



July, 2023

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

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Message from the Editor

The WAFSCM newsletter is published twice a year to update members on chapter activities and to provide information on publications, seminars, etc. that may be beneficial to our water community. If you have articles, announcements, or other information that you would like us to include in future newsletters, please forward it to me at BPowers@scsengineers.com.

Thank you to all the newsletter contributors and to Rhonda Janos for the newsletter preparation.

Betsy Powers, P.E.

Newsletter Editor

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

Message from the Chair

Doug Kerns, CFM



Hello WAFSCM Members,

I hope you all had a great Spring and are looking forward to the months to come. Wisconsin had a quick snow melt with many counties experiencing high water. Executive Order #194, signed on April 16, 2023, declared the State of Emergency allowing resources throughout Wisconsin to be mobilized for the pending flooding.

Here in La Crosse, the Mississippi crested at the third highest stage of record at 15.89 feet. The two times the river had been higher were on April 18, 2001, and April 22, 1965. The stages were 16.41 feet and 17.89 feet, respectively. Fortunately, the levee reaches held and most of La Crosse stayed dry.

I am happy to report that Milwaukee is being considered for the ASFPM National Conference in 2026. This is great news for our chapter. Stay tuned for more information regarding our responsibilities to host this large event. There will be many volunteer opportunities.

Furthermore, the WAFSCM conference planning committee has been busy planning our upcoming annual conference. This year the conference is being held in Green Bay on November 1 – 2, 2023. Please save the date and visit <https://wafscm.org/annual-conference/> to find more information. The call for presentations is open now until July 14th. Also, if you have a colleague that is interested in becoming a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), please let them know that the ASFPM exam is being offered.

Sponsors and exhibitors make this conference a great place to be. It is always good to catch up on the latest and greatest products and information. Please get in touch with me (doug@mwfloodplain.com) or Terry Tavera (ttavera@ruekert-mielke.com) if your company is interested in having a booth and/or sponsoring the conference.

Finally, our Board is looking for some new faces to help participate. I am pleased to welcome Sarah Rafajko as our new Membership Committee Chair. Sarah is the floodplain manager for the City of La Crosse and she recently attended the ASFPM conference in North Carolina. Welcome, Sarah!

WAFSCM's Executive Board of Directors will be changing this Fall. Nominations will be accepted for these positions soon.

Have a great and safe summer.

Thank you!

Sincerely

Doug Kerns, CFM

WAFSCM Chair

608.792.7543

2022 WAFSCM Annual Conference Recap

The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management (WAFSCM) held its 20th annual conference on October 19th – 20th at the Kalahari Resort & Conventions in the Wisconsin Dells. The 20th annual conference overall can be summed up as a big hit, with two misses. Let's first start with the hits:

1. The new 2-day format.
2. Inclusion of Exhibitors Reception & Social Event into the fees.
3. The Field Tour led by Uriah Monday from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR).
4. Local Award for Excellence.
5. Breakout Sessions.

The new 2-day format and inclusion of Exhibitors Reception & Social Event into the fees both had a high approval rating on the 2022 WAFSCM exit surveys. The purpose of the format change was to link the Field Tour into the Exhibitors Reception & Social Event, which did increase the attendance for both events. The inclusion of the Exhibitors Reception & Social Event fee into the conference attendance fee allowed public sector members to attend without paying out of pocket, which was also meant to boost attendance by that sector.

The Field Tour led by Uriah Monday (WI DNR) was a huge success, and was well attended. With a packed coach bus, Uriah led WAFSCM members on a tour of the Fox River Levee & Locks.



Uriah Monday (Brown Jacket) leading discussion about the Fox River Levee & Lock System.



WAFSCM was proud to present the 2022 Local Award for Excellence to Patrick Elliott, PE (Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District) for the Jackson Park Project. This project naturalized the Kinnickinnic River through Jackson Park by removing more than 2,100 feet of concrete channel lining and enclosed culvert.

The naturalization project will provide flood risk reduction to over 700 residential and commercial properties. Congratulations, Patrick!!

2022 WAFSCM Annual Conference Recap (Continued)

Last but not least, the 2022 WAFSCM Annual Conference Breakout Sessions covered a large swath of floodplain, stormwater, and coastal management topics. These topics were exemplified through such presentations as Daylighting Dubuque's Bee Branch Creek, Great Lakes Coastal Resilience in a Changing Climate, and Thinking Outside the Box Culvert II: Update on Sustainable Flood Management. The WAFSCM Conference Committee would like to thank all of the Breakout Session presenters. Without you, the 2022 WAFSCM Annual Conference would not have been possible.



