Chapter District 1
Annual Status Report

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Introduction

ASFPM Chapter District 1 chapters include Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania (as of FY 2024), and Rhode Island.

While all the chapters are thriving and providing support, information, and educational opportunities for their members, 4 chapters experienced an increase in membership, with the New York and Massachusetts chapters experiencing an upward trend over the last 4 years. Contributing factors to the membership changes could include the effects of the Covid epidemic as well as the implementation of the digital CFM test, both of which impacted conference attendance in those years.

The redistricting of PAFPM officially passed with bylaw changes at the 9/15/22 board meeting but didn’t go into effect until 2024 to enable Teri Provost to serve out her term.

Key Accomplishments

Key accomplishments for each of the chapters are provided below.

- Connecticut.
  - The chapter hosted joint conference in 2023 with the Connecticut society of civil engineers. Approximately 100 members attended.
  - The chapter expanded the number board members from 7 to 9 to increase participation.

![ASFP District 1 Chapter Membership Trends](image-url)
• Maryland
  o The chapter is working to integrate DE and DC into the MD state chapter to be re-named the Mid-Atlantic Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers.
  o The chapter supports a number of educational and outreach activities including
    ▪ Supporting the RISE challenge
    ▪ Organizing and holding a Field Tour of the Conowingo Dam in conjunction with PAPFM
    ▪ Promoting FEMA training on the Eastern and Western Shore (as well as virtual events),
    ▪ Participating in the legislative session by testifying on HB1209,
    ▪ Participating and offering comments on the Maryland A-StoRM and looking to engage in stormwater modelling in conjunction with floodplain modelling
    ▪ Begun drafting of a Maryland Quick Guide

• Massachusetts
  o Chapter membership continues to grow and it is approaching 100 members
  o Held best-reviewed annual conference yet, which included a field trip and networking hour
  o Continuing to have good participation from members with rotation of board members and non-board committee members assisting with planning and operations

• New Jersey
  o Offers an extensive list of credits at its annual conference for Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM), Professional Engineers (PE) licensed in NJ, NY, and PA, Professional Surveyors (PLS) licensed in NJ, Certified Public Works Managers (CPWM), Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Officials, and American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
  o Provides conference scholarship opportunities for professionals who may need assistance or otherwise would have to pay out of pocket to attend, and for student members who would like to volunteer their services at our conference or wish to present their work at a conference session.
  o Providing no cost NFIP training in partnership with NJDEP for New Jersey government officials (municipal, county, state, etc.) as well as members of the public looking to expand their knowledge of floodplain management and obtain their Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification. This course was developed and sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Bureau of Flood Engineering. This course closely follows the FEMA480 National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
  o Supporting the digital CFM exam by partnering a community college to reserve their computer lab as an official CFM testing center
  o Partnered with the New Jersey County Planners Association delivering a presentation on floodplain management including a concise overview of NJDEP’s new stormwater and flood hazard area rules and anticipated upcoming rule changes.
  o Strengthening its student membership program by providing students with more direct access to employment opportunities through our sponsors and partners. Its student liaison participated in a Green Jobs Fair at the state university and will post
resumes collected at the job fair on the NJAFM website for member viewing, connecting members to potential employees interested in flood hazard mitigation, climate resilience, and floodplain management.

- New York
  - Continues to increase membership, partly due to online webinars which are a member benefit
  - Onboarding paid administrative support from Syracuse assist with conference and webinars which are the chapter’s major outreach to members
  - Completing the construction of LEGO 3D elevation certificate models (funded by the ASFPM Foundation) to be available at the annual conference this year and to support elevation certificate workshops.
  - Looking to create a documentary on home elevation to show how it is a mitigation solution for communities and homeowners.

- Pennsylvania
  - 2023 report included in District 2 annual report.

- Rhode Island
  - Hosted several informational presentations
  - Hosted annual conference with about 140 attendees
  - Continued successful fundraising
  - Initiated monthly flood talk webinars featuring a project
  - Have a paid project coordinator to manage social, Eventbrite, content for sponsorship requests, and monitoring email

**Challenges**

Key challenges faced by individual chapters are listed below. Common issues include identifying speakers and providing new content for webinars and newsletters, desire for a better understanding of how to support the digital CFM exam, succession planning and desire to avoid burn out of volunteers.

- Connecticut.
  - Manpower is a challenge- expanded board to get more people involved. Need cyclical training to have new topics every year.
  - Needs include:
    - Assistance with identifying key speakers is needed.
    - Information on funding programs to implement projects

- Maryland
  - Group administration of the CFM online test. Looking to create a reference/guide for Chapters on how to facilitate CFM exam and something to send to exam takers for virtual exam instructions
  - Burnout of current board members

- Massachusetts
• Organizational software (google docs, google listserv, separate website through wix.com) is limited and creates some workflow challenges. The chapter is currently working on updating to a new software (Wild Apricot) to better manage our growing organization
• Staffed by volunteers which is limiting. Have not considered paid director or administrator
• Succession planning—problem that bill is planning to step down
• Involvement of students and young professionals: difficult to get them involved

• New Jersey
  • Succession Planning—developing job descriptions/SOPs to support successful transitions.
  • Outreach—would like to address gaps in community including new CFMs
  • Coordination with other organizations to increase membership
  • Education of residents on flood mitigation—‘cheat sheets’ would be helpful
  • Increased social media presence—to engage next generation

• New York
  • Planning to host a National ASFPM Conference in Buffalo later this decade
  • Digital CFM—Not sure how it is being administered. Share logistics with them and add agenda item to all-chapter call
  • Website is limiting and needs to be updated to accommodate current needs.
  • Succession planning: problem that bill is planning to step down
  • Engagement of young people

• Pennsylvania
  • 2023 report included in District 2 annual report.

• Rhode Island
  • Cost of hosting events—would like to share cost with other associations for conference, etc.
  • Need support in creating content for webinars, increasing sponsorships, scholarships, training
  • Creating interest for CFM certifications and understanding how best work with state agencies to increase CFMs

Priorities

District 1 chapters have all provided significant member benefits including providing educational opportunities, continuing education credits to support the CFM as well as other professional certifications, and in providing networking opportunities to increase collaboration and information-sharing to develop knowledgeable professionals. Larger chapters have been proactive in working with their state agencies to advocate for prudent floodplain management and for improved mapping and data to incorporate future conditions and to reduce flood risk. Several chapters struggle with succession planning while a few are looking for support in creating educational content and funding paid staff to reduce the burden of volunteers. To support the growth and
effectiveness of District 1 Chapters below are the priorities of the District 1 Chapter Director in 2024:

- Foster collaboration between District 1 chapters and address issues related to hosting webinars and creating content for newsletters.
- Support transfer of information and best practices amongst District 1 chapters.
- Provide support and guidance related to digital CFM testing.

**Recommended Actions**

To address the priorities noted above the District 1 Chapter Director will strive to

- Coordinate the District 1 Chapters via email and online meetings to discuss challenges and look to identify best practices or resources to improve chapter operations
- Create a shared document to support mutual use of existing webinars, speakers, or learning tools amongst chapters to facilitate regional educational opportunities, increase economy and decrease burden on individual chapters and volunteers
- Follow-up with association regarding the 2023 request to create guidance for chapters on the administration of the digital CFM exam