



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

massFM Forms to Address Diverse Challenges to Mitigate Hazards and Address Climate Change Impacts Across Massachusetts

Written by Joy Duperault, CFM

How exciting—after a long hiatus, a new association of Massachusetts floodplain management professionals is forming! The name behind the acronym is the Massachusetts Association for Floodplain Management, and the mission of the new group is in essence to facilitate and promote the sharing of information for those living, managing and recreating in the diverse waterways and floodplains across Massachusetts, You can find our full mission statement on the final page of this newsletter.

Continued on Pg 2



Welcome to the first edition of massFM's newsletter! Our team of contributors hope that readers will find in this and future editions information that supports individual and collective efforts to mitigate hazards and improve the vitality of coastal and inland floodplains throughout Massachusetts. We welcome and encourage readers to send us notices of training and other events, articles or other contributions to share with others in our community!

Please visit our website at www.massFM.org for additional articles and resources, to sign up to receive future editions via email and contact us!

massFM Forming in Massachusetts

Through this group we'll be able to network with other area floodplain managers—planners, conservation professionals, engineers, surveyors, architects, building officials, mappers—anyone who shares a professional pivot around matters of floodplain development, flooding, and flood mitigation in Massachusetts.

The group has been collaborating to create a website and prepare this newsletter for outreach and group news including notices of training events and gatherings of interest to members. Current notices, including information about massFM's inaugural celebration this fall are provided in the following pages. Get in on the action early by visiting our website to sign up to receive our newsletter and find more information about massFM including most importantly how to join in the efforts of others to inform practitioners and the general public about flood hazards and effective mitigation, management, restoration and preservation practices.

We' are currently planning to address topics of interest to you: challenges of urban stormwater flooding, impacts of climate change, riverine flood issues, the realities of sea level rise, permitting issues and unusual development proposals, plenty of how-to's for new floodplain professionals, the ins and outs of flood mitigation projects and funding, and more.

Continued on Pg 3





massFM Forming in Massachusetts

Let us know what's on your mind, and we'll find a way to discuss or present it in the group; we're even talking about setting up a massFM e-group to share daily questions and concerns. As the state floodplain manager, I have met many of you over my 2-1/2 years here to date, and look forward to meeting everyone sooner or later, especially through the massFM association. Stay safe out there!

Joy is the Director of the Department of Conservation & Recreation Office of Water Resources' Flood Hazard Management Program, the State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator & Deputy Hazard Mitigation Officer

National Flood Insurance Program in the News

Written by David Azinheira, P.E., CFM

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was established as part of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to make flood insurance available in the United States and is currently administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Congress is required to renew NFIP's statutory authority for it to continue to function, with reauthorization providing opportunities to improve the program. Congress executed a short-term reauthorization of the NFIP without making changes to the program on July 31, 2018, and has set the next reauthorization deadline to November 30, 2018. Reforms tied to similar reauthorizations have allowed the NFIP to continue to evolve. Recent major reforms to the NFIP include the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014.

