



Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

2012 Newsletter Volume 1

CHAIR'S COLUMN by Lori Laster

I have some big shoes to fill. Over the last two years as chair, Jesse Poore provided strong leadership that helped NeFSMA grow into an even stronger organization focused on providing education to our state's floodplain and stormwater professionals.

This last year has seen momentum in statewide stormwater collaboration. With the stormwater round table and the discussions at our annual membership meeting in October, action items have been identified and the process of statewide collaboration has begun.

2011 was also a big year for floodplain professionals. Extensive flooding on the Missouri and Platte Rivers has shown us just how real the risk of flooding is. Many communities struggled with flood fighting and continue to deal with the aftermath of the flood and regulatory issues that are not always clear.

Just prior to taking over as chair, I met with Jesse to talk about the duties of the chair. As he outlined the goals he set at the beginning of his term and how each of them were accomplished, I started to think about setting goals for my time as chair. I have three things I would like to see happen over the next year:

- 1. Outreach to grow our membership.** There are many different groups that have an interest in water. From Planning and Zoning Administrators to Environmental Professionals and even Insurance Agents, there is some aspect of stormwater or floodplain management that touches each of these groups. NeFSMA can help these professionals to stay current with the issues.
- 2. Continue to offer high-quality workshops and conferences.** Our Education Committee and Annual Conference Committee have already been hard at work planning our 2012 events. We have some great events planned for this year that I hope at least most of you will be able to attend. We will continue to bring in dynamic speakers who are up-to-date on the issues we all face.
- 3. Dispel the stormwater vs. floodplain mindset.** This is a big one. Even on a national level, so many people say "I only work with stormwater" or "I only deal with floodplain issues." While I realize that there are specific regulatory issues unique to stormwater management and floodplain management, there is still an opportunity to bring the two together to comprehensively manage our water resources.

So far, 2012 is shaping up to be a great year for NeFSMA. I hope to see you at our upcoming events.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Rock Kryzcki

The Education Committee has been busy planning for four educational opportunities this year. Please mark your calendars for these meetings. April 19th at the Embassy Suites at 12520 Westport Parkway, in La Vista Nebraska. Persons attending this meeting will receive information on flood insurance, levee certification, substantial growth/substantial damages, UNL publications, pesticides permit ruling and NDEQ Funding options.

The July 12th Annual Conference will be held in Kearney this year. Currently we have a "Call for Abstracts" out for the annual conference until April 15th. If you know of someone that is not a NeFSMA member and would have beneficial information to share at the conference, please refer them to the NeFSMA webpage or forward on the information you've received for the "Call for Abstracts". After the abstracts are reviewed, we will finalize the meeting agenda sometime in late April and send out another meeting announcement.

Last year, Rock Keehn suggested a bus trip to Minneapolis to tour BMPs they've implemented. The committee suggested September 11th and 12th in 2012 for the trip and polled the membership and there is enough interest to pursue the bus tour. Persons attending this two day bus tour will be provided with a tour of BMPs that have been implemented in the Minneapolis area. The cost of the two day trip will be approximately \$250 with each person being responsible for their own meal expenses.

The fourth meeting is the Annual Membership meeting, which is still in the planning stages, but will be held in late October or early November. Thank you, to the committee members for all their hard work.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming educational opportunities, Thank You!

Annual Conference Committee, John Cambridge

The Annual Conference Committee has been hard at work planning the annual conference. See the attached **Save the Date** Flyer for more information.

Publication Committee, Mike McIntosh

The Publication Committee met last month to get things rolling for the year. We are excited to provide publications for NeFSMA. We will be publishing four newsletters this year and will be responsible for keeping the blog relevant and up to date. We are looking for any ideas for improvements to the newsletter and/or the NeFSMA website. Another goal for the publication this year is to publish a NeFSMA policy guidance document. This will be a valuable document for anyone interested in becoming more interested in a leadership with NeFSMA.



Membership Committee, Jamie Reinke

The membership committee is looking at ways to enhance our recruitment including using social media and targeting of specific organizations. If you have any ideas to help with recruitment, please let us know!

2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NeFSMA held its Annual Meeting for 2011 on October 20th in Columbus, Nebraska. The meeting included various speakers and announcement of the new officers. The morning topics included a municipal overview of the new NPDES Industrial Permit by Nate Hartman of the Lincoln and Lancaster County Health Department and an agency overview of the permit by Ben Cunningham of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Ben also covered the new Grinding and Grooving slurry permit.

The lunch meeting included a discussion of the 2011 flood events by Bill Jones of the NDNR and announcement of the election of officers. Past presidents were also recognized and presented with an award.

Election of 2012 officers included:

Chair – Lori Laster	At-Large – Bob Carnazzo
Vice-Chair – Rocky Keehn	At-Large – Emily Holtzclaw
2nd Vice-Chair – Rock Krzycki	At-Large – John Cambridge
Treasurer – Bobbi Holm	At-Large – Jamie Reinke
Secretary – Mike McIntosh	At-Large – Nina Cudahy
	At-Large – Bill Jones
	At-Large – Nate Hartman
	At-Large – Craig Wacker
	At-Large – Dave Shelton
	At-Large – Ellen Wright

The afternoon session was split into stormwater and floodplain tracts. The stormwater tract included a discussion by Mary Schroer, NDEQ on stormwater grant expenditures and representatives from the City of Lincoln and UNL extension on MS4 and collaborative education. The floodplain tract included a discussion by John Callen from JEO and Carrie Romero from Olsson Associates on floodplain levee work and a presentation by Craig Wacker of the NDNR on HAZUS and floodplain grant funds.

Thank you to the education and planning committees for putting together a great event. Also, thank you to everyone who attended this Annual NeFSMA meeting. We look forward to seeing you at future events. In the meantime, don't forget to check out the NeFSMA blog at www.nefsma.com.



