



Connecticut Association of Flood Managers NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

In 2013, Tom Gormley rallied a small but hearty group of professionals active in floodplain management in Connecticut and spearheaded development of a professional association. The CAFM was borne out of the efforts of this group of individuals. We are well on our way to becoming recognized as an official state chapter by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and hope to achieve that designation in late 2014. In this inaugural issue of what we hope becomes a quarterly

newsletter, we want to introduce you to who we are and what we hope to achieve. We also hope that we can inspire you to become involved.

Even if you are not ready to join us as a member, please sign up for our e-mail list and we'll keep you updated on our events.

TO BECOME A MEMBER OR
TO JOIN OUR
DISTRIBUTION LIST, EMAIL
CONTACTCAFEM@GMAIL.COM
WITH THE SUBJECT LINE
"SIGN ME UP"

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LETTER FROM THE CAFM CHAIR

I have had the honor of serving as the Interim Chair of the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers since the Spring of 2014. Our group began as a number of individuals who had the desire to form a Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of State Floodplain Managers. To date, the closest chapter is either the New York or Rhode Island group. In early December 2013, we held our initial meeting, and from these humble beginnings, we have finalized all the necessary paperwork to become a valid association within the State of Connecticut. I am pleased to announce that we are on the ground running. To our current members, I am deeply grateful for all the effort that has been put forward to bring us to this point. If you are not a current member, I would personally like to invite you to join us. We are currently planning to hold a conference in October of this year and we also hope to be proctoring the national exam during our meeting for those individuals who are desirous of obtaining certification as a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). Whether you are in land use, engineering, or insurance, or in any other way associated floods or mitigation in general, please join us.

Regards,

Thomas Gormley, CFM
Interim Chair of CAFM
P.O. Box 960 | Cheshire, CT 06410

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Yes, it's true. We have a treasurer, and a bank account. And it even has money in it! Thanks to the registrations of our individual members and corporate sponsors, we have sufficient funds to cover nominal expenses as well as the planned conference in October 2014 (see the story on Page 4). CAFM has a post office box, an Employer Identification Number, a dedicated bank account and official recognition from the Connecticut Secretary of State. Our funds have made it possible to pay for these start-up costs, and we anticipate that our existing members will be able to enjoy a reduced fee to attend the first conference.

Meet the Interim Board

Immediately after adoption of a Constitution and ByLaws, the group had to elect officers. This interim board (see photo below) will serve until the Annual Conference in October, at which point the first official board will be elected at a formal business meeting.



Rear, from Left: Scott Choquette (At Large), David Murphy (Treasurer), Scott Bighinatti (Secretary), Thomas Gormley (President)
Front, from Left: Gary Wassmer (At Large), Nicolle Burnham (At Large), Emmeline Harrigan (Vice Chair)

Thank you to Our Sponsors

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Geospatial Site Provides Ongoing Awareness of Natural Hazards

A new Department of Interior website offers the public online maps containing the latest available information on earthquakes, earthquake shake maps, streamflow data and floods, volcanoes and wildfires, as well as information on severe weather hazards.

The Interior Geospatial Emergency Management System (<http://igems.doi.gov/>) is managed by the Office of Emergency Management and provides ongoing awareness of natural hazards, enabling individuals to monitor and analyze natural hazard events as they occur. Information is presented in an integrated geospatial view that locates these threats with reference data, including various base maps that can be selected by users. The system utilizes data from Interior bureaus like U.S. Geological Survey and National Weather Service.

Meet Floodplain Manager Diane Ifkovic

In her role as the State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator, Diane Ifkovic serves as the liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and municipalities overseeing efforts to reduce flood losses and mitigate natural hazards. As a staff member at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), she is the go-to person for anyone with a floodplain problem in Connecticut – municipal staff or resident alike.

Diane conducts community outreach meetings to promote wise floodplain management and to ensure compliance with the minimum federal NFIP standards. Her duties include performing local ordinance and regulation reviews for compliance with federal requirements, conducting training workshops for municipal officials, publishing an electronic newsletter, assisting municipalities and regional planning agencies in preparing hazard mitigation plans, assisting community officials and residents following a disaster declaration, and managing aspects of FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs.

Prior to her time at DEEP, Diane served as a program assistant at the University of Connecticut Center for Environmental Health, was briefly employed as an Environmental Analyst at a consulting firm and spent four years as a Food Scientist for a food production company in Trumbull, Connecticut.

Ms. Ifkovic has Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Biology and History from Clark University and graduated from the University of New Haven with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science.

Note: This is the first in what we hope will be a regular series in the newsletter. If you know someone that you would like to see profiled here, please e-mail contactCAFM@gmail.com



"After finishing my master's degree, I worked in consulting but never really enjoyed it, so I decided to give government a try. I enjoy helping municipal staff unravel complex problems. Our towns have such wonderful, professional staff which makes my job much easier. Every once and a while, I am also able to help a resident and get a "thank you", which really makes my day. As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, I am happy to have a job where I connect to our residents and communities."

-Diane Ifkovic

Join Us at Our First Annual CAFM Meeting

CAFM will be hosting its first annual conference and meeting on October 29, 2014! Why October 29? We chose October 29 as the date because it is the two year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, a significant flooding event for Connecticut shoreline communities that has focused attention of the issues of floodplain management and resiliency in Connecticut. Given the impact of the event, we decided it was symbolic to choose the anniversary date as the first annual conference for an organization dedicated to reducing flood losses and improving resiliency in our state.

Sounds great, doesn't it? We thought so too! We will be issuing our call for presenters shortly. Everyone has a flood management story to tell, whether it be about a really great mitigation project, a creative way you were able to get a project funded or lessons learned while working on a project. This is your opportunity to share your flood management story with other flood management professionals and municipal officials from throughout the state! We can all learn from our shared experiences and further CAFM's mission to promote sound flood management practices.

In addition to our call for presenters, our Events Committee is working on lining up speakers from state agencies to talk about their perspectives on flood management, and discuss recent changes in the administration of the NFIP. (Think BW-12 and GW-14... lots of changes there!) CAFM is very excited about our annual conference, and the opportunity to be able to provide a forum for Connecticut flood professionals and municipal officials to exchange ideas for the benefit of all.

In reviewing presentation proposals, we are going to be looking for a broad range of topics, so

that there is something for everyone. We know that many municipal officials don't regularly process floodplain permits, and could use a quick refresher, and that's something we're looking at including. This meeting isn't just for Certified Floodplain Managers, it's for anyone whose duties include floodplain management to some extent, and those who are interested in this important topic. (This means you!) Sounds pretty awesome, doesn't it?

It gets better, though. We're also investigating providing continuing education credits / professional development hours for planners, engineers, and of course, certified floodplain managers, but we'll need to have our program finalized before we can apply to provide CEUs and PDHs. How great is that? You leave as a smarter floodplain professional, and maybe even with a shiny new CEU/PDH certificate, too!

Considering taking the next step as a floodplain manager and getting certification as a CFM? We're working toward offering the exam, so get that study guide cracked open!

We can't do all this alone, though. We need your help! Watch for further announcements regarding our conference, and of course, our call for presenters. The conference will only be as successful as our participation level. Help us ensure our first conference sets a high bar for future conferences to measure up to. If you are really excited, why not go all out and join the Events Committee to give us a hand?

SAVE THE DATE!

OCTOBER 29, 2014

WATER'S EDGE RESORT
WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT