

# ASFPM FOUNDATION GILBERT F. WHITE 6<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM

## Increasing Our Resiliency to Urban Flooding

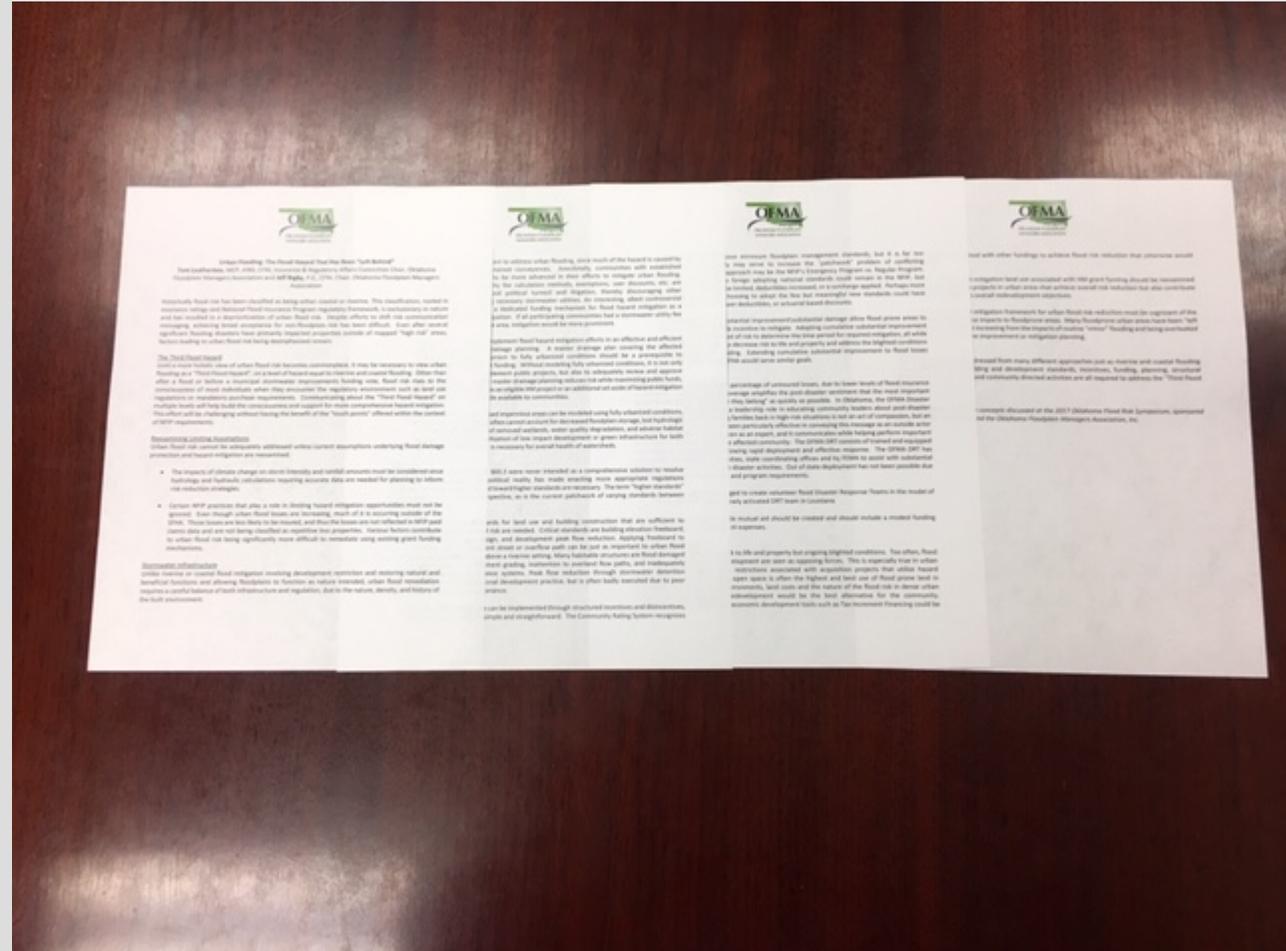
Summary by Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM, OFMA Chair and Forum Participant

