

ASFPM Outstanding Chapter Award – 2014 Nominations & Award Recipient

ASFPM received two nominations for the 2014 Outstanding Chapter Award. Nominations were submitted for the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM), and the Florida Floodplain Management Association (FFMA).

While all nominations contained activities that were potentially award worthy, the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM)'s nomination provided an abundance of activities that met the award criteria. The Chapter Award Selection Committee selected the Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) as the 2014 award recipient.

Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM)

Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) received two nominations for the award, one from the chapter itself, and one from a fellow state chapter, the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM). Additionally, CASFM included two letters of support for their nomination – one from the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management from the State Disaster Recovery Manager, and one from the Town of Estes Park, CO from three representatives, the Chief Building Official / Floodplain Manager, the Community Development Director, and the Town Administrator. CASFM was selected as the 2014 Chapter Award recipient based on the vast quantity of measurable and highly replicable activities over the last year. CASFM's activities were award worthy not because of their recent disaster experience following the record floods of 2013, but because of what the chapter was able to accomplish in spite of the disaster. Unlike the New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management (NJAFM) the 2013 Chapter Award winner, CASFM did not have the same established relationships with state / local media and policy makers prior to their flood events. Some activities of note from CASFM's nomination included:

- CASFM reached out to ASFPM and their fellow chapters to obtain existing and previously implemented post-disaster resources and activities that they could model their efforts after following the devastating floods of 2013.
- The chapter regularly reached out to their communities impacted by flooding and provided support, expertise, and checked-in to see that their needs were being met post-disaster.
- CASFM established and deployed a disaster response team on the ground to support local floodplain administrators and to collect high water mark data.
- Drafted and released a policy paper outlining key floodplain management principles to build back safer and stronger from the 2013 floods.
- Organized the Colorado Flood Forum in partnership with Colorado State University and the Natural Hazards Center in Boulder to capture lessons learned and share best practices with communities immediately following the disaster, attended by 290 floodplain managers, media, and community leaders.
- Applied for and hosted two separate 273 courses in their state, partnering with ASFPM and their state office to provide training in areas most needed in the state.

Activities of Note from Nominees

Florida Floodplain Management Association (FFMA)

The Florida Floodplain Management Association (FFMA) was also nominated for a variety of activities that the chapter deploys in their state. Particularly of note, was the chapter's response to statewide adoption of International Code Council (ICC) provisions into the building code that resulted in large numbers of local floodplain administrators losing their jobs due to perceived redundancy with building code officials.