



THE IAFSM CURRENT

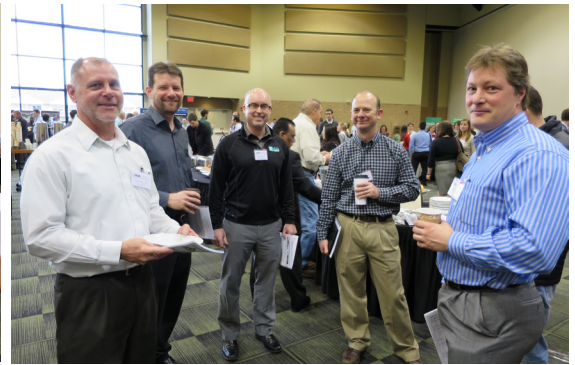
Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2016 Newsletter

2016 Conference Recap

2016 broke records with over 560 people attending the Annual Conference in Tinley Park. Attendees had an opportunity to choose among 55 break-out presentations and one pre-conference workshop, heard six interesting and informational plenary/lunch speakers, and visited with 23 exhibitors. A HUGE thank you is owed to our Conference Chair, Glenn Heistand, for his hard work and commitment to this year's conference.

Thank you, Glenn.



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IAFSM Award Recipients

IAFSM's traditional awards honor the efforts of one person over a career, or an agency over an extended period of time and many projects. The 2016 award winners are:

Outstanding Service Award: Lorin Wobig. 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. His long time dedication to the organization and the Flood Risk Symposium/Urban Flooding issues have made Loren a deserving recipient of this award.

Floodplain Manager of the Year Award: Thom Webster, City of Watseka. Watseka experienced severe flooding from the both the July and December 2015 floods. Hundreds of homes were impacted and several were in need of being determined if they were damaged above the 50% of their value. Thom had never done a substantial damage determination before the July event, but now has completed several determinations and over 20 homes have now been elevated as a result. Thom has also begun to help other communities around Watseka to use FEMA's determination software with great success.



Sarah Hunn and Stu Richter present Thom Webster of Watseka with the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award.



Marcy Leach accepts the Stormwater Award on behalf of the City of Rockford.

Stormwater Management Award: City of Rockford. The City's Stormwater Management Plan runs the gambit in regards to regulating what falls from the sky and what is discharged into their watershed system. This ordinance also complies with their NPDES Phase 1 permit.

Journalism or Public Outreach Award: WUIS, NPR Illinois. WUIS worked with several IAFSM members to bring public attention to the Urban Flooding Awareness Act. Their news story on Urban Flooding in Illinois can be listened to at: <http://wuis.org/post/urban-flooding-big-problem-illinois>

Mitigation Award: Paul Miller, DeKalb County. As Planning, Zoning and Building Director, Paul worked toward passing an "All Hazards Mitigation Plan" which has enabled DeKalb and the communities within to obtain hazard mitigation funding. This funding has been put toward demolition of many (repetitive) flood prone structures.



Rebecca Von Drasek of DeKalb County accepts the Mitigation Award on behalf of Paul Miller.

IAFSM Project Award Recipients

IAFSM's project awards recognize excellent projects across the state where a team has been assembled to accomplish a specific task. The 2016 award winners are:

Flood Reduction Project Award (Large Project): Thornton Reservoir, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

- Christened as Chicago's Grand Canyon
- Capacity to store 8 billions gallons.
- Part of the TARP system that protects 556,000 people in the surrounding 14 suburbs
- Prevents \$40 million worth of damages each year

Flood Reduction Project Award (Small Project): Klein Creek Flood Mitigation, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

- Two-reservoir system that intakes water from adjacent creek during flood events.
- Includes a small gravity reservoir and a larger reservoir with pumping system.
- Two larges pumps each can pump 20,000 gpm.
- Reduces flooding for approximately 60 properties.

Sustainability Project Award: Stormwater Management Master Plan, Loyola University Campus, Chicago

- Includes a holistic approach to green infrastructure and stormwater strategies
- Reduced runoff from the site by 40%
- Rated the 4th greenest campus in the U.S. by the Sierra Club

Public Education and Outreach Project Award: RainReady, Village of Midlothian

- Program has three objectives: 1) To understand the flooding impact; 2) To enlist the resident's feedback on potential solutions; 3) To engage them directly implementing these solutions.
- Outreach and education was performed using public meetings, property surveys and onsite assessments, qualitative interviews, publication of a risk assessment report, participation in the village parade and block party, and a bicycle tour.



Bill Sheriff accepts the Flood Reduction Project Award on behalf of MWRDGC.



Kristine Meyer, Sarah Hunn and Chris Vonname of DuPage County Stormwater accept the Flood Reduction Project Award.



