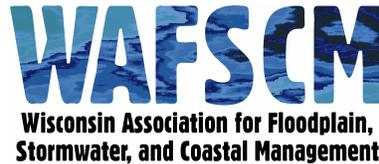


---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES



---

---

APRIL, 2007

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow Association Members:

We are now entering our sixth year as an organization. The Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater and Coast Management (WAFSCM) had a very successful Annual Conference in 2006 and we are well on our way with the next one in November. You can read more about the Annual Conference later in the newsletter, but a huge Thank You is owed to the many volunteers from last year. The other conferences were a twilight seminar in April coordinated by Gary Heinrichs and a Coastal Management seminar in July chaired by Susan Boldt.

We now have a complete Board of Directors for the first time. The committee chairs are below. You can find their contact information at our website: <http://www.wi.floods.org>

Website Committee: Minal Hahm, M Squared Engineering  
Conference Committee: Dave Fowler, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District  
Coastal Committee: Dave Wentland, STS Consultants LTD  
Stormwater Committee: Carrie Bristol-Groll, Stormwater Solutions Engineering, LLC  
Floodplain Committee: Tom Sear, Tetra Tech  
Certified Floodplain Manager Program for Wisconsin: Minal Hahm, M Squared Engineering  
Membership Committee: Robert Montgomery  
Awards Committee: Gary Korb, University of Wisconsin Extension  
Newsletter: Cindi DeBruine, Hey & Associates, Inc.

In the upcoming months you may receive a call from one of our committee chairs to volunteer time to help with activities. I hope you will consider requests to serve WAFSCM. WAFSCM relies on the voluntary contributions of its members for a large part of the work to be done.

At this time the WAFSCM list of members is approximately 70 members but will grow as past members renew membership and more membership forms are sent in. We welcome your membership and we need your help. If you are interested, please contact me by phone at (414) 266-1500 or e-mail [dan.cook@gasai.com](mailto:dan.cook@gasai.com). Look for more information on the annual conference in future newsletters or in the mail.

Elections were held at the November conference with the following results:

Daniel Cook, Chairperson  
Cindi DeBruine, CFM, Vice-Chairperson  
Susan Boldt, Secretary  
Roxanne Gray, Treasurer  
David Fowler is the Immediate Past-Chairperson  
CONGRATULATIONS!!

Thanks, Miriam Anderson, for your service as Secretary on last year's Board of Directors.

I hope to see you at the Annual Conference in Appleton on November 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,  
Daniel Cook, P.E., CFM  
Chairperson

## Inside this Issue:

Letter from the Chair.....	1
WAFSCM's First Award.....	2
Region V Director Report ....	2
Conference Updates .....	3
CFM Training.....	3
Mitigation Update.....	4
SW Committee News.....	4
Membership Application .....	5
ASWM Conference Report ..	6
WAFSCM Website.....	7

---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

---

APRIL, 2007

## WAFSCM GIVES OUT FIRST AWARD

### *Members urged to consider others in the future...*

At last November's conference in Stevens Point, WAFSCM proudly gave out its first award to Dave Fowler of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District. There, Dave was recognized for his leadership in helping to found the organization, and his continued service through the present. The plaque presented to Dave read:

The First Chapter Service Award  
of the  
Wisconsin Association for Floodplain, Stormwater, and  
Coastal Management  
in special recognition and with heartfelt thanks to

DAVID C. FOWLER

For extraordinary and continuing leadership, including service as Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Wisconsin Conference Committee Chair, Local Host Team Coordinator for National Conference, Tour Leader, Session Presenter, Master of Ceremonies, Regional Representative for ASFPM, and Mentor to us all.

Presented by the WAFSCM Board, This 9th day of  
November, 2006

For next year's conference, the Board would again like to recognize a member through the Chapter Service Award, and also entertain a Local Leadership Award and Lifetime Service Award, if appropriate. Certainly there should be good examples throughout Wisconsin of local leadership in floodplain, shoreland, or coastal management that warrant consideration for recognition by WAFSCM. Please start thinking of these now, as well as persons who have served the Association well, and be prepared to submit nominations when the call goes out later this year.

Questions, or suggestions for future awards, may be directed to Gary Korb, UW-Extension/SEWRPC Regional Planning Educator, who is serving as Awards Chair. Gary can be reached at 262-547-6721 or gkorb@sewrpc.org.

## ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS REGION V DIRECTOR REPORT

Dave Fowler

As the elected Region V Director for ASFPM, it is my privilege to sit on the board of directors. On February 12 - 14, 2007, I attended a Board Retreat held at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. As a new board member, this was my first retreat. I found the time spent was well worth the effort and was an excellent way to get fully engaged with my new duties as a board member. The meeting also provided me an opportunity to get to know the other members of the board. I was impressed with the facilities and the commitment and excellent ideas that were presented during the two and a half days of meetings. The EMI facility is a former women's college, which has been converted by FEMA into a top-notch training facility. It is completely self-contained and located in the low mountain region west and north of Washington, D.C.

The major focus of the meeting was to reach consensus on the ASFPM National Flood Policy and Programs in Review 2007. This document will help guide our national organization for the next year and beyond. Copies are available for review on the ASFPM website. Some of the major topics for discussion were Floodplain Mapping issues, Flood Insurance, emphasis on natural and beneficial uses of floodplains, structure standards in coastal issues, and the future impacts of accelerated climate change. After two days of discussion, a final draft was approved and will be available to all members for comment.

The board also discussed NFIP Reform 2007 and approved the ASFPM list for 2007 reform legislation. This list is being developed in the spirit of focusing on the positives in the 2006 House and Senate flood insurance bills, and bypassing the elements that are uncertain and controversial or could have an adverse impact on the NFIP. There were also several white papers assigned to board members on a variety of topics. The board hopes they will have drafts ready for the Norfolk conference. Yours truly has the assignment for floodway regulations. You might check the ASFPM website for more information. Finally do not forget that there will be a Region V meeting Thursday, June 7th, during the national conference. If you are at the conference, I would encourage you to attend the meeting.

If you need to contact me, please do so at (414) 277-6368.

---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

---

APRIL, 2007

## CONFERENCE UPDATES

Dave Fowler  
Conference Co-Chairman

I am very enthusiastic as we enter our seventh year as an organization. This past year the annual conference "Managing Flood Risks in a Post-Katrina World" in Stevens Point was a great success. We had at least 80 participants and provided a number of new opportunities. We had a workshop on Wednesday afternoon entitled "Public Issues and Conflict Management" which was attended by 20 participants. We offered the Certified Floodplain Managers exam and added 4 CFMs in Wisconsin. We also added a hospitality room this year, which seemed to be very popular with conference (late night crowd) attendees.

Overall the conference was an excellent venue to learn more about stormwater, coastal and floodwater issues at both the state and the national level. We had an excellent mix of state, local and federal officials as well as consultants as both attendees and presenters. Many participants at the conference took the opportunity to network within the relaxed atmosphere of the conference.

The high note (not counting the hospitality room) was our keynote speaker, Al Goodman, from the State of Mississippi Emergency Management Department. He gave us a very detailed and interesting perspective on Katrina from someone who was there during and after the storm. He spoke at length on the issues surrounding the aftermath of the hurricane.

For 2007 we are already planning the next conference. It will be held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, November 7 - 9, 2007. The working title of the conference is "In our Backyard - Sustainable Flood, Stormwater and Coastal Management Solutions in Wisconsin". We are planning at least two breakout sessions that will provide an excellent forum to learn about projects and issues that are ongoing here in the state. We are looking for a variety of topics covering coastal, stormwater, and flood management issues. We had more than a dozen breakout presentations in 2006 and we hope to increase that number this year. We will also have workshop opportunities on Wednesday for those who are interested. The number of sessions and topics are still under discussion.

So please mark your calendars for the WAFSCM conference on November 7 - 9, 2007, at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. A call for papers will be forthcoming in the near future followed by a brochure and registration materials. You can also find information at our website <http://www.wi.floods.org/>.

## CFM TRAINING TO BE OFFERED AT CONFERENCE

An all-day Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) training course, *The NFIP: An Overview* will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, during the WAFSCM conference at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. The National CFM Exam will also be held at the conference on Friday, November 9, 2007. Times for the training and exam will be available in the future conference details.

This course is a good refresher course even for current CFMs who can claim six pre-approved Continuing Education Credits from the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) for attendance. For attendees who are not yet CFMs, this is a great refresher course but will not take the place of intensive study. Prior to this training, we recommend that you read the FEMA 480 Manual, available for download at: [http://www.floods.org/Certification/FEMA\\_480.asp](http://www.floods.org/Certification/FEMA_480.asp). This manual is lengthy - so please give yourself some time to prepare!

Signing up for this course does not automatically register you for the CFM Exam and signing up for the exam does not register you for the course. More details on signing up for the exam will be provided in the conference information that is currently being finalized.

The fee for the course will be \$10 for WAFSCM members, \$45 for non-members. Become a member now and take advantage of the discount! A membership form is provided in this newsletter.

## ***Living in the Floodplain: What You Need to Know -***

***Who You Need to Know*** is a brochure describing the risks and requirements for building or purchasing a building in the floodplain. The brochure includes information on development standards, nonconforming structures, flood insurance and commonly used acronyms and definitions. Copies can be ordered by contacting the DNR at 608-267-7694 and requesting publication DNR Pub-WT-851 2006.

---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

---

APRIL, 2007

## MITIGATION UPDATE

Roxanne Gray

Previous issues of Water Matters advised that the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency meeting the planning criteria for a "standard" and "enhanced" plan per 44 CFR Section 106. Approval of the plan ensures that the State retains its eligibility for certain disaster assistance through the Stafford Act as well as being eligible to receive up to 20% of the estimated federal assistance for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program in the next federally declared disaster. Per regulations, the plan must be updated and approved by FEMA every three years. Even though the update won't be required until 2008, and every three years thereafter, the Wisconsin Emergency Management has started to revise and improve the plan. The State Plan is a living document and is never really completed.

Under the federal regulations, local governments and tribal organizations also are required to have an all hazard mitigation plan approved by FEMA in order to be eligible for federal mitigation funds. Over the past five years, more than \$3.6 million has been provided through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) Programs to assist local governments and tribal governments in their planning efforts. To date 68 jurisdictions have or are developing all hazard mitigation plans (52 counties, 11 municipalities, and 5 tribal organizations). Thirty-seven plans have been approved by FEMA covering 314 communities and 2,626,732 in population. Once the plans are approved, the participating jurisdictions are eligible to apply for mitigation funds through the PDM and HMGP grant programs for projects identified in the plan.

As part of the State Plan update, information from local capability and risk assessments as well a mitigation strategies will be incorporated into the State Plan. With the first edition of the State Plan, very few local hazard mitigation plans were completed. We expect by the time the update is due that there will be nearly 68 plans completed.

There was \$100 million available nationwide for the 2007 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDM-C) Program for mitigation planning and project grants. In reviewing the PDM-C subgrant applications, the State followed the criteria as outlined in the State of Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Plan. Based on those criteria, the State submitted an application for \$1.8 million that included ten planning and two project subgrants plus state management costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will make pre-award notifications based on the National Evaluation later this spring.

Wisconsin Emergency Management has administered over \$49 million in mitigation grants over the last 15 years. The National Institute of Building Sciences completed a study last year that estimated for every \$1 spent in mitigation, there will be \$4 in future avoided damages. Flood related grants are the most cost-effective with \$5 in avoided damages for every \$1 spent in mitigation. Through the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team, Wisconsin Emergency Management coordinates with state and federal agencies as well as other organizations to further mitigation statewide.

*For more information regarding the State's hazard mitigation program, contact Roxanne Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at 608-242-3211, or e-mail [Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us).*

## STORMWATER COMMITTEE NEWS

Carrie Bristol-Groll, P.E., C.F.M.

ATTENTION STORMWATER ENGINEERS, PLANNERS, REGULATORS! We heard your request and are responding! How many hours do you spend on the internet searching for all the pertinent rules, regulations, ordinances, updates and training seminars that you need to complete your projects, or stay abreast of all new information? The WAFSCM Stormwater Committee is working on methods to collect all those sites onto one easy webpage, for your reference.