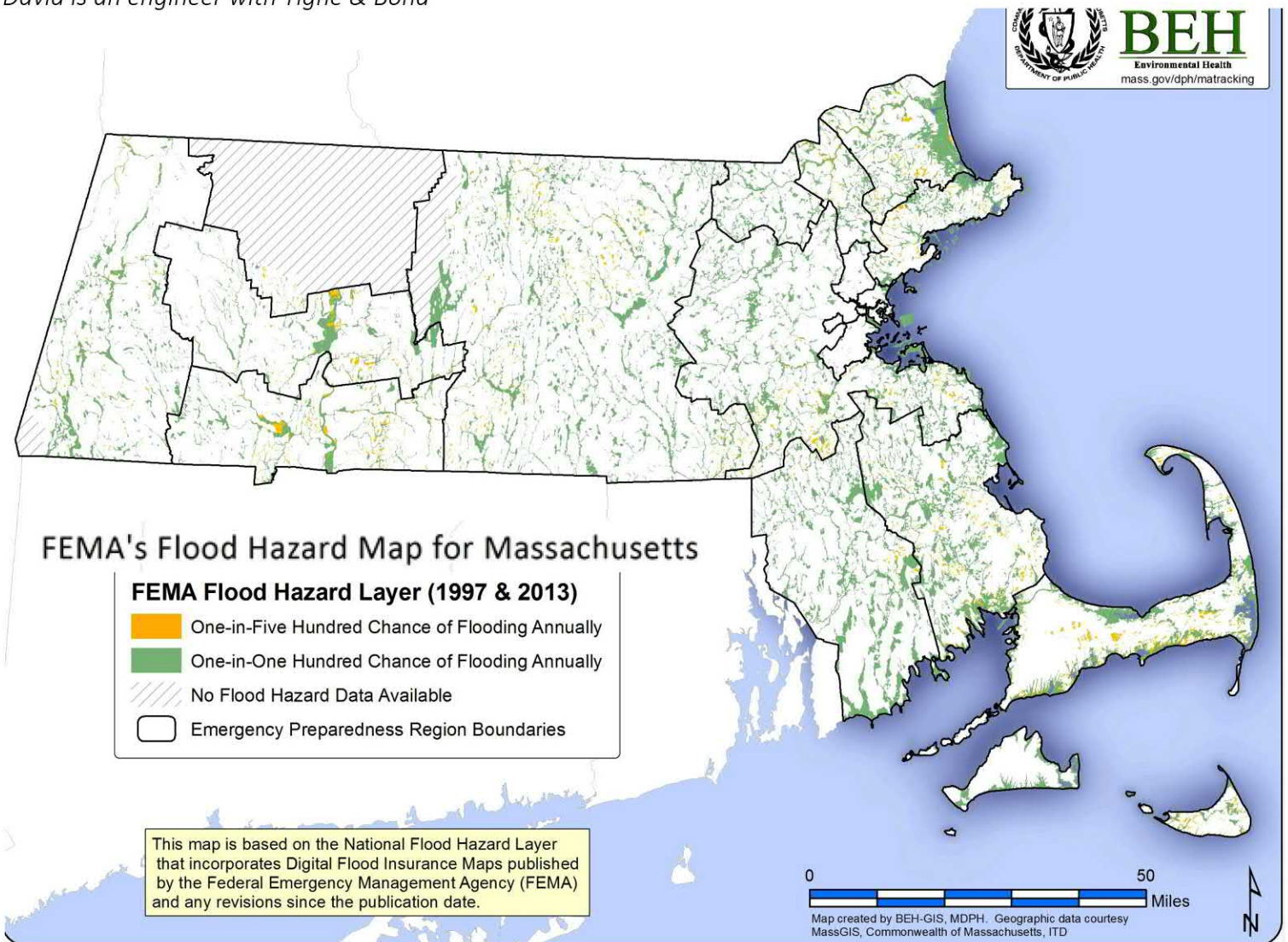
Continued on Pg 4



National Flood Insurance Program in the News

The former included rate increases and the removal of grandfathering of outdated rates when revisions to flood insurance studies became available, while the latter repealed many parts of the previous reform (e.g., reestablishing grandfathering) and applied an annual surcharge for all policyholders. Nationally, a relatively recent focus includes resiliency, and in accordance with this shift FEMA has established a new resilience organization that combined four existing FEMA programs, and future reforms are anticipated to continue to incorporate aspects of resiliency and mitigation. Significant reforms to the NFIP are expected in the near future due in part to recent stress on the program during the 2017 hurricane season.