NON-ACCREDITED LEVEES

Excerpted from Sally McConkey's Chair Column, February 2012, ASFPM Insider

ASFPM contributes to the advancement of flood risk management in many varied ways, not the least of which is weighing in on proposed programs and guidelines. Currently the hot topic is *Analysis and Mapping Procedures for Non-Accredited Levees* (LAMP) released by FEMA for public review and comment on December 9, 2011. This new protocol has far reaching implications for engineering, mapping, insurance, mitigation, and floodplain management. Many ASFPM Committees have been involved in commenting and our Co-Chairs have been coordinating these efforts. ASFPM's formal response has been refined and is posted on the website.

The FEMA report can be found at the following website:

http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/Levee/FEMA_2011_0025-0002AnalysisandMapping_Procedures.pdf

NEFSMA ROAD TRIP!

The NeFSMA Education committee has been considering the idea of a road trip to the Twin Cities. The trip would allow attendees to see the evolution of stormwater practices. However, this trip will require considerable coordination on the part of our volunteer education committee. At this point, we are trying to gauge the interest in this sort of event. Take our survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GYN8CN7> and let us know your thoughts. If you have any other feedback for the education committee please contact Lori Laster or Rock Krzycki, our Education Committee Chair.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Please encourage your local Planners, Planning Commissioners, Planning and Zoning Administrators and others attending the Nebraska Planning Conference to consider the Floodplain/Stormwater Institute on Wednesday March 28th. The registration form is on the NPZA website <http://www.npza.org/conference>. The Nebraska Planning Conference will be held in Grand Island at the Mid Town Holiday Inn on South Locust Street from March 28 to March 30, 2012.

Nebraska Post Construction Stormwater Workshop in Lincoln. The workshop will be March 20-21 at Hardin Hall on the UNL campus in Lincoln. On March 20 a Bioretention Seminar will be held from 1:30 to 4:30. March 21 will include a full day session with two keynote speakers and multiple tracts from local professionals. You can find more information in the attached flyer or at <http://go.unl.edu/stormwaterworkshop>.

NeFSMA is helping to promote a Pervious Concrete Seminar organized by the Nebraska Concrete and Aggregates Association. This one day seminar on April 26, 2012 will include five nationally known speakers on many aspects of pervious pavements. There will also be a live demonstration on producing, placing and



testing pervious concrete. The seminar will be held at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha. For more information call Jereme Montgomery at (402) 325-8414.

We are in the process of planning NeFSMA's first quarterly meeting of 2012. This meeting will be held in Omaha on April 19, 2012. And agenda and registration information will be provided in the near future.

2012 ASFPM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ASFPM Annual Conference will be held May 20-25 in San Antonio, Texas. If you haven't attended the conference in the past, we encourage you to attend this year. We would like to have Nebraska well represented. You can find more information at <http://asfpmconference.org/>.

2012 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of year again. Annual dues for NeFSMA are due. Please fill out the application form (which can be found at www.nefsma.com) and make sure we have your contact information up-to-date. Annual dues are \$35 for individual and \$100 for corporate/organization memberships (allows 2 voting members) plus additional members that can serve as alternates. Please send your application forms and a check made to NeFSMA to Bobbi Holm, 8015 W. Center Road, Omaha, NE 68124.

2012 OUTREACH SPONSORSHIP

NeFSMA has created an annual outreach sponsorship package for the purpose of our publications. Your sponsorship does not impact or benefit a Corporate Membership. We will no longer be soliciting for sponsorships for each event.

This outreach sponsorship package is specifically created to streamline our solicitation efforts and enable businesses and organizations to use NeFSMA as a way to promote themselves and publicize their services that may be of benefit to our members. For \$500, an annual sponsorship includes:

- **Your logo with hyperlink to your website from our recently updated NeFSMA website at www.nefsma.com.**
- **Your logo provided on all workshop programs (4 annually)**
- **Your logo provided on all newsletters (4 annually)**
- **1 self-provided article or promotion (relevant to floodplain and stormwater management) posted to our blog at www.nefsma.com.**



NEFSMA SPONSORS



2012 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS

Chair: Lori Laster, CFM llaster@papionrd.org **Vice Chair:** Rocky Keehn, P.E. CFM rkeehn@sehinc.com

Second Vice Chair: Rock Krzycki krzycki@lincoln.ne.gov

Secretary: Mike McIntosh, P.E., CFM mike.mcintosh@lra-inc.com **Treasurer:** Bobbi Holm bholm2@unl.edu

At Large Board Members: John Cambridge, P.E., CFM john.cambridge@hdrinc.com • Nate Hartman, REHS, CCIS, nhartman@lincoln.ne.gov • Bill Jones, CFM bill.jones@nebraska.gov • Emily Holtzclaw P.E. CFM Emily.holtzclaw@CH2M.com • Bob Carnazzo, P.E. CFM bob.carnazzo@nebraska.gov •

• Nina Cudahy nina.cudahy@ci.omaha.ne.us • Jamie Reinke, P.E., CFM jamie.reinke@nebraska.gov • Craig Wacker craig.wacker@nebraska.gov • Dave Shelton dpshelto@unlnotes.unl.edu • Ellen Wright ewright@lincoln.ne.gov

Visit NeFSMA on the web at: <http://www.nefsma.com>



Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

2012 Newsletter Volume 2

CHAIR'S COLUMN by Lori Laster

On May 15, 2012 American Rivers released the 2012 list of America's Most Endangered Rivers. Number four on that list is the Missouri River. According to the American Rivers website the Missouri River was chosen due to outdated floodplain management practices along the river from Wyoming and Montana to the confluence with the Mississippi River in Missouri.

My first thought on the designation was that it made sense. Here is a river that has been dammed and channelized, with many miles of levees constructed along its banks. There are a number of reasons why these practices could be considered outdated. Many groups are now encouraging restoration of streams and rivers to a more natural state. After all, streams were "designed" to move and their banks to flood.

This is all great in theory. I'm a huge proponent of natural channel design. Stream restoration projects are my favorite projects to work on.

