

New York State Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Videoconference Thursday, Aug 20th, 12 noon - 1:30 pm, 2020 / NYSFSMA Zoom

In Attendance

Ricardo Lopez-Torrijos (Chair)

Bill Nechamen, (Treasurer and Member Coordinator)

Russell Houck (Secretary)

Brian Zitani (Reg. 1)

Curtis Smith (Region 2)

Shaun Gannon (Reg. 6)

Paul Guillet (Region 5)

Rick Woidt (Reg. 7)

John Gauthier (Reg. 8)

Non-Boardmembers

Janet Thigpen

Stevie Adams

Brad Wenskoski

Missing

Brent W. Gotsch (Region 3)

Matt Sutton (Region 9)

Colleen Flynn (V. Chair)

Excused

Quorum – YES 12:10 PM Start

AGENDA

1. Agenda was reviewed by the Chair.
2. [July meeting draft minutes](#) (link). Open for questions/comments. None were made. Motion to approve minutes made by B. Zitani; seconded by S. Gannon. