



37th Annual CASFM Conference

2026 Call for Registration

September 15-18, 2026 | Steamboat Grand
2300 Mt. Werner Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
www.steamboatgrand.com

Conference Registration

September 15-18, 2026

To Register

Please visit www.casfm.org and select the Annual Conference link. Or, you can use this direct link: <https://cjinxnsoowsimgw.eventify.io/t2/tickets>

Questions?

Contact Shea Thomas at: sheathomas888@gmail.com.

Conference Fees

The basic registration fee includes three breakfasts, two lunches, refreshment breaks, three receptions, entertainment, workshops, and the Thursday dinner.

Please note that all presenters are required to be registered and paid conference attendees.

Single day registration is not available.

Checks will NOT be accepted for conference fees. Payment is via credit card only.

Early Discount (Through August 23) | \$595

Regular Rate (After August 23) | \$795

We also offer a discounted rate for students!

Select the Student option at registration for a discounted rate of \$300 with proof of enrollment.

Conference Cancellation

Canceled registrations will be refunded in full, minus credit card fees, through August 23, 2026. Registrations canceled between August 23, 2026 and September 7, 2026 will receive a 50% refund minus credit card fees.

Cancellations made after September 7, 2026 will not be refunded.

Cancellations must be made by contacting Shea Thomas at sheathomas888@gmail.com.

If you cancel your registration, remember to call your hotel to cancel your hotel accommodations.

Additional Meals

The Conference Fee includes all meals listed above in the Basic Conference Fees Section. Meal tickets do not need to be purchased for the registered conference attendee.

If desired, extra meal tickets may be purchased for the attendee's guest (spouse, children, etc.) by checking the appropriate boxes in this section of the online registration form.

Wednesday Lunch | \$50

Thursday Lunch | \$30

Thursday Dinner | \$75

Hotel Accommodations & Details

Steamboat Grand

2300 Mt. Werner Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
www.steamboatgrand.com

Lodging Rates, Options & Policies

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Number of rooms in block: | 225 |
| Standard room rate: | \$156 |
| Booking process: | Conference block link or call 877-269-2628 and mention "Annual CASFM Conference 2026" |
| Available dates: | Monday, September 22 through Friday, September 26 |
| Cutoff date: | August 13 |
| Resort fee: | 7% |
| Parking fee: | Free in Ski Time Square |
| Check-in/Check-out: | 4:00 PM/11:00 AM |
| Deposit: | One night at time of booking; final payment due 7 days prior to arrival |
| Cancellation policy: | Guests may cancel up to 48 hours prior to arrival with loss of a \$25 deposit. Cancellations within 48 hours are non-refundable. |
| In-room wifi: | Complimentary |
| Other notes: | Late checkout charged \$25 per additional hour. |

Speakers



Keynote Speaker

Mark Pestrella, P.E.
Leading Through Crisis: Public Infrastructure, Resilience, and Recovery

As Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, Mark Pestrella leads the nation's largest municipal public works agency, delivering essential infrastructure and services to more than 10 million residents. A licensed professional engineer with more than 35 years of public service, he oversees programs spanning flood control, water resources, transportation, environmental services, construction management, and emergency response.

Throughout his career, Mark has helped communities navigate floods, wildfires, and other large-scale disasters, earning recognition for his steady leadership during times of crisis. His work demonstrates the critical role public infrastructure professionals play in protecting lives, supporting recovery, and building long-term resilience.

In this keynote address, Mark will share lessons learned from leading through unprecedented challenges, inspiring attendees to think beyond projects and programs to the broader impact their work has on the communities they serve.

unintended consequences of those decisions, and what they reveal about living with water in an era of increasing environmental change. His perspective challenges us to reconsider not only how we manage rivers, but how we understand our place within the natural systems we seek to shape.



Chris Laping
People Before Things: How Healthy Organizations Lead Change

Chris Laping doesn't just talk about leadership, influence, and change. He's done this work at scale. With more than 30 years as an executive, including

roles as Chief Information and Innovation Officer across multiple organizations, he understands firsthand what it takes to drive real results in complex environments.

What sets Chris apart is his ability to translate that experience into practical, actionable insights audiences can immediately apply. His keynotes combine real-world stories, clear frameworks, and a deep understanding of human behavior.

Attendees don't just feel inspired, they leave equipped to take action.

Chris is the bestselling author of *People Before Things*. His forthcoming book *Unignorable: The Science of Being Taken Seriously* will be released later this year. His ideas have been featured in *The Economist*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fast Company*, and *Forbes*, and he's been recognized as a Top 5 Social Business Leader by *The Economist*.