Our new WAFSCM website has been going through many wonderful changes (thanks to Minal Hahm, Website Committee Chair), including the addition of a page dedicated to the Stormwater Committee ([www.wi.floods.org](http://www.wi.floods.org) under "Board Members and Committee Chairs", bottom of the page "Stormwater Management Committee"). Our hope is that in the coming months, we will pull together links to any site that provides us with the information we thrive on daily. If you signed up to take part in the Stormwater Committee, you have received (or will soon receive) an email from me, asking for your input. If you have a site you find useful, please email that information to me at [cbg@stormwater-solutions-engineering.com](mailto:cbg@stormwater-solutions-engineering.com)

In addition to the webpage, the Stormwater Committee will brainstorm ideas on subjects and speakers for the Annual Conference as well as the next WAFSCM Twilight Session. If you are interested in being a part of the Stormwater Committee, email me at the above address, or find me on the [www.wi.floods.org](http://www.wi.floods.org) site. We will be able to do much of our work via email, making the Committee a very small commitment on your part.

Watch for the updates on the site, and I hope to hear from you!

---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

---

APRIL, 2007

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR  
FLOODPLAIN, STORMWATER AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT  
(WAFSCM)**

***Membership Application/Renewal Form***

For January 2007 - December 2007

Membership Fee: \$20.00

Name:		
Title:		
Organization:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	Ext.:	Fax:
E-mail:		
Would you like to receive occasional announcements, newsletters and/or notices via E-mail: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Other Affiliations:		
Primary Interest:	<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain	<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal
Specific Interest:		

**Please include a check for the annual Membership Fee of \$20.00 made payable to WAFSCM**

Return to: Roxanne Gray  
WAFSCM  
c/o Wisconsin Emergency Management  
2400 Wright Street  
Madison, WI 53707-7865

If you have questions, call Roxanne Gray at (608) 242-3211 or [Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us](mailto:Roxanne.gray@dma.state.wi.us)

---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

---

APRIL, 2007

**CONFERENCE REPORT TO ASFPM BOARD  
ASSOCIATION OF STATE WETLAND MANAGERS (ASWM)  
STATE, TRIBAL AND FEDERAL WORKSHOP  
MARCH 27-29, 2007**

Dave Fowler  
ASFPM Region 5 Director

Involving the Supreme Court Rapanos' Decision and the geographical extent where the federal clean water act allows for the regulation of wetlands.

A primary goal of the conference was to discuss the court challenges and program revisions that create challenges for wetlands and headwater areas of streams. The discussions that I was involved with centered on the impact of recent court decisions regarding determining Federal jurisdiction under the CWA. There was a complicated divided Supreme Court decision in the Carabell/Rapanos case. The case involved determining Federal jurisdiction under the clean water act and the ability of the ACOE to issue permits for isolated wetlands (wetlands not directly connected to navigable water as defined by the CWA). The issue that seemed of most importance for ASFPM was how we can assist wetland managers in providing information showing how these isolated wetlands are connected or have, as defined by Justice Stevens, a significant nexus with a navigable water which would then cause them to be CWA jurisdictional wetlands. If the connections cannot be made, these wetlands, as defined by Justices Scalia, Roberts, Thomas, and Alito would not be subject to Federal regulation. They would instead fall to state and local jurisdiction. As a representative of the ASFPM board I provided some insights on what this might mean from a Flood Managers perspective.

Below are some highlights from a panel that I was invited to participate on discussing the Carabell/Rapanos Ruling:

