

NeFSMA **Helping Protect the Good Life**

2020 Newsletter Volume 1

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

NeFSMA Members,

I guess one crazy year deserves another! I think that's how most of us probably feel about Nebraska's disastrous flooding in 2019 followed by the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020. But, I also know that for most of our members, the show must go on as floodplain and stormwater issues persist and must be addressed! As NeFSMA's 2020 Chair, I am also hopeful that the show can go on as we prepare for our Membership Meeting at the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Museum on November 19th. Our intent is that everyone will feel comfortable attending this educational event as it will be offered both in-person as well as virtually. It is important for every member that is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) to figure out what their CEC requirements are and have a plan to meet them. We expect to have 5 CECs pre-approved for our Membership Meeting. [ASFPM](#) has also clarified that most virtual trainings qualify for credits and have a listing of online workshops.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING
IS REQUIRED**

PLEASE STAY AT LEAST 6 FEET APART FROM
OTHERS.

Thank you.

Unfortunately, our Annual Conference scheduled in Kearney for July had to be cancelled. However, it was a pleasure working with the Younes Conference Center staff and they have been gracious to reschedule our Annual Conference for both 2021 and 2022 in Kearney.

I also understand how this uncertain time can leave us feeling disconnected from the outside world, including events or changes in floodplain and stormwater management. While topics at our Membership Meeting will certainly address some of these latest changes, I thought I would mention a few of them here as well:

- The NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2020 as congress will again need to approve another [extension](#).
- Nebraska State Legislators approved a bill ([LB1201](#)) which would require Nebraska DNR to create a statewide flood mitigation plan with input from a statewide Flood Mitigation Task Force.
- There are many local Hazard Mitigation Plans that are in the process of being [updated](#). Especially following the 2019 flooding, please provide your input as participants in these regional or NRD-wide planning efforts.

It has also been a trying year for our NeFSMA Board of Directors and other leaders in navigating health guidance and making difficult decisions. I would like to extend my appreciation for everyone who volunteers their time and talents to help the association prosper.

Well wishes, Paul Woodward, NeFSMA Chair

Annual NeFSMA Membership Meeting

NeFSMA will be hosting our annual Membership Meeting at the SAC Museum on November 19, 2020.

Pre-approved CECs will be available for Certified Floodplain Managers. We anticipate 5 CECs will be available.

The membership meeting will be held in person with social distancing measures in place and limited seating, but an option to view presentations live and online will be available as well. This year there will be only one track and all presentations will be held in the theater with social distancing practices in place.

The event is free to NeFSMA members and \$35 for non-members.

A one-hour lunch is scheduled. There will be enough time to order food from the SAC Lunch Café, go offsite, or you can purchase a box lunch for \$11.00 when you register.

Visit www.nefsma.com/Events to find additional information and a current conference agenda.

Registration for the event will be available soon.



Actions You Can Take to Protect a Flood-Prone House or Business with a Crawlspace

The ASFPM Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee recently prepared and released a guide for reducing flood damage and flood risk to homes and businesses containing a crawlspace. This guide provides a step-by-step decision-making process for home owners and business owners who want to reduce their exposure to flood damage and potentially lower their flood insurance premiums.

While it is advisable to consult with your local floodplain management administrator on regulatory and flood insurance requirements, this guide is intended to provide basic flood risk reduction advice for structures containing a crawlspace.

This guide can be found and downloaded from the ASFPM Nonstructural Flood Proofing Committee webpage by [clicking here](#).



ASFPM Foundation Proud to Announce This Year's Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge Winner

Brad Anderson, ASFPM Foundation Projects Chair, worked in partnership with Tony Mendes, FEMA Region VIII, and Vince Meldrum, Earth Force, to review and judge proposals submitted by nine Colorado middle and high schools for this year's Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge (RMEHC). Brad's extremely rewarding experience last year made it clear ASFPM Foundation's support of RMEHC would continue. *"The innovation and creativity of middle school and high school kids I witnessed throughout this process is nothing short of inspirational – with talent like this, our country's future in managing flood risk and other hazards is bright!"* said Brad.

Blevins Middle School, hailing from Fort Collins, Colorado, took first place in the 2020 Challenge. Their entry proposed a community awareness event to encourage students and their families to create family emergency plans. Click [here](#) to view the five schools announced as this year's winners.

RMEHC is an annual competition sponsored by Earth Force and FEMA Region VIII that combines project-based learning with the latest research in STEM education. Student teams from schools across Colorado submit a project that applies real-life solutions to local natural hazard risks in their community for a chance to win prize money to fund their project. Prizes range from \$1,000 for the first place winner to \$200 for the fifth place finalist. *All prize money was donated by ASFPM Foundation* to further its dedication to reducing the risk and impacts of floods on people and communities.



Earth Force is the driving force behind RMEHC. Established in 1994, its mission is to "engage young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future." Imagine "a world where everyone has the knowledge and skills they need to participate in environmental decision making in their community." Through programs like the Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge, Earth Force is well on its way to achieving its vision through early engagement with today's youth for a resilient and sustainable future.

