

Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers



The Open Channel

Volume 16, Issue 1

Winter 2004/2005

Annual Conference Highlights

By Robert Krehbiel

Thanks for a great annual CASFM conference! All the participation and technical presentations by the attendees make the conference so invaluable to all the members. General consensus is that the 2004 CASFM conference at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs was a great success! We had record attendance of 187, which accounts for about 30% of our overall membership. Those that missed the conference missed a fantastic learning experience, networking ... and in general, a really good time!

Results from the conference evaluation gives highest marks to a new CASFM activity, River Rafting on the Colorado River, which was followed closely in scores by the Thursday field trip on the Colorado River. I guess our members love water, and what better place than Glenwood Canyon! Third highest scores go to Stuart Gardner for keeping us informed on the website and providing on-line registration through the www.casfm.org website.

Additional thanks should be given to Stuart for organizing the hotel, meals and all the free gifts. The classy CASFM knit shirts have been a real hit with the members. The meals were terrific and we enjoyed taking over the entire hotel for the three-day conference.

The keynote presentation by Matt Kelsch from the National Center for Atmospheric Research on "Recent Flash Flood Disasters" taught us not to drive through a flood and made us very aware of the awesome power of floods. Great video clips, Matt!

Highlights of the conference include all the wonderful technical presentations and workshops. We had a record 31 technical presentations this year, which made it a challenge to hear all of the great talks. The three workshops (Sense of Place Drainage Improvements, FEMA Benefit/Cost and the Multi-Dimensional Flood Modeling) were educational and interesting. Those that missed the popular "Sense of Place" workshop are destined to be senseless until next year's conference.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year in Steamboat Springs at the Sheraton Hotel for the conference, September 21-23, 2005. The conference theme entitled "Global Disasters, Local Preparedness" was selected for 2005.



CONFERENCE RATINGS

Results from the conference evaluation forms indicated that most attendees not only enjoyed the conference, but believed that the field trips and breakout sessions were of great value. CASFM continues to strive for high quality conferences, and we always welcome input and suggestions from the membership.

Inside this issue:

A Word from the Chair	2
CASFM Scholarship	2
Deadly Tsunami	3
Regional News	4
Map Modernization	5
New Training Committee	6
2004 Grand Award Projects	7
Calendar of Events	8

A Word from the Chair

By Brad Anderson

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and in good spirits. Many exciting things have happened since the summer issue of our newsletter was published. I would like to thank all of you for the tremendous help and support I've received during the last year.

Since the beginning of the year, I have been able to reflect on our organization and our role in addressing stormwater and flooding problems both nationally and internationally. Given the natural disasters in the last few months, I realize the importance of our organization in terms of the assistance we can provide to those impacted by these events. Members of our organization continue to get involved in disaster relief whether this assistance is provided in the form of monetary contributions or voluntary efforts.

It seems quite clear to me that Colorado is a leader in the world of stormwater and floodplain management, and I continue to receive positive feedback regarding how well our State is represented by enthusiastic and highly qualified professionals. I consider myself fortunate to be associated with these professionals and have them as members of our organization.

Reflecting back on 2004, it was another banner year for CASFM. Membership increased significantly and the organization continues to gain interest from both the private and public sectors. The conference in Glenwood Springs was an overwhelming success. I trust that the membership will join me in congratulating the conference team on a job well done! In addition, the effort of all the officers, regional representatives, and committee chairs has been especially noteworthy and has contributed to the significant growth of the organization.

This year promises to be another exciting year for the organization. I have seen a lot of energy and enthusiasm at the general membership meetings. This interest has generated several new ideas that may benefit the members. For example, interest has been expressed to form Training and GIS Committees. Of course, CASFM will continue to provide its members with training and testing for the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) program, as well as numerous seminars for stormwater and floodplain management. Finally, I would like to wish all of you the best of luck in 2005!



