



From the President's Pen...

Winter has started pretty rough, with temperatures well below freezing during the month of December. I would like to take a moment to give special thanks to a couple of people who recently left our organization. In January, our Junior Past President Nick Heatherly retired from his position of Building Official for the City of Springfield, MO. Nick has served our organization since its inception. He has served as an Area Director, Secretary, Vice-President, and was elected and served as President from 2006 to 2008. This past summer, another long time member of MfSMA, Gil Gates, left due to a job change. Gil has faithfully served the Association for more than six years as an Area Director and, later, as Treasurer. Moreover, Gil always supported our annual conferences by doing anything asked of him. I would personally like to thank them both for all of their faithful dedication and support of our cause. Best of luck to each of them in their future endeavors!

You are probably aware by now that MfSMA has jumped into the electronic age with most everything we are doing from this newsletter to membership renewal notices to conference registration. This change has saved our people a tremendous amount of manpower and money. I know some people don't really like it this way, but we will do our best to meet the needs of everyone through these changes now and in the future. So, if we miss someone, please let us know so we can do what is needed to contact them.

Having just mentioned our Junior Past President, it brings me to that point that, during our annual conference in April, I will be turning the sword of leadership over to a new leader: Mr. Errin Kemper. Errin has served our Association very well over the years and will make a fantastic president. For me, it seems like yesterday that I first became involved as a member and, later, as an

Area 3 Director, Treasurer, VP, ASFPM Co-Chair Stormwater Committee and then President. The time has certainly flown by!



I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute I have spent serving you. I wasn't able to achieve everything I wanted to accomplish, but I have made some strides to better the organization. Additionally, one of the most wonderful benefits of serving in such a vast family of Floodplain Professionals is the relationships I have gained throughout this vast country of ours. For these relationships, I am sincerely grateful. Some 20 years ago, my wife and I went on a roadtrip to some major cities in the Midwest; there wasn't a stop where I didn't know someone, and now with the friendships I have made through the MfSMA and ASFPM, I can't go anywhere in the country without knowing someone.

Thank you for giving me the support to represent you not only at the state level but on the national level.

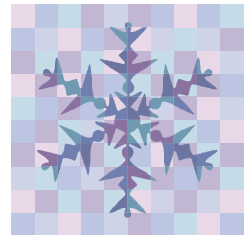
—Tom

As you will see in the coming pages, we have finalized our 2010 conference, to be held April 7-9. I can tell you that since I became involved with MfSMA, every conference has been better than the previous one, and this year is no exception. Errin has done a fabulous job.

See YOU at the 2010 conference, where there is education and fun for all !!!!

Volume 2, Issue 25

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Inside this issue:

Gilbert Memorial Info	2
2010 Conference	3
By Law Changes	3
MO Municipal League	4
SEMA Training	8
CFM Corner	8

