

Runoff Review

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An official publication of the Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers

Message from the Chair



Necolle Maccherone, CFM
MAFSM Chair

The last year and half has brought upheaval to so much of our lives. I've been very lucky to volunteer with a group of professionals who, during this time, continued to work together (even if virtually) and create products, events, and experiences that promote sound floodplain and stormwater management.

Early this year, we collaborated with artist Osama Omoregbe and created an [activity booklet](#) to augment our youth engagement.

Jaleesa Tate shared [Maryland's Repetitive Loss Strategy](#) for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for our February Lunch and Learn. Then in March, Dave Guignet presented on the [Coast Smart Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary](#) (CS-CRAB) during a Lunch and Learn session.

We participated in the Maryland Resiliency Partnership's Flood Awareness Month by supporting a Governor's Proclamation and regular posts about flood risk reduction, preparedness, and insurance, helping residents be #FloodAwareMD.

In June, we held a [virtual conference](#) featuring topics and speakers from Western Maryland. Attended by over 75 professionals, this event helps us connect throughout the different geographies and align with priorities in Maryland.

Dr. Jerry Galloway shared [findings from a recent urban flooding study](#) during our July Lunch and Learn, which included a robust discussion and opportunity for Q&A.

And now we're planning our [17th Annual Conference](#) for November 3 and 4, 2021. This event draws attendees from local, state, and federal governments as well as the private sector throughout Maryland, including engineers, planners, and water resource professionals. This year's conference is virtual in format and features a packed agenda. The conference is expected to be approved by Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) for 6 Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification and 6 Certification Maintenance (CM) credits through the American Planning Association. Click [here](#) to register.

To pull this off in normal times is commendable – to do it in the midst of a pandemic with all the extra stress and responsibility is a demonstration of how dedicated and passionate our volunteers are. I'd like to thank our Board members and volunteers for taking that dedication to new heights this past year.

Spring Event Recap

Gail Abbott, PE, CFM, Senior Plan Reviewer / Floodplain Manager, Washington County

The Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM) held its 4th Annual Spring Conference on June 17, 2021. The conference focused on the western Maryland region and was held virtually via Zoom. This year's conference was attended by 75 participants.

