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NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025 | Vol. 12, No. 3

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF FLOOD MANAGERS



CAFM to Host 12th Annual Conference

Join us at our largest event of the year!

The Connecticut Association of Flood Managers (CAFM) will convene its 12th Annual Conference and Meeting in person at the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Student Center on Thursday, **November 20, 2025**. We have sessions with informative presentations by expert speakers and invite you to share your experiences as municipal and state officials, industry leaders, consultants, and other interested parties to promote a more flood-resilient Connecticut.

A cornerstone of CAFM's mission is to educate a broad range of professionals to address the many issues and problems associated with managing flood risk, making communities more sustainable, and protecting floodplain and fragile natural resources. This conference will examine the various flooding challenges facing Connecticut, the various programs and protective measures and funding sources that have been implemented to address these concerns, and provide an opportunity

to share experiences and lessons learned as flood managers and municipal officials. Our opening speaker will be George Temple, First Selectman of Oxford, CT, who has guided his Town's recovery from the destructive August 2024 storm event, which caused severe impacts in the Town.

This year's keynote speaker is Glenn Heistand, of the Illinois State Water Survey and co-chair of ASFPM's Mapping and Engineering Committee. Glenn will be discussing third party mapping and floodplain topics from a national perspective.

In addition to our opening and keynote speakers, this year's event will include other topics, including a panel discussion on the implementation of SB-9 (Public Act 25-33).

Up to 6.0 CECs for CFMs, 2.0 CECs for CZE0s and 6.0 CECs for Building Officials will be provided for attending. CTAPA CECs for AICPs are pending.

You can register online at CAFM's website at ctfloods.org, under Events.

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

 contactCAFM@gmail.com



Anticipated CAFM 2025 Annual Conference Program – Thursday, November 20, 2025
Central Connecticut State University Student Center

Start	End	Alumni Hall	Bellin A/B
7:30 am	8:15 am	Exhibitor Setup	
8:15 am	9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
9:00 am	9:05 am	Welcome <i>Raju Vasamsetti, CAFM Chair</i>	
9:05 am	9:45 am	Opening Address – Recovery from the August 2024 Storm <i>George Temple, Oxford First Selectman</i>	
9:45 am	10:30 am	Resilient Connecticut Project Highlights <i>Nicole Govert & Mary Buchanan, CIRCA</i> <i>Celicia Boyden, Fuss & O'Neill</i> <i>Jenabay Sezen, SLR</i>	
10:30 am	10:45 am	Break / Exhibitors	Potential Student Poster Competition
10:45 am	11:15 am	Flood Warning at Dangerous Underpasses <i>Daniel Penczak, OTT Hydromet</i>	
11:15 am	12:00 pm	Panel Discussion: Implementation of SB-9 (Public Act 25-33) <i>Moderated by Diane Ifkovic, CT DEEP & David Murphy, Resilient Land & Water</i>	
12:00 pm	1:00 pm	Lunch	Potential Student Poster Competition
12:15 pm	1:00 pm	Keynote Speaker: Third Party Mapping and Other National Flood Topics <i>Glenn Heistand, Illinois State Water Survey / ASFPM</i>	
1:00 pm	1:15 pm	CAFM Annual Meeting / Exhibitors	Potential Student Poster Competition
1:15 pm	1:30 pm	Connecticut's NFIP Update <i>Diane Ifkovic, CT DEEP</i>	
1:30 pm	1:45 pm	The MyCoast Connecticut Project <i>Sarah Schechter, Connecticut Sea Grant & Yaprak Onat, CIRCA</i>	
1:45 pm	2:15 pm	Flood Mitigation Design to Advance Groton Long Point's 5 Pillars of Resilience <i>Michael Gardner & Wayne Cobleigh, GZA</i>	Performance & Design Criteria for Effective Stormwater Control Measures <i>Dana Stayer, StormTrap</i>
2:15pm	2:30 pm	Break / Exhibitors	
2:30 pm	3:00 pm	Going LLM Forward with RAS Commander <i>Bill Katzenmeyer, CLB Engineering</i>	Substantial Damage / Substantial Improvement Training for Building & Planning Department Municipal Permit Technicians and Building Officials <i>Doug Colter, SECOG</i>
3:00 pm	3:30 pm	Bringing the Stream Smart Approach to CT <i>Paul Woodworth, Save the Sound & Emily Hadzopoulos, The Nature Conservancy</i>	
3:30 pm	4:00 pm	Stream Crossing Prioritization Tool <i>Megan Lung, Save the Sound</i>	
4:00 pm	4:05 pm	Closing Remarks <i>Raju Vasamsetti, CAFM Chair</i>	

Questions? Contact the project team at MyCoastCT@uconn.edu

MyCoast Connecticut Launches

MyCoast is a tool for reporting coastal flooding events from storms and high tides. In Connecticut, this is a pilot project in the communities of Groton, New London and Stonington. The MyCoast Connecticut project was implemented through a partnership with Connecticut Sea Grant, the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve (CT NERR) and the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA).

