

NeFSMA **Helping Protect the Good Life**

2021 Newsletter Volume 1

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

NeFSMA Members,

My main message this year is to let every one of you know how much what you do for the citizens of our state matters and is appreciated on a professional level! Too often, we put our heads down, bury ourselves in the task at hand, and feel we can't stop until everything is done. Following the 2019 flooding and now COVID pandemic, I think this is the case for many of our members. So, I hope you can take a break from the grind, get a breath of fresh air, and enjoy this newsletter.

Following the damage left behind from the 2019 flood, I found myself wondering how much damage was avoided because of the work done during the past decades to better manage floodplains and stormwater. Even in my own files, I was able to find many letters where homes were raised above the flood levels that impacted Douglas and Sarpy counties! These families were spared the devastation and lasting impacts of having to recover from such an event. This is the tremendous payoff for what we do! I think NeFSMA should lead a study to help determine these avoided damages across the state. This is something that can be done if we all work together!

I have now had the honor of being the NeFSMA chair for two tenures over four years, 2006-2007 and now 2020-2021. While a lot has changed over this time for NeFSMA, the foundation of our education efforts and support for local floodplain and stormwater managers hasn't! We make it our priority to not only get everyone their necessary continuing education credits, but to do so by providing the latest and greatest in education offerings and topics. However, we can't accomplish this if we don't know what our members feel is needed most. If you have a suggestion for educational topics, please don't hesitate to let any one of our Board members know.

I look forward to seeing many of you in-person again at our Annual Conference in Kearney, our Fall Bus Tour event at the end of September, and our Annual Meeting scheduled for November 18th. Until then, please keep up the good work and know that it does not go unnoticed or unappreciated!

THANK YOU, Paul Woodward, NeFSMA Chair

2021 Annual NeFSMA Conference

Please join us for our 2021 Annual Conference!

The conference will be held on July 22, 2021 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska. In-person attendance will be limited to 75 people. A virtual option is also available. CECs will be available for CFMs.

[Click here for the draft agenda.](#)

Registration Fee:

Members: \$100.00

Non-Members: \$135.00

Conference Registration deadline is Friday, July 16, 2021

You can contact the Fairfield Inn at (308) 236-4200 if you plan to stay overnight. A block of rooms is available for \$124.95 until June 24, 2021. Just tell them you're with NeFSMA!

Register at <http://www.nefsma.com/event-4319327>



Historic Flood Documentation Project "Community Flood Notebook"

The Community Flood Notebook summarizes documented research on historic floods. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Flood Science Center developed the platform for this project, which was funded by the ASFPM Foundation. The Notebook provides a standardized, comprehensive platform for the public to store and retrieve flood event data, in partnership with local professionals such as floodplain and coastal managers, planners, and emergency managers. The Notebook also allows communities to harness the crowd-sourcing capabilities of mobile devices by engaging the public in the flood documentation process. This gives more people ownership in the process.

The Notebook's data can be collected before, during, and after a flood. It may include geolocated photos, hydrographs, precipitation maps, river/tide gauges, videos, high water marks, and more. Web services hosted by NOAA, USGS, FEMA, and other federal and state agencies allow many of their datasets to be automatically integrated into web platforms like the Notebook.

Communities would create a unique "flood event" for each flood that affects them. The proposed business model advocates that state programs, such as the State Floodplain Manager/NFIP Coordinator or State Hazard Mitigation Office, would host the Notebook platform for all the communities in their state, so that communities of all sizes have access. Over time, a collection of events would be archived. These will support the community's institutional memory, hazard mitigation planning and flood risk communication efforts, to name a few benefits, all aimed at using information on past floods to reduce future flood losses. Local documentation for floods that have regional, state, or national effects could be "rolled up" into a single named event, to help state and federal officials with recovery, mitigation, and resilience planning.

The platform provides an opportunity to share information on past flood events as a means to reduce future losses. The Community Flood Notebook can be found on the [ASFPM Flood Science Center website](#).

Take the 2021 TMAC Stakeholder Engagement Survey

Reprint from ASFPM News&Views Vol 34, No. 3, June 2021



The Technical Mapping Advisory Council (TMAC) is seeking input from a wide range of stakeholders regarding graduated approaches to flood hazard and risk communication and a greater understanding of flood risk. Key stakeholder input will be reviewed by TMAC as they develop recommendations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in planning for the Future of Flood Risk Data (FFRD). Your valuable feedback may

inform the program's evolving products and services to best meet National Flood Insurance Program customer needs. The survey closes June 30, 2021. [Take the survey now.](#)

Closing the Flood Protection Gap Will Take Innovation and Collaboration

Reprint from ASFPM News&Views Vol 34, No. 3, June 2021

Half a billion people worldwide are affected by floods annually, and about 90 percent of all U.S. natural disasters involve flooding. The human and economic tolls are massive, and until recently insuring these risks and helping communities recover fell almost entirely on government programs.

Improved data, analysis, and modeling have helped drive private sector interest in flood-risk transfer and mitigation. But despite growing private involvement, many experts consider the current system unsustainable. A resilience mindset is required, and that demands more than insurance products.

A new Triple-I paper analyzes the current state of flood risk and resilience and discusses how governments, corporations, academia, and others are rising to the challenges and seizing opportunities.

[Download Beyond Risk Transfer.](#)



NDEE presents Enhancement of Nebraska's Voluntary Cleanup Program Webinar

Nebraska's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) is a streamlined, results-based approach to environmental cleanup at contaminated sites. The VCP was established by the Remedial Action Plan Monitoring Act (RAPMA), and its goals include protecting human health and the environment and returning contaminated properties to productive use safely and swiftly.

