

21st Annual CASFM Conference



CASFM Keynote Speaker, Ed Thomas (Top). 2010 CASFM Grand Award Winners: (Above, L to R) John Pflaum, Awards Chair; Annie Noble, City of Boulder; Mike Galuzzi, WH Pacific

By Shea Thomas, Program Chair

Thanks to a fantastic key note address by Ed Thomas of Michael Baker, many enlightening technical presentations and a great venue during the peak color week of the year, the 21st annual CASFM conference was a success! Turnout was higher than expected, with a total of 279 attendees who made the trek to beautiful Snowmass Village.

We tried to vary a few things with the program this year and while some more tweaking will likely occur next year, there was positive feedback about the changes made. Modifications included two workshops offered on Tuesday afternoon, replacing the plenary session with additional technical presentations and offering two workshops on Friday morning.

Three field trips were offered: a horseback riding excursion, a mountain biking adventure and a tour of the trans-basin diversion facilities on Independence Pass. While all three received high marks from the evaluation survey, they were not well attended. We'll either have to come up with ways to encourage a higher attendance or reduce the number of activities offered next year.

How can you choose between conveying the 100-yr storm and removing numerous properties from the floodplain; a marriage of engineering and art in the form of a 20' drop structure; one of the largest installations of permeable interlocking concrete pavement in Colorado; and an urban stream revitalization that provides safety, function and recreation? The membership had to make that difficult decision and congratulations are in order for the Elmer's Twomile Greenways Project team! An extensive

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21st Annual CASFM Conference

September 21-24, 2010 | Snowmass



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write-up on the winning project was recently published in the 2011 edition of UDFCD's Flood Hazard News, which can be found on their website (www.udfcd.org). Honorable mention goes to the teams for Cherry Creek Drop Structure 27, Hildebrand Park Public Access and McIntyre Gulch Enhancement at St. Anthony's Hospital Site – thank you all for submitting your exciting projects for the award.

Stuart was at the top of his game during the Association Dinner and Awards Ceremony—my personal favorite part being the impromptu baby shower thrown for our Ben Urbonas Scholarship recipient, Jason Messamer. His baby will be well stocked with

stormwater vendor paraphernalia for years to come!

Attendees were able to break out of their conservative engineering shells and take a risk gambling at the Casino Night in the beautiful hotel lobby after dinner. The dealers were very helpful assisting the lesser-experienced with learning how to play roulette, blackjack, craps and Texas Hold-em.

The golf tournament, held at the Aspen Municipal Golf Course, had the most positive feedback from the post-conference online survey. Nice job organizing that event, Dave Center! Other categories receiving high marks include the registration process (thanks Alan Turner!), the CFM review (thanks Kallie Bauer,

Kevin Houck, Chris Tagert and Craig Jacobson!) and the awards banquet. On the other end of the spectrum, it looks like we need to work on the food for next year.

A special thanks to the Conference Chair, Robert Krehbiel, for all his hard work and dedication that makes this conference a hit every year, and to Stuart Gardner for organizing the facilities, finagling a great room rate and providing the special prizes.

Mark your calendars for next year's conference at the same place, but one week later—September 27-30, 2011. I look forward to seeing you there!

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THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!



This past year was an important one for Colorado Flood Risk Management. Through the leadership and tireless efforts of staff at the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), new enhanced floodplain management standards went into effect on January 14th. As many of you know, the new rules provide for freeboard, more restrictive floodway delineation and new requirements for critical facilities located in the special flood hazard area. CASFM made important contributions through participation in the advisory committee and presentations before the CWCB Board. Several CASFM members gave testimony on behalf of their respective communities as well. CWCB staff asked Ed Thomas to speak at the final hearing. His presentation closely followed the key note address delivered at our 2010 Annual Conference. FEMA Region VIII was instrumental in funding this effort and in extending his stay to provide assistance to the Cities of Fort Collins and Colorado Springs. Basil Hamdan worked in a four-hour workshop and Northeast Region Social as well.

The year ahead will be busy and productive. Robert Krehbiel is again the Metro Region Representative and has already organized several successful social events. He and Shea Thomas will lead the efforts on Annual Conference planning.

CASFM continues to enjoy outstanding conferences year after year. Marsha Hilmes-Robinson is working with FEMA Region VIII to bring the field-deployed version of the four-day CRS Workshop to Colorado in late March. And, I'm sure everyone is aware that CASFM, together with the Natural Hazards Center and the ASFPM Foundation will host the Colorado Flood Risk Symposium. CASFM was selected by the Foundation in completion with several other state chapters. The symposium will be a one-day event by invitation in April. Attendees include folks from state, federal and local government, academia, emergency managers, behavioral scientists and land use specialists. CASFM will be well represented. We are excited to bring the state version of the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum to the Natural Hazards Center that he founded.

My premise remains that CASFM is a premier state chapter because of the efforts of the past to continually improve for a more robust organization in the future for the benefit of our members. Dave Bennetts has worked on a number of assignments of late, including this newsletter, chapter insurance and the symposium. But, he is just one of many volunteers who advance the goals of CASFM. Thank you one and all for all you do!

David Mallory
CASFM Chair

ASFPM Information

2010 ASFPM Award Winners

And the winner is...

Seattle Times—raising public awareness and excellent coverage of the flood risks on the Green River in King County.

Urban Drainage and Flood Control District in Denver, Colorado, for awesome outreach to land use planners on floodplain preservation and flood risk reduction.

Terri Turner—our 2010 Local Floodplain Manager of the Year!

Larry Buss, extraordinary advocate for nonstructural flood proofing measures to reduce flood risk.

New Jersey Association of Floodplain Managers, for superior efforts in certifying floodplain managers across the state.

Dave Carlton—25 years advancing critical issues with ASFPM's policy committees.

Ken Morris—exemplary leadership and inspiring other FPM in Oklahoma and Region 6.

Peggy Bowker, incomparable ground breaking leadership and mentoring on many fronts since the early '80s.

2011 Award Information

These are the 2010 national floodplain management award recipients. Don't you want to cross the finish line in Louisville on May 19?? It is easy to enter the race! Simply go to the ASFPM awards nomination page at www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp and submit your program, project, or person online. Make sure you get it in by the March 1 deadline because it will not be extended as the conference is in mid-May this year. It is highly recommended that you attach applicable letters of support for your nomination. You may direct any questions to Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at diane@floods.org or call her at 608-441-3003. Winners will be notified in early April to allow time to make travel arrangements.

2011 ASFPM National Conference

ASFPM's annual conference this year is the week of May 15-20, 2011 in Louisville, Kentucky. Throughout the week, 200 of the industry's experts will conduct plenary and concurrent sessions and share the state-of-the-art in techniques, programs, and resources to accomplish flood mitigation, watershed management, and other community goals. A three-day comprehensive exposition features the materials, equipment, accessories, and services vital to get the job done. Supplementary technical field tours and training workshops provide in-depth training. Numerous networking activities offer additional opportunities to learn from each other.



May 15-20, 2011
Louisville, KY

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Training Committee

The CASFM Training Committee is proposing 4-5 Bar Stool Series training events for 2011. These short training workshops are typically 1-2 hours in length held at the end of the day, often qualify for CFM credit, are provided at minimal cost, and are followed by a social time, thus the name "Bar Stool Series". Actual dates and times have yet to be determined but will be announced through email and the CASFM website. We are currently investigating the following topics for the Bar Stool Series:

- Culvert rehabilitation and restoration
- Partially grouted riprap design and construction
- Levee overtopping physical modeling results (from the CSU Engineering Research Center's hydraulics laboratory)
- LID design examples
- Ecological stream restoration
- 404 permitting

In addition to these topics, opportunities routinely arise for other training opportunities. We'll pursue and help promote those as they come up. One such opportunity for 2011 is a FREE 2-day technical seminar on the methods and procedures used to determine hazard classification and spillway hydrology for dams within Colorado. It's being facilitated by the Colorado Division

of Water Resources, Dam Safety Branch, and will be held in three different locations on March 15-16 in Grand Junction, April 5-6 in Loveland, and April 19-20 in Colorado Springs. Please plan to attend and take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Registration is required. For more information please see the CASFM website.

We are also pleased to help promote the seminars and classes provided by the Urban Watersheds Research Institute (UWRI). Their 2011 schedule has been released and can be found at www.urbanwatersheds.org.

We are also evaluating interest in short but very practical ½-1 day workshops. An example was the recent 4-hour workshop on trends and challenges in floodplain management, No Adverse Impact, and public liability held on November 16 in Fort Collins. The workshop taught by Ed Thomas of Michael Baker Jr., Inc. was well attended by 50 people. Special thanks to Brian Varrella and Basil Hamdan for helping facilitate this workshop. Other potential upcoming ½-1 day workshop topics include stormwater quality hydrology, bioretention/rain gardens, a CFM refresher course, design and specifications for sculpted concrete drop structures, the National Levee Safety Program, and a computer based bridge hydraulics (HEC-RAS) training. Please feel free to contact Chris Carlson at carlsc@ci.loveland.co.us if you have any input or questions about these or other upcoming training opportunities.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee is gearing up for the selection of the 2010-2011 scholarship award recipients. CASFM offers two scholarships each year: the CASFM-UWRI Scholarship is funded by the Urban Watersheds Research Institute and is awarded to an undergraduate student in the field of Civil Engineering; the CASFM-Ben Urbonas Scholarship was established in 2002 (re-named in 2008) and is awarded to a graduate student studying in a field closely related to the goals of CASFM.

The committee, which includes Danny Elsner, Liz Staten, Nancy Love, Jeff Cheng and Carrie Herbolsheimer, has been working on re-establishing contacts with the local ABET accredited universities in an effort to boost the number of scholarship applications we receive. Notices will be sent to the schools in January and applications will be due in March. For each scholarship, we will interview the top three applicants, hopefully announcing winners by May. Applications are available on the CASFM website, so encourage any students you know who qualify for the scholarship to apply! Please feel free to contact Shea Thomas at stthomas@udfcd.org if you have any questions or would like to help out on the scholarship committee.



Outreach Committee

The outreach committee held its final meeting of 2010 on August 18th to discuss upcoming projects. The committee is actively seeking ideas for 2011 so please contact the committee chair if you have an idea or are interested in becoming actively involved in an upcoming project.

One thought is to better involve the local non-engineering community at next year's CASFM conference. It may be possible to coordinate with the local newspaper to run a short article, find some time to host a Q&A with community officials, or coordinate an inlet labeling program with a local school, or similar group. The outreach committee will also continue to spearhead CASFM's involvement with the Colorado Municipal League (CML). A session topic was submitted to the CML conference committee in mid-November. If selected, CASFM will host a plenary session at the CML conference in Vail held June 21 - 24 to discuss the following topics:

- Colorado's New State Floodplain Regulations
- National Trends in Floodplain Management
- The State Flood Risk Symposium
- Reducing loss of human life and property from flooding and storm drainage.
- Preserving the natural and cultural values of floodplains.
- Avoiding actions that can worsen flooding.
- Preserving the quality and health of our water courses.

The outreach committee will begin work on 2011 projects soon and so if you are interested in participating, please contact Ken Cecil at kcecil@j3engineering.net.

Membership Committee

- 679 active 2010 members.
- 2011 membership renewal form is posted on the web site.
- Receiving 2011 membership dues - ongoing.
- Distributing reminder post cards at end of February for 2010 members not yet renewing their membership for 2011.



CRS Committee

CRS Committee Active in State Floodplain Regulations Process

The CRS Committee spent the last few months of 2010 discussing the CWCB's proposed State Rules and Regulations. Many CRS Committee members attended the State Rulemaking Hearing and provided testimony on behalf of their respective communities. The Committee wishes to thank the CWCB staff members for providing these opportunities for discussion. Once adopted by communities, the new State Rules will provide uniform minimum credit for certain Higher Regulatory Standards (CRS Activity 430) for communities participating in the CRS.

CRS Committee Making Training Plans for 2011

Plans are being made for two CRS training opportunities in 2011. Colorado will host a week long field deployed CRS training class. This is the same course offered at EMI and will provide participants with in-depth information about each of the credit-

able CRS activities. French Wetmore is expected to be the primary instructor for this course. The CRS Committee is also going to sponsor a training class on CRS Activity 510—Hazard Mitigation Planning. This course will be valuable to consultants, floodplain administrators and emergency management personnel. Numerous communities in Colorado have FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plans, but are not receiving CRS credit. This class will be an opportunity to learn about the CRS requirements and how to apply for CRS credit. Sherry Harper with ISO and Marilyn Gally, Colorado State Hazard Mitigation Officer are expected to be the instructors for the Hazard Mitigation course. Additional information on dates and locations for these trainings will be sent out via an e-mail from CASFM.

Anyone interested in joining the CRS Committee or receiving updates on committee activities should e-mail Committee Chair, Marsha Hilmes-Robinson, at mhilmesrobinson@fcgov.com.

Stormwater Quality Committee

The Annual Water Quality Field Trip

The Stormwater Quality Committee is starting to think about what sites to tour during the annual water quality field trip in June. The 2010 field trip was a success with a full bus and a number of diverse sites. We are looking for sites that provide similar benefit and opportunity to the sites toured in 2010. The High Plains Environmental Center represented a sustainable approach to stormwater management. The Highland Bridge Lofts rain garden provided a good example of integrating a multi-use stormwater BMP into a highly urbanized setting. Witnessing construction BMPs "in action" at the CDOT BMP Training Facility reinforced the importance of good BMP installation techniques. The green roof at the Denver Botanic Gardens, crediting proper design including thoughtful consideration of vegetation and irrigation practices, dispelled misconceptions about the use of this BMP in a semi-arid climate. If you worked on or know of a project that might provide a meaningful stop on the 2011 tour please contact Holly Piza hpiza@udfcd.org.

New BMP Research Partially Funded by CASFM

At the general meeting in November, CASFM elected to contribute funding to a BMP test site. Basil Hamden of the City of Ft. Collins and Chris Carlson of Loveland have designed a rain garden site adjacent to a Ft. Collins city parking lot. Dr. Jan Cipra and Chris Olson from Colorado State University will assist with the media design and monitoring effort. The project will measure runoff reduction and evaluate a new bioretention medium that includes STA Class 1 compost with high leaf content. The team plans to present results at a future CASFM conference.

Floodplain Committee

We had 93% pass rate for the CFM exam that was given in September at the conference. For everyone that attended the conference you should receive 12 credits those names have been submitted so you might want to double check and make sure you received your continuing education credits. Also - just a reminder that you must be a member of ASFPM to maintain your CFM certification.



Metro Region

CASFM has budgeted up to four evening socials each year for the Metro Area Region. In addition to these socials, CASFM has also approved the Bar Stools Training Series, which may seem like social events but are actually similar with a separate budget. Thank you to all the members that are taking advantage of these many great networking events!

We are pleased to announce that the Metro Region has been enjoying the social events and having a great time at the gatherings. Since the Spring CASFM Newsletter, the Metro Region hosted two more socials.

On June 29, a social was held in South Denver with approximately 24 attendees. Jim Nikkel, Assistant District Manager of Parker Water & Sanitation District, lead a field tour of the Reuter-Hess Reservoir large expansion project, accompanied by Doug Boss, Construction Manager. After the field portion, the group went to Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery for appetizers and drinks.

On October 28, members toured the active construction site for the restoration of the South Platte River and Lower Lakewood Gulch. This project is the culmination of a long-term vision by the City & County of Denver and the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District to reduce flood hazards in Central Platte Valley. The tour showcased the removal of the Zuni Power Plant fabric dam, the widening and deepening the South Platte channel, complete reconstruction the Lakewood Gulch outfall, and the new RTD West Corridor light rail bridge over the South Platte River. After the tour, the group gathered at the nearby Brooklyn's near INVESCO Field for drinks and appetizers and a slide show presentation on the history of the project.

We continue to seek exciting projects and presentations to showcase at upcoming socials. We also try to host these socials at new locations throughout the Metro region. Please let your representatives know if you have a great topic or location. We hope you can attend the next event! Please contact robert_krehbiel@matrixdesign-group.com if you have any questions.



Northwest Region

Thanks to those CASFM members who responded to Regional Rep. Betsy Suerth's email inquiring about what kind of events they would like to attend in their region. She is now working on a few combination education (with CECs) and social events. Pos-

sible subjects include an update of the new floodplain regulations and the trial and tribulations of the adoption process; a panel discussion of the realities of floodplain administration; and maybe even a tour of the Ziegler Reservoir in Snowmass Village and a lesson on what happens when a construction project is delayed by an archeological dig. Please contact her via email if you have additional ideas or would like to host a session or construction project site tour: bsuerth@garfield-county.com.

Northeast Region

CASFM held a successful training in November thanks to the generous sponsorship from FEMA Region VIII and their ongoing partnership with CASFM. Ed Thomas Esq., of the Baker Corporation gave a presentation regarding floodplain management trends and challenges. The training covered:

- Governance practices and public liability
- Negotiations for floodplain managers
- News from the CWCB Floodplain Rules
- New CRS opportunities for Colorado
- Creating win-win solutions for development

The training was successfully attended by over 50 CASFM members from the Northeast region as well as from the metro area. This was immediately followed by a social gathering at the Beach Grill in downtown Fort Collins where we all enjoyed the great Christmas LED lighting of downtown Fort Collins as well as wonderful company, food and libations.

The next planned event in the spring will be a field trip to look at new and innovative drainage management solutions in the Fort Collins area. See you all then.

CWCB Update

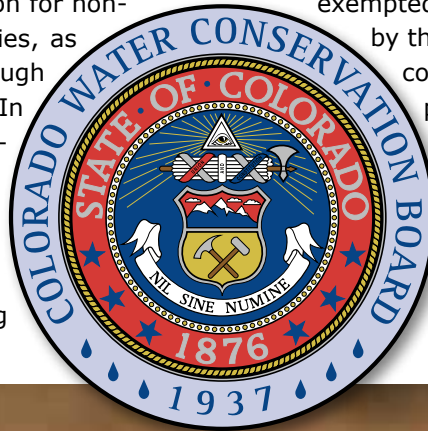
In 2010, the Colorado Water Conservation Board undertook an effort to update its statewide Floodplain Rules and Regulations. After significant outreach, the process culminated in a rulemaking hearing that was held in Berthoud on November 15th. At that hearing, public testimony was heard, and the CWCB Board approved the proposed rules with slight modifications. These rules formally took effect on January 14, 2011. There are a number of provisions in these rules that all floodplain managers, whether in the government or private sector, should be aware of when doing business in Colorado.

A mandatory freeboard of one foot was enacted for all new and substantially improved structures. Flood proofing continues to be an option for non-residential structures. Structures identified as critical facilities, as defined in the rules, must have two feet of freeboard, although no other new provisions are required for critical facilities. In addition, the rules require all new detailed studies to incorporate a 6 inch surcharge criteria for the purposes of defining floodways. This floodway requirement does not extend to smaller reaches that can revise official FEMA maps through a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). The floodway requirement also does not extend to existing floodways that are not being

restudied. That is, the new rule does not trigger a need for a restudy, but when a restudy is performed beyond the LOMR scale, it should incorporate the new criteria for the new or restudied reaches. This requirement only applies to new studies initiated after January 14, 2011; any study already started prior to that day may still use the applicable local criteria in place at that time, regardless of eventual date of completion.

The rules allow for a three year transition period for local governments to update their ordinances. Projects that have a floodplain development permit or a valid FEMA CLOMR issued prior to the update of the local ordinance can be exempted from the new provisions. A guidance document will be issued by the CWCB in the coming weeks that addresses some of the more common questions that have been asked regarding the rules and provides guidance on how to address transitional issues during the three year period. The CWCB will be preparing a model ordinance that reflects the new provisions, and this is expected to be available in early to mid 2011.

The new rules can be found at a link on the CWCB's home page at cwcb.state.co.us and questions can be addressed to Tom Browning or Kevin Houck at 303-866-3441.



THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF STORMWATER AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

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I would like to thank those who contributed to this edition of Open Channel. Please send any newsletter comments and suggestions to dbennetts@udfcd.org.

The Open Channel

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