I know is important to IAFSM’s outreach/educational mission.”

You don’t have to spend two weeks at the State Fair to have an impact! Maybe you’d just like to plan to show the students and families in your life what makes floodplain and stormwater management so important to you and how they can be involved. The Youth Outreach Committee is here to support you! We have great tools that are guaranteed to engage and enlighten. In addition to two EM2 erosion models, we have five (soon to be six) watershed simulation models which are stored throughout the state, and we have the Extreme Event emergency response game. If you are unsure about how to start, just email Brian Chaille at bchaille@illinois.edu and I’d be glad to give you some pointers. Contact Sarah Harbaugh, IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org if you’d like to reserve an outreach tool.



We were so busy having fun with the models at the State Fair that we have no action-shots to share. Here’s an oldie-but-goodie that shows kids having fun learning about sediment transport while using IAFSM’s EM2 model.

Other Youth Outreach events:

Committee Meetings: The Youth Outreach Committee plans to meet on the 4th Monday of even numbered months at 2pm to discuss use of the IAFSM outreach materials and other outreach topics. We plan to take a couple meetings off per year to limit the number to 3 – 4 meetings per year. If you're interested in participating, please contact Brian Chaille.

New Resources: We decided to purchase four new 2nd generation WARD Floodplain Simulation Models to replace the three remaining 1st generation floodplain models which are all in moderate to poor condition. We plan to pass the old models to educators who have expressed interest in them.

2025 RISE Challenge: Additionally, IAFSM is proud to join with Earth Force, FEMA, the ASFPM Foundation and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) support RISE Challenge Illinois in 2025! The Rise Challenge is a student led learning experience which focuses on a natural hazard faced by the student's community with the goal that students take civic action to reduce that hazard in their own communities. It follows Next Generation Science Standards, NGSS (which fits well with what we do). Students lead each step in the process: topic initiation, investigation, group decision making, design and execute research (analysis and interpretation), research policy and community practice research, problem statement, solution development based on argument from evidence, and civic action planning and communication.

This is a real competition, with prizes awarded to the top proposals and implementation funding offered to all! Those groups who successfully progress through the steps present their findings at the RISE Summit in late spring. RISE Challenge 2024 was a success! RISE Challenge Program Coordinator, Michelle Ramos and EEAI Director Brekke Bounds told us, "This is a big delayed THANK YOU! From Michelle and I for your hard work to help our RISE challenge happen this past May. We helped students work on air quality, invasive species, and flooding problems in their communities and gave away nearly \$10,000 to support those projects and award our hardworking groups."

If you are interested in helping with this incredible opportunity, you can learn more here: <https://eeai.net/earth-force-and-rise-challenge/>. Now is the time to talk with your network of science teachers and scout troop leaders to form teams, or sign up with EEAI to be a RISE Challenge Judge.



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2024 IAFSM Annual Conference Feedback Summary

Every year, we gather feedback from the Annual Conference to understand what works well and where we can improve. This year, with the assistance of AI, we were able to process through the thousands of data points and comments, and provide a summary of the results with you. Our Annual Conference Planning Committee is using this feedback to improve next year's conference, so we thank you for participating in the survey.

Positive Feedback

194 people responded to the survey, representing nearly half of all attendees, creating a very strong sample size. Overall, the 2024 Annual Conference was rated a great success, with an overwhelming majority of participants rating the event highly:

- 96 attendees rated the overall quality of the event as “Very Good.”
- 90 attendees gave it a “Good” rating.

Several members commented on aspects they appreciated, such as the spacious seating arrangement and the buffet lunch, which was preferred over pre-plated meals. One participant noted: “I think the conference is excellent,” reflecting the overall sentiment of satisfaction. Additionally, networking opportunities were frequently highlighted as beneficial.

Plenary Speakers

We are pleased to report that 92% of respondents rated the plenary sessions as “Good” or “Very Good” at this year's conference. This reflects a strong positive reception of the speakers and the content they presented.

When asked which speaker was the most engaging or insightful, Julie Nucci received several mentions, with attendees describing her presentation (“Above the Flood: A Homeowner's Experience Elevating the First House in the National Register of Historic Places in New York State”) as fascinating and well-delivered in spite of the technical issues with the AVI system.

In terms of relevance, 73% of attendees found the plenary sessions to be “Pretty Relevant” or “Very Relevant” to their professional work.