Eric Daly
When Intent Meets Impact: Communication Fundamentals for Technical Professionals

Technical work depends on human communication. This featured session

explores the fundamentals of effective interpersonal communication for stormwater professionals, including why messages get missed, how intent and impact can differ, and how tone, body language, word choice, assumptions, and personal filters shape what people hear. Like engineering fundamentals, communication fundamentals are not one-and-done; they must function under real-world conditions. Attendees will gain a practical framework for understanding communication breakdowns and learn how small communication misses can affect trust, delegation, accountability, rework, and team performance.

Eric Daly is an executive coach, facilitator, and leadership development expert with more than 30 years of experience helping leaders strengthen relationships, navigate challenges, and create healthier, higher-performing organizations. Based in Denver, Eric spent 25 years with Employers Council, partnering with hundreds of organizations across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to develop leaders, improve communication, and build thriving workplace cultures.

Featured Speakers



Boyce Upholt
The Great River: Lessons from the Mississippi

Boyce Upholt is an award-winning journalist, author, and self-described "nature critic" whose work explores the

complex relationship between people and the natural world. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, *Oxford American*, and numerous other publications, earning recognition including a James Beard Award for investigative journalism and the Willie Morris Award for Southern Writing.

Drawing from his acclaimed 2024 book *The Great River: The Making and Unmaking of the Mississippi*, Boyce examines one of the world's most engineered rivers and the centuries-long effort to control it. Through history, science, and storytelling, he explores how levees, dams, and other infrastructure transformed the Mississippi, the

Workshops

Tuesday

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (2 hours)

2D HEC-RAS 101: Watershed Modeling from Scratch

Ready to move beyond one-dimensional modeling? This hands-on workshop introduces the fundamentals of 2D hydraulic modeling using HEC-RAS, one of the most widely used floodplain analysis tools in the industry. Participants will build a practical 2D model from scratch while learning how terrain, boundary conditions, breaklines, culverts, and refinement regions influence model performance. Through live demonstrations, troubleshooting, and real-world examples, attendees will gain a solid foundation in 2D modeling and leave with the confidence to begin applying HEC-RAS 2D to their own projects. Bring a laptop with HEC-RAS 6.6 installed.

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (3 hours)

Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers: What Happens When It Actually Floods?

Floodplain managers spend much of their time preparing for disasters—but what happens when the flood arrives? This interactive workshop explores the critical role floodplain managers play before, during, and after damaging flood events. Participants will learn practical approaches to emergency response, damage assessment, substantial damage determinations, post-disaster recovery, mitigation planning, and coordination with emergency management professionals. Through real-world scenarios and group exercises, attendees will develop tools and strategies they can immediately apply in their communities before the next disaster strikes.

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (2 hours)

2D HEC-RAS 102: Calibration, Confidence, and Credibility

Getting a model to run is one thing. Trusting the results is another. This workshop focuses on the critical skills needed to evaluate, troubleshoot, and refine 2D HEC-RAS models. Participants will work in teams to diagnose instability, interpret warning messages, identify model deficiencies, and apply calibration techniques that improve confidence in model results. Designed for users with introductory 2D modeling experience, this session emphasizes understanding why models behave the way they do and developing the judgment needed to defend results to reviewers, clients, and stakeholders. Bring a laptop with HEC-RAS 6.6 installed.

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (3 hours)

Scaling Dam Safety Consequences: Fast, Defensible Life Loss Estimates with the USACE Dam Screening Tool (DST)

Risk-informed dam safety requires reliable consequence estimates, but traditional life-loss analyses can be time-consuming and difficult to apply consistently across large dam portfolios. This workshop introduces the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Dam Screening Tool (DST), an emerging platform that combines GIS, HEC-RAS 2D, and simplified life-loss modeling to support rapid, transparent risk assessments. Using lessons learned from a statewide Colorado dam safety program, participants will gain hands-on experience setting up analyses, interpreting results, and understanding where the tool fits within broader risk-informed decision-making processes.

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (3 hours)

Communication That Works: Practical Interpersonal Skills for Stormwater Professionals

Stormwater professionals rely on communication every day to coordinate projects, lead teams, clarify expectations, solve problems, and build trust. Like any working system, communication needs regular inspection and maintenance; small blockages can become costly when they are ignored. This interactive three-hour workshop introduces practical interpersonal communication skills for engineers, managers, and technical professionals. Participants will explore communication barriers, listening skills, red-zone and green-zone communication patterns, and the stories we tell ourselves. Through discussion and hands-on exercises, attendees will leave with tools they can use immediately to communicate more clearly, reduce friction, and strengthen working relationships.

Workshops

Friday

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (1.5 hours)

Bridging Communities and Projects: The Value of GLO Partnerships and Youth Ambassadors

Successful projects require more than sound engineering—they require meaningful community engagement. This panel brings together consultants, municipal representatives, GLO leadership, and Youth Ambassadors to explore how collaborative partnerships can strengthen project outcomes and community relationships. Through firsthand stories and practical examples, panelists will discuss how youth engagement supports public outreach, builds trust, and creates opportunities for the next generation of leaders. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas for improving stakeholder engagement, fostering stronger partnerships, and enhancing the impact of projects in their own communities.

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (3 hours)

Scour Gone Wrong: Common Failures in Bridge Scour Evaluation

Even the most sophisticated hydraulic models can produce misleading scour results when built on poor assumptions or incomplete data. This workshop examines common pitfalls in bridge scour evaluations through real-world examples where modeling decisions, geomorphic assumptions, and data limitations significantly influenced outcomes. Participants will explore how hydraulic modeling choices, bed material characterization, channel geometry, and FHWA guidance affect scour predictions and risk assessments. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for recognizing red flags, improving analyses, and applying engineering judgment to produce more reliable scour evaluations.

Just for Fun!

Golf Tournament

Friday | 10:00 AM - (\$110 to register)

Led by John Loranger, WSP

Wrap up your conference experience with one of CASFM's favorite traditions – the Annual Golf Tournament at Haymaker Golf Course in Steamboat Springs. Whether you're chasing birdies or just enjoying the scenery, this event offers a relaxed opportunity to connect with colleagues, build new relationships, and enjoy one of Colorado's premier mountain golf destinations.

Nestled among rolling sage-covered hills with sweeping views of the Yampa Valley and surrounding peaks, Haymaker is consistently recognized as one of Colorado's top public golf courses. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, cart, range balls, lunch, prizes, and plenty of opportunities for friendly competition along the way.

Players of all skill levels are welcome. Space is limited, so reserve your spot early and join us for a memorable day on the course before the conference begins.

Yoga

Every Morning | 7:00 AM

Led by Melanie Walter, City of Arvada

Start your day with movement, mindfulness, and mountain views. This optional morning yoga session offers a welcoming space to stretch, recharge, and prepare for a full day of learning and networking. Whether you're an experienced yogi or simply looking to loosen up after travel, the session is designed for all ability levels.

Led by a local instructor, participants will enjoy a gentle practice focused on flexibility, balance, breathing, and relaxation. It's the perfect opportunity to clear your mind, connect with fellow attendees, and begin the day feeling energized and refreshed.

Bring comfortable clothing and a willingness to start the morning on a positive note. A few mats will be provided, but it would help if you brought your own!

Just for Fun!

Field Trip: Historic Springs Walking Tour *Tuesday & Friday | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM*

Discover the natural feature that gave Steamboat Springs its name. Led by a local expert, this guided walking tour explores the historic mineral springs scattered throughout downtown Steamboat, each with its own unique mineral composition, history, and local lore.

As you travel between springs, you'll learn how these geothermal waters shaped the community's development and attracted generations of visitors seeking their restorative qualities. The tour also highlights the rich cultural history of the area, tracing connections to the Yampatika Ute and Arapaho peoples, early settlers, and the evolution of Steamboat Springs into the mountain town we know today.

This easy-paced walk offers a fascinating blend of history, geology, culture, and local storytelling, providing a memorable way to experience one of Steamboat's most distinctive landmarks.

Bluegrass Jam Session *Wednesday | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM* *Led by Andy Cross, Ayres Associates*

Pull up a chair and join fellow attendees for an evening of music, camaraderie, and mountain-town atmosphere. Whether you're an experienced picker, an occasional strummer, a talented vocalist, or simply someone who enjoys live music, this informal bluegrass jam session is open to everyone.

Bring your instrument and jump into the circle, or sit back and enjoy the music as conference colleagues share favorite tunes and spontaneous collaborations. No performances, no pressure, and no auditions—just a relaxed gathering celebrating community, creativity, and the timeless tradition of making music together.

Come for a song or stay all evening. Either way, it's a great opportunity to connect with friends old and new and experience one of the most enjoyable traditions of the conference.

CASFM'S Got Talent! *Thursday | 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM* *Emceed by Jason Messamer, Colorado Springs Utilities*

Think your talents extend beyond floodplains, models, and regulations? Here's your chance to prove it. CASFM's Got Talent returns for another year of laughs, surprises, and unforgettable performances from your fellow conference attendees.

Whether you sing, play an instrument, perform magic, tell stories, juggle, dance, or possess a hidden talent the rest of us have yet to discover, we invite you to take the stage and share it with the CASFM community. Performances can be serious, silly, inspiring, or downright unexpected—the only requirement is a willingness to have fun.

Not interested in performing? Come cheer on your colleagues, celebrate their talents, and enjoy an evening of entertainment that showcases the creativity, humor, and personality that make our community special. You never know what you'll see, but you can count on a memorable night!

Interested in performing? Apply [HERE](#).

