

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

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*The White Water Park was part of
the 2019 Conference Tour
Wausa, WI*

**2020 WAFSCM
Conference will be held
October 21st – 23rd at**

**Kalahari Resort &
Conference Center
1305 Kalahari Drive
Wisconsin Dells**

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

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Message from the Chair

Megan Bender, P.E., CFM



Hello WAFSCM members,

Welcome to WAFSCM 2020! While this year is definitely starting out on a bit of a different note than usual, we've got a lot to look forward to.

To start out this year we've got an all new board, with me stepping into the Chair position for Laura Rozumalski, who will take on the coveted past Chair position. The Vice Chair position is now filled by Michelle Staff, the Statewide Floodplain Policy Coordinator for the Wisconsin DNR. Our new Secretary is Jacob Maas, the Zoning and Floodplain Administrator for the City of Watertown, and Diane Doll, M Squared Engineering, LLC, remains Treasurer as that position is a four-year role. With Michelle Staff taking on the position of Vice Chair, her role as Wisconsin DNR liaison is now being filled by Michelle Hase.

It's time again to pull together our annual report for ASFPM, so if there is anything you feel would be beneficial to communicate to ASFPM from our Wisconsin standpoint, please feel free to email me so I can include it in our accomplishments from 2019. ASFPM is also hosting a number of webinars for CECs and PDHs. If you are looking to get some of those credits to maintain your CFM, they are usually low or no cost for ASFPM members. Check out their website for more information:

<https://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=855&firstlevelmenuid=182&siteid=1>

It's also coming up on ASFPM's annual conference which, as of now, is still planned to be held in June in Fort Worth, Texas with the theme of "Resiliency Where the West Begins". They have eliminated the early bird registration deadline and the rate will be available up until May 25th (two weeks prior to the conference). Due to the uncertainty presented by the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, ASFPM will be making a final decision about hosting the conference by May 7, 2020, and will fully refund any registrations in the event it is cancelled or if a travel ban prevents any individual from attending. They are also offering registration without paying up front, again see their website for more detail:

www.asfpmconference.org.

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2019 WAFSCM annual conference held October 23-25, 2019 at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Wausau, Wisconsin. We are grateful you were able to take the time to attend and look forward to seeing you again this fall at our 2020 conference October 21-23, 2020 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Look for a call for speakers coming out soon, and get your abstracts and presentations ready! We are so excited to see what interesting things our members have been up to since the last one.

Thank you, and stay healthy!

Megan Bender, P.E., CFM
Jacobs Engineering
WAFSCM Chair
Megan.Bender@jacobs.com

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2019 WAFSCM Conference Recap

17th Annual WAFSCM Conference
October 23 – 25, 2019
Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center
Wausau, WI

The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management (WAFSCM) held its 17th annual conference on October 23rd – 25th at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Wausau, Wisconsin. The line-up included the CFM exam and a Floodplain Management Workshop held by Michelle Staff of the Wisconsin DNR on the first day of the conference, with an evening reception and game night.

The main conference day, Thursday October 24, included many interesting and informative topics for WAFSCM members, including an opening from Chad Berginnis, the Association of State Floodplain Managers' (ASFPM's) Executive Director. The first set of breakout sessions covered a wide variety of topics from green infrastructure like permeable pavers and water sensitive urban design to nature-based flood solutions and developing guidance to manage sump pump discharge.



The lunchtime plenary session included a presentation on the 'Year of Clean Drinking Water' by Todd Ambs, Wisconsin DNR Assistant Deputy Secretary, as well as the presentation of awards. Following lunch the first afternoon breakout sessions included presentations on flooding in the Madison area as well as substantial damage in Manitowoc County, information on a tool for choosing appropriate green infrastructure, and information on building codes.

The last breakout sessions included a number of riveting topics, including presentations on storm water management and water quality, as well as a presentation on the Disaster Recovery Reform Act and presentations on stormwater management projects. The closing plenary session was by Jennifer McNelly, the Portage County Water Resource Specialist on the issues Central Wisconsin is facing with groundwater pumping.

The conference was closed out with an excellent field tour led by Jim Luedeke starting at the County Materials Rib Falls plant, heading out to the Whitewater Kayak Park and a tour of the hydro dam under construction on the Wisconsin River. The tour showcased the beauty of Central Wisconsin and was enjoyed by all who attended. See next page for some details.



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2019 WAFSCM Conference Field Tour

The 2019 WAFSCM field tour on October 25, 2019 included a visit to the County Materials concrete pipe plant, the White Water Park, and the hydroelectric power plant, all located in Wausau, WI.



The group was given a full tour of the County Materials facility, seeing automated mesh welding for the pipe reinforcement, as well as the zero slump and vibrating production methods. Lots of big equipment and lots of pipes!