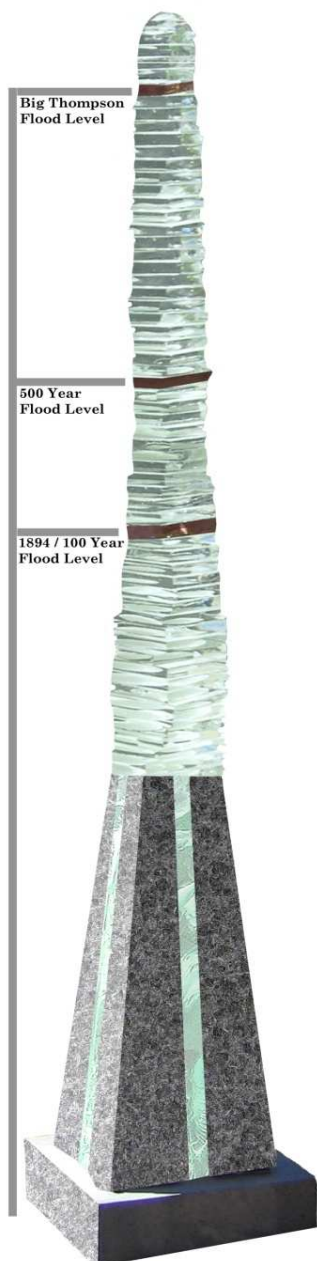
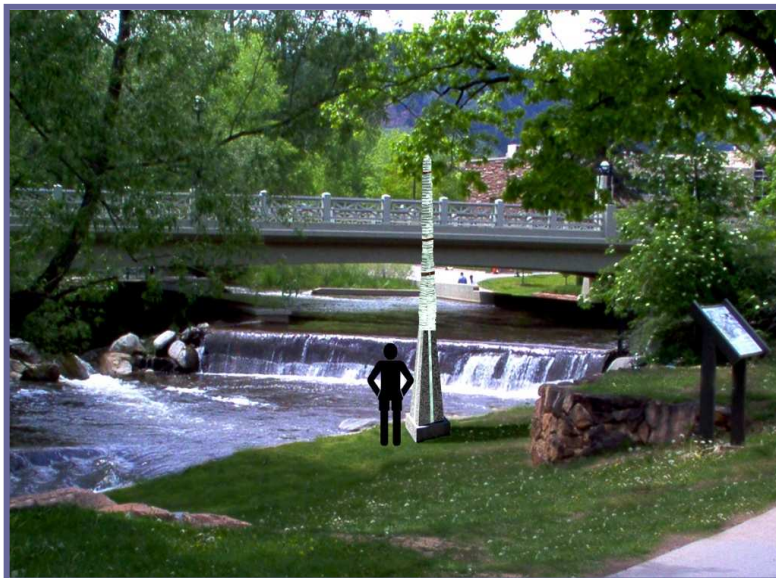
Gilbert White Memorial Near Reality

Fundraising Goal in Sight

ASFPM member Clancy Philipsborn recently updated us regarding the creation of a memorial to honor Gilbert F. White, the renowned University of Colorado geographer and environmentalist who was one of the original supporters and mentors of the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

The memorial will be a stone and glass flood marker, erected on Boulder Creek in central Boulder, Colorado, White's hometown. The creek is considered one of the highest potential flood hazards in Colorado, and the monument will not only show real-time flood depth but will also indicate depths of previous historical floods and estimated 100-year and 500-year flood levels. Accompanying informational plaques will provide information about flood safety and about Gilbert himself – the man often referred to as the “Father of Floodplain Management.”

To date, the committee has raised over \$67,400 of the \$100,000 needed to install the monument. In addition, the group recently received a “challenge grant” of



\$15,000, and thus any donations received before December 15 of this year will be matched by funds from the challenge grant up to a total of \$30,000.

“If we can match this challenge, we’ll have over \$97,000,” Philipsborn said, “and our goal will be within reach this calendar year. We will be able to begin construction this winter, which would be wonderful, since winter is the low-flow period for Boulder Creek and the frozen ground would mean minimal environmental impacts on the creek and surrounding area.” The memorial would then be completed in time for dedication next summer.

The project has received final city approval and the committee is now working on final engineering and design specifications, as well as obtaining various construction permits and developing a construction schedule.

Anyone interested in contributing to this project (and having his or her contribution matched by the challenge grant) can mail a check made out to the “Community Foundation, Gilbert White Memorial Fund” to The Community Foundation, 1123 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302. Contributions can also be made on-line at <http://www.commfund.org/giving/GilbertWhiteFund.html>. All donations are 100% tax deductible. More information can be obtained from Clancy at ClancyPh@aol.com, or 303-884-8887.



