



## **NJ FLOODPLAIN NEWS**

**January 2009**  
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### **NJAFM Founder Named NJDEP Commissioner**

On November 18, 2008 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson announced that Governor Corzine has named Mark N. Mauriello as the new Commissioner of the NJDEP. Mark has had an impressive career of public service, beginning in 1980 when he first joined the Department after graduating from Middlebury College, in Vermont, with a degree in geology.

At NJDEP he has worked in the NJ Geological Survey, the Division of Coastal Resources, the Office of Coastal Planning and the Land Use Regulation Division. Mark has served as Assistant Commissioner for Land Use Management since 2006 and prior to that as Director of the Land Use Regulation Division. Mark is also very active in the field of floodplain management on the national level, having served as Regional Director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers and also as Coastal Policy Committee Chair since 1988. In 2005 Mark and a handful of ASFPM's New Jersey members joined to form the NJAFM. Mark served as our first Chair through the end of 2006 and has continued to participate in the annual conference and to support our growth.

In addition to his considerable experience in the NJDEP regulatory programs, Mark has developed an outstanding relationship with members of New Jersey's legislature as he worked with them over the years to implement far-reaching environmental protection programs throughout the state. Most recently, Mark is leading the effort to implement the recommendations of the Permit Efficiency Review Task Force to streamline and facilitate the Department's permit review processes. This combination of experience and his excellent reputation within NJDEP and with its many constituents and partners makes him especially well suited to lead NJDEP during these exciting and challenging times.

Mark immediately assumed the role of Acting Commissioner until the confirmation process is completed. Please wish him well in his new role.

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## **From the Chair**

By Adam Slutsky, P.E., CFM

The NJAFM has grown over the past several years and continues to flourish thanks to our active members and strong support from our public and private partners. Last year, we had another successful (fourth) annual conference, updated our web site and, in general, got ourselves better organized. We are positioned to keep growing over the coming year and provide better services to our members.

Look for increased outreach and training opportunities in 2009. In addition to the popular CFM training, we will be offering elevation certificate and floodplain management training courses. We hope to use these courses to educate surveyors, code officials and other interested officials in the most important aspects of floodplain management.

Gaining greater participation in the CRS program will also be one of our goals for 2009. Currently only about 10% of the municipalities in New Jersey participate in the CRS. We hope to encourage greater participation by forming a CRS committee and by sponsoring regional information meetings. If your community is not in the CRS program, please ask them to consider joining the program and consider joining our CRS committee.

We will be outreaching to surveyors and emergency managers with a booth at their annual conferences in Atlantic City. Look for our booth at the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyor's Conference at Bally's Park Place Hotel on February 4-6 (thanks to Ed and Terry Ann of Pagan Affiliates LLC for generously sharing their booth with us) and at the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino on May 4-8. If you are attending one of these conferences, please stop by to say hello.

To date, four county hazard mitigation plans in New Jersey have been approved by FEMA: Essex, Bergen, Burlington and Somerset. In the next few years the remaining counties will all come on line and have approved plans. If you live in a county where the plan is currently being developed, then by all means reach out to the folks who are doing the plan and lend your expertise. The consultants preparing your plans need your input on local flooding data and problems. The hazard mitigation planning process is a great way to educate the public about existing flooding problems and possible solutions and also to promote better floodplain management via the CRS and other initiatives.

Finally, I would like to thank those who have put their valuable time into growing this organization. Time is a precious commodity and this organization has benefitted by your generous support. From helping put on the annual NJAFM conference to staffing the booth at the League of Municipalities convention, I appreciate all those who have contributed. We are blessed with a fantastic group of members who care and it is truly a privilege to work with you.

I look forward to a productive year ahead. If you have any ideas that you would like to share, please contact me via email at [chair@njafm.org](mailto:chair@njafm.org).

