

The Open Channel

Spring 2012

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22nd Annual CASFM Conference

By Shea Thomas, Program Chair

My resolution for 2012: Write the Annual Conference Recap the week *after* the conference; it will be so much easier to remember all the details. It seems like once you've been to maybe three consecutive CASFM Conferences, they all start to blur together. However, with many of the changes implemented this year, hopefully the 2011 CASFM Conference in Snowmass Village will stand out in your mind for years to come.

This first thing you probably noticed when registering at the Conference on Wednesday morning was the highly publicized new "notebook" format. We all tend to get stuck in our ways, so we'll probably be calling the Conference program a "notebook" for years to come, but the new magazine format seemed to be well received. Thanks for the positive feedback on the changes, and also for all of the constructive criticism provided. We'll use them to make it even better next year. The most recurring comment seemed to be something along the lines of "it would be nice to include some blank pages for taking notes", with which I agree wholeheartedly. Prepare yourself to fill the blank pages we provide next year!

I didn't need to wait for the survey results to know attendees enjoyed the two keynote speakers. While you may not have necessarily agreed with the politics of Jon Waterman, you can't deny the photos and stories of his unprecedented and epic 1,450-mile paddle down the Colorado was entertaining. His passion for watershed protection and preservation was apparent as he presented a summary of his book "RUNNING DRY: A Journey Down the Colorado River from Source to Sea". On perhaps the opposite end of the personality spectrum, John Sikora gave a fascinating presentation

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22nd Annual CASFM Conference Snowmass

Joe Juergensen, Moneka Worah and John Yager, cheer on air guitarist Andy Stewart as he tears into a solo at karaoke night.



Melissa Toering (top) and Susan Brown back up fearless front-man Jim Kaiser. Basil Hamdan (above) shows he's got the moves like Jagger.

of events leading up to and around the October 14, 2010 discovery of the 10,000-year-old woolly mammoth bones in Snowmass Village—not to mention thousands of bones from hundreds of other species. Those fortunate enough to go on the Friday morning field trip were able to see the site where the discovery was made. And although participants did not get to see any bones (you were told that in advance, so you couldn't shouldn't have been too disappointed!) it was amazing to know there are still possibly thousands of bones beneath the soil under their feet.

The Conference agenda was a bit different this year from conferences past. Did you feel like you had a little more down time than usual? By splitting

the technical presentations into two days and reducing the number of project awards presentations from four to three, we were able to eek out an extra half hour for lunch on Wednesday. Now that I write that, it doesn't seem like much, but believe me it took some effort to get it all to work out that way! I liked the pace of the Conference much better with one session of technical presentations on Wednesday afternoon and the other on Thursday afternoon, and according to the survey results you did too. We'll stick with that next year, and hopefully the passing periods between presentations for you room-swappers won't seem as rushed since the three rooms will all be on the same level in the Steamboat Springs

facility. There was some great information in those technical sessions this year—well done, presenters! It feels like the bar keeps rising each year. I did hear from a couple people that there were times with multiple talks of a certain interest going on while at other times there was nothing of interest available. We really do try to align the talks so that everyone has something in their field of interest to attend at all times, but due to a last minute shift in the schedule we didn't meet that goal this year. Simple solution—next year no last minute changes!

Kudos to the three project award nominations that made it to the presentation stage of the process. I could be wrong, but I think this was the first time

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22nd Annual CASFM Conference

Snowmass



Robert Krehbiel, Conference Chair
Shea Thomas, Conference Program Chair

a gauging station has ever been nominated. The Gilbert F. White Memorial Flood Level Marker, presented by the Gilbert F. White Memorial Committee, was a refreshing change from the typical stormwater and flood control projects that usually make the cut. The Cottonwood Creek Restoration and Stabilization project by the City of Colorado Springs and AMEC Environment and Infrastructure and the Piney Creek Stream Stabilization and Bridge Crossing Improvements by the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and Ayres Associates both involved extensive stream stabilization and channel improvements. But it seems the old

western theme utilized by the latter was enough to woo the crowd and push them to the top of the vote tallying. Congratulations to everyone on that team on winning the 2011 CASFM Project Award!

I know the only reason you're reading this article: karaoke!!! Was it a hit or a bust? Well, if you ask the many people who were still around locking arms and singing (word choice questionable) Piano Man at the top of their lungs at 12:30 in the morning, you'd get a resounding HIT! It's not everyone's cup of tea, but I challenge you to find some form of entertainment fiscally within reason that would appeal to 300 engineers. Go ahead and send those suggestions to

sthomas@udfcd.org. I'll be waiting. If you're on the bust side of the coin, rest assured that we will be finding some other form of entertainment next year. The Conference planners wouldn't want to become too predictable!

