



A Message from David Maurstad, Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, FEMA

Maryland Floodplain Managers, Spread the Word

Residents, community groups, water management authorities, and elected officials are turning to floodplain managers as influencers on any number of potentially controversial topics—from how new flood hazard maps affect flood risk, to the integrity of local levees, to the need for and availability of flood insurance. In Maryland, when floods threaten the homes and businesses of the State's 5.6 million residents, it is the local floodplain manager that they often turn to for information on what's going on, why it's happening, and what to do next.

By understanding the local flood risks, learning the issues that change or increase these risks, and utilizing the necessary resources and tools, you can help residents protect lives and property and reduce future flood risks. As a floodplain manager, it's not too late for you to engage in proactive outreach to your community. You can help residents prepare for dangerous weather-related events and protect themselves financially.

Maryland Flood Risks:

The State is hit with high winds, significant rainfall and storm surge **from hurricanes and tropical storms**; these can move hundreds of miles inland. Flooding can be a year-round concern; the State is susceptible to **heavy rainfall** and flooding in the spring and summer months—and these risks can increase with **melting snow**. Maryland is currently having its **flood maps modernized** to provide an updated picture of the levels of flood risk in each county. The level of protection that levees provide is also being incorporated into these new flood maps.

Floodplain Managers Role:

As a floodplain manager, you can help reduce community vulnerability by sharing information about flood risks and flood insurance. Your role in educating the public prepares communities for flood disasters and helps them recover. Now is the time to join forces with local insurance agents and elected officials and notify your community about the risks of flooding and the rewards of flood insurance. We need to remind Maryland residents that where it can rain, it can flood, and where it has already flooded, it will likely flood again. Residents should take steps to prevent devastation from future disasters. These efforts strengthen the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and help maintain its ability to support the work of floodplain managers.

Resources:

FloodSmart: www.FloodSmart.gov

Map Change Toolkit: www.fema.gov/business/nfip/hillsbo1.shtm

Flood Outreach Toolkit: E-mail info@femafloodsmart.com to request a copy.

Levee resources: www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv_intro.shtm.

FloodSmart e-newsletter: register through Agents.FloodSmart.gov.

This article was provided by David I. Maurstad, Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate; Federal Insurance Administrator, National Flood Insurance Program

Membership Renewal Time, Again!

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers. Membership renewal time is upon us again. We encourage your continued participation and membership in MAFSM.

Over the last year MAFSM has:

- Held an annual conference and general membership meeting to bring like-minded floodplain and stormwater professionals together and relay events in the State of Maryland
- Provided a field trip of Coastal Outfalls Sites
- Offered trainings to prepare for the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam and hosted a CFM exam
- Written letters on behalf of the membership in support of sound floodplain management to State and Federal government officials
- Updated and maintained www.MAFSM.org to keep members in the loop with MAFSM's events
- Renewed membership as a state chapter of the Association of State and Floodplain Managers.
- Published newsletters to keep you apprised of floodplain and stormwater related news and events in Maryland

Some of the benefits and privileges you will enjoy upon renewing your membership include:

- Continued access to free and low cost trainings
- Reduced conference fees
- Access the MAFSM publication, the *Runoff Review*
- The opportunity to provide input to State leaders in our field
- The ability to provide input through the Association to national leaders
- Referrals, networking, and timely information not available to nonmembers
- The ability to actively participate in committees and be heard

Many of you became new members at our October 2007 Conference. Conference materials for the October 2007 conference included the statement that memberships that are renewed or initiated for the conference will be valid until December 31, 2008. We will honor that statement.

However, we are changing this policy to make our membership year the calendar year. We have found that allowing membership to extend longer than a year has become somewhat of an issue with members either not renewing on time or not knowing their membership status, not to mention the extra tracking and paperwork the policy requires.

