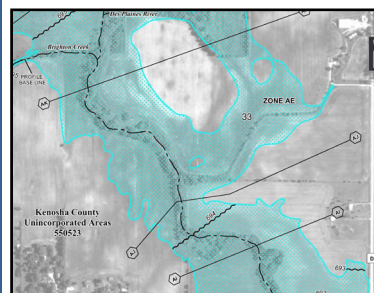


A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

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*How To Regulate Zone AE
Floodplains With No Floodway
Delineated*

**2021 WAFSCM &
MnAFPM Conference
will be held
November 3rd – 5th at**

**La Crosse Center
300 Harborview Plaza
La Crosse, WI 54601**

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.

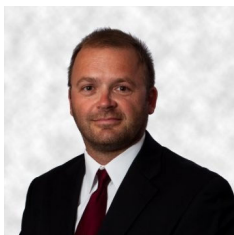
Message from the Chair

Megan Bender, P.E., CFM



Hello WAFSCM members,

Welcome to 2021, and what we hope will be a light at the end of the tunnel that has been Covid-19. We are optimistic we will be able to host our conference in early November of this year in person in La Crosse, WI. Save the date for this one! It's a little different this year in that it will be a joint conference with the Minnesota chapter, so excellent networking and educational opportunities abound! Be sure to keep an eye on our website for any updates as well as more information about topics and speakers as the agenda comes together. Look for a call for speakers coming out soon, and get your abstracts and presentations ready! We are so excited to see what everyone has been up to in the last year. (<https://wafscm.org/annual-conference/>).



*Doug Kerns
Midwest Floodplain
Solutions*



*Minal Hahm
M Squared
Engineering (M²)*

Last year was one of turmoil for many, and our board looks a little different than it did at the start of 2020. Taking over the vice-chair position for Michelle Staff is Doug Kerns, a Certified Floodplain Manager and Engineer. His many years of floodplain management and CRS coordination with Midwest Floodplain Solutions make him an excellent choice for understanding the flood management issues facing us in the State of Wisconsin. Stepping in at the role of treasurer is Minal Hahm, co-founder of M Squared Engineering (M²) and Certified Floodplain Manager. Minal has many years of experience and has previously served in the role of treasurer. Welcome to the board, Doug and Minal!

The ASFPM national conference will once again be taking place virtually May 10-14, 2021. The program schedule is up on their website and looks jam-packed full of incredible and interesting events throughout the week. Take a look at the website for more information and to sign up: <https://www.floods.org/conference/2021-asfpm-conference/>.

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2020 WAFSCM virtual conference hosted by Ruekert & Mielke, who so generously took on the onus of being the virtual hosts of the conference in what felt like a whirlwind of change. It went off without a hitch, and the sessions were informative and interesting for all attending. Take a look further in this newsletter to read more about it.

Thank you for remaining active and engaged with WAFSCM, and stay healthy!

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

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

2020, 18th Annual WAFSCM Conference—Virtual Recap

After a lot of last-minute planning changes and technology hiccups, the Wisconsin Association of Floodplain, Stormwater, and Coastal Management (WAFSCM) held its 18th annual conference virtually on October 22, 2020. Much like every other organization that had events planned for 2020, the pandemic threw our planned in-person conference out the window. Due to some hard work by the conference planning committee and WAFSCM Board, the conference was moved to a successful one-day virtual event.

THANKS to everyone that helped with the planning, the presenters that were able to convert their presentations to an online format, all our sponsors that continued to support us in our virtual environment, and to everyone that attended the sessions. A special shout-out to Ruekert & Mielke and their IT team who organized and hosted the virtual conference on their systems.

The conference started off on the right foot with an ASFPM Update from Executive Director Chad Berginnis. The first set of breakout sessions covered a wide variety of topics including A Scorecard Assessment of Municipal Flood Vulnerability, Accuracy of Curve Number Models for Flood Flows, Lessons in Cost Effective Floodproofing versus Acquisition, and Identifying Depressional Drainage Areas.

Lunch was on your own, so I hope you enjoyed the selection! Afternoon sessions included a mid-day plenary by Dr. Shane Hubbard on the Impacts to Floodplains from Changes in Rainfall and Land Use, and the Benefits from GI Infrastructure Mitigation. Other sessions included FEMA 406 Mitigation Public - Assistance and Long Term Recovery, Stream Flow Trends in Wisconsin, and TP Leaf Credit Analysis.