But in reality, it is infinitely more complicated than just restoring a river. There are roads, cities, power plants and water treatment plants. All of these things are critical in supporting our current way of life. Can we relocate billions of dollars in infrastructure? What about those uses that are water dependent?

How then, do we let the river do what it needs to do while maintaining infrastructure critical to everyday life?

Mitigation.

Mitigation is key to maintaining the infrastructure we have while reducing damages caused by floods and other disasters.

Last week I attended the ASFPM national conference, the theme of which is mitigation. I attended FEMA-led discussions of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, mitigation project case study discussions, and a session about the economic advantages of mitigation. It's a topic that's on everyone's mind.

Studies have shown that on average \$4 is saved for every \$1 spent on mitigation. Yet only 30% of available mitigation grant funds are obligated to a project three years after funds have been allocated. What, as communities who are eligible for these funds, holds us back from completing these projects?



From what I heard last week, there are a myriad of reasons. Political issues, over-worked and under-trained staff, and the arduous application process seem to be the top reasons.

However, how many more disasters can a community, state and nation sustain? There were 99 disaster declarations in 2011, 60 of which were flood related. According to the Insurance Information Institute, these disasters resulted in more than \$32 billion in damage.

Are there ways NeFSMA can help communities with mitigation projects? I believe this is something that will become more important as time goes on. Let us know how we as an educational association can help you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Rock Kryzcki

Our next big education opportunity after the July 12th Annual Conference is the BMP Road Trip on September 11-12th that was organized by Rocky Keehn. The road trip is a two day bus tour to view BMPs in Minneapolis/St. Paul area. On September 11th the bus will leave Lincoln at 4:30 AM (that's right AM), and stop in Omaha at 5:30 AM. We'll arrive in Minneapolis around lunch time and tour a couple of sites. We'll meet up with the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers for some social time. You will then have the option of attending a Twins game or going to the Mall of America. Sept 12th we'll tour several BMP installations/locations and conclude the tour in the Minneapolis area around 5 PM and arrive back in the Omaha Lincoln drop off points late on the 12th.

If you would like more information on the bus tour, go to the [NeFSMA Upcoming Events webpage](#). The cost of the tour is \$250 per person which includes bus transportation, hotel room and some meals (Optional ticket to Minnesota Twins - \$20). There are only 56 spots available on the bus so sign up early; registration will be open after the Annual Conference. Please contact Rocky Keehn if you have any questions at rkeehn@sehinc.com.

Annual Conference Committee, John Cambridge

Registration is now open for the Annual Conference (see attached flyer). We have a great agenda this year. The conference will be July 12, 2012 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. If you are planning to travel to Kearney the evening before, we have reserved a block of rooms at the Fairfield Inn. We will also have a hospitality hour at 7 pm at the Fairfield Inn.

Publication Committee, Mike McIntosh

The Publication Committee continues to work to keep the blog relevant and produce the newsletters. The Committee has also been working on the Board Policy Guidelines which will be up for adoption at the next board meeting.



Membership Committee, Jamie Reinke

The membership committee met on April 6th and the following items were the main items of discussion:

1. Updating the Membership Brochure – The brochure was updated prior to the April 19th workshop, however, the membership committee intends to create a new brochure, potentially working with a graphic designer to improve the brochure we already have.
2. Purchase of a banner / display for use at events – This is an item that has been discussed multiple times over the last year and we are still working on achieving this goal.
3. Communicating with members – This committee intends to focus more effort on building our Linked-In correspondence and we may work on creating a NeFSMA Facebook page if the board approves of this idea. There was a discussion regarding setting up a booth at several different events (the League of Municipalities event for one) and working with NARD and the UNL Stormwater group to reach out to parties that may be interested in joining NeFSMA to increase membership.
4. Coordinating the nomination process for board members – This process will begin in September and we will have pre-nominations again this year. The committee felt the Survey Monkey voting procedure worked well and we intend to continue in a similar fashion this year.
5. There were several miscellaneous items that were discussed and we will continue to go over those items in future meetings and report back when we have decided which items should become part of our focus.

2012 FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

NeFSMA held its first quarterly meeting of 2012 on April 19th at the Embassy Suites in La Vista, Nebraska. There was great attendance of approximately 80 members. Overall the meeting was very informative with great speakers and topics including flood insurance, the 2011 Missouri River flood, floodplain management, pesticide regulation, current publications and funding sources. The combination of great information and a delicious lunch helped make it a great day.

The day started with a presentation by Dean Ownby of FEMA Region 7 about flood insurance basics and a range of potential scenarios that could occur in any community with a floodplain. Dean provided some great information about some of the commonly overlooked and unknown nuances regarding flood insurance such as basement coverage, damage caused by seepage vs. flooding, flood hazard determinations and real estate transactions, and the ever vague grandfathering policies. If you weren't able to attend, ask someone who was there how a structure could be rated as being 40 feet below BFE!



Marty Grate Presenting on 2011 City of Omaha Flooding

While attendees were eating a great lunch provided by the conference center, Marty Grate with the City of Omaha gave a presentation titled “2011 Flooding Disaster – Experiences from the Front Lines”. As the title indicates, Omaha engaged in quite the flood fight during the 2011 Missouri River high water event and as the designated point man for the activities Marty was definitely on the front lines. While the River was at record levels for a good portion of the summer, Omaha had to contend with a number of operation issues, including seepage berm construction, among other

emergency flood fighting activities. Through close coordination with City staff, the Corps of Engineers and the engineering community, the City was able to effectively manage the flooding effects. An interesting complication to the flood fight occurred when intense summer storms hit the City while the river was up, creating flooding concerns inside the City. With a quick response by the City, along with some great ingenuity, they were able to limit the effects of what could have been a very dire situation, especially since it occurred during the College World Series. It gives new meaning to the saying ‘when it rains, it pours’.