Most Beneficial Aspects

When asked about the most beneficial aspects of the conference, networking was overwhelmingly the top response, mentioned frequently throughout the feedback. Many attendees appreciated the opportunity to connect with peers, government officials, and industry experts. The social aspects, including the mixer and the lunch sessions, were highlighted as key moments for meaningful interaction.

Other aspects that attendees found beneficial included:

- Breakout sessions and presentations: Many participants valued the in-depth technical discussions, with several mentioning that the sessions were informative and relevant to their work.
- Diverse topics: The variety of topics covered, including stormwater management, floodplain enforcement, and regulatory updates, resonated with many attendees.

This balance of networking and educational content appears to be a major draw for participants, contributing to the overall success of the conference.

Suggestions for Enhancing Future Conferences

This year's Annual Conference took place at a new venue, which came with both opportunities and challenges. While we experienced some bumps along the way, the feedback we received echoed many of the same issues that the Board had noted. The good news is that our conference continues to grow year after year. The challenge, however, is finding venues that can comfortably accommodate our expanding attendance. Our Conference Committee Chair has shared both the positive and constructive feedback with the venue to help improve future events.

Attendees provided a wide range of suggestions to enhance the conference experience, including:

1. Logistics and Venue:

- Multiple requests were made to improve the presentation screens and ensure they are larger and more visible, particularly for attendees seated toward the back.
- A suggestion was made to hold the conference in Southern Illinois to accommodate attendees from different regions.
- Attendees emphasized the importance of having the conference venue connected to a hotel for convenience.

2. Content and Structure:

- Many participants expressed a desire for more plenary sessions focused on practical implementation, including learning from how other states and countries handle floodplain management.
- There was also feedback about reducing the number of speakers per session to give more time to those presenting and avoid rushed sessions.
- One attendee suggested adding sessions on AI and its impact on the industry.

3. Presentation Improvements:

- Several attendees requested guidelines for presenters to help improve the quality and engagement of presentations, such as reminders to focus on high-level content and avoid cramming too much detail.
- Recommendations were made to offer public speaking tips or training for presenters.
- A request that we bring back the ringing of the bell to signal when sessions are about to start, as it was mentioned multiple times in the feedback.

4. App and Scheduling:

- There were multiple requests to improve the conference app to make scheduling sessions easier and more intuitive, allowing attendees to customize their schedule and ensure they don't miss key presentations.
- A suggestion was made to record sessions so attendees could watch ones they missed due to schedule conflicts.

5. Social and Networking Opportunities:

- Attendees appreciated the breaks between sessions for socializing and networking and suggested maintaining these in future conferences.
- There were also requests for more field trips and networking activities to be included in the schedule.

Top Five Favorite Sessions

We asked participants to vote for their favorite session, and we are excited to share the top five most mentioned presentations:

1. (1C) Mapping the Wabash River Floodplain: Whence This Historic Valley? Zoe Zaloudek, ISWS
2. (3B) Big Detention in the Little ROW, Matt Moffitt and Paul Siegfried, Baxter & Woodman
3. (1B) IDOT's Pump Station 38: Challenging Design, Challenging Coordination Bob Mack, Knight Engineering, and Jim Mitchell, WSP
4. (1B) Champaign's 20-year Stormwater Journey: Copper Slough Watershed Master Plan to Garden Hills and Beyond, Christopher Gutkowski, Clark Dietz
5. (3C) Building a Stormwater Digital Twin for Kane County, Rob Linke, Kane County Department of Environmental & Water Services

Closing Thoughts

We sincerely appreciate everyone who took the time to provide feedback. It's this input that helps us continually improve and offer a conference that is valuable to all participants. Rest assured that your voices have been heard, and we look forward to incorporating your suggestions into next year's event. We hope to see you at the 2025 Annual Conference in Tinley Park, where we aim to build on this year's success and continue delivering an outstanding experience for all.

Coming Soon: 2025 Annual Conference!

The IAFSM Annual Conference will be Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11-12, 2025, at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL.

Call for Speakers

IAFSM invites speakers from municipal, public, and private sectors to present information on floodplain and stormwater management topics. Submit abstracts online: <https://forms.gle/zXUYNjTrERTu5hxU8>. The deadline is October 31, 2024. Presenters will be notified of their acceptance or denial by January 13, 2025.