The last breakout sessions included some great topics, including Identifying and Addressing Potential Violations through FEMA's LOMA process, The City of Monona North Winnequah Park Lagoon Improvements, and a final plenary session by Dr. Adam Bechle on Adapting to a Changing Great Lakes Coast. Those who attending the Conference can rewatch the video presentations from the WAFSCM website.

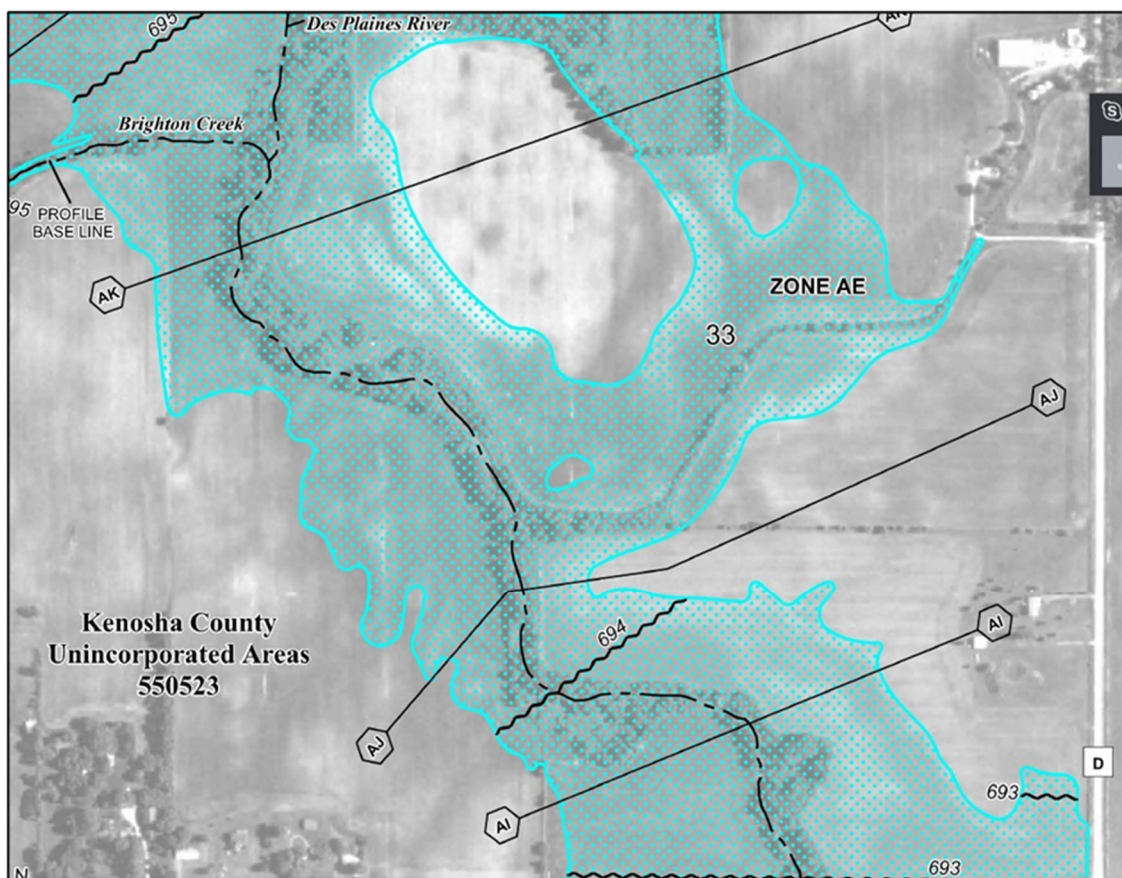
While we were very happy with the Virtual Conference results and presentations, we can't wait to get back together in person. We are keeping our fingers crossed and planning for an in-person annual conference this year up in La Crosse the first week of November. This will be a joint conference with the Minnesota branch of ASFPM. Hope to see you all there!