After lunch the attendees broke into two separate tracks. The first track revolved around floodplain management. Amanda Grint with the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District spoke about the municipalities’ role in floodplain management. The presentation included a lot of great information since effective floodplain management must be implemented at the local level. Everyone from local administrators to engineers in the audience benefited. Crystal Lesmeister and John Callen with the DNR presented current topics in floodplain management. The topics included FEMA’s criteria for levee accreditation, the new non-accredited levee mapping procedure guidelines, and the ongoing Risk MAP (Mapping, Assessment, and Planning) process and products. Overall there are a lot of ongoing potential changes to levee policies and associated flood insurance implications as well as a large effort underway to produce useful modernized products for everyone to effectively identify and manage potential risk.



Travis Porter Presenting on the new NDEQ Pesticide Permit

The second tract in the afternoon session featured three speakers. The first speaker was Travis Porter who provided an overview of the new NDEQ General Permit for pesticide application. One important item that Travis identified was to have an up to date Pesticide Use Management Plan (PUMP) and to make sure to keep accurate documentation of your pesticide applications. The second speaker was Dave Shelton from the UNL Extension office who overviewed all the great publications the extension has to offer. You can find out



more by going to <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/pages/index.jsp>. The final speaker was Donna Garden from the NDEQ, who gave an overview of funding options that are available through the NDEQ programs.

Thanks to all the speakers who provided great information and to everyone who attended this meeting. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

COMMUNITY FOREST AND STORMWATER

Guest Article from Christina Hoyt of the Nebraska Forest Service

Trees are incredibly important to the places people live and they provide many benefits across the social, physical and economic fabric of a community. These benefits can be measured in the millions of dollars and tie directly to economics, comfort, stormwater management, energy conservation, carbon sequestration and storage, and wildlife and community vitality, among others. Reducing stormwater runoff is an important function of the community forest. Rainfall is intercepted and stored by the leaves, branch surfaces, and trunk and in turn, trees are effective for reducing stormwater volumes, delaying peak flows and reducing erosion. Tree root growth also increases the capacity and rate of soil infiltration.

Several factors influence rainfall interception including the intensity and duration of a rainfall event, the type and age of a tree, and the weather. Research has shown trees store more water during a rainfall event lasting over a longer duration of time than during a short, intense event. According to US Forest Service research, in eastern Nebraska a mature red oak can intercept 1,129 gallons of rainfall annually, and a mature hackberry can intercept 2,162 gallons of rainfall annually. Small trees, such as crabapples, intercept 292 gallons of rainfall annually.

In Nebraska, since the late 1970s, we have lost half of community trees to age, storm damage, and poor planting practices and species selection. Statewide, there are 13.3 million community trees, and 61% of these are less than six inches in diameter. Many mature trees, estimates of 30-50%, are reaching the end of their natural life span. Large growing shade trees simply haven't been replaced, and tree planting rates haven't kept up with canopy loss. Inventory data shows that for every 10 trees removed, only 3 are planted. A dwarfing of the community forest is also occurring as ornamental trees are planted to replace shade trees. These losses in overstory canopy directly affect how well our community forests are functioning and the resources they are able to give us.

The Nebraska Forest Service is in the process of doing Community Threat Assessment Protocol (CTAP) inventories of community forests across Nebraska to help communities prepare for forest health threats and increase forest health and security. Using new technology for data analysis, NFS is able to identify the value of stormwater benefits. The analysis takes into account species type, size, and location. For example, in Nebraska City there are 2,198 street trees that intercept over 3.9 million gallons of rainwater each year, providing \$108,160 in stormwater benefits annually. In LaVista, there are 662 street trees that intercept 261,440 gallons of rainwater and give \$7,086 in stormwater benefits. A suggested street tree stocking rate is 200 trees per

linear mile of street. Currently in La Vista the community forest is only 5.5% stocked. Focusing on street tree planting will improve stormwater capture in the future.

What are strategies to enhance the community forest in Nebraska for stormwater control?

1. Plant trees adjacent to impervious services—especially street trees. Restore/plant riparian areas
2. Improve the maintenance of existing trees
3. Plant trees that are large growing and long lived
4. Use healthy root stalk and proper planting techniques
5. Plant trees closer together for continuous canopy
6. Plan for the future
7. Plant a diversity of species

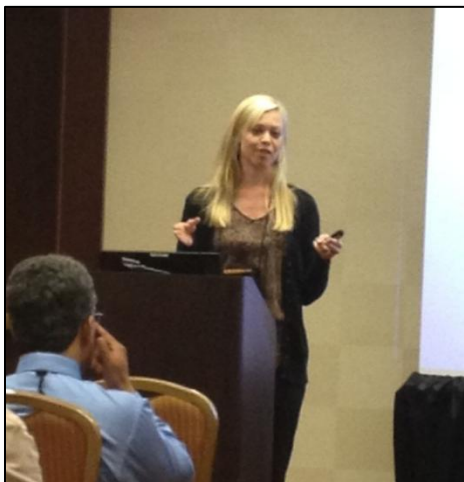
Perhaps the most important thing we can remember is the community forest we are looking at today is not as healthy or robust as it was in the past. Good tree planting and community forestry practices are important for improving and sustaining this resource.

Resources:

-NFS community foresters are available to assist communities to develop tree boards and street tree planning strategies. <http://www.nfs.unl.edu/ReTree> Nebraska Initiate is a grassroots effort that helps promote proper tree planting. <http://nfs.unl.edu/retreenebraska.asp>

-Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, Inc. offers the Trees For Nebraska Towns grant programs for planting of large growing trees in communities. The program is funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. <http://arboretum.unl.edu>

NEBRASKANS AT ASFPM



Amanda Grint, Papio-Missouri River NRD
First Quarter 2012

The Association of State Floodplain Managers annual conference was held May 20 through May 25 in San Antonio, Texas. Of the 168 presentations, 5 of those were presented by Nebraskans, with additional presentations by HDR, an Omaha-based firm.

As you can imagine, much of the presentations given by Nebraskans were about the flooding along the Missouri River in 2011.