Sincerely,

Adam Slutsky, P.E., CFM  
NJAFM Chair

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## News



### New Committee Formed at Delaware River Basin Commission

The recently formed Floodplain Regulations Evaluation Subcommittee (FRES) is charged to review and evaluate the similarities and differences in floodplain regulations throughout the Delaware River Basin and to develop and present recommendations on the potential for more effective floodplain management throughout the basin. This will include an analysis of the existing floodplain regulations within each state that drain to the Delaware River and a review of the 30-year old DRBC floodplain regulations.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was formed in 1961 by the signatory parties to the Delaware River Basin Compact (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the federal government) to share the responsibility of managing the water resources of the Basin. In May 2008, DRBC Commissioners from NJ and PA requested that a subcommittee of the DRBC Flood Advisory Committee (FAC) be formed to address Recommendation FR-1 of the Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force report issued in July 2007. This Interstate Task Force was formed following the severe flooding within the basin in 2004, 2005 and 2006. The full task force report is available for review at [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net).

The 20 member subcommittee is comprised of representative interest groups. Members include local, state and federal officials, flood-mapping consultants and representatives from environmental, citizen, educational, builders, agriculture and commerce interests. Co-chairs are Joseph Ruggeri of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Dan Fitzpatrick of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

All subcommittee materials have been posted to [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net) and meetings are open to the public, although participation in the deliberative process is limited to designated representatives. Those wishing to actively participate in the deliberative process should do so by contacting one of the subcommittee representatives. This subcommittee aims to inform DRBC Commissioners. Any proposed changes to existing regulations must go through a formal rule-making process, including an opportunity for public comment.



### The Thomas Family Challenge Is Extended to January 31, 2009

By Smart VENT Inc.

**It's not too late to help us collect funds for our NOLA food drive and to take advantage of the Thomas Family's generous match. Please consider donating. No amount is too small.**

**So far we have raised \$4000.00!**

It was a great pleasure to show **Flood Proofing Conference** attendees the Extreme Makeover Home Edition episode featuring Noah's Ark Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. The church was a great example of a hurricane resistant and compliant flood project that we worked so hard on. After hearing what the Pastor called "Today's Depression" we were inspired to ask for some help.

#### **Some Back Ground:**

In 1998, Pastor Willie Walker came to Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church. The church has been serving the needy community in New Orleans for 60 years. Willie had dedicated his life to helping people who are most in need – addicts, AIDS patients, homeless and the poor. He has become a local hero to this congregation and community, acting as a father figure to those headed down the wrong path and making everyone feel equal and welcome. When Katrina hit, after Willie made sure his family was safe, he risked his life by going back into the devastation time and time again to help rescue hundreds and saved countless lives. When Willie finally returned to the church, he found it totally destroyed by the flood waters.

With a group of Floodplain managers surrounding him, Reverend Walker stood by a pew and expressed appreciation for all that he was blessed to receive this year, but he also expressed his biggest fear: being unable to feed people. He explained that his neighborhood is in a deep depression and everyday he turns away adults that are begging for food.

From the front of the church everyone was silenced by Ed Thomas our NAI master. He went behind the pulpit and pulled out the collection basket and said, "We can make a difference now," and tossed a wad of money in the basket. Ed's heartfelt compassion sparked group generosity and everyone followed his lead. It was an inspirational moment.

After sharing our idea of organizing donations, Ed called with an amazing and generous challenge.

### **The Thomas Family Challenge!**

It is Smart VENT's intention to offer on behalf of the Thomas Family to match (up to a certain point to be determined later) all cash (cash or check) donations made by 1/29/09, to the Noah's Ark Missionary Church through Smart VENT two fold: one equal match to Noah's Ark; one equal match to the Rev. Kris Peterson's Grand Bayou Presbyterian Church, which has a need equal to or greater than what we saw in the area around the Noah's Ark Church. In any case, our family will not be exchanging presents this year; rather we will be giving to those in need. Noah's Ark and Grand Bayou Presbyterian Church are our charities of choice this year. This would triple the giving of the folks to the needy in New Orleans!

Please send checks to arrive no later than 1/29/09 made to: Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church with a notation on the check-for Hurricane Survivor assistance.

