NJAFM’s 11th Annual Conference, “Back to the Future – Focus on Flood Preparedness” October 20-22, 2015 held at Ballys, Atlantic City, NJ

Over 350 people attended the three days of the NJAFM 11th Annual Conference, “Back to the Future – Focus on Flood Preparedness” on October 20-22nd at Bally’s in Atlantic City. Conference attendees packets included the debut of the New Jersey Quick Guide for Floodplain Management (see article below).

Keynote Luncheon speaker was Lt. General Russel Honoré, US Army (Ret) who is widely hailed by the media as the “Category 5 General” who led Task Force Katrina in the aftermath of the devastating hurricane that struck the Gulf Coast in the summer of 2005.

General Honore’s inspirational speech reminded attendees of the need to deal with the “new normal.” After more than 37 years of uniformed service to the U.S. Army and our nation, he has committed to spend the second half of his life committed to a new mission: Creating a “Culture of Preparedness” in America. A number of attendees were able to receive personally signed copies of his recently published book entitled “Leadership in the New Normal.”

The Cracker Barrel session on the first day included six twenty minute sessions where attendees had the opportunity to interact with professionals and gain an enhanced understanding of specific technical, regulatory and planning programs and requirements. Topics discussed included flood mapping, UCC/Code enforcement, FEMA Region II, flood insurance, floodplain ordinances, flood modeling, Community Rating System (CRS), Certified
Floodplain Manager (CFM), elevating residential structures, coastal vulnerability assessments, municipal floodplain compliance and water resources.

On the second day of the Conference, Gary Szatkowski of the National Weather Service, Mount Holly, spoke on Understanding and Responding to Weather Forecasts; Steve Sarinelli of American Red Cross – North Jersey discussed Flood Preparedness Tools while Chris Tucker, Manasquan, NJOEM and Mike Oppegaard, Monmouth County OEM, covered Collaboration is the Key to Success during the first plenary session.

On the final day of the Conference, Dennis Pino, Hazlet Township; Nick Fabiano, Matawan Borough and Bob Burlew, Union Beach Borough discussed the response to Super-storm Sandy demonstrated that many Code Officials and Floodplain Managers operated without the benefit of clear rules, regulations and inspection standards.

Interviews and informal surveys conducted within the past year indicated that most licensed Code Officials are still not properly trained in disaster response or well-coordinated to implement flood and wind damage assessments. The discussion also included how Jersey Shore Code Officials developed the State’s first County-wide UCC mutual aid system based upon the emergency building inspection program and first-hand experience from Super-storm Sandy.
Four concurrent sessions of over 40 presentations took place over the two days with topics ranging from flood hazard identification & mapping, stormwater management, education, outreach & awareness, shore protection, flood vulnerability assessments, mitigation, restoration, National Flood Insurance Program, Hazard Mitigation Planning and resiliency.

The conference hashtag was #NJAFM2015. People and groups live posted during the conference and these are available to see on Twitter. A conference participant survey is forthcoming and conference improvements have been proposed.

The NJAFM Annual Awards Luncheon took place on Thursday. Laura Tessieri, Awards Committee Chair presented the following awards:

Awards Luncheon Master of Ceremonies, Legislative Committee Chair John Miller and Awards & Scholarship Committee Chair Laura Tessieri
Lifetime Floodplain Management Achievement Award

Greg Westfall, NRCS (Retired) and NJAFM Administrator

(unable to attend due to illness)

Lifetime Floodplain Management Achievement Award

Paul Weberg, FEMA (Retired)
Floodplain Management Leadership Award

Lisa Auermuller, Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center

Outstanding Floodplain Management Award

Ann Holtzman, City of Hoboken
Outstanding Local Floodplain Management Official

Ron Salzano, Bergen County

Outstanding Local Floodplain Management Official

Ed Striedl, Borough of Keansburg
Outstanding Local Floodplain Management Official

Paul Dietrich, Upper Township

Media Award

Scott Gurian, NJ Spotlight/WNYC
Founders' Awards

Margie Brown, SmartVent

Richard Franks, AECOM
Community Rating System (CRS) awards were made by Bill McDonnell of FEMA to the following seven municipalities:

1) **TOWNSHIP OF WAYNE – PASSAIC COUNTY**  
   a. Class 07: 15% savings  
   b. Policies in force: 952  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $241,632,800  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $302  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $287,897

2) **TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN – SOMERSET COUNTY**  
   a. Class 06: 20% savings  
   b. Policies in force: 224  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $65,905,400  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $134  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $29,953

3) **BOROUGH OF KEANSBURG – MONMOUTH COUNTY**  
   a. Class 07: 15% savings  
   b. Policies in force: 1,919  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $453,272,700  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $108  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $206,651

