



**Colorado Association of Stormwater & Floodplain Managers
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Held at the City of Loveland Library, Loveland, CO
May 8, 2014

Meeting Attendees

Officers:

Chair – Brian Varrella, Fort Collins
Vice Chair – Shea Thomas, UDFCD
Secretary – Jason Messamer, Olsson
Treasurer – Brian Murphy, CDM Smith

Committee Chairs:

Website – Stuart Gardner, CDOT (phone)
Outreach – Craig Jacobson, ICON

Members:

Kevin Houck, CWCB
Dan Evans, Tetra Tech
Robert Moore, Lindstone & Associates, Inc.
Eric Lessard, City of Loveland
Chris Carlson, City of Loveland
Mark Kempton, City of Fort Collins (*NE Region Rep proxy*)

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 Jason Messamer, CASFM Secretary.

1. Call to Order

Brian Varrella called the meeting to order. A quorum of officers and regional representatives was present.

2. Special Recognitions

Brian Varrella started the meeting by giving special recognition to Shea Thomas (UDFCD) and Dave Bennetts (UDFCD) for their dedication and work in organizing the flood forum that was held in February. Additionally, Will Birchfield was recognized for his work for the town of Estes Park and for being awarded as the ASFPM floodplain manager of the year. Finally, special thanks were given to Chris Carlson and the City of Loveland for hosting the meeting and for finding an alternate meeting room at the Loveland Library when a scheduling conflict arose. CASFM appreciates all the hard work of these volunteers, knowing full well that the organization does not exist or operate without their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

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3. Secretary Report – Jason Messamer

Minutes from the March 13, 2013, General Membership meeting held at CH2M Hill in Englewood, CO, were distributed to members present for review. A point of clarification was made that the exhibitor level sponsorship for the annual CASFM Conference had been removed as an available sponsorship type. A motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes without amendment.

4. Treasurer Report – Brian Murphy

a) Expense, income & budget report

- i. The current Profit and Loss statement (through April 30, 2014) and Balance Sheet were presented and copies were provided to meeting attendees. Brian Murphy noted that CASFM has collected the majority of the membership dues. As of April 30, CASFM has approximately \$34,000 in our checking account, and \$20,000 in each of our two savings accounts.
- ii. The 2013 tax return was filed in early May. Brian Murphy noted that as he and the accountant were preparing the May 2014 Treasurer Report, they identified revenue that was included in the 2013 tax return that should have been identified as 2014 revenue (funds from the January Lunch and Learn were deposited in December of 2013) and therefore not included in the 2013 tax return. They also determined that the payment for 2013 Database and Coordination Services were not included in the 2013 tax return because it was paid out in April 2014. The accountant told Brian Murphy that both of these items are minor and can be recognized in the 2014 budget and rectified when 2014 tax return is prepared. Alternatively, the 2013 tax return could be amended with the IRS. The Board discussed amending the 2013 tax return with the IRS, but decided that amending it would require time and additional expenses so they decided to follow the accountant's advice and amend the 2014 budget. They directed the CASFM treasurer to amend the 2014 budget and add footnotes to the budget to describe the reason for the amendment.
- iii. Brian V mentioned that online webinars have been generating a lot of income for ASFPM. CASFM may want to, years down the road, consider a similar pay-for-training model when technology becomes more available and cost-effective for smaller organizations like ours. Membership present noted that similar technology was successfully utilized for lunch-n-learn trainings hosted at UDFCD on more than one occasion.

b) Bank Options

- i. Brian Murphy has looked into switching the CASFM checking account to either Community Bank of Colorado or 1st Bank. Each offer free checking accounts and check cards that can be issued to multiple officers. Brian Murphy would like to identify a new bank before the July meeting to iron out the details before the next Treasurer is elected. Currently, he is leaning toward switching to 1st Bank because there are branches in the Denver metro area as well as in Colorado Springs and on the western slope.
- ii. Wells Fargo was investigated and ruled out as an option. There are numerous fees and ways to avoid them, but balances must be routinely transferred between accounts.

c) ASFPM 5K Running of the Chapters donation

- i. Donations; the group discussed that the 5K sponsorship is better than the silent auction CASFM has participated in during past years because there is better visibility for CASFM.
- ii. Brian Murphy will send a check (\$500) to NORFMA to donate to the event. CASFM members have already signed up to participate in the 5k in Seattle.

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5. Vice Chair's Report – *Shea Thomas*

- a) Update on Membership Services
 - i. Shea Thomas and Stuart Gardner tested the Wild Apricot software and liked using it. Shea recommended using only the membership database capabilities of the software for the first year. Barb Meir will be retained for the rest of 2014 to help transition and to ensure seamless overlap in membership services.
 - ii. The Wild Apricot cost will be \$100/month for an organization our size.
- b) Shea is putting together the summer newsletter and will send out a request for articles in June.