David is an engineer with Tighe & Bond

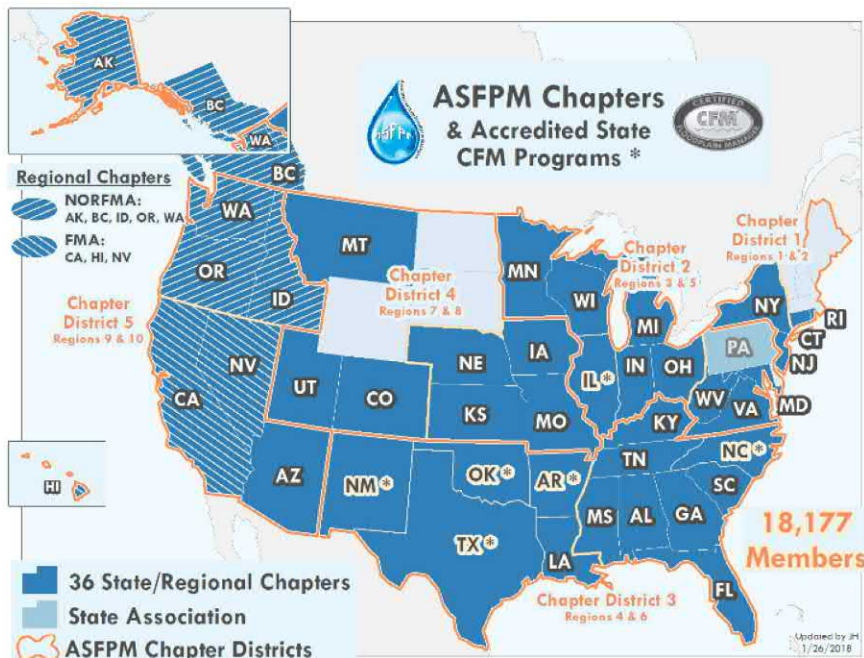


massFM Moves to Join the Growing ASFPM Family

Written by Nils Wiberg, P.E., CFM

In forming massFM to share information, promote training and support implementation of best practices to manage floodplains and mitigate flood hazards, we are joining a national family of state and regional chapters of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). The ASFPM is a national non-profit organization initially comprised of six states that banded together in 1976 to address common challenges in implementing the new National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Since this inception, ASFPM has grown to now include dozens of chapters and regional associations across the country, and counts more than 18,000 practitioners amongst its members.

The ASFPM's mission is to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding, and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains - all without causing adverse impacts. To support pursuit of this mission, ASFPM has established a Certified Floodplain Manager program which entails testing of applicants to certify thorough knowledge of .current floodplain management regulations, policies and practices by floodplain practitioners. Initial training is offered to prepare for this exam, and once obtained continuing education is required. ASFPM holds an annual national conference in May or June, with next conference planned for May 18-24, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio.



Go to ASFPM's website at www.floods.org to find more information on NFIP issues, FEMA flood maps, current issues, training opportunities, how to become a CFM and more!

Nils is an engineer with Fuss & O'Neill

Community Rating System Corner

A Handy Place to Stay Current on CRS Matters

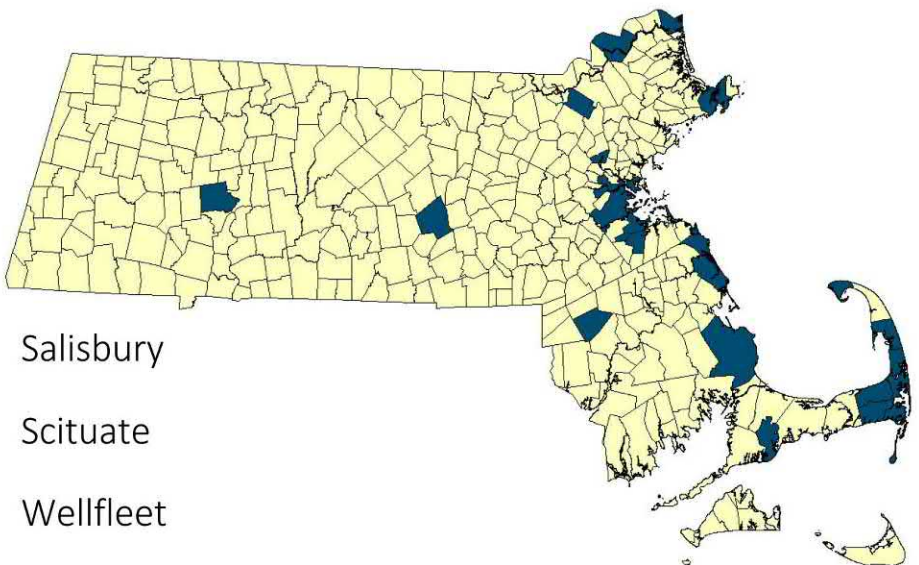
Written by Shannon Jarbeau, CFM

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a program within the National Flood Insurance Program that provides discounts on flood insurance for residents and businesses within communities that go above and beyond minimum floodplain regulations. The CRS provides an incentive for communities to take on additional floodplain management actions, and advances resilience through improved enforcement and better local regulations and activities. Common CRS actions are preserving open space, enforcing the statewide building code, use of GIS data in regulatory decisions, and answering questions from the public about flood hazards. For more information about the CRS, visit www.crsresources.org.