To participate in MyCoast Connecticut, download the MyCoast app for Apple iOS devices, or for Android devices, then make an account and upload images of these flooding events to the Connecticut database.

(Republished from The Torrent)

ARE YOUR ROADS FLOODING?

Submit your photos to support local planning, increase awareness, and build a stronger, more resilient shoreline for all!

How it Works

- Download the MyCoast app by using the QR code or by visiting www.mycoast.org/ct.
- Take a photo of extreme high tides, flooding, or storm damage.
- Upload your image by adding a report in the MyCoast app.

This pilot project in Stonington, Groton, and New London is funded by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

Logos for Sea Grant, CIRCA, and Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation.

2025 CAFM Board of Directors

Raju Vasamsetti, PE, CFM
Chair

Azure Dee Sleicher, PE
Vice-Chair

David Murphy, PE, CFM
Treasurer

Scott Bighinatti, CFM
Secretary

Becky Bunnell
Diane Ifkovic

Janice Plaziak, PE
Paul Sotnik, PE
John Truscinski, CFM
At-Large

Committees

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

EventsDiane Ifkovic

Membership.....Scott Bighinatti, CFM

CAFM Proposed Board Slate for 2026

CAFM proposes the following Board slate to be presented at this year's annual meeting:

Chair: Azure Dee Sleicher, PE, CFM, WEDG
Race Coastal Engineering

Vice-Chair: John Truscinski, CFM
UConn CIRCA

Treasurer: Janice Plaziak, PE
Town of Guilford

Secretary: Scott Bighinatti, CFM
Resilient Land & Water

At-Large (State): Diane Ifkovic
Connecticut DEEP

At-Large (Municipal): Paul Sotnik, PE
City of Norwalk

At-Large (Municipal Planning): David Cook
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

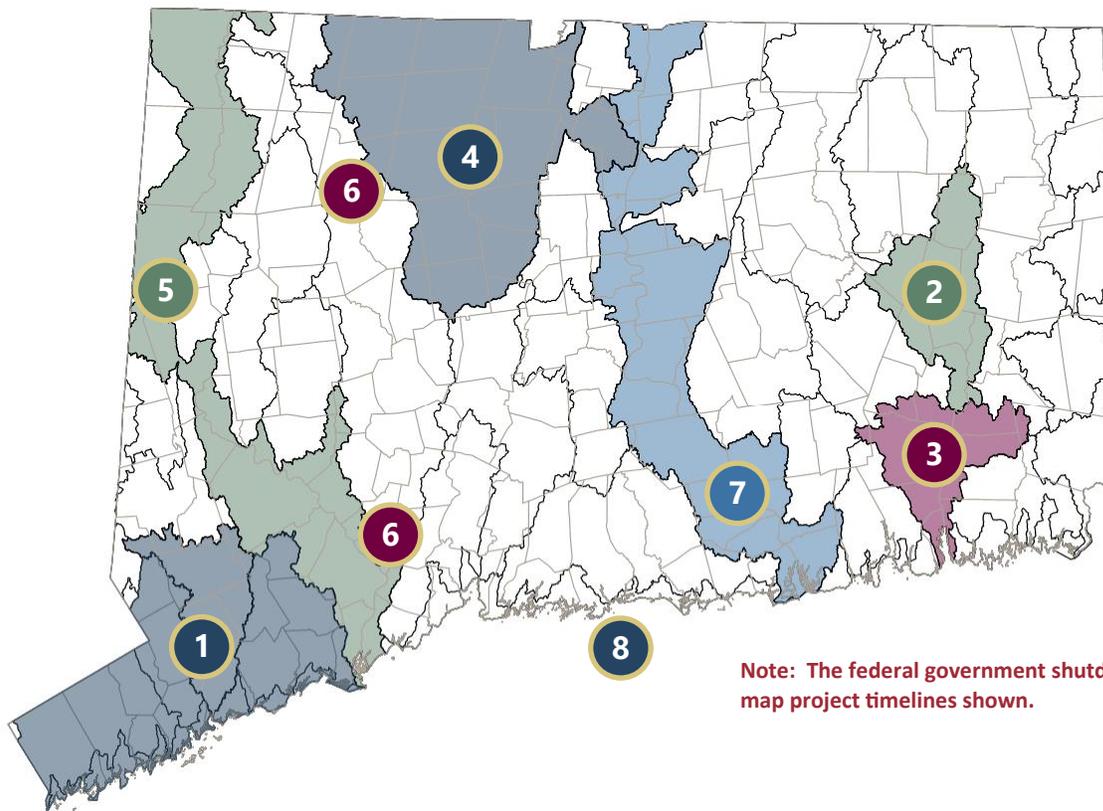
At-Large: Becky Bunnell
Town of Fairfield Flood & Erosion Control Board

At-Large: Jaci Reelick
Western Connecticut Council of Governments

Raju Vasamsetti and David Murphy will be stepping down from their roles after their long, dedicated service to CAFM. We thank them for their many years of valuable contributions in helping to grow the organization and promotion of floodplain management in Connecticut.