6. Regional Representative Reports

- a) Metro Region – *Danny Elsner (reported by Shea Thomas)*
 - i. The next social will be at Dave and Busters on May 20th and will involve AMEC presenting about the Jamestown experience during the September flooding.
- b) Southeast Region – *Keith Curtis (reported by Brian Varrella)*
 - i. Within our 7 jurisdictions we have about 3700 parcels with structures in the floodplain. We eagerly await our new DFIRM maps that are expected to remove nearly a third of these structures from the SFHA. This has become increasingly important to affected citizens with the recent changes in the legislative landscape.
 - ii. Our community leaders continue with mitigation projects and public outreach designed to shore up public infrastructure and keep the communities abreast of the ever changing backdrop of flood risk. Capital projects include upgrades, repairs, and dredging of critical drainage channels, installation of sediment/debris catchment systems, and stabilization efforts across our burn areas.
 - iii. Map revisions and local studies include:
 - Manitou Springs LOMR which became effective January 17, 2014, removing 102 Parcels from the SFHA and lowering the BFE 7.0 feet for 396 citizens and business owners.
 - Stratmoor community LOMR is expected to be approved within the next 30 days and will remove 355 structures from the floodplain and lower the BFE 10 ft for an additional 47 homes.
 - Cheyenne Creek Community may be the next area to expedite map changes.
 - Currently approved and mapped changes that are awaiting DFIRM issuance are posed to remove 230 structures from the floodplain and positively impact BFE for another 857 residents. However, new runoff coefficients have been approved by NRCS for the entire Cheyenne Creek watershed which could potentially reduce 100 year flows by half. Matrix design group is working on a watershed master plan for Fountain and Cheyenne creek with a scheduled completion late 2014 or early 2015.
 - Camp creek is being studied by the City of Colorado Springs with Wilson and Co. The results are expected to positively impact 165 parcels with more accurate mapping.
- c) Southwest Region – *Sam Samuleson*

No report – it was noted that we need to obtain a current e-mail address for Sam.
- d) Northeast Region – *Beck Anderson (reported by Mark Kempton)*

No report.
- e) Northwest Region – *Rick Dorris (reported by Brian Varrella)*

Nothing to report. Rick requested a call-in update from CASFM leadership so members on the Western slope can hear about the flood recovery activities and progress on the Front Range.

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7. Committee Reports

a) Conference – Shea Thomas

- i. Abstracts have been collected and more papers were submitted than are possible to present. Some abstracts were rejected based on repetitive topics, number of submissions per firm, etc.
- ii. Project award submittals will be due at end of June.
- iii. The keynote speaker is Brian Bledsoe who will be talking about flooding, adaptive management, or new topic he is working on.
- iv. Featured Speakers – Barry Fagan and Jesse Poore – presenting “Leadership through Collaboration” on Thursday morning.
- v. There have been three workshop submittals that will be available at the conference:
 - Chris Olson- Green infrastructure LID planning
 - Gerald Blackler- Intro to HEC-RAS
 - David Delagarza- GIS modeling.
- vi. Rich Ommert will lead bike trip and Dave Sentra will organize the golf tournament.
- vii. A conference theme selected during meeting: “25 Years of Managing the Elements”

b) CRS – Marsha Hilmes-Robinson (reported by Brian Varrella)

- i. The CRS Committee met at UDFCD on April 3rd and there were 15 attendees along with several who called-in via Go To Meeting. There was not a formal presentation at this meeting.
- ii. Congratulations were offered to communities who had changed a CRS Class (Boulder, Cannon City, Englewood, Golden and Westminster) and the City of Boulder was presented with their plaque.
- iii. Discussion topics included recovery from the Sept. 2013 flooding and flood insurance claims data. FEMA Region VIII staff discussed the latest on flood insurance changes and provided an overview of Code Masters.
- iv. The progress on developing a Program for Public Information (PPI) was discussed by the City of Fort Collins and the Metro Denver Group. The Denver Metro Group is doing a multi-jurisdictional plan. Fort Collins is in the process of writing the plan after having five stakeholder meetings.
- v. The State is working on planning an Elevation Certificate class.
- vi. Several communities will be having their 3- or 5-year cycle visit this year. The sentiment continues to be that the new manual and documentation requirements are a bit daunting. Concern still exists in Colorado related to the dam safety requirements and being able to obtain the necessary mapping and emergency action plans from other agencies.
- vii. The next CRS Committee Meeting will be held on May 27th at UDFCD.
- viii. The article from the CASFM Newsletter about CRS Success Stories on the 2013 flood was republished in the national CRS Newsletter; http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/139446378260455e384a434095c0596876720ca156af5/February+2014+NFIP_CR_S+Update+newsletter+508.pdf

c) Scholarship – Morgan Lynch (reported by Brian Varrella)

No new information to report. Look for the announcement of the two scholarships available in September 2014.

d) SW Quality – Holly Piza (reported by Brian Varrella)

The annual field trip has been scheduled for July 9th. The theme is “Tight Spaces.” Holly is still looking into sites to visit and would be willing to come up north.

e) Website – Stuart Gardner

- i. The website has a new page on it for the Lunch and Learns. The main goal of the page is to chronicle past sessions and provide a hosting place for the presentation files.

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- ii. A new committee page for the Outreach Committee is being created. Alan Turner has been working on text and layout for it.
- iii. The content on the 2013 Flooding Page is getting stale and in need of a revamping or retirement. Stuart will accept any recommendations for updates to the site which can be found here: http://www.casfm.org/2013_Flood/2013_Flood.htm
- f) **FP/CFM** – *Jamie Prochno (reported by Brian Varrella)*
Jamie expressed a desire to get CASFM members writing white papers again. Examples of potential topics include managing restoration and recovery efforts, lessons learned, fire areas, and risks moved. A meeting will be held Wednesday, May 14, at UDFCD at 10 AM.
- g) **Membership** – *Kevin Gingery (reported by Brian Varrella)*
 - i. The 2014 membership headcount stands at 761. This exceeds the 2013 maximum membership of 729, and shows new growth and interest in the organization.
 - ii. Membership renewals continue to trickle in.
- h) **Outreach & Training** – *Craig Jacobson & Alan Turner (reported by Craig Jacobson)*
 - i. Committee Meeting Scheduled for May 12, 11:30 at UDFCD.
 - ii. Alan has been in contact with UC Denver about starting a student chapter.
 - iii. The committee is meeting with ASFPM about being a liaison for their Floodproofing conference.
 - iv. Brian Murphy told the group about a new course that he is developing with Dr. Brian Bledsoe and Dr. LeRoy Poff that focuses on ecology and biology in stream restoration. The class has a targeted participation of 20-30 based on venue and instructor preference. The group discussed the class and whether CASFM funds should be used to offset registration costs. If CASFM funds are used, the training may need to be less restricted in attendance so that more members have the opportunity attend. Brian Murphy said that based on CASFM's budget, we could contribute \$1,000 to \$1,500 towards the class to keep registration costs low.

8. Charitable Giving / Disaster Assistance

- a) Currently in the budget as an annual line item.
- b) Some private groups have reached to us to ask if we could collect & distribute funds as a 501(c)(3).
- c) Discussion – CASFM could use funds allocated last year to build a reserve, spend money now, or bring it to the general membership to discuss at the conference. Brian Murphy stated that it seems like groups aligned with our mission are the most logical to support. Craig Jacobson stated that there is a lot of local need; maybe a small mountain town with smaller government would be a logical place to spend the money. Chris Carlson informed the group of coalitions that have been forming on all the watersheds affected around the state. The coalitions are trying to find grants and donations to help those affected in the watersheds. Brian Varrella suggested connecting the various coalitions on the outreach committee website. Brian Murphy explained that some coalitions are much more advanced in their development than others. CASFM should require some type of application detailing what the funds would be used for that a coalition would be required to fill out prior to funds being granted. Having coalition representatives come to an outreach event or to the annual conference might be a good idea. The group decided that it would be good to mention the coalitions and donations on the conference brochure, and possibly make it possible to donate during registration in addition to dedicating conference time for donations so that it is easy for members and corporations to reap tax benefits. The coalitions are also looking for pro-bono support for repairs and unmet needs. Chris Sturm has coalition contacts. Having a coalition speak at the conference lunch might be an easy way to get the message out. Brian Varrella

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is going to check with ASFPM to see if they have a similar system established to support and fund coalitions and similar organizations.

9. ASFPM Region 8 Updates

- a) ASFPM Chapter 4 News – *Kyle Riley*
 - i. The ASFPM District 4 Chapter Director Article from April 2014 was distributed to meeting attendees and may be put into CASFM newsletter. A copy of the article is attached.
- b) Floodproofing Conference
 - i. Last week in October, 2014, at the Broomfield Interlocken Resort.
 - ii. Field trip planning: Interest in Estes Park, Boulder – Chris Carlson mentioned a field trip to the CSU campus could be organized to see the structural floodproofing work that took place after the 1997 flood.
 - iii. Conference agenda & speaker's bureau. Brian Varrella recommended national speakers since it is a national conference.

