



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

Held during lunch at the Vail Cascade Resort and Spa, Vail, CO  
October 2, 2014

**Meeting Attendees**

**Officers:**

Chair – Brian Varrella, Fort Collins  
Vice Chair – Shea Thomas, UDFCD  
Secretary – Jason Messamer, Olsson  
Outgoing Treasurer – Brian Murphy, CDM Smith  
Incoming Treasurer – Brad Bettag, CH2M Hill  
Outgoing NW Region Rep – Rick Dorris, Grand Junction  
SE Region Rep – Roberto Becerril, City of Lamar  
Outgoing Metro Rep – Danny Elsner, Brown and Caldwell  
Metro Rep – Drew Beck, Matrix

**Committee Chairs:**

Website – Stuart Gardner, CDOT  
Outreach – Craig Jacobson, ICON; Alan Turner, CH2M Hill  
Conference – Robert Krehbiel, Matrix  
Scholarship – Morgan Lynch, CH2M Hill  
Water Quality - Holly Piza, UDFCD  
Floodplain/CFM - Jamie Prochno, CWCBC

**Members:**

2014 CASFM conference attendees

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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.

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Secretary Report – Jason Messamer**

- A. Minutes from the July 11, 2013 General Membership meeting held at the Vail Cascade Resort in Vail, Colorado, were handed to meeting attendees for review. A motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes.



- B. CASFM Election Update-Elections were held in August for vacant officer and regional representative positions. The newly elected CASFM members are listed below:
  - 1. Treasurer: Brad Bettag, CH2M Hill
  - 2. Metro Region Representative: Drew Beck, Matrix
  - 3. Northwest Region Representative: Betsy Suerth, Garfield County
  - 4. Southeast Region Representative: Roberto Becerril, City of Lamar
    - a. Write-in options for the elections were not processed correctly due to a glitch in the online election survey. Dave Bennetts sent a follow up email to members who wrote in responses and did not receive any conflicting nominations for the Southeast Region Representative position. Roberto indicated his willingness to serve as the regional representative, and was nominated by the CASFM Chair and formally installed by majority vote during the board meeting on the morning of October 2, 2014.
- III. **Treasurer Report – Brian Murphy**
  - A. Brian Murphy delivered a brief expense, income & budget report.
  - B. Banking update – CASFM is switching banks in order to allow multiple officers to have checking cards.
  - C. The AS2FPM 2015 free registration giveaway was announced.
- IV. **Vice Chair Report – Shea Thomas**
  - A. Changes to Membership Services – Purchased Wild Apricot software.
  - B. The winter newsletter is coming out soon. Shea requested submissions for the feature story portion of the article.
  - C. Shea gave a brief update of the Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (UFSMA) annual conference where she was a guest speaker.
- V. **Regional Representative Reports**
  - A. Metro Region – *Danny Elsner (outgoing), Drew Beck (incoming)*
    - 1. The Metro Region is hosting a presentation by NHMA President Ed Thomas at a social next Thursday, October 9, 2014, 4:00 PM at Blue Bonnet Café in Denver. Ed will describe how the recovery from wildfires, floods and landslides of the past few years gives Colorado a unique opportunity to celebrate success in preventing disaster damage, and offers Colorado a chance to be a national model in reducing misery caused by unsafe construction in foreseeable natural hazard areas.
    - 2. Another Metro Region social will be hosted on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at the Breckenridge Brewery & Restaurant. There will be a presentation from Dr. Ruth Alexander of CSU on the oral history of the 2013 floods, followed by a networking event.
  - B. Northwest Region – *Rick Dorris (outgoing)*
    - 1. Betsy Suerth was recently elected as the new Northwest Region representative.
    - 2. The NW Region will be hosting a presentation in Grand Junction on the 2013 flooding.
    - 3. The goal for this November presentation is to raise community awareness regarding drainage issues, so it may be an evening session.
    - 4. This winter, we would like to host an educational session on the proposed rule changes to the Clean Water Act definition of *Waters of the U.S.*
    - 5. We will also be developing a session on revegetation lessons learned to be held in the Rifle area in the spring or summer of 2015.
  - C. Northeast Region – *Beck Anderson (reported by Brian Varrella)*
    - 1. The next NE Region presentation and social will be held on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>
    - 2. Dr. Ruth Alexander with CSU will be presenting findings from the 2013 flood oral history project she is completing for CWCB.
    - 3. Exact location and time will be finalized in the upcoming weeks.



