Vice Chair
Annual Status Report

BY STEVE SAMUELSON, CFM
Introduction

One of the roles of the Vice Chair is to lead the meetings of the Committee Co-Chairs and act as something of a liaison between the various Committees and the Board of Directors. Vice Chair is a voting member of the Board of Directors and available when the Chair is not. In the past year I have also participated in many ASFPM projects related to Flood Mitigation Library project, Risk Rating 2.0 (RR2.0) working group, Elevation Certificate (EC) Update, Community Rating System (CRS), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Community (BRIC) grants and the request for information from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Another important job of the Vice Chair is to listen to people and be a voice for them. Many of you voted me into this position so why not use me? Share your concerns with me anytime you like. Grab my arm if you see me at the ASFPM conference in Orlando or send me an email directly to steve.samuelson@ks.gov.

Key Accomplishments

This has been a jam-packed year. Many of the Board of Director’s meetings and the Committee Co-Chairs’ meetings have run long because there has been so much to talk about. ASFPM has been involved in a lot of great work in this last year on behalf of the members of the organization. I am sure I am forgetting quite a lot but here is a bullet point listing of some of the key items:

- Resolution suggesting improvements to BRIC
- Request for information on transformation of CRS.
- Request for information on changes to the NFIP for the first time in 40 years.
- Revised definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
- Governance Document
- Approval of a Social Justice Policy
- Offering seminars and information on RR2.0

I did not do all of the work on all of these projects myself. This was work that many people in ASFPM were involved in and was then brought to the Board that I am your Vice Chair for. Simply not room to name every person who contributed to every ASFPM project this year.

Challenges

Can’t talk about accomplishments without talking about challenges. Writing this report in February knowing there are people who will renew their flood insurance policies after April. Those people will see, for the first time for many of them, the effects of Risk Rating 2.0. It is hard to predict what will come out of that. The challenge will be to educate Floodplain Managers about the new insurance rating methodology so they will know what to tell their own citizens. Another challenge will be to figure out how, if at all, that RR2.0 supports Floodplain Managers at local level.
The Pivot database of flood insurance information continues to be a challenge for us. Information is protected by Privacy Act. Communities that submitted requests for information about things like repetitive loss properties have waited in some cases for over a year without their requests being answered on. Hard to mitigate a repetitive loss property if you can’t find out where it is.

The Endangered Species Act is another important challenge. There has not been clear guidance on how to deal with or document ESA compliance at this time. There is a tool (FRESH) that has information in it but the average citizen and community officials in small town don’t have an ARC GIS log in to access the tool.

They told me to keep my list of challenges to just two paragraphs or so and I am already over the limit so will end here. Floodplain Managers have always had challenges and there will be more. Let us just say, all of the challenges keep a Floodplain Manager’s job interesting and fresh.

**Conclusion**

The template format for this report included a section on priorities for the coming year and what I will be doing to address those priorities. There doesn’t seem much point to that because I won’t be around after the next election.

My mother and father both died in 2021. Made me think about how short life is. My wife and I sold our farm and a lot of our other property and started downsizing our lives. I will be resigning from my current position to retire early. Can’t be on the Board of ASFPM when I no longer work for the State.