At a recent Board meeting, we discussed this issue and decided that in the future our membership year will end December 31 of each year. Therefore, beginning in calendar year 2008, if you become a member or renew your membership in January, it will be valid until December 31 of that year. Like wise if you become or renew your membership in October (to coincide with our conference), it will be valid until December 31 of that year.

To renew your membership, please go www.MAFSM.org/join.html and complete membership form, and send your payment to MAFSM c/o Adrienne Sheldon, Treasurer; 849 International Drive, Suite 320; Linthicum; MD 21090-2233. If you are renewing an "Individual Full" membership consider using our Paypal option. Please note: If using Paypal a completed membership form still needs to be sent and mailed to Ms. Sheldon at the address provided.

We value your input and urge to be an active member.

MAFSM 3rd Annual Conference

MAFSM held their 3rd Annual Conference on October 24th and 25th, 2007 at The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. This year's conference was themed *Stormwater and Floodplain Management in Maryland - The Local Perspective* and was attended by 120 people.

This year's event featured two pre-conference activities—a coastal plains outfalls tour in Anne Arundel County and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) training. These activities were followed by a full-day conference with 14 breakout sessions on a wide array of local floodplain and stormwater issues, exhibits, and a social hour. A CFM exam was also held in conjunction with the conference on October 26th.

The field tour, attended by 15 people, began at the Arlington Echo Nature Preserve. Attendees were then taken to a series of engineered ponds with stone weirs that were placed to help restore deeply

eroded streams and their floodplains to a more natural condition, while providing infiltration of runoff for stormwater management and preventing erosion in the receiving stream. Each site illustrated different sized projects and conditions, from steep narrow outfall areas to fairly flat and wide stream valleys.



Attendees listen as Underwood and Associates provides a Coastal Plains Outfalls Tour in Anne Arundel County

The CFM training covered topics such as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations, community participation in the NFIP, reading and using Flood Insurance Rate Maps, insurance, mitigation, and other topics. It was an excellent supplement for those studying for the CFM exam as well as a great refresher course for CFMs. Twenty-seven people attended the training and it received universal positive evaluations.

The conference was kicked off by keynote speaker, General Gerald E. Galloway, Jr., P.E., Ph.D., noted civil engineer, public administrator, soldier, educator, and geographer. We were privileged to have him open our conference. Mr. Galloway's address was followed by concurrent sessions that included *Activities of the Maryland Hydrology Panel*, *Patterns of Headwater Stream Burial Due to Urbanizations in the Gunpowder-Patapsco Watershed*, and more.

Lunch included a Business meeting, an update by ASFPM's Region III Director, Jeff Sparrow on ASFPM activities, and a talk from Vince DiCamillo on the ASFPM Foundation. Following lunch, attendees had time to network in the exhibit hall before the afternoon concurrent sessions began. These sessions included *Overview of Low Impact Development, Dorchester County, MD: Sea Level Rise Inundation Study*, and others. The conference was closed by Ken Pensyl, Program Manager, Sediment and Stormwater Division of the Maryland Department of the Environment. An hour-long networking social concluded the evening.



Jason Stick, former Chair, leads the business meeting

This year was MAFSM's first at including sponsors and exhibitors. Twelve exhibits lined the conference hallways representing, State, Federal, and local agencies, vendors, and engineering firms. Six sponsors greatly increased our resources to keep conference registration costs low and provide many of our conference activities. The sponsors included Greenhorne and O'Mara, URS, Watershed Concepts/HSM AECOM, Baker, PBS&J, and Smartvent. We are very appreciative of their contributions.

Thanks also to all the participants who volunteered as room monitors and helped make this conference a success. Special thanks to Mike Gilliam for his outstanding coordination efforts!

For conference pictures and presentations please visit our website at www.mafsm.org.

Election Results and Committee Changes

Elections were held in October 2007 for the 2008 calendar year. Election results were reported at the 3rd Annual conference and were as follows.



