

Florida Floodplain Managers Association
2019 Annual Conferences
Abstracts

Title:	Clarifying Contradictions and Gaps in NFIP Regulations, FEMA Guidance, Insurance and Community Policy
Length:	90 minutes
Subject:	Insurance
Target Audience:	Floodplain Managers
Presenter Name:	Del Schwalls, PE, CFM President Schwalls Consulting LLC
Biography:	Del Schwalls is President of Schwalls Consulting LLC, with more than 18 years of experience in floodplain management and water resources engineering. He conducts trainings across the country on accurately completing FEMA ECs and addressing EC deficiencies. Specializing in floodplain modeling and mapping, he conducts independent QA/QC of FEMA Flood Risk projects and Flood Insurance Studies. Mr. Schwalls develops LOMAs and LOMRs across the Southeast US, and began his career in D.C. reviewing LOMRs and FISs for FEMA. His background includes the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs and the CRS program, and he is the Hydrology subject matter expert (SME) to the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology. Mr. Schwalls holds a BS in environmental engineering from Mercer University, is a registered PE in FL, AL, GA, and SC, and became a CFM in 2003. He is Chair of FFMA and Region 4 Director for ASFPM.
Co-Presenter:	Paula Keith, CIIP, AIAM Client Relations Director National Flood Services
Biography:	
Abstract:	<p>When navigating floodplain management, there are many federal regulations, guidance documents, and policies to navigate. As these are updated over time, some language gets forgotten, portions are superseded, and the reasoning behind once-clear wording becomes fuzzy. Often the regulations and guidance documents seem to contradict each other, or one FEMA publication appears to give different guidance than another. In addition, communities add their own nuances, and tailored practices drift away from the requirements over time. This makes compiling a strong local floodplain management program difficult, since the pieces of the puzzle do not fit together as tightly as they once did. When there is not clarity in how to implement federal requirements, local-level politics and development pressure can lean interpretations away from sound principles.</p> <p>This presentation will identify apparent contradictions and gaps between NFIP regulations, FEMA guidance documents, and the policies and practices of local communities, and provide solutions and recommendations on addressing these issues at the local level.</p> <p>While there may be many gaps/disconnects it's the responsibility of the insurance agent to provide insurance rates to property owners. Communities may advise that the</p>

habitational floor can be used for approving permits but know that for insurance purposes the lowest floor for rating purposes may be different. The elevation certificate along with clear photographs of the structure is what agents rely on to rate with elevation certificate rates.

The discussion will focus on a variety of critical areas, including 60.3(b)(4) and (c)(1) versus FMB 1-98 as they relate to using draft and preliminary studies as best available data, and the various guidance documents on establishing and using the regulatory BFE versus community and programmatic practices.

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Title:	Local Sea-Level Rise Planning through the South Atlantic Regional Sea Grant Resilience Initiative
Length:	30 minutes
Subject:	Sea Level Rise
Target Audience:	Local governments and planners
Presenter Name:	Jason Evans, PhD Associate Professor Stetson University
Biography:	Jason Evans is Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Studies and Faculty Director for the Institute of Water and Environmental Resilience at Stetson University in DeLand, FL. A geo-spatial and systems ecologist by training, most of Dr. Evans's recent and current research has focused on sea-level rise and climate change adaptation in the southeast United States. Over recent years he has advised and worked with several local governments in Florida on sea level rise and flood vulnerability assessments, including Monroe County, the Village of Islamorada, Satellite Beach, and New Smyrna Beach. Dr. Evans also serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Environmental Management, a leading international publication within the fields of environmental science, engineering, and planning.
Co-Presenter:	None
Biography:	
Abstract:	The Sea Grant College Program has in recent years funded a number of pilot studies that focus on planning for future flood risk conditions and overall climate change resilience within coastal communities. These projects have typically involved university professors, legal experts, and students working in conjunction with planning practitioners and local government officials, with an overall purpose of communicating objective information about how climate change will affect local flood risk profiles. Beginning in 2016, the Sea Grant programs of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina sponsored a Southeast Atlantic Regional Resilience Project that proposed to apply consistent data development approaches (e.g., infrastructure GIS), specific analytic tools (e.g., FEMA's HAZUS-MH model), and policy recommendations (e.g., enhanced creditable activities through the Community Rating System) for partner communities in each of the four states. The overall project has revealed surprisingly substantial differences in the quality of basic infrastructure datasets, particularly with regard to local stormwater features and essential facilities that are fundamental components of effective flood hazard planning and mitigation. Other technical issues, such as examples of substantial mismatch between FEMA's regulatory Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and other "current condition" flood assessment approaches, have also raised some level of planning concern within communities. However, such mismatches have also have prompted broader discussion that reflect growing understanding about a need to move beyond FIRMs as a standalone local flood planning standard. Using a number of lessons

learned in Satellite Beach, the section will conclude with some specific thoughts about how CRS, FIRMs, and other NFIP toolkits, while clearly informative, together provide an inadequate standalone basis for local governments in the coastal zone to undertake future flood planning and associated climate adaptation efforts.

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- Title:** Sea Level Rise and Planning in East Central Florida
- Length:** 30 minutes
- Subject:** Sea Level Rise
- Target Audience:** planners, engineers, fpm
- Presenter Name:** Tara McCue, AICP
Director of Planning and Community Development
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Biography:** Tara McCue, AICP, is the Director of Planning and Community Development at the ECFRPC where she has been working for the past 15 years on a variety of regional and local projects across sectors aimed at creating healthy, resilient and sustainable communities. Tara is versed in climate resilience, community visioning, GIS among other planning areas. She has been working with regional, state and federal agencies, universities and jurisdictions in Volusia and Brevard Counties, to further resiliency and sustainability in East Central Florida through local community projects as well as the development of the Regional Resilience Action Plan. She is also helping to facilitate the development of a Regional Resilience Collaborative in the 8 County region of the ECFRPC. She co-authored two white papers examining land use impacts to rising sea level. Tara has a B.S. in Marine Biology from UNCW and a Masters in Environmental Resource Management from Florida Institute of Technology.
- Co-Presenter:** None
- Biography:**
- Abstract:** Learn about the process of creating the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Action Plan through input from local staff, officials and the public and how jurisdictions and agencies are moving the plan forward locally and at a larger scale. Hear about the regional approach to sea level rise planning in the action plan which is driving vulnerability analysis and policy planning across the region. The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council has also been working with several communities over the past year to develop vulnerability assessments and peril of flood and adaptation action area policies, and engage the community in the conversation of resilience. The presentation will include some highlights and nuances of the projects and policies.