



THE IAFSM CURRENT

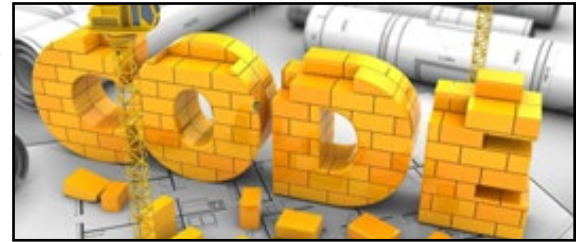
Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2024 Newsletter

NEW Illinois Building Code Regulations

The State of Illinois recently passed legislation ([Public Act 103-0510](#)) to require statewide building codes effective 1/1/2025. The law establishes buildings codes for new or substantially improved buildings, even if a community has not adopted a building code. The law also requires communities maintain an updated code, either the code published by the ICC during the current year or preceding 9 calendar years.

The Capital Development Board (CDB) has set up a webpage, [CDB Building Codes and Regulations](#), that provides the details on the major construction codes for commercial and residential building construction. They break down the regulations based on commercial and residential buildings and whether a jurisdiction does or does not have an adopted building code. Please see the CDB website for complete details.



The International Code Council (ICC) series of codes have been used. These codes include the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program. These codes include the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program. If more restrictive standards exist at the state or local level, such as a greater freeboard requirement, the most restrictive standard will prevail.

County & Municipal code reporting: 20 ILCS 3105/10.18 requires that all municipalities or counties adopting a new building code or amending an existing building code must provide details to CDB at least 30 days before the effective date of the building code. Municipalities and counties can use the [County Municipal Code Reporting Form](#) to notify CDB of a new or amended code. A directory of local building codes can be found at [code-directory.pdf](#).

FEMA Appeal Period for Preliminary Maps: Effingham, Clay, Stark Counties

The 90-day appeal periods are open for the preliminary floodplain mapping for Effingham and Clay counties. The appeal period for Stark County is expected to open soon. The deadlines for appeals and comments are listed below. Communities are notified via email and letters. To view the preliminary maps go to: [Flood Map Changes Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](#). Information on filing an appeal can be found at: [Guidance for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping, Appeal and Comment Processing\(fema.gov\)](#) and https://www.floodmaps.fema.gov/fhm/BFE_Status/bfe_main.asp#.

- Stark Co. Countywide, issued 12/15/2022, Appeal period pending.
- Effingham Co. Countywide, issued 07/21/2022, Appeal period open 11/1/2023 and closes 1/30/2024.
- Clay Co. Countywide, issued 07/21/2022, Appeal Period open 10/11/2023 and closes 1/9/2024.

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Corrected NEW Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate Released

The CORRECTED new certificates are available at [National Flood Insurance Program Underwriting Forms | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-underwriting-forms). THE NEW FORMS MUST BE USED AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

If you have had trouble opening the new form, use the following steps to open and save the form:

- Go to the link above and scroll down to the Elevation Certificate form.
- DO NOT SELECT DOWNLOAD, instead right click on the Download File link, and choose Save Link As.
- SAVE to your computer as a PDF and ignore any Download folder pop up.
- Go to the folder where the file is saved and OPEN the PDF.

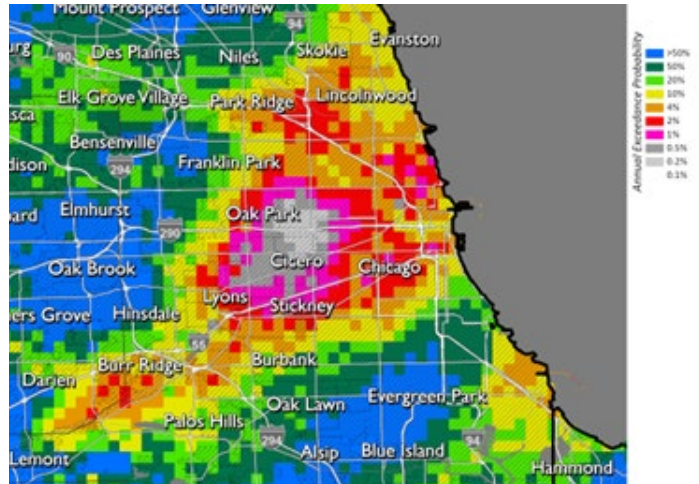
The Instructions are now found by using the tab at the upper left corner of the first page of the form. The Floodproofing Certificate was also updated and is now dated 8/2023. [FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-153](https://www.fema.gov/form-ff-206-fy-22-153).