# ASFPM NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM BACKGROUND

- The first ASFPM Foundation Gilbert F. White National Flood Policy Forum was held in 2004. It is held approximately every 3 years and brings together 100 of the top floodplain management professionals and other related disciplines together to review and steer important national policies. Past forums included:
- 2004 – Is the 1% Chance Flood Standard Sufficient?
- 2007 Floodplain Management 2050
- 2010 Flood Risk Management
- 2013 Human Adjustments In Coasts
- 2015 Climate-Informed Sciences and Flood Risk Management

OFMA prepared a “thought paper” to be distributed to Flood Policy Forum participants. It was included with 20 other participant briefs and 4 longer background papers to be included in the final flood forum published report. Tom Leatherbee, OFMA Insurance & Regulatory Affairs Committee Chair with assistance from Jeff Bigby, Chair authored the paper. The OFMA paper will be placed on the OFMA website.

The OFMA paper summarized urban flooding very well and proposed several ideas on how to improve approaches to the issue. It was the only brief to be mentioned at the podium to the entire group. To see all of the papers, go to [www.asfpmfoundation.org](http://www.asfpmfoundation.org)



**DOUG PLASENCIA, ASFPM  
FOUNDATION TRUSTEE  
AND FORUM MODERATOR**

Day one included several panelist presentations and statements to set the tone of the forum.



## DAY I AGENDA



# THE 6<sup>TH</sup> GILBERT F. WHITE NATIONAL FLOOD POLICY FORUM Increasing Our Resiliency to Urban Flooding

George Washington University Marvin Center  
800 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20052  
March 12-13, 2019

### DAY 1: TUESDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:30 am Registration and Coffee** 3rd Floor foyer
- 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions** Amphitheater  
SPEAKER: Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation President, Moffatt & Nichol
- 9:45 am Panel 1: Local and State Practitioner Perspective** Amphitheater  
MODERATOR: Jeff Sickles, ASFPM Stormwater Management Committee, Enginuity  
PANELISTS: Amy Knowles, Deputy Resiliency Officer, City of Miami Beach, FL  
Joe Kratzer, Managing Civil Engineer – Stormwater Management, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, IL  
Sally McConkey, ASFPM Past Chair, Illinois State Water Survey  
Christine Morris, Chief Resiliency Officer, City of Norfolk, VA
- 10:30 am Panel 2: National Perspective** Amphitheater  
MODERATOR: Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation President, Moffatt & Nichol  
PANELISTS: Chad Berginnis, Executive Director, ASFPM  
Katharine Burgess, Vice President, Urban Resilience, Urban Land Institute  
Gerry Galloway, ASFPM Foundation Fellow, University of Maryland  
David I. Maurstad, Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, FEMA HQ
- 11:15 am Break**
- 11:30 am Panel 3: Insurance Perspective** Amphitheater  
MODERATOR: Bruce Bender, ASFPM Insurance Committee, Bender Consulting  
PANELISTS: Matt Chamberlain, Actuary, Milliman  
Roger Grenier, Senior Vice President, Global Resilience Practice Leader, AIR Worldwide  
Sam Medlock, ASFPM Foundation Trustee, Willis Towers Watson
- 12:15pm Facilitated Breakout Instructions** Amphitheater
- 12:30 pm Facilitated Breakout Sessions** (including box lunch)  
Group 1 (red) Room 402  
Group 2 (yellow) Room 404  
Group 3 (green) Room 413  
Group 4 (blue) Amphitheater
- 3:00 pm Break**
- 3:20 pm Report-Outs from Breakout Sessions** Amphitheater
- 4:40 pm Summary of Day 1** Amphitheater
- 5-7 pm Networking Reception** Room 407

# TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Definition of urban flooding
- Separate urban flooding issue from coastal flooding and combined sewer overflows flooding?
- Which federal agency as the go-to?
- Climate effects
- How to study and should mapping flood risk areas be the focus?
- 2D hydraulic modeling applications
- Role of flood insurance and underinsured areas
- Funding sources to pay for infrastructure upgrades
- How to communicate risks to the public
- Development and construction standards
- Role of Green Infrastructure
- Ways to prepare better insurance models
- Social justice impacts since many urban flooding victims are low income