ASFPM Foundation is currently working in partnership with FEMA and Earth Force to expand this challenge to other FEMA Regions. Learn more about the [Rocky Mountain Environmental Hazards Challenge](#).

NMSA Submits Letter to Congress on Need for Funding for Stormwater Infrastructure Investments in Economic Stimulus Package

NMSA collected information on “ready-to-go” projects in the stormwater sector to illustrate the potential for investments in MS4s, along with other infrastructure investments, to help with the economic stimulus recovery package that Congress is looking to finalize this fall. This effort resulted in a letter authored by NMSA and sent to a number of key Congressional offices reflecting a total of \$1.3 billion in “ready-to-go” project investments in the stormwater sector.

You can review the letter here: [NMSA Letter to Congress on Stormwater Infrastructure for Economic Stimulus](#)

FEMA Releases Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity

Fiscal Year 2020, FEMA will distribute up to \$160 million through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program for the following project types:

1. Project Scoping to develop community flood mitigation projects and/or individual flood mitigation projects that will subsequently reduce flood claims against the NFIP. Project Scoping activities may include:

- Conducting meetings and outreach coordination
- Engineering, environmental feasibility, and/or Benefit-Cost Analyses
- Activities that lead to development of project applications
- Evaluating facilities to identify mitigation actions
- Development of cost-share strategies

2. Community Flood Mitigation Projects to address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing NFIP flood claim payments. Example project include, but are not limited to:

- Localized flood control
- Floodwater storage and diversion
- Floodplain and stream restoration
- Stormwater management
- Wetland restoration/creation

3. Technical Assistance to maintain a viable FMA program over time. (To be eligible to apply, the applicant must have received a Fiscal Year 2019 FMA Award of at least a \$1 million federal share.)

4. **Flood Hazard Mitigation Planning** to plan subapplications for the flood hazard component of State, local community, tribes and territories' hazard mitigation plans and updates to plans.
5. **Individual Flood Mitigation Projects** that mitigate the risk of flooding to individual NFIP insured structures.

Competitiveness is based on reduction of flood insurance claims:

- **Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) (B)(ii):** Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the definition of an SRL property: At least two separate NFIP claim payments have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure.
- **Repetitive Loss (RL):** Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the definition of a RL property: Property has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on the average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.
- **SRL (B)(i):** Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the statutory definition of an SRL property: Four or more separate NFIP claims payments have been made with the amount of each claim exceeding \$5,000, and with the cumulative amount of claims payments exceeding \$20,000.

Please note that structures must carry NFIP insurance and maintain policies throughout the completion of the mitigation activity and for the life of the structure. FEMA provides up to 100% cost share for Severe Repetitive Loss Bi or Bii, and up to 90% cost share for Repetitive Loss structures.

Applications open on September 30, 2020, and close on January 29, 2021.

Click the image for access to FEMA's FMA resources page, featuring the **NOFO** including eligibility criteria, **project scoping fact sheet**, **community flood mitigation fact sheet**, and more.

The new FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO) grants management system will be used for the FMA program. For more information on navigating the new FEMA GO system and the full application process, reference the FEMA GO guide at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go>.

Additionally, learn about other flood mitigation grants at [fema.gov/grants/mitigation](https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation).

On-Demand Access to the ASFPM Virtual Conference Now Available

Reprinted from ASFPM News & Views; Vol. 33, No. 4

If you didn't get a chance to join us for the 2020 ASFPM Virtual Conference, you can now access the entire program on-demand. That's three plenary presentations and 54 concurrent sessions for a total of more than 150 presentations dedicated to all aspects of flooding and floodplain management.

Certified Floodplain Managers will earn one continuing education credit (CEC) for each session watched, up to **12 CECs**. After each session is over, simply download the certificate for that session and submit it to ASFPM for your CFM certification.

With nearly 2,000 attendees, the virtual conference was our largest ever and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with nearly 85% rating it as good or excellent. In commenting on the breadth of content delivered, one attendee said: "The program was broad to cover several tracks to accommodate all people attending. Everyone could get new information for their specialized area or learn about another area!"

Registration for the on-demand conference is \$300, which includes access to the entire program until Jan. 31, 2021. [Go here to register](#).



NeFSMA Spring 2021 Field Trip in Planning Stages

Our Professional Development Committee is working on a special Spring 2021 event in northeast Nebraska. The committee is planning to have a field trip to visit sites impacted by the 2019 flood of the Niobrara River near Spencer, Nebraska. We will also tour the Gavins Point Dam in Yankton.

This will be a two-day event starting on a Thursday afternoon with the Ohiya Casino and Resort being the event hotel. An "on your own" golf outing with fellow NeFSMA members is planned for Friday afternoon at Tatanka Golf Club. This event is, of course, contingent on COVID-19 restriction being lifted and the Ohiya Casino and Resort being open to guests.

Safety Reminder

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

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.



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[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

[Chronic Underinvestment in America's Water Infrastructure Puts the Economy at Risk](#)

[Communities Gaining Ground in the Race Against Rising Waters](#)

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

[National MS4 Online Resource](#)

[Understanding the New Health Standard for Nebraska Public Beaches - HABs](#)



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