**2010 Missouri Floodplain &
Stormwater Managers Association Conference**

April 7-9, 2010

Tan-Tar-A Resort Osage Beach, MO

**Full Conference Brochure
Registration & Vendor Information at
www.mfsma.org/conference**

Conference Includes a Dinner Cruise on the Lake

Keynote Speaker: Andrew J. Reese, P.E.—Vice President, AMEC

Proposed By-Law Changes

To All MfSMA membership:

Over the past few months, your Board of Directors reviewed the current By-Laws as approved by the General membership and have found areas that need to be updated to meet current regulations and needs of the Association. The proposed changes are posted for review on the MfSMA, Inc. website at the link below. The proposed language changes are highlighted in bold in the By-Law document. The Association will be voting on these changes during the 2010 Annual Conference General Session at Tan Tar A. April 7, 8 & 9. In addition, officer elections will be posted on the website as the slate of candidates is determined for the Board of Directors and Executive Board seats. Please check the website for that announcement coming soon: http://www.mfsma.org/by_laws/proposed.

Missouri Municipal League

FLOODS, TORNADOS, WINTER STORMS

Is Your City Or County Prepared To Respond To A Disaster???

Since 2006, Missouri has received 23 different federal disaster declarations for ice storms, flooding, severe weather, and tornadoes. While the state and federal governments stand ready to assist, all disaster responses begin at the local level. Not only should local governments be ready to respond rapidly in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, but thorough follow through can help speed state and federal assistance and make things go more smoothly in what will certainly be the challenging days ahead. Experience has shown that communities that have an emergency management director (EMD), a local response plan, and who regularly exercise their plan are better prepared to respond to and recover from a disaster. One other caveat: in addition to the types of disasters Missouri experiences so regularly, much of the State also faces an earthquake threat along the New Madrid Seismic Zone that would potentially impact 47 Missouri counties and the city of St. Louis.

City – County Cooperation

Cities and counties that communicate well, share data, and work closely together on damage assessments and resource requests thereby avoiding duplication, may receive needed resources – food and water for shelter operations, for instance – more quickly. During State



Emergency Operations Center activation, the time lost sorting through multiple resource requests for the same equipment that's needed in the same location (a city and county requesting a generator for the same shelter, for instance) delays deployment of desperately needed resources for emergency protection actions.

Similarly, rapidly completed local damage assessments may shorten the time needed for the State to obtain an initial federal disaster declaration. This is important, since it gets more federal resources flowing into the State more quickly. During the ice storm response, FEMA secured generators to operate hospitals, non-profit nursing homes, shelters, and public drinking water and waste water treatment operations.

An Emergency Management Director Is Critical

An emergency management director (EMD) is the linchpin in a local government's ability to respond to a disaster. The EMD's responsibilities include identifying the community's hazards, updat-

ing the local emergency operations plan, exercising the plan and working with different city departments on disaster response capabilities. The EMD also coordinates public awareness campaigns and offers training to both elected officials and volunteers. While the benefits of this advance planning may not be evident for years, if a disaster hits it will prove invaluable.

During a disaster, the EMD opens the emergency operations center (EOC), works with city departments, coordinates city resources, collects preliminary damage information, issuing emergency information to the media, coordinates debris removal, manages mutual aid response, coordinates shelters (if needed), and works with local volunteers who will be helping local citizens impacted by the disaster. Additional disaster responsibilities include escorting state and/or federal damage assessment teams to disaster sites in anticipation of state and/or federal assistance. The EMD must work closely with the city clerk or financial officer who keeps records on employee overtime, provides photographic documentation of damages, and makes copies of paid invoices for repair work for possible reimbursement.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

In some smaller communities, the job may be part-time, filled by someone with other time-consuming responsibilities. Not only in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, but during the weeks or months-long recovery period, it will be essential for the EMD to be able to devote full-time effort to disaster response.

Similarly, since emergency operations are truly 24 hours a day in the first days of the disaster, it's important for the EMD to be able to delegate responsibilities to a second in command who can be trusted to make important decisions on emergencies that may crop up while the EMD is getting necessary sleep.