Crystal Lesmeister, NE Dept. of Natural Resources

One of the biggest topics this year was levees. Many miles of levees were impacted last year and FEMA is in the process of revising how levees are analyzed for flood insurance rate maps.

Next year's conference will be in Hartford Connecticut. If you have the opportunity to attend, I would highly recommend it. This conference is for anyone who deals with floodplain management, whether it be as a local floodplain administrator, an emergency manager, insurance agent, or an engineer. With the wide variety of topics everyone is sure to find something

But it's not all work and no play...



Jeff Ray, Dan Fricke, Lalit Jha (JEO Consulting Group) at the Alamo



NEFSMA WEBSITE UPDATE

The NeFSMA Website has a new Current Events page. Please take a moment to visit the website at <http://nefsma.com/upcoming-events/>.

2012 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of year again. Annual dues for NeFSMA are due. Please fill out the application form (which can be found at www.nefsma.com) and make sure we have your contact information up-to-date. Annual dues are \$35 for individual and \$100 for corporate/organization memberships (allows 2 voting members) plus additional members that can serve as alternates. Please send your application forms and a check made to NeFSMA to Bobbi Holm, 8015 W. Center Road, Omaha, NE 68124.

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Second Vice Chair: Rock Krzycki rkrzycki@lincoln.ne.gov

Secretary: Mike McIntosh, P.E., CFM mike.mcintosh@lra-inc.com **Treasurer:** Bobbi Holm bholm2@unl.edu

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Visit NeFSMA on the web at: <http://www.nefsma.com>



Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

Helping Protect the Good Life

2012 Newsletter Volume 3

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

From Lori Laster

As you know, NeFSMA's Fourth Annual Conference was held in July. We officially had 99 attendees in Kearney making this the most attended conference yet. There are many people to thank for a successful event; our Education and Annual Conference Committees; our speakers who shared their experiences and expertise; and everyone who attended the conference. A special thanks goes to the staff at Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for providing support and those small but important things like nametags.

NeFSMA is an organization run completely by volunteers and it takes many dedicated volunteers to organize and host our conference and workshops. And we're always looking for new recruits. Soon we will start planning our Annual Membership Meeting at which we will elect our 2013 Board of Directors. Our board is comprised of five officers and ten at-large members. Officer positions are limited to two year term limits (elected yearly)

If you're not interested in being a board member but still want to get involved, you can participate on one of our committees. You can read the committee reports below to get an idea of what each committee does. Please feel free to contact me at (402) 444-6222 or llaster@pacionrd.org if you would like to run for a board position or be a member of one of our committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Rock Kryzcki

It has been a great year for NeFSMA educational opportunities and I would like to say thank you to those persons who have given of their time to plan our meetings and to those persons who have been able to attend them. One of the founding goals of NeFSMA was to provide a means for floodplain and stormwater professionals to receive education and be able to meet certification requirements in a cost effective manner. Typically other workshops and conferences of our caliber cost in the \$200-\$300 range which would keep many of us from attending with the budget cutbacks we're all experiencing. We'd also like to thank our corporate sponsors for their contributions which also help us in keeping our meeting costs low.



The bus tour to the Twin Cities was cancelled this week as there were not enough participants to make the trip cost effective. Our thanks to Rocky Keehn for his time and efforts towards planning the trip. We try a lot of new things in our efforts to bring the members new educational opportunities and will continue to explore new ideas. If you have a suggestion for a NeFSMA meeting or meeting topic, we'd like to hear from you! Our next meeting will be our Annual Membership meeting which will likely be held at the New World Inn in Columbus in late October or early November, we hope you can attend.

Again thank you for your time, efforts and personal and financial contributions in making NeFSMA a great value for meeting your educational needs, we hope to see you in the fall.

Annual Conference Committee, John Cambridge

Our Fourth Annual Conference was a great success. We will soon start planning for our Fifth Annual Conference. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

Publication Committee, Mike McIntosh

The NeFSMA board passed the first version of the NeFSMA Board Policy Guidelines. We are excited that we now have a document that provides great policy information for the current board members and future prospective board members. This will be a living document that will be updated on as needed basis.

We also continue to keep the website and blog up to date and relevant. Please remember that if you are a sponsor, you receive one blog to promote your company, agency or projects.

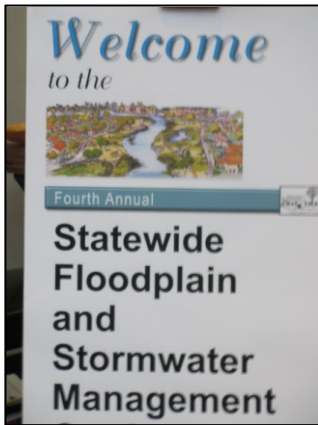
Membership Committee, Jamie Reinke

The membership committee is in the process of scheduling our next meeting. In September we will begin coordinating the nomination process and prepare for electronic voting prior to the membership meeting. At our meeting we will discuss the process of updating our logo so that we can order a banner for future events. In addition, we plan to update our brochure after the logo revisions have been completed. Our committee will also work on developing a stronger LinkedIn presence in the near future.

NeFSMA's on LinkedIn!
[Click Here to Join](#)



ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY



NeFSMA held its fourth Annual Conference on Thursday July 12, 2012 in Kearney, Nebraska. There were many people who put in a lot of hard work to help make this conference a success. A special thanks to everyone who helped out on a great conference!

*Almost 100
People attended
the Annual
Conference!*

The conference was held at the new Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska. We received positive feedback on the icebreaker and social the evening before the conference. Due to its success, we will plan on having these for future conferences.

The conference featured three tracks: stormwater, floodplain and levees. There were over thirty presentations and based on the feedback we received, the presenters did a great job. A sampling of the presentations included topics on complying with 65.10 for levee certification, improving flood risk awareness and evaluating effectiveness of stormwater Best Management Practices. We appreciate all the speakers who helped make it a successful and educational conference!