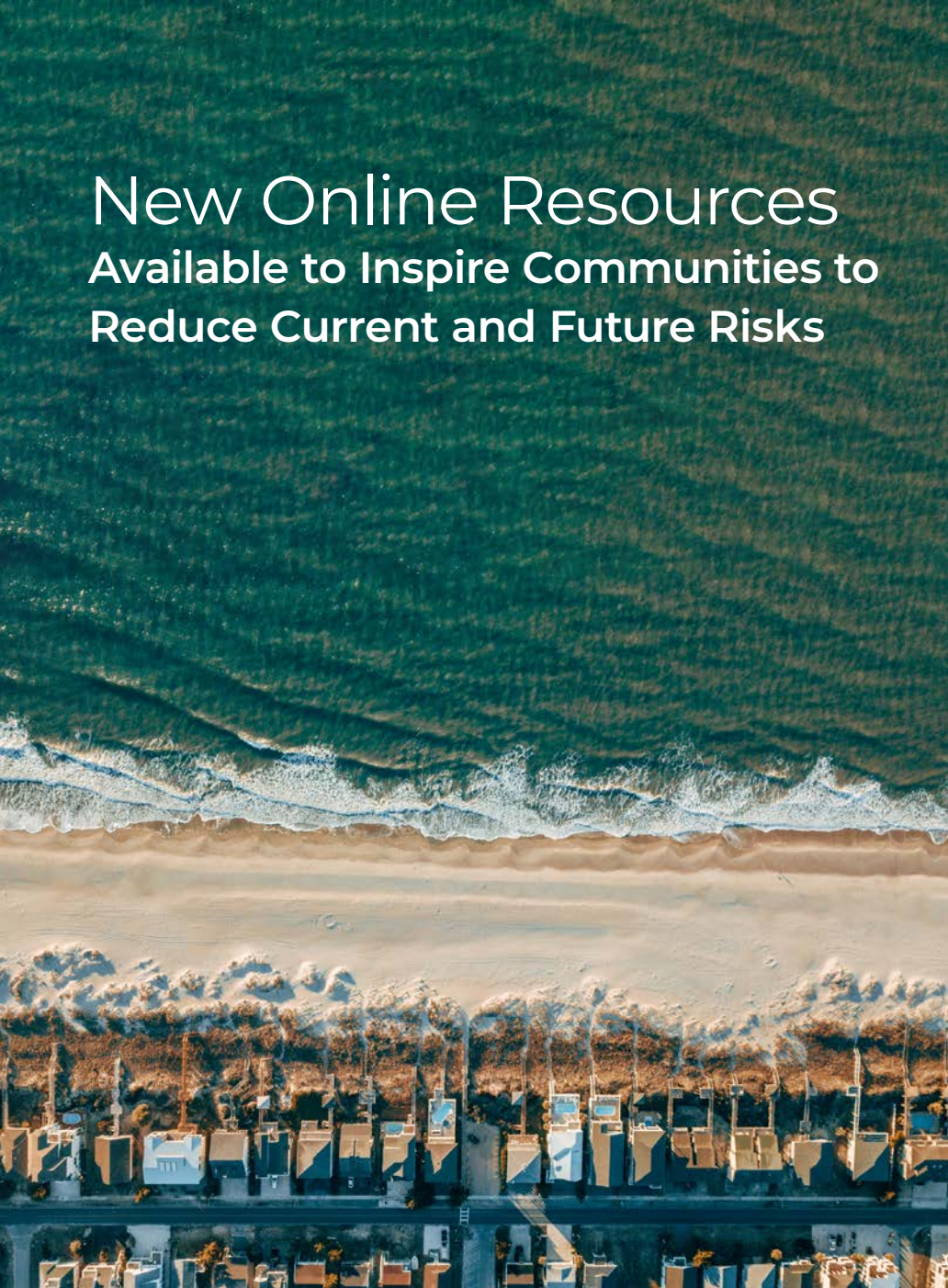
Topics discussed included low-tech process-based stream restoration techniques and applications, the Maryland Riverine Climate Ready Action Boundary (CRAB) advisory product and associated geographic information system (GIS) tools, and a stormwater pond retrofit design to improve flood protection and enhance water quality.

A panel of emergency management experts provided further input and discussion of cooperative hazard mitigation planning and applications. A robust question and answer discussion throughout the conference elaborated on the topics presented.

Join us for the 17th Annual Conference: November 3 and 4, 2021

This will also be a virtual event. Registration is open. [Click for details and registration!](#)

New Online Resources Available to Inspire Communities to Reduce Current and Future Risks



- Communities along **coastal Maryland** participate in the Coast Smart Construction Program and other initiatives to reduce the impacts of rising sea levels and flooding in coastal areas.
- **Aberdeen, Washington**, implemented the Risk Visualization Viewer, an interactive map developed by the state and FEMA to help users identify potential tsunami flooding.
- **New York City** is using FEMA data to develop Future Flood Risk Maps to identify areas vulnerable to floods to support the city's resilient design and planning efforts.

All of FEMA's story maps on flood risk and mitigation can be found at www.fema.gov/flood-maps/tools-resources/risk-map/story-maps.

In addition to the story map, FEMA recently launched these new resources:

- **Planning for Future Conditions.** This brief guide for local officials and community planners explains why considering future risks in hazard mitigation plans and other risk reduction strategies is important. It offers tips for addressing changing risks and provides links to resources that can help communities learn more and take action.
- **Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities.** This resource helps local communities, states, territories, and tribes make the business case for nature-based solutions. It also offers guidance for planning and implementation, including public and private funding for projects. The guide was developed in partnership with resilience experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Devon McGhee, CFM, Coastal Management Specialist, Michael Baker International

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) launched a new interactive story map to help coastal communities understand their unique risks and to use data from coastal studies to become more resilient.