The White Water Park was next, and as it was low flow conditions we could observe the rock placement and new sidewalk, and learn a little more about events at the facility.

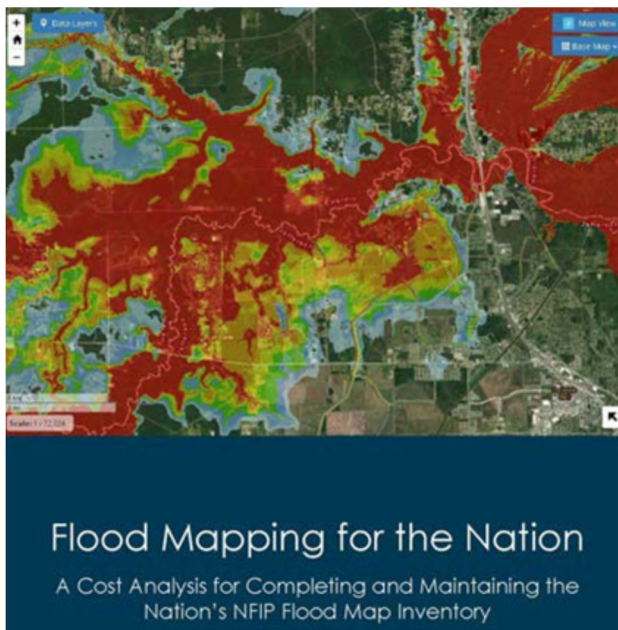


And finally, we visited the hydroelectric power plant, where repairs to one of the tainter gates was underway. As summer 2019 was so wet, this project was behind schedule as the contractor was unable to draw down the impoundment as planned to complete the gate and pier repairs.

WAFSCM thanks all of our host facilities and staff for the great tours!

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Recent ASFPM Reports Address Flood Mapping, Urban Flooding, and Flood Risk Management for Elected Officials



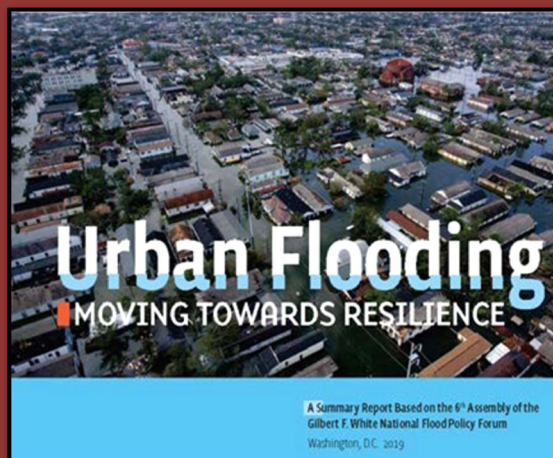
Since 1969, the US has invested \$6.6 billion (\$10.6 billion in 2019 dollars) in flood hazard mapping, resulting in nearly \$22 billion in losses avoided. But we are far from completing the job, as only 1/3 of the nation's streams have currently been mapped.

In our Flood Mapping for the Nation report, ASFPM estimates the cost to complete flood mapping in the US at \$3.2 billion to \$11.8 billion.

no.floods.org/MapTheNation

Urban flooding is not new, but it's different than how we experienced it a decade ago. Intensified by sea level rise and changing precipitation patterns, urban flooding is more frequent and intense, with underlying infrastructure designed to handle much smaller flooding events.

To catalyze attention and action, the ASFPM Foundation published its Urban Flooding report.
asfpmfoundation.org



A Summary Report Based on the 6th Assembly of the
Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum
Washington, D.C. 2019



Flood management protects people and property. ASFPM's three-part guide breaks down the key information elected officials need to fulfill that responsibility.

Wise flood management provides the means to address your flood problems before, during, and after an event, as well as create sustainable development for future generations.

no.floods.org/ElectedOfficialsGuide



WAFSCM Legislative Article

As a state chapter for the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), WAFSCM promotes sound approaches for managing Wisconsin's floodplain, stormwater, and coastal systems. As the chairperson of our legislative committee, I have committed myself to be more active in Madison on effective policies for sound floodplain, stormwater, and coastal management and to provide input on pending floodplain, stormwater, and coastal management legislation and other related matters. In that regard I have summarized committee activities in recent months.

In February, I testified to provide education related to Senate Bill 711, which would have changed the priorities of the State Municipal Flood Control and Riparian Restoration Grant Program by eliminating acquisitions as a priority in the program. I also spoke in support of Senate Bill 252 and Assemble Bill 266 for flood risk reduction pilot project for Ashland County.