Mr. James Ridgway - Keynote Speaker

The Keynote Speaker was James Ridgway, from the Rogue River Alliance. James provided insight on the status of the Rogue River watershed's combined sewer overflow programs and how they have incorporated green solutions to restore the Rogue River. We appreciate James spending his time with us and providing us with a great keynote presentation!

For the latest news sign up for email updates from our blog at <http://nefsma.com/wp-blog/>



GUEST ARTICLE

Pathways to Mitigation - Managing Flood Risk

Submitted By: John Callen, NDNR

Many communities in Nebraska are still working to recover from major flooding that occurred in 2011, and despite the current drought conditions, major flooding is likely to occur in floodprone areas again in the future. While regulatory oversight for new construction and development in flood hazard areas is in place for communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), it is also important to mitigate flood risk for existing structures and several programs have been established for this purpose. Many of these programs can be especially valuable for structures that have recently experienced high levels of damage, are in areas that could potentially experience high levels of damage, or have experienced repetitive losses over time. The following is a listing of some of the mitigation opportunities and resources available in Nebraska, the type of assistance they may potentially provide, and the typical minimum eligibility requirements.

- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – this is a federal grant program that is administered by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and can provide up to 75% of the cost of a mitigation project. Funding for this grant program is based on the damages from federally declared disasters and therefore varies from year to year. This program can potentially assist with acquisition and demolition or relocation of floodprone structures, elevation of floodprone structures, or smaller scale flood protection projects (but not dams or levees) if they reduce flood risk to specific structures that are at risk. Basic eligibility requirements may include the community must have a hazard mitigation plan, the community must participate in the NFIP (if the structure is in a FEMA identified flood hazard area), and a project benefit/cost ratio greater than one. The structure(s) to be mitigated do not necessarily have to have been damaged by recent flooding or within the disaster areas to be eligible, although these types of areas do take priority.
- **Flood Mitigation Assistance grant (FMA)** – this is a federal grant program specifically aimed at mitigating structures at risk of flooding and is administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR). Recent NFIP reform legislation will also place two previously separate programs, Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL), under the FMA program going forward. Due to this, FMA will also focus on repetitive loss properties (two flood insurance claims exceeding \$1,000 each in a ten year period) and severe repetitive loss properties (four claims exceeding \$5,000 each or two claims that exceed the market value of the structure). Funding for the FMA program occurs on an annual basis and the federal cost share for a project varies depending on whether the structure is repetitive loss or severe repetitive loss but is typically a minimum of 75%. Potential projects and eligibility requirements are similar to the HMGP program, with the additional requirement that the subject property carries flood insurance.
- **Increased Cost of Compliance coverage (ICC)** – this is a component of every standard flood insurance policy that may assist with the cost of mitigation for non-compliant structures substantially damaged by flooding. For flood insurance policy holders seeking mitigation alternatives after substantial damage due to flooding, ICC can provide up to \$30,000 in cost share for the effort to comply with local floodplain management requirements.



This may include the cost of elevating a structure, cost of relocation, or demolition cost. ICC coverage and applicability is handled on an individual flood insurance policy holder case by case basis and eligibility may vary depending on individual circumstances.

- **Natural Resources Districts (NRDs)** – the NRDs generally support floodplain management efforts and can often assist with mitigation projects in some way. This may be through an NRD’s programs specifically designed to help with mitigation of floodprone structures or by assisting with meeting local cost share requirements of federal grants. Eligibility varies depending on the nature of the project and availability of funds.
- **Community Rating System (CRS)** – this is a voluntary program under the NFIP that provides the potential to receive discounts on flood insurance premiums for policies in the participating community. In order to receive these discounts, the community must implement floodplain management activities that go beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP. While not a direct mitigation program, the benefit of the CRS is that participation can further enhance floodplain management within the community, which may assist with a proactive approach to mitigation of floodprone structures.

Each of these programs, either by themselves or in combination with other programs, can provide significant mitigation opportunities and tools to communities with floodprone areas within the State. They also all have unique eligibility and participation requirements. If you have further questions about any of these programs or would like assistance determining which program may be applicable to a potential project, contact John Callen with the NDNR at (402) 471-3957 or john.callen@nebraska.gov.

“No” Can be a Good Thing

Reprinted from White House Blog, July 6, 2012, By Terri Turner

Terri Turner, ASFPM Region 4 Director, NAI Committee Co-Chair and former GA Chapter Chair was recently chosen from a pool of more than 1,500 candidates nominated through the White House web site, was selected as a Champion of Change for the positive impact she is making in her community. Terri Turner is the Development Administrator, Floodplain Manager, and Hazard Mitigation Specialist for Augusta, Georgia.

I came from a family with a strong work ethic. My Daddy used to tell me that if I wasn’t giving 100%, that I was cheating someone - I learned very quickly that, most of all, I was cheating myself if I wasn’t giving my all, and then some, to those around me. So I was always doing “more,” giving “more,” trying to be “more.” It was quite natural that I ended up in a community service field. For the past 18 years, I have worked for City and County governments as a Planner, Floodplain Manager and Hazard Mitigation Specialist (among a lot of other hats that I just quite naturally wear with my present position as Augusta, Georgia’s Development Administrator).



However, not content with doing enough to make a difference in my “day job” in Augusta, I ventured out into state and national service via organizations such as the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM), the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA). Through these organizations, I have been blessed to be mentored by the best and brightest in the planning, floodplain management, and hazard mitigation fields. I have also been encouraged by these same mentors to build upon my love for these disciplines and venture forth into public speaking, research, and writing endeavors – all in the hopes of managing the natural and man-made threats and hazards that plague our local communities, and lessening the costs and misery caused by flooding and other natural disaster events.

One common thread runs through all of my work – that emphasis is building long-term sustainability and community resiliency through sound floodplain management and hazard mitigation practices. For without disaster resistant homes to live in and disaster resistant buildings in which to work, we are doomed to fail as a community, and ultimately, as a nation.