"Thinking Beyond Flood Maps" presents ideas to inspire coastal communities to use FEMA flood mapping data for more than just floodplain management ordinances or explaining flood insurance purchase requirements. Case studies

from four coastal communities show how they have used the data to enhance resilience from floods.

The four case studies featured in the story map are:

- **Pinellas County, Florida**, launched an outreach and education program for residents about flood hazards. Pinellas County also started a training program to help real estate agents answer flood-related questions from potential home buyers.

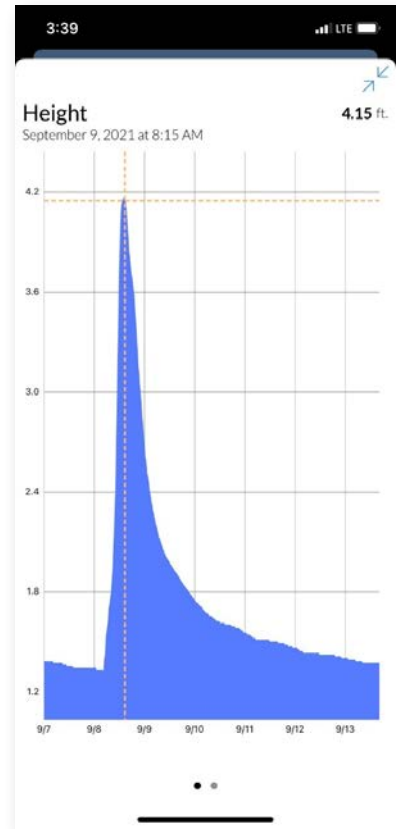
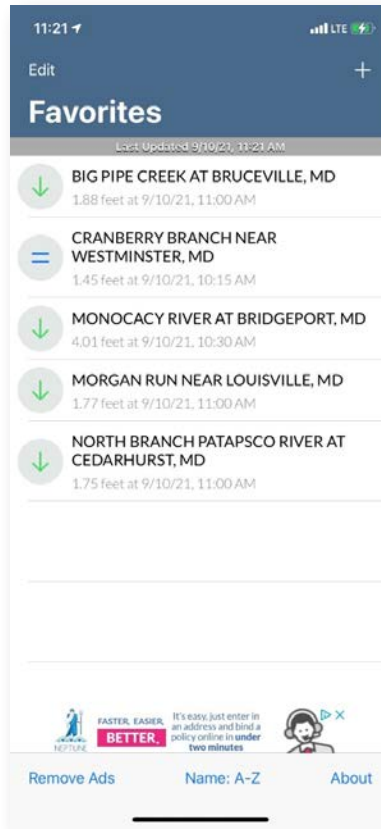
Check Out These Neat Apps!

Patrick Varga, Carroll County Government

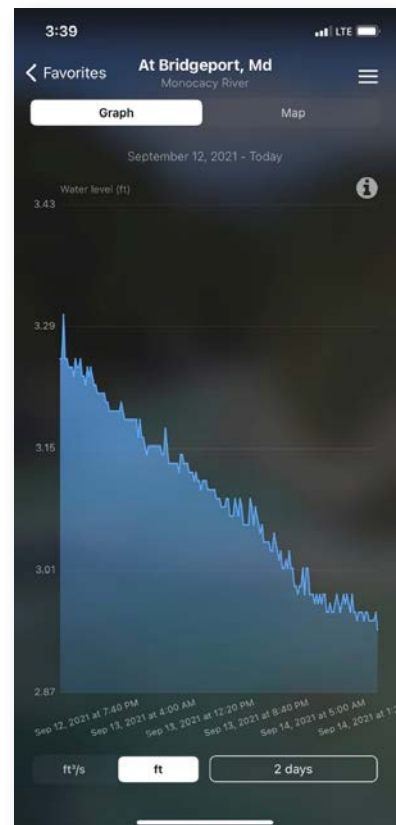
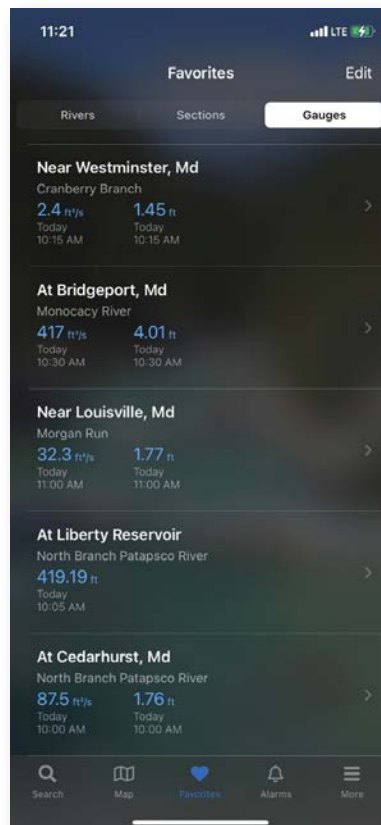
Want to keep an eye on water levels in local rivers and reservoirs? Check out RiverApp for Android and Apple platforms and FloodWatch for Apple. Both apps pull data from USGS gages, but RiverApp also provides water surface elevations of reservoirs. RiverApp even provides local and international information for kayakers showing the status of river reaches for low water, high water, or hazards. Both apps are free but have options to purchase to remove ads from FloodWatch and unlock additional features in RiverApp. Check them out today!



