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# NEWSLETTER


Spring 2024 | Vol. 11, No. 1

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF FLOOD MANAGERS



The mission of the Connecticut Association of Flood Managers (CAFM) is to promote education, policies, and activities that mitigate current and future flood losses, costs, and human suffering caused by flooding and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains - all without causing unreasonable adverse impacts.

 [www.ctfloods.org](http://www.ctfloods.org)

 [contactCAFM@gmail.com](mailto:contactCAFM@gmail.com)

## Highlights from 2023 Annual Conference CAFM Holds 10th Annual Conference

The Connecticut Association of Flood Managers in coordination with the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers held its 10th Annual Conference on **Wednesday, November 1, at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport.**

CAFM was excited to connect the expert knowledge of flood management professionals with our membership. Our conferences present overviews of the changing world of flood management regulation, and offer case studies of real life applications of flood mitigation efforts. Past topics have included substantial damage/substantial improvement, historic structures, stormwater management, disaster response lessons learned, and facility floodplain management.

Approximately 100 CAFM members attended. Lots of folks from diverse backgrounds in and around Connecticut continue to be interested in floodplain management, as evidenced by the breakdown in attendees below:

Representatives from Connecticut Jurisdictions: 44

Consultants: 23

State Government Employees: 16

Regional Government Employees: 3

Non-Profit Representatives: 1

Academia: 4

Federal Government Employees: 4

Representatives from Industry: 4

CAFM's Annual Membership meeting occurred during lunch, and new members were elected to the board.

Our annual conference is our most highly attended event, and is a special opportunity to network with people who work with floodplain management in some capacity, whether it be planners, engineers, building officials, real estate professionals, and academics.

Our collaboration with CSCE in 2023 brought new perspectives and opportunities to existing and new members.

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# CAFM 10th Annual Conference

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The following credits were offered:

- ▶ 5.0 NYS PE PDH
- ▶ 2.0 CAZEO
- ▶ 7.0 AICP
- ▶ 5.0 CFM
- ▶ 3.0 OEDM/Building Official

Topics from the 2023 Annual Conference included, and slides are available on CAFM' website.

- ▶ Connecticut Grant Program Updates
- ▶ From Hazard Mitigation Plan to Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, Re-Mapping a Familiar Path to Resiliency While Navigating the New FEMA Policy Guidance for Local Plans
- ▶ FEMA Region 1 Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Studies – Future Coastal Erosion and Sea Level Rise
- ▶ Connecticut Weather of the Past and Future
- ▶ CT DEEP's Coastal Property Owner's Guide
- ▶ NFIP Updates
- ▶ Incorporating Climate Change into Flood Risk Mapping in the Housatonic River Watershed
- ▶ Resilient Danbury
- ▶ Connecticut's New Stormwater Manuals Update
- ▶ USACE Flood Risk Management Program
- ▶ A Practical Guide to FEMA Elevation Certificates
- ▶ Proactive Management of Flooding With Innovative Technology for Every Budget
- ▶ The LiMWA: Whose Line is it Anyway?
- ▶ Evolving the Risk MAP Program and Risk Management to Improve Community Resilience
- ▶ A Case Study for Piloting Urban Green Infrastructure, Lynn, MA
- ▶ A Long Term Strategy for Climate Adaptation and Resilience: What Did We Learn?
- ▶ The DEEP Climate Resilience Fund: Connecticut's Community Climate Resilience Grant Program



## 2024 CAFM Board of Directors

**Raju Vasamsetti, PE, CFM**  
Chair

**Azure Dee Sleicher, PE**  
Vice-Chair

**David Murphy, PE, CFM**  
Treasurer

**Scott Bighinatti, CFM**  
Secretary

**Diane Ifkovic**  
**Meredith Badalucca**

**Paul Sotnik, PE**  
**John Truscinski, CFM**  
**Richard Dmochowski**  
At-Large

**Douglas Colter, CFM**  
Chairman Emeritus

## Committees

Communications ..... Joe Canas, PE, CFM

Events ..... Diane Ifkovic

Membership ..... Scott Bighinatti, CFM

## CAFM Expands Board and Elects New Board Members

At its November 1, 2023 meeting, during the Annual Conference, a vote of the membership confirmed the expansion of the Board from seven to nine members as well as a Chair Emeritus role.