**Send the checks to:**

**Smart VENT INC.**

**450 Andbro Dr.**

**Suite 2B**

**Pitman, NJ 08071**

**Or call us with any questions: 877-441 8368**



### **Report From the NJOEM Mitigation Unit**

By Jeff Crapser, SFC

In 2007 the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, Preparedness/Mitigation Unit's state planning initiative took off. The foundation of the program was strongly rooted in developing partnerships and creating a proactive disaster mitigation environment with all counties and municipalities in need of mitigation assistance and the creation of the all important hazard mitigation plans.

As of 2008, the state of New Jersey is pleased to announce that hazard mitigation plans have expanded beyond the two towns of Wayne and Atlantic City, NJ. In coordination with federal guidelines, fifteen counties have been funded by FEMA to develop a DMA 2000 hazard mitigation plan.

Additionally, Bergen and Ocean counties initiated their own planning processes with their own resources. Four counties recently completed a regional flood mitigation planning effort being coordinated by the Delaware River Basin Commission. The regional flood mitigation planning effort includes Warren, Sussex, Hunterdon and Mercer counties. It is anticipated that FEMA will be funding Warren, Sussex, Hunterdon and Mercer counties in the near future for a DMA 2000 hazard mitigation plan. 2008 Federal funding nationwide is 862.9 million dollars. We will continue to work diligently to proactively submit comprehensive applications in an attempt to garner a sufficient amount of funding on behalf of all applicants. Our overall goal is to provide all 21 New Jersey counties and their municipalities a DMA 2000 compliant hazard mitigation plan.

To date, several projects have been completed including acquisitions and demolitions in Harmony Twp, Little Falls, Wayne and Frenchtown. In an attempt to alleviate severe repetitive loss and residential hardship due to ongoing flood problems, many homes have been acquired in these municipalities. These homes have been demolished and will remain as open space. Our largest acquisition project in the state and in FEMA Region II is in Wayne. The ability to synergistically partner with FEMA and NJ DEP Green Acres Program has allowed us to garner the necessary funds in excess of ten million dollars. As such, monies related to said project will be solely used for the acquisition of repetitive loss properties. All projects throughout the state deserve to be credited to the cornucopia of federal, state county and local teamwork displayed in every aspect of the preparedness and mitigation process.

*Note: Sergeant Crapser moved on to a new assignment at the State Police after his submittal of this update to NJAFM. Everyone who worked with him in his position at the Mitigation Unit was impressed by the advances he made in a short period of time in acquisitions and planning initiatives. He is already greatly missed!*

*Sgt. Robert Little is the new State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). Please welcome Sgt. Little in his new role.*



### **CRS Workshop – March 4, 2009**

On Wednesday, March 4, 2009, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Insurance Services Office (ISO) will be holding an informal workshop on the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is an optional portion of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that allows a community to go above and beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP and, in exchange, receive discounts on flood insurance premiums for the communities' policy holders.

Depending on the communities level of participation, New Jersey residents located in the special flood hazard area that have flood insurance can save between 5 and 20 percent on flood insurance premiums and potentially up to 45 percent savings! As of May 1, 2008 flood insurance rates have increased on average of 8 percent nationally and this program is an excellent way to reduce the impact on your residents.

In addition to providing residents and businesses with discounts on their flood insurance policies, the municipality will also receive benefit. If the municipality is required to carry flood insurance, they will also be eligible for insurance policy discounts.

This meeting will consist of a 2 hour presentation by representatives of FEMA, ISO and NJDEP who administer the program under contract to FEMA. Following the presentation there will be a question and answer session. CRS Coordinators manuals, program applications and other FEMA materials will be made available. The meeting will take place in the Little Falls Civic Center located at 19 Warren Street, Little Falls, New Jersey at 9:00 am.

If you have any questions regarding this workshop, please contact James Watt, NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control, at (609) 292-2296.