In an effort to enhance the program and better meet the needs of the regulated community, NDEE is hosting the Enhancement of Nebraska's Voluntary Cleanup Program webinar on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 2 pm. This webinar will include an overview of the current VCP and discuss program aspects and liability relief options offered by other state cleanup programs. NDEE will seek input from the audience on what works well with the VCP and ways it can improve—including possible amendments to the RAPMA statute. Past VCP participants are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone who is interested in learning more about the VCP.

WHAT: Enhancement of the Voluntary Cleanup Program

WHEN: 2-3 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2021

WHO: Taryn Serwatowski, Brownfields Coordinator for the Superfund/VCP Section

NDEE Registration instructions are provided at the bottom of this page.

About the webinar: The Enhancement of Nebraska's Voluntary Cleanup Program webinar will provide an overview of the program and include case studies that showcase how the VCP has benefited Nebraska, A comparison of other state programs and their liability relief options will also be discussed. Participants are highly encouraged to share their thoughts on the State of Nebraska incorporating some of these options into the VCP or through new legislation.

About the presenter: Taryn Serwatowski is a Michigan native who graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in Geology from Central Michigan University in 2009. She moved to Nebraska in 2010 to attend graduate studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she received a

teaching assistant scholarship to study Earth and Atmospheric Science. She is an active member of the Nebraska Geological Society and has served as the Region 7 Brownfields Focus Group representative for the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials. Taryn has been the Brownfields Coordinator for NDEE since November 2015.

The webinar moderator is Belinda Fowler, NDEE Small Business Environmental Assistance Coordinator.

To register for the webinar:

1. Go to [Enhancement of Nebraska's Voluntary Cleanup Program](#)
2. Click "Register."
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit."

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event. For assistance, contact: ndee.assistance@nebraska.gov.

NMSA MS4 Web Resource

Found at <http://ms4resource.nationalstormwateralliance.org/>, the MS4 web resources was funded by EPA and is maintained by NMSA. The guide draws upon diverse experiences of local communities in developing successful programs and addresses key program challenges and elements identified by stormwater program managers and regulatory agencies across the country.

Guidance within the resource covers issues such as communication and outreach; funding; program goals and management, and several others. Check it out online to find detailed topic pages and references to additional information.

Sessions from the 2021 ASFPM Virtual Conference Now Available On-Demand

If you didn't get a chance to join us for the 2021 ASFPM Virtual Conference, you can now access the entire program on-demand through January 31, 2022. That's three plenary presentations and 58 concurrent sessions dedicated to all aspects of flooding and floodplain management.

Certified Floodplain Managers will earn one continuing education credit (CEC) for each session watched, up to **12 CECs**. After each session is over, simply download the certificate for that session and submit it to ASFPM for your CFM certification.

Browse and view the entire program at <https://www.pathlms.com/asfpm>

NeFSMA Fall 2021 Bus Tour

On September 30th through October 1st, NeFSMA will be hosting a bus tour of several stops along the Niobrara and Missouri River Corridors. This is a unique opportunity to learn about the 2019 flood, response, and recovery.

On Thursday, September 30th, we will depart from the Ohiya Casino Resort located on the Santee Sioux Reservation to see several flood control projects and stormwater structures along with the ongoing work at Spencer Dam. From there, we will head north and take a short nature hike at Niobrara State Park to see some of the aftermath of the 2019 flood event (hosted by Park Staff). Once concluded, we will take the bus back to the Ohiya Resort for a formal dinner and special guest speaker!

On Friday, October 1st, we will once again board the bus for a trip to Gavins Point Dam near Crofton, NE where we will receive a tour provided by staff from the US Army Corp of Engineers. After the tour is concluded, we will work our way back to the Ohiya Resort. Tee times will be set aside for conference attendees to be able to play the Tatanka Golf Course-voted by Golf Magazine as the "Best new U.S. Resort Course" in 2015 as well as awarded Runner-Up in their "Best New Public Courses" category in 2017! (Green fees will be separate.)

Make sure you have the date saved as this exceptional opportunity to receive credit hours will be **LIMITED TO THE FIRST 54 REGISTRANTS!** Seats will fill very quickly once registration opens so don't wait!

Safety Reminder

Low head dams and other hydraulic structures are very dangerous. In Nebraska, and across the county, these structures have led to fatalities among anglers, kayakers, swimmers, and would-be rescuers.

On June 16, 2021 a family group of nine was tubing along the Dan River in North Carolina and inadvertently plunged over a submerged hydraulic structure. Four family members drowned; one remains missing. Four others spent 18 hours in the river waiting for rescue.



"Milaca's Low Head Dam" by D. Bjorn, Catchin' Up is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

Please spread the word among your communities and with friends and family to avoid these structures when visiting waterways. Additional information about the dangers of low head dams can be accessed at the following links.

[The Danger of Low Head Dams](#)

[ASDSO Public Safety at Dams](#)

[Over, Under, Gone: The Killer in Our Rivers](#)
[\(PBS Special on the topic\)](#)

Editor's Picks

Articles that may be of interest to the NeFSMA membership

[The Outside Story: Wetlands filter and enrich the landscape](#)

[Improving National Infrastructure Through Resilience and Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#)

[Floodplain Management Today: Published by the Floodplain Management Section of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources](#)

[National MS4 Online Resource](#)

[Naturally Occurring Contaminants Part 4 of a Series – Arsenic](#)

[Too Poor to Protect: When Cost-Benefit Analysis Leaves Towns to “Wash Away”](#)



2021 NeFSMA BOARD MEMBERS

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