That is why my work on ASFPM’s No Adverse Impact (NAI) Floodplain Management Initiative is so vitally important. Flood damages in the US continue to rise despite all of the money and efforts we have put into combating flooding, with damages averaging over \$6 billion annually, in recent years.

As described on the website of the Association of State Floodplain Managers,

“No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management” is a managing principle that is easy to communicate and, from legal and policy perspectives, tough to challenge. In essence, No Adverse Impact floodplain management takes place when the actions of one property owner are not allowed to adversely affect the rights of other property owners.

“No Adverse Impact principles give communities a way to promote responsible floodplain development through community-based decision making. With the No Adverse Impact approach, communities will be able to put federal and state programs to better use, enhancing their local initiatives to their communities' advantage. No Adverse Impact floodplain management empowers the community (and its citizens) to build better-informed "wise development" stakeholders at the local level and to manage their flood hazards and their development more effectively; thus reducing flood losses and protecting property in the process.”

So, you see, “No” is not necessarily a bad thing – especially when it is preventing harmful impacts on others, preserving the rights of everyone in the community, and promoting and rewarding strong water stewardship, all-the-while creating community sustainability and promoting community resiliency. I don’t know about you, but it sounds like a win-win to me!

Terri Turner is the Development Administrator, Floodplain Manager, and Hazard Mitigation Specialist for Augusta, Georgia. See the ASFPM NAI page [here](#).



NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) Training Opportunity

The Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce an upcoming training opportunity for communities wanting to learn more about the NFIP's Community Rating System program. This opportunity is being brought to Nebraska by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) from Emmitsburg, Maryland and is EMI course E-278. The four day class will be held at the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dates: October 29th – November 1st, 2012

Location: Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE

Prerequisites: EMI course E-273, or CFM certification, or two years of experience in floodplain management. Priority will be given to local government officials.

Costs: \$25.00 to cover basic refreshments throughout the week (lunches are not included) plus lodging costs, if applicable.

For more information on the Emergency Management Institute, see the EMI website at <http://training.fema.gov/emi/>.

Application materials for the course will be distributed by the NDNR. For more information or to express interest, please contact Bill Jones, CFM at (402) 471-3932 or bill.jones@nebraska.gov.

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Visit NeFSMA on the web at: <http://www.nefsma.com>



Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

Helping Protect the Good Life

2012 Newsletter Volume 4

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

From Lori Laster

I know this is a cliché, but I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. While we weren't able to meet the goal of four workshops this year, NeFSMA did have a great year. We beat our official annual conference attendance, previously 98, with 99 people who signed in at this year's conference. It seems like a small number, but with tight budgets facing most agencies and companies and very few concerns over stormwater and flooding this year, it's encouraging that people still think it important to seek further education.

Our Annual Membership Meeting in Columbus was so well attended we had to ask the New World Inn to put more chairs in the rooms. We were also able to host several local floodplain administrators for the afternoon session who had not previously been NeFSMA members.

I hope that the presentations offered at this year's events were applicable to your daily work. We strive to bring you information that's relevant to the issues we face in Nebraska as well as keep you informed as to what's happening nation-wide. We are always open to feedback from our members. If there is a topic you feel that we need to be discussing, please contact us.

As we look forward to 2013, our committees have already laid the groundwork for our first two events. The first event is the Nebraska 2013 Post Construction Stormwater Management Workshop. We have also set the date for the Fifth Annual Protecting Our Communities Conference. Check out the committee reports for more details.

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Rock Krzycki

The education committee is working with several groups for the 2013 Nebraska Post Construction Stormwater Management Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for March 20-21, 2013 in Lincoln. We are currently accepting abstracts for presentations. If you have any questions about the Workshop, please contact Katie Pekarek at kpekarek2@unl.edu.

Look for the call for abstracts for NeFSMA's fifth annual conference early in 2013. The conference has been set for July 11, 2013 at Lied Lodge in Nebraska City.

Annual Conference Committee, John Cambridge

The location has been selected for the 2013 Annual Conference.

Arbor Day Farm Lied Lodge & Conference Center
Nebraska City, Nebraska
Thursday, 10 July 2013

The event staff said when NeFSMA was there 5 or 6 six years ago we reserved a room for 35 people. Now we need 3 times the size!

Publication Committee, Mike McIntosh

This is the fourth and final newsletter for the Publication Committee. We'd like to thank everyone who sent in guest articles and helped put together the newsletters this year! If you have any comments on the newsletter or website, please let us know!

Membership Committee, Jamie Reinke

The membership committee has been working on adding some pizzazz to the NeFSMA logo. This may seem like a small thing, but our goal is to develop an eye-catching logo and a graphic display for use at events and conferences to reach out to a new audience. The hope is that we will be able to grow our membership and help educate others on the importance of floodplain and stormwater management. We're also working on some new ideas for activities for our members. Look for more information in 2013 about ways you can become more involved.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

NeFSMA held its Annual Meeting for 2011 on October 20th in Columbus, Nebraska. The meeting included speakers and announcement of the new officers. The morning speaker topics included a discussion of the effects of stormwater management on floodplains by Amanda Grint of the Papio-Missouri River NRD.

Rocky Keehn, A Senior Water Resources Engineer at SHE discussed the history of stormwater Management in Minnesota. Rocky explained how Minnesota Stormwater management started with the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act 1982. This act required all communities in the metro area of the Twin Cities to begin to develop stormwater management plans. Like any new program, it had growing pains as watersheds and communities tried to implement the law, which for the most part, was very general in language and thus left lots of room for interpretation. The law requirements for updates every 5 years at the watershed level and the creation of an oversight state level board allowed the program became more defined over time. Ten years after the Act was first passed, the second key legislation created was Minnesota Rules 8410 which provide specific guidelines in what should be in a stormwater plan. Also around this time the Wetland Conservation Act was passed which added more regulation to management of water resources in Minnesota.