Dave Fowler (left) presenting Patrick Elliott, PE (right) with the 2022 Local Award for Excellence.

And now onto the 2 misses:

1. Workshop
2. Lunch Plenary

These two misses can be chalked up to “Life Happens.” In the end you learn, and moving forward, the WAFSCM conference will always have a back-up plan. The WAFSCM Conference Committee would also thank the general WAFSCM Membership for being respectful and understanding during the designated Lunch Plenary.

On to the 21st Annual WAFSCM Conference! The WAFSCM Conference Committee cannot wait to see you at the Hyatt Regency – Green Bay on November 1-2, 2023!

Thank you to the 2022 WAFSCM Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors!

The WAFSCM Conference Committee would like to thank our 2022 WAFSCM Annual Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors. The contributions from our Sponsors and Exhibitors helps WAFSCM provide a quality conference at a very reasonable cost. In addition, they provide wonderful raffle prizes for our event. All the Sponsors and Exhibitors are acknowledged in this newsletter. Please let them know you appreciate their support!

The WAFSCM Conference Committee enjoyed working with all our long-term Sponsors and Exhibitors prior to the 2022 conference. Our new Conference Sponsor and Exhibitor Chair, Ryan Kloth, will be reaching out to find some new supporters for the 2023 conference. If you are interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor, would be willing to provide a raffle item, or have any questions, please contact Ryan Kloth at: RKloth@ruekert-mielke.com.



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Thank you to our Exhibitors!













SAVE THE DATE!!!!

We are pleased to announce the Annual WAFSCM Conference – 2023

November 1 – 2, 2023

Green Bay Hyatt Regency Hotel

333 Main St., Green Bay, WI

Details on registration, sponsorships, speakers and award submittals, scholarships, and conference content will be posted to the WAFSCM website. www.wafscm.org. Our tracks for the breakout sessions will include stormwater, floodplains, and coastal projects/issues.

Plan your abstract submittals that are due July 14, 2023.

Schedule:

Wednesday 11/1: Field tour and social reception

Thursday 11/2: Main conference day (plenary and breakout sessions)

Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and Continuing Education Credits (CECs) can be earned at the conference on Wednesday and Thursday.

A CFM exam is being scheduled!

Contact Conference Chair:

Jacob Maas at jmaas@hartford.wi.gov

for more information.



Articles from ASFPM

EPA Announces \$30M for Underserved Communities in Great Lakes Region

Applications are being accepted through Aug. 11 under a newly created program to fund restoration projects that advance environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities across the Great Lakes region.

[Read more](#)



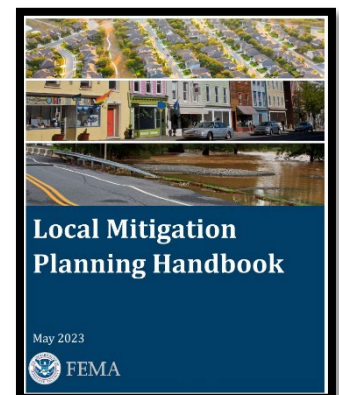
FEMA Releases Updated Local Mitigation Planning Handbook

FEMA recently released an updated Local Mitigation Planning Handbook to help local governments develop and update hazard mitigation plans to meet the current local mitigation planning policy, which took effect in April 2023. This new handbook — updated for the first time since 2013 — shows how communities can design a sound planning process while meeting new policy requirements, including climate change considerations.

Suitable for planners of all experience levels, the handbook explains the four steps to develop a local plan:

- Organize the planning process and resources.
- Assess risk.
- Develop a mitigation strategy.
- Adopt and implement the plan.

The 253-page handbook also provides guidance, case studies, and best practices that will help communities plan to reduce long-term risk from natural disasters. [Download](#)



Articles from ASFPM (Continued)

Four principles for reforming US disaster policy

Thirty-five years after the Stafford Act, our current federal disaster system — stressed by climate change and continued development in high-risk areas — demands reform. Researchers at Brookings have developed a series of briefs around the key debates at the core of our federal disaster policy inertia. [Read more](#)



Climate change and crumbling infrastructure create a 'perfect storm' for Americans living in flood zones



It's time to give up the hubris that we can control nature with bulldozers, dirt and concrete. Instead, we should help people move out of floodplains and employ nature-based measures to reduce the force of future disasters. [Read more](#)

Decreasing flood risk in the Midwest with regional collaborations

A regional approach to flood risk can help communities pool resources and implement effective solutions. This report from Headwaters Economics and Georgetown Climate Center showcases five case studies that offer lessons. [Read more](#)



[Download report](#)



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WAFSCM Board Members

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