- D. Southeast Region – *Keith Curtis-outgoing (reported by Brian Varrella)*
  - 1. Roberto Becerril was recently elected as the new Southeast Region representative.
- E. Southwest Region – *Sam Samuelson*
  - 1. No report.

## VI. Committee Chair Reports

- A. Annual Conference – *Robert Krehbiel*
  - 1. Robert gave a special thanks to Stuart Gardner, Shea Thomas, Aaron Cook, and Deb Ohlinger for their work on the Conference.
  - 2. Next year the conference will take place at the same location, the Vail Cascade resort.
- B. Community Rating System (CRS) – *Marsha Hilmes-Robinson (reported by Brian Varrella)*
  - 1. A CRS Committee meeting will be hosted at UDFCD on Tuesday, November 18, 2014.
  - 2. Meeting is from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and lunch may follow.
  - 3. Please RSVP to Joanna Czarnecka at [jczarnecka@udfcd.org](mailto:jczarnecka@udfcd.org).
- C. Scholarship – *Morgan Lynch*
  - 1. There is a call out for applications for two scholarships, the CASFM Family Scholarship and the CASFM / Ben Urbonas Scholarship.
  - 2. Applications are due October 16, please encourage all eligible candidates to apply. Information is available on the website.
- D. Website – *Stuart Gardner*
  - 1. Stuart gave an update on the hacked CASFM website message that is reported by Google.
  - 2. Stuart mentioned that the Wild Apricot software will require members to fill out a personal profile. Members wanting to opt out of general membership emails will have the option to do that in their personal profile.
- E. Stormwater Quality – *Holly Piza*
  - 1. The annual Stormwater Quality field trip will be held in June 2015 and will be an all-day event. We are currently looking for a theme and good example BMPs to visit.
  - 2. Water Quality field trip information from previous years is available on the CASFM website.
- F. Floodplain/CFM – *Jamie Prochno*
  - 1. Jamie reported that there will be a shift to update items for upcoming CFM courses and a committee meeting will take place in the near future.
- G. Membership – *Kevin Gingery (reported by Brian Varrella and Stuart Gardner)*
  - 1. The membership currently stands at 804 people.
- H. Outreach & Training – *Alan Turner & Craig Jacobson*
  - 1. A 2-hr lunch-and-learn workshop will be hosted on Wednesday, October 15 on modeling bridges in HEC-RAS.
  - 2. The ASFPD Floodproofing & Mitigation Conference is taking place at the end of October and members of the Outreach and Training Committee worked with ASFPD in planning some aspects of the event.
  - 3. The \$5,000 charitable gift contribution that CASFM typically makes will go to local watershed coalitions. The watershed coalitions will fill out a simple application as part of a competitive selection process.

## VII. Miscellaneous Updates (*Brian Varrella*)

- A. ASFPD Local FP Manager of the Year Award – *awarded to Will Birchfield, Estes Park*
- B. ASFPD Outstanding Chapter Award – *logo added to CASFM letterhead*
- C. Update on Business from Board of Director's Meeting – *revamp committee structures*
- D. Ongoing community flood recovery support
- E. The ASFPD Floodproofing & Mitigation Conference will take place on Oct. 27-30, 2014, in Broomfield, CO. CASFM is providing logistical support through the Training & Outreach



Committee and members are signing up to attend. The conference still has space available for anyone to attend.