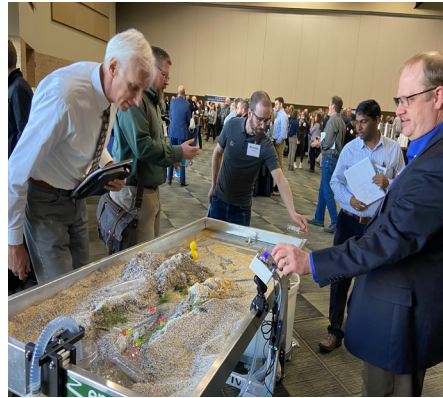
IAFSM intends for the 2025 Annual Conference to provide focused/in-depth education and training in the principal committee disciplines of IAFSM, including Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, Mitigation, Wetlands, CRS, and Legislation, and encourages abstract submissions in the areas of water quality / BMPs for MS4s, and urban flooding issues.

Tours / Field Trips Wanted

Does your community have a floodplain, stormwater, mitigation, or wetland project in the vicinity of the conference hotel that you would like to show to other floodplain managers? IAFSM is considering offering Technical Field Tours again if enough tour sites are submitted to make up a tour. Please submit nominations for potential tour sites at: <https://forms.gle/zXUYNjTrERTu5hxU8>.

For More Information

For the most up to date information, please go to the Annual Conference page on our website at: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences-workshops/iafsm-annual-conference> or contact Sharon Østerby, Conference Chair, at SOsterby@lakecountyil.gov, or Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at iafsm@illinoisfloods.org.

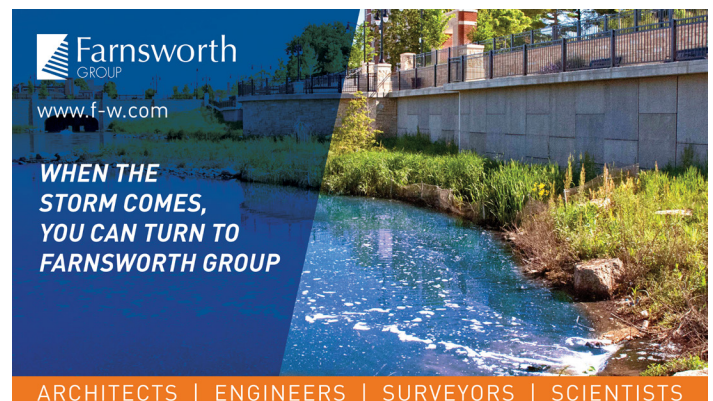


IAFSM Annual Awards

Awards Season is approaching! Nominate Your Peers and Colleagues for Stormwater and Floodplain Management Awards, for recognition at our 2025 conference in March!

Do you know someone who has made notable contributions to furthering the goals and missions of IAFSM? Nominate them now! All nominations and references are to be submitted online or via email. Nominations are now being accepted for the awards listed below. Nominations for the following categories are due by February 3, 2025. Please visit <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/membership/awards> for more information.

- **Floodplain Manager of the Year:** Recognizes outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level in the area of floodplain management.
- **Young Professional of the Year:** Recognizes the achievements of IAFSM professionals and graduate students under the age of 35. It is recommended that nominations describe the nominee's service to the advancement of floodplain and stormwater management. This can include contributions to IAFSM and other professional organizations, technical contributions to the profession, and service to the community. Please include a letter of recommendation if desired.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 lawmakers 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.
- **French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for 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.



Consider Joining the Board: Elections for Secretary at the March 2025 IAFSM Annual Conference

-Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM, IDNR-OWR, IAFSM Nominations & Elections Chair

IAFSM will be electing a new IAFSM Secretary at the upcoming Annual Conference in the Spring of 2025. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please email Mark.Hoskins@illinois.gov and add your name as interested in serving on the IAFSM Board. Below is a description of the Secretary position's responsibilities. As Secretary you would serve for two years, then have the option to move upward in the Executive Board towards Treasurer, then the Vice Chair, then Chair of the Association should you so choose.

The Secretary shall generally have the following responsibilities: 1) Record the minutes of Board and membership meetings, 2) Mail notices of upcoming Board and membership meetings, and 3) Maintain important records of the Board of Directors. Please contact our current secretary Jenny Loewenstein at jenny.loewenstein@contigoengineering.com and she will be glad to let you know how she is serving as IAFSM Secretary, and answer any questions that you may have.