2008 Elected Board (from left) Jason Stick, Necolle Maccherone, Mary Roman, Adrienne Sheldon, John Joyce, Lilah Haxton, Terry McGee.

- Chair *** – Terry McGee
- Vice chair*** – Mary Roman
- Treasurer** – Adrienne Sheldon
- Secretary** – Necolle Maccherone
- Western Regional Representative** – Jason Stick
- Eastern Regional Representative*** – Lilah Haxton
- Central Regional Representative*** – John Joyce

*Since the election several changes have taken place that required the Board to change the holders of these positions.

Terry McGee has obtained a new position and he has resigned as Chair. We wish him well in his new endeavors. As Vice-Chair, Mary Roman has assumed the position of Chair for 2008. We are excited for Mary to take the helm!

Kristen Martinenza has been appointed to the Vice-Chair position. She has long been our Outreach and Public Relations Chair and we thank her for taking on an additional role.

Lilah Haxton has obtained a new position at the Mitigation Directorate at FEMA HQ and has resigned as Eastern Regional Representative and Mitigation Co-Chair. We would like to thank Lilah for all she contributed to MAFSM and wish her well in her new position. The Mitigation Chair is J. Carver Struve of MEMA- thank you and welcome Carver! The Eastern Regional Representative position is currently vacant. Members who work for state or local government and are interested in filling the Eastern Regional Representative position, please contact Mary Roman at Mary_roman@urscorp.com.

Our Constitution and Bylaws state that Regional Representatives must work for state or local government. With his retirement, John Joyce was unable to accept the Central Regional Representative position. We congratulate John on his retirement and look forward to his continued active involvement as a private citizen! Sue Veith of St. Mary's County has agreed to accept the position Central Regional Representative. Welcome Sue!

A long time contributing behind the scenes individual has stepped up to the forefront. Welcome Barbara Litten as our new Membership Chair. Please direct your membership questions to her.

Founding member Jen Marcy has moved out of state. We will miss her support and presence in our meetings and wish her luck in New York. Her Programs Chair responsibilities will be taken over by Michael Gilliam. Michael was instrumental in the success of October's conference and we are looking forward to more great programs to come.

For a complete list of current Board positions and committee chairs, please see the last page of this newsletter.

Also on the ballot was a question of whether elected terms should run for one or two years.

More votes were cast for two-year terms. Therefore, when we hold our 2009 election in October of 2008, elected positions will be for two years.

As always a current list of Board members and committee chairs can be found on the last page of this newsletter and on our website at www.mafsm.org.

Stormwater Notes...

In order to recognize the importance of stormwater issues, "Stormwater Notes" is a regular column in the Runoff Review. This issue's article has been brought to us by our Chair, Mary Roman .

MD Stormwater Management Act Update

On April 24, 2007, the "Stormwater Management Act of 2007" was signed by Maryland Governor O'Malley. The new act will go into effect on October 1, 2008. For this to occur, a multitude of drafting, planning and scheduling activities are taking place.

Prior to the passage of the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater management requirements for new development were provided in accordance with the unified sizing criteria consisting of water quality volume, groundwater recharge volume, channel protection volume, overbank protection volume and extreme flood volume. These criteria are outlined in the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual. Chapter 5 of the 2000 Manual, "Stormwater Credits for Innovative Site Design Planning", encourages the use of Environmental Site Design (ESD). Stormwater "credits" were granted accordingly for using ESD. In general, ESD uses small-scale stormwater management practices to minimize the impact of land development on water resources. ***The most significant change that will result from the SWM Act of 2007 is that ESD is required to the maximum extent practicable and to ensure that the structural practices are used only where absolutely necessary.***

It is the responsibility of the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to implement these new regulations and make necessary changes to the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual. A meeting was held July 30, 2007 to discuss ideas for developing regulations that will implement ESD as required by the Act. Short term activities that came out of this meeting were to redraft Chapter 5 of the SWM Manual. The redraft includes information on current design practices

and changes in decision making for implementing ESD. Since the Manual is incorporated by reference into the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), it can be updated without a significant re-write of the regulations. In updating the manual to reflect the ESD as a required technique, MDE believes it will meet requirements of the SWM Act within the required timeframe.