Speaking of Conference planners, thanks to all of you who helped make the event a great success: Dave Krickbaum (vendors), Stuart Gardner (facilities), Alan Turner (registration), John Pflaum (project awards), Brian Murphy (field trips), Rich Ommert (bike tour), Dave Center (golf tournament), and last but certainly not least Robert Krehbiel (Conference Chair).

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A Word from the Chair



David Bennetts,
CASFM Chair

This is my first newsletter as CASFM Chair, and I am excited at the opportunity I have been given. I would like to start by thanking our outgoing Chair, David Mallory, for all of his efforts over the past few years. He has some quite notable accomplishments under his belt as Chair. Dave did a great job representing CASFM and assisting the Colorado Water Conservation Board in adopting new enhanced floodplain management standards for the State. Dave was also instrumental in getting Colorado selected as one of two state chapters to host the Flood Risk Symposium in April 2011. This one-day event included federal, state, and local officials, as well as a number of other representatives. The Symposium was well received by all in attendance, and by Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) staff. I know Dave will continue to be actively involved in our organization, thanks Dave for your leadership in CASFM.

I'd also like to thank the outgoing officers, committee chairs, regional representatives, and other volunteers for their service. CASFM is a 700 member strong organization that runs quite effectively because people are willing to step up and help. In my discussions with other state chapter representatives at the ASFPM meetings, it's clear that we excel in this category. I would encourage anyone who is interested in being a part of this great organization to let the officers or committee chairs know. There is room on all of the committees for additional folks, and your input and help would be much appreciated. If you are interested in helping with our annual conference, please let either the conference Committee Chair (Robert Krehbiel) or Program Chair (Shea Thomas) know.

In talking with the other officers, committee chairs, and general membership, we have set our sights on a few goals for the organization in the coming year. One is providing the opportunity to

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Chairman's Letter

take the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) training course and exam outside of the annual conference. We did this several years ago, and hosted it at the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) office. We would like to do that again this year, again hosted at UDFCD. As soon as we get this put together, we will be letting everyone know.

Another goal is providing as many training opportunities as we can to get your continuing education credits (CECs) to maintain your CFM certification outside of the Annual Conference. We've heard it's been difficult for many to attend the Annual Conference and get those credits given tight budgets. In an effort to address this, we were able to get ASFPM to approve UDFCD's annual conference for 6 CEC's. The next conference is in April at the Doubletree Hotel in Denver, and is an easy way to get your annual credits in one day. If you are interested in the UDFCD conference, please check out the District's website (www.udfcd.org), or CASFM's website (www.casfm.org) for details. We are also working with other organizations, such as the American Public Works Association (APWA),

to get some of their training approved by ASFPM as well. We will keep you posted as these efforts progress.

The Training Committee is also working on providing a number of training opportunities throughout the year. As these become available, we will post them on the CASFM website calendar and send a notice to the general membership via e-mail. In addition, they will be passing on notice of other training opportunities from organizations such as Urban Watersheds Research Institute (UWRI) that may be of interest. UWRI has a number of excellent courses available throughout the year. If there is some specific training you would like to see offered, please contact Chris Carlson – our Training Chair.

As we look forward into the New Year, there are a number of great events planned. The Stormwater Quality field trip is planned for June 28, 2012, and is always a well-attended event. It's a great chance to learn from what others are doing by seeing installations in the field.

In September, we will host our Annual Confer-

ence, which will be back in Steamboat Springs this year. The conference team did an outstanding job last year, and they will have their work cut out for themselves to top last year's conference. In addition, there will be regional meetings as well as the general membership meetings throughout the year. All of these will be posted on the calendar of events on the website, and you will also be notified by e-mail. I would encourage everyone to make time for attending several of these events. It is a great way to connect with other professionals, and have some fun as well.

I would like to offer one last note of thanks to the newsletter editor Brian Varrella, and all those who contributed to the newsletter. It's a big job getting it all pulled together and out to the membership. Thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,



David Bennetts, CASFM Chair



Marsha Hilmes-Robinson,
CRS Committee
Chair

The CRS Committee provided comments to the national CRS Task Force on the proposed 2012 CRS Coordinator's Manual late in the year in 2011. This was an excellent opportunity for Colorado communities to have a voice in the future of the CRS program at the national level. When the Task Force met in Denver earlier in September 2011, the CASFM CRS Committee gave a presentation that included background on how the Committee was formed in 2008 and the many activities that the Committee has sponsored during the past three years. The Task Force provided very positive feedback on the success of our Committee. Committee members also participated in a webinar in November 2011 to discuss the proposed CRS Manual scheduled to be rolled out in 2012.

On October 11-14, 2011, the CRS Committee hosted a field-deployed CRS training course. The course is typically only offered at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This was a unique opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of the CRS program activities locally from a nationally recognized educational organization. Some materials were adapted by the presenters to assist local agencies and professionals by helping them to tie relevant activities to the current CRS scoring system.

If anyone wishes to become involved in the CRS Committee, please contact me at mhilmesrobinson@fcgov.com.

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday, March 29th, CRS meeting 10-noon

Webinar topic: Drainage System Maintenance (Activity 540) and
Floodwarning (Activity 610)

Webinar time: 10-11:00

Location: City of Fort Collins

Invite your maintenance supervisor and emergency manager.

Tuesday, April 24th, CRS Meeting 10-noon

Webinar Topic: Public Information Activity 330 and 370

Webinar time: 10-11:00

Location: SEMSWA

Invite your public information staff.

Floodplain Committee

The Floodplain Committee once again organized the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) refresher course and exam at the 2011 CASFM Annual Conference in Snowmass. The class and exam were once again a success. Colorado continues to have a pass rate well above the national average and is now one of the leading states in regards to the number of active CFMs.

The Floodplain Committee is looking to expand its role in CASFM. The Committee solicited feedback on FEMA's draft procedures for non-accredited levees. Comments from the CASFM membership were compiled and delivered to FEMA on January 31, 2012. The Floodplain Committee is also offering the CFM exam in the Denver Metro Region in late spring or early summer 2012, and again at the 2012 Annual Conference in Steamboat Springs. This is largely in response to the number of requests from professionals across Colorado and neighboring states that were unable to attend the 2011 CASFM Annual Conference.

If you have suggestions on topics you would like to see the Floodplain Committee address, please contact me at kallie.bauer@mbakercorp.com.



Kallie Bauer,
Floodplain
Committee Chair &
CFM Coordinator

Membership Committee

CASFM Membership at the end of 2011 included 677 active members across a diverse field of professionals in the public and private sector. The 2012 Membership Form is currently posted on the CASFM website at http://www.casfm.org/forms/2012_Membership_Renewal.docm.

The membership document can be filled out on-screen and e-mailed anytime this calendar year. Any questions, comments or updates can be directed to me at gingek@ci.loveland.co.us.



Kevin Gingery,
Membership
Committee Chair

Outreach Committee

During 2011, the Outreach Committee continued our attempts to familiarize community officials with floodplain management and State regulations by hosting our second "Answers are in the Room" discussion at the annual CML conference. The Conference was held in Vail, June 21 through 24, 2011. Taking part in the session were Kevin Houck, Paul Hindman, and Ken Cecil. Shockingly, we had light attendance at our discussion, leading us to believe that the concurrent sessions must have sponsored a well-stocked open bar. Why else would the members voluntarily attend sessions with titles such as "Trends in Municipal Debt and Finance" and "Federal Tax and Securities Laws Post Issuance Compliance"?

We were able to lure a few CML Conference attendees of our own by handing out informative swag, including the "Preserving the Natural and Beneficial Values of

Floodplains Adjacent to Development Projects" brochure and the UDFCD "Good Neighbor Policy". Perhaps the most interesting question came from the Town of Evergreen, which is concerned about a requirement to update a public restroom, and how doing so would require fill in the floodway.

So be warned, if you are ever in Evergreen on a rainy day with an urge to use the restroom, you might want to look for one on higher ground. On the plus side, there was a festive happy hour at CML which none of us attended. However, if we had attended, we would have discussed how future CML sessions should be geared to finances and how sound floodplain management is the fiscally responsible approach. Therefore, I invite you to send your clever session titles for future CML conferences to me at kcecil@j3engineering.net. If we use your title, you may win something, or absolutely nothing.



Ken Cecil,
Outreach
Committee Chair



Scholarship Committee

We decided to move up the scholarship application and award process in 2011 so that students were receiving notice of it in the fall semester, thinking that would garner up more interest since they still have to scrape together funds to pay for the spring semester tuition. That seemed to be a good move because we received more applications than in years past and were very happy with the quality of the students from whom we had to select.

There were six applicants for the CASFM/UWRI scholarship, which is awarded to an undergraduate student in the field of Civil Engineering. After reading through the essays and interviewing three of the candidates, the committee awarded the scholarship to Molly Kato-las, a civil engineering student specializing in environmental at the Colorado School of Mines.

We interviewed three of the seven 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 Jamie Prochno who is obtaining her Masters of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado – Denver while working at the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Having obtained her undergraduate degree at Purdue University with a B.S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Jamie plans on focusing her studies on environmental and sustainable engineering. She will be taking advantage of the opportunity to introduce herself and briefly present the focus of her graduate study to the general membership at the conference next year.

To volunteer with the Scholarship Committee, or to get more information on scholarships offered by CASFM, please contact me at stthomas@udfcd.org.



Shea Thomas,
Scholarship
Committee Chair



Stormwater Quality Committee



Holly Piza,
Stormwater Quality
Committee Chair

The Stormwater Quality Committee is selecting sites to tour during the annual water quality field trip in June. The 2011 field trip was a success with a full bus and a number of diverse stormwater quality BMP sites in Denver and Ft. Collins. See the full report at [2011 Stormwater Quality Field Trip Report](#). We are looking for sites that provide good examples of stormwater practices whether they're post-construction or otherwise. If you worked on or know of a project that might provide a meaningful stop on the 2012 tour please contact me at hpiza@udfcd.org.

Metro Region

The Metro Region enjoyed three socials in 2011, which is one less than we budgeted. We will strive to hold five in 2012 to make up for the shortfall this year. In fact, we already have two socials in the queue.

- **January 12, 2012:** Dr. Guo recently returned from a trip to Taiwan and China where he attended a conference with their governments to discuss flooding problems. He shared stories from his trip with CASFM members. The social was held at the Empress Seafood Restaurant in Denver. Attendees enjoyed a full meal of 10 different dishes served to the tables.
- **March 1, 2012:** Saeed Farahmandi and Bruce Uhernik, with the City & County of Denver, will summarize the impacts and people's reactions from the July 7, 2011 notable rainstorm that caused some flooding throughout the city. The social will likely be held at Chad's Restaurant in Lakewood.

To recap last year, the following summarizes the three socials held in 2011:

- **January 26, 2011:** Tom Browning from the CWCB presented the on the Chatfield Reallocation project. The social was held at C.B. & Potts, DTC. A record 50 members attended this social.
- **April 7, 2011:** Mike Chard, Boulder Office of Emergency Management, discussed the Fourmile Canyon Fire and preparations for potential flooding as a result of the burn area. The social held at C.B. & Potts in Westminster was well attended by about 30 people.
- **August 11, 2011:** Brian Hyde took CASFM members on a walk-through of the proposed Westerly Creek Connection at Verbena Park near 12th & Quebec. Following the walking tour, the group convened at the Berkshire Restaurant at Stapleton for a social hour and presentation.

We always welcome new speakers! If you have a topic of interest to the group, we would appreciate a presentation at one of the Metro socials in 2012. Please e-mail me at robertk@matrixdesigngroup.com to get involved.



Robert Krehbiel,
Metro Region
Representative



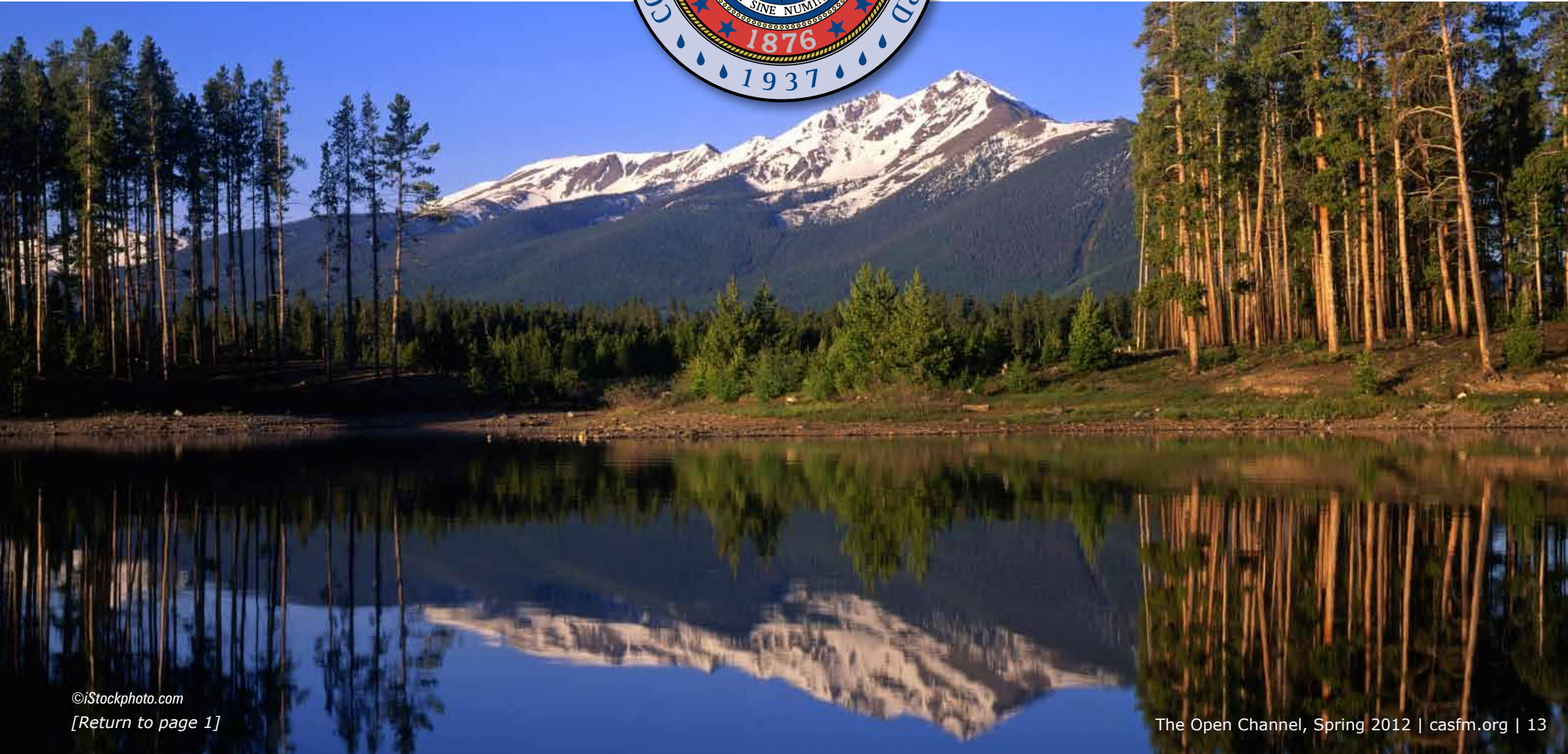
CWCB Update

The Colorado Water Conservation Board promulgated new Rules and Regulations for Floodplains in Colorado (Rules) that became effective January 14, 2011. The Rules contain higher standards for floodplain management that will help reduce flood losses, improving public safety and property protection. The major changes to the floodplain management regulations include the application of a 1-foot freeboard, mapping of ½ foot floodway, LOMR-F requirements and critical facilities protection. Communities in Colorado have three years from the effective date of the Rules to adopt the regulations, which means that all communities will need to update their floodplain management regulations by January 14, 2014. The process of updating local regulations can take six months or longer, so communities are encouraged to start reviewing their regulations well in advance of the deadline.

To assist communities in this process, the CWCB has developed a State Model Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, which was released to the public on September 6, 2011. The model ordinance is located at:

http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/flood/Documents/COModelOrdinance_9_6_2011.pdf

The model ordinance contains all the requirements of the Rules and meets the National Flood Insurance Program standards. The CWCB also has staff available to provide assistance to communities in updating their floodplain management regulations. CWCB staff can provide guidance on how to incorporate the model language into communities' regulations. To request ordinance assistance, please contact Jamie Prochno at (303) 866-3441 ext. 3215 or jamie.prochno@state.co.us



Floodplain Management Degree & Certificate Help Make it Possible!

Background

In 2011 ASFPM began a partnership with Clinton Andersen and the Community College of Aurora, Colorado. ASFPM has been assisting Clinton to develop an online Floodplain Management Associate's Degree and Certificate Program. ASFPM Board Members, Chapter Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Certification Board Regents have collaborated with Clinton to help identify and recommend floodplain management topics to be offered.

Action Needed

The next phase in the approval process is to demonstrate need and market demand for a stand-alone Floodplain Management Degree and Certificate Program. We need your help, as floodplain management professionals to establish this need and demand! We ask that you take 5-10 minutes to respond to this short survey. Your participation can make a Floodplain Management Degree and Certificate Program a reality and identify critical knowledge areas for each course of study. The formation of an online degree and certificate program will also provide a new source of continuing education for CFMs nationwide. Responses will be kept confidential and are being collected by the Community College of Aurora. Your prompt response is appreciated!

Please respond to the survey by March 9th, 2012.

Click here to respond: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3NPWJJ6>

Spread the Word

Please help us spread the word and encourage other floodplain management professionals to respond to the survey. Feel free to distribute this information and reprint this article with a link to the survey. Consider running this article in your member alerts, newsletters, and posting to your websites, blogs, Facebook and LinkedIn pages. If you have any questions or would like to help start a program in your state, please contact Kait@floods.org.



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 BVarrella@fcgov.com.



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Gray's & Torrey's Peaks, Brian Varrella