2016 Conference Highlights

The 2016 conference was attended in record numbers! Despite torrential downpours, over 135 attendees from five states and a variety of professions joined us at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, RI for a day dedicated to “Incentivizing Actionable Resilience to Flooding”. The Association received very positive feedback and many thoughtful, appreciated suggestions that are sure to continue to make this and all future RIFMA events a success. This year, we incorporated a Student Poster Competition and had participating students from The University of Rhode Island and Bryant University. Our winner and overall fan favorite, Victoria Bockstael, took home $100 with her poster titled “A Resilient Riverfront Park in Downtown Westerly, Rhode Island” and our second place winners from URI Ocean Engineering Capstone Project team took home $75 with their poster titled “Assessment of Damage from Storm Surge and Sea Level Rise Along Matunuck Beach Road and Surrounding Communities”. We look forward to showcasing more talent and creativity in next year’s competition!

SAVE THE DATE!

2017 Annual RIFMA Conference

Please join us on April 6, 2017 for our Annual Conference at Fidelity Investments in Smithfield, RI. Call for Abstracts will be announced in early November and Early Bird Registration opens January 5, 2017! Are you interested in becoming a sponsor and representing your business or organization at this year’s conference? Please contact our Event Chair at rhodeislandfma@gmail.com for information on sponsorship packages or visit our Conference Event page for more info.

“Very relevant topics!”

“Networking was excellent, as were several of the presentations.”

“Student posters were a great addition.”

“Thank you for the awesome, healthy food!”

- 2016 Conference Evaluations
Flood Insurance Rate Map Update:

Pawcatuck-Wood River Work Maps

In October 2014, the USGS received funding for Phase I of the Pawcatuck-Wood Watershed Risk MAP project. New Flood Insurance Studies and FIRMs are being developed by FEMA and the USGS for portions of Kent and Washington counties. The Pawcatuck-Wood River Watershed Study will utilize the recently published models for the Pawcatuck and Wood Rivers to update Annual Chance floods, hydraulic structures and cross sections. The following communities are involved in the update:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KENT COUNTY</th>
<th>WASHINGTON COUNTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coventry</td>
<td>Charlestown</td>
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<td>West Greenwich</td>
<td>Narragansett</td>
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<td>Exeter</td>
<td>Narragansett Tribe</td>
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<td>North Kingstown</td>
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<td>Westerly</td>
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Visit the FEMA Map Service Center at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov) for more information on this study & to access other mapping products.

MyCoast

Snap the Shore, See the Future!

Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC), together with Save the Bay, URI Coastal Resources Center and RI Sea Grant host this effort to document the effect that extreme tide events have on our state’s beaches, coastal waterways, private property, and public infrastructure.

The term “King Tide” is a non-scientific term used to describe the highest seasonal tides that occur each year. They usually occur during a spring tide (when the sun, moon, and Earth align) at the new and full moons, when the moon is closest to Earth during its 28 day elliptical orbit.

Help to capture and monitor of King Tides as a citizen scientist!

Upcoming King Tides (Newport RI)

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>November 14, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17, 2016</td>
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<td>6:42 AM</td>
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<td>December 15, 2016</td>
<td>8:25 AM</td>
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Visit the FEMA Map Service Center at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov) for more information on this study & to access other mapping products.

Photo taken by Janet Freedman on MyCoast.org
Are You Interested in Becoming a CFM?

The Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program, through the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), is a nationally recognized program of floodplain managers that have committed themselves to “professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, federal, and private sector floodplain management professionals.”

To become a CFM, one must complete a formal exam and maintain continuing education credits. We are pleased to present a refresher course and exam this Spring!

Congratulations to the seven (7) newest CFMs from RI, MA, and NY who passed the September 23rd exam in Warwick, RI!!

C FM Refresher Course
April 2017 (Tentative)
Warwick, RI

CFM Exam
December 9, 2016
Kingston, MA

April 2017 (Tentative)
Warwick, RI

For more information about the CFM Program (including exam registration) and to see a listing of CFM Professionals, visit www.floods.org.

Membership Matters

Reflections from the 2016 Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) conference.

In June of 2016 I had the good fortune to attend the Annual ASFPM National Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am not an avid conference-goer, but I found this conference to be extremely worthwhile on numerous levels.

Presentations at the conference ran the gamut from overviews and practical implications of recent changes in the NFIP, ideas for effective public outreach, ways that communities have achieved success in the CRS program, and more. Presenters offered examples of both mitigation and outreach projects that were effective, along with some that were less effective than hoped with lessons learned from their experience. There were CRS coordinators at the conference who could meet with conference attendees individually and go over our community scores by category. This was an excellent service available by appointment, and there were also times when one could walk in and meet with a coordinator on the spot. If you attend knowing what information you need regarding floodplain management, you’ll find it at this conference.

