Region III Annual Status Report

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Introduction

Region III is comprised of chapters from the States of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania (home of the PITTSBURG STEELERS), the District of Columbia and members from Delaware. The region has a varied geographic presence ranging from coastal areas abutting the Atlantic Ocean, to different mountain ranges, heavily populated urban areas, suburban sprawl, riverain, watershed basins, large agricultural spaces. The Virginia Flood Managers Association was the recipient of Chapter of the Year for 2023.

The membership is made up of communities and private companies with large staff focused solely on flood related issues to small communities with single staff personal. The region has a large number of CFM’s.

Key Accomplishments

The region saw long time Region III Director, Ms. Necolle Maccherone step down due to serving the maximum and the election of Mr. Kenneth Somerset as the new Regional Director. The transition was as smooth as possible with Ms. Maccherone providing vast amount of guidance and knowledge. Following are a few notable items:

- The region gave Ms. Maccherone an award for her long-standing service and support to the entire region at the Maryland Flood Managers Conference
- Ken Somerset attended the Maryland flood managers conference as a board representative and addressed the members on ASFPM action
- Ken Somerset attended the VFMA flood conference as a board representative and addressed the members on ASFPM activities
- The VFMA had Ms. Maccherone, former Region III Director speak in a breakout session at their conference

Challenges

Given the vast area and varies landscape, regional differences in geography, urban density along with community staff differences addressing the various types of flood related matters is a challenge within the region. Providing assistance to large communities who have heavy urban growth with inadequate drainage systems in place to mountain areas with watershed and riverain areas, to farm lands and suburban growth expanding rapidly in the form needed is a daunting task.

A few examples follow:

- The entire northern Virginia, Washington D. C., Maryland area
- Suburban growth in the central Virginia and Philadelphia Pennsylvania area
- The vast mountain areas of West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania
- Coastal areas of Virginia, Maryland and Delaware
Priorities

Serving the chapters and members of the entire region in ways, methods and support is a strong action item to be accomplished. Making sure each chapter knows the entire region is available to assist each other if needed, that ASFPM is willing to assist when requested, that every voice is important and will be heard and not left standing alone is extremely important.

How that is successfully completed involves a variety of things to be done. A few examples follow:

- Sharing of lessons learned
- Continued email meetings with chapter members
- News and action updates sent to chapters and members
- Attending chapter events and conferences in person when possible and by video if available
- Advising regional members and chapters of activities within other chapters
- Encouraging participation in events outside of one’s own chapter
- Encouraging professional growth
- Becoming more involved in ASFPM activities
- Offering assistance in hosting various training events within chapters