



ASFPM FOUNDATION

ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

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Mission Statement

The mission of the ASFPM Foundation is to be an incubator for research and education that promote wise floodplain management.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT (LARRY OLINGER)

FIRST ANNUAL GILBERT F. WHITE NATIONAL FLOOD POLICY FORUM

The first annual Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum convened in Washington, D.C. September 21-22 at the National Academies. Over 70 leading experts in flood hazard management from across the country discussed four themes concerning the value of the 1% annual chance flood as a flood hazard management tool: History of the 1% annual chance flood standard; tools and technology as applied to the 1% standard; how the standard has been implemented, exceeded, or refined through various programs and initiatives; and societal implications of the standard. The use of the 1% annual chance flood as a standard for identifying, mapping, managing, and mitigating flood hazards is often taken for granted because of its widespread use by federal, state and local officials and professionals within the flood hazard management community. The nation has used the 1% standard for structural and non-structural flood management for over 100 years, but flood damages continue to increase. In light of that, the Forum looked at whether a change in the 1% standard is warranted or feasible.

Through small-group and plenary sessions, Forum participants questioned whether the 1% annual chance flood standard has and continues to serve its purpose; what options exist for change and/or improvement; and the drawbacks and/or advantages of shifts in theory, policy, or implementation. All ideas discussed at the forum were given equal primacy and the thinking varied widely.

Several different methods of change were discussed, including:

- Raising the standard, (for example to the 0.5% chance flood) to provide a greater level of protection,

- Implementing a dual standard (for example, using the 1% chance flood in most cases but for critical facilities and structures and areas with special hazards the 0.2% chance flood). However, it was agreed that the initial reasons for having a single standard remain valid – to allow consistency in mapping, management and enforcement; to provide for categories upon which insurance rates can be calculated; and to give a basis for and perception of fairness in treatment of people, communities and businesses.
- The possibility of abandoning all (or most) standards and allowing market forces to take over. If risks must be insured at market rates, and floodplains are put to their best use depending on the circumstances, there should be less need for regulatory restrictions.

Ultimately the costs of implementing such changes would be enormous, not only in dollars but also in time, confusion to the public, duplication of effort, and gaps in management. This is because the 1% annual chance standard is so thoroughly institutionalized in mapping, regulations, administrative and common law, engineering, and construction and building standards.

Nevertheless, it was determined that it is possible to avoid sweeping change and still compensate for some of the 1% annual chance standard's inadequacies, through the use of such techniques as zero-rise floodway regulations, future-conditions planning and mapping, and NAI floodplain management.

The ASFPM Foundation is producing a detailed report of the Forum, which will summarize the discussions, issues, and options considered, and the research needs that were identified. Watch the *News and Views* and the ASFPM website for details soon.

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NEW FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REPORTS AVAILABLE ON ASFPM WEB SITE

Two newly released reports are available on the ASFPM website:

Floodplain Management 2003: State and Local Programs is part of a continuing project to collect and analyze data about state and local floodplain management issues in the United States. Data for this report were obtained from State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinators and other relevant sources, resulting in a comprehensive picture of the activities being undertaken nationwide to minimize flood losses and to protect our floodplain resources. The ASFPM Foundation contributed \$5,000 towards the completion of this report.

Also available is *Effective State Floodplain Management Programs*, a document describing the characteristics of the most effective state floodplain management programs. This report is intended as a guide for federal and state legislators and their support staff in making policy decisions, and for state and local floodplain managers interested in improving their floodplain management programs. The ASFPM Foundation contributed \$10,000 towards the completion of this report.

WELCOME TO NEW TRUSTEES

The ASFPM Foundation welcomes four newcomers to its Board of Trustees:

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FORUM Sponsors

Without the generous support of our sponsors, the forum would not have been possible. Thanks again to the following companies and organizations, who each made a \$2,500 donation:

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FOUNDATION DONATIONS UPDATE

We thank everyone for their generous contributions. Our donations goal for 2004 is \$100,000. So far, we have raised \$74,370 in total pledges (this includes \$6,921 from the Silent Auction at the national conference in Biloxi last May). You can see that we still need over \$25,000 to meet our 2004 goal, so PLEASE HELP!! Contact Debbie at asfpm@floods.org to make your donation, and remember – your contributions are tax deductible!

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