

# Colorado Association of Stormwater & Floodplain Managers GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held at CH2M Hill in Englewood, CO March 8, 2012

## **Meeting Attendees**

#### Officers:

Chair – Dave Bennetts, UDFCD Vice Chair – Brian Varrella, City of Fort Collins Treasurer – Deb Ohlinger, Olsson Associates Secretary – Shea Thomas, UDFCD Metro Region Rep. – Robert Krehbiel, Matrix Design Group

## **Committee Chairs:**

Scholarship – Shea Thomas, UDFCD Conference – Robert Krehbiel, Matrix Design Group Floodplain – Kallie Bauer, Michael Baker Jr.

### Members:

Alan Turner, CH2M Hill
Cory Hooper, CH2M Hill
Chuck Weiss, NV5
Brad Anderson, Anderson Consulting
Kevin Houck, CWCB
Doug Stewart, CH2M Hill
John Pflaum, Independent
Ken MacKenzie, UDFCD
Darren Mollendor, City & County of Denver

#### Via Conference Call:

Keith Curtis, Colorado Springs Troy Carmann, ICON

The following is a summary of the interactions, comments and items discussed. While this summary is not intended to represent a complete or comprehensive account of the meeting, it is intended to reflect the salient points raised and issues presented for further consideration. Should the attendees believe that anything might be misrepresented or misleading, please bring this to the attention of Shea Thomas, CASFM Secretary.

# 1) Call to Order

Dave Bennetts called the meeting to order. A quorum of officers and regional representatives was present

# 2) Secretary's Report

Draft minutes from the January 12, 2012 General Membership meeting at Urban Drainage and Flood Control District office in Denver were distributed and reviewed. A

motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes without discussion or modification.

# 3) Treasurer's Report

The summary of expenses and revenues to date was distributed to members present. As of March 6, 2012, there was \$21,058.33 held in the savings account and \$29,118.94 in the checking account. The expenses and budget for the year are in line with the budget.

The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by a motion and a vote.

The CASFM registration process is being used for the UDFCD seminar and other events held throughout the year. Thought should be given to adding a line item in the budget next year for this service in order to track the transactions in the ledger.

Dave Bennetts noted that the CML membership dues were paid for 2012.

Deb Ohlinger will attempt to have the tax returns submitted by the May 15<sup>th</sup> due date this year, rather than filing an extension as had been done in years past. She will take the lead on this effort.

# 4) Regional Representatives' Reports

a) Denver Metro – Robert Krehbiel reported there was record attendance at the social held on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Chads Restaurant in Lakewood. Saeed Farahmmandi and Bruce Uhernik with City and County of Denver Wastewater Management Division talked about the July 7, 2011 rainstorm that caused considerable flooding in Denver. Approximately 65 people were in attendance.

The date for the next social will be determined soon, with a target date two to three months from now. ERC will be presenting on the South Platte River restoration efforts just downstream of Chatfield dam. Sponsors for the project include UDFCD, South Suburban Parks and Recreation and City of Littleton. Trout Unlimited is also involved as a stakeholder. This stretch of the South Platte River has been left untouched since the 1970s and is now seeing degradation. The plan is to fix the eroded areas using ecological enhancement techniques thereby protecting the natural characteristics of the park.

- b) **Northeast Region** Mark Kempton was not in attendance but submitted a report. A social was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Beach House Grill in Old Town Fort Collins. The social followed a workshop for the City of Fort Collins Stormwater Criteria Manual which was attended by approximately 50 people. Approximately 30 people attended the social.
- c) Southeast Region Michael Augenstein was not in attendance and did not submit a report. Keith Curtis with Colorado Springs reported that his community recently received the 7 CRS rating points they were anticipating. They are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of the county's DFIRMs.
- d) Northwest Region Betsy Suerth was not in attendance but submitted a report. There will be an Erosion Control Workshop presented by Bryan Whiteley, Reclamation Manager for Encana Oil and Gas, Inc. The workshop will be held at the Garfield County Sherriff's Annex Building at 106 CR 333A in Rifle on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be 4 CFM continuing education credits available as a result of attending the workshop. Topics discussed will include Surface Roughening Techniques for Water Conservation/Revegetation and Erosion Control and One Touch Speed Reclaim.
- e) **Southwest Region** Sam Samuelson was not in attendance and submitted a report stating there was nothing to report.

