

The Open Channel

Winter 2019

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THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF STORMWATER AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Year in Review

2018 CASFM Conference Recap

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A Word From the Chair



By Deb Ohlinger, CASFM Chair



Deb Ohlinger

Happy 2019 CASFM members!

I hope everyone has had a great start to the New Year. The four months since the conference have passed so quickly! Speaking of the conference, thanks to all of the many people who helped make the magic happen, in particular, Sarah Houghland (Annual Conference Chair), Julie Traylor (Conference Program), and Stuart Gardner (Conference Facilities Coordinator). It was truly the end of an era with the passing of the baton (actually the microphone) from Stuart. We are still figuring out all the minutia of the conference and annual banquet, but with Shea Thomas at the helm as the new Conference Facilities Coordinator and Stuart sharing his knowledge, I've no doubt we'll continue the upward trajectory. We are always seeking ways to improve

the conference and better serve our membership, so please feel free to pass along your great ideas.

People sometimes ask me how it's going being Chair, and I answer honestly that we have so many dedicated members that it makes being Chair feel pretty easy. Thank you to our outgoing officers, regional representatives, and committee chairs for all of your efforts:

- » Myles Gardner
(Treasurer)
- » Jonathan Kelly
(Northwest Region Representative)
- » Steve Westbay
(Southwest Region Representative)
- » Kevin Binkley
(Southeast Region Representative)
- » Debbie Fisher
(Metro Region Representative)
- » Jacob James
(Scholarship Chair)
- » Rich Borchardt
(Treasurer)
- » Carrie Gudorf
(Northwest Region Representative)

Our new officer, representatives, and committee chair are off to a great start! Everyone has different ideas that will be fun to watch become reality. Welcome:

- » Russ Anderson
(Southwest Region Representative)
- » Jason Messamer
(Southeast Region Representative)
- » Jen Winters
(Metro Region Representative)
- » Dan Hill
(Scholarship Chair)

In addition to members who serve in specific positions, being a contributing member is valuable to the whole. I appreciate the members who are able to attend the bi-monthly general membership meetings. Long time members bring history and perspective to the meetings, while newer members bring fresh ideas and thoughts. The meetings are listed on the www.casfm.org website. All are welcome to attend. Committee chairs and the conference chair are always looking for members who would like to be more involved. Feel free to peruse the website to see if something interests you. Like Jack Welch would say, we need every head in the game!

Thanks to Morgan Lynch for another information-filled CASFM snapshot newsletter. I hope to see many of you soon at a CASFM event!

-Deb Ohlinger

Tackling the Impossible

By Sarah Houghland, Conference Chair

We broke the annual conference attendance record for the third year in a row!

Over 430 people attended the conference, and got to experience fantastic speakers, outstanding workshops, and informative presentations. The Conference Committee would like to thank the multitude of presenters, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees that made the conference a success. Planning for the 2019 conference in Crested Butte has already begun, but let us take a minute to revisit the highlights from the 2018 Snowmass conference.

Featured Speakers



Teju Ravioloan

Teju Ravioloan **Co-Founder of Uncharted**

Our theme this year—“Tackling the Impossible”—was inspired by Teju Ravioloan, co-founder of Uncharted (formerly Unreasonable Institute). Uncharted takes on specific social and environmental problems, builds armies of people best positioned to solve those problems, and equips those people with what they need—mentors, funders, and partners—to attack those problems from all sides. We all learned that sometimes asking the right question can result in a sustainable solution.



Teju Ravioloan

Josh Duncan **MountainChild**

Josh Duncan, P.E. began his career as a successful water resource engineer and oversaw water development projects throughout Colorado and the mid-west. His passion for clean water, mountains, and serving ultimately led him to Nepal in the fall of 2011 with MountainChild, a non-profit organization that exists for raising awareness, resources, and financial aid for humanitarian projects carried out among the impoverished children of the Himalayas. Josh shared his experiences in remote villages, where he

directly encountered lives impacted by extreme poverty, lack of clean water, no opportunities for education, and the tragedy of human trafficking. For more information about MountainChild please visit: <https://mountainchild.org/>

Building on our keynote theme, the conference program reflects the current state of the stormwater and floodplain management community in Colorado by highlighting innovation in projects and programs located throughout the state.

2018 CASFM Engineering Excellence Award



Chris Sturm (CWCB) and the EWP team

As always, one of the highlights of the conference is the project award presentations and the awarding of the CASFM Engineering Excellence Award. This year we were fortunate to have three outstanding projects! Our runner-up projects, **Woodbriar Park Renovation (Greeley)** and **Vienstenz-Smith Mountain Park River Restoration (Loveland)** were strong candidates that highlight how local officials are committed to capital improvements to provide more communities that are resilient.