10. 2014 Meeting Locations & Schedule

- d) July 11, 2014 – Vail / Avon (on a **Friday**)
- e) October 2, 2014 – Vail (Annual Conference)
- f) November 13, 2014 – Baker Corp., Lakewood

11. Discussion & Closing Thoughts – none provided

12. Adjourn – *motion and 2nd*

ASFPM District 4 Chapter Director Report

Where the heck is the warmth and sun!?!?!?

All kidding aside, the late winter and early spring has been quite busy already and it doesn't look to get any better moving into the summer. With the passage of Grimm-Waters and the ASFPM national conference only a month and a half away the Board and the Executive Office has been scrambling. Rest assured that the conference will be great as it always is. Similarly, with most legislation, you can rest assured that Grimm-Waters includes great things and it also includes bad things. For more information on either of these items please visit ASFPM's website. Additionally, if you will be attending the conference in Seattle please let me know and I would love to meet up with you.

Since my last message I have focused my efforts to work hard on two issues. The first issue is whether or not the Chapter Districts should be reshuffled based on current Chapter numbers. The current Districts encompass two FEMA Regions with District 4 including Region 7 and Region 8. This issue has been brought up because some Chapter Directors currently represent up to 13 Chapters and some represent as little as 3. Me personally, as the District 4 Chapter Director, I represent 7 Chapters. My Chapters are in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Montana, and Utah. I have other states within District 4, but they do not currently have Chapters.



If the Districts are reshuffled they would not follow FEMA Regions and it is possible that individual members and Chapters may be initially confused about which district they fall within. This may continue beyond the initial implementation due to the Chapter Districts not having as much notoriety as the FEMA Regions. Additionally, as more chapters form, or in the unfortunate event a chapter disassociates with ASFPM, future plans may involve reshuffling the Districts to keep the number of Chapters in each District close to equal. This may cause uncertainty and negative feedback. Finally, the current proposals would keep all currently elected Chapter Directors in a separate District for ease of transition. Members and/or Chapters may look at these proposals as a little bit of gerrymandering rather than truly grouping States/Chapters in their appropriate district to have parallel concerns. My stance is we, as Chapter Directors, are like Senators. We ran for the Board knowing that the job was either going to be with more constituents or less, but it is still the same job. For example, a Senator from California still has the same job as a Senator from Montana, but they have a lot more constituents. I feel this is no different. Also, if a later Board has to reshuffle the Districts again, they are going to have the same problem with gerrymandering depending on where the current Chapter Directors reside at the time. If you would like to provide your opinion on this issue please contact me.

The second issue that I am working on is to better define the Chapter's role with the CFM exam process. Some of the Chapters within my District have shown interest in making the CFM exam proctoring exclusive to the State Chapter, if applicable. For bigger Chapters this might not be an issue. However, for smaller Chapters this would be a great opportunity to get face time with local floodplain professionals and a chance to grow their membership. If an individual CFM or another entity proctors an exam, the State Chapter would only know if they were systematically checking the ASFPM website. This issue has just recently been tackled and initial conversations with the Board has been hit with mixed reviews. A Board decision or resolution item has been tabled until the Certification Board Of Regents (CBOR) discusses this item in their upcoming meeting. The CBOR Chair, Tom Morey, has agreed to add the issue to their upcoming agenda and contact me if he needs any more information or needs me to speak during their meeting. I will be sure to follow up with him after their meeting on May 13.

I hope this message has met you in good spirits and excited about the upcoming summer activities.

Kyle D. Riley, P.E., CFM

Water Resources Engineer

SNYDER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

2727 SW Snyder Blvd. | Ankeny, IA 50023

P: 515.964.2021 ext. 2587 | F: 515.964.7938

kriley@snyder-associates.com

Name	Organization	Email
Jason Messamer	Olsson	jmessamer@ollsonassociates.com
Kevin Hack	CWCB	kevin.hack@state.co.us
DAN EVANS	Tetra Tech	dan.evans@tetra tech.com
ERIC LESSARD	CITY OF LOVELAND	Eric.Lessard@cityofloveland.org
Chris Carlson	City of Loveland	Chris.Carlson@cityofloveland.org
Brian Varrella	City of Fort Collins	bvarrella@fcgov.com
Mark Kempton	City of Fort Collins	mkempton@fcgov.com
Craig Jacobson	Icon Engineering, Inc.	cjacobson@iconeng.com
Robert Moore	Litstone & Associates, Inc.	rcm@litstone.com
SHEA THOMAS	UDFCD	stthomas@udfcd.org
BEAN MURPHY	CDM SMITH	murphybm@cdmsmith.com