Scholarship Awarded to CSU Student

By Jeremy Franz

The CASFM Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that it has awarded the 2004/2005 CASFM Scholarship to Leif (pronounced "Life") Embertson. Leif received his undergraduate civil engineering degree from Oregon State University in 2001. He moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2002 where he was quickly hired on at Northern Engineering Services. He is still working at Northern and has just started his graduate studies at Colorado State University where he is pursuing a master of science degree in civil engineering with an emphasis on river mechanics and water resources. He hopes to focus his research on stream restoration using "soft" engineering solutions to limit the negative impacts of development. Leif impressed the Scholarship Committee with his enthusiasm for engineering and his passion for preserving Colorado's streams and rivers. Look forward to seeing Leif at the 2005 annual conference in Steamboat where he plans to give a presentation on his research at CSU. The committee is certain that he will be a contributor to CASFM for many years to come. Please join the Committee in congratulating Leif.

The Scholarship Committee needs your help! If you know people getting ready to pursue advanced degrees, please mention our scholarship to them. Applications for the 2005/2006 award will be due April 1, 2005. More information can be found on the CASFM website.

Committee News

FLOODPLAIN COMMITTEE (Kallie Sampish)

Kallie informed Brad Anderson that 26 out of the 28 members who took the CFM exam in Glenwood Springs passed the exam. Congratulations to those of you who join the growing number of Certified Floodplain Managers in Colorado and throughout the nation.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (Jeremy Franz)

CASFM would like to better promote the CASFM scholarship activities and several ideas have been discussed to increase awareness and to possibly eliminate certain application requirements. CASFM typically awards one scholarship per year, however a generous offer from Dr. James Guo will allow for a second scholarship award.

STORMWATER QUALITY (Kevin McBride)

The Non-Point Source Council will re-write the management plan in 2005. In addition, a water quality field trip will be scheduled in 2005.

OUTREACH (Chris Carlson)

The projects receiving CASFM awards will be included in an article for the CML magazine. Chris will be resigning his position as chair of the outreach committee, and therefore a replacement chair will be needed. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact one of the CASFM officers at your earliest convenience.

MEMBERSHIP (Kevin Gingery)

The time of year has come once again to focus on membership renewals for the organization. Membership rates will not be changed for the 2005 calendar year. Kevin would like to reach out to federal agencies and increase membership by inviting our federal colleagues to join CASFM. Please assist Kevin by contacting any federal employees that may have an interest in our group.

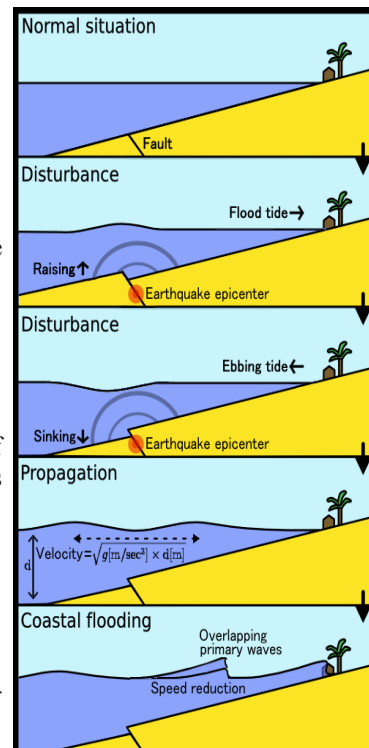
Deadly Tsunami a Somber Reminder

By Tom Browning

The December 26, 2004 Tsunamis in the Indian Ocean left the world with a somber and devastating reminder of the impacts that natural disasters can leave behind. The human toll is staggering, and the geophysical facts and statistics related to the earthquake and Tsunamis are mind boggling. I received first-hand accounts of the event and aftermath via email from a friend who was vacationing in Phuket, Thailand when the event occurred. The reality was brought home to me in a very personal way.

CASFM has considered and approved a financial contribution in the amount of \$5,000 to the on-going Tsunami relief efforts, and will pledge assistance that is geared towards long-term rebuilding of housing and infrastructure. Further updates regarding any charitable activities will be posted to the CASFM website at www.casfm.org.

While we all hope that an event of that magnitude will never happen in Colorado, our industry deals with natural disasters on a regular basis and must be vigilant about protecting the public using the best methods and means possible. The 2005 Conference theme was selected with this thought in mind.



Regional News

METRO REGION

Aaron Asquith has just recently taken on the role of Metro Representative. He earned his bachelors and masters degrees in Civil Engineering and Water Resources from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is currently a Principal with McLaughlin Rincon, Ltd.

