



Message from the Chair



Nocolle Maccherone, CFM
MAFSM Chair

As we move through 2022—not to jinx it—it feels like we've returned to our pre-pandemic lifestyles. What does this mean for MAFSM? We returned to in-person events this June with our spring conference at Chesapeake

College where we heard about several Eastern Shore-focused efforts. Our annual conference in November will be another opportunity to gather together and get reacquainted. If you haven't [registered](#) yet, please do! More 3D floodplain model demonstrations and support of other in-person events that spread the word about sound floodplain and stormwater management practices are in our future.

We learned during our period of virtual engagements that technology is a powerful tool to keep us connected when we can't be in the same room. We plan to continue leveraging technology to provide more virtual lunch-and-learns and plug into digital initiatives.

Many thanks to all of our active volunteers, whether they show up in-person or virtually. They make the many efforts we lead and support possible.

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

Fall Conference

Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers' (MAFSM's) in-person conference will occur on November 9 in Linthicum, MD, at a new location: BWI Airport Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090. This event draws attendees from local, state, and federal government as well as the private sector throughout Maryland and even surrounding states. It attracts over 150 engineers, planners, water resource professionals, and NFIP Coordinators, annually. **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!** We will have networking opportunities, vendor exhibits, and a packed agenda with approximately 20 technical presentations. The conference is expected to be approved by ASFPM for 6 CECs for CFM certification and 6 CMs through the American Planning Association. Opportunities to exhibit and sponsor are also available. Please contact Laura@MAFSM.org for more information or visit www.mafsm.org.

The Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers

18th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

IN-PERSON EVENT AT A NEW LOCATION!

Marriott BWI Airport
1743 West Nursery Road
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Registration is open

Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Senate Bill 227

Urban flooding is a growing issue in Maryland. The increasing number of extreme rainfall events that produce intense precipitation will continue to lead to more urban flooding events unless steps are taken to mitigate their impacts. The Maryland General Assembly recognized the need to address urban flooding by updating Maryland's Stormwater Management law (§ 4-203 of the Environment Article) in 2021. The law requires MDE to develop plans to evaluate current flooding risks and update regulations to improve urban stormwater management. In response, MDE released a report, *Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland*, that provides a roadmap for modernizing stormwater management practices and regulations. The law also requires

MDE to consult with stakeholders on the impact of the proposed regulations. MAFSM was invited by MDE to participate in the Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland (A-StoRM) Stakeholder Consultation Group and is represented by Necolle Maccherone, CFM. More information on the effort can be found at Community Engagement | Advancing Stormwater Resiliency in Maryland ([A-StoRM](#)).

ASFPM Launches ReduceFloodRisk.org

Flooding is the nation's most common and costly disaster. Ninety percent of all natural disasters in the United States involve flooding—and the trends are worsening. Fueled by climate change, extreme rainfall events and sea level rise will continue at a frightening pace, putting millions of people in the path of destructive floods.

To help property owners, particularly those in flood-prone areas, understand their flood risk and the most effective flood mitigation strategies for their particular property, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) recently launched Reduce Flood Risk ([ReduceFloodRisk.org](#)), an interactive flood mitigation resource library.

At the heart of Reduce Flood Risk is a decision-making engine that guides property owners through a series of questions to help them understand their current flood risk and the specific steps they can take to better protect their home or business.

The mitigation options on Reduce Flood Risk can be filtered by key attributes, such as cost, complexity, and level of required maintenance. The site also features a variety of resources on flood risk, flood insurance, financial assistance options, who to contact with questions, and links to more in-depth information and guidance. The site is completely free, and users don't need to create an account to gain access to the resources.

"To the average property owner, flood risk mitigation can feel like an overwhelming task. People often tell us they don't even know where to start, so they put it off until it's too late," said Chad Berginnis, ASFPM executive director. "One of the goals of Reduce Flood Risk is to put people on a path toward understanding their flood risk and arming them with the tools they need to reduce that risk. And for those who think they'll never flood, keep in mind that 40% of federal flood insurance claims occur outside of high-risk areas."

