



NJ Floodplain News

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MITIGATION MATTERS
October 23-25, 2018
Bally's, Atlantic City

Floodplain managers have to plan for many variables and uncertainties, including changes in storm and precipitation patterns, increasing development and impervious cover, expanding flood hazard areas and base flood elevations, and changing flood vulnerability and risk. In addressing these variables, there is one constant - **MITIGATION MATTERS!**

Hazard mitigation is the cornerstone of effective floodplain management at all levels of government and is a proven strategy to mitigate flood damages and associated recovery costs, and to promote public safety. The NJAFM 2018 annual conference will highlight progressive work that floodplain management professionals are doing in New Jersey to protect people and property from the adverse impacts of floods and storms, through comprehensive hazard mitigation efforts. Representatives of federal, state, county and local government, as well as academia and the private sector, will convene again in Atlantic City to highlight a range of floodplain management activities, with a focus on hazard mitigation.

The conference will include plenary sessions and concurrent technical sessions on a broad range of topics, including hazard mitigation, flood insurance, infrastructure, mapping, planning, flood modeling, regulations, floodproofing, stormwater management, flood proofing, construction standards and more.

A highlight of the conference will be the Cracker Barrel consulting session on the evening of October 23, with over 20 individual consulting tables staffed by government agency staff, engineering professionals, mitigation specialists, flood insurance representatives and others. Attendees have a unique opportunity to obtain guidance on topics important to their work and to network with a diverse group of floodplain managers.

This year's event also includes a pre-conference training session on floodplain management concepts and principles, as well as ethics training for Professional Engineers and Certified Floodplain Managers.

In addition, the conference provides an opportunity to recognize floodplain management professionals through the NJAFM awards and the NJAFM/FEMA Community Rating System awards.

As always, Continuing Education Credits will be available for Professional Engineers, Professional Planners, Certified Floodplain Managers and Municipal Construction Code Officials.

Floodplain Management Training Offered

The National Flood Insurance Program Review Course is a free training for New Jersey municipal, county, and state officials, as well as the general public, looking to expand their knowledge of floodplain management. This course was developed and sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Division of Dam Safety and Flood Control.



The course closely follows the FEMA 480 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Floodplain Management Requirements: Study Guide and Desk Reference for Local Officials (Feb. 2005). The course duration is a month and features both in-person instruction and online self-paced instruction. A Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam is offered to interested students on a third day. For government officials, the CFM exam fee will be covered by NJDEP, however, registration for the CFM exam must be done through the Association for State Floodplain Managers at: (http://www.floods.org/ace-files/documentlibrary/CFM/CFM_Application_10.26.2017_FILLABLE.pdf) . The

review course has already been offered in seven counties in New Jersey with plans for offerings in the remaining 15 counties throughout 2018 and early 2019.

Further information can be found and dates for future course offerings can be found at: <http://www.njafm.org/cfm>

Floodplain Management Training Offered by NJAFM

In 2017 NJAFM sponsored six opportunities for professionals to take floodplain management training. Since the beginning of 2018 an additional four opportunities have been offered with an additional seven opportunities this year. There will be three opportunities in early 2019. For more information on the floodplain management training go to:

<http://www.njafm.org/resources/Documents/Schedule%20-%20Floodplain%20Training%20working.pdf>

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program

New Jersey now has 339 (5/4/2018) Certified Floodplain Managers!

NJAFM has scheduled CFM exam opportunities with the sponsor of the CFM Program: The Association for State Floodplain Management (ASFPM). These opportunities are in conjunction with the above Floodplain Management Training.

For more information on the CFM Program and to register to take a CFM Exam go to:

<http://www.floods.org/index.asp?menuid=426&firstlevelmenuid=180&siteid=1>

CFM certifications, awarded by the ASFPM, are effective for a two-year period. Every two years, each CFM must submit a renewal application, renewal fee, and proof of 16 Continuing Education Credits (CECs) within the previous 24 months, with a maximum of 12 CECs earned for any one event. Attending the NJAFM annual conference each year satisfies your CEC requirement. See <http://www.floods.org> for further information on CECs and accreditation.

Emergency Management Institute (EMI)

Numerous courses on hazard mitigation and response for flooding as well as other hazards are offered through EMI and can be found at:

<https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>

News

FEMA Proposes to Buy Flooded Homes and Let Owners Rebuild

Source: Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) - May 01, 2018 [Joel Scata](#)



Damage caused by Hurricane Sandy to the New Jersey shore

Source: New Jersey National Guard

FEMA has proposed allowing owners of homes that have been repeatedly damaged by coastal storms and floods, and that were bought out by taxpayers, to rebuild on the same highly flood-prone land. FEMA's proposal not only could undermine long-standing property acquisition policy and practice, but also, if implemented, would be a giveaway to developers and coastal property owners at the expense of the American taxpayer. NRDC submitted comments strongly opposing this bad idea and urged FEMA not to move forward with implementation.