Connecticut Watershed Mapping Updates



Note: The federal government shutdown may delay flood map project timelines shown.

1

Saugatuck & Southwestern Connecticut

LFD scheduled for October/November 2025. Effective maps and studies May 2026.

2

Shetucket River

Preliminary maps and studies scheduled for release on December 17, 2025.

3

Thames River

Preliminary maps and studies scheduled for release on December 17, 2025.

4

Farmington River

Litchfield County: Work maps are scheduled for release on August 1, 2025.

Hartford County: The appeal period opened on April 16, 2025 and ends July 14, 2025.

5

Housatonic River

Work maps scheduled for release to communities on August 1, 2025.

6

Naugatuck River LAMP

Meeting #2 held September 26, 2024. Meeting #3 was held on February 20, 2025.

7

Lower Connecticut

Preliminary maps and studies scheduled to be issued to communities on January 9, 2026.

8

Connecticut Coast

FEMA will initiate a coastal re-study in 2026.

Severe Weather Mitigation and Resiliency Advisory Council Report

On June 30, 2025, the Connecticut Severe Weather Mitigation and Resiliency Advisory Council issued its final report, outlining a detailed framework for strengthening the state's resiliency to increasing weather-related risks.

Established in October 2024 by the Connecticut Insurance Department, the Advisory Council brought together a cross-sector group of public, private, nonprofit, and academic leaders to develop actionable recommendations that reduce risk and protect Connecticut residents, homes, and businesses from the impacts of severe weather.

The final report outlines immediate steps Connecticut can take as well as long-term solutions to strengthen resiliency over time.

The Connecticut Insurance Department will work closely with state agencies, community leaders, and industry partners to implement recommendations and ensure Connecticut continues to lead on climate resiliency. (Reprinted from the Torrent)



CAFM Partners with USACE for Mansfield Hollow Tour

On the morning of July 22, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with CAFM for a tour of Mansfield Hollow Dam and its control structure, discussion of the benefits to downstream areas, and comments on the proposed updates to the Mansfield Hollow Lake Master Plan.

Following the tour, lunch and networking was enjoyed with scenic views of the dam and the Natchaug River.

The event was well-attended, with 32 participants, and started with an overview of the functions the dam provided and its flood retention capabilities. The tour also proceeded into the gatehouse of the dam, offering a unique opportunity to see the controls and technology built into the dam, including a walk through the core of the dam.

Mansfield Hollow Dam lies on the confluence of the Natchaug, Fenton and Mt. Hope Rivers, in Mansfield, Conn. The dam is part of a network of six flood control dams in the Thames River Basin constructed and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This network helps to reduce flooding in communities within the Thames River Basin by regulating water levels on upstream tributaries in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The project provides substantial flood protection for the Shetucket River communities of Norwich, South Windham, Baltic, Occum, Taftville, and Willimantic. The lake lies within the

boundaries of Mansfield and Windham .

Total potential flood control storage at Mansfield Hollow Lake amounts to 16.1 billion gallons of floodwater, at a maximum level of 257 feet above mean sea level. Water stored during potential flooding conditions is released after water levels downstream recede. The highest water level recorded at Mansfield Hollow Dam occurred in June of 1982 with a pool height of 52.6 feet where the normal pool height at that time of the year is kept at 18 feet. The pool at that time was approximately 66 percent full with another 9.4 feet to go before reaching spillway crest at 62 feet.

The Reservoir Control Center (RCC) in Concord, Mass., is the "nerve center" for New England flood control dams such as Mansfield Hollow. Using radio and satellite communications, the team constantly monitors river levels and weather conditions that influence flood control decisions. The RCC website is also loaded with information about New England river flows, dam operations, snow depths, recreational water releases, and more.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulates the flow of the Natchaug River, which exits the dam, by raising or lowering five, hydraulically operated sluice gates from within the dam.

The lake provides excellent boating for sailboats, canoes, and small power boats. Fishermen can expect to find trout, bass, horned pout, and perch. In-season hunting of pheasant, quail, partridge, and small game animals is also permitted.

Our Sponsors



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