- F. Charitable Giving / Disaster Assistance - supporting watershed coalitions through the Training and Outreach Committee
  - 1. Working directly with Watershed Coalitions with a grant application & competitive selection process.
  - 2. Next step to disseminate to Coalition groups
    - a. To Watershed Assembly Conference the week after CASFM event.
    - b. Selection process complete by end of October, 2014.
- G. ASFPM Region 8 Updates
  - 1. Other States in the region have similar concerns regarding oil and gas development that is occurring at a fast pace. Regulators are having a hard time keeping up. Our neighboring Region 8 states also have concerns about wildfire and subsequent flooding, and recognize ASFPM is trying to incorporate these topics into their national dialogue with policy leaders.
  - 2. ASFPM is running a deficit and is trying to generate revenue. The current deficit exceeds 2014 budget projections by more than double, and ASFPM has created a new ad-hoc committee for fiscal responsibility. Brian Varrella volunteered to be on the committee and will report back to CASFM as developments occur.
- H. Incorporation of Flood TAP committee – Julie Baxter is leading this new committee that was established the same morning by a vote of the Board. More information is available in the Board Meeting Minutes, which will be posted to the CASFM website.

**VIII. 2014 Meeting Locations & Schedule**

- A. November 13, 2014 – Baker Corp., Lakewood
- B. January 2015, UDFCD

**IX. Adjourn – motion and 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**X. Attachments:**

- 1. CASFM Flood Recovery Strategies (Oct. 2013)
- 2. Flood TAP *DRAFT* Mission Statement (Sept. 2014)



COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF STORMWATER AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS  
2480 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 156-B  
Denver, CO 80211

**Friday, October 4, 2013**

**Purpose:** Media Statement for Colorado Floods

**Distribution:** Unlimited

**Topic:** Rebuilding guidance for northeastern Colorado communities affected by the 2013 regional floods

Coloradoans,

The September 2013 flooding across northeast Colorado is a tragic regional disaster that has changed and disrupted lives and livelihoods. The Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers ([CASFM](http://www.casfm.org)) is an organization of professionals that understand the state of Colorado must rebuild from this effort so that residents and business owners return to a sense of normalcy. This basic human need, this fundamental desire to return to normal life and business, is paramount to our long-term survival as a community of neighbors, friends, colleagues and family members.

Members of CASFM in private industry and in public service are working toward the same cause; **to reduce the loss of human life and property from flood and storm damage**. In Colorado's time of need there is nothing more crucial than taking a moment to stop, to think, and to envision a future condition that is better than the present. The only way we can secure that vision is to build back smarter, stronger and more resilient to floods and debris flows. To create a resilient state in the future, we recommend communities and government agencies take the following bold actions today;

1. **Consider detailed flood hazard assessments before issuing building permits** to provide time for post-flood information to be collected and community reconstruction plans to be created from that information. A library of emergency permitting procedures and guidelines are available on the [CASFM website](http://www.casfm.org).
2. **Support the public safety intent behind the State Floodplain Regulations** by instituting them immediately on all rebuilding efforts. These regulations are available on the [Colorado Water Conservation Board website](http://www.colorado.gov).
3. **Develop Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs)** for rebuilding structures in and around flooded areas. This should include high water marks from 2013 flooding, historic flood records, and FEMA Flood Insurance Study data.
4. **Rebuild outside the floodplain** whenever possible to reduce the potential for damage in the future. One of the most effective ways to mitigate future losses is to relocate structures and infrastructure outside known hazard areas.