FloodWatch D5G Technology, LLC



RiverApp Florian Bessière



Youth Activity Booklet



Freelance graphic artist and art educator Osama Omoregbe graciously donated his time and talent to create a youth activity booklet for MAFSM. This booklet aligns perfectly with our mission to provide educational opportunities and dissemination of information to those concerned with sound floodplain and stormwater management.

The activities, including coloring pages, a crossword puzzle, and more, provide an engaging way for students to learn about these important principles. The illustrations are compelling and interesting, and include wildlife native to Maryland.

This booklet will be a great resource to reinforce with students the concept of watersheds, water quality, and water quantity. MAFSM expresses our gratitude for Osama's support.

New Floodplain Development Permits for Charles County

Kelly Palmer, CFM, Planner III, Charles County Government

The Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management is working on developing a floodplain permit specifically designed to capture all floodplain development, and not just structures within the floodplain. The County currently utilizes the EnerGov system for permit management. Using this system, a permit type and work classes are being created to capture the different types of development that are authorized within the regulated floodplain. For example, although a building and/or zoning permit is not required for adding non-structural fill to a property within the floodplain, a Floodplain Authorization Permit would be issued to track the development.

Using global positioning system (GPS) technology, the EnerGov system will detect when a property is within the floodplain. This will trigger a floodplain review for any permit that comes into the system. While reviewing a building or zoning permit, the floodplain reviewer can identify any other development within the floodplain that would not normally be captured under the building or zoning permit. This allows staff to create a Floodplain Authorization Permit to track the other types of development, and not just structures.

In addition to the development, the system has custom fields that will allow staff to track the size and type of development within the regulated floodplain. Data will include the cubic feet of fill; shoreline structures; the storage of materials; anchoring of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment and fuel tanks, etc. The system will allow us to store photographs, Elevation Certificates, floorplans, and site plans within the file so that all the necessary information is readily available when a new application comes in.

Charles County is hoping to start using this new permit application this fall.

FEMA Announces Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate's Report

Rhonda Montgomery, CFM, Acting Flood Insurance Advocate, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

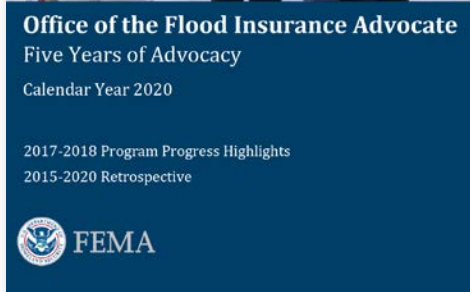


The Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate (OFIA) recently announced the release of its *Five Years of Advocacy* report. The report is intended to provide transparency and to support the ongoing improvements to the National Flood Insurance Program. A copy of the report can be found on FEMA's website at [fema.gov/flood-insurance/advocate](https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/advocate).

