Chapter District 4
Annual Status Report

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Introduction

The ASFPM Chapter District 4 includes chapters based in the states of FEMA Regions VII and VIII. There are currently seven ASFPM Chapters: Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association, Kansas Association for Floodplain Management, Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers, Association of Montana Floodplain Managers, and Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association.

Key Accomplishments

As restrictions due to the pandemic have eased, the chapters have begun to refocus on outreach and education opportunities, both virtual and in-person. Some chapters are now looking to developing and implementing strategic plans over the next several years.

Chapters have been using virtual options for meetings, when possible, to help get training to those who aren’t able to travel or aren’t yet comfortable with regathering. Chapters are also implementing and/or revising committee structures within the organizations to help accomplish their missions.

- Missouri Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (MfSMA) has hired their first executive director.
- Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (IFSMA) is developing a relationship with the Iowa academic community to further their reach within the state.
- Colorado Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers (CASFM) has updated or created several guidance documents for floodplain management professionals in the state.
- Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NeFMSA) was able to tour several parts of the state that were affected by flooding in 2019, including the failed Spencer Dam.

Overall, the District 4 Chapters are continuing to provide necessary training and education to the professionals within their states.

Challenges

Each of the chapters in District 4 covers a large rural area. Many of the challenges chapters face stem from large distances between communities and restrictions on travel and funding for attending conferences and workshops. Challenges include:

- Maintaining and growing membership, especially across the rural parts of the states.
- Engaging members in committee and leadership activities.
- Participating in and impacting public policy in the state related to floodplain and stormwater management.
- Engaging the general public in floodplain and stormwater management and education.
Consistent attendance at the ASFPM Annual Conference can also be a challenge for these chapters. While the new hybrid format allows people to receive training and CECs, the networking opportunities cannot be replicated through a virtual platform. Many chapters believe networking with other professionals is a key part of ongoing professional development.

Priorities
All chapters prioritize education and training opportunities for their members and other stakeholders within their states. Specifically, chapters are working to:

- Continue to provide opportunities for CFMs to obtain CECs at a low cost;
- Promote NFIP and CRS participation in small/rural communities;
- Grow chapter membership; and
- Provide opportunities for professionals to network and exchange ideas.

Recommended Actions
The Chapter Directors and Association Office should work to reestablish the chapter conference calls and consider moving the meeting to a virtual platform with video capability. While this doesn’t replace in-person networking, it could help to facilitate connections between chapters. Additionally, partnerships with neighboring chapters could be facilitated by Chapter Directors to allow for reciprocal advertising and attendance at more local and regional events.