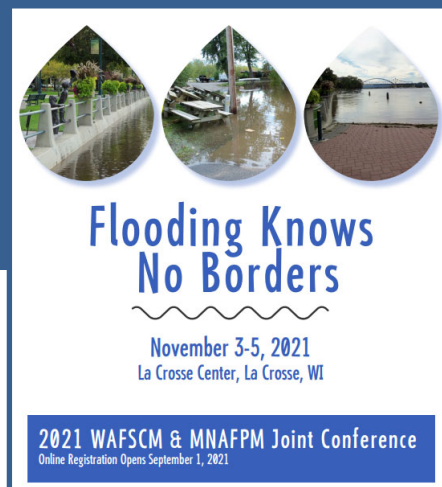


A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

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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

Megan Bender, P.E., CFM



Hello WAFSCM members,

I'm hoping this fall of 2021 is finding you healthy and happy, despite the continued presence of Covid-19. With vaccinations on the increase and social distancing efforts still in place, our conference this year will be in person in La Crosse, Wisconsin as a joint effort with the Minnesota Chapter of ASFPM (MnAFPM) on November 3 through the 5th. I am very excited to see faces in person again, as I'm sure many of you are as well! Check out our website (or MnAFPMs) (<https://wafscm.org/annual-conference/>) or simply read further through this newsletter for more information. Suffice it to say, the presentations will be stellar and obviously networking opportunities will be many.

While there wasn't an opportunity this past year to do any in-person educational events, our education committee is always looking for new opportunities to inform our membership of new technologies and events happening in the world of stormwater and floodplain management, so keep an eye on our website for future educational and additional networking opportunities that may start to be held in-person again as the year goes on (<https://wafscm.org/training-education/>).

ASFPM always has opportunities for education, PDHs, CECs, and information about how to become a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). Take a look at their website for anything along those lines, and also to get prepared for their 2022 conference which will be held in person in Orlando, Florida, May 15th through the 19th, 2022 (www.floods.org).

My tenure as WAFSCM chair is nearing an end, and I want to say thank you to everyone on the board and those who have helped with the conferences in the past to make the events memorable and informative. It's been a great two years. It's come with some unexpected challenges and obstacles along the way, but as an organization we've overcome them and continued to be engaged with each other and with the communities within which we work. I am proud of the work we've done and look forward to continuing in the future!

Thank you for remaining active and engaged with WAFSCM. I look forward to seeing you (in person) at this year's conference, and stay healthy!

Megan Bender, P.E., CFM

Jacobs Engineering

WAFSCM Chair

Megan.Bender@jacobs.com



Example below is testimony for a draft WI Senate Bill

To: Honorable Members of Wisconsin's Senate Committee on Housing, Commerce and Trade.

From: Mr. David C. Fowler, Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Management (WAFSCM), Legislative Chairperson, September 8th, 2021.

Regarding: SENATE BILL 521: AN ACT to create 87.30 (1s) of the statutes; relating to: regulation of structures and accessory structures in floodplains.

Good morning Chairman Jagler and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 521, my name is David Fowler: I have over 30 years of experience with flooding issues both professionally and personally. I have been a Certified Floodplain Manager in the State of Wisconsin since 2002, and I am currently the legislative chairperson of the Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Management (WAFSCM). It is in that capacity that I am providing written testimony on SB 521.

The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management (WAFSCM) is the state chapter for the National Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). The Wisconsin Chapter promotes sound approaches for managing Wisconsin's floodplain, stormwater, and coastal systems. The organization was formed in 2000 and currently has over 200 members from around the state representing both private and public organizations.

Wisconsin continues to suffer from severe weather resulting in flooding in all areas of the state. In fact, flooding is our most common natural disaster. In 2018 alone, Wisconsin saw record flooding in almost every corner of the state. Flooding impacts are only going to increase, as our state faces the challenge of changing rainfall patterns that will bring larger storms with heavier downpours. The catastrophic floods that will continue to occur in the Midwest should be a cautionary tale for this State.

Wisconsin has long led the nation in sound floodplain management by requiring Floodplain and Floodway standards higher than those proposed by the federal government. The Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages states and municipalities to enact higher standards to better protect public tax dollars and to reduce flood damages and loss of life during flood events. Wisconsin's current floodplain management program is a good one and prioritizes the public safety goal of removing existing structures and preventing construction of new structures within the floodplain, and not allowing structures within the floodway. This is sound flood management policy by eliminating the flood risk. **This type of legislation will also put our state out of step with the direction of the county to reduce flood risk.**

To allow structures and fill (currently not allowed due to higher WI State Standards) within the floodway may pose risks by increasing the potential of these structures being washed downstream due to their location in the moving water of the floodway. These structures, when carried by the flood flow, can cause increased flood heights by clogging bridges and culverts, can damage private and public infrastructure and buildings, and can cause increased risks to public health and safety. The addition of fill in quantities currently not allowed can also have the impact of raising the flood elevation by reducing the carrying capacity of the floodway. This increase in flood elevation can also increase flood damage and put the public at risk.