# 5) Committee Reports

- a) Floodplain/CFM Kallie Bauer reported that the next CFM training class will be held at UDFCD on May 2nd and the test will follow on May 3rd at the same location. There are 16 spots available and notice will be emailed soon to the general membership. If less than 10 people sign up, the class will be canceled. The cost of the class is estimated to be \$40 in addition to the registration costs the individual must pay to ASFPM and includes lunch. SignUp4 will be used for registration.
- b) **Stormwater Quality** Holly Piza was not in attendance but submitted a report. There is an upcoming free webinar hosted by the EPA on New Stormwater Construction General Permit on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The EPA is hosting the webinar to provide the public with an overview of the new 2012 Construction General Permit (GCP) and with an opportunity to ask questions of Agency staff. Among the topics that will be discussed are the following:
  - How to Obtain Permit Coverage
  - Erosion and Sediment Control Requirements
  - Pollution Prevention Requirements
  - Water Quality Requirements
  - Inspection Requirements
  - Corrective Action Requirements
  - How to Terminate Permit Coverage

To register for the webinar, go to https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/347121224.

- c) **Outreach** Ken Cecil was not in attendance and did not submit a report. Dave Bennetts will coordinate with Ken to discuss the upcoming CML conference.
- d) **Scholarship** Shea Thomas reported she is stepping down from the position of Scholarship Committee Chair, but will remain on the committee. The new chair will be Morgan McDermott with ICON Engineering. This change was discussed with and approved by UWRI, who funds one of the scholarships.
  - The committee plans on sending out application packets to the colleges and university for the 2012-2013 scholarship in early September.
  - Brad Anderson said there are two ASFPM scholarships available that often go uncontested. He will find out more information about the scholarships and contact Shea Thomas or Morgan McDermott so the scholarship committee can help notify students about these additional funds available.
- e) **Membership** Kevin Gingery was not in attendance but submitted a report. The 2012 CASFM membership headcount currently stands at 583 members. There are currently 106 un-renewed 2011 CASFM members. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the renewal reminder postcards were sent to the un-renewed members.
- f) **Training** Chris Carlson was not in attendance but submitted a report. The last committee meeting was held on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be in late March or Early April. New members have recently joined the committee.
  - The training committee will no longer focus on the larger 2-3 day workshops like those offered by UWRI. In order to fill a missing niche, the committee will continue to focus on smaller 1-hour to half-day workshops.
  - Lunch-n-Learn workshops are being planned quarterly for the 3rd Wednesday of April, July, October and January to be held at the UDFCD office. These workshops are

expected to cost \$10 (for lunch) and last approximately one hour. The first one will be held on April 18th and the topic is Submittal Guidelines for Digital Letters of Map Change (DLOMC), with David Mallory and Terri Faed of UDFCD teaching. Free remote webinar access will be provided for members outside of the Metro area. The workshops should qualify for CFM continuing education credits. Future topics include Streets and Storm Sewers by Ken MacKenzie, Digital LOMCs by David Mallory and Vegetation Bioretention Areas by Holly Piza.

The committee is investigating holding a ½- to 1-day workshop on ecological stream restoration and is contacting Brian Bledsoe at CSU to lead the workshop. If possible, the workshop would be held on Tuesday afternoon at the annual conference.

A variety of Barstool Series training topics were discussed. The committee will work on starting the series.

- g) Website Stuart Gardner was not in attendance but submitted a report. There are email limitations that hamper the way notifications are distributed to the general membership. Stuart is looking into a commercial emailing service, such as Constant Contact. CASFM would be able to send unlimited emails for \$24 per month. It would save Barb Meier time and allow the Chair to send emails when she is unavailable.
- h) **Community Rating System** Marsha Hilmes-Robinson was not in attendance but submitted a report. This year the CRS committee is focusing on the webinars being offered about the new CRS Coordinator's Manual. The next two committee meetings are being held in coordination with webinars:

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, CRS meeting 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Webinar topic: Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540) and Floodwarning

(Activity 610)

Webinar time: 10:00 am - Noon (one hour for each topic)

Location: City of Fort Collins Utilities. 700 Wood St.

Invite your maintenance supervisor and emergency manager.

Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, CRS meeting 10:00 am – Noon Webinar topic: Public Information (Activity 330 and 370)

Webinar time: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Location: SEMSWA

Invite your public information staff.

The CRS committee is also applying for CFM credit for the meetings. Pat O'Connell with Jefferson County is coordinating with ASFPM on this issue. Other CRS Users groups are currently getting two credits per meeting.

i) **Annual Conference** – Robert Krehbiel reported that the Call for Papers went out to the general membership via email on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Abstracts are due to Shea Thomas by April 30<sup>th</sup>. At the same time, the Call for Awards was issued. Applications are due to John Pflaum on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Program Chair Shea Thomas reported that a keynote speaker has been booked. Michael Brown was the Undersecretary of Homeland Security (2003-2005), the Director of FEMA (2001-2005) and is the author of "Deadly Indifference: The Perfect (Political) Storm" in which he describes the role of politics in a risk-aversion society facing natural and manmade disasters. Mr. Brown travels around the world speaking on issues of homeland security, crisis management and disaster response.