The **2018 CASFM Engineering Excellence Award** winning project was the **Colorado Emergency Watershed Protection Project**. In early September 2013 several days of rain caused massive flooding across Colorado's Front Range communities. Streams reclaimed floodplains, destroyed roads, bridges, and buildings and

ripped vegetation from riverbanks. In total, the flood caused approximately \$4 billion in damage to infrastructure and public and private property.

Communities came together with encouragement and support from Federal and State partners. Recognizing the impacts of historic encroachment on floodplains and seeing a need to build resiliency into the systems, the State took a new, more holistic approach to recovery. In the past, disaster recovery was often completed on an individual property within a single local jurisdiction. With this new approach, the State remained committed to protecting life and property, but implemented projects on a much larger scale.

Thanks to early and bold visioning and partnership building by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and continued

dedication to recovery principles by other State agencies like the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Division of Local Government, as well as numerous local and private partners, the recovery of Colorado's flood impacted watersheds have created a new model for disaster recovery. More information on the EWP Program is available at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/7f7c3eb4-9779-403c-997e-4341091a4c93>

Workshops

Floodplain 101

The Floodplain 101 workshop covered subjects including overall floodplain management, floodplain maps and Flood Insurance Studies, key National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulatory and non-regulatory standards, flood insurance, and flood hazard mitigation. Colorado has around 500 CFMs and counting largely because of this workshops. This year's Certified Floodplain Manager Training led by Stephanie DiBetitto (CWCB), James Kaiser (City of Thornton), and Chris Hodyl (Jacobs).

Bulletin 17C Analyses on Regulated Streams—A Case Study of the Colorado and Arkansas River Basins

This workshop presented the challenges of applying Bulletin 17C procedures to the highly regulated Colorado and Arkansas River basins and provided insight to the

techniques used, as well as led the attendee through lessons learned and example Bulletin 17C analyses. The workshop was led by Brad Bettag (Wood).

Transitions—Fostering Community in Times of Change

Led by Penn Gildersleeve (retired), Jeremy Deischer (ICON Engineering), Shea Thomas (UDFCD), Alan Turner (AECOM), Cassie Kaslon (Valerian), Troy Carmann (ICON Engineering), and Deborah Fisher (Water Engineering Solutions), this workshop's goals were to answer these questions:

Just starting out or old timer? Large or small employer? Public or Private? No matter what the answer, we all strive for a successful career. This workshop helped foster a community of understanding, cooperation, sharing, and encouragement, even when transitions occur.

Inspection & Maintenance of Post-Construction BMPs

All stormwater post-construction BMPs require regular maintenance to operate as designed. This workshop, led by Tyler Dell of the Colorado Stormwater Center, provided attendees with information regarding the activities and frequency of activities for performing post-construction BMP inspection and maintenance.



Field Trips

- » This year's Mountain Bike Tour course wound its way through Aspen to learn more about improvements on and near to the Roaring Fork River. The tour began at the Brush Creek and HWY 82 Intercept Lot and followed the Rio Grande River Trail into the Town of Aspen. Along the way, the group stopped to look at key points of interest. Local project representatives were on hand to describe the challenges and successes for each project.
- » The John Denver Sanctuary Field Trip was led by April Long with the City of Aspen. The John Denver Sanctuary is nestled in the heart of Aspen, next to the Rio Grande Park. The manmade

The conference committee is looking for a new Field Trip Coordinator and A/V Coordinator for the 2019 Conference. Please contact Sarah Houghland if you are interested.

wetlands and winding streams work as an innovative storm water filter system, cleaning water before it drains into the Roaring Fork River. The City of Aspen sculpted thousands of cubic yards of earth, found and placed hundreds of boulders, planted groves of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, and created wetlands, streams, and waterfalls into this unique landscape, which captures Aspen's beauty and serves to continuously clean the community's storm water runoff.

- » The Ashcroft Ghost Town guided hike was led by a representative from the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies (ACES). Once home to 2 newspapers, 20 saloons, a school and many homes, the silver mining ghost town features the remains of several historic buildings. The guided tour was set against an amazing backdrop and attendees heard stories of the former boom town at the headwaters of Castle Creek.

An Update from ASFPM

In 2013, The ASFPM Board of Directors approved the development of seven No Adverse Impact (NAI) "How-To-Guides." This was a direct result of feedback from ASFPM members who used the NAI Toolkit which provided examples of NAI techniques, but didn't go into detail about how these techniques could be implemented in a "real world" setting. The ASFPM Foundation provided funding for the development of these How-To-Guides.

The NAI Toolkit identified seven "building blocks" or areas of community involvement that can have an impact, and the How-To-Guides are in alignment with these seven areas:

1. Hazard identification and floodplain mapping
2. Education and outreach
3. Planning
4. Regulations and development standards
5. Mitigation
6. Infrastructure
7. Emergency Services

Six of the seven guides have been completed and are available on the ASFPM [website](#). Content for the seventh guide, Emergency Services, has been completed and is in its final design stage and will be posted to the website soon.

The How-To-Guides' ultimate goal is to encourage communities to take a different approach to managing development that results in reduced flood risk; this can be accomplished by incorporating NAI techniques into a community's flood risk reduction activities. The How-To-Guides break down the information by topic in a user-friendly way that is easily understood and that communities can apply to their own unique circumstances. The Foundation truly believes the more NAI techniques a community implements, the better prepared the community is for the next flood event—not if, but WHEN it occurs.

Communities striving for a more resilient future in the aftermath of a flood event should consider using these guides. The How-To-Guides can be found on the ASFPM website by clicking [here](#).

29th Annual CASFM Conference *Continued*



Golf Tournament

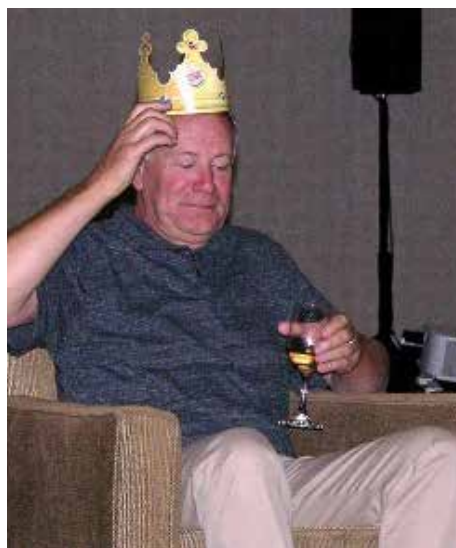
The team of Eric Saunders (City of Boulder), Frank Barnes (Winters Excelsior Company), Dean Lamanna (Triton Environmental), Adam Bappe (Triton Environmental) were the winners of annual CASFM Conference Golf Tournament that was held at Gypsum Creek Golf Course. Attendees had a chance to win giveaway pin prizes and participate in a raffle to benefit the CASFM Scholarship fund.

2019 Conference— It's Been 30 Years!!!!

Preparations for the 30th annual conference are already underway! The Call for Presentations and the Call for Project Awards will be available in mid-February. CASFM members will receive updates via email and/or you can periodically visit www.CASFM.org for the latest information regarding conference planning.



Deb Ohlinger, Shea Thomas, Julia Traylor, Jason Messamer, Brian Varella, Robert Krehbiel, Holly Piza



Stuart Gardner

Stuart Gardner Rides Off into the Sunset

After ignoring Stuart's pleas to hand over facilities coordination, entertainment duties, and website management for years, we finally relented and are setting him free—but not without an appropriate send-off. Brian Varrella (our master of ceremonies), Penn Gildersleeve (in a tuxedo) and Jason Messamer (forever remembered as the college student Stuart made fun of many years ago) began the good-natured roast reminiscing about the bad good times with Stuart over the years. The evening culminated in a performance worthy of a Tony Award. Who knew the CASFM membership was full of budding thespians! Led by Shea

