

The Open Channel

Summer 2010 Vol. 21 / Issue 1

[Conference Information](#) | [A Word from the Chair](#)
[2009 Annual Conference Photos](#) | [UDFCD Volume 3 Update](#)
[Committee News](#) | [Regional News](#) | [Colorado Flood Forecast](#)

21st Annual CASFM Conference

COMING OF AGE

September 21-24, 2010 | Snowmass

By Robert Krehbiel, Conference Chairman

What could be better than discussing new initiatives regarding stormwater and floodplains during the peak of the fall colors in one of the best Colorado locations to view the grandeur? This is the first year that CASFM will host the conference in the Snowmass/Aspen area, and the Conference Committee believes the Snowmass Village Conference Center will be a spectacular site for the annual event. In addition to the new venue, we were successful in securing a conference date to better coincide with the peak of the fall beauty which is a week or two later this year than the traditional date of the conference.

The CASFM conference is turning 21 this year, and we are ready to celebrate the "Coming of Age!" This theme gives the membership an opportunity to address innovations, new initiatives and strategic partnerships for a field that has grown, evolved and seen many changes over the last two decades.

The Snowmass Village Conference Center is located on the mall next to the Snowmass ski resort, and a convenient free shuttle ride into historic Aspen to a variety of exciting restaurants, unique shopping, and exciting recreational opportunities for attendees and their families. The mountain provides a great location for hiking, mountain biking and site seeing. We have negotiated a good hotel rate for the area at the Silvertree Lodge specifically for the conference. You can book your hotel room anytime through the hotel, but conference registration through the CASFM website will not begin until July. A notice will be emailed to all members when registration is available.

Continued on page 2



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The format of the conference is still being determined, but may include the following events:

Tuesday, September 21, 2010:

- CFM Full-Day Review Session
- CASFM Committee Meetings
- Social Event

Wednesday, September 22, 2010:

- CFM Exam
- Keynote by Ed Thomas, Esq.
- UDFCD Vol. 3 update
- Technical Presentations
- CASFM Project Awards Presentations
- Social Event

Thursday, September 23, 2010:

- Full-day Technical Presentations
- Social Event
- Banquet Dinner
- "Turning 21" Casino Night

Friday, September 24, 2010:

- Workshops
- Possible Field Trips
- Transbasin Diversion Facilities
- Mountain Biking
- Stream Restoration on Brush Creek
- Snowmelt Water Quality BMP's
- Golf Tournament

Submission of projects for award is due June 30, 2010. See www.CASFM.org for conference updates and submission requirements. □

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[Return to page 1]

The Open Channel, Spring 2010 | casfm.org | 2

Dear Colleagues...

This is my first newsletter article as CASFM Chair. I'm humbled and excited as I fully realize what a special group CASFM is. We have over 700 members, a very strong CFM program, workshop, social and committee opportunities and, in my opinion, the best annual conference of any state chapter. All of this is possible through the work of dedicated folks who preceded me. I want to recognize the important contributions that Kevin Houck and Tom Browning, our two immediate past chairs, and the many others who have served CASFM well over the years. The reality is that CASFM grows each year as a result of accomplishments in prior years. This organization runs on volunteerism and we are working to encouraging larger committee participation. Thanks to Stuart Gardner and Barb Meier, we have a new committee page on the website. Check it out; you can now see the committee members for each of the six committees that have standing memberships. I would encourage all members to contact committee chairs if you want to participate. Committees represent enormous potential for doing the work of CASFM. All of our committees have exciting new developments to report. Please check out the committee page elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Metro Region, headed up by Deb Ohlinger has been very active with social events this year. There is another one planned for this summer. The Southeast and Northeast Regions are planning events for later this spring.

I'm particularly excited about our annual conference in September in Snowmass. Ed Thomas will be our keynote speaker and will likely lead one or two workshops. Dave Bennetts has served as Program Chair for seven years. He is handing that job over to Shea Thomas this year. There will be some new offerings this year, so stay tuned for more details. Robert Krehbiel and a cast of volunteers put on our annual conference. Robert is looking for more help, so please feel free to offer your skills. I've had the opportunity to attend a number of state and national conferences over the past few years. I'm convinced that CASFM's conference, while offering a wide variety of very good technical sessions and workshops, also provides a wonderful and comfortable mountain getaway. This year's conference is the 21st Annual Conference with the "Coming of Age" theme. I think it will be a great conference and great year. I hope to see you at the committee meetings, general meetings, workshops socials and in Snowmass!

David Mallory
CASFM Chair

2009 CASFM Conference



- 1** 2009 CASFM Award Finalists.
- 2** 2009 CASFM Award Winners: Bryan Kohlenberg, Kimberly Wantanabe, David Love, John Pflaum
- 3** Clancy Phillipsborn and Alan Taylor
- 4** Visiting with Conference Exhibitors
- 5** Plenary Session Panelists: Mark Glidden, John Pflaum, Cindy Thrush, Chuck McKnight, Dennis Maroney

UDFCD Volume 3 Update

UDFCD is currently rewriting Volume 3 of the Urban Storm Drainage Criteria Manual (USDCM). The goals of the rewrite include updating design criteria and maintenance recommendations, promoting volume reduction, and improving readability of the manual.

Significant changes include the following:

- Increased emphasis related to runoff reduction, which is Step 1 of the Four Step Process. Although this important step has always been in the manual the new release will include quantifying storm-water management facility sizing credits using quantitative methods when MDCIA and LID measures are implemented.
- Substantial revision to design criteria for several BMPs already in the manual and inclusion of BMPs not previously in this manual. Green roofs and Underground BMPs will be added. Although UD-

FCD continues to strongly recommend treatment of runoff above ground, it also recognizes the need to provide guidance related to underground BMPs when surface treatment is not possible.

- Revision and expansion of the Construction BMPs chapter.
- Addition of supplemental guidance to promote more effective implementation of BMPs. This information is typically provided in the form of “call-out” boxes. While this manual remains focused on engineering design criteria, UDFCD also recognizes that it is helpful for designers to be aware of why certain criteria have been developed, how various practices can best be implemented on a site, opportunities to consider, and common problems to avoid.
- New Excel™ workbooks to assist in BMP selection based on site specific conditions, BMP performance expectations and life cycle costs.

Scholarship Committee

This is the active time of year for the Scholarship Committee. We teamed up with the American Council of Engineering Consultants (ACEC) scholarship committee this year in an attempt to get the word out about the CASFM-UWRI Scholarship via a well-established network. The ACEC committee has worked hard to market all of the major colleges and universities in Colorado and we felt by utilizing their resources we would have a better chance of informing students about our scholarship as well as receiving a larger number of applications. After reviewing the 37 applications received, we have decided to award the scholarship to Charlotte Van Voast, a civil engineering student in her junior year at CU-Boulder.

We interviewed three applicants for the CASFM-Ben Urbonas Scholarship, which is awarded to a graduate-level student studying in a field related to the goals of CASFM. The committee decided to award the scholarship to Jason Messamer who is obtaining his Masters of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University. Jason will be taking advantage of the opportunity to briefly present the focus of his graduate study to the general membership at the conference lunch on Wednesday.

Outreach Committee

For the first half of 2010, the outreach committee will be focusing our energy on the Colorado Municipal League Conference, which will take place in Breckenridge from June 22nd through June 25th. The Colorado Municipal League is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has served and represented Colorado's cities and towns since 1923. Currently, 265 of Colorado's 271 municipalities (representing more than 99 percent of the state's population) are members of CML and benefit from advocacy, information and training services. From CASFM's perspective, CML provides a unique opportunity to introduce our organization's position on floodplain management to a large group of individuals, including public works directors, City/Town engineers, stormwater program managers, planning directors and elected officials. As such, the outreach committee is preparing a CML membership/sponsorship application and will also host a presentation at the CML conference to showcase techniques for preserving the natural and beneficial values of floodplains adjacent to development projects. In addition, the presentation will cover Stormwater Management 101, Low Impact Development (LID) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations.

The outreach committee is also hoping to "reach-out" to the non-metro regions in order to facilitate interaction between the regions. Our goal is to work with the regional committee chairs to foster a stronger sense of connection with the larger population of CASFM members, which largely reside along the Front Range.



Membership Committee

- 726 active 2010 member's thus far.
- 2010 membership form is posted on the web site.
- Receiving 2010 membership dues—ongoing.
- Distributing reminder post cards for 2009 members not yet renewing their membership for 2010.

CRS Committee

The CRS committee is off to a great start in 2010. We began the year with a lunch meeting on Feb.1st



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at SEMSWA where we had a record attendance of 25 people. Penn Gildersleeve from ICON Engineering demonstrated a floodplain model that is available for use by CASFM members to illustrate the concepts of rainfall, floodplains, culverts, levees, etc.

One of the main discussion topics by the Committee at recent meetings has been about the State's Proposed Floodplain Regulations. Kevin Houck from the CWCB gave an overview of the proposed regulations and answered questions. Another initiative by the State is the "Colorado CRS Strategy." The State wants to further promote participation by communities in the CRS and is researching activities that may be available as Uniform Minimum Credit based on current of future State or Regional activities.

The CRS Committee is actively planning several trainings for the year. We hope to be able to offer training on CRS Activity 430 – Higher Regulatory Standards in partnership with CWCB's outreach on the State's Proposed Floodplain Regulations. It is expected that this training would take place in early April. CRS Activity 510 – Floodplain Management Planning and the connection with All Hazard Mitigation Plans is the planned topic for a training session in early Fall 2010. Stay tuned for more information about these future training opportunities.

If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive notices about upcoming committee meetings and other CRS related topics, please e-mail the CRS Committee Chair, Marsha Hilmes-Robinson at mhilmesrobinson@fcgov.com.



Stormwater Quality Committee

Multi-tasking is the name of the game! Holly and I are currently working on a several different SQC projects that would benefit from members input.

Our biggest project is planning the annual Low Impact Development (LID) field trip. We'd like to hear ideas from our constituency. Send us your comments from past years field trips. Are there sites from past field trips you are interested in visiting again? Do you want to learn more about any specific BMPs or see how maintenance is performed? What new LID/BMP installations are out there that you designed and/or provided Construction Administration (CA) services on? Perhaps you'd like to share your experiences with the group.

We are also looking for opportunities to share information. If you know of a group who might be interested in and benefit from an open forum on stormwater quality, or if you are interested in being part of such a forum, please let us know.

If you'd like to join this committee please contact either myself or Holly (hfeissner@feissnerconsulting.com or hpiza@udfcd.org). Input from our members is important to us. We'd like the SQC mission and work to accurately reflect its member's interests.

Floodplain Committee

The Floodplain Committee accepted an important assignment during the CASFM Annual Conference in September on the issue of non-levee embankments. A rather large number of CASFM members expressed interest in working on this assignment, and thus became Floodplain Committee members! Several meetings were held late last year. The intent was to share some Colorado experience and perspective with ASFPM, with the hopes this would drive a national discussion and affect change through FEMA headquarters. I worked up a draft letter which was distributed for comment. The letter was delivered to ASFPM, FEMA HQ and FEMA Region VIII in early March. The letter was also distributed at the Operating Partners Focus Group, which includes FEMA HQ, and their program management consultants, USACE Flood Risk Management Group, ASFPM and NAFSMA. FEMA requested that ASFPM recommend to FEMA HQ a way forward on the issue of non-levee embankments. We understand the Mapping and Standards Committee of ASFPM will accept this action item. My congratulations to the Floodplain Committee for a truly worthy effort on a matter of national interest. The Floodplain Committee will continue to monitor developments on this issue. —David Mallory



Metro Region

The Denver Metro Area started off 2010 with two socials on the calendar. On Thursday, February 18th, Rick McLaughlin, P.E., and Jack Goble of McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group presented "Restoration of the Falls of the Chattahoochee River," a unique project along the Alabama-Georgia border. The social was held at Dixon's Downtown Grill and between 30 and 35 people attended. On Tuesday, April 6th, Julie Ash, P.E., with Walsh Environmental, discussed restoration efforts on the Eagle River. The social was held at C.B. & Potts in Westminster and 25 people attended. It is anticipated that the following social will be held in the southern part of the metro area

sometime this summer. CASFM always provides some tasty treats in addition to our interesting speakers, so please make it a point to join us! If you have any suggestions for speakers, please feel free to contact Deb Ohlinger at 720-962-6072 or dohlinger@oaconsulting.com.

Southeast Region

The Southeast Region had its first social of the year with a rather small but fun turnout on February 16th. We are hoping to take a tour of some of the creek work in Colorado Springs for our next Social later this Spring.





Colorado Flood Forecast

Wet and Cool Spring Expected Statewide

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in cooperation with other members of the Colorado Flood Task Force, continues to monitor spring flood potential created by snowpack conditions and long-range climate forecasts. 2010 has been a dry year thus far for a large portion of the state, and the potential for flooding is considered to be low as of mid-March.

While the southern half of the state has made a good recovery from dry early-winter conditions, there are no watersheds in the state currently being listed as “on watch” for snowmelt flood potential. This is only the second year since 2004 for which this is the case. As of March 18th, the snowpack levels for state watersheds ranges from a high of 109% of normal for the Rio Grande watershed to a low of 74% of normal in the Yampa and White River Watersheds. Generally, a value of 130% or greater puts the watershed on a watch list to be monitored throughout the spring, although lower numbers can do this as well on a case-by-case basis. It should be noted that as of March 18th, two areas of the state are considered to be in drought status – one small area in extreme Northwestern Colorado which also extends into Wyoming and Utah, and a slightly larger area encompassing portions of Grand, Routt, and Jackson counties. While these areas together only account for 4% of state land area, this number could grow if recent dry weather continues in the northern areas of the state.

The good news is that climate forecasts indicate the likelihood for colder than normal conditions along the east half of the state and wetter than normal conditions statewide. The wetter conditions are expected to be more prevalent east of the Continental Divide, especially in SE Colorado. These wet conditions are expected to last well into the spring and may even intensify as the summer months approach. At this point, it is not expected that these wet conditions will overcome a dry or average winter thus far, but it should do well to eliminate dry conditions if the wet weather materializes as forecast.

Flood potential is discussed every spring at the Flood Task Force, which is chaired by the CWCB. If you would like to attend the Flood Task Force, or would like more information about it, please contact Kevin Houck at the CWCB at 303-866-3441 x3219 or email him at Kevin.houck@state.co.us

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Spring 2010 Vol. 20 / Issue 1

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Urban Drainage &
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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.

[Return to page 1]

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