Importance Of Accurate Damage Assessments

The preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process is vital. The PDA helps the affected jurisdiction identify and evaluate the magnitude and severity of a disaster. Officials in the affected area can then use the results of the PDA to allocate available resources and establish recover priorities. It also forms the basis for any requests for outside assistance, such as mutual aid and/or state assistance.

Each jurisdiction should establish in advance a damage assessment process tailored to its particular situation and capabilities. A primary point of contact should also be established for all damage assessment activities in the event of a disaster.

Based on the coordinated city-county damage information, county officials may ask for a joint damage team (FEMA/SEMA/SBA) visit. Prior to canvassing the county for damages, local officials may produce maps and photos of damage to public infrastructure, residential, and businesses property. The joint teams will canvass the county and cities collecting information, talking with citizens and businesses about disaster related property and economic losses. The information is used to help build a case for expanded federal disaster assistance for the public assistance program and the individual assistance program for citizens and businesses. The Federal Public Assistance program reimburses local governments up to 75 percent for their emergency protective actions, debris removal, and repairing damaged infrastructure.

Importance of Volunteers/ Donations Management

One of the critical functions of an EMD is working with volunteers and having a well-thought out plan for utilizing local volunteers, as well as volunteers who may travel into the area. Cities with active local volunteer disaster organizations and faith-based response organizations can quickly set up shelters or donation centers to help their citizens recover from a disaster. Remember, not only does all disaster response start at the local level, disaster recovery will be carried on the local level long after state and federal assistance efforts wind down.

These volunteers may be amateur ham radio operators, storm spotters, volunteers assisting with local civic events, Citizens Corps or Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. However, in the event of a disaster, the EMD also will be working with national volunteer organizations specializing in disaster response – the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Planning and coordination are essential to make use of these valuable resources.

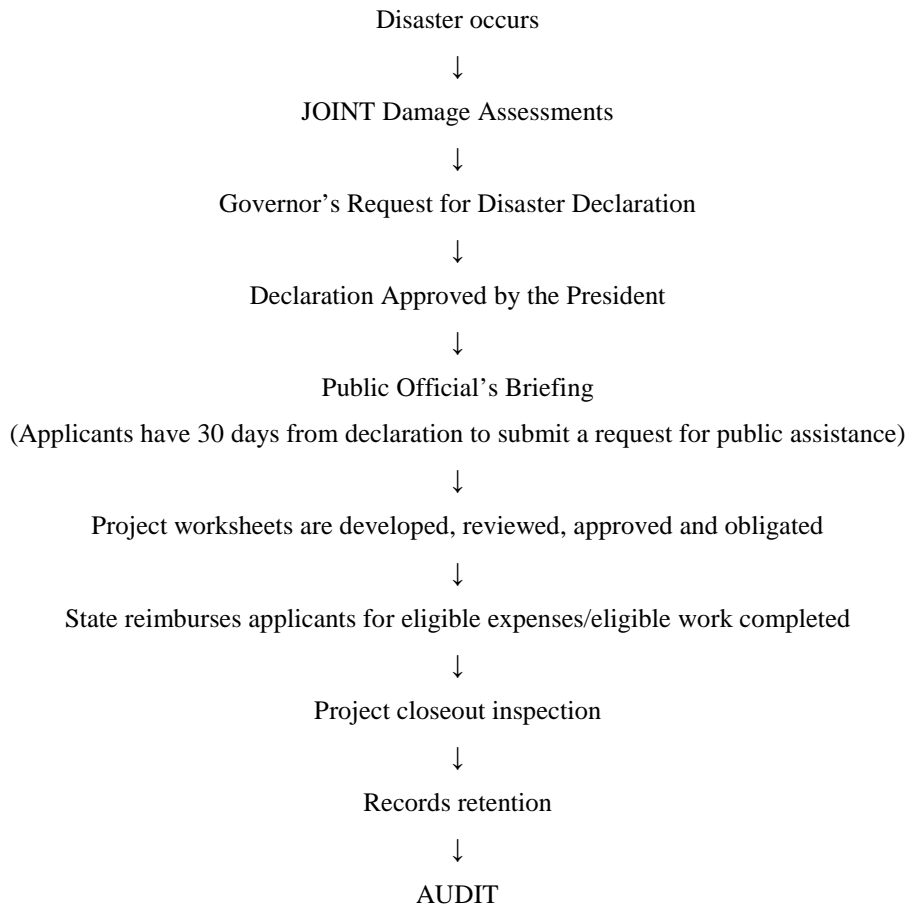
In the January, 2009 ice storm, many of the 71 shelters and feeding operations were managed by local churches and supported by the American Red Cross or The Salvation Army. Local churches may join their local EMD working together on long-term recovery committees and serve as case workers for local citizens impacted by a disaster. Local disaster case workers work one-on-one with a client for disaster related unmet needs, crisis counseling, housing or utility deposits, and employment opportunities.