Aaron is planning a social for the spring of 2005. Please watch for details. If you have presentation and/or location suggestions for Metro area events, please contact Aaron at 303-964-3333 or aarona@mr-ltd.com. CASFM would like to acknowledge Steve Smith for time and service that he volunteered as the former Representative of the Denver Metro Region. Thank you Steve!

NORTHEAST REGION

Deb Haferman reported that the St. Vrain River bike tour was cancelled due to lack of interest and response. A replacement social event has not yet been scheduled, however an event will be organized during the spring of 2005. David Thaemert sent an email to let us all know that he has safely returned from active military duty and will only be landing in Colorado for a short time. David has accepted an offer to study and work on river restoration and stream stability issues at the University of Louisville. He has therefore resigned his position as Northeast Region Representative for the balance of his term, and suggested that Deb Haferman would be an excellent replacement to finish the year. CASFM would like to thank David for his services to the organization and, more importantly, to our great nation.

MEETING REMINDER

Please remember that all CASFM general meetings are open to the entire membership, so feel free to attend any or all of the meetings. The general meeting schedule is provided on the back cover of this issue.

CWCB Highlights

The CWCB is pleased to announce that the draft final version of the "Colorado Floodplain and Stormwater Criteria Manual" will be published in late February. This document will serve as a technical guidance tool to assist local officials, engineers, and other interested parties with flood and stormwater studies and projects in Colorado. In conjunction with the upcoming release of the Criteria Manual, the CWCB has also embarked on mission to update and revise its Floodplain Rules and Regulations. A draft of the new rules will be presented to the Board at the March 2005 meeting in Glenwood Springs. A formal rulemaking process will begin shortly thereafter to obtain public comment and to complete the necessary steps in the rulemaking process.

Substantial efforts on the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) have led to an executive summary and full report for this important study. SWSI information, including fact sheets, news releases, meeting dates and agendas, objectives, and other data, can be found at www.cwcb.state.co.us.

Lastly, the CWCB would like to congratulate Larry Lang on four decades of public service in floodplain management! Larry plans to retire from the CWCB during 2005 and will no doubt find plenty of meaningful ways to fill his time.

Did you receive tickets for a free pass to the Glenwood Hot Springs Pool or Caverns Tour during the 2004 CASFM conference? If so, please remember that they will expire this spring. We hope that you will either put them to good use or give them to someone who can!

Colorado Map Modernization

By Tom Browning

The CWCB received a substantial grant from FEMA under the newly created Map Modernization Management Support (MMMS) program to hire a floodplain mapping coordinator for Colorado. The CWCB advertised the annually renewable contract position through an RFP process and received 5 applications. A selection panel is actively evaluating the applicants at this time, and the CWCB hopes to announce an award in late January 2005.

The CWCB and UD&FCD have been actively involved with managing a number of countywide digital Flood Insurance Rate Map studies throughout the state. Significant progress has been made towards achieving state and regional mapping goals, and we expect a tremendous push over the next 5 or so years to complete a large number of mapping studies under the umbrella of Map Modernization. Please contact the CWCB or FEMA for more information regarding specific floodplain studies.

2004 Conference Photos

Colorado River Rafting Trip



Stuart, Brad, and Robert

CASFM Officers



Banquet Dinner

More conference photos available at www.casfm.org

2005 CASFM Membership

By Kevin Gingery

Membership in CASFM is based on a calendar year (January – December 2005). To renew your membership with CASFM, please visit our web site at www.casfm.org and complete all relevant information on the membership application and submit the completed application with your membership fee to the address shown on the form. All 2004 memberships expired on December 31, 2004.

All members in good standing receive benefits including: twice-yearly newsletter, discounts at conferences, workshops, seminars, and training classes, etc. Prices remain fixed with Individuals at \$ 30, Students at \$10, Corporate at \$ 150, and Agency at \$ 150. Corporate and Agency memberships may include up to ten company individuals as members but are encouraged to only send in one comprehensive renewal application. Thank you for your 2004 membership and we look forward to your continued membership in CASFM in 2005.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your membership application/status, please contact Kevin Gingery at 970-962-2771 or gingek@ci.loveland.co.us.