All members are encouraged to become Board members. As a longtime Board member, I've enjoyed the many discussions and have learned a lot about floodplain management in Illinois and nationally. While serving you will find out that other Board members are great resources for learning about new initiatives within our state and within the NFIP. Yep, and it's fun too.

The deadline for adding your name to the list of candidates for our next IAFSM Secretary is January 31, 2025.

Consider Adopting a 2-ft Freeboard Now!

-Excerpt from ASFPM News Editor, September 30, 2024

On April 23, 2024, HUD adopted a [final rule](#) to implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). For new construction of one- to four-unit residential properties located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and insured under FHA Single Family mortgage insurance programs, the rule revises HUD's Minimum Property Standards (MPS) to require that the lowest floor be at least two feet above base flood elevation (BFE). This requirement adds two feet of additional elevation to FHA's existing MPS requirement as a resilience standard. The requirement does not apply to the rehabilitation of existing structures with 203(k) insured financing or the purchase of manufactured homes insured under FHA Single Family programs. Compliance with this part of the rule is required for new construction with building permit applications submitted on or after January 1, 2025. ASFPM's full article is [here](#).



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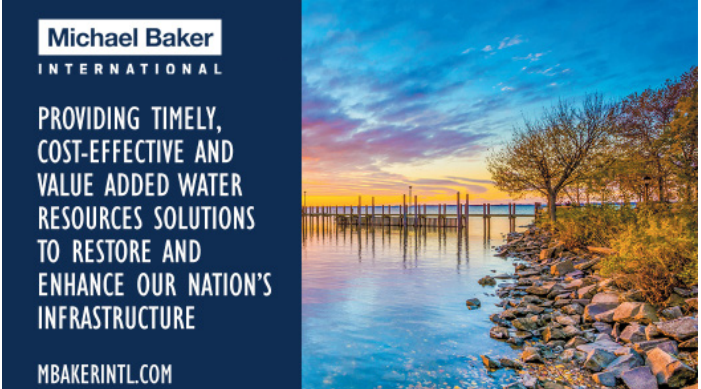


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CEC Education & Training Opportunities

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/ASFPM Sponsored Training Opportunities:

- IAFSM Annual Conference: March 11 & 12, 2025 Tinley Park Convention Center
- ASFPM Annual Conference May 18-22, 2025 New Orleans, LA

Illinois DNR webinars:

- 10/15/2024 (Tuesday) 11:30-12:30, [Variances and Violations – Enforcing Your Floodplain Development Ordinance](#)
- 11/12/2024 (Tuesday) 11:30-12:30, [Substantial Damage and Substantial Improvement – And overview of the local official's requirements](#)

FEMA Webinars

- 10/30/2024, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Great Lakes Coastal Floodplain Management](#)
- 11/27/2024, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Natural and Beneficial Functions](#)
- 12/18/2024, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#)

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/emicourses/>

- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP- Dec 9-12, 2024, Feb 3-6, June 9-12, 2025
- E0278 NFIP Community Rating System – Jan 13-16, 2025

Webinars

- ASFPM – <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>
- AFPM is offering additional at home training. For information, see the link below: <https://floods.redvector.com/>
- Also...ASFPM has On Demand Learning seminars that would be of interest to current and future CFM's. [Check it out at On-Demand Learning \(floods.org\)](#)
- Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar: <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/calendar.asp?>



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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

2025 IAFSM Conference

The 2025 Annual Conference will be held next March 11-12, 2025 at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, IL. Save the date!

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas & 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 five 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 currently keeps tables in Summerfield, Champaign, Bartlett, Woodridge, and Swansea. Contact Sarah Harbaugh at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.



Sarah Wenzel brought the IAFSM water table to St. Thomas Middle School's Science Palooza event in Peoria Heights and demonstrated to students and parents how different surfaces can affect water runoff in an interactive exhibit.

Next Board Meeting

The next IAFSM Board Meetings will be held on November 13 in-person at V3 Companies in Woodridge. This is our big conference planning meeting. Join us! All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. A zoom link may be available; contact Sarah Harbaugh.

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html. Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. To post an open position, please sign into our website and complete the job listing form. If you have any questions please contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

CFM Exams

Beginning in 2023, exams are only offered online. Online exams can be taken in your home (monitored by an online proctor) or at a testing center; there are many testing centers throughout Illinois. For information, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



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THE IAFSM CURRENT

Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Fall 2024 Newsletter

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.

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For current Job Postings and CEC Training Opportunities, visit our website at illinoisfloods.org