2023 Presidential Disasters in Cook County due to Flash, Urban Flooding

In July and September, parts of Cook County received record-breaking rainfall estimated at the 0.2% annual chance rainfall events (500-year). Both storms have resulted in Presidential Major Disaster Declarations. Scott Lincoln, with the National Weather Service (NWS) authored a technical paper detailing the rainfall, flooding and impacts: [The July 2 and September 17, 2023 Flash Flood Events in the Chicago Metro Area \(weather.gov\)](#).

On July 2, the NWS reported the highest rainfall totals occurred near the border of Chicago, Berwyn, Cicero, and Oak Park, with rainfall estimates of 9.1 inches in less than 24 hours. The flooding was urban flooding, mostly impacting streets and basements. The areas impacted show no flood risk on traditional riverine flood maps. FEMA approved 74,661 applications for assistance for over \$281 million.

The September 17 storm in Cook County again caused mainly urban, basement flooding in an area with no flood risk shown. The highest total rainfall was estimated at 8.7 inches in Calumet City. The Presidential declaration was made on November 20, 2023. Applications for assistance can be made by calling 1-800-621-3362 or online at <http://www.disasterassistance.gov/>.





18-hour rainfall annual exceedance probability (midnight to 7 pm July 2, 2023) Source NWS.




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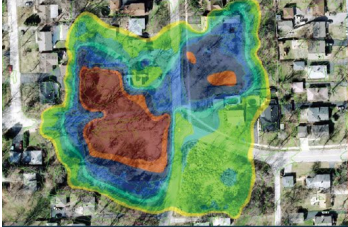
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FEMA is Being Sued for Making Flood Insurance Too Expensive – and Too Cheap

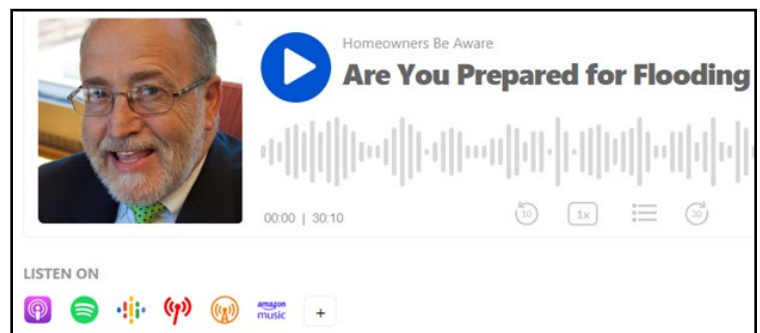
-Excerpt from *Grist.org*, Jake Bittle, 9/28/23

[This article](#) describes the dueling lawsuits faced by the National Flood Insurance Program, for being too expensive – and too cheap. Although this article was written a couple months ago and references some political events that are now out-of-date, it underscores the need for careful policymaking around flood insurance, which has not changed: *If the agency raises flood insurance rates, it could inflict economic devastation on floodplain homeowners, but if it keeps premiums low, it will enable continued development in flood-prone areas, ensuring huge future losses.*

Homeowners Be Aware Podcast: Are You Prepared for Flooding?

-Excerpted from *Homeowners Be Aware* on www.buzzsprout.com

Cleighton Smith, a former IAFSM Chair, recently recorded an episode of the “Homeowners Be Aware” podcast titled “Are You Prepared for Flooding?” In this podcast episode, Clayton and the host unravel the hidden truths about flood-related damage and why homeowners’ insurance won’t cover it. Cleighton is a water resources engineer with over 45 years of experience in floodplain management. He shares eye-opening insights and discusses the challenges homeowners face when buying a house, especially in flood-prone areas. The podcast can be found [here](#), and can be listened to on your favorite streaming platform.



Virtual All-Day NFIP 101 Training

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois State Water Survey, is offering a free virtual all-day NFIP 101 course on January 23, 2024. The training will begin at 8:30 am and conclude around 4:30 pm. You can register for this course at this link: [NFIP 101 Virtual Course](#). This is an excellent opportunity to get some in-depth training from the experts at FEMA, ISWS, and IDNR. A certificate of attendance will be provided. CECs and PDHs will be available.



Resilience Incentivization Roadmap 2.0

- Excerpted from Executive Summary of the report


In prior work, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) showed that investing in disaster resilience makes financial sense. That report – [Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves](#), published in 2019 – shows that spending money to improve one’s disaster resilience makes financial sense at the societal level. On a national average, natural hazard mitigation saves \$4-\$11 in avoided future losses for each \$1 invested, depending on the peril and mitigation measures.

In its first edition of the “[Roadmap to Resilience Incentivization](#)”, published in 2020, NIBS proposed to develop and demonstrate a set of public and private incentives to owners of buildings and other infrastructure to facilitate the upgrade of existing infrastructure and better design of new infrastructure.


The [NBIS Resilience Incentivization Roadmap 2.0](#), published in September 2023, is a product of collaboration between the NBIS and Fannie Mae, as well as across business and academic disciplines and incorporating input from a range of stakeholder groups. The document offers a roadmap toward implementing such incentives. It focuses on the peril of urban pluvial flooding and offers three major findings and several recommendations.



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From the Chair

-Dallas Alley, CFM, City of Fairview Heights

Gazing out of my office window looking at the bare sweet gum trees at City Hall, I was reminiscing about what this time of year means to me and my family. Time is taken to celebrate, give thanks, and reflect on all of the accomplishments of the past. While reflecting one can assess their successes and failures to move forward towards a bright future. In looking at the past I remember all of the great initiatives and projects I have been honored to be a part of, however, I also think to myself what can be done to further my goals and the goals of others.

The New Year serves as a great reset for us all, whether making a list of New Years resolutions or just simply focusing on the old stand by “New Year – New You”. So what do I resolve? I resolve to dust off my floodplain ordinance to see where improvements can be made. I resolve to reach out to floodplain and stormwater managers in underserved communities to offer my assistance. I resolve to continue to build upon the accomplishments that each and every IAFSM chair has achieved. Finally, I resolve to spend the next year dedicating my time to creating a more resilient Illinois. In addition, I challenge each and every one of the IAFSM members to find one way that they can help the greater floodplain and stormwater management community.

In closing, the executive board hopes you will be able to attend our March conference in downtown Peoria. Conference Chair (and current Association Vice-Chair) Sharon Østerby has been working tirelessly to provide an excellent program and I look forward to seeing you all there. Registration is open and hotel rooms will fill up quick. See you there!

Young Professionals Committee

Happy New Year from the Young Professionals Committee! 2023 brought many exciting developments behind the scenes in YP, so stay tuned for plenty of cool stuff in 2024! Here’s a sneak peek:

New Award Opportunity! IAFSM Young Professional of the Year Award

The Young Professional committee is now accepting nominations for our first ever annual IAFSM Young Professional of the Year Award to recognize the achievements of IAFSM professionals and graduate students under the age of 35! Eligibility Requirements, Judging Criteria, and the official Nomination form can be found at [this google drive link](#). The deadline for nomination is February 2nd, 2024.



IAFSM Young Professionals - October Social Event

Student Conference Scholarships (Collegiate)

Undergraduate upperclassmen and graduate students in fields related to floodplain management can apply for the IAFSM YP conference scholarship between January 15th - February 14th (which just so happens to be Martin Luther King Junior Day to Valentines Day). Winners will receive free 2-day conference admission, one year of IAFSM membership, a one-night hotel stay, and recognition at the IAFSM Annual Conference! Instructions for how to apply will be distributed via the IAFSM email list in early January.

New! Collegiate Outreach

We are seeking IAFSM members to help spread awareness of IAFSM on college campuses by delivering a short virtual or in-person presentation to university students this January and February. If you are interested in speaking at your alma mater or another school, please contact Sarah Wenzel, at swenzel@baxterwoodman.com.

Social and Educational Events

Keep your eyes peeled for bigger, better social and educational events coming this winter and spring! Thanks to everyone who made it out to our October Social Event!

If you want to help plan future events or have questions about YP activities, please email swenzel@baxterwoodman.com.

