

# Runoff Review 2025



## Message from the Chair

In my first year as Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM) chair, I have drawn enormous energy from our volunteers on the board and thank them for their amazing support. Seeing what a great group of people working together can accomplish has been truly inspiring.

In May, we reached out to our federal representatives to express our support for mitigation funding and our concern about the cutbacks in or cancellations of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) federal programs. Mitigation is the most cost-effective way to reduce the devastating impacts of natural disasters.

While the cutbacks and cancellations are disheartening, I hope they will motivate us to strive even harder to achieve our mission—promoting sound floodplain and stormwater management and providing a forum for exchanging information, ideas, and experiences.

Over the past year, our work to promote sound floodplain and stormwater management has included activities in several key areas.

- In April, Maryland Flood Awareness Month, we hosted two webinar lunch-and-learns in collaboration with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).
- Our Spring Event in June focused on managed retreat and was the most well-attended Spring Event ever. The event brought together people from communities across Maryland and Delaware to discuss perspectives on managed retreat and the challenges local governments face when planning for it.
- This summer, we formed a task force to explore expanding MAFSM to include Delaware and the District of Columbia. We are in the early stages of the expansion, and our progress is promising. The expansion will strengthen our regional collaboration and resource sharing and give more voice to our members in Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Find out more about these activities later in this newsletter.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual conference in November!

Benjamin Kaiser, PE, CFM  
MAFSM Chair



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MAFSM Chair

## Announcing the 21st Annual MAFSM Conference

[Register now](#) for the **21st Annual MAFSM Conference** in Linthicum Heights, MD, on November 5, 2025.

The annual conference encompasses technical presentations, networking opportunities, and vendor exhibits and typically brings together more than 175 engineers, planners, water resource professionals, and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinators from local, state, and federal agencies and the private sector in Maryland and surrounding states. This year's conference will have about 20 technical presentations. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has approved six Continuing Education Credits (CECs) for the event.

We are excited that this year's keynote speaker is Chad M. Berginnis, CFM, Executive Director of ASFPM. He will present "Policies, Programs and Resources: What's New in the World of Floodplain Management."

Visit [mafsm.org](http://mafsm.org) for more information about this year's conference.

**21st Annual**  
**MAFSM Fall**  
**Conference**

Maritime Conference Center  
692 Maritime Boulevard  
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

**NOVEMBER 5, 2025**

## MAFSM supports Maryland Flood Awareness Month

Maryland Flood Awareness Month, an initiative spearheaded by state agencies and the [Maryland Resiliency Partnership](#), takes place every April. The purpose of the initiative is to raise awareness, using social media and other resources, about flooding hazards, individual and community preparedness, flood safety, flood insurance, strategies for risk reduction, and flood-resilient projects across the state.

Key information shared this year included:

- **Safety tip:** Dangers of driving on flooded roads: “Turn Around, Don’t Drown”
- **Preparedness:** Importance of a family emergency plan and an emergency supply kit
- **Flood insurance:** Importance of flood insurance since many claims are outside high-risk zones
- **Community resilience:** Ongoing state and local flood risk mitigation projects, such as improvements to stormwater management systems and stream restorations

MAFSM supported Maryland Flood Awareness Month this year by collaborating with MDE on two webinars: “Using

MDE’s Dam Tool Application for Hazard Identification and Risk Communication” and “Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) for Engineers.”



## 2025 Spring MAFSM Conference advances the conversation about managed retreat

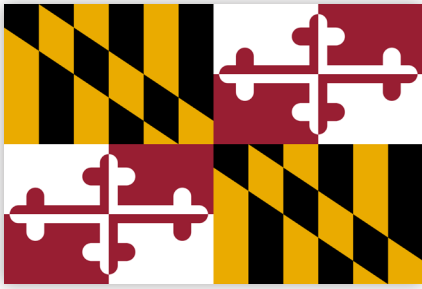
The 2025 Spring MAFSM Conference at Chesapeake College on June 10 was a day of conversations, workshopping, and presentations about managed retreat. Attendees were from Maryland and Delaware. Presentations by MAFSM members and University of Maryland faculty focused on a humane approach to retreat.

State and local government staff, a local historian and Smith Islander, University of Maryland faculty, local planners, and others explored the information in the presentations in two enlightening roundtable discussions and responded to questions from the audience.

Attendees broke out into three groups to role play what elected officials, local government staff, and citizens perceive to be barriers to implementing managed retreat, incentives and strategies to overcome barriers, and the benefits of managed retreat.

Thanks to the presenters, roundtable discussion participants, and attendees for their willingness to advance the conversation about managed retreat.





MARYLAND FLAG



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## MAFSM plans to expand to include Delaware and the District of Columbia

District 1 of ASFPM has chapters in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Some floodplain and stormwater managers in Delaware and the District of Columbia, neither of which has an AFSM chapter, are members of MAFSM.

After several years of dialogue with the floodplain management communities in Delaware and the District of Columbia, we believe the time is right to formally expand MAFSM to include Delaware and the District of Columbia to reflect the diversity and reach of our membership.

We have begun the process to evolve MAFSM into the Mid-Atlantic Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAAFSM). The plan is to finalize the expansion and begin using our new name (and logo!) by the end of 2026.

The expansion will:

- Elevate the voices of our Delaware and District of Columbia members
- Strengthen regional collaboration and resource sharing
- Expand our board to include representatives from Delaware and District of Columbia
- Ensure that hosted events and trainings are tailored to the priorities of all three jurisdictions
- Encourage updates to our committee structure and mission to reflect our broader scope
- Enhance our representation within ASFPM

## MAFSM supports mitigation funding in letters to the federal government

In May, the MAFSM board sent a letter to FEMA and Maryland's two senators, Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks, to advocate for the reinstatement of funding of selected projects and the continuation of the BRIC grant program. The letter explained that Maryland is particularly susceptible to a range of water-related hazards, including coastal and inland flooding, sea level rise, and increasingly frequent severe rainfall events. The BRIC grant program has provided vital support in Maryland jurisdictions seeking proactive solutions to these challenges and for mitigation projects in Baltimore and Crisfield. The letter also explained that the reduction or elimination of BRIC funding is a significant setback for Maryland communities working toward long-term resilience and urged FEMA and federal leadership to preserve and expand this essential program. MAFSM stands ready to continue collaborating with FEMA and local jurisdictions to support strong floodplain and stormwater management decisions across the state.

Also in May, MAFSM joined a coalition of non-profit, private-sector, and academic organizations that sent a letter to the president to raise awareness about the important role that FEMA's hazard mitigation programs play in reducing the escalating impacts of natural disasters. The letter explained that hazard mitigation remains the most cost-effective and life-saving investment our country can make in empowering communities to build stronger, smarter, and more sustainably to safeguard people, infrastructure, and the environment. The letter highlighted the benefits of the BRIC, FMA, and HMGP programs and noted that numerous studies, including from the U.S. National Institute of Building Sciences and the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), show that every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation can yield up to \$13 in future savings. The coalition urged the Department of Homeland Security and the administration to reaffirm the importance of FEMA's mitigation mission and stressed that the mission must remain a central part of the nation's disaster strategy to ensure a safer future for all Americans.

## Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for updating stormwater management regulations and the Maryland Stormwater Design Manual

MDE published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) in the Maryland Register on September 19, 2025, on the planned update of stormwater regulations in Code of Maryland Regulations ([COMAR](#)) [26.17.02](#) and the [Maryland Stormwater Design Manual](#). See [MDE's Stormwater Management webpage](#) for more information on the ANPRM, draft regulations, and design manual updates.

To ensure broad participation in the updating process, MDE will host two virtual listening sessions and one in-person listening session:

- Virtual sessions:
  - October 22, 2025, 7–9 p.m.
  - October 28, 2025, 2–4 p.m.
- In-person session:
  - November 13, 2025, 10 a.m., MDE Headquarters, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD

Registration instructions for the sessions are forthcoming on MDE's Stormwater Management webpage.

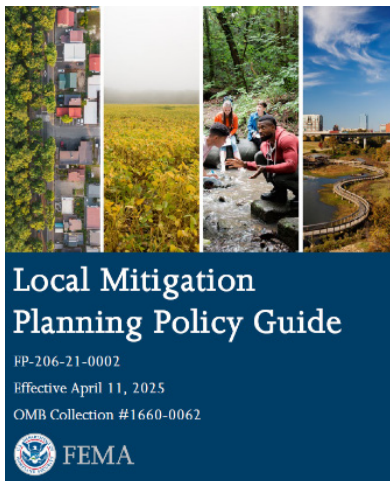
MDE invites written comments on the ANPRM through December 19, 2025. When submitting comments, include your name, organization, and sections of the draft regulations or design manual if relevant. Attachments and supporting analyses are welcome. Comments will help inform the development of the proposed updates, which will be published in the Maryland Register next year.

Submit comments as follows:

- Email: [mde.swmregulations@maryland.gov](mailto:mde.swmregulations@maryland.gov)
- Mail:
 

Stormwater, Dam Safety, and Flood Management Program  
 Maryland Department of the Environment  
 1800 Washington Boulevard  
 Baltimore, MD 21230

## FEMA releases an update of the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide



In April, FEMA released an updated [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#), the agency's policy on and interpretation of the mitigation planning regulations in [Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Part 201](#). The update supersedes the previous version.

The guide applies to local governments that develop, update, and implement local mitigation plans and to FEMA and state officials who review and approve the plans.

The guide provides guidance on developing mitigation plans that meet mitigation planning requirements.

## MAFSM will award scholarships for the Annual ASFPM Conference in 2026

If you belong to MAFSM and are a floodplain or stormwater management professional employed in the public sector in Maryland, you may be able to get a scholarship for next year's ASFPM Conference, the premiere floodplain management conference in the United States. MAFSM will award several scholarships for the conference, which will be in Milwaukee, WI, from May 31 to June 4. [The deadline for requesting a scholarship application](#) is March 1, 2026.

The Annual ASFPM Conference is a great opportunity to share experiences, build relationships, learn from other floodplain management professionals, and represent MAFSM. Certified Flood Managers (CFMs) can earn CEC credits.

Abstracts for the conference are due October 31, 2025. See the [ASFPM website](#) for more information on the conference program, schedule, and logistics.



### 3D floodplain simulation model

If you're interested in using Ward's Stormwater Floodplain Simulations System at a local school or event, contact Necolle Maccherone at [Necolle.Maccherone@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Necolle.Maccherone@atkinsrealis.com) or Ben Kaiser at [benjamin.kaiser@aecom.com](mailto:benjamin.kaiser@aecom.com)

MAFSM'S 3D FLOODPLAIN SIMULATION MODEL AT THE STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE SUMMIT

**MAFSM TREASURY BALANCE**

\$43,198

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**2024 Conference Sponsors**

Note: 2025 conference sponsors are currently being accepted.

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