4) **TOWNSHIP OF NEPTUNE – MONMOUTH COUNTY**  
   a. Class 06: 20% savings  
   b. Policies in force: 784  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $229,849,500  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $87  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $68,192

5) **BOROUGH OF PALMYRA – BURLINGTON COUNTY**  
   a. 07/15%  
   b. Policies in force: 231  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $53,910,800  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $181  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $41,761

6) **BOROUGH OF BELMAR – MONMOUTH COUNTY**  
   a. Class 06: 20% savings  
   b. Policies in force: 914  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $230,477,400  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $56  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $51,341

7) **TOWNSHIP OF WARREN – SOMERSET COUNTY**  
   a. Class 08: 10% savings  
   b. Policies in force: 87  
   c. INSURANCE IN FORCE $25,685,600  
   d. SAVINGS PER POLICY = $64  
   e. COMMUNITY SAVINGS = $5,552

*ALL INFORMATION EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2015*
2015-2016 NJAFM Officer election results were announced and officers are pictured below:

Former Secretary Richard Franks and 2015-2016 Officers
Secretary Mark Herrmann, Treasurer Andrew Banff and Chairman Craig Wenger.
Maria DiSalvatore, Vice Chairperson was unable to attend.

New Jersey Flood Management Quick Guide

NJAFM is proud to announce the recent publication of the Quick Guide for Floodplain Management in New Jersey. The purpose of the Quick Guide is to help the user to understand why and how communities in the State of New Jersey manage development in floodplains to protect people and property. Flood-prone communities adopt ordinances and enforce building codes that detail the rules and requirements. Some of the topics covered in the Quick Guide include:

- Why do we regulate the floodplain?
- What is the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)?
- The NFIP’s Community Rating System (CRS)
• FEMA Flood Maps
• Understanding Riverine and Coastal Floodplains
• Understanding the Floodway
• Levee Certification for FEMA Flood Maps
• Flood Map Revisions
• Fundamentals of Flood Resistant Construction
• What is the Elevation Certificate and How is it Used?
• And many other topics

In case of conflict, those codes and ordinances, not the guidance provided in this publication, must be followed. The Quick Guide can be found at: http://www.njafm.org/resources/Documents/KeyDocs/NJQuickGuide_web.pdf

The Quick Guide is a spiral bound field guide size (5.5” X 8.5”), glossy print, on durable heavy stock paper. Bulk copies of the Quick Guide will be available for sale by NJAFM in the near future.

2015 NJAFM Year in Review Report

The 2015 NJAFM Year in Review Report shows a continued increase in Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) now at 275, conference attendance at 350 people an increase from 318 in 2014, and regular members now at 340. NJAFM is not only sponsors and support the annual conference but also is a resource and partner in supporting other organizations with missions that complement our mission of reducing loss of life and property damage resulting from floods and promoting sound floodplain management. The 2015 NJAFM Year in Review Report is now available at: http://www.njafm.org/news_blog/3633621

Register Now for 2016 NJAFM Conference

We will be returning to Bally’s in Atlantic City for the NJAFM 12th Annual Conference on October 18-20, 2016. Register now at this year’s rate and avoid a higher registration fee next year (http://www.njafm.org/2016-Conference).

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program

The Certified Floodplain Manager’s exam was offered on the final day at the NJAFM annual conference on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at Bally’s, Atlantic City. For more information on the CFM Program go to:
Congratulations to the following New Jersey individuals who recently have become Certified Floodplain Managers:

Thomas Boorady
Zachary Eulo
Pamela Hilla
Stephen Madama
Jessica McSulla
John Morris
Joshua Reuter
David Scheidegg
Daniel Soda

New Jersey now has 275 Certified Floodplain Managers!

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.
N.J. coastal lakes to be part of federal flooding study

Belmar was flooded for a week after Lake Como overspilled its banks during Hurricane Sandy in 2012

Source: By MaryAnn Spoto | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

New Jersey could be in line for federal funding to repair 12 of its coastal lakes in Monmouth and Ocean counties after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed to include those bodies of water in a major study after Hurricane Sandy’s devastation. The inclusion of those lakes – as well as a harbor and a watershed – in the study was a major coup for the counties because the Army Corps rarely works on smaller bodies of water and exclusion from the Army Corps’ study would have meant the towns around those lakes would be hard-pressed to get federal funding on their own.

Announcing the new development in the corps’ upcoming New Jersey Back Bays study, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith said this marks and important step toward helping coastal towns solve repetitive flooding problems that were exacerbated by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

"Superstorm Sandy highlighted the significant health and safety hazards associated with storm damage to homes and public property," Smith said. "We will continue to..."
work to bring federal support to the table to make these coastal lakes and our communities safer."