#### OFFICERS

Chair <b>Brian Varella, PE, CFM</b> City of Fort Collins Utilities P.O. Box 580 Ft. Collins, CO 80522 (970) 416-2217 bvarella@fcgov.com	Vice Chair <b>Shea Thomas, PE</b> Urban Drainage & Flood Control District 2480 West 26 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 156-B Denver, CO 80211 (303) 455-6277 stthomas@udfcd.org	Secretary <b>Jason Messamer</b> Olsson Associates 4690 Table Mountain Dr., 200 Golden, CO 80403 (719) 641-8688 jmessamer@olssonassociates.com	Treasurer <b>Brian Murphy, PE, CFM</b> CDM Smith 555 17 <sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1100 Denver, CO 80202 (303) 383-2429 murphymb@cdmsmith.com
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**COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF STORMWATER AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS**  
2480 W. 26<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 156-B  
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5. **Utilize CASFM members and website** library for rebuilding guidance. Our 700-member organization of Certified Floodplain Managers ([CFMs](#)), engineers, planners, scientists, environmentalists and stormwater managers are available to direct communities to assistance.
6. **Support the implementation of master plans** locally and regionally by executing them during flood recovery rebuilding efforts rather than replacing in-kind.
7. **Consider FEMA repetitive flood loss** clauses that affect the cost of flood insurance in areas most frequently impacted by flooding. Local governmental entities should consider available flood evidence and history before issuing permits in high hazard areas, especially in Front Range canyon watersheds and along the South Platte River.
8. **Complete a post-disaster analysis** of the 2013 flood to track how federal recovery funds were spent on the disaster in individual communities. This will allow all communities to measure the effectiveness of these recovery efforts during future floods that will occur in Colorado.

The history of Colorado provides ample evidence that large natural disasters will occur in the future. Instituting these eight measures will help future generations in Colorado avoid repeating the life-changing disruptions of September 2013 in the next major floods.

As floodplain managers, stormwater managers, scientists, engineers, planners, and agents of the greater good, it is incumbent upon all of our members to work tirelessly to help our neighbors, friends, families and visitors get back on their feet. It is also incumbent upon all floodplain professionals to provide those generations with a more resilient future than the recent past or the present could provide against floods that will visit Colorado and other states again.

CASFM members are committed to helping Colorado rebuild now, and to assuring our state's future is stronger, more economically vibrant, and more resilient than our past.

Ever at Colorado's service,

Brian Varrella, PE, CFM  
CASFM Chair

Shea Thomas, PE  
CASFM Vice Chair

Jason Messemer  
CASFM Secretary

Brian Murphy, PE, CFM  
CASFM Treasurer

*Further information about flooding and flood mitigation issues can be found on the CASFM website at [www.CASFM.org](http://www.CASFM.org), or by contacting the CASFM Chair Brian Varrella at [casfmmedia@gmail.com](mailto:casfmmedia@gmail.com). The Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers is a non-profit organization of 700 members working in and around Colorado's watersheds and floodplains, and our cadre of experts are available to assist communities as needed.*

#### **OFFICERS**

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
<b>Brian Varella, PE, CFM</b>	<b>Shea Thomas, PE</b>	<b>Jason Messamer</b>	<b>Brian Murphy, PE, CFM</b>
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## VISION, MISSION AND GOALS



### FTAP Vision

Our vision is to improve flood related preparedness and response throughout Colorado.

### FTAP Mission

The mission of the Flood Technical Assistance Partnership (FTAP) is to bring organizations together across multiple levels of government to create a unique group that can offer technical expertise to advise and comment on floodplain management issues, improve local and regional communication, and influence policy and change throughout Colorado.

Founded in 2011, FTAP addresses the unmet needs that exist between the participating organizations to provide outreach and education to local floodplain officials, facilitate risk communication, and promote the understanding of roles and responsibilities before, during and after a flood related disaster.

### FTAP Goals

- **Increase collaboration & integration**, by providing technical assistance, guidance, and expertise during and after the response and recovery phase of a flood.
- Provide expanding **outreach communication**, with a focused message to educate communities and stakeholders about important flood related issues in Colorado.
- **Improve awareness** to available resources such as grants, subject matter experts, technical presentations and current issues by promoting knowledge and advocacy.

These goals may be ambitious, but by utilizing our primary strength – a statewide panel of experts and the collective drive to improve awareness and engage the public – FTAP can achieve them.



## PURPOSE

To identify existing, or to advance and sustain, specialized Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs) to provide subject matter expertise within Colorado's comprehensive emergency management program. TAP contributions include advisory and participatory roles in matters of emergency management, homeland security, public health and otherwise pertaining to the health, safety, and general welfare of the state's citizens and visitors.