The lunch meeting included the announcement of the election of officers. The results of the election are below. Congratulations to all new members!

Chair - Lori Laster
Vice Chair - Rocky Keehn
2nd Vice Chair - Dan Fricke
Secretary - Carrie Romero
Treasurer - Mike McIntosh

At Large - John Callen
At Large - John Cambridge
At Large - JB Dixon
At Large - Annie Folck
At Large - Nate Hartman
At Large - Bill Jones
At Large - Rock Krzycki
At Large - Katie Pekarek
At Large - Dave Shelton
At Large - Ellen Wright



The afternoon session was split into stormwater and floodplain tracts. The stormwater tract included a presentation from Rebecca Nestingen of SEH on Minnesota Stormwater Projects. Rebecca presented examples of retrofitting by presenting the results of two paired-watershed studies. These studies compare a watershed without green infrastructure to one with green infrastructure by monitoring the stormwater runoff. The first was in Burnsville, MN which looked at the effectiveness of residential rain gardens with curb cuts capturing street runoff in a 1980s suburban neighborhood. A second paired-watershed study in the Powderhorn neighborhood of Minneapolis looked at the effectiveness of residential rain gardens capturing roof/property drainage in an established urban neighborhood. The street based study in Burnsville showed very favorable results where the one in Minneapolis did not.

Additionally, Paul Woodward, Olsson Associates and Tom Bentley of Vireo spoke about the Omaha CSO Green Solutions. Dr. Bruce Dvorak of UNL discussed the Effects of Atmospheric Pollutant Deposition on Water Quality. In the floodplain tract, Bill Jones and John Callen of the Department of Natural Resources discussed Floodplain Permitting and FEMA Forms. After the break, they went on to discuss Floodplain Regulatory Compliance and Implications of Non-Compliance.

Many thanks go out to the education and planning committees for putting together a great event. Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting. We look forward to seeing you at future events coming up in 2013!

GUEST ARTICLE

It's an Exciting Time for Green Infrastructure

Submitted By: Andy Szatko, City of Omaha

There's a lot of talk recently about green infrastructure, but what is it, why are we using it, and how do we know it works? Simply, green infrastructure is defined as the use of soils, plants, and land features in an effort to preserve, interconnect, and mimic natural processes that slow, sink, and spread stormwater where it lands. Commonly used strategies of green infrastructure include: small-scale projects such as bioretention systems and permeable pavements, to large scale ones such as urban forests and the connection of green spaces together. The core reasons it is being talked about more and more is because of its potential to provide multiple benefits beyond just managing stormwater, including lower impact on local waterways and bodies, improved air quality, increased recreation, and reduced stress on existing infrastructure.

In order to understand its performance and better utilize it, the City of Omaha currently has three collaborations with the US EPA that look at green infrastructure and its potential to help manage stormwater runoff. The first is with the US EPA Office of Research and Development to study eastern Omaha's soils for their potential use to infiltration stormwater instead of allowing it to enter the combined sewer system. Work from this effort will be used by the CSO Program to better quantify the capacity of the soils to remove flow



from the combined sewer system. Hopefully, this effort will help Omaha address more stormwater removal at the source, which may lead to reduced grey infrastructure. The second is a partnership with the EPA Office of Water where technical assistance is being provided to help the city address some current bottlenecks and deficiencies in the processes required to implement green Infrastructure. One important outcome will be a defined decision making process that will allow the City to know where and when green Infrastructure makes sense from an economic standpoint. Third is an Urban Waters Grant focused on assessing the benefits of green infrastructure educational programming and the performance of green infrastructure on a large urban watershed scale.

The Urban Waters Grant was awarded to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with the City of Omaha and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum/Nebraska Forest Service partnering with them. The project will focus on two areas in northeast Omaha, the Saddle Hills and TV Towers neighborhoods and a 101 acre watershed near 72nd and Maple St. The topography of Saddle Hills and TV Towers lends itself to being an incredible opportunity to study green infrastructure on a large watershed scale, approximately 300 acres in size. The watershed is split nearly in half by a ridge, one in the north and one in the south. Since each subwatershed has its own distinct storm sewer system it is possible to monitor the amount and quality of stormwater coming from them.

Monitoring has been ongoing for nearly a year, which will establish a baseline for how the watershed currently looks. This winter, an in-depth survey assessing resident perceptions, attitudes, behaviors, knowledge, and aesthetic preferences will be completed to establish a pre-education baseline. Once complete, educational programming will take place over the next couple years to educate the residents on stormwater, green infrastructure, and how to implement it on their own property. Monitoring will continue during the educational programming through to the post-education in-depth survey. This will help to see if a relationship exists between educational programming, resident behavior, and improved water quality and quantity.

Future plans for this project will include conceptualizing and implementing larger scale (both in terms of size and number) green infrastructure practices in the south watershed to assess the effectiveness of green infrastructure on a watershed scale. Collaboration between all stakeholders involved (local churches, residents, and property holders, UNL team, City of Omaha, US EPA, and E&A consulting) has been incredible so far and has been key in getting everything started. This is an amazing project to have locally in Nebraska; ultimately leading to a greater understanding of green infrastructure from technical and human standpoint. It truly is an exciting time for green infrastructure!



CURRENT EVENTS

The NeFSMA Website now has a new Current Events page. Please take a moment to visit the website at www.nefsma.com.

2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Now is the time to renew for 2013! Annual dues are \$35 for individual and \$100 for corporate/organization memberships (allows 2 voting members) plus additional members that can serve as alternates. Please send your application forms and a check made to NeFSMA to:

Mike McIntosh, Treasurer
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates
14710 West Dodge Road
Omaha, NE 68154

SPONSORSHIPS

Please see the attached letter from Lori Laster and Mike McIntosh regarding NeFSMA 2013 sponsorship opportunities!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Please see the attached Call for Presentations for the 2013 Post-Construction Stormwater Workshop. More information can also be found at water.unl.edu/propertydesign.



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