In the wake of Sandy, the Army Corps is set to conduct a study of the state’s bays to determine how to alleviate flooding. But the state’s coastal lakes were not included in that study, which would have made it very difficult for towns around those bodies of water to secure federal funding for any repair work, Smith said.

While the study will include all of the state’s coastal lakes, the most severe damage during Sandy was in Monmouth and Ocean counties where lakes connected to the Atlantic Ocean overflowed their banks because of Sandy’s huge storm surge.

Some towns with coastal lakes were under water for up to a week after Sandy. The study is part of a more comprehensive study called the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study, which helps towns understand and prepare for future flood risks.

The lakes to be included in the study are Wesley Lake, Fletcher Lake, Sylvan Lake, Silver Lake, Lake Como, Wreck Pond, Spring Lake, Stockton Lake, Lake Louise, Little Silver Lake, Lake of the Lillies, and Twilight Lake.

The other areas included are the Deal Lake watershed and Glimmer Glass Harbor. Smith along with officials from the state Department of Environmental Protection and local Assemblymen Sean Kean and David Rible held a meeting last week at the Monmouth County Sheriff’s Southern Communication Center in Neptune with representatives of the affected towns to make the announcement.

Since Sandy, state officials have cobbled storm aid funding together to get some lake projects started. They include the dredging of Deal Lake, which borders seven towns in Monmouth County. That work, officials said, is only a fraction of what needs to be done for the state’s largest coastal lake.

And this summer, state officials announced funding for work on Wreck Pond, which borders five towns in Monmouth County, for dredging and replacement of its outfall pipe.

Lake Como, which caused major flooding in Belmar during Sandy, is also getting funding for construction of a discharge station.

MaryAnn Spoto may be reached at mspoto@njadvancemedia.com. Follow her on Twitter @MaryAnnSpoto. Find NJ.com on Facebook.

NJAFM Legislative Committee Happenings

John Miller, Legislative Committee Chair, reports that NJAFM is working with the sponsors of Senate Bill 2424. The bill would require the municipal land use plan element of the master plan to address smart growth and storm resiliency, and environmental sustainability issues including hazard mitigation planning. Further information on the bill can be found at: https://legiscan.com/NJ/text/S2424/2014

NJAFM has also submitted comments on the proposed changes to the State Flood Hazard Area Control Act (FHACA). NJAFM’s concerns has been the consistency of NJDEP’s rules with that of the NFIP and UCC, the state’s building code. The proposed revisions to FHACA are intended to reduce complexity, correct conflicting regulations.
and streamline the permitting process for project applicants. Comments were due on July 31, 2015. Further information on the 936 page proposed rule change can be found at: http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20150601a.pdf

**Community Rating System Update**

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS:

1. Reduce flood damage to insurable property;
2. Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and
3. Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

According to NJAFM CRS Committee Co-Chair Jim Watt, currently a total of 73 New Jersey municipalities are receiving CRS discounts as of October 1, 2015. Three communities (Belmar, Keansburg and Neptune) have recently entered the program. The following nine communities have improved their class rating during the past year:

Aberdeen  
Brigantine  
Franklin (Somerset Co.)  
Oceanport  
Palmyra  
Point Pleasant Beach  
Point Pleasant Borough  
Warren  
Wayne

For more information on the CRS Program go to:

https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system

**Committee Update**

Joining a Committee is a great way to get involved with NJAFM. The NJAFM Committees and their 2015 chairs are as follows:
Annual Conference Committee: Co-chairs – Mark Mauriello (mmauriello@gmail.com) and Mike Graham (mike@smartvent.com)

Membership Committee: Chair – Chris Theodos (ctheodos@maserconsulting.com)

Outreach & Communications: Chair - Tom Slowinski (tom.slowinski@dep.nj.state.us)

Training Committee: Co-Chairs – David Sonner (David@smartvent.com) and Jim Galantino (galantino_jim@margate-nj.com)

Legislative Committee: Chair – John Miller, CFM, jmiller@princetonhydro.com

Stormwater Committee: Chair – Vacant

Community Rating System (CRS) Committee: Chair - Jonathan Raser, CFM, Jonathan.Raser@ttemi.com and Jim Watt, james.watt@dep.state.nj.us

Awards Committee: Chair - Laura Tessieri, CFM, Laura.Tessieri@drbc.state.nj.us

**Calendar of Events**

December 16, 2015 – 7 p.m. Raritan & Millstone Rivers Flood Control Commission budget/end of year meeting at Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ 08876 (The RMRFCC meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at various municipal buildings, unless otherwise noted.) (http://www.rmrfcc.org/)

December 10, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Pequannock Township Flood Advisory Committee, Municipal Building, Pequannock, NJ.