I strongly urge the Committee to consider the increased risk that lowering the floodplain and floodway standards to the federal minimum poses to the residents of Wisconsin.

Thank You for your consideration of this matter.

David C. Fowler CFM
WAFSCM Legislative Chairperson



An example of how WAFSCM is supporting policy and education efforts



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 President Vice President Secretary Treasurer
 Doug Plasencia, P.E., CFM Dale Lehman, P.E.,
 CFM Chad Berginnis, CFM Mark E. Forest, P.E., CFM

September 20, 2021

Minal Hahm
 WAFSCM
 P.O. Box 3251
 Little Rock AR 72203-3251

Dear Minal:

This letter brings to you our most sincere thanks for your chapter's generous donation to the ASFPM Foundation. WAFSCM's \$1,000 cash donation on July 15, 2021, in combination with your continuous support, helps fund our work that includes long-term policy and educational program development that promotes management of sustainable floodplains and watersheds. Specifically, your donation helps fund our priority projects and activities in 2021/2022 which include:

- Student scholarships, including the Future Leaders Scholarship which was recently awarded to Elizabeth Lacey, Colorado State University.
- Expansion of the Rocky Mountain Environmental Challenge (a classroom-based approach to reducing flood risk by equipping communities with the information and resources they need to enhance their mitigation plans and better protect their people and property through a collaboration with FEMA Region VIII, Earth Force and Colorado public schools) to include other states and FEMA Regions.
- Continuing to facilitate policy discussions on Urban Flooding.

Collectively, your financial donation toward these activities helps reduce the risk and impact of floods and promotes our nation's quality of life for future generations. Thank you again for your donation and support of ASFPM Foundation and our mission.

Doug Plasencia, P.E., CFM
President

Please use this document as a tax receipt of your generous donation.
 The ASFPM Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, Federal Tax ID # 91-2110091.

Association of State Floodplain Managers Foundation
 Phone: 608-828-3000 | asfpmfoundation@floods.org | www.asfpmfoundation.org

President
 Doug Plasencia, P.E., CFM

Vice President
 Dale Lehman, P.E., CFM

Secretary
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Treasurer
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19th Annual WAFSCM Conference

November 3-5, 2021

La Crosse Center South Hall, La Crosse, WI

The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management (WAFSCM) is co-hosting its 19th Annual Conference on November 3rd – 5th at the La Crosse Center South Hall with the folks from the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers (MnAFPM). We're excited about this year's lineup of workshops, speakers, and field tour. Professional Development Hours (PDHs) and Continuing Education Credits (CECs) can be earned at the workshops, main conference, and tour.

The first day of the conference will include three workshops in the morning and a field tour in the afternoon, a networking social hour followed by our evening reception, and our usual game night with refreshments. Thursday will be the main conference with plenary and concurrent sessions throughout the day. The CFM exam will take place on Friday.

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.

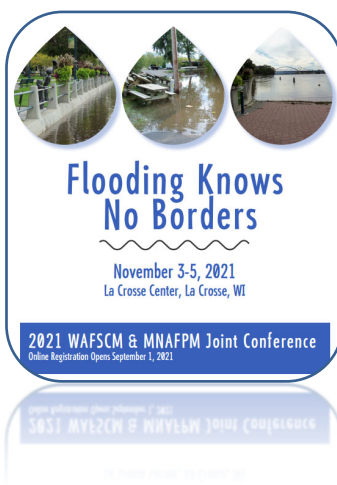
CFM Exam

We will be hosting the CFM exam from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. on the third day of the conference.

Registration for the exam is handled directly through ASFPM.

You must apply to ASFPM at least two weeks in advance to take the exam.

Send CFM exam related questions to cfm@floods.org or call 608-828-3000.



Conference Brochure

Please visit the conference brochure online to preview the workshop and speaker line-up **AND to register!**

[WAFSCM 19th Annual Conference Brochure](#)

Fees

Registration for this year's conference is \$120 when done before October 15th at the early bird rate. It includes all aspects of the conference except the field tour. That tour is an additional \$30. Please see the conference brochure for rates after October 15th.

Contacts

Any conference questions can be directed to Doug Kerns at 608-792-7543 or kerns.douglas@uwrlax.edu.

We look forward to seeing you on the WAFSCM conference!

Please invite a friend! Thank you!

Lodging at the Homes2 Suites by Hilton

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees at the Home2 Suites by Hilton which is directly adjacent to the La Crosse Center South Hall. Other nearby hotels include the Holiday Inn, Radison, Courtyard by Marriott, or the Fairfield Inn. The block of rooms are available at a rate of \$91 per night. To make your reservation, click the link in the conference brochure. [WAFSCM 19th Annual Conference Brochure](#)

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

WAFSCM Board Members—2021

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