Media

Severe weather and disaster stories are often of extremely high interest to media outlets—not just local, but state, national and even international. It can be very important to designate a person who can handle media issues to ensure that other personnel are able to devote their time to the disaster response. To consider: implementing a regular briefing schedule or post updates on a Web site.

(Continued on page 6)

Public Assistance Funding Process



Mitigation Projects

After a presidential disaster declaration, Missouri receives an additional 20 percent of the federal share of the combined total uninsured disaster expenditures for use in local mitigation projects. Examples of mitigation projects communities may seek to conduct include: building community safe rooms, replacing low water crossing/bridges/roads, conducting buyouts of flood-prone homes, or burying utility lines.

(Continued from page 5)

Document Storage And Retention

Tornadoes, high winds, flooding, fire all potentially poses a serious threat to city or county's important records. Following tornadoes last year some Missouri business owners reported having trouble filing claims because lost paper records had not been backed up in a secure manner. Governments can be susceptible to the same hazards and should not only

protect paper records but have secure off-site storage of data backups.

Disaster Declaration Process

1. Local Response

All disasters begin with a local response. City and county resources are used to respond locally to the disaster. Citizens should report property damage to their city or county emergency manage-

ment director (EMD) or city or county officials.

2. Local Government Requests Assistance

If a city's or county's response capabilities are overwhelmed, local officials should officially request assistance. City and county officials are encouraged to submit damage information to the SEMA

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

disaster Web site or by fax to the State Emergency Operations Center. Cities should also provide their damage information to the County.

3. State Emergency Declaration

Local disaster information is relayed to the governor's office. Based on the information, the governor may issue an Executive Order, allowing state agencies to assist local governments. For example, the Missouri State Highway Patrol may be requested to help with security issues. SEMA's statewide volunteer coordinator works directly with volunteer organizations to help disaster victims.

4. Joint Damage Assessments

The governor may request a federal/state joint damage assessment. Damage information (private property, business losses, and public infrastructure damage) must be collected by local officials. The county must request a joint damage assessment visit. During the visit, the team tours, collects, and analyzes the damage information. The information is submitted to the governor. The damage assessment team members include SEMA, FEMA, and SBA and local officials. Local officials must be prepared to show all identified damage to the team(s).

5. Requesting A Presidential Disaster Declaration

If the governor asks the president for a disaster declaration, the request is submitted through FEMA Region VII in Kansas City. The regional office reviews the gov-

ernor's request, makes a recommendation, and then submits the request to FEMA headquarters and the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. The president makes the decision on the governor's request.

6. If The Request Is Denied

The governor may appeal the decision. He has 30 days to provide additional, new information for reconsideration.

7. President Approves Disaster Request

Depending on the state's request, the federal disaster declaration may make assistance available to political jurisdictions, certain private non-profit organizations, businesses, individuals, and families located in declared jurisdictions that suffered eligible disaster related damages. The primary federal assistance programs are: public assistance, hazard mitigation, small business administration disaster loans, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural disasters, and individual assistance.