The Proposal Undermines FEMA's Long-Standing Property Acquisition and Open Space Preservation Principles

Currently, FEMA's buyout policy mandates that when FEMA buys a home that has flooded again and again, the structure be torn down and the land converted into open space. Buyouts that convert the acquired land to open space are a permanent way to mitigate flood risk and help property owners, who desire to do so, move out of harm's way. Such buyout practices also ensure that the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will not continue to pay to repair and rebuild a house located on land that floods repeatedly.

FEMA has underscored the importance of this buyout practice and documented in numerous regulations and guidance documents:

- "Property acquisition is the most permanent form of flood hazard mitigation."
- "While many efforts combat flooding, property acquisitions or buyouts rank as the best way to prevent flood damage."
- "Recognizing that the risk of disaster is increasing as a result of multiple factors, including the growth of population in and near high-risk areas, aging infrastructure, and climate change, FEMA promotes climate change adaptation by ... encouraging floodplain and wetland conservation associated with the acquisition of properties in green open space and riparian areas."

However, FEMA's proposal flies in the face of these policies and practices and would essentially pay for owners of repeatedly flooded properties to rebuild on the same vulnerable property. This is problematic as repeatedly flooded homes are a big drain on the NFIP.

Between 1978 and 2015, the NFIP paid \$5.5 billion to repair and rebuild just over 30,000 severe repetitive loss properties. These homes and businesses have been rebuilt an average of five times, and represent just 0.6 percent of the 5.1 million properties insured through the NFIP, but account for a disproportionate 9.6 percent all damages paid, over that same time period. Given the catastrophic losses the NFIP has incurred since 2015, these numbers have undoubtedly increased. Judging from their history, severe repetitive loss properties can be expected to flood again. Therefore, acquiring these properties and deed restricting the land for open space uses to eliminate future NFIP payouts normally would be a legitimate mitigation option. FEMA's proposal is not that solution.

FEMA's High-Cost, Low-Benefit Proposal Is Harmful

Also, it is unclear what problem FEMA is attempting to solve with this proposal.. FEMA can already help pay to elevate the property if the owner wants to stay. FEMA can already pay for floodproofing. FEMA can already help pay for structural retrofits. All of these existing options permit the property owner to remain on the property.

What's different about FEMA's new proposal is that it would put substantially more money in a property owner's pocket before they rebuild. If a property owner has flood insurance, the most they can get is \$250,000, the maximum amount of coverage, plus any additional grant assistance for the activities described above. Under the proposal, the homeowner could receive the full pre-flood value of the structure.

By purchasing a damaged house, paying for its demolition, and then allowing the owner to rebuild, FEMA is encouraging a maladaptive practice that does little to reduce long-term flood risk and flood damages. Compared to the cost and benefits of property acquisition with open space requirements, the costs of FEMA's proposal are likely to be

far higher over the long term. Not only are severe repetitive loss properties already known to flood, but many of these properties and those that will become severe repetitive loss properties, are in areas that will be even more likely to flood in the future (due to rising sea levels and increased potential for severe weather events), which means any new structure built on that land will likely be at equal or greater risk of flooding several years from now.

FEMA's proposal basically would obtain the same result as existing programs, but at a much higher cost to the taxpayer.

FEMA's Proposal Could Perpetuate Unsustainable Coastal Development

Further, the proposal, if implemented, would likely be a windfall for developers and coastal property owners. FEMA's proposal creates a perverse incentive for a property owner to accept the pre-market value for the structure and then resell the land to a developer. As experience has shown, there is already a likelihood that a larger, and therefore more expensive, structure will be built on a property following a flood, as this has been found to be the case in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy in New Jersey. Such a result could actually increase the exposure of the NFIP as any associated damage claims would likely be higher. The proposal could unintentionally benefit wealthier individuals at the expense of lower-income severe repetitive loss property owners that are covered by the NFIP.

Unfortunately, as sea levels rise and extreme storms become more common, many regions of the nation will see their risk of flooding increase. For some flood-prone areas, continuing to repair and rebuild after every flood will become prohibitively expensive. In this context, buyouts that preserve open space are a valuable mechanism for

addressing that risk. However, FEMA's proposal would only serve to perpetuate the problem at taxpayer expense.

Calendar of Events

Raritan-Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission (RMRFCC) – The RMRFCC meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at various municipal buildings. For further information go to: <http://www.rmrfcc.org/meetings/>

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Morris County CRS User Group Meeting, Community Room, Lincoln Park Municipal Building, 34 Chapel Hill Road, Lincoln Park, NJ.