January 6, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Green Brook Flood Control Commission meeting at 11 Greenbrook Road, Green Brook, NJ

January 13, 2016 – 10 a.m. – Delaware River Flood Advisory Committee meeting at the Delaware River Basin Commission, West Trenton, NJ. Contact Laura Tessieri for further information at: laura.tessieri@drbc.nj.gov

January 21, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. – Monmouth County Quarterly CRS User Group meeting at Sea Grant offices on Sandy Hook. Contact Margaret Murnane Brooks for further information at: mmurnane@mcsonj.org

**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](http://njafm.org/calendar)

**Career Connections**

NJAFM Job Site ([http://njafm.org/Jobs](http://njafm.org/Jobs)) has the following opportunities:

- **Civil (Drainage) Engineer** – Hamilton, NJ  
  [https://career.mbakercorp.com/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=IRC_VIS_VAC_DIS

- **Water Resource Engineer** – Morristown, NJ  
  ([https://jacobs.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=N.A0000K9&mode=job
  &iis=Indeed&iisn=Indeed.com](https://jacobs.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=N.A0000K9&mode=job
  &iis=Indeed&iisn=Indeed.com))

- **Geologic/Environmental Specialist** – Mount Laurel, NJ  
  ([https://jobs-stantec.icims.com/jobs/23651/geologic-environmental-
  specialist/job?mode=job&iis=Job+Board&iisn=Indeed&mobile=false&width=688&
  height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240](https://jobs-stantec.icims.com/jobs/23651/geologic-environmental-
  specialist/job?mode=job&iis=Job+Board&iisn=Indeed&mobile=false&width=688&
  height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240))

- **Environmental Scientist/Engineer** – Parsippany, NJ  
  ([https://www.irecruit-
  us.com/jobRequest.php?OrgID=l20111116&RequestID=5644df855ffe86b&source=In
  d](https://www.irecruit-
  us.com/jobRequest.php?OrgID=l20111116&RequestID=5644df855ffe86b&source=In
  d))

- **Water Resource Engineer** – Mount Laurel, NJ  
  ([https://careers-mccormicktaylor.icims.com/jobs/1159/water-resources-
  engineer/job?mode=job&iis=Indeed&iisn=Indeed.com&mobile=false&width=930&
  height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240](https://careers-mccormicktaylor.icims.com/jobs/1159/water-resources-
  engineer/job?mode=job&iis=Indeed&iisn=Indeed.com&mobile=false&width=930&
  height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240))

- **Staff Engineer/Civil/Construction** – Clinton, NJ  
  ([http://www.indeed.com/cmp/New-Jersey-Water-Supply-Authority/jobs/Staff-
  Engineer-8517f17558b0fa89?q=Water+Resource+Professionals](http://www.indeed.com/cmp/New-Jersey-Water-Supply-Authority/jobs/Staff-
  Engineer-8517f17558b0fa89?q=Water+Resource+Professionals))

- **Entry Level Water Resources Engineer** – Parsippany, NJ  
  ([https://careers-dewberry.icims.com/jobs/4054/entry-level-water-resources-
  engineer/job?mode=job&iis=Indeed&iisn=Indeed.com&mobile=false&width=673&
  height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240](https://careers-dewberry.icims.com/jobs/4054/entry-level-water-resources-
  engineer/job?mode=job&iis=Indeed&iisn=Indeed.com&mobile=false&width=673&
  height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false&jan1offset=-300&jun1offset=-240))
If you would like include information about an employment opportunity at your organization or company in our next newsletter, please send a full description, including how to apply.

**Membership**

Currently there are 340 active members in NJAFM as of 11/12/2015.

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.

**Board of Directors, 2015-2016** ([http://www.njafm.org/contact](http://www.njafm.org/contact))

**Chair:** Craig Wenger, CFM  
Michael Baker International

**Vice Chair:** Maria DiSalvatore  

**Secretary:** Mark Herrmann,CFM,  
PS&S, LLC.

**Treasurer:** Andrew Banff, PE, PP, CME,  
CFM, Maser Consulting

**Past Chair:** Joseph Ruggeri, PE, CFM,  
NJDEP

**Annual Conference:** Mike Graham, CFM  
SmartVent, Inc  
Mark Mauriello  
Edgewood Properties

**Membership:** Chris Theodos, CFM  
Maser Consulting

**Outreach & Communications:**  
Tom Slowinski, CFM, NJDEP

**Training:**  
David Sonner, CFM  
SmartVent Inc.  
Jim Galantino, CFM  
City of Margate

**Legislative:** John Miller, CFM  
Princeton Hydro, LLC

**Stormwater:** Vacant

**Community Rating System (CRS):**  
Jonathan Raser, CFM, Tetra Tech  
Jim Watt, CFM, NJDEP

**Awards & Scholarship:**  
Laura Tessieri, CFM,  
Delaware River Basin Commission