Loyola University accepts the Stormwater Management Master Plan award.



Representatives from Floodlothian Midlothian accept the Public Education and Outreach Award.

2016 “Best Presentation” Award

IAFSM members were provided an opportunity to vote for the best workshop presentation they attended, as part of the conference survey. (Plenary Speakers were not included in this vote). Our Annual Conference would not be the great success that it is without the hard work and wonderful presentations of all our speakers. This year, the following presenters were the top three vote getters. Thanks to all members who voted, and thanks to everyone who presented.

1st place: Session 4C “A New Competitor in 2D Modeling: Complex Comparison of AdH and HEC-RAS”, with 11% of the votes. Presenters: Scott Arends, Garrett Litteken (Hanson Professional Services, Inc.)

2nd place: Session 4A “Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance: Update on Permit Compliance Resources”, with 8% of the votes. Presenter: Dan Feltes (MWRDGC)

3rd place: Session 1D “Partnering to Solve Local Flooding: MWRD’s Stormwater Masterplans Open Panel Discussion”, with 7% of the votes. Presenters: Richard Fisher (MWRD), Matt Bardol (Geosyntec), Heather Schwar (Cardno), Mark Wagstaff (M3 Engineering Group), John Mayer (Engineering Resource Associates), Marty Michalisko (Engineering Resource Associates), Jenny Loewenstein (Engineering Resource Associates), Gunilla Goulding (Arcadis), Jennifer Maercklein (V3), Rebeca Bell (Bluestem Communications), Elli Cosky (Metro Strategies).



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Is Flood Fighting Legal?

~ IDNR, Office of Water Resources, Division of Resource Management

Is flood fighting (temporarily constructing new dikes/levees/walls, placing rapid deployment flood barriers, raising levees/floodwalls, sand bagging, pumping, etc) Legal?

NO If it includes temporarily constructing or raising floodwalls, levees, or flood barriers, placing manufactured flood barrier products, or eliminating floodway storage and conveyance in the floodway without state authorizations;

YES If it is implemented outside the limits of a designated floodway in accordance with locally adopted floodplain regulations or implemented in accordance with a previously approved State of Illinois flood fighting plan;

MAYBE If the Governor of Illinois, through Executive Proclamation pursuant to the Illinois Emergency Management Act, issues a disaster declaration that includes the location of the flood fighting activity AND temporarily suspends any state agency regulatory statute, order, rule or regulation that would prevent, hinder, or delay emergency actions necessary to cope with the disaster.

During a flood, IDNR/OWR floodway regulations still apply! Unfortunately, during floods, these regulations are often overlooked as temporary flood barriers are constructed and levees are raised in gallant efforts to protect flood prone properties. In some cases, flood fighting occurs with little-or-no consideration of the impacts it may have on the flow of water or the potential damages to others. The availability of many new rapid deployment flood barrier products now enable many more Illinois communities and organizations to quickly set up temporary floodwalls relatively inexpensively. The designs and/or installation mechanics of many of these products dictate the alignments of these walls such that greater areas are removed from the floodplain or floodway than necessary to protect individual buildings or assets. The temporary nature of these flood barrier products do not make them any less capable of increasing flood heights on others than permanent floodwalls or levees illegally constructed in the floodplain.

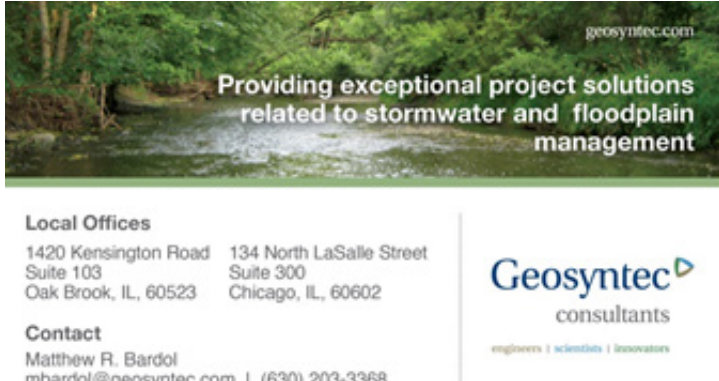
Flood fighting activities in the floodway of jurisdictional streams: 1) need a permit from IDNR/OWR and 2) must be done so they do not force water onto others or cause damage to others. IDNR/OWR floodway construction and public water rules are always in force unless flood fighting actions are specifically suspended temporarily by the Governor in a disaster declaration. Even then, the regulations are only suspended for a specific disaster event, in a specific area, and for a limited time such that all flood fighting products, structures, or modifications must be removed to restore the floodway to pre-flood conditions immediately after flood waters have receded.