A discussion about finding another featured speaker was held. Shea suggested possibly Jeff Shoemaker or Jolen Clark from the Greenways Foundation to present a history of the South Platte River and also offer other communities creative ways to raise money for their greenways. Brian Varrella suggested finding someone to present on the NFIP reforms.

The theme of "Celebrating Water" was selected at the previous meeting. However, in order to better coordinate with the keynote speaker, the theme has been changed to "Respecting Water".

Possible workshops were discussed. Alan Turner and Cory Hooper from CH2M Hill have offered to lead a 2-4 hour workshop on Introduction to 2-D Modeling. David Williams with NV5 has suggested several workshops he would be willing to lead. The workshops can range from 2 to 4 hours in length and could cover topics such as So You've Been Called to be an Expert Witness, Ethics for Private, Public and Academic Professionals, Streambank Stability and Scour Analysis, Riprap Design and Risk and Uncertainty Analysis for Water Resources Engineering. The CRS Committee also would like to provide a 4 hour workshop on the new CRS Revisions.

Shea Thomas will coordinate with Brian Murphy regarding field trips and report progress at the next meeting. Entertainment options will also be investigated and reported on at the next meeting.

6) ASFPM Report – Brad Anderson briefly summarized the Board retreat that occurred at the end of February. As of July, Larry Larson will no longer be the executive director; Chad Berginnis will take his place. Jeff Sickles is stepping down as the Region 8 representative. Andrea Faucett has been nominated to fill that position. Brad's term as Chapter Director is also up so that position is now available. Nominations were due last week, but anyone interested in the position should contact Brad.

Reauthorization of the NFIP was discussed at the retreat, which will likely continue in the short term but the level of funding continues to decrease. ASFPM is pushing to maintain involvement in the NFIP and pursue reform. Levees were discussed, with most of the discussion centered around LAMP and not on non-levee embankments.

Brad mentioned that two ASFPM awards were not presented last year due to lack of applications. One was the Local Floodplain Manager of the Year award and the other was Floodplain Agency of the Year. He suggested specifically tracking these two awards this year and nominating from within the CASFM membership for each. A new award next year will be Chapter Award, for which CASFM should apply. Brian Varrella offered to lead the charge on that award.

## 7) Other Business

- a) CASFM Newsletter Brian Varrella reported that the Spring 2012 newsletter went out to the general membership. New this year was a photo of the authors of each article to help readers associate a face with the writing. Brian commended Emmett Jordan for his quick and professional effort of assembling the newsletter. The next newsletter will include a calendar of upcoming events and will be issued following the annual conference.
- b) **FEMA LAMP Procedures** Kallie Bauer spearheaded the comment letter to FEMA regarding the draft LAMP procedures. Her letter, which was a compilation of comments provided by various members, is available on the CASFM website. The letters from ASFPM and NAFSMA were similar in nature. Kevin Houck stated CWCB sent a letter as well and will provide a copy to Dave Bennetts.
- c) **CCA Floodplain Management Degree** A survey was sent out by the Community College of Aurora to prove the need for a floodplain management associates degree.

Dave Bennetts will post the link to the survey on the CASFM website and encourage the general membership to participate.

d) **FEMA PDM Grants** – Iain Hyde with the State solicited Brian Varrella for a letter of support from CASFM for the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. His letter is attached at the end of these minutes.

Brian Varrella requested input on how to support the State with their request. Dave Bennetts said UDFCD will also be providing written support in the form of a general letter which will refrain from getting political. Kallie Bauer suggested sending out a request to all communities within CASFM encouraging them to send individual support letters as well. Dave Bennetts said he will send an email doing so. Brad Anderson would like to spread the email request to other communities within the region and outside of Colorado. Fort Collins has drafted up a support letter which is more community-specific. Kevin Houck said CWCB had drafted a general letter in support as well.

e) Colorado Stormwater Center – Ken MacKenzie described work he has been doing to establish a Colorado Stormwater Center, with the goal of achieving something similar to the North Carolina State University program led by Bill Hunt. The Center would focus on education and outreach, specifically providing programs that train professionals in stormwater management and BMP maintenance. The Colorado Stormwater Council has committed to contributing \$20,000 to the Center and UDFCD will also contribute \$20,000. The Colorado Water Quality Control Division is making a \$50,000 grant available this year to a start-up group able to provide stormwater management training, for which the Center will be applying. The Center will be organized through Colorado State University with Dr. Larry Roesner developing the curriculum. Ken requested CASFM support the Center by contributing a token amount of funds to the program. A motion was made to dedicate the \$2,500 available in the budget designated for research to the Colorado Stormwater Center. The motion was passed unanimously. A presentation on the Center will be made a lunch on Wednesday during the annual conference.

