



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

Held at the Vail Cascade  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 11:30A – 1:30P

**Meeting Attendees**

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**Officers:**

Incoming Chair (Outgoing Vice Chair) – Shea Thomas, UDFCD  
Incoming Vice Chair – Brian Murphy, CDM Smith  
Incoming Secretary – Danny Elsner, CH2M  
Outgoing Secretary – Jason Messamer, Olsson  
Treasurer – Brad Bettag, CH2M

**Committee Chairs:**

Webmaster and Membership Administrator – Stuart Gardner, CDOT  
Conference – Robert Krehbiel  
Outreach – Craig Jacobson, ICON and Alan Turner, CH2M  
Colorado Flood TAP – Julie Baxter  
Floodplain Management – Jamie Prochno  
CRS - Monica Bortolini, LRE (proxy for Marsha Hilmes Robinson)  
Stormwater Quality – Holly Piza

**Regional Representatives:**

Metro Region Rep – Drew Beck, Matrix  
NW Region Rep – Betsy Suerth, Garfield County  
SE Region Rep – Keith Curtis, PPRBD  
NE Region Rep (outgoing Chair) – Brian Varrella, CDOT

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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**

Brian thanked outgoing board members and welcomed incoming board members while introducing the new CASFM leadership team.

**II. 2013-2015 Organizational Achievements – Brian Varrella**

**A. 2014-2015**

1. New relationship with DOLA, APA Colorado, CO Resiliency Office, CO Riparian Association, US Army Corps of Engineers, RMLUI
2. Members were leaders in developing CO Resiliency Framework
3. Colorado has 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of CFMs by state (51 more took exam at conference)



4. Members' outstanding service officially recognized (Chris Sturm, Kevin Houck, David Hollingsworth)
5. New collaboration with APA Colorado & CO Riparian Association
6. Presentations at RMLUI & CO Stream Restoration Conference
7. Leading the Flood Technical Assistance Partnership (FTAP)
8. Water quality field trips and lunch & learn events
9. Regional social events
- B. 2013-2014
  1. New relationships with Sen. Udall, Communities, CFWE, CDOT
  2. Members to be sought out as experts for lasting change
  3. Members worked in flood-affected communities
  4. Members are on watershed coalitions, many as leaders
  5. Flood Forum success
  6. E273 Training and CFMs
  7. Water quality field trips and lunch & learn events
  8. Regional social events
  9. ASFPM Outstanding Chapter award
  10. Will Birchfield; ASFPM Local FPM of the Year

**III. SW Region Representative Candidate – *Brian Varrella***

- A. Sam Samuelson contacted Brian and told him he is willing to serve as a SW Region representative.
- B. A motion was passed to appoint Sam Samuelson as the SW Region Rep.

**IV. Permitting Assistance to CO Communities – *Brian Varrella***

The group discussed a service gap that has been identified by the Colorado Recovery Office for the Towns of Lyons, Evans, and others. It is often difficult for communities to know where to start, what forms to fill out, and other permitting considerations after a flood. The group discussed CASFM's role and how members could get involved.

- A. Brian Varrella and Ian Hyde met to discuss the topic. Rather than providing pro-bono work, CASFM could sponsor or put on training/workshops for local governments.
- B. Brian Murphy commented that lots of communities lack understanding, particularly with 404 permitting.
- C. Jamie Prochno commented that lots of communities are trying to work through flooding and stormwater programs on the fly. She regularly receives calls and offers advice, but hearing a consistent message from others would go a long way.
- D. The group felt that workshops could be incorporated into the Training and Outreach activities. Craig requested that Brian Varrella lead the effort and set up a meeting with Ian Hyde, Jamie Prochno, Allan Turner, and Craig Jacobson.

**V. Organizational Goals + Functions – *Brian Varrella***

- A. Previous Chair's goals from 2013-2015
  1. Be more visible, relevant, and engaged
  2. Endorse best practices in Stormwater & Floodplain Management
  3. Members to be sought out as experts for lasting change
  4. Extrapolate the 14 goals of CASFM and reorient them outward.



- B. Updates of officer duties – if required. Shea Thomas will send out the duties and outgoing officers will update the documents if needed.
- C. The group discussed the format of the general membership meeting that would take place at lunch on Thursday to ensure that committee meetings would be productive and assign meeting locations.
- D. A motion was passed to appoint Brian Varrella as coordinator of social media, under the Outlook and Outreach Committee.
- E. Stuart will identify himself as the Webmaster and Membership Administrator. The CASFM website currently identifies both functions as committees.

## VI. Officer Reports

- A. Northwest Region – *Betsy Suerth*
  - 1. The CASFM Summer Seminar was well attended. Oil and gas participants were in attendance which was a good chance to expose them to floodplain considerations.
- B. NE Region – Brian Varrella is new region rep.
- C. SE Region – (*Keith Curtis*)
  - 1. DFIRMs turned in September. Should be between 12-18 months before they are effective. Numerous LOMRs and CRS cycle visit coming up.
  - 2. Monica Bortolini encouraged Keith to attend the CRS meeting tomorrow and reach out for some guidance.
  - 3. Shea Thomas encouraged the regions to collaborate if possible, especially if there is a popular speaker/well attended event.
- D. Metro Region – *Drew Beck*
  - 1. Chatfield Reallocation project recently by Tom Browning. Decent attendance, some dip in attendance overall.
  - 2. Upcoming events could involve field visit along South Platte, which will be a riparian association joint meeting.
- E. Stormwater Quality – *Holly Piza*
  - 1. Lunch and Learn upcoming but unsure of topic.
  - 2. Not a large WQ presence at the conference. A goal for next year will be to increase the WQ involvement from CASFM members and increase presentations at conference.
- F. Scholarship Committee – *Morgan Lynch*
  - 1. Jacob James will step in as Scholarship Chair.
  - 2. Morgan has wanted to request donations for the family scholarship and build a fund that can build and sustain itself over time. Morgan also pointed out that we aren't funding undergrads at all.
  - 3. The UWRI scholarship is likely not coming back.
- G. Floodplain Management – *Jamie Prochno*
  - 1. Has been working to define Colorado's official position with resiliency and reconstruction. Want to get more people involved.
  - 2. She is working to revamp the CFM refresher course - added material to the course has expanded it a lot over the years but it needs to be whittled down. Exam is growing year by year even though FEMA requirements have not.
  - 3. NAFSMA is talking about NFIP reform in 2017 – CASFM could be a leading voice.
  - 4. The name of the committee was changed from Floodplain to Floodplain Management.
- H. CRS Committee – *Monica Bortolini*



1. Set up a CRS course for November. Program for public information headed by UDFCD is still going.
- I. Flood TAP – *Julie Baxter*
  1. Organized to prioritize projects by the calendar year.
  2. Supporting an update to CWCBS stormwater criteria manual. Helping to collect lessons learned and develop a toolkit for what to do after a disaster. Wanting to solicit output to figure out how to implement the toolkit.
  3. Wants to encourage a state agency to facilitate Flood TAP. She feels it makes more sense to have someone chair the committee that is part of one of the organizations involved.
- J. Outreach and Training – *Craig Jacobson and Alan Turner*
  1. Jr. Chapter goals – need to have something for them to do, some way to plug in. The group discussed giving a portion of the social budget to events for Jr. Chapters.
  2. The focus from Craig and Alan will be to delegate tasks to others in the committee.
    - a. Colorado Recovery office (see item IV).
    - b. Trainings, especially on Western slope, will continue to be developed.
    - c. Charitable gift – the group discussed putting the charitable gift toward scholarships or sending money to watershed coalitions but a consensus was not reached.
    - d. Group discussed the research fund. It is available but not frequently used.
  3. The group discussed frequency of emails and Stuart G will look into whether outlook links can be embedded in the Wild Apricot emails. LinkedIn updates have been sparse. The Training and Outreach committee has a goal of centralizing communications and organizing them for Stuart.

#### **VII. Other Discussion Items**

- A. Budget – due as draft at next meeting
- B. CASFM apparel coming from Land's End. Contact Brian Varrella for more information.

#### **VIII. 2015 Meeting Locations & Schedule, Adjourn**

- A. November 12, 2015 – Baker Corp.
- B. January, 2015 – UDFCD
- C. Adjourn at 1:30 PM.