

NeFSMA **Helping Protect the Good Life**

2022 Newsletter Volume 1

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I want to start by saying ‘Thank you’ for everything you do for your communities and the State of Nebraska. These last few years have been hectic and unprecedented, but we carry on doing the best we can to help others move forward. In March 2019 I was at home with a 1-month-old baby; watching the flooding disaster escalate across the state was surreal and I could not believe I was on the sidelines. But I also was able to observe our first responders, our community leaders, and everyday citizens combining resources, utilizing training, and helping those most impacted by the disaster.

The work continues, as we have all weathered the COVID-19 pandemic while also helping our state recover from one of the worst natural disasters in its history. Federal and state funding resulting from the disaster is now having an impact on building resilience within our communities. NeFSMA members are integral in preventing future damages, educating the public on the importance of stormwater and floodplain management, and navigating the regulatory framework that surrounds this work. Again – thank you!

Despite the on-going pandemic, NeFSMA has had an eventful 12-months since our last conference in Kearney. Our professional development committee, specifically Nate Hartman and Rocky Keehn, organized and led a fantastic bus tour of several sites in northeast Nebraska in the fall of 2021. We stopped at the site of the Spencer Dam failure, at Niobrara State Recreation Area, Gavin’s Point Dam, as well as a couple other locations. At each site we were able to hear from presenters on various topics. The event provided a great chance to view recovery efforts from the 2019 flood and learn more about management of the Missouri River by the USACE.

In November we again held our membership meeting at the SAC Museum in Ashland, and we welcomed several new board members during our election cycle. Working with, and for, the floodplain and stormwater professionals of this state has been a fantastic professional development opportunity for me over the last 15 years. NeFSMA continues to strive to promote cooperation and information exchange between individuals and entities concerned with floodplain and stormwater management. To that end, please feel free to reach out to me, or any board member, and let us know how we are doing. Are there topics you would like to see covered more? Or training opportunities that we could help bring to Nebraska?

We are excited to see many members at the upcoming conference in Kearney. Enjoy your summer!

Carrie Romero, NeFSMA Chair



2022 Annual NeFSMA Conference

Please join us for our 2022 Annual Conference!

The conference will be held on July 21, 2022, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska. We will be in-person this year! CECs will be available for CFMs. We are also planning several social events the day before the conference, including the Mitigator Meetup Social Hour and Golf at Awarii Dunes.

[Click here for the draft agenda.](#)

Registration Fee:

Members: \$100.00

Non-Members: \$135.00

Conference Registration deadline is Friday, July 15, 2022

You can contact the Fairfield Inn at (308) 236-4200 if you plan to stay overnight. There are several additional hotels in the area.

Register: [Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association - 2022 Annual Conference \(nefsma.com\)](https://nefsma.com)



2022 ASFPM Conference

After 2 years in a virtual world, the ASFPM National Conference met in person this year! Combined with a virtual option, attendance for the conference was at an all time high. Over 1,700 people had the opportunity to learn and network throughout the week. Every state in the U.S. was represented, with 29 Nebraskans among the count.

“Chapter Row” was a new feature at the ASFPM Conference this year in Orlando. Lori Laster represented NeFSMA at a booth along with representatives from sister chapters in Kansas and Missouri. The group all contributed to a basket of goodies (sourced from our mid-western states) which was awarded to a lucky booth visitor – Lynn Britt, a floodplain administrator in Tequesta, Florida.

Chapter Row was established this year to promote communication and knowledge sharing between chapters of ASFPM during the conference, and to provide an opportunity for chapters to engage other exhibitors and sponsors.



If you have the opportunity to attend a national conference, it is a great experience. The sessions are always insightful about what our colleagues are doing across the nation. And the connections you make during networking events can lead to resources for the future, and maybe even a new friend.

The 2023 conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina May 7-11.



2nd ASFPM FOUNDATION FUTURE LEADERS' SCHOLARSHIP

Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation President, announced at the ASFPM 2022 Annual National Conference that the ASFPM Foundation will fund a second Future Leaders Scholarship. Beginning in 2023, the Foundation will award the Future Leaders Scholarship to a college student every year. Historically, the FLS has been awarded every other year since its inception in 2019. This 2nd scholarship is only possible because of the generous support from individuals, ASFPM Chapters, and companies.

The Future Leaders Scholarship provides up to \$20,000 per year for two years to a student entering their junior year in a 4-year undergraduate degree program or entering the last two years of a 5-year or dual degree undergraduate program. The funds will pay the recipient's college or university directly for any tuition costs which exceed any existing financial aid or scholarships up to \$20,000 per year. Funds remaining after tuition payment may be used for other educational expenses, on-campus room and board, or an equivalent stipend if living off campus.

The purpose of the Future Leaders Scholarship is to create an additional means to advance the vision of the ASFPM Foundation by supporting the education of up-and-coming professionals interested in reducing the future risk and impacts of flooding. Each scholarship is awarded to a deserving college student who plans to work after graduation in a profession that directly, or indirectly, supports the field.

