Key Policy Changes, Challenges and Efforts Addressed by ASFPM
Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021-June 2022)

The policy team’s work is based on the ASFPM mission statement: to promote education, policies and activities that mitigate current and future losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding, and to protect the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains — all without causing adverse impacts.

ASFPM specifically partners with federal, state, local and NGOs and coordinates with the 14 ASFPM Policy Committees to accomplish our mission. The policy team reaches out to legislators, Congressional staff and federal agencies to provide local and state practitioner perspective on legislation, rules and program implementation, and provide expert testimony when asked. ASFPM’s policy team is often contacted by national and local media on technical and policy issues.

The ASFPM policy focus for FY22 included:

- **Appropriations:** Between the President’s FY22 budget proposal, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), several continuing resolutions, the budget reconciliation effort, the OMNIBUS bill which extended government funding and the NFIP authorization until September 30, 2022, and the President’s FY23 budget proposal, commenting on federal government appropriations has been a continuous policy focus. ASFPM reviewed all proposals to assure continuation of vital funding for key programs, supported new funding opportunities for new and existing programs through the IIJA, successfully advocated for funding of key flood risk reduction initiatives, including a record amount for flood risk mapping.

- **NFIP Reauthorization:** In FY21, ASFPM developed a list of NFIP reauthorization priorities which have been used in a series of discussions with Congressional and Committee staff. Key issues addressed in the document include floodplain mapping, flood insurance (including RR 2.0, private insurance, ICC, and affordability), CRS, mitigation, CAP-SSSE and equity. With the expectation that work on NFIP reform will become a focus over the next year, the ASFPM NFIP 2022 Reauthorization Priorities are currently being updated.

- **Pre- and Post-Disaster Mitigation:** The implementation of the BRIC program has raised concerns relative to the complexity of the application process, complexity and weighting of the scoring criteria, the small portion of the funding available in the state set-aside to implement state and local priorities, and the perceived bias toward large infrastructure projects over more traditional activities like structural elevation, buyouts and relocation. The ASFPM Board of Directors took the rare action of passing a Board Resolution expressing the Association’s concerns with program implementation. This document has also framed our discussions with Congress and the Administration on how to address these concerns.

- **Corps of Engineers Priorities:** ASFPM focused on the USACE Technical assistance programs to assure states, communities, tribes and territories are aware of the programs and are able to work with their local Corps staff to effectively utilize these resources. We have also advocated for increased focus on and use of implementing effective nonstructural and nature-based mitigation options. We supported implementation of the National Levee Safety Program. We continue to track and comment on the reauthorization of WRDA (USACE programs) as the bill moves through Congress.
• **Precipitation Data:** ASFPM recognizes the critical need to have up-to-date precipitation data, including extreme precipitation and future precipitation estimates, in order to support floodplain mapping, community planning and infrastructure design. Advocacy for the FLOODS Act and the PRECIP Act have served as the basis for this effort. These include support funding for periodic updates to Atlas 14, a key publication from NWS used to calculate precipitation frequency estimates for a wide range of storm durations.

• **Risk Rating 2.0:** As RR 2.0 rolled out, floodplain managers have expressed concerns relative to adequate training, understanding the new methodology, appropriate consideration of mitigation discounts, and transparency of the rating system. ASFPM supports RR 2.0 but has also provided input to FEMA on ways to improve the link between flood insurance, mitigation, and floodplain management as well as assure the floodplain management community receives adequate training.

• **Federal Register Comments:** ASFPM responded to two FEMA Requests for Information on 1) how to improve the CRS program; and, 2) NFIP floodplain and land use standards and program impact on threatened and endangered species. We also provided comments on revisions to WOTUS, NEPA and FEMA’s Elevation Certificate.

• **Privacy Act (PIVOT):** ASFPM continues to work with FEMA and Congressional staff to develop short- and long-term solutions to address delays in access to the flood insurance claims data needed by states and communities to carry out floodplain management and mitigation activities.

• **State and Local Advocacy:** ASFPM has been able to work with state and local officials as well as ASFPM chapters to support and maintain effective programs and regulations that reduce flood risk. This year ASFPM has provided assistance in response to proposed legislation in Montana, Utah, Georgia, and Indiana.

• **Legislation:** While not the most active legislative session as far as new bills, ASFPM provided information and education to legislators proposing bills on flood risk management, LiDAR mapping, disaster programs, mitigation funding, climate change, and flood insurance. After passage of the STORM Act, ASFPM worked with partners to provide education on this opportunity for states to establish federally supported revolving loan programs for mitigation and promote a template for state enabling legislation.

• **Testimony:** ASFPM testified before Congressional committees on climate change, flood resilience and mitigation, flood risk mapping, and data and technical assistance needed to improve program implementation for USACE, NOAA, USGS, EPA and FEMA.

**Looking ahead to FY23**

The ASFPM policy team is eagerly anticipating the ability to once again have in-person meetings with congressional and agency staff and with our partner organizations. The impact of COVID-19 on communities, states, and the nation as well as unsettled economic indicators will continue to shape budgets and policies throughout FY23. We will continue to push for consideration of the current and future impacts in legislation, guidance and program implementation, including those associated with economic stimulus and recovery efforts. The policy team will endeavor to make sure the bills contain language consistent with improving the resilience of infrastructure and communities and take into consideration the impact of climate change and the needs of historically underserved and disadvantaged communities. FY23 will continue to provide opportunities to weigh in on appropriations, NFIP reform, and the new WRDA bill as well as full implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 and improvements to flood mapping and mitigation. We will continue our focus of encouraging support and funding for important programs like 3DEP, USGS stream gauges, NOAA updates to precipitation data, and USACE technical assistance programs. We will also pursue opportunities to assure that impacts of our changing climate are appropriately considered in legislation, rules, and guidance.

Find ASFPM positions on 400 national flood policies at [National Flood Programs and Policies 2015](https://www.nationalfloodprograms.org/policies).