1. The FEMA regulatory floodplain maps should and could be used as an initial step in determining CWA jurisdiction of wetlands. All wetlands identified within the 100 year or 500 year regulatory floodplain could be considered to have a direct connection to the navigable water. From this starting point it would be easier to show a connection of isolated wetlands within a watershed to the navigable water by showing a connection to the regulatory floodplain, if not to the water directly.
2. From a flood management perspective, the storage volume of the isolated wetlands needs to be determined so that increased flood risk can be looked at from a cumulative impact over an entire watershed. Individual wetlands would not have a great impact but cumulative impacts can be significant in causing flood elevations to rise.
3. Flood losses in the United States continue to escalate in spite of a century of flood risk management, and forty years of floodplain mapping. Annual flood losses are estimated at \$6 billion and will continue to increase.
4. Policies of governments (primarily local) and market forces have lead to development of floodplains, filling of wetlands, and other natural surface water storage areas. This is mostly done with the promise or the afterthought that flood control will soon follow to protect the investment.
5. We continue to debate the best way to allow for filling of wetlands and construction in a floodplain with precious little consideration of the increased risk of flooding that inevitably results from this type of activity.
6. Poor land use management decisions that allow floodplain and floodway encroachment, result in increased flood flows and increased runoff as more water is forced out of natural storage areas.
7. To minimize future flood damages and reduce property loss, the entire suite of benefits provided by floodplains and wetlands needs to be considered before development is allowed.
8. The concept of watershed planning that involves considering the impacts to the entire watershed before making development decisions or allowing alterations of the floodway, floodplain, or natural storage areas is badly needed. Regulation and land use decisions left in local hands often does not take into account the impacts to neighboring communities, particularly those downstream.
9. Natural storage areas may (or may not) have water or be directly connected to a perennial flowing stream for years or months depending on the season or the region of the country where they are located. However, they serve their function during storm events when the water levels rise. Though they may not be in the floodplain or directly connected to a stream, the loss of storage frequently has an adverse impact downstream. There are four major Impacts on a river system from the loss of floodplains, wetlands and other natural storage areas:  
Increased Flood Stages that will cause more land area to be inundated during the flood event as more development occurs.  
Increased Velocity that can cause the hydraulic and geomorphologic functions of the stream channel to be impaired causing degradation of the channel bed and banks. These damages can result from velocities well below flood stage where the floodplain and wetlands have been reduced and no longer provide the necessary buffer.  
Increased Flow is generally the result of increase imperviousness in a watershed or loss of in-channel storage. Protection of wetlands, floodplain and other natural storage areas or requiring detention or retention standards for all development is crucial to maintain the appropriate flows.  
Erosion and Sedimentation causes channel migration, bank erosion and channel incision. The control or, more precisely, the stabilization of erosion and sedimentation (through sediment transport) are two poorly understood functions of the floodplain and wetlands by most agencies.

(continued on next page)

---

---

# WATER MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

---

APRIL, 2007

Here are some recommendations for consideration by the board.

The members of ASWM at the workshop requested that the ASFPM board endorse and support the Senator Feingold-sponsored Clean Water Authority Restoration Act. This act would reaffirm Congress' original intent to protect from destruction *all* water bodies, including isolated wetlands. This would be accomplished by replacing the term "navigable waters" throughout the Clean Water Act with the phrase "waters of the United States," and by providing a thorough and comprehensive definition of "waters of the United States" to guide federal agencies and the courts in their efforts to interpret this phrase.

I strongly urge that the ASFPM Board continue and strengthen our working partnership with ASWM. There is benefit to both organizations in this partnership and the board should actively encourage ASFPM member participation. I would also encourage board participation at the ASWM conferences and workshops when the opportunities arise. I would like to thank ASFPM for providing me the opportunity to represent you at the ASWM Workshop. It was a worthwhile educational experience.

## WAFSCM WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING!

As of November 2006, our website has been officially online for public access. In January 2007, a link to our website was activated from the national website. The website contains information on WAFSCM's board members, committees, upcoming events and annual conferences. The website address is <http://www.wi.floods.org>. Those interested in volunteering time to help steer one of the many committees, can go to the website's Committee Chairs page ([http://wi.floods.org/index\\_files/Page387.htm](http://wi.floods.org/index_files/Page387.htm)) and contact the appropriate Committee Chair.

We are asking everyone to provide us with input on future conferences and workshops. Please take this great opportunity to go to our website and find the link for the online survey. It will only take approximately three minutes of your time to provide valuable information to the board and committees for the future of WAFSCM. The survey can also be accessed by using the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=10543354221>. Results from the survey will be provided in a future newsletter. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide us with your opinions.