The Future Leaders Scholarship is intended to support the academic career of a deserving undergraduate student, studying in areas such as engineering; planning; and biological, earth, and social sciences. The scholarship considers students who are interested in working in a field related to reducing the risk and impacts of floods on people and communities. Representative fields of study include floodplain management, watershed management, and coastal management, and considers such important issues as climate change, the environment, and urban and land management practices. Professionals working in the public and private sectors, and who are scientists, engineers, planners, and researchers are excellent representations of what our FLS scholars aspire to be.

Applications for the Future Leaders Scholarship for the Fall 2023 to Spring 2025 will begin being accepted in the Fall of 2022. More information about our current FLS scholars and the next cycle of applications for our next scholar will be available on the Foundation's website at www.asfpmfoundation.org.

NMSA MS4 Web Resource

Found at <http://ms4resource.nationalstormwateralliance.org/>, the MS4 web resources was funded by EPA and is maintained by NMSA. The guide draws upon diverse experiences of local communities in developing successful programs and addresses key program challenges and elements identified by stormwater program managers and regulatory agencies across the country.

Guidance within the resource covers issues such as communication and outreach; funding; program goals and management, and several others. Check it out online to find detailed topic pages and references to additional information.

Did you know?

NeFSMA has a Ward's Stormwater Floodplain Simulation model that can be checked out for demonstration at your next event. The model offers a great opportunity to educate adults and children alike about the impact of human activity in the floodplain. Contact Carrie Romero (cromero@olsson.com) for additional information on using the model.



A Tool for Building Flood Mitigation Awareness in Your Community

ASFPM Outreach

Footage of catastrophic flood waters washing away roads, houses, and bridges in Yellowstone National Park in mid-June captured the public's attention and no doubt left many wondering about their own flood risk and what they can do to reduce it.

As you work with property owners looking to make informed decisions around the actions they can take to lower their risk of flooding, [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.reducefloodrisk.org) can help. Developed by ASFPM with financial support from FEMA, this interactive website empowers people to protect themselves and their most valuable asset.

To get started, people can go to [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.reducefloodrisk.org), answer a series of five simple questions, and receive a detailed list of mitigation options recommended to reduce flood risk for their specific property type. The curated results can be filtered and sorted by key attributes, such as cost, complexity, and level of required maintenance.

In addition to its decision-support engine, [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.reducefloodrisk.org) features a variety of resources to help property owners and renters better understand flood risk, flood insurance, financial assistance options, and who to contact with any questions they have about flood mitigation. The site is completely free, and users do not need to create an account to gain access to the resources.

As flooding and hurricane season ramps up, consider making [ReduceFloodRisk.org](https://www.reducefloodrisk.org) a part of your outreach and communications toolkit. The following resources can be used to amplify your efforts to raise awareness of flood mitigation options in your community:

A [social media toolkit](#) with draft posts and image options

A [promo video](#) to include in your social media posts or presentations

A [press release](#) that you can use in your newsletter or website

[PowerPoint slides](#) to use in relevant presentations

[Trifold brochure](#) to print and bring to meetings or events

[Postcards](#) for local governments to send out as part of mass mailings, pre-disaster

[Door hanger](#) for local governments to print and hang as staff complete post-disaster damage assessments

We encourage you to bookmark the entire toolkit for easy access at: [ReduceFloodRisk.org/faq/outreach-toolkit](https://www.reducefloodrisk.org/faq/outreach-toolkit).

Please don't hesitate to contact us at info@reducefloodrisk.org if you have any suggestions for how we can continue to improve the site.

A Reminder on Public Outreach

This screen grab was captured during coverage of the June 2022 flooding in Yellowstone National Park. Local tv station KETV interviewed Omaha resident “Max” about what he saw while on vacation in Yellowstone. Our work continues to promote public awareness of floodplain and stormwater management!



NeFSMA Fall 2021 Bus Tour

On September 30th through October 1st, NeFSMA hosted a bus tour of several stops along the Niobrara and Missouri River Corridors. It was a unique opportunity to learn about the 2019 flood, response, and recovery.





Safety Reminder

Low head dams and other hydraulic structures are very dangerous. In Nebraska, and across the country, these structures have led to fatalities among anglers, kayakers, swimmers, and would-be rescuers.



"Milaca's Low Head Dam" by D. Bjorn, Catchin' Up is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

The last 12 months have been particularly deadly at hydraulic structures along the nation's rivers:

[Dan River Tubing Victims](#)

[James River Kayaking Victims](#)

[North Platte River Kayak Victim](#)

Please spread the word among your communities and with friends and family to avoid these structures when visiting waterways. Additional information about the dangers of low head dams can be accessed at the following links.

[The Danger of Low Head Dams](#)

[ASDSO Public Safety at Dams](#)

[Over, Under, Gone: The Killer in Our Rivers
\(PBS Special on the topic\)](#)

Editor's Picks

Articles that may be of interest to the NeFSMA membership

[Creeks, Once Overlooked, Are Now Seen as Assets for Urban Renewal](#)

[The Creeks Will Rise](#)

[Floodplain Management Today: Published by the Floodplain Management Section of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources](#)

[National MS4 Online Resource](#)

[Reflecting on Hurricane Agnes 50 Years Later](#)

[Cities Brace for Apocalyptic Flooding as New Age of Super Storms Dawns](#)

2022 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS

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Chair: Carrie Romero, P.E., CFM, cromero@olsson.com

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