Downhill Mountain Bike Ride *Friday | 10:00 AM* *Led by Drew Roberts, Mile High Flood District*

Experience some of the best mountain biking Colorado has to offer without the climb. This year's CASFM mountain bike outing takes advantage of Steamboat Resort's lift-served trail system, allowing riders to spend more time enjoying the descent and less time grinding uphill.

From flowing beginner-friendly trails to more technical terrain, Steamboat's extensive trail network offers something for a variety of riding abilities. Participants will receive lift access for themselves and their bikes, making it easy to explore miles of scenic mountain trails while taking in spectacular views of the Yampa Valley.

Whether you're an experienced rider or looking to try lift-served mountain biking for the first time, this is a fun and memorable way to experience Steamboat before heading home.

Stagecoach Reservoir Gravel Bike Tour *Friday | 10:00 AM* *Led by John Nellis and Jade Flansburg, HDR*

Trade conference rooms for open roads and big mountain views on this guided gravel ride around beautiful Stagecoach Reservoir. Designed for experienced cyclists seeking a longer adventure, this approximately 39-mile route combines county gravel roads, quiet pavement, and scenic stretches of double-track while showcasing some of the most spectacular landscapes in the Yampa Valley.

The ride features approximately 2,350 feet of elevation gain and will be completed at a social, no-drop pace, with regrouping at major climbs and key route locations. Riders should be comfortable spending several hours in the saddle and riding on a mix of gravel and paved surfaces.

Participation is limited to maintain a quality group experience. Bring your own gravel bike, helmet, repair supplies, water, and nutrition, and join fellow attendees for a rewarding ride through one of northwest Colorado's premier cycling destinations.



Reclaiming Uvalda Tributary

CASFM Project Award
April 6, 2026



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY



MULLER
ENGINEERING COMPANY

LIVABLE
CITIESTUDIO





Mile High Flood District
City of Westminster
Olsson
Stream Landscape Architecture + Planning
Element Engineering
Iris Mitigation and Design
HydroSystems
Naranjo Civil Constructors
Western States Reclamation

Nomination for Outstanding Construction Project

Big Dry Creek Restoration

Westminster, Colorado

OAK STREET STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

REDUCING URBAN FLOOD RISK IN DOWNTOWN FORT COLLINS



Submission for CASFM 2026 Engineering Excellence Award:
Construction Project



Schedule-at-a-Glance

| | Tuesday 9/15 | Wednesday 9/16 | Thursday 9/17 | Friday 9/18 | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 7:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 | | Breakfast | Breakfast | Breakfast | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 | | Yoga | Yoga | Yoga | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 | 2D HEC-RAS 101 | Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers | 8:30 - 10:00 Presentations | | | Closing | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | | Opening | | | | W1 | | | | |
| 10:00 | | | Project Awards | | | W2 | | | | | |
| 10:30 | | | Keynote | | | | Mtn Bike Tour | | | | |
| 11:00 | | | Featured Speaker A | Applied Modeling | Decision Making | | | | | | |
| 11:30 | | | Featured Speaker B | Extreme Conditions | Green Infrastructure | | | | | | |
| 12:00 | Field Trip | Lunch, Meet-Ups & Board Meeting | Lunch & Meet-Ups | Field Trip | Golf Tour | | | | | | |
| 12:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:30 | | 1:30 - 3:00 Presentations | | 1:30 - 3:00 Presentations | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 | | P1 | P2 | P3 | P4 | Featured Speaker C | Re-thinking Practice | Modeling Practice | | | |
| 2:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 | | Break | | | Break | | | | | | |
| 3:30 | | 3:30 - 5:00 Presentations | | | 3:30 - 5:00 Presentations | | | | | | |
| 4:00 | 2D HEC-RAS 102 | Dam Safety | Communication That Works | P5 | P6 | P7 | P8 | P9 | P10 | P11 | P12 |
| 4:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:30 | | Happy Hour & Meet Ups | | | Happy Hour & Meet Ups | | | | | | |
| 6:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:00 | Ice breaker social | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:30 | | | | | | | | | | | |

LEGEND

| |
|-----------------|
| General Session |
| Presentation |
| Workshop |
| Food/Beverage |
| Activities |

1:30 - 3:00 | Presentations

- P1: Infrastructure Projects
- P2: Regulatory Practice
- P3: Placemaking
- P4: Visual Thinking

3:30 - 5:00 | Presentations

- P5: Stream Restoration
- P6: Risk Communication
- P7: Stormwater Quality
- P8: Human Dynamics

3:30 - 5:00 | Presentations

- P9: Leadership Practice
- P10: Program Delivery
- P11: Field Perspectives
- P12: Modeling Practice

Fri. Workshop Sessions

- W1: Scour Gone Wrong
- W2: Bridging Communities and Projects