[Click here for the "Save the date" information](#)

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

The following articles are from the March 18, 2021 issue of WDNR's Floodplain and Shoreland Management News

How To Regulate Zone AE Floodplains With No Floodway Delineated



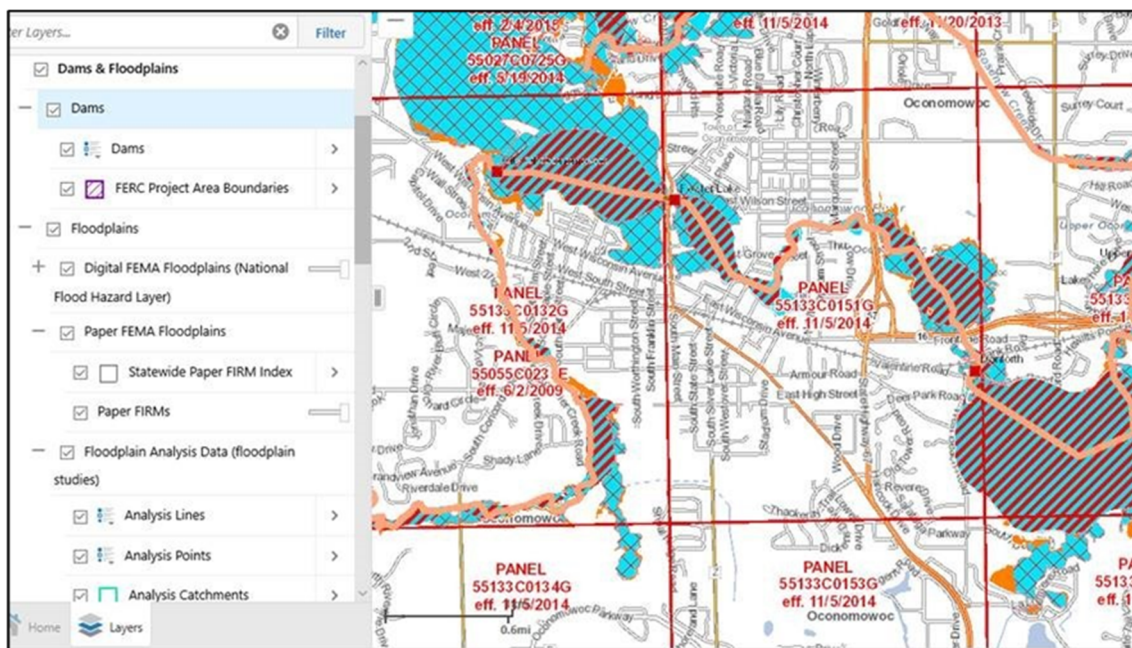
The two most common floodplain zones on flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) are zone A and zone AE. Most Zone AE floodplains have a floodway delineated on the map within the AE zone. However, there are cases where the floodplain is zone AE, but no floodway is shown on the FIRM.

In these situations, the floodway boundary should be determined the same as a zone A floodplain. In other words, the entire floodplain should be considered a floodway until the created analysis accurately depicts the floodway extent. The example map shows the floodplain (floodway and flood fringe) and does not show the divide between floodway and flood fringe; therefore, the entire area, mapped as a floodplain, should be regulated as a floodway.

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Update To The DNR Surface Water Data Viewer



The DNR launched an enhancement to the [Surface Water Data Viewer \(SWDV\)](#) dam and floodplain layer theme. The layer groupings have been reorganized to make the structure more logical and intuitive.

For an easy way to view the dam and floodplain mapping and modeling information, follow these steps:

- Use the link above in the browser of your choosing. It will bring you to a map of the entire state. Use the zoom tools in the top toolbar to zoom to your location of interest.
- Then, click on the “show layers” icon in the top toolbar. There is a sidebar that appears on the left, listing available layers.
- At the top of this sidebar, there is a dropdown menu. Pull it down and choose a layer theme of “dam and floodplain information”. Note in the sidebar that there is a grouping titled “Dams & Floodplains” that appears with a checkmark next to it, with multiple subgroupings appearing below it. Selecting this grouping turns on several useful data layers related to dams and floodplains; an explanation of the layers that automatically appear is given in the next part of this article.
- Many more layers are available that do not immediately turn on. Boxes with a checkmark next to them in the groups or individual layers are visible in the map window. Toggle on the checkmark box to turn them on or off. Additionally, layer groups have a “+” or “-” sign in front of them. Click on the “+” to expand a group; click on a “-” to collapse a group.

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“DAMS” SUBGROUP

The subgroup titled “Dams” contains two layers that turn on: “Dams” and “Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC Project Boundaries”. The “Dams” layer shows the locations of dams on record with the department, represented by points. In areas where hydropower dams, regulated by FERC exist, the “FERC Project Boundaries” layer shows lands where the FERC licensing requirements for such dams are applicable.