2024 IAFSM Annual Conference: Get Ready to Elevate your CFM Experience in Peoria!

This year's conference, hosted at the vibrant **Peoria Civic Center on March 12 & 13, 2024**, promises two days of engaging discussions, enriching insights, and meaningful connections within a professional yet welcoming environment!

Register Now!

Your conference registration is an investment in your professional growth, including lunches, breaks, essential materials, and a year-long IAFSM membership—all designed to enhance your experience and knowledge base. We are pleased to maintain consistent pricing from the previous year, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

Take advantage of the early registration rate of \$430 for the full conference until February 9, 2024. After that date, the registration fee increases to \$490 until February 23, 2024, which marks the final day for registrations or cancellations. To register for the conference, visit our website at: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/conferences-workshops/iafsm-annualconference>

Exclusive Conference Rates at Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette: \$169 until February 12, 2024.

Apply for the IAFSM State & Local Officials Scholarship!

The State and Local Officials Scholarship is designed to support individuals in need of financial assistance, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the conference. Applications for the scholarships are due on or before January 12, 2024. For more details about the application process or how to apply click on this link: [Scholarship Flyer](#)

Secure Your Spot as an Exhibitor or Vendor!

Calling all innovators and influencers! Exhibit your products, services, and activities at the IAFSM conference. This is a perfect opportunity to showcase your offerings to a diverse audience! For more information click on this link: [Exhibitor Flyer](#) or contact Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at: iafsm@illinoisfloods.org

Leave a Lasting Impression by becoming a Sponsor!

Consider elevating your involvement by becoming a sponsor or contributing a door prize to support this annual event. Sponsors enjoy recognition in the conference program, during plenary sessions, and at the awards luncheon, along with advertising benefits. For more information on Sponsorship or donations click on this link: [Sponsorship Flyer](#) or contact Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at: iafsm@illinoisfloods.org

For More Information

For the most up to date information, please go to the Annual Conference page on our website at: <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/events/iafsm-annual-conference> or contact Sharon Østerby, Conference Chair, at SOsterby@lakecountyil.gov, or Sarah Harbaugh, Executive Secretary, at iafsm@illinoisfloods.org



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IAFSM Annual Awards


Awards Season is approaching! Nominate Your Peers and Colleagues for Stormwater and Floodplain Management Awards!

Do you know someone who has made notable contributions to furthering the goals and missions of IAFSM? Nominate them now! All nominations and references are to be submitted online or via email. Nominations are now being accepted for the awards listed below. Nominations for the following categories are due by February 2, 2024. Please visit <https://www.illinoisfloods.org/membership/awards> for more information.

- **Floodplain Manager of the Year:** Recognizes outstanding individual efforts and contributions at the local level in the area of floodplain management.
- **Stormwater Management:** Awarded to an individual or group who have improved stormwater management or reduced urban flood risks through creative engineering, regulatory measures, or other approaches.
- **Mitigation:** Given to an individual or community that has encouraged flood hazard reduction through a buyout program, retrofitting, preparation of a mitigation plan, or other similar mitigation efforts.
- **Outstanding Service:** Awarded to an IAFSM Officer, a Federal, State, or Local Official, or a consultant who has gone above and beyond normal expectations and duties to promote or encourage IAFSM goals.
- **IAFSM Young Professional of the Year:** Recognizes an IAFSM member under age 35 whose professional contributions have advanced the objectives of IAFSM, advanced the profession of floodplain and stormwater management, and/or positively developed younger member attitudes toward the profession. This award is hosted by the Young Professionals Committee and has a separate nomination process. Nomination deadline is February 2nd. Self-nominations accepted. A link to the nomination form for this award can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.
- **Journalism or Public Outreach Award:** Given to a media outlet that has produced floodplain or stormwater management special features during the year. The award can include individuals or agencies who have contributed to outreach and public awareness of floodplain or stormwater management issues.
- **Legislation:** Honors Illinois lawmakers or local officials for their efforts in floodplain issues. The award can also be given to an individual who makes extraordinary efforts to encourage the passage of legislation or to a community that has adopted unique local regulations that promote floodplain management or flood damage reduction.
- **French and Mary Lu Wetmore Award for Lifetime Achievement:** This award is the IAFSM's highest honor. It is reserved for outstanding longtime floodplain managers. These individual's long-term contributions have made a noticeable impact on floodplain and stormwater management efforts in the State of Illinois. This award is not always given on a yearly basis.