Current CRS communities in Massachusetts are listed below and shown on the adjacent map. If you live or work in a city or town that has not implemented a CRS program, do reach out to its floodplain official and town leadership to encourage them to consider joining to receive its benefits!

Shannon is the CRS & Floodplain Coordinator for Barnstable County through the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension & Woods Hole Sea Grant

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Braintree | Marshfield | |
| Brewster | Mashpee | |
| Cambridge | Northampton | |
| Chatham | Norton | Salisbury |
| Eastham | Orleans | Scituate |
| Harwich | Plymouth | Wellfleet |
| Haverhill | Provincetown | Winchester |
| Hull | Quincy | Worcester |



Your massFM Mitigation Minute

Written by Joe Rossi, ANFI, CFM

The Massachusetts legislature recently passed the Environmental Bond Bill. The bond bill, which is titled "An Act promoting climate change adaptation, environmental and natural resource protection, and investment in recreational assets and opportunity" includes provisions such as climate study funding for UMass Boston, capitalization of the Global Warming Solutions Trust Fund and more. But more notably, it funds millions of dollars in coastal infrastructure repairs. The bill also contains an amendment that would establish a commission that will look at the creation of a state run grant or low interest loan program for building elevation and acquisitions. The Governor proposed the creation of the \$2 Billion dollar bond bill after the State of Massachusetts was slammed with multiple historic nor'easters.

Funding for our coastlines:

- Over \$60,000,000 in seawall repair, studies and other improvements
- Over \$70,000,000 in dam replacement and study projects
- Over \$100,000,000 in climate adaptation mitigation funding

Joe is the Chair of the Massachusetts Coastal Coalition

Come Toast massFM's Inception and Join in Planning its Growth!

We are excitedly planning massFM's Kickoff Event to celebrate the re-formation of the Massachusetts state chapter! This event will provide a great opportunity to meet other "floodies" from across the state, learn about successful approaches to address floodplain challenges affecting our communities, and to join in forming plans to continue its growth in the coming year.

Go to massFM.org for updates on specifics, and subscribe to our email list to receive future updates on this and other events, and future editions of our newsletter!

Mark Your Calendar for These Events!

- Sept. 16-19 - New England Water Works Association Annual Conference, Stowe VT (newwa.org)
- Sept. 17-20 - Application of Hazus for Disaster Operations, FEMA Emergency Management Institute, Maryland (fema.gov)
- Oct. 11 - Introduction to Floodplain Management, Barnstable County / Cape Cod Cooperative Extension (capecodextension.org)
- Oct. 29-30 - New England Water Environment Association CSO / Wet Weather Issues Specialty Conference, Portland ME (newea.org)
- Nov. 16 - Certified Floodplain Manager Exam, Barnstable County / Cape Cod Cooperative Extension (capecodextension.org)



*Remember to Check our
website (massFM.org)
for more information on
plans for massFM's
inaugural annual
meeting in fall 2018!*



massFM Mission Statement

The mission of the Massachusetts Association for Floodplain Management (massFM) is to create a forum for the exchange of local knowledge about floodplain management, to share that knowledge with the public, to inform municipal and statewide policies and procedures, and to improve the Commonwealth's ability to mitigate flood hazards now and in the future. massFM strives to be inclusive across multiple disciplines, regardless of means.

The Association will serve as a supportive framework for those who manage floodplains, and who engage in associated professions, within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and surrounding states. The Association will serve as a forum for education, the exchange of ideas, and increasing public awareness about floodplain hazards and management practices. The Association shall solicit the thoughts, ideas, concerns, and issues related to floodplain management from its members to affect and integrate better management practices within public policy. Such pursuits will be based on the collective experience of a diverse statewide membership and result in environmental stewardship and better collaboration locally, statewide, regionally, and nationally among all partners and stakeholders with an interest in minimizing future flood risk and damages in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Visit us on the web at www.massFM.org