“FLOODPLAINS” SUBGROUP

The subgroup title “Floodplains” contains four sub-subgroupings, which are explained below.

The sub-subgroup titled “Digital FEMA Floodplains (National Flood Hazard Layer)” contains flood map information that is “streamed” from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) database. The layers that automatically turn on when the theme is selected are the “Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRM Panels”, “Flood Hazard Zones” and “Cross Sections” layers.

The FIRM Panels are rectangles that represent outlines of individual FEMA maps. The “Flood Hazard Zones” correspond to risk zones; the “1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard” and “Floodway” areas are what are collectively more commonly known as 100-year floodplains and are the extents of areas regulated by local floodplain ordinances. The “Cross Sections” correspond with locations where specific 100-year flood elevations are computed by hydraulic model simulations and used for floodplain ordinance administration.

The sub-subgroup titled “Paper FEMA Floodplains” contains scanned copies of paper maps showing regulatory floodplain boundaries, flood elevations, cross-sections, etc., overlaid in a GIS environment. This layer only applies to a few counties in the state where FEMA has not yet converted to digital data.

The sub-subgroup titled “Floodplain Analysis Data” shows locations where hydrologic and/or hydraulic model data has been developed for determining regulatory flood extents. Their locations will be represented either by highlighted stream lines (where models were done for stretches of stream) or points (where only a limited study was done for, say, a bridge or individual property).

The color of the highlighting represents study types. The DNR has digital copies of model data for many of these streams; contact your regional Water Management Engineer for details on how to retrieve models.

The sub-subgroup titled “Digital State Floodplains” contains flood study information that has been developed for other zoning purposes; while FEMA does not adopt the data, it typically has zoning and/or risk implications for the mapped area.

The “Floodplains” and “Cross Section” layers in this group are the results of non-FEMA flood studies or dam failure analyses (DFAs). The “Flood Storage Districts” layer (note: this layer is not automatically turned on by selecting the theme) shows areas where ponded water volumes have been accounted for in determining flood discharges.

One final note – while the SWDV contains a lot of useful information, these are not official regulatory maps. The viewer is limited to the data that is available digitally and is not comprehensive. Official floodplain data and information is maintained and governed by local (city, village, or county) ordinances and zoning.

If you have questions about whether floodplain regulations govern your property or a potential project, first contact your local zoning administrator and if additional assistance is needed, contact the DNR water management engineer assigned to your county.

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

WAFSCM Legislative Article

By Dave Fowler, WAFSCM Legislative Committee Chair

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 continued to work in Madison to promote these policies and to provide input on pending legislation that might impact areas of interest to our chapter. Due to COVID, this past state legislative session has been quiet. To the best of my knowledge there was not any significant legislation passed or being considered that would impact policies or regulations that would be of concern to our Chapter. However, if any members have information on legislation that I might have missed, please contact me. My contact information is below.

At the National level with the start of a new congress and Administration, ASFPM has been active in Washington. I have summarized some of the legislation and ASFPM activities below:

ASFPM was encouraged that Congress has introduced important legislation influencing flooding and flood management early in the session and that the bills have broad, bi-partisan support in both the U.S. House and Senate. Some of the actions taken are listed below.

House and Senate FLOODS Act and PRECIP Act Bills Were Introduced.

The FLOODS Act establishes a National Integrated Flood Information System to coordinate and integrate flood research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It also establishes partnerships with institutions of higher education to improve total water predictions and establishes a committee to ensure coordination of federal departments with joint or overlapping responsibilities in water management. The bill would improve flood risk communications, including flood watches and warnings.

A key component to the bill, which will benefit Wisconsin is the authorization to update precipitation frequency data every five years throughout the United States. ASFPM led the effort to have NOAA directly fund the National Weather Service to update this data in the Atlas 14 series, which is used to develop flood maps and guide development and infrastructure to be more resilient to flooding. This data is sorely out of date, and in some regions the data is 50 years old. This program would also direct NOAA to generate future looking data, in addition to an analysis of past data.

"The ASFPM is thrilled to see the issues of rainfall estimation, flood warning, and flood risk communication being comprehensively addressed by the FLOODS and PRECIP acts," said ASFPM's Executive Director Chad Berginnis. "By leveraging the capability and scale of the federal government to comprehensively address these basic data collection and dissemination functions, we can make meaningful progress in our fight against escalating flood impacts to our homes, businesses, communities, and citizens.