### **2008 Annual Conference Report**

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held mid-week this year, on October 21 & 22, in Cherry Hill. Due to the tireless work by the Conference Committee, the attendance of sponsors, exhibitors and guests continues to grow!

This year the conference theme was “*A Vision for the Future: Reducing Flood Impacts in the Garden State*”. In addition to the plenary sessions, over 50 educational breakout sessions were offered. Opening remarks were provided by Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM, ASFPM Executive Director. Plenary 1 focused on “*Flood Vulnerability and Trends in the NJ Coastal Zone*” and New Jersey specific initiatives. Guest speakers included Tony MacDonald, Director of the Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University; Dr. Stewart Farrell, Director, Richard Stockton College Coastal Research Center; James G. Titus, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Mike M. Arabatzis, Chief of Planning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District.

The lunch time keynote speaker was Margaret Davidson, Director, Coastal Services Center, NOAA. Plenary 2 focused on “*Flood Risk and Response*” and national and regional issues. Guest speakers included Mark Mauriello, Assistant Commissioner, NJDEP Land Use Management, Larry A. Larson, P.E., CFM, ASFPM, Executive Director, Stephen Kempf, Jr., Region II Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Howard Kunreuther, Co-Director, The Risk Management and Decision Processes Center, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

On day 2 opening remarks were provided by Jack Donnelly, State of New Jersey, Office of the Governor. Plenary 3 featured guidance on FEMA grant applications in a session entitled “*Make Flood Mitigation Work for You: Will Your Project Make the Cut?*”. Guest speakers included Chad Berginnis, CFM, Chief, Ohio Emergency Management Agency Mitigation Branch and State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), Sgt. Jeff Crapser, State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. The second day lunch time speaker was Richard C. Albert, Restoration Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network and author of “*Damming the Delaware*”.

We were extremely honored to have the support of our very generous sponsors and exhibitors. It is these highly respected companies and their talented employees that enabled NJAFM to put on a conference of such caliber that it received praise from our visiting national experts and guest speakers. Special thanks are extended to our **GOLD SPONSORS** Dewberry, Medina Consultants, Inc., and James Lee Witt, our **SILVER SPONSORS** Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor (PS&S) and Hatch Mott MacDonald, and our **BRONZE SPONSORS** AECOM, CMX Community Foundation, OneRain, S. T. Hudson Engineers, Inc., Taylor Wiseman & Taylor and Tetra Tech.

Thirty **EXHIBITORS** filled the exhibit and entrance halls. Participating **EXHIBITORS** included A.D. Marble & Company, AECOM - Watershed Concepts, CMX, Dewberry, Door Dam LLC, FEMA Region II, GEOD Corp., Hach Environmental, Hatch Mott MacDonald, James Lee Witt, Louis Berger Group, Medina Consultants, Inc., Michael Baker, NJ State Police - Office of Emergency Management, OneRain, PA Association of Floodplain Managers, Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor (PS&S), Photo Science, Inc., PuroClean Certified Restoration, Smart VENT, Inc., S.T. Hudson Engineers, Inc., Taylor Wiseman & Taylor, Tetra Tech, The American Red Cross, URS, US Geological Survey - NJ Water Science Center. To link to our sponsor’s web sites, please visit the NJAFM web site at <http://www.njafm.org/index.php?id=2&category=annualconference>.

The Annual Conference provides an opportunity for NJAFM to recognize several outstanding professionals in the field of floodplain management. The following awards were presented at the 2008 conference:

- Outstanding Local Floodplain Management Official : **Geoffrey Schwartz, Borough of Seaside Park, Ocean County**
- Outstanding Local Floodplain Management Official: **Michael Gardner, Boroughs of Point Pleasant Borough and Point Pleasant Beach Borough, Ocean County**
- Outstanding Floodplain Management Award: **Wayne Township, Passaic County, for the residential home buyout project**
- Floodplain Management Leadership Award: **Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner, NJDEP** for outstanding leadership in issues relating to floodplain management in New Jersey