Passaic/Bergen County Location: Oakland Municipal Courtroom 10 Lawlor Drive, Oakland, NJ

April 17, 2018 Day 1 07436 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

May 23, 2018 Day 2

May 24, 2018 CFM Exam

Essex County Location: Verona Community Center/Firehouse, 2 nd Floor Firefighter Meeting Room 880 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

June 5, 2018 Day 1

July 10, 2018 Day 2

July 11, 2018 CFM Exam

Ocean County Location: Ocean County Emergency Operation Center Ocean County Airport, Mule Road & Airport Road, Berkeley, NJ 08721

June 12, 2018 Day 1 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

July 17, 2018 Day 2

July 18, 2018 CFM Exam

Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 7:30 p.m. -Green Brook Flood Control Commission – North Plainfield Community Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, N. Plainfield.

Thursday, July 12, 2018, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon - Monmouth CRS User Group Meeting, Location to be determined.

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) – NJ Floodplain News –May 2018

Saturday, August 4, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. Green Brook Flood Control Commission meeting, 707 Legion Place, Middlesex, NJ.

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Morris County CRS User Group Meeting, Community Room, Lincoln Park Municipal Building, 34 Chapel Hill Road, Lincoln Park, NJ

Tuesday October 23 through Thursday, October 25, 2018 – NJAFM 14th Annual Conference, Atlantic City, NJ

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Morris County CRS User Group Meeting, Community Room, Lincoln Park Municipal Building, 34 Chapel Hill Road, Lincoln Park, NJ.

NJAFM Board Meetings

Board meetings usually take place on the third Tuesday of each month. See the calendar for more details at: <http://njafm.org/calendar>

Career Connections

NJAFM Job Listings (<http://www.njafm.org/Jobs>) has the following new job opportunity:

Assistant County Planner – Morris County

Committees and Leader Contact Information

Joining a Committee is a great way to get involved with NJAFM. The NJAFM Committees and their 2017-2018 chairs are as follows:

Annual Conference Committee: Co-chairs – Mark Mauriello, Edgewood Properties, mmauriello@gmail.com and Mike Graham, CFM, SmartVent, Inc.; mike@smartvent.com

Membership Committee: Chair – Chris Theodos, PE, CFM, Brick Municipal Utilities Authority ()

Outreach & Communications: Chair- Tom Slowinski, CFM, PLS, NJDEP ()

Training Committee: Chair –Jim Galantino, CFM, Margate City ()

Legislative Committee: Chair – John Miller, CFM ()

Stormwater Committee: Chair – Benny Tafoya, CFM , CMfgE ()

Community Rating System (CRS) Committee: Co-Chairs - Jonathan Raser, CFM, TetraTech () and Jim Watt, CFM, NJDEP ()

Awards Committee: Maria DiSalvatore, Chair – Municipal Code Enforcement Agency, mceinc@comcast.net

Membership

Currently there are 235 active members in NJAFM as of 5/4/2018.

Are you enjoying the benefits of an NJAFM membership?

Unlimited networking, scholarship opportunities, educational seminars and training can be available to you by becoming an NJAFM member. Have immediate access to a platform where issues that matter to floodplain professionals are the focus.

An Individual Membership is only \$30 per year and Corporate Membership is only \$240 per year. To join today, visit www.njafm.org to download the membership forms.

NJAFM Board Meetings

Board meetings usually take place on the third Tuesday of each month. See the calendar for more details at:

2017-2018 NJAFM Executive Board Contact Information

Name	Title	Address	Phone	E-mail
Andrew Banff, PE, PP, CME, CFM	Chairperson	Maser Consulting P.A. 2000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 100 Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054	856-797-0412 X 4010 732-275-5319 (cell)	
Jim Watt, CFM	Vice Chairperson	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Dam Safety & Flood Control Mail Code 501-01A 501 East State Street PO Box 420 Trenton, NJ 08625-0420	(609) 292-2296 908-600-9350	
Mark Herrmann, PE, CME, CFM	Secretary	Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Associates 850 S White Horse Pike Hammonton, NJ 08037	<u>609-561-0482 x</u> <u>207</u> 609-413-4033 (cell)	Secretary@njafm.org
Jacob Oldenburger, PE, CFM	Treasurer	Tetra Tech 5 Hanover Square Suite 502 New York, NY 10004	845-641-7039 (cell) 646-576-4023 Office 646-576-4034 (Mobile)	Treasurer@njafm.org
Craig Wenger, CFM	Immediate Past Chairperson	Michael Baker International Company American Metro Boulevard Suite 154 Hamilton, NJ 08619- 2371	609-807-9674 (direct) 610-564-7229 (mobile)	cwenger@bakerintl.com
Greg Westfall, CFM	Administrator		609-259-6344	greg@njafm.org

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