Trivia Question: What is the date and location for the CWCB's first floodplain study?

Answer: June 1939 - Pierce, Colorado

New Training Committee

By Kevin Gingery

A CASFM Training Committee was formed at the November 18, 2004 CASFM General Meeting. The purpose of this new committee is to:

- Gather technical training needs from our members.
- Provide technical training opportunities around the state.
- Provide technical training opportunities at our yearly conference.
- Provide quarterly technical training opportunities for our members.
- Provide Continuing Educations credits for those whom attend technical training.
- Coordinate joint technical training opportunities with members of APWA, ASCE, and IECA.
- Oversee the distribution of CASFM funds for workshops and seminars.

During the first quarter of 2005 we will develop a technical training questionnaire, post the questionnaire on the CASFM website, compile technical training needs based on input received from our members, plan technical training opportunities for the remainder of 2005, and proceed to implement the 2005 technical training action plan.

If you are interested in being a part of the Training Committee, please contact Kevin Gingery at 970-962-2771 or gingek@ci.loveland.co.us.

2004 Grand Award Projects

The title to this article is not a misprint, and it is true that the 2004 CASFM project of the year award was shared by two winners following a triple count of the votes that confirmed an amazing tie. The votes were collected following the project presentations at the annual conference in Glenwood Springs. This goes to show that your vote really does count!

One of the winning projects was entitled “Goose Creek Drainageway Improvements in a Developed Urban Environment”. This project is located in Boulder and was completed by the City of Boulder, the UD&FCD, and ASCG Incorporated. This project resulted in the removal of 98 structures from the 100-year floodplain, 75 structures from the conveyance zone, and 71 structures from the high hazard zone.



The other winning project was entitled “Comprehensive Stormwater Management for Stapleton Development” and involved project partners from the City and County of Denver, the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District, Forest City Stapleton, Inc., Matrix Design Group, Inc., and EDAW, Inc. The reconstruction of the old Stapleton airport site is a model example of a modern comprehensive stormwater management plan integrating both engineering and ecology.

Both winning projects (group photo upper right) will be submitted to ASFPM to be considered for the “James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence”. Nominations for that award are due by March 1, 2005.

The two runner-up projects presented at the conference were: The “Douglas County Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Manual” was developed by Douglas County and Muller Engineering Company (photo above), and the “Sheldon Lake Drainage Improvements” project by the City of Fort Collins and Stantec Consulting, Inc. (photo right). A big thanks goes out to all of the applicants who provided submittals for award consideration.



Trivia Question: How many total communities are there in Colorado, and how many of those are enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program?

Answer: 332 total communities; 232 enrolled in the NFIP (100 are not enrolled, for those of you that don't want to do the challenging math)

CFM Corner

CFMs who are up for their biennial certification renewal on January 31, 2005 should have already received their renewal letters in the mail. If you believe that your certification renewal is due and did not receive a letter, please contact Anita Larson at the ASFPM main office. For Colorado questions, especially with respect to Continuing Education Credits, please contact Kallie Sampish at kalliesampish@applegatgroup.com. You may also send general CFM questions via email to cfm@floods.org. It is interesting to note that a growing number of communities across the nation are now requesting or requiring that their floodplain administrators be Certified Floodplain Managers.

Colorado Association of Stormwater and
Floodplain Managers



3665 JFK Parkway
Building 2, Suite 200

Address

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005 GENERAL MEETINGS

A notice will be sent through e-mail to all members prior to the meetings. The notice will include directions. This information can also be found on the calendar link at www.casfm.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan. 13	SEH, Denver
March 10	UD&FCD, Denver
May 13	Glenwood Springs
July 14	Longmont
Sept. 22	Conference, Steamboat
Nov. 10	Boyle, Lakewood

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

International Erosion Control Association (IECA) Conference: Dallas, TX, February 20-23, 2005

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Conference: Madison, WI, June 11-17, 2005

American Water Works Association (AWWA) Conference: San Francisco, CA, June 12-16, 2005

Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) Conference: New Orleans, LA, September 25-28, 2005

Please visit us at www.casfm.org