## BACKGROUND

There is opportunity within Colorado's statewide emergency management program to identify and develop a coordinated, cohesive and established pool of resources to draw upon in support of the national preparedness mission areas of protection, prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. Just as resources are typed and tracked during emergency response operations, the State of Colorado preparedness community should recognize the availability of our subject matter experts during steady-state and real-time events.

Strong statewide or regional partnerships already exist in various hazard-based or functional areas. In other areas, new partnerships continue to evolve. It is believed that our valuable preparedness resources will be better served, and gain a better understanding of expectations in support of statewide emergency management programmatic needs, if roles and responsibilities were provided a common framework to work from or associate with, where one may not currently exist.

## ADVANTAGES

- Accessibility to essential resources in a coordinated and efficient manner.
- Provides a common structure and programmatic framework across disciplines.
- Connects mission areas and core capabilities for a common programmatic picture.
- Allows for comprehensive management view of statewide programmatic resources.
- Meets the 2010 EMAP standard for *Chapter 3: Emergency Management Program*.
- Enhances delivery of clear expectations to partners.
- Relationship building across threats, hazards, and supporting functions.
- Identification of interdependencies.
- Clarification and enhancement of communication pathways.
- Fosters the identification of capabilities or gaps in knowledge, skills, and abilities.



## PARTNERS

TAPs are inclusive and intended to provide comprehensive expertise to Colorado's emergency management professionals. The partnerships are built on an inclusive, whole community foundation including:

- State agencies
- County and municipal governments
- Special districts
- Federal agencies
- Citizens
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Industry groups
- Professional organizations
- Private sector
- Academia

### **PRESIDENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVE / PPD-8**

#### *National Preparedness Mission Areas*

- ✓ *Protection*
- ✓ *Prevention*
- ✓ *Mitigation*
- ✓ *Response*
- ✓ *Recovery*

## SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

Disaster and emergency preparedness encompasses a broad range of subjects. TAPs are positioned to contribute to the full-spectrum of issues within Colorado's statewide emergency management program to include the national preparedness capabilities from Presidential Policy Directive 8. Partnership activities are related to natural and technological hazards, adversarial threats, functional areas of emergency management, and other collaborative opportunities such as community resilience building and planning. The scope of partnership activities may include:

- Strategic planning and prioritization
- Stakeholder and customer identification
- Regulatory interpretation and guidance
- Information and data sharing
- Application of existing and emerging technologies
- Mitigation project identification and evaluation
- Problem identification and solution development
- Contribution to exercise objectives and scenarios
- Disaster scenario development for planning and assessments
- Identification of training needs and opportunities
- Participation in the State Emergency Operations Center
- Sharing of best practices
- Maintenance of emergency contact and distribution lists
- Contribution to plans and procedures
- Involvement in statewide recovery coordination calls
- Tracking of progress and accomplishments on projects and programs



## IMPLEMENTATION

### *Strategic Direction*

- Development, refinement or affirmation of mission statement.
- Scope of service defined.
- Formulation of goals and objectives.
- Establishment of actions to accomplish programmatic or project-based priorities.
- Documentation and distribution of strategy.

### *Guiding Principles*

- Awareness and applicable inclusion of the Whole Community.
- Supporting and achieving resilient and sustainable communities.
- Building and maintaining core capabilities.
- Thoughtful use of resources across programmatic needs.
- Enjoyment of people, processes and contributions.

### *Roles and Responsibilities*

- **Facilitator.** In emerging partnerships, Division staff provides guidance on structure, holds administrative duties, and coordinates across core capabilities.
- **Liaison.** Within existing partnerships, Division staff becomes a liaison to suggest and request assistance, collect and share information, and coordinate across core capabilities.
- **Partner.** Contribute timely and meaningful subject matter expertise through full participation and ongoing communication.

### *Communications*

- Determine who, when, where and how collaboration ensues.
- Develop schedule of meetings, rosters, and ongoing program and project schedules.
- Product or information development and delivery.
- Unified messaging.

### *Celebration and Acknowledgement*

- Sharing of contributions and accomplishments.
- Recognition of outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations.