

*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](mailto:BPowers@scsengineers.com).

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

*Betsy Powers, P.E.*  
Newsletter Editor

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## Message from the Chair

*Megan Bender, P.E., CFM*



Hello WAFSCM members,

What a year 2020 is shaping up to be. Hopefully all of you are staying healthy and happy throughout this pandemic. It is changing life for everyone in many ways, especially where large gatherings are concerned. On that note, our conference for 2020 will now be a virtual one, with many great speakers and topics to be enjoyed, but from a safe distance. Look for more information on that in this newsletter, as well as in future correspondence from WAFSCM with more details, or check out the website as information is updated (<https://wafscm.org/annual-conference/>).

We are always looking for conference sponsors, and although this may look a bit different this year, if your company is interested in sponsoring the conference, please contact Dave Fowler ([dave@floods.org](mailto:dave@floods.org)).

Our board is going to look a little different than it did to start out the 2020 year, as our vice-chair and Conference committee chair, Michelle Staff, had to resign the position due to taking a position with FEMA. Congratulations to Michelle on the career move! We wish her the best. If anyone is interested in helping out and joining the WAFSCM board in her absence, please contact me.

Although we may not be able to have face to face events any time soon, our education committee is still working on ways to help folks learn what new information is out there in terms of floodplain and stormwater management, and will be planning some virtual events where CECs or PDHs may be available. Keep an eye on the WAFSCM website for future educational opportunities (<https://wafscm.org/training-education/>).

While things are quite different this year than they've ever been, we hope everyone can continue to be engaged and active with WAFSCM in the future. Please keep in touch and continue to watch the website for updates!

Hope to see you (virtually) at this year's conference!

All the best,

Megan Bender, P.E., CFM  
Jacobs Engineering  
WAFSCM Chair  
[Megan.Bender@jacobs.com](mailto:Megan.Bender@jacobs.com)



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## Making the Case for a Federal Flood Protection Standard

Heavier rains, intensifying coastal storms, and rising seas—the impacts of climate change—are exacerbating flooding impacts across the United States.

However, despite these worsening impacts, the [Trump administration revoked](#) Executive Order 13,690 and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) in August 2017, leaving new federally-funded infrastructure projects—the nation’s roads, schools, seaports, and wastewater treatment plants—less prepared to withstand future flood events. As a result, millions of Americans who live, work, or travel in coastal and inland areas susceptible to flooding will face growing challenges as the public infrastructure on which they rely only becomes more vulnerable.

Enacting a new flood protection standard would help better protect people and property, and could ease the federal government’s growing financial exposure by ensuring federally financed infrastructure is better prepared for and adapted to flooding exacerbated by climate change.

In *A Rising Tide Lifts All Damage Costs: The Need for a Federal Flood Protection Standard*, a new article in the spring edition of the American Bar Association’s environmental law magazine, the threat to America’s public infrastructure from more frequent and severe flooding—absent a modern federal flood protection standard—is made clear. [Read the article here.](#)

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*Joel Scata*





## ASFPM Foundation Proud to Announce This Year's Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge Winner

Brad Anderson, ASFPM Foundation Projects Chair, worked in partnership with Tony Mendes, FEMA Region VIII, and Vince Meldrum, Earth Force, to review and judge proposals submitted by nine Colorado middle and high schools for this year's Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge (RMEHC). Brad's extremely rewarding experience last year made it clear ASFPM Foundation's support of RMEHC would continue. *"The innovation and creativity of middle school and high school kids I witnessed throughout this process is nothing short of inspirational – with talent like this, our country's future in managing flood risk and other hazards is bright!"* said Brad.

Blevins Middle School, hailing from Fort Collins, Colorado, took first place in the 2020 Challenge. Their entry proposed a community awareness event to encourage students and their families to create family emergency plans. Click [here](#) to view the five schools announced as this year's winners.

RMEHC is an annual competition sponsored by Earth Force and FEMA Region VIII that combines project-based learning with the latest research in STEM education. Student teams from schools across Colorado submit a project that applies real-life solutions to local natural hazard risks in their community for a chance to win prize money to fund their project. Prizes range from \$1,000 for the first place winner to \$200 for the fifth place finalist. *All prize money was donated by ASFPM Foundation to further its dedication to reducing the risk and impacts of floods on people and communities.*



Earth Force is the driving force behind RMEHC. Established in 1994, its mission is to “engage young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future.” Imagine “a world where everyone has the knowledge and skills they need to participate in environmental decision making in their community.” Through programs like the Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge, Earth Force is well on its way to achieving its vision through early engagement with today's youth for a resilient and sustainable future.

ASFPM Foundation is currently working in partnership with FEMA and Earth Force to expand this challenge to other FEMA Regions. Learn more about the [Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge](#).



### Removing Homes from Flood Zones Could Save \$1 Trillion

The U.S. could save more than \$1 trillion over the long term by removing roughly 1 million homes from flood-prone areas and relocating residents to higher ground, according to a massive new study funded by the government. [Read more.](#)



## FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants - \$660 Million Available Nationwide!

FEMA announced the application periods and requirements for the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). Both programs are national competitions, with varying priorities in each program. State agencies, federally-recognized tribal governments, and local units of government that have participated in the planning and adoption process for a local or tribal hazard mitigation plan are eligible to apply.

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) must submit all applications to FEMA. As a result, we ask that all communities interested in applying contact [DMAWEMHazardMitigation@wi.gov](mailto:DMAWEMHazardMitigation@wi.gov) no later than September 29, 2020, if they are interested. (Note: a full application is not required at this time, merely a statement of interest so that WEM can discuss eligibility criteria.)

The highly-anticipated BRIC program, new in 2020, replaces the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program going forward. With a focus on mitigating risk to infrastructure, \$500 million is available nationwide to engage in activities that support capability- and capacity-building activities, encourage and enable innovation, promote partnerships, and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards. Typical grants have a 75% federal share and required 25% non-federal match, with some limitations about the source of matching dollars, with a maximum federal cost share of \$50 million. Two main financial grant types include:

- **Capability- and Capacity-Building (C&CB)**  
C&CB activities must result in a resource, strategy, or tangible mitigation product that will reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future natural hazards, increase resilience, and promote a culture of preparedness. We expect Wisconsin communities will use this project type to apply for countywide all-hazards mitigation plan updates and to apply for project scoping grants that help a community identify and prepare eligible mitigation projects that they can apply for in future funding cycles.
- **Mitigation Projects**  
FEMA defines this as “cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure.” Projects must align with an approved and adopted hazard mitigation plan, conform with latest published editions of consensus-based codes/specifications/standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs, be technically feasible, and solve a problem independently or constitute a standalone portion of a long-term solution. All projects **MUST** be deemed cost-effective using FEMA’s Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit Version 6.0, showing that benefits outweigh costs, and produce a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or greater. Construction projects which have been completed or for which ground disturbance has already begun are NOT eligible for funding. Non-construction activities that have already started will not be considered for funding.

The FMA grant returns again in 2020 with similar funding levels and priorities. Of the \$160 million available in the nationwide competition, \$4 million will be set aside for scoping grants and \$70 million for wider-scale community-level flood mitigation projects. The remaining \$86 million will go towards a combination of technical assistance, flood mitigation projects, and planning grants. All projects must directly benefit properties that have effective policies in the National Flood Insurance Program.

For more details about the requirements and application processes for each program, please visit: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/fy2020-nofo>. There you can obtain copies of the full Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) and fact sheets for both programs, as well as sign up for webinars to learn about each program.

Please contact Robyn Fennig and Katie Sommers at: [DMAWEMHazardMitigation@wi.gov](mailto:DMAWEMHazardMitigation@wi.gov) with any questions!



### FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide

FEMA announced the release of the agency’s updated *Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide* (PDA Guide) and its accompanying *Preliminary Damage Assessment Pocket Guide* (PDA Pocket Guide). The PDA Guide will be effective on June 8, 2020 and will have a one-year public comment period until June 8, 2021. [Learn more.](#)





## 18th Annual WAFSCM Virtual Conference October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management (WAFSCM) is holding its 18th Annual Conference on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in a virtual format. While this is quite different from previous years, we're excited about this year's lineup of speakers and topics. Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and Continuing Education Credits (CECs) can be earned at the main conference; more information will be coming about how to ensure you are eligible for the CECs.

As always, we anticipate a dynamic group of professionals coming to share their experience in a variety of water-related issues from all sectors: local government leaders, community administrators, planning agencies, public works departments, developers, consultants, environmental groups, state and federal agencies and students.

We will still be hosting an annual business meeting, but it will be separate from the conference. We will start the day at 8 a.m. with a welcome plenary session, and continue through-out the day with 10 different presentations on a wide variety of WAFSCM related topics. There is also a mid-day plenary speaker and an afternoon plenary to close out the day. There will be plenty of breaks throughout the day for folks to get up, stretch, use the restroom, and grab food. Registration for the full-day conference includes a 2021 WAFSCM membership.

Attendee Category	Fee
Conference Attendee	\$50
Student, unemployed, retired	\$10

### Sponsors and Exhibits

Every great conference needs wonderful sponsors and exhibitors, and we are no different. We still have opportunities to support the conference. Details are available in this newsletter and on the [WAFSCM website](#), or contact Dave Fowler at 414-520-3409 or [dave@floods.org](mailto:dave@floods.org).

### Registration

Online credit card registration should be available starting September 8<sup>th</sup>. Check out the WAFSCM website in September for the link at [www.wafscm.org](http://www.wafscm.org) and for further updates.

Registration questions should be directed to Terrence Tavera at (262) 953-3052 or [ttavera@ruekert-mielke.com](mailto:ttavera@ruekert-mielke.com)

### Contacts

Any conference questions can be directed to Conference Co-Chairs Laura Rozumalski at 608-616-0128 or [lrozumalski@freshwatereng.com](mailto:lrozumalski@freshwatereng.com) or Megan Bender at 414-847-0208 or [megan.bender@jacobs.com](mailto:megan.bender@jacobs.com).

We look forward to seeing you on the WAFSCM conference!

Please invite a friend! Thank you!

### CFM Exam

We are still working out the details to host the CFM exam. As always, registration for the exam is handled directly through ASFPM.

You must apply to ASFPM at least two weeks in advance to take the exam, so keep an eye on the WAFSCM website to find out exactly what date the CFM will be held.

Send CFM exam related questions to [cfm@floods.org](mailto:cfm@floods.org) or call 608-828-3000.



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## WAFSCM Board Members—2020

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