# 8) Adjourn

a) Next General Membership Meeting;

**Date + Time:** Thursday, May 10, 2012, 9:00 AM

**Location:** Sandstone Ranch

Address: 3001 Colorado 119, Longmont, CO 80504

b) **Move to adjourn** – Motion and second. Meeting adjourned by the Chair.

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## Brian Varrella

From:

lain Hyde [lain.Hyde@state.co.us]

Sent:

Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:43 AM

To:

Brian Varrella

Subject:

Request of CASFM Support for the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

Attachments: PDM Summary Table.docx; Colorado PDM Overview 2003-2012\_Congressionals March

2012.docx

Brian,

I am writing to request a letter of support from CASFM for the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. The President's FY 2013 budget was recently released, and the PDM program is zeroed out. PDM has been an important risk reduction resource to communities throughout the State since 2003, with more than \$30 Million in Federal grants awarded to local communities. Communities have spent an additional \$17.8 million in matching funds to leverage the Federal dollars. While other FEMA pre and post-disaster mitigation programs will remain, PDM is a unique program and the impact of its elimination will certainly be felt. I am attaching an issue paper we developed that delves more deeply into the issue, but some key takeaways from that issue paper are:

- PDM is FEMA's only multi-hazard pre-disaster risk reduction program. It provides more flexibility to address unique risks in Colorado, such as wildfires, landslides/erosion issues, tornadoes and flooding. Having a multi-hazard program is important to addressing flood risk in Colorado, where we have to think about such issues as erosion and post-wildfire flooding. In addition, other flood specific mitigation programs are funded through the NFIP and thus require that the project protects insured structures. This could limit communities' ability to address stormwater issues and erosion issues.
- One of the programs cited as overlapping with PDM is the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which is only made available following a Presidentially Declared Disaster. In contrast to the \$30 million received since 2003 through PDM, Colorado has only received \$190,000 in HMGP funding since 2003. While we do not have many declared disasters, as you well know, Colorado communities still have risks to address through mitigation.

Given CASFM's statewide presence, technical expertise and extensive focus on risk reduction, we would like to request a letter of support from the organization. We are putting together a package for the Colorado Congressional delegation that our Director will deliver in person the week of March 20th in Washington. We are collecting letters of support from communities who have benefitted from PDM and they will be a central component to this information package. I realize it is a very tight turnaround, but if we could get a letter by early next week we would really appreciate it. Most communities are addressing letters to their congressperson as well Sens. Bennet and Udall - the CASFM letter could be addressed to the entire delegation, or if your more comfortable, it can be addressed to our Director, Dave Hard. Let me know if you need any contact information.

I am attaching the issue paper we have developed, along with a table that summarizes the PDM funding received since 2003. Let me know if you have any questions. We greatly appreciate your support.

Best Regards,

Iain

Iain Hyde, CFM Mitigation Specialist

Colorado Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects 2003-2012						
Grant Recipient	Grant Year(s)	Project Summary	Federal Award	Local Match Leveraged		
City of Ft. Collins	2003	Flood hazard reduction, construction of detention ponds	\$2,697,188	\$1,411,201.00		
City of Colorado Springs	2005	Landslide risk reduction through property acquisition and demolition	\$217,632.00	\$72,574.00		
Colorado Springs Fire Department	2005, 2006, 2007, 2009	Wildland fire fuels reduction defensible space, public education	\$2,340,030.07	\$1,075,036.61		
City of Grand Junction	2005	Flood hazard reduction, stormwater system improvements	\$3,000,000.00	\$4,597,004.99		
City and County of Denver	2005	Flood hazard reduction, critical facility protection	\$3,000,000.00	\$2,982,681.17		
Colorado State Forest Service	2005	Wildland fire fuels reduction and watershed protection	\$1,688,721.18	\$762,981.47		
Colorado Springs Stormwater Enterprise	2006	Slope stabilization, critical facility protection, watershed restoration	\$2,953,887.72	\$1,299,978.46		
Town of Erie	2007	Flood hazard reduction, critical access protection	\$290,025.00	\$127,057.85		
City of Arvada	2008	Flood hazard reduction through property acquisition and demolition	\$200,000.00	\$104,634.03		
Larimer County	2008	Reservoir and drainage ditch improvements for flood hazard reduction	\$2,915,949.75	\$1,513,550.60		
Colorado Springs Fire Department	2010	Installation of smoke resistant windows at Mt. Saint Francis Nursing Home	\$290,249.86	\$23,920.28		
Logan County	2010	Community tornado safe room	\$101,976.23	\$33,992.00		
Summit County	2010	Wildland fire fuels reduction and defensible space	\$69,750.00	\$23,250.00		
City of Woodland Park	2010	Flood hazard reduction, erosion control, and critical infrastructure protection	\$1,624,756.99	\$541,588.69		
Boulder County	2011	Wiidfire fuels reduction and defensible space; protection of school and critical infrastructure, public education	\$630,234.00	\$210,367.00		
City of Colorado Springs	2011	Flood hazard reduction, erosion control, protection of an historic bridge	\$3,000,000.00	\$1,024,318.00		
Colorado State Forest Service	2011	Wildland fire fuels reduction at Colorado State Park in Jackson County	\$467,173.00	\$155,750.00		
Platte Canyon Fire Protection District	2011	Wildland fire defensible space and fuels reduction	\$682,500.00	&227,500.00		
Town of Windsor	2011	Flood hazard reduction, property and infrastructure protection	\$1,776,500.78	\$592,166.98		
City of Colorado Springs	2011	Flood hazard reduction, erosion control, protection of a critical access route	\$2,870,790.00	1,000,000.00		
Total			\$30,817,363.58	\$17,855,553.4		

## The Benefits of the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program to Colorado

**The Issue**: The President's 2013 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security indicates plans to eliminate the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program.

The Concern: FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program has been a critical resource to Colorado and its communities since its implementation in 2003. Colorado communities have leveraged Federal assistance to proactively reduce risk and exposure to potential hazards such as wildfires, floods, tornados, and landslides. Projects funded through PDM translate directly to economic benefits for communities and lives saved. Projects vary across every congressional district in Colorado, with more than \$30 million in critical Federal PDM grant assistance to the State and communities since 2003. The Federal PDM Grant assistance leveraged an additional \$17.8 million in local funding, resulting in a total of more than \$47 million in PDM risk reduction investments in Colorado since 2003.

The Argument for Elimination: The stated reason for the elimination of PDM is its overlap with other programs, including the post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which is only available to communities following a Presidential disaster declaration. The other programs that potentially overlap with PDM only focus on flood mitigation projects for National Flood Insurance Program policy holders.

The Reality for Colorado: Within the same timeframe of PDM's existence (2003-2012), Colorado has only had one disaster declaration that provided HMGP funding for a total of \$190 thousand. Also in that same timeframe, Colorado communities have competed for and received \$6 million in federal predisaster flood mitigation assistance for six communities. As previously noted these projects focus primarily on protecting those properties with flood insurance policies.

Why PDM is Important to Colorado: Today, communities throughout Colorado continue to aggressively seek and utilize local, state and Federal funding in an effort to improve quality of life and public safety as well as to reduce reliance on local, State and Federal resources following disaster events. PDM projects must have detailed scopes of work rooted in proven implementation and construction practices; before projects are ever funded, applicants must demonstrate that they will reduce the identified risks. The following provides a snapshot of the distinct benefits to Colorado from PDM:

- PDM projects benefit the state as the whole. Projects have been awarded to cities as large as Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, and Grand Junction and communities as small as Logan County, Erie, Woodland Park, and Summit County.
- PDM is a nationally competitive program; FEMA only funds the best projects from around the country after all applications are evaluated by a panel of technical experts.
- PDM projects are an investment. All funded projects exceed OMB and FEMA benefit-cost criteria; the benefits from funded projects (reduced losses to future hazard events) always exceed the Federal, State and local costs of project implementation. In 2005, the Multi-Hazard

Mitigation Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences stated: "For every \$1 spent on mitigation, a community will receive an average of \$4 in future benefits."

- PDM is FEMA's only multi-hazard pre-disaster risk reduction program; it enables communities in states like Colorado to address its unique risks beyond flooding, such as wildfires, tornadoes, and landslides. All other FEMA pre-disaster risk reduction programs are flood-specific.
- From 2003 through 2012, Colorado and its communities have received over \$30 million in FEMA PDM grants for wildfire mitigation, flood mitigation, tornado shelters, and critical facility protection from erosion and slope failures.
- Because of strong community action and widespread insurance coverage, Colorado rarely
  experiences declared disaster events that bring HMGP funding. Despite this fact, Colorado
  communities still experience disaster events. Unlike HMGP, PDM gives communities the
  opportunity to address known risks before a disaster ever happens.