Many, and probably most, communities in southern New England who serve as our communities’ floodplain coordinators and perform other emergency management functions do so on a part-time basis with limited human and material resources. It was easy to find people from other areas of the country who have similar experiences along those lines and, in many cases, have gone through major disasters including hurricanes and large scale river flooding. The conference was valuable for those interactions alone.

Like any national conference, there was significant expense involved, some of which I covered, but despite that I will strongly consider attending the ASFPM conference again either in 2017 or in a later year.

Wayne Barnes has been a long time member of RIFMA and is Certified Floodplain Manager working as a Senior Planner and Deputy EMA Director for the City of East Providence, RI.
Sharing News

ASFPM newest Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Get updates on news, chapter actions, continuing education activities, grants and funding opportunities. Check out the ASFPM website for the latest up-to-date happenings nationwide!

Hurricane Sandy’s flood frequency increasing from year 1800 to 2100
A study published in October, 2016 by Lin et al. demonstrates quantitatively that the frequency of Hurricane Sandy-like extreme flood events has increased significantly over the past two centuries and is very likely to increase more sharply over the 21st century, due to the compound effects of sea level rise and storm climatology change.
http://www.pnas.org/content/113/43/12071

FEMA to Incorporate Climate Change in New Flood Maps

Obama Administration Announces New Efforts to Increase National Preparedness by Building Community Capacity to Recover from Disasters.

How Federal Flood Maps Ignore the Risks of Climate Change
On May 24, 2016, FRONTLINE aired an episode on the “Business of Disaster” which showcased an analysis of FEMA’s map data. Click here for the full article.

House elevated to BFE with Hazard Mitigation Funds in Westerly, RI
Upcoming Events and Training

RI Society of Professional Land Surveyors 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference
November 18, 2016, Warwick, RI
To register, please contact RISPLS, rispls@hotmail.com

Coastal Construction, Substantial Damage Estimator, and the NFIP
November 30, 2016, 9am-4pm; URI Narragansett Bay Campus
For more Information, pcontact Melinda Hopkins at Melinda.hopkins@ema.ri.gov

RI CRMC Shoreline Change (Beach) SAMP Stakeholder Meeting
December 1, 2016, 6-8 pm, URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Auditorium www.beachsamp.org

E273: Managing Floodplain Development through National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
December 5–8 2016, Kingston, MA
To register, contact Joy Duperault at joy.duperault@state.ma.us

Upcoming ASFPM Training Programs and Webcasts
Keep up to date on the latest mitigation information and programs. Keep in mind that as a member of RIFMA, you will receive preferred rates to attend many Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) programs. Check out ASFPM webinars! To become a RIFMA Member, please visit our website for an Application.

Upcoming Free Training and Webinars
Click here to access the WebEx Training Center and to register for a training or webinar. Note: each webinar provides a minimum of 1 CEC for CFMs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/15/2016</td>
<td>CRS Webinar Series: Introduction to CRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/16/2016</td>
<td>CRS Webinar Series: Developing a PPI and an Insurance Coverage Improvement Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/20/2016</td>
<td>CRS Webinar Series: Preparing for a Verification Visit</td>
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<td>12/21/2016</td>
<td>CRS Webinar Series: CRS and Coastal Hazards</td>
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<td>CRS Webinar Series: The Role of the Community CRS Coordinator</td>
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<td>1/18/2017</td>
<td>CRS Webinar Series: Changes in the 2017 CRS Coordinator’s Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/21/2017</td>
<td>CRS Webinar Series: Introduction to CRS</td>
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Contact Us

Check out our NEW Website! www.riflood.org

Email us at: RhodeIslandFMA@gmail.com

Keep up to date with RIFMA through our new Facebook page!

2016-17 RIFMA Board

Chair: Carissa Lord, CFM
Vice Chair: Pam Rubinoff, CFM
Secretary: Samantha Richer, CFM
Treasurer: Igor Runge
Vice-Treasurer: Dave Prescott, CFM
At Large: Kate Michaud, AICP
At Large: Jay Parker, AICP, CFM
At Large: Joe Warner Jr., CFM
At Large: Jennifer West

2017 Conference Co-Chairs:
Samantha Richer & Igor Runge

Bylaws Committee Chair:
Joe Garceau

Education & Outreach Committee Chair:
Jennifer West

Membership Committee Chair:
Samantha Richer

Technical Committee Chair:
Joe Warner

Please contact us if you’d like to participate in a committee!