Key points for SB 711 were:

- Changing the priority system would create further obstacles to acquisition of flooded structures which is the preferred method for eliminating flood risk.
- I also emphasized decreasing the local community share for the grant from 50% back to the original 25% match.
- The lack of a separate funded grant program to fund non-acquisition projects.

Key Points for SB 252 and AB 266 were:

- Ashland County experienced extreme flooding that damaged crops, eroded cropland, damaged roads, and culverts and resulted in long-lasting economic impacts to the local communities.
- Flood mitigation through restoration of the natural storage features of stream channels and riparian wetlands reduces flood damages and costs.
- Flood mitigation provides up to \$6 in savings for every \$1 invested in flood mitigation.
- Pilot or Demonstration projects like those proposed under this bill will provide a template for local communities to follow and may result in additional natural flood storage restoration projects.

The WAFSCM legislative committee also was active in providing education against legislation Senate Bill 637 and Assembly Bill 721. These bills would severely weaken the state regulation of non-conforming structures within the special flood hazard area. I spoke at both the Assembly and Senate committees on these companion bills.

Key Points for SB 637 and AB 721 were:

- In 2018 alone, Wisconsin saw record flooding in almost the entire state. These bills would allow at-risk structures to remain in harm's way when floods occur, putting the resident and emergency personnel at risk.
- Wisconsin's current floodplain management program is a good one and has prioritized the public safety goal of removing or elevating structures located within the floodplain and removing structures from the floodway that are not in compliance with floodplain regulations. This is a sound flood management policy that eliminates the risk by keeping structures and people out of harm's way.
- Currently, Wisconsin floodplain regulations do not allow development or structures within the floodway. This bill would allow floodplain structures to remain and even expand in the floodway of the river as long as they met the federal requirement of elevating to the 1%-annual-chance flood level.
- These changes will increase the cost of flood damages and emergency operations which are heavily subsidized or completely paid by state and federal taxpayer dollars. More troubling is that this bill allows people to continue living in the most dangerous part of the floodplain, putting their lives and the lives of first responders at risk.

As the legislative committee chair, I will continue to follow legislation in Madison that is important to the mission of this chapter. I also encourage chapter members to go to the ASFPM website for the updates on federal issues.

If you have questions or items you would like the committee to follow up on, please contact me.

David Fowler CFM
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FEMA

FEMA ISSUES UPDATE TO FLOOD RISK ANALYSIS MAPPING GUIDANCE

FEMA maintains guidelines and standards to support the Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) Program. These guidelines and standards define the specific implementation of the statutory and regulatory requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). They also outline the performance of Flood Risk Projects, processing of Letters of Map Change (LOMCs), and related Risk MAP activities. More information is available at www.fema.gov/guidelines-and-standards-flood-risk-analysis-and-mapping.

FEMA maintains the Risk MAP guidelines and standards and issues updates on an annual basis each November. As part of this policy update cycle, FEMA performed routine maintenance and smaller updates driven by specific requests or issues identified.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

We are pleased to announce the
18th Annual WAFSCM Conference - 2020

October 21st – 23rd, 2020

Kalahari Resort & Conference Center

1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Details on registration, sponsorships, speakers and award submittals, scholarships, and conference content will be posted to the WAFSCM website. www.wafscm.org

We plan to fill 3 tracks for the breakout sessions – one each for stormwater, floodplains, and coastal projects/issues.

Plan your abstract submittals - a request will be sent soon!

Schedule:

Wednesday 10/21: Workshops and Networking

Thursday 10/22: Main Conference Day (plenary and breakout sessions)

Friday 10/23: Morning Field Tour

We will host the CFM exam on Wednesday!

Contact one of the Conference Co-Chairs:

Michelle Staff at Michelle.Staff@Wisconsin.gov or

Megan Bender at Megan.Bender@jacobs.com
for more information.



Thank you to the 2019 WAFSCM Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors!

We had a wonderful conference in Wausau in October, and a lot of that success is due to the wonderful Sponsor and Exhibitor support. The contributions from our Sponsors and Exhibitors helps WAFSCM provide a quality conference at a very reasonable cost, so please let them know you appreciate their support. In addition, they provide wonderful raffle prizes for our event. All the Sponsors and Exhibitors are acknowledged in this newsletter.

I loved working with all of our long-term Sponsors and Exhibitors prior to the 2019 conference. I will be reaching out to find some new supporters for the 2020 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 Heather at heather.schwar@cardno.com, Conference Sponsor and Exhibitor Coordinator.

SPONSORS 2019 WAFSCM Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, & Coastal Management	GOLD	   
	SILVER	      
	BRONZE	    

A special THANKS to SEWRPC for their support.

EXHIBITORS 2019 WAFSCM Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, & Coastal Management	        
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WAFSCM Board Members—2020

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