The OFIA's mission is to advocate with compassion and fairness for policyholders and property owners. Its goal is to reduce the complexity of the National Flood Insurance Program and ensure policyholders are treated fairly.

In the report, the OFIA reflects on its role within FEMA over the last 5 years. The report highlights progress, provides transparency, and supports ongoing improvements to the National Flood Insurance Program. Features of the report include:

- Executive Summary with a COVID-19 Update
- History of the Office
- Highlights and Contributions
- Interview with the Advocate
- Looking Forward
- Program Progress Highlights



The OFIA continues to identify and report on topics to improve the customer experience. This year's topic areas include:

- Installment Plan Options
- Condominium Coverage
- Unnumbered A Zones
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Qualification
- Lender Requirements

The OFIA's Five Years of Advocacy report, and previous reports can be found [here](#).

If you're interested in using **Ward's® 3D Flood Simulation Model** at a local school or event, please contact Paul Slonac (PSlonac@mbakerintl.com) or Ben Kaiser (benjamin.kaiser@aecom.com).



WARD'S 3D MODEL DEMONSTRATION AT THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Lunch and Learns

MAFSM hosted three informative lunch and learn discussions earlier this year. Stay tuned for future sessions!

February 24, 2021

Maryland's Repetitive Loss Strategy as part of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Jaleesa Tate, Maryland Emergency Management Agency

March 18, 2021

Coast Smart Climate Ready Action Boundary (CS-CRAB), Dave Guignet, Maryland Department of the Environment

July 29, 2021

Urban Flooding, Dr. Gerald E. Galloway, Professor, University of Maryland

Take Your CFM Exam Online: More Convenient, Faster Results

By Mary Bart, republished from ASFPM's "The Insider," September 2021



Big changes are coming to the Certified Floodplain Managers exam. After 2 years of planning, we're excited to announce the transition to a digital CFM® exam has begun, and starting September 1, exam candidates can begin scheduling their online exams.

Moving to an online format provides greater convenience and flexibility to the more than 1,200 floodplain management professionals who take the CFM exam each year. No more having to wait for an exam date to be scheduled in your community or traveling an hour or more to take an exam in a neighboring state. As an added benefit, you will receive your results immediately upon completion of the exam, rather than the typical two-three weeks with the paper exams.

ASFPM has contracted with Scantron, a leading testing services company, to make the CFM exam available at its [test center locations](#) in the United States and Canada. Of the top 100 U.S. cities by population, 98% of candidates are within 15 miles of a Scantron testing center. For even greater convenience, there's also the option of taking the exam from your home or office with Scantron's remote proctor service.

"This really is a major milestone for the CFM program and it will help us continue to grow the program while protecting the security and integrity of the exam," said Chad Berginnis, executive director of ASFPM. "By removing the barriers inherent to the traditional paper exams, we anticipate the accessibility of the digital exam will hold particularly strong appeal to the next generation of CFMs."

Timeline for the digital exam transition

To accommodate exam takers during the transition to a digital exam, the Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) has established a phased rollout for the program. Here are a few key points to keep in mind as you plan your testing options:

- Digital exams can be scheduled starting Sept. 1, 2021
- Existing paper exams that are already scheduled will go on as scheduled
- ASFPM will begin pilot testing digital exam offerings at chapter events later this year
- Paper exams are targeted to be phased out in 2022

Getting started with the digital CFM exam

Registering for the online CFM exam is quick and easy. When you [register here](#) to take the exam, you will receive a "Notice to Schedule" email from Scantron that includes a username/password and instructions to timeframe search as needed to get more options. A list of testing locations can be found [here](#).

The cost to take the national CFM exam is \$185 for members and \$565 for non-members. To help you navigate the changes, we've developed a resource of [frequently asked questions](#). Ready to get started? [Visit our website](#) to learn more and register for your exam.

"Moving to the digital exam is part of our ongoing effort to modernize the CFM program," said Louie Greenwell, certification and training manager at ASFPM. "In addition to the convenience and flexibility aspects, candidates will enjoy a better test-taking experience as things like FIRM maps and other exhibits are easier to display in a digital format."

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