One of the big problems Reduce Flood Risk solves is data collection; Reduce Flood Risk simplifies the information-gathering process. Although there are a multitude of mitigation resources available to help individuals and communities reduce their flood risk, most of these resources are scattered across numerous federal and state

agency websites, making it nearly impossible for property owners to find specific strategies tailored to the location and features of their home or business.

By curating the best mitigation resources available on the web and creating a centralized, searchable library, Reduce Flood Risk empowers property owners to protect themselves and their most valuable assets.

Funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate, ASFPM developed Reduce Flood Risk with input from representatives from FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ASFPM committees, and academia.

For more information, go to [ReduceFloodRisk.org](#).

Spring Conference

MAFSM hosted another great Spring Conference on June 15, 2022. This year's conference was held at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, and the theme of the day was watershed planning. Attendees also took time to observe the 50th Anniversary of Hurricane Agnes and discuss some of the impacts on the Eastern Shore. Presentations included the University of Maryland's 2021 Coastal Adaptation Report Card, Cecil County's Lower North East Creek Watershed Master Plan, and St. Michael's Resiliency Commission. After a facilitated discussion with MAFSM Eastern Shore representative Bryan Lightner, attendees watched the film "[Water's Way – Thinking Like a Watershed.](#)"



The filmmakers and producers Tom Horton, Dave Harp, and Beth Olsen, were on hand to discuss some of the film's themes and pressing challenges, including the critical importance of the beaver, with our watershed planning efforts.

Hurricane Agnes 50th Anniversary Event

MAFSM would like to thank all of the participants who came out to Union Bridge on June 25, 2022, to look back at the legacy of Hurricane Agnes in Carroll County and beyond. MAFSM hosted an event at the [Flood Zone Brewery](#) to remember Hurricane Agnes during its 50th anniversary. Staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helped manage the MAFSM table. Approximately 300 people

came to the Flood Zone, and 80 people interacted with our exhibit table. Many people said they came to the brewery for the first time for the Agnes event and shared stories of the impact Agnes had on them.

MAFSM shared information about [Hurricane Agnes](#), flood mitigation, and the history of [flooding in Carroll County](#). The trivia prize wheel MAFSM created to bring people



to the table to talk was a hit. The brewery generously discounted drinks as prizes for the trivia wheel. [Ruebén Montoya](#) jammed for the crowd with a few water-themed songs.

Proclamations were presented by the [Town of Union Bridge](#) and the [Commissioners of Carroll County](#) regarding flooding and Hurricane Agnes. Mayor Perry Jones, whose shop was flooded during Agnes, and Commissioner Eric Bouchat presented the proclamations and spoke about flooding. Pat Varga spoke of the importance of educating the public about flooding, as another Agnes will happen again. The owner of the brewery spoke about the importance of being prepared for a flood and changed the name of the brewery's best-selling beer from Flood Zone Pilsner to Agnes Pilsner. It was a memorable event that combined history, education, outreach, and great beer. Cheers!

Second ASFPM Foundation Future Leaders Scholarship

Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation president, announced at the ASFPM 2022 Annual National Conference that the ASFPM Foundation will fund a second Future Leaders Scholarship (FLS). Historically, the FLS has been awarded every other year since its inception in 2019. However, beginning in 2023, the Foundation will award the Future Leaders Scholarship to a college student every year. This second scholarship is only possible because of the generous support from individuals, ASFPM Chapters, and companies.

The Future Leaders Scholarship provides up to \$20,000 per year for 2 years to a student entering their junior year in a 4-year undergraduate degree program, or entering the last 2 years of a 5-year or dual degree undergraduate program. The funds will pay the recipient's college or university directly for any tuition costs that exceed any existing financial aid or scholarships up to \$20,000 per year. Funds remaining after tuition payment may be used for other educational expenses, on-campus room and board, or an equivalent stipend if living off campus.

The purpose of the Future Leaders Scholarship is to create an additional means to advance the vision of the ASFPM Foundation by supporting the education of up-and-coming professionals interested in reducing the future risk and impacts of flooding. Each scholarship is awarded to a deserving college student who plans to work after graduation in a profession that directly or indirectly supports the fields related to reducing the risk and impacts of floods on people and communities.

The Future Leaders Scholarship is intended to support the academic career of a deserving undergraduate student, studying in areas such as engineering; planning; and biological, earth, and social sciences. Representative fields of study include floodplain management, watershed management, and coastal management, and important issues as climate change, the environment, and urban and land management practices also come into play. Professionals working in the public and private sectors, and who are scientists, engineers, planners, and researchers, are excellent representations of what our FLS scholars aspire to be.

Applications for the Future Leaders Scholarship for the fall 2023 to spring 2025 academic term will begin being accepted in the fall of 2022. More information about our current FLS scholars and the cycle of applications for our next scholar will be available on the Foundation's website at www.asfpmfoundation.org.

If you're interested in using

Ward's® 3D Flood Simulation Model

at a local school or event please contact:

Necolle Maccherone
necolle.maccherone@atkinsglobal.com

or **Ben Kaiser**
benjamin.kaiser@aecom.com



MODEL DEMONSTRATION AT THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Lunch and Learns

MAFSM has hosted several Lunch and Learns in 2022—thank you to our presenters and attendees!

The topics so far have included:

- *Equity and Floodplains / Stormwater Management*, presented by Suhani Chitalia (Public Policy Partners) and Leanna Powell (Blue Water Baltimore)
- *Purple-Roof Concept*, presented by Callum Gowar (Sempergreen)
- *NOAA's Sea Level Rise Report*, presented by Mark Osler (NOAA)

Attending a Lunch and Learn is a great way to learn more about the featured topic, as well as earn CFM Continuing Education credits and/or APA credits! If you have an idea for a future Lunch and Learn, please contact the MAFSM programs chair.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Chair

Necolle Maccherone, CFM

Senior Project Manager, Atkins

Vice Chair

Patrick Varga, CFM

Environmental Review Supervisor, Carroll County Government

Treasurer

Benjamin Kaiser, PE, CFM

Engineering Manager, AECOM

Secretary

Jason Coleman, P.E., CFM

Managing Ecological Engineer, Ecotone, LLC

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Western Region

Gail Abbott, P.E., CFM

Floodplain Manager and a Senior Plan Reviewer, Washington County Department of Plan Review and Permitting

Central Region

Kelly Palmer, CFM

Floodplain Manager, Charles County Government Department of Planning and Growth Management

Eastern Region

Bryan Lightner, CFM

Administrator, Town of Charlestown

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of 9 / 2022 = \$11,037.22

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs Chair

Kelly Palmer, CFM

Floodplain Manager, Charles County Government Department of Planning and Growth Management

Membership Chair

Jason Sevanick Durant, CFM, GISP

GIS Manager, Wood PLC

Mitigation Co-Chair

Mark D. James, CFM

Michael Baker International

Mitigation Co-Chair

JaLeesa Tate, CFM

Senior Community Resilience Professional, Tetra Tech

Mapping and Technology Co-Chair

Laura Chap, P.E., CFM

Senior Water Resources Engineer, Atkins

Mapping and Technology Co-Chair

Patrick Varga, CFM

Floodplain Management / GIS Specialist, Carroll County Government

Outreach and Public Relations Chair

Kevin G. Wagner

Community Assistance Program Manager, Maryland Department of the Environment

Stormwater Chair

Bill Musico, P.E., CPESC

Floodplain Administrator, Montgomery County Government



Thank you to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a generous grant to help make the 2022 MAFSM conference possible.