- Journalism Award: **Diane Mastrull, Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer**, for accurate and well researched reporting of complex issues related to flooding in New Jersey
- Floodplain Management Leadership Award: **Cleighton Smith, P.E., CFM**, for leadership in administering NJAFM's CFM Review Course which has resulted in an increase of over 70 CFMs in just 2 years
- Lifetime Floodplain Management Achievement Award: **Dirk Hofman, P.E.**, former Chief, NJDEP Bureau of Water Control, former Executive Director NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust



This conference also serves as NJAFM's Annual Meeting, where members elect the officers. The Nomination Committee Chair tallied the ballots and the conference attendees welcomed NJAFM's new Board of Directors. We are proud to announce the 2009 Board of Directors: **Chair - Adam H. Slutsky, P.E., CFM; Vice Chair - Joseph Ruggeri, P.E., CFM; Secretary - Jim DeAngelo, CFM; Treasurer - Cynthia Bianco, CFM; and Immediate Past Chair - Laura Tessieri, P.E., CFM.**

*Awards photo from left: Laura Tessieri, John Scordato, Cleighton Smith and Mike Graham.*



## 2009 Conference Committee

NJAFM is proud to announce that Nicholas Agnoli, P.E., CFM, Principal Engineer with the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission has volunteered to be the 2009 Chair of the NJAFM Conference Committee! If you are interested in volunteering to assist on the committee, if you have suggestions for a plenary or concurrent session or would like to speak at one of the sessions, please contact Mr. Agnoli at [nicholas.agnoli@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:nicholas.agnoli@njmeadowlands.gov) or by telephone at 201-460-1096.

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## Calendar



### Spring 2009 - Continuing Education Seminars for Construction Code Officials, Technical Assistants and Design Professionals

Visit the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs web site for the Spring 2009 seminar brochure.  
[http://www.state.nj.us/dca/codes/education\\_unit/edunit.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/codes/education_unit/edunit.shtml)



### February 2-4, 2009 – New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors Conference, Bally's Park Place Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey

SurvCon 2009 is sponsored by the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors. NJAFM will have a booth so please stop by and say hello. <http://www.njspls.org/survcon.html>



**March 2–5, 2009 – Building the Digital Coast: Coastal GeoTools Conference,  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

Sponsored by NOAA's Coastal Services Center, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Coastal States Organization, the National Association of Counties, and others. See <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/geotools/>.



**April 1-2, 2009 – Certified Floodplain Manager Review Course and Exam,  
NJ Meadowlands Commission, Lyndhurst, New Jersey**

NJAFM and NJ Meadowlands Commission are co-presenting a 1 ½ day program to prepare for taking the CFM exam. This review course will closely follow the following documents: FEMA-480, a study guide and desk reference for local officials, and Flood County USA Flood Insurance Study and maps. For information contact Cleighton Smith, PE, CFM, Dewberry, at (856) 802-0843 x3107 or [Cleighton.smith@dewberry.com](mailto:Cleighton.smith@dewberry.com). All registrants will be sent copies of the study materials and will be expected to review them prior to the course. The CFM exam will be given in the afternoon of the second day. In order to take the exam, you need to apply through ASFPM. You need to download the application from <http://www.floods.org/pdf/certapp.pdf> and mail it WITH SEPARATE FEE to ASFPM at least two weeks before the exam date. *Please note there is a separate fee (paid to ASFPM) for taking the exam.* There is a discount for ASFPM members, but unfortunately, not for NJAFM members. More information on the CFM program can be found at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org), and then click on "Certification".



**April 6–9, 2009 – Retrofitting Flood-Prone Residential Buildings (E279),  
Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland**

Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.



**April 6–9, 2009 – National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (E278),  
Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland**

Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.



**April 19–22, 2009 – National Flood Conference, Boston, Massachusetts**

See <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip> or email [NFIPNFC@nfipstat.com](mailto:NFIPNFC@nfipstat.com).