CAFM Welcomes its new board members for 2023-2024:

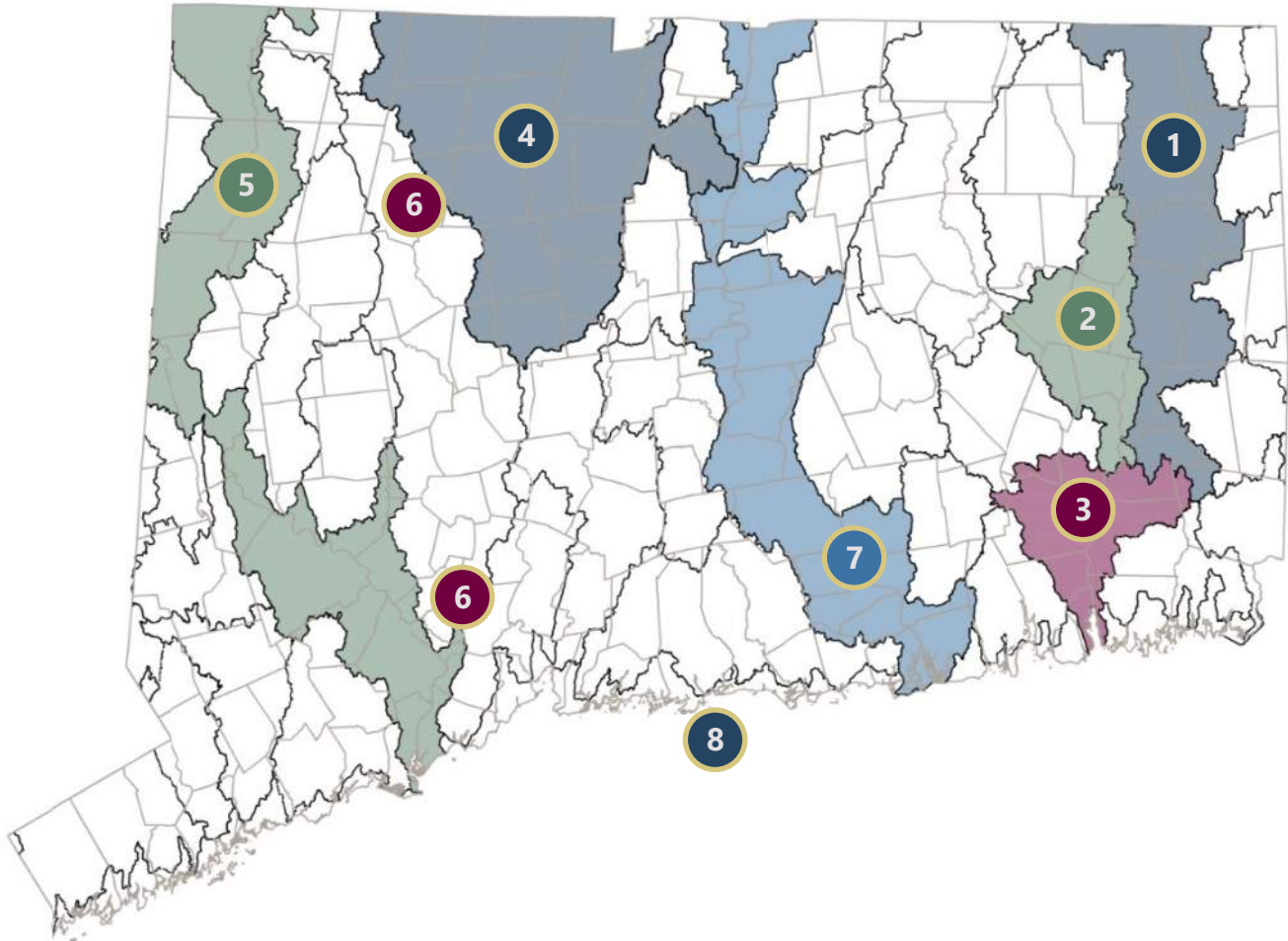
- ▶ Meredith Badalucca, Town of Montville
- ▶ Paul Sotnik, City of Norwalk
- ▶ John Truscinski, CIRCA
- ▶ Richard Dmochowski, Fairfield Flood and Erosion Control Board

CAFM acknowledges the hard work and dedication of Doug Colter as he transitions to the Chairman Emeritus role. Doug's efforts have broadened the membership of CAFM and have positioned the organization for further success.





# Connecticut Watershed Mapping Updates



1

## Quinebaug River

New flood maps and studies effective August 1, 2023 for New London County and September 7, 2023 for Windham County

2

## Shetucket River

Preliminary flood maps and studies are projected to be released June 2024.

3

## Thames River

Preliminary flood maps and studies are projected to be released June 2024.

4

## Farmington River

Hartford County: Preliminary flood maps and studies released in June 2023. The 90-day appeal period began on February 28, 2024, and ends on May 28, 2024. Litchfield County: Preliminary flood maps and flood insurance studies are scheduled to be released to communities in June 2024.

5

## Housatonic River

Work maps are scheduled to be released to communities in July 2024.

6

## Naugatuck River Levee Analysis & Mapping Procedure

Ansonia and Derby: Initial meeting for stakeholders was held on March 22, 2023. A second meeting was held on September 28, 2023 and a third meeting was held on February 6, 2024. Torrington: the initial meeting for stakeholders will be held on March 19, 2024. This LAMP study will be incorporated into the Housatonic River watershed study.

7

## Lower Connecticut

Work maps scheduled for release to communities in May 2024.

8

## Connecticut Coast

FEMA will initiate a coastal re-study in Autumn 2025. The Coastal Erosion Study has been completed.

# News Briefs



## ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and Coastal States Organization (CSO) are excited to announce a new online GIS training. **Mapping Repetitive Flood Risk** is designed to help local floodplain managers, with little to no prior experience using GIS, work through the process of mapping repetitive flood loss areas and other relevant local data to better understand their community's flood risk. The course is now available on **ASFPM's Learning Management System**.



## NEMO

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) has recently updated the 2004 Stormwater Quality Manual and plan to release the newly revised Manual this Fall. CT NEMO has teamed up with CT DEEP to help provide more information and insight into the revised Manual and what it means for you. The new manual can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Stormwater-Manual>.



The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation have collaborated to prepare the revised for the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. The effective date for the guidance document is March 30, 2024. The full adoption of these documents will be phased, please see the details provided in Chapter 1. The new manual can be found at: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/water/water\\_quality\\_management/Guidance/SESCG\\_CleanFinal.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/water/water_quality_management/Guidance/SESCG_CleanFinal.pdf)

## FEMA's New Elevation Certificate

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has updated its Elevation Certificate form, which is used to show compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program requirements.

The new form is identified as **FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-152** and became available on July 7, 2023.

FEMA also updated its Dry Floodproofing Certificate form as well.

On August 9, 2023, FEMA announced in a WYO Bulletin that it is extending the use of the previous Elevation Certificate form until November 1, 2023.

FEMA has also issued guidance to CRS Communities to explain the requirements of the new form.

## CAFM Changes By-Laws

The Connecticut Association of Flood Managers adopted its Constitution and Bylaws in April 2014. These documents were largely modeled after those for our sibling chapters in Rhode Island and New York in place at that time.

Over the past two years, our Chair Emeritus Doug Colter has spearheaded an effort aimed at reviewing and revising our Bylaws for several reasons, including:

- ▶ Ensuring that our membership and sponsorship fees can reasonably cover our recurring expenses.
- ▶ The desire for the Secretary and Treasurer position descriptions to be consistent with standard guidance for non-profits.
- ▶ Maintain a certain level of continuity on the Board by providing for a Chair Emeritus position as an alternate member of the Board.
- ▶ Enlarge the Board to get more people involved, particularly from our member communities, through the addition of two focused At-Large positions, and a corresponding increase in quorum.

The proposed changes were adopted at CAFM's Annual Meeting on November 1st.

## CAFM Holds Event Committee Meeting

The CAFM Event Committee met on February 28, 2024 to share ideas to develop upcoming educational offerings. Various webinar and in-person workshops ideas were raised, and the 2024 annual conference were discussed. The Board will be hard at work in 2024 and beyond to implement these ideas. Check your email for announcements related to upcoming CAFM events!

# Our Sponsors



Note: Sponsorship of CAFM does not imply an endorsement by CAFM of a particular firm or product.