A 66-page first draft of Chapter 5, dated December 14, 2007 is available on MDE's web site. The requirements of the Stormwater Management Act of 2007 are outlined and detailed.

Throughout January and February, six regional focus group meetings have occurred to discuss proposed changes. By May, MDE hopes to finalize design standards and schematics, prepare technical guidance, and draft any necessary regulation changes. In addition, MDE will work to develop a model ordinance that can be used by municipalities in Maryland. Through the summer of 2008, it is anticipated that COMAR modifications will be published and public comments will be requested. Regulation circulation will begin in September 2008 with the ultimate goal of adopting the new regulation by the end of 2008.

Stormwater management regulations have been evolving since 1982 when the first SWM statute was passed in Maryland. The evolution of SWM regulations continues with the implementation of the SWM Act of 2007. This act will significantly affect the approach to controlling stormwater in Maryland. To obtain more detailed information on the "Stormwater Management Act of 2007" or other environmental issues go to <http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/SedimentandStormwater/swm2007.asp>.

MAFSM Supports ASFPM's Freeboard Letter

On February 12, 2008 the Association of State Floodplain Managers sent a letter to FEMA's Assistant Administrator, David Maurstad. The letter is in support of FEMA's proposal to incorporate one foot of freeboard into the flood provisions of the International Residential Code to help reduce flood losses and improve the safety of homes throughout the nation.

MAFSM along with 17 other State chapters endorsed ASFPM's position. For a copy of the letter visit www.floods.org.

John Joyce Retires From MDE

John Joyce recently retired from the Maryland Department of Environment. As part of MDE's Wetlands and Waterways Group, John was responsible for the Community Assistance Visits (CAVs) and was actively involved in MDE's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

John is one of the founding members of MAFSM and served as the first Chairperson. MAFSM appreciates his continued involvement in the organization.

MAFSM congratulates John on his retirement and looks forward to his continued involvement in MAFSM.

Dave Guignet, PE, CFM is the state's NFIP Coordinator for Maryland. He can be reached at 410 537 3775 or at dguignet@mde.state.md.us. Kevin Wagner, CFM, has joined the NFIP group at MDE to support the NFIP functions such as technical assistance, and community assistance visits. He can be reached at 410-537-3914.

Welcome New MEMA Planner

Hibak Hersi, CFM is the new Mitigation Planner at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). We have included a brief description of her roles for your information.

Hibak is currently updating the Maryland Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The goal is to have an updated, state adopted, and FEMA approved Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan by the end of this summer. Hibak's work with MEMA also involves assisting the agency in emergency response and recovery operations, as needed, both in the State Emergency Operations Center and in the field.

Before working for MEMA, Hibak was the Mitigation Planning Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Virginia – focusing on ensuring that local jurisdictions had locally adopted and FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plans. Hibak supported planning groups with the development of DMA2K hazard mitigation plans; supported the State Hazard Mitigation Program Manager and the Recovery & Mitigation Division Director as needed; assisted with the revision and the implementation of the Commonwealth's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and more.

You may contact Hibak at hhersi@mema.state.md.us.

Treasurer's Report

We are currently in the process of updating our membership list. Many memberships expired with the new year. As of February 2008, we have \$6,300 in the treasury.

Ideas for Articles

We welcome your input and ideas. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Necolle Maccherone at necolle.maccherone@mapmodteam.com

MAFSM Volunteers for Committee and Conference Sought

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our committees. Committees include Program, Membership, Public Relations & Outreach, Mapping and Technology, Mitigation, Membership and Stormwater. We are especially seeking help planning our 2008 conference.

Please contact

Necolle.Maccherone@mapmodteam.com if you are interested in becoming a committee member.

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