**May 4-8, 2009 – New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association 2009 Conference,  
Tropicana Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, New Jersey**

Sponsored by the New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association. NJAFM will have a booth so please stop by and say hello. <http://www.njepa.org/index.asp>



**May 11-14, 2009 – EMI's E-278 CRS Class to be Field Deployed to New Jersey  
National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (E278)**

**Tuckerton, New Jersey**

NJDEP is coordinating with Jacques Cousteau Coastal Center, the FEMA Regional Office and ISO/CRS Specialists to hold this EMI course in Tuckerton, NJ. Additional information, particularly with regard to how to obtain **Emergency Management Institute** credits will be disseminated by e-mail to NJAFM members in the near future. For information regarding the course please visit <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>. The



course will be held at Jacques Cousteau Coastal Center, 130 Great Bay Blvd., Tuckerton, NJ 08087. Directions can be found on the web at: <http://www.jcnerr.org/jcnerr/facilities.htm>. If you have any questions regarding this workshop, please contact James Watt, NJDEP Bureau of Dam Safety and Flood Control, at (609) 292-2296



**May 18–21, 2009 – Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (E273), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland**  
Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.



**June 7–12, 2009 – Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses: Thirty - Third Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Orlando, Florida. 12 core CECs.**  
Contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123 or see <http://www.floods.org/orlando>.



**July 19–23, 2009 – Coastal Zone ‘09, Boston, Massachusetts Hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Services Center, with numerous sponsors**  
See <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>.



**August 10–13, 2009 – Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts (E194), Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, Maryland.**  
Call (800) 238-3358 or see <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIweb/>.



**October 15 & 16, 2009 – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NJAFM Conference & CFM Exam**  
**The Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset New Jersey**  
**Hold the Dates!!!**

The two day event will be held on Thursday and Friday. As in previous years, limited discounted hotel rooms will be available for conference guests. There will be a full day of plenary and concurrent sessions on Thursday October 15, followed by the very popular evening Exhibit Social. On day two, Friday October 16, presentations by floodplain professionals will continue throughout the day. After lunch NJAFM will award New Jersey’s outstanding floodplain managers and announce the results of the 2010 Board of Directors elections. Exhibitor displays will be up through lunch time on the 16<sup>th</sup> and the CFM Exam will be proctored that afternoon.

Your suggestions for speakers and concurrent session topics are welcome and we encourage you to contact Nick Agnoli, Conference Committee Chair, or our board members with your thoughts. Once again we will work with accrediting agencies to provide continuing education credits for Construction Code Officials, Certified Floodplain Managers, Certified Public Managers and NJ Professional Land Surveyors. The Certified Floodplain Managers refresher course will be held again in September 2009. More details will be announced in our June, 2009 issue of NJ Floodplain News and by e-mail.

If you would like to participate on NJAFM’s Conference Committee please contact Mr. Nicholas Agnoli at [nicholas.agnoli@njmeadowlands.gov](mailto:nicholas.agnoli@njmeadowlands.gov) or by telephone at 201-460-1096.



## Resources



### Web Sites of Interest

Note: these sites were provided through an e-mail broadcast from NOAA



#### NOAA Imagery Depicts Hurricane Damage

[http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/eri\\_page/index.html](http://ngs.woc.noaa.gov/eri_page/index.html)

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey's Remote Sensing Division aerially photographed affected coastlines in the wake of damaging storms to support NOAA's national security and emergency response requirements. The imagery is intended to provide emergency managers with a broad view of damage and residual flooding to better prioritize their response efforts (it is also useful for the general public as a way to ascertain the fate of their homes and communities). Flight plans are developed based on official requests from federal, local, and state agencies that need the imagery for response purposes. OCRM informs state coastal zone managers when the NGS makes plans to fly a coastline so that managers can provide input to these plans.

Imagery is available online (for viewing and download) for storms flown since 2003, including this year's Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Following the release of the NGS imagery for Hurricane Ike, Google Earth processed the data into a KML image overlay that shows before and after views of the affected area. This file, which requires Google Earth for viewing, is available for downloading at <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/2008/09/aftermath-of-hurricane-ike.html> (a similar overlay is also available for Gustav).



#### FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Aims to Reduce Risk

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgrp/index.shtm>

The purpose of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is to provide funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, and communities to significantly reduce or permanently eliminate future risk to lives and property from natural hazards. The HMGP funds projects in accordance with priorities identified in state, tribal, or local hazard mitigation plans. Funding is available following a major disaster declaration if requested by the governor and can be used for projects throughout the state (not just in the area of the declared disaster). The amount of HMGP funding depends on the costs associated with each disaster and whether or not the state has an "enhanced" hazard mitigation plan. States with enhanced plans may be eligible for up to 20 percent of the total estimated federal assistance (Public and Individual Assistance) provided after a major disaster declaration. The HMGP cost share is 75 percent federal/25 percent nonfederal.

How to make the HMGP work for your coastal program:

- Find out what kind of mitigation plan your state has (standard or enhanced).
- Make sure mitigation projects of interest to your program are identified in a FEMA-approved mitigation plan (State or local).
- Keep track of the disasters declared in your state (<http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema>).
- Talk to your state hazard mitigation officer (usually in the emergency management/homeland security agency).



#### EPA Launches New Climate Ready Estuaries Web Site

<http://www.epa.gov/cre/>

This new Web site from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Ready Estuaries Program offers information on climate change impacts to different estuary regions, access to tools and resources to monitor changes, and information to help managers develop adaptation plans for estuaries and coastal communities.



### **Paper Examines Government Liability for Flood Hazard Mitigation Measures**

[http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM Liability for mitigation actions Aug 2008 Kusler.pdf](http://www.floods.org/PDF/ASFPM_Liability_for_mitigation_actions_Aug_2008_Kusler.pdf)

“A Comparative Look at Public Liability for Flood Hazard Mitigation” (52 pp.) examines government liability for flood hazard mitigation measures such as dams, levees, and other structures as well as loss reduction efforts such as flood mapping, warning systems, evacuation planning, and floodplain regulations. The author concludes that “governments face the greatest risk of liability when they increase flood hazards and flood losses on private lands by filling, grading, ditching, or constructing roads, bridges, dams, levees, sea walls, or stormwater systems. Courts are much less likely to hold governments liable for the failure of nonstructural flood loss reduction measures such as warning systems, flood maps, emergency planning, and emergency operations. Courts are even less likely to hold governments liable for ‘taking’ private property through the adoption of floodplain regulations.” Despite past successes, the author cautions governments to take increasing care in the design and implementation of all mitigation measures; the standard of care needed to avoid liability will continue to rise as technology and databases improve.



### **Study Estimates Value of Coastal Wetlands for Hurricane Protection**

<http://www.allenpress.com/pdf/AMBI-37-4-241.pdf>

A recent research paper, “Value of Coastal Wetlands for Hurricane Protection” (8 pp.), suggests that U.S. coastal wetlands annually provide storm protection services worth \$23.2 billion. It describes coastal wetlands as self-maintaining “horizontal levees” that provide storm protection and other ecosystem services that vertical levees do not and argues that the restoration and preservation of coastal wetlands is extremely cost-effective.



### **Report Summarizes Experts’ Views on the Future of Floodplain Management**

<http://www.floods.org/Foundation/Files/GFW%20Forum%20Report.pdf>

“Floodplain Management 2050: Report of the Second Assembly of the Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum” (64 pp.) contains the results of a dialog among experts in resource management; engineering; economics; demography; land use; insurance; local, state, and federal government; environmental sciences; planning; risk analysis; the law; building and construction; emergency management; finance; communication; transportation; and policy analysis on the future of floodplain management. It presents two views: one where floodplains continue to be managed as they have been in the past and another where aggressive action is taken. It concludes with what is needed to get us to the optimal future envisioned in the latter view.



