CAFM and ASFPM Host 2018 Connecticut State Flood Symposium

The Connecticut Association of Flood Managers (CAFM) in partnership with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hosted the ASFPM Foundation’s 2018 State Flood Risk Symposium on March 14, 2018 at the University of Connecticut Law School in Hartford, CT. CIRCA provided financial and administrative support for the event. Symposium presentations included risk management and insurance topics presented by FEMA, climate change data and projections by NOAA and CIRCA’s Dr. James O’Donnell and resiliency initiatives in New York State presented by Jim MacBroom. The afternoon featured multiple breakout sessions to discuss infrastructure challenges in a changing environment, evaluation of elevating homes versus acquisition and/or retreat strategies, balancing floodplain redevelopment with future risk, and re-emphasizing the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains.
October 2018 CAFM Annual Conference and Meeting

CAFM will convene its fifth Annual Conference and Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, CT on October 24, 2018. A broad range of professionals will share their knowledge with Connecticut’s floodplain management community. Past presentations at the conference have included riverine and coastal topics including project case studies, hazard mitigation planning, flood resistant provisions of the state building code, municipal grants overview, and field enforcement of floodplain regulations. Following a survey of past conference attendees CAFM sought presentations of interest to CAFM members including climate change and resiliency, the Community Rating System (CRS), post-disaster recovery and other topics. Register now on our web site https://ctfloods.org/events/.

Happy 50th Birthday to the NFIP

On Aug. 1, 1968, the U.S. Congress implemented the National Flood Insurance Act that created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Federal Insurance Administration within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide flood insurance in communities that voluntarily adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances, which meet minimum NFIP requirements (FEMA, www.fema.gov). Since its inception, FEMA has identified flood hazards through mapping, provided flood mitigation assistance grants and encouraged communities to participate in the Community Rating System. FEMA supports flood preparedness by providing insurance coverage and investing in mitigation assistance to communities.
Connecticut’s thoughts are with North Carolina and South Carolina residents that continue to suffer the effects of Hurricane Florence. Most tragic is the loss of life, but ongoing impacts also include interruption of critical utilities and residents that have been displaced due to damage or destruction of thousands of homes.

**September 25, 2018 Rainfall Event – Fairfield, CT**

Normally, the Rooster River meanders gently through the northern neighborhoods of Fairfield, travels into Bridgeport and then creates the boundary for both communities just north of the historic Mountain Grove Cemetery until it flows into Ash Creek and empties into Long Island Sound. Following 6 inches of rain in 3-4 hours, the river swelled, jumped its banks, and raged through streets and residential neighborhoods – bringing silt and vegetation debris with it. The photo below shows an overview of the Rooster River winding through a neighborhood along Stratfield Road (State Route 59).

and others, hopes the reforms include measures that promote flood mitigation, updated and improved flood risk mapping techniques, improved communication of flood risk data to communities and consumer access to private flood insurance policies.

**Hurricane Florence**

The program that insures many Americans from financial disaster due to flooding was set to expire on Tuesday September 25, 2018. The House had already approved reauthorization and the Senate approved an extension through November. Hopefully, the extension provides Congress with enough time to make needed reforms. SmarterSafer, a national coalition of environmental groups, mitigation advocates
Given the short time frame for such a high volume of participation, City staff estimates that the rainfall event far exceeded the standard 100-year floodplain modeling and several non-Special Flood Hazard Area properties flooded within the Rooster River floodway area. The Town owned open space parcel (Site A) down-stream residential property (Site B) show a before and after perspective of erosion and water flow during the storm event.

For the residential property, be sure to use the pool edge and flagpole as a visual reference point. The Town of Fairfield had limited infrastructure damage, but is still assessing damage to properties in the days following the storm event.

**About CAFM**

Modeled after similar organizations in other states throughout the country, CAFM is a statewide chapter of the Association of Floodplain Managers. CAFM’s mission is to develop a professional community that promotes education, policies, and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding, and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. CAFM is a 501(c)3 organization.

Members who are interested in joining the Events Committee to help plan and prepare for the Annual Conference are encouraged to contact CAFM at contactcafm@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at www.ctfloods.org