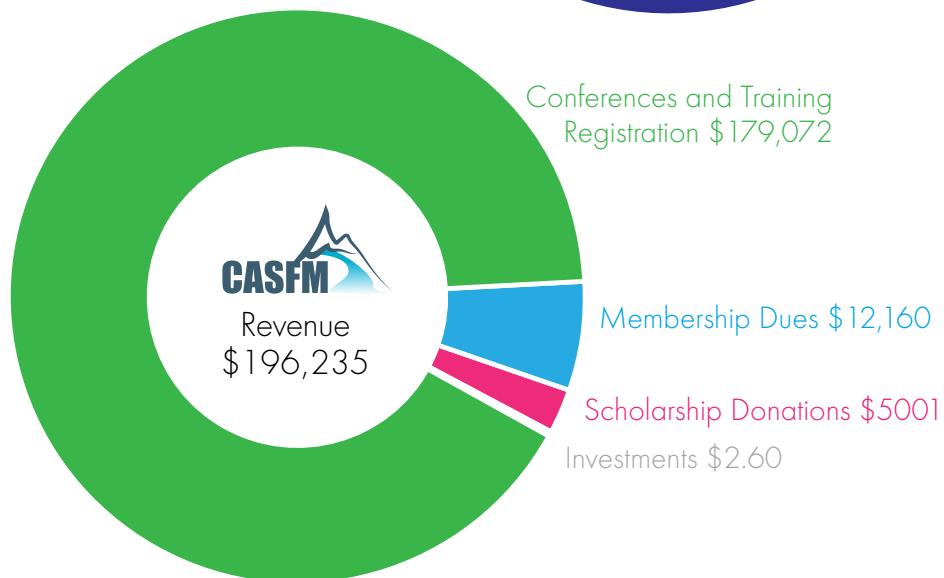
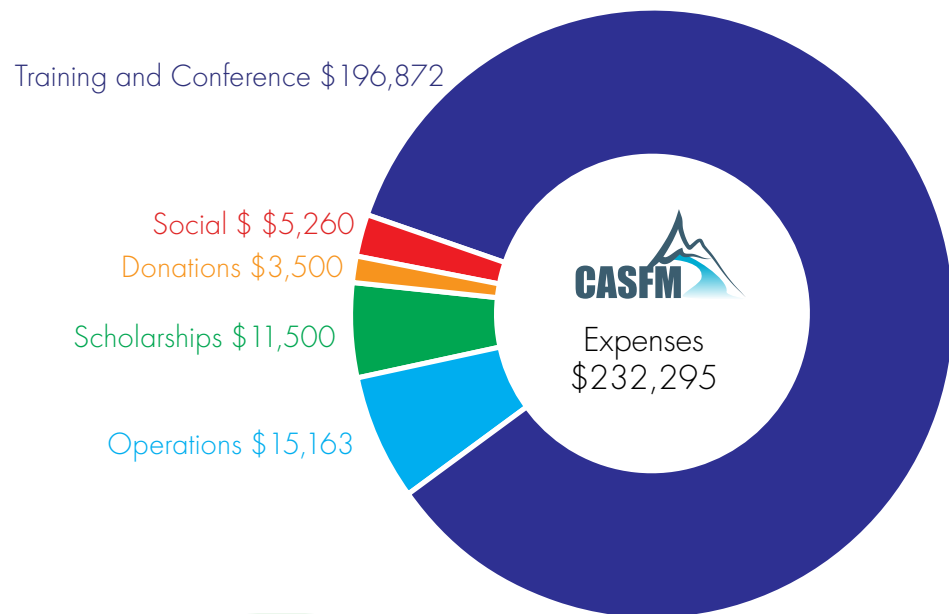
Thomas, CASFM's *Les Misérables* theatre troupe members Robert Krehbiel, Holly Piza, Jason Messamer, Julia Traylor, and Brian Varrella turned Stuart's favorite musical into the farce he deserved.

The Conference Committee and the CASFM membership would like to extend our appreciation to Stuart for his efforts to make the conference a success for all of these years and for his other contributions to CASFM. Stuart will continue to help with conference planning and to support CASFM, and we are fortunate that he has not completely retired from the group! Thanks again, Stuart!

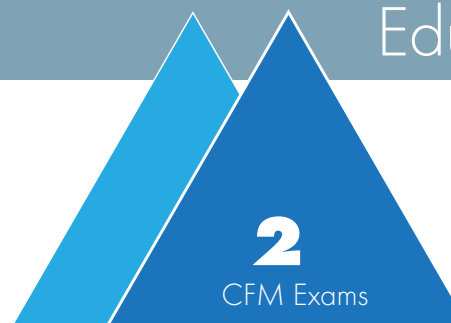
2018 – Year in Review



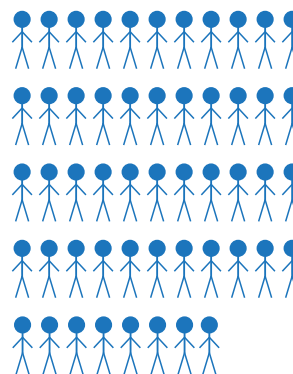
Budget



Education



52 People Passed the CFM Exam



2

One of which
was our first soft
skills training

2

Lunch & Learns
104
Registrations

1,029 CASFM
Members

CASFM
Scholarships

3

Allocated **\$2,500** grant money to Earth Force

Outreach

+ 124
followers



#Harvey
Engagement is up



1 Stormwater Quality
Field Trip