8. Public Assistance

Helps reimburse local, county, and state governments, and certain private, non-profit organizations in declared counties for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repair of damaged public infrastructure. Public assistance is divided into different categories of eligible expenses and work: emergency work and permanent work. Emergency work includes debris removal and emergency protective measures. Permanent work categories include: roads and bridges,

water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, and parks, recreational facilities, and other items.

9. Public Assistance Disaster Briefings For Local Officials

SEMA conducts public assistance briefings to explain to local officials: the Public Assistance program policies and procedures, how project worksheets are prepared, and the reimbursement processes and procedures. Local officials have 30 days from the date of the disaster declaration to submit a request for public assistance to the State Emergency Management Agency.

10. Individual Assistance

Helps individuals and households in declared counties begin the recovery process after a disaster. Individual Assistance programs include: low-interest small business administration loans, temporary housing, emergency living expenses, Individuals & Households program, minimum essential repairs, and disaster unemployment. Businesses may apply to the SBA for low-interest economic impact disaster or physical loss loans. **Citizens and businesses have 60 days after the individual assistance declaration is approved to register for assistance either by telephone or the Internet.**

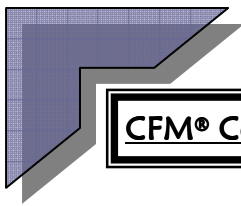
11. SBA Disaster Declaration

If individual assistance is not approved by the president, the SBA may issue an SBA disaster declaration. The SBA has

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two different disaster declaration programs: Physical and Economic Injury. An SBA physical disaster declaration is a low-interest loan for individuals and businesses to help recover from a natural disaster such as an ice storm, tornado, or flood event. When the SBA issues an economic injury disaster declaration, businesses use the low-interest loans to pay for merchandise, supplies, to meet payrolls, or any other expense related to their economic recovery. The low-interest SBA loans are available to businesses in the primary and any county that touches a primary county.



CFM® Corner

Congratulations to our newest CFMs who passed their exam given in October, 2009:

- Ken DeKeyser, Urbana, IA
- Ted Martin, Stilwell, KS
- Dale Thomure, Ste. Genevieve, MO
- Jim Knoll, St. Louis, MO
- Randall Hladik, Derby, KS
- Ryan Bechtel, Kansas City, MO



SEMA Training Opportunities Available

In 2008, SEMA participated in the Government, Community, and Faith-Based Disaster Partnership. The 11 initial meetings focused on helping congregations become active in community disaster response, teaching family preparedness to their members, and writing a continuity of operations plan for the congregation. The congregations were also urged to adopt one of eight missions that support their local community's disaster response. Those missions are Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) and/or Long Term Recovery Committee development, sheltering, feeding, volunteer management, donations management, debris removal, supporting a multi-agency resource center, and case management in response to a local disaster. SEMA provides training for churches on a variety of missions.

SEMA offers free training classes to EMDs, public works directors, elected officials, and volunteers. Classes range from the Principles of Emergency Management, Damage Assessment, Debris Removal courses to CERT, Donations Management, and WMD courses. Courses, dates, locations, and application procedures are posted on SEMA's homepage: www.sema.state.mo.us. (Go to the blue sidebar, scroll down to training and click on the training [link](#).)

In addition to coordinating disaster response and assistance activities, SEMA works with the Governor's Partnership on Disaster Response, the Missouri Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, Missouri's Homeland Security Advisor, the 911 Coordinating Board, the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (hazardous materials), and the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission. Programs SEMA oversees include planning, floodplain management, mitigation, earthquake, radiological planning, training and exercises. SEMA manages grants from the Department of Homeland Security for the nine regional homeland security committees to increase training, preparedness, and response capabilities across the entire State.

SEMA has nine area coordinators who work closely with county and city officials, EMDs, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), and disaster recovery efforts. Four area coordinators have offices in Springfield, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Cape Girardeau.