# MONUMENTAL SIGHTSEEING



## DAY 2 AGENDA

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

- 7:00 am **Coffee and Breakfast** 3rd Floor foyer
- 8:00 am **Review Day 1 and Preparation for Day 2** Amphitheater  
SPEAKER: Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation President, Moffatt & Nichol
- 8:30 am **Facilitated Breakout Sessions** (including box lunch)  
Group 1 (red) Room 402  
Group 2 (yellow) Room 404  
Group 3 (green) Room 413  
Group 4 (blue) Amphitheater
- 11:00 am **Report-Outs from Breakout Session** Amphitheater
- 12:20 pm **Break**
- 12:30 pm **Facilitated Breakouts to Develop Top 5 Recommendations** (including box lunch)  
Group 1 (red) Room 402  
Group 2 (yellow) Room 404  
Group 3 (green) Room 413  
Group 4 (blue) Amphitheater
- 2:30 pm **Break**
- 2:50 pm **Full Group Discussion and Recommendations Development** Amphitheater  
MODERATOR: Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation President, Moffatt & Nichol
- 4:20 pm **Closing Remarks** Amphitheater  
SPEAKERS: Chad Berginnis, Executive Director, ASFPM  
Doug Plasencia, ASFPM Foundation President, Moffatt & Nichol
- 4:30 pm **Forum Concludes**



### Thank you to our sponsors

for helping to make the 2019 GFW National Policy Forum possible:

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We'd also like to thank John McShane for donating his services as the event photographer.

## GROUP BREAKOUTS

- The 100 attendees broke into 4 groups varying in size from 18 to 34. Each group worked on specific assignments to report back to the overall forum.
- Each group had at least one ASFPM foundation person and one FEMA HQ staffer.
- Forum attendees had a heavy mix of FEMA staff, large government agency staff (USACE, EPA, DOT, etc.) Non profit organizations (NRDC, Nature Conservancy, NAHB, Urban Land Institute), state agency officials, academia, large engineering consultant firms, and a handful of floodplain administrators.
- Groups worked on their proposed priority ideas that would be heard by the overall group and molded into the overall forum list of ideas to be covered in the forum final report to be prepared later in 2019.

# SOME INTERESTING DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Should mandatory flood insurance or all hazards insurance be added to all homeowners insurance policies on properties with loans with a limited amount of flood damage coverage for all policies?
- Should communities with known urban flooding risk areas look into parametric insurance or resilience bonds to the overall community?
- Can there be a better way to aggregate both NFIP flood claims and private flood insurance claims to get into the hands of communities for better mitigation planning?
- Private insurance modelers would like more information on applicable community codes and capital improvement programs to plug into their risk models and methods for setting flood insurance rates.
- States with legal issues preventing stormwater utilities from forming should find paths to make stormwater utilities legal and common for their communities.
- Should the emphasis of urban flooding approaches be more to study, map, and mitigate urban flooding problems or should more emphasis be on educating property owners of their flood risks?
- Large scale use of Hydro-35 and TP-40 rainfall data needs to be addressed so that updated and often larger rainfall events are designed for. Many communities are adopting newer rainfall data.
- A toolbox of methods and practices is needed for communities to address urban flooding.
- Find ways to work social justice into planning processes. Urban flood victims are often renters, poor, and more often have language barriers.

# PANEL AND GROUP REPORT DISCUSSIONS

ALL 4 GROUPS  
REPORTED BACK WITH  
THEIR PRIORITIES AND  
IDEAS



## CONCLUSIONS (JEFF BIGBY'S ANYWAY)

- All agreed improved development and construction standards are important but there was not any push for anything at the national level. Local and state codes were emphasized.
- There is no appetite from FEMA to take on urban flooding as a new mapping program or CRS type community program. Many in attendance feel that mapping of the hazards with a new “in or out” of the floodplain would not be good.
- Improved communications between private insurers, the NFIP, and communities was emphasized to get a better handle on knowing impacts of non-floodplain urban flooding better through claims histories.
- With urban flooding being a community responsibility, it was emphasized that all methods of potential local funding should be explored and maximized such as stormwater utilities, G.O. Bonds, taxes grants, etc.
- Forum participants and the ASFPM Foundation felt that having more direct discussions with lenders about improving methods to provide better risk rating and analysis of their property portfolios would be a good approach to increase insurance coverage.
- The ASFPM Foundation agreed to prepare an Urban Flooding Toolkit to assist communities on approaches.
- The ASFPM Foundation will prepare and release the forum final report later in 2019. It will be on their website at [www.asfpmfoundation.org](http://www.asfpmfoundation.org)

# Questions?