### **Article Explores Why Disasters Are Getting Worse**

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1838400,00.html?xid=yead-yah>

This article from Time magazine hypothesizes that “we are getting more vulnerable to weather mostly because of where we live, not just how we live.” The author cites a scientific study that found no trend in the number or intensity of storms at landfall since 1900 in her argument that what has changed over the last century is what we have placed in harm’s way and how we are destroying our natural protective features.

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## **Membership Information**

The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) is dedicated to reducing loss of life and property damage resulting from floods and promoting sound floodplain management at all levels of government. NJAFM seeks to accomplish this goal through education, outreach, training and coordination of flood mitigation activities between state and federal governmental agencies, municipal officials, property owners and private sector professionals. NJAFM is the NJ State Chapter of the Association for State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), headquartered in Madison, WI. ASFPM's mission is to mitigate the losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to promote wise use of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. ASFPM is the premier voice in floodplain management practice and policy throughout the nation.



### **Individual Membership** – Is only \$30!!

NJAFM can provide contacts, technical assistance, share information and mitigation success stories, facilitate training and education of local floodplain managers, provide assistance in navigating regulatory agencies and support local land use planning. For information on next year's conference and other training opportunities, or to become a member, please visit [www.njafm.org](http://www.njafm.org).



### **Corporate Membership** - Is available at a reduced rate of \$200 for 8 employees. This registration form is at

<http://www.njafm.org/membership.html>

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### 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Mission:** The New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) is dedicated to reducing loss of life and property damage resulting from floods and promoting sound floodplain management at all levels of government. NJAFM seeks to accomplish this goal through education, outreach, training and coordination of flood mitigation activities between state and federal governmental agencies, municipal officials, property owners and private sector professionals. [www.njafm.org](http://www.njafm.org)

**Benefits:** In addition to our annual conference, NJAFM holds several educational seminars throughout the year and provides a CFM Review course and exam opportunity for floodplain managers wishing to participate in the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager Program. By belonging to NJAFM, your voice on issues that matter to floodplain professionals is magnified.

**ASFPM:** NJAFM is a chapter of the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM), a respected voice in floodplain management practice and policy in the United States. ASFPM was founded in 1977 as the supporting organization of professionals involved in floodplain management, flood hazard mitigation, flood preparedness, and flood warning and recovery. ASFPM's mission is to mitigate the losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to promote wise use of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org)

### 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

PE PLS CFM CPWM Construction Official

#### Dues: \$30

Check enclosed. Please make checks payable to **NJAFM**. (Federal Tax ID # 20-3549247)

Please contact me to assist with NJAFM activities

#### Mail form and payment to:

Cynthia Bianco, CFM  
NJAFM Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1326 (973) 659-9996  
Trenton, NJ 08607 [cynthia.bianco@ttemi.com](mailto:cynthia.bianco@ttemi.com)

Note: NJAFM dues are separate from ASFPM dues. If you wish to join ASFPM, you may download a membership form from the ASFPM website at [www.floods.org](http://www.floods.org) (click on "The Organization", "Join ASFPM", then "Download Membership Application Form").

**NJAFM is only as strong as its membership base. It's time to get involved! Please check below if you would like further information on any of the following NJAFM committees:**

#### Membership

Legislative

Community Rating System (CRS)

Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM)

#### Conference

Training

Stormwater

Web Site

[WWW.NJAFM.ORG](http://WWW.NJAFM.ORG)

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## **NJ Floodplain News**

NJ Floodplain News will be published January 15 and June 15 of each year. As our volunteer base grows, with your participation, we hope to publish issues more frequently. We welcome your suggestions, comments and submissions for articles and news items. We encourage you to share NJ Floodplain News with others, and to reproduce our articles. Please send your suggestions, comments submissions and questions to:

Helen Owens  
[helen.owens@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:helen.owens@dep.state.nj.us)

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management  
P.O. Box 1326  
Trenton, New Jersey 08607  
[http:// www.njafm.org](http://www.njafm.org)

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## **New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management Board of Directors**

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[slutsky@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:slutsky@co.somerset.nj.us)

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