

## MAFSM 7th Annual Conference Recap

MAFSM held our 7th Annual Conference, “*Plan, Prepare, Protect: Maryland’s Path to Sustainability and Resiliency*” on October 20th, 2011 at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. This year’s conference was attended by over 120 people.



*Conference attendees listen to opening remarks.*

This year’s event featured one pre-conference activity – a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) training held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. It also included two post-conference activities held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> - a CFM exam and a field tour of Hart Miller Island.

Our full-day conference had over 25 breakout sessions on a wide array of local floodplain and stormwater issues as well as two workshops. The workshops were 3D Flood Simulation Model Train-the-Trainer by Mark Walton of NOAA and an Overview of the Community Rating System Workshop by Amanda Gowens of Insurance Services Office.

Our exhibitor’s hall was lined with tables featuring ten exhibitors, and we concluded with a networking social hour.



*Exhibitors lined the halls of the conference*

The conference was kicked off by Chair, Paul Slonac, CFM followed by talks from two of our invited speakers, Meo Curtis of Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and Jim Foster of the Anacostia Watershed Society. Ms. Curtis spoke on Montgomery County’s Countywide Coordinated Implementation Strategy: MS4 Permit, TMDLs and Beyond. Mr. Foster spoke on the Anacostia watershed.

Both talks were informative and well received. We are grateful for Ms. Curtis’ and Mr. Foster’s time and effort in support of MAFSM. Other specially invited speakers included Amanda Gowens, ISO Coordinator; Dave Guignet, Maryland Department of the Environment, Floodplain Delineation and Mapping; Mark Walton, Hydrologist, National Weather Service and Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association; Stew Comstock, Maryland Department of the Environment; and Debbie Cappuccitti, Maryland Department of the

Environment. We very much appreciate their participation and contribution to our conference. This year MAFSM held a scholarship competition for college students. Students from local universities including University of Maryland at College Park, Salisbury, Frostburg, UMBC, University of Baltimore, St. Mary's College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, University of Maryland University College, Morgan State, Coppin State, and Bowie State were asked to submit their major/minor, relevant coursework, work, volunteer, or other relevant experience, and plans and interest in floodplain and stormwater management in Maryland. Timothy Tripplett an Undergraduate at Salisbury University was awarded this scholarship. Mr. Tripplett is currently studying Geography and Atmospheric Science. Mr. Tripplett received A MAFSM membership as well as a free conference registration.

MAFSM would like to thank everyone who attended the conference, especially our sponsors and exhibitors:

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- ❖ Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
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- ❖ Greenhorne & O'Mara
- ❖ FloodSmart

An all-day Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) refresher course, The NFIP: An Overview was held on October 19, 2011 as a pre-conference activity at the Michael Baker Jr., Inc. office in, Linthicum, MD. This course was taught by Brock Remus of ATKINS and attended by fourteen people. This course was a good refresher for current CFMs as well as for those who were taking the exam. We hosted the CFM exam on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



*Brock Remus leading the CFM refresher training*

The day after our conference MAFSM collaborated with Maryland Environmental Services who led a field tour to Hart Miller Island in Essex, MD.



*Members met at the dock to boat to the island*



*Photo from field tour*

In order to remain competitive as a thriving maritime center, the Maryland Port Administration realized that Baltimore Harbor and its ancillary navigation channels would require maintenance and deepening to accommodate the larger oceangoing vessels. An extensive search to find suitable locations for placement of dredged material was conducted and the Hart Miller Island location was chosen. The State of Maryland and the Federal government stipulated that the entire HMI complex must be converted into a recreational and natural resource area once dredged material placement ceased.



*Photo from field tour*

Attendees met at the land base and took a boat to the island. The tour included a bus trip around the entire island, a short video and lunch, and a stop at the HMI DNR state park.

We look forward to seeing even more attendees at our 8th Annual Conference to be held in October 2012 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD.

## **MAFSM awarded 3D Floodplain Model by OPP and ASFPM**

MAFSM was recently awarded a WARD 3d Flood Simulator Model by Outreach Process Partners (OPP) and the Association of State Flood Plain Managers. MAFSM received this as part of a program to get WARD'S Stormwater Floodplain Simulation Systems into local schools impacted by flooding.



*Ward's 3D Floodplain Simulator Model*

To check out more on OPP's program to get Flood Risk Education in Schools visit their [facebook](#) page.



*Workshop attendees learn how to use the model*

A train-the-trainer on the model was held at our 7th annual conference led by Mark Walton of NOAA and the Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association of. Check out video from the demo! Click [here](#) and [here](#).





*Workshop attendees learn how to use the model*

The individuals who attended the workshop have met the prerequisite training to assist MAFSM in demonstrating the model in MD schools.

Kevin Wagner, of MDE conducted our first demonstration at Frost Elementary. To see a calendar of planned demos or request more info on the model, becoming a trainer, or having a demonstration at a local school or other venue, please visit our webpage at <http://mafsm.org/committees.php?id=20>. You may also contact Necolle Maccherone at [Nmaccherone@mbakercorp.com](mailto:Nmaccherone@mbakercorp.com).

### **First 3D Model Demonstration a Success!**

MAFSM was one of two Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) chapters selected to receive a Ward's 3D Flood Simulation Model from the Outreach Process Partners (OPP). The goal of this initiative is to get the model into the school systems to teach kids about flood risk and floodplain management. Special emphasis will be on schools located in floodplains and/or in areas that have experienced recent flooding.

Kevin Wagner was the first from our Association to test out model. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Kevin took the model to Frost Elementary School in Frostburg, MD, and presented it to two Kindergarten classes.

The kids learned about watersheds, wetlands, and floodplains. They learned that when it rains, wetlands and forests can absorb rainwater and reduce runoff. They learned about impervious surfaces, such as parking lots, and if they are not properly managed, can

contribute to increased runoff and flood nearby waterways and potentially homes and businesses. The kids also learned about the dangers of flooding including driving through flooded roadways.



*Kevin Wagner and Frost Elementary Students.*

If interested in becoming a trainer, or if you know of a school that could benefit from a demonstration, please contact Necolle Maccherone at [nmaccherone@mbakercorp.com](mailto:nmaccherone@mbakercorp.com).

More information can be found on the Outreach and Public Relations Committee page on the MAFSM website at: <http://www.mafsm.org/committees.php?id=20>.

### **Message from the Chair**

As we move into spring I would like to take a few moments to reflect on a very successful 2011. We had several accomplishments in 2011 that we are proud of. We hosted our seventh annual conference, *Plan, Prepare, Protect: Maryland's Path to Sustainability and Resiliency* with over 120 participants and a field tour to Hart Miller Island. We applied for and were awarded a grant from ASFPM for the Ward's 3D Flood Simulation Model. We hosted one Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Refresher training and two CFM exams. And showing our Maryland heritage, we donated crab cakes to the ASFPM Foundation's silent auction at the ASFPM conference. All this while holding bimonthly

board meetings and ad hoc conference calls. None of this could have occurred without the support of all our volunteers and sponsors. I am very thankful for the amazing support provided by these volunteers because without them this organization would not be half as successful as it is.

Now looking forward, 2012 is already shaping up to be an extremely productive year. We have already planned visits to local schools to teach children about flood risk and floodplain management using our Ward's 3D Flood Simulation Model. We will also begin the planning for our annual conference to be held in October themed, *Maryland Stormwater and Floodplain Management – Lessons Learned and Shared*. Also our biannual elections will be held this year. Please consider running for an elected position. I am very excited to represent MAFSM until the end of this year as Chair.

Don't forget to visit our website at [mafsm.org](http://mafsm.org) for more information.



*Email me at [pslonac@mbakercorp.com](mailto:pslonac@mbakercorp.com) with your suggestions for MAFSM activities, improvement suggestions, or opportunities for training/education. Your continued support of the Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers is greatly appreciated.*

## Maryland Flood Mapping Update

Maryland is progressing with updated floodplain mapping on multiple fronts. Currently, there are three Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiatives that will result in revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and the associated Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

The first, which most people are already familiar with, is the FEMA flood Map Modernization program. A Digital FIRM (DFIRM) is now effective in the following counties: Baltimore, Baltimore City, Calvert, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, St. Mary's and Somerset. Preliminary maps have been issued to the following counties: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Garrett, Howard, Prince George's, Talbot, Washington and Wicomico. More information, including regular updates, can be found on the Maryland DFIRM Outreach Program website at: [www.mdfloodmaps.com](http://www.mdfloodmaps.com), and on the FEMA Risk Assessment, Mapping

and Planning Partners (RAMPP) website at: <https://www.rampp-team.com/md.htm>

The second mapping initiative is the coastal analysis update. This will affect all counties and communities with tidal floodplain and/or V Zones. For some counties (i.e. Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline and Worcester), the Map Modernization program will be merged with the coastal update, and one set of maps will be issued to the community. The stillwater analysis is now complete, and the next step is to map the overland wave heights. This will delineate the A Zone/V Zone boundary, and will also create a new boundary line between these zones called a Limit of Moderate Wave Action, or LiMWA. The LiMWA line will create a new zone called a Coastal A Zone (CAZ). The CAZ is where wave heights are between 1.5' and 3'. There are no new regulatory requirements for CAZs, but the Maryland Model Floodplain Management Ordinance recommends that CAZs be regulated to V Zone standards. More information can be found on the FEMA Region III Coastal Analysis & Mapping website at: <http://www.r3coastal.com/>

The third initiative is the Risk MAP Watershed Discovery process. The Risk MAP process expands upon Map Modernization and will not only map the risk, but will analyze the risk using existing data layers in partnership with the community. A plan will be developed including identifying potential mitigation opportunities. There are two Risk MAP watershed projects that affect Maryland communities, the Lower Susquehanna River watershed and the Gunpowder-Patapsco River watershed. More information on these projects can be found on the Risk MAP Watershed Projects website at:

<https://www.rampp-team.com/pa.htm#RISKMapWatershedprojects>

Anytime a FIRM is updated, one part of the process is to update the community's floodplain management regulations. For many communities, this will already be complete as a result of Map Mod, however, for others it may require additional regulatory language as a result of new flood zones being added.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Wagner at [kwagner@mde.state.md.us](mailto:kwagner@mde.state.md.us) or call 301-689-1495.

<https://www.rampp-team.com/pa.htm#RISKMapWatershedprojects>

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### **New Contact information?**

It is important for us to update all of our members on our latest news and events. If your contact information has changed since last year please email [tward@g-and-o.com](mailto:tward@g-and-o.com) with your updates.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The current balance in the Treasury is \$10,496.94.

### **Ideas for Articles**

We welcome your input and ideas. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Necolle Maccherone at [Nmaccherone@mbakercorp.com](mailto:Nmaccherone@mbakercorp.com).

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