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From the Chair

~E. Stuart Richter, CFM, Whiteside County

Another successful IAFSM Conference has concluded which was the first for our Vice/Conference Chair, Glenn Heistand. It always amazes me how new Conference Chairs take to the duties of putting together a conference like a duck to water. They can always depend on their predecessors and the rest of the Board for help if needed. This is why IAFSM members should not be afraid to put their name in for Secretary when it comes around next election cycle. Just let Mark Hoskins know if you are interested.

Elections have changed since my first go round in service to the organization. Back then, anyone could run for any office at any time. Though this is still the case, in reality a progression has been set up which may or may not be preferable. At present, one starts as the Secretary (2 years), then moves on to Treasurer (2 years), then moves to Vice Chair/Conference Chair (2 years), then Chair (2 years) and rounds out their service as Past Chair (2 years). This allows for continuity, but precludes those wishing to participate because a ten year commitment can be quite a bit, especially with people moving around with their jobs, etc. I am serving as Chair again because a very qualified woman, Lillian Prince, chose to drop out of the “chain” to serve to a higher calling: family. I applaud her decision and hope that I can adequately fill in for her.

We may have set a new record for attendance this year facilitated by the improvements to the Tinley Park Conference Center. The final count on attendees will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Though I heard few comments over the 2 days, the ones that I heard were mostly positive. Hearing and visibility were the subjects of negative comments, especially in the Plenaries. We need to get the sound up and the lights down.

As usual, a lack of diversity was noticeable among the attendees. I have noticed this over the years and have been lax in working on this situation. I have now donned my “thinking cap” to formulate a plan of action, but suggestions from anyone in the membership would be greatly appreciated. We cannot be sure what is possible until we try.

Next up is the National Conference in Grand Rapids, MI with IAFSM as co-host with the Michigan Chapter. Work began before last year’s conference in Atlanta and Amanda Flegel is spearheading our efforts. She has done an admirable job to date and I do not envy her one bit.

I will be working on getting a “guest columnist” for the next issue of the IAFSM Current. I leave you with this: Stressed? *Your cope runneth over. (Unk)*

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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 Sponsored Training Opportunities:

- The ASFPM National Conference is scheduled for June 19 – 24 in Grand Rapids, MI
 - » <http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuID=223&firstlevelmenuID=181&siteID=1>

Additional Training Opportunities:

- Sept 15-16: Advanced Modeling using HEC-RAS Version 5.0. The ASCE Environmental & Water Resources Institute – Chicago Chapter is pleased to present a workshop on Advanced Modeling Using HEC-RAS Version 5.0. This course presents HEC-RAS steady-flow modeling features not covered in a more basic HEC-RAS course. New aspects of HEC-RAS Version 5.0 will be discussed, with this new version being used as a platform for discussion topics throughout the course. Course location: O'Hare Plaza, 8755 W. Higgins Rd, Chicago. For more info, contact Brian Olson, bolson@heyassoci.com, and to register: <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=pkfdk>
- 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/EMI/>
- Upcoming courses include:
 - » June 27-30 & Sept 12-15: EMI - E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program
 - » Apr 14: EMI-0162 Floodplain Management in Disaster operations
 - » Apr 11-14: EMI - E0194 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts
 - » Apr 18-21: EMI - E0278 National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System
 - » June 20-23: EMI0172: Hazus-MH for Flood
 - » June 27-30: E0273: Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP
 - » July 11-14: E0282 – Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II
 - » Aug 29-Sept 1: EMI-E0284 Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III

Webinars

- ASFPM offers webinars at <http://www.floods.org/n-calendar/>
 - » 4/12/16 – Hydraulics 101
 - » 4/14/16 – Hydraulics 101
 - » 4/21/16 – Proactive Flood and Drought Mangement Volume II
 - » 4/26/16 – Using Flood Risk Products
 - » 4/28/16 – Restoring Functional Floodplain for Nature and People

4th Annual Running of the Chapters (Wednesday, June 22nd 7:00am - 10:00am)

This year's ASFPM national conference will showcase the 4th Annual 5K road race (co-sponsored by IAFSM), designed for either a seasoned runner or casual walker. The scenic route along the Grand River, literally out the backdoor of the Conference Center and conference hotels, will provide a scenic backdrop for this race. Participants will receive a tech shirt, pint glass with race logo, and bottle opener finisher medal. The registration fee increases after 6/16/2016. Additional information and registration at <http://www.asfpmconference.org/race-5k>

Ken Williams Tribute

In March, Ken Williams, a long-time friend of IAFSM and top-notch floodplain manager passed away. Ken was Carbon Cliff mayor for 30 years.



Ken and Carbon Cliff have done more to reduce flooding than many of the bigger cities in Illinois.

Ken had a degree in journalism education from Northern Illinois University and taught school for many years. Initially, he had reservations about a career in politics; “I was the kind of person that got along with everybody. I knew, as mayor, you would have to make decisions that were going to make people mad. Not everybody was going to agree with you.”

“He was the best mayor in the Quad-Cities,” retired state senator and former East Moline mayor Denny Jacobs said. “To me, he has no peer.” State floodplain manager Paul Osman couldn’t agree more:

“Among all the mayors in the entire state I have worked with over the years, Ken was one of the very best. He was very conscientious about his community and not afraid to stand his ground on tough issues.”

At a recent conference focusing on issues facing Mississippi River communities, James Patchett, president of the Conservation Design Forum, cited Carbon Cliff as an example of a community practicing environmentally friendly concepts. Carbon Cliff’s Green Street project was designed to address drainage and water quality problems in the village. Permeable road construction materials were used to replace asphalt-paved streets that had run-off problems.

Carbon Cliff has also taken full advantage of mitigation funding and ICC to mitigate many of the community’s most flood prone structures. The City is a stalwart defender of floodplain regulations on new development. Despite being a small town on a tight budget, much of the floodplain in Carbon Cliff remains open green space.

As a testimony to Mr. Williams’s belief in doing the right thing, Ken is a foster parent to a 2-year-old girl who came to him when she was 6 weeks old. Mr. Williams has also adopted several children and been a foster parent for many years. “It gives me a good feeling knowing where they came from and where they are going, and it provides them an opportunity to make something of their lives,” he said.

With Ken’s passing, IAFSM has lost a good friend.



A red-tagged home and a home being elevated in Carbon Cliff after flooding in 2013.

Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Dates! 2017 IAFSM Conference and 2016 National Conference

The 2017 Annual Conference will be March 8 & 9, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza Springfield. The 2016 National Conference will be held in our region this summer, on June 19 – 24, 2016 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and 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 two 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 keeps one in Springfield and the other in northeast Illinois. Contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meetings

The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on May 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Ottawa City Hall, 301 W. Madison St. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend Board meetings. See you there!

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html> Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. If you would like to post a position, send complete information to IAFSM@sbcglobal.net.

2016 CFM Exam Schedule

To view 2016 exam dates and register, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



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The advertisement for Ciorba Group features a logo with a stylized 'CG' in a square. Below the logo are four colored bars (green, purple, blue, orange) corresponding to the text labels: roadway, structural, water resources, and construction. To the right of these labels are four small images: a residential street, a large pile of construction material, a river landscape, and a bridge under construction. At the bottom, there is a red bar with the website and phone number, and a row of five colored squares.



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The advertisement for Arcadis features a logo with a stylized 'A' in a circle. Below the logo is a graphic of a city skyline in orange. The text 'Creating harmony and balance between people and the planet.' is written in white on an orange background. At the bottom, there is a black bar with the website URL and three social media icons: Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.



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Illinois Association for
Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Spring 2016 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.

IAFSM OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CHAIR

E. Stuart Richter, CFM
Whiteside County
srichter@whiteside.org

TREASURER

Erik Gil, P.E., CFM
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
egil@cbbel.com

PAST CHAIR

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IDNR/Office of Water Resources
Loren.wobig@illinois.gov

VICE CHAIR

Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
heistand@illinois.edu

SECRETARY

Stephen Altman, P.E., CFM
Hanson Professional Services
SAltman@Hanson-inc.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sarah Harbaugh
IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org

CONFERENCE

Glenn Heistand, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
heistand@illinois.edu

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Diane Bouckaert, P.E., CFM
Manhard Consulting Ltd
dbouckaert@manhard.com

NEWSLETTER

Jennifer Maercklein, P.E., CFM
V3 Companies of Illinois
jmaercklein@v3co.com

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mark Hoskins, P.E., CFM
Michael Baker International
Mark.Hoskins@mbakerintl.com

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Mike Sutfin, CFM
City of Ottawa
msutfin@cityofottawa.org

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Shauna Urlacher, P.E., CFM
V3 Companies of Illinois
surlacher@v3co.com

AWARDS

Sarah Hunn, P.E.
DuPage Co Stormwater Mgmt
Sarah.Hunn@dupageco.org

INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL

Amanda Flegel, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
aflegel@illinois.edu

WETLANDS

Tom Kehoe
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
tkehoe@cbbel.com

CERTIFICATION

Matt Wahl, CFM
Peoria County
mwahl@peoriacounty.org

LEGISLATIVE

Kay Whitlock, P.E., D.WRE
Christopher B. Burke Eng., Ltd.
kwhitlock@cbbel.com

YOUTH OUTREACH

Brian Chaille, P.E., CFM
Illinois State Water Survey
bchaille@illinois.edu

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Brian Eber, CFM
IDNR/Office of Water Resources
Brian.Eber@illinois.gov

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