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FMA GRANT – Repetitive Loss and Substantially Damaged Properties – Deadline February 2024

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security will begin accepting applications for the [Flood Mitigation Assistance – Swift Current Grant Program](#) on Friday, December 15, 2023 from state, local, tribal and territorial governments located throughout Illinois. Swift Current funds Individual Flood Mitigation Projects for Flood Mitigation Assistance and/or NFIP-defined Repetitive Loss, Severe Repetitive Loss, or properties deemed Substantially Damaged after the applicant’s disaster declaration date. Eligible Individual Flood Mitigation Projects include the following project types which may be referenced in the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#):

- Property acquisition and structure demolition/relocation
- Structure elevations
- Dry floodproofing of historic residential structures or non-residential structures
- Non-structural retrofitting of existing structures and facilities
- Mitigation reconstruction
- Structural retrofitting of existing structures

All sub applicants must complete an application in the e-grants portal by Close of Business, Friday, February 16th, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Zachary Krug, the Hazard Mitigation Section Manager at Zachary.krug@illinois.gov or 217-524-6513.

Join the Rapid Assistance Flood Team to Help Communities During Flood Events

The IAFSM Floodplain Committee is up and running again! One of the objectives of the Floodplain Committee is manning the IAFSM RAFT Team (Rapid Assistance Flood Team) which serves to assist communities in times of flooding to conduct damage assessments.

We’re currently updating our RAFT Member list and looking for new members! This is a great opportunity for volunteering your time and expertise when needed the most. If you meet the following criteria, please consider joining the RAFT Team to help communities post flood events:

- RAFT members are all Certified Floodplain Managers.
- RAFT members represent local, state and federal government, the private sector, and other professional disciplines.
- RAFT members are all volunteers and have agreed to assist communities in times of need.

What is required of RAFT Volunteers?

- Attend bi-annual training on Damage Assessment Response.
- Maintain IAFSM membership and Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) license.
- Provide time and equipment necessary to conduct damage assessments including:
 - » Vehicle
 - » Costs for overnight lodging
 - » Digital camera or Smart phone
 - » Laptop, Ipad or Clip board
 - » Boots, gloves, masks
- Provide digital reports and photos of damage assessments to host community.
- Identification badge to wear during inspections.



Join us for RAFT Training at the IAFSM Annual Conference in March!

Questions? Contact Dawn Cosentino, IAFSM Floodplain Committee Chair at dawncos@illinois.edu

CEC Education & Training Opportunities

Looking for training opportunities? The following opportunities are coming up in the next few months. If you are looking for credits, be sure to review the material and confirm they meet the appropriate requirements.

IAFSM/ASFPM Sponsored Training Opportunities:

- IAFSM Annual Conference: March 12 and 13, 2024, Peoria Civic Center, Peoria, IL
- ASFPM Annual Conference June 23-27, 2024 Salt Lake City, Utah
- 57th International Conference on Water Management Modeling Feb 28-29, 2024, Toronto, Canada

Illinois and FEMA Floodplain Management Webinars and All-Day Floodplain 101 Webinar

Illinois and FEMA will continue their monthly webinar series in 2024. Use the links below to register and add to your calendar. Webinar attendance will be submitted to ASFPM for CFMs. Illinois will provide certificates for PEs and CFMs for your records. IDNR is also providing a day-long Floodplain 101 Webinar on January 23, 2024 – refer to the separate article in this newsletter.

- 1/31/24, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA NFIP Fundamentals for Floodplain Managers](#)
- 2/13/24, (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Making the Determination: Substantial Improvements and Substantial Damage](#)
- 2/28/24, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA Development Permitting](#)
- 3/19/24, (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Enforcing Your Ordinance: Violations and Variances](#)
- 3/27/24, (Wed), 9-10 am, [FEMA NFIP Compliance](#)
- 4/9/24, (Tues), 11 am-12 pm, [Issuing Permits for Development in Floodways and Zones A/AE Without a Floodway](#)

Additional Training Opportunities:

EMI provides a wide range of training opportunities and upcoming training. EMI courses are free for local and state government employees. Learn more at the EMI website: <http://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>

- E0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – Feb 12-15, March 11-14, April 22-25, 2024
- E0278 NFIP/Community Rating System – Feb 26-29, 2024

ASFPM Webinars

- Webinars: <https://www.floods.org/training-education/online-training/asfpm-webinars/>
- On Demand Learning seminars [On-Demand Learning \(floods.org\)](#)
- Other training and CEC opportunities can be found on ASFPM's calendar: <https://www.floods.org/training-center/training-events/>
- Additional at home training through Red Vector and ASFPM: <https://floods.redvector.com/>

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Important Stuff We Tell You in Every Newsletter...

Save the Date! 2024 IAFSM Conference

The 2024 Annual Conference is being planned for March 12 and 13 in Peoria. Save the date! Registration info is in this newsletter.

Wanted: Newsletter Ideas and Articles

IAFSM members, this is YOUR newsletter! Email Jennifer Maercklein, editor, at jmaercklein@v3co.com if there are topics that you'd like us to cover. You don't need to write the article - we just want your ideas! If you're gifted with a pen and would like to provide content, we welcome your written contributions as well.

Get Involved with IAFSM!

IAFSM Committee Chairs welcome your help and involvement. See the list of chairs on the last page of this newsletter, or visit the committee webpage to learn more about volunteer opportunities. <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/committees.html>

Borrow our Water Table

IAFSM has five Watershed Tabletop Models available for all members to check out (free of charge) and bring to Public Works Open Houses, Scout meetings, 4-H meetings, school classrooms, etc. This offers a great opportunity to educate about the dangers and impact of unplanned development and human activity in the floodplain. IAFSM currently keeps tables in Springfield, Champaign, Bartlett, Woodridge, and Swansea. Contact Sarah Harbaugh at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org to make arrangements.

Next Board Meeting

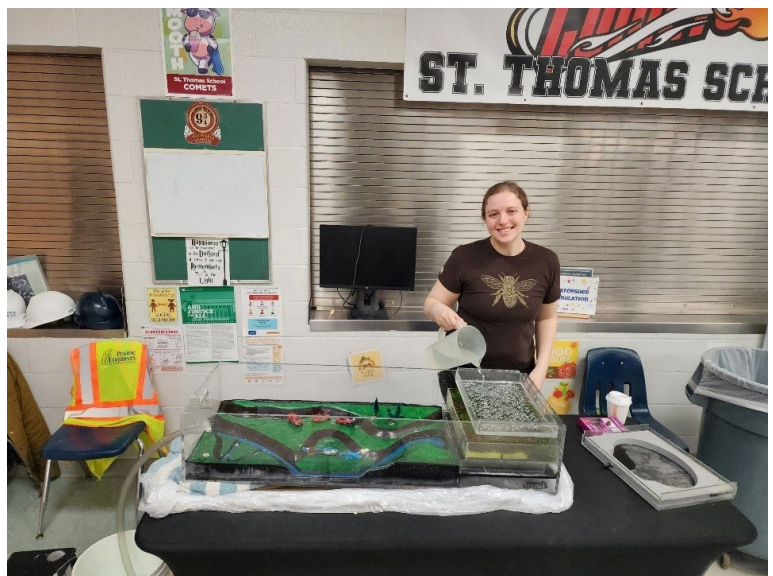
The next IAFSM Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, before the conference plenary session. Join us! All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Jobmart

Visit our Jobmart at <http://www.illinoisfloods.org/jobmart.html> Jobmart is a free service to members of IAFSM. To post an open position, please sign into our website and complete the job listing form. If you have any questions please contact Sarah at IAFSM@illinoisfloods.org.

CFM Exams

Beginning in 2023, exams are only offered online. Online exams can be taken in your home (monitored by an online proctor) or at a testing center; there are many testing centers throughout Illinois. For information, visit www.illinoisfloods.org/certification.html.



Sarah Wenzel brought the IAFSM water table to St. Thomas Middle School's Science Palooza event in Peoria Heights and demonstrated to students and parents how different surfaces can affect water runoff in an interactive exhibit.

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Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management

Winter 2024 Newsletter

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