"The FLOODS Act and the PRECIP Act will help the federal government improve forecasting and communication. ASFPM is hopeful the legislation passes quickly through the House and Senate so that the nation can begin to better protect itself from the increasing dangers of flooding.

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NFIP Higher Standards

ASFP and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) delivered a petition to FEMA requesting that FEMA update the agency's rules for building and land-use in the nation's floodplains, and to develop and make available flood maps that project future flood risk. This petition was filed under the federal Administrative Procedures Act (APA), which allows any interested party to request an agency to issue, amend, or repeal a rule. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum standards are technically considered federal "rules" found under Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. It is hoped that FEMA will have a favorable response.

The NFIP minimum standards are decades old. The last change to them was in the mid-1980s when the concept of "substantial damage" was added, but you have to go back to the 1970's to find the last major update. There has been talk among the flood management community about updating the NFIP minimum standards for at least 20 years, and the ASFP master policy document, "National Flood Policies and Programs in Review", has long included proposals to strengthen the NFIP minimum standards as well. The petition cites several FEMA documents that recommend higher standards among other things. Flood losses are increasing dramatically and there is need for FEMA national standards to be updated. NRDC and ASFP had been working on the petition for several months, and if FEMA grants the petition, they will initiate rulemaking that will be open for public comment. ASFP will strongly advocate to ensure that the proposed rulemaking is adequate not only to better protect people from current and future flood risk but also to ensure that those most impacted by flooding are part of the process to reform the NFIP. Some key requests are:

- Stronger construction and land-use standards, and adequate mapping of future flood conditions;
- Requiring new flood protection elevation to a level higher than the base, or 100-year flood;
- Include higher standards for critical facilities and actions; and
- Significantly strengthen subdivision standards which, in my opinion, are the weakest of the existing standards.

Climate Preparedness Legislation

The FEMA Climate Change Preparedness Act (H.R. 744) was introduced by Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY). The measure has been referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's subcommittee on emergency management. The bill would require FEMA to revise its strategic plan to incorporate consideration of climate change. It would also require the FEMA National Advisory Council (NAC) to establish a subcommittee on climate change to "advise FEMA on how to best incorporate climate change, including risk assessments and strategies for adaptation and mitigation, into and throughout FEMA's policies, plans, programs and operations." This legislation would also establish a Council on Federal Agency Climate PREP. This is described as an interagency council to "guide, coordinate and track implementation of federal actions on climate change preparedness and resilience." This council would not only work across the federal government, but would work "in partnership with state and local governments, academic and research institutions and the private and nonprofit sectors." The bill would also establish a State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate PREP.

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Leaders Task Force on Climate PREP.

Infrastructure

Development of a major transportation-focused infrastructure bill is also likely this spring. Leadership would probably come from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This will hopefully include wording for nature-based and resilient infrastructure projects. Also this spring, the Environment and Public Works (EPW) committee is monitoring implementation of the recently passed Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2020). The House Committee hopes to examine use of natural and nature-based alternatives by the Army Corps of Engineers, but the review may possibly occur informally and via roundtables, rather than via hearings. The Congress will begin to assemble plans for the next WRDA sometime during the summer. According to Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE), he is committed to the schedule of passing a WRDA bill every two years.

Requirements for Flood Risk Management

President Biden has reinstated Executive Order (EO) 13690 on the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), which was welcome news; however it is important to also have legislation in place to make similar requirements, since an EO can be overturned by another President. That Bill, entitled Flood Resiliency and Taxpayer Savings Act (H.R. 481), which would require development of resiliency standards for critical and non-critical projects, has been referred to the House Financial Services Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

If you have questions or information on pending state legislation please contact me at dave@floods.org or at 414-520-3409. David Fowler WAFSCM Legislative Committee Chairperson.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

We are pleased to announce the
19th Annual WAFSCM Conference – 2021
Co-hosted with MnAFPM!

November 3rd – 5th, 2021

La Crosse Center

300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, 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 to 4 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 11/3: Workshops and Networking

Thursday 11/4: Main Conference Day (plenary and breakout sessions)

Friday 11/5: Morning Field Tour

We will host the CFM exam on Wednesday!

Contact Conference Chair:

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

A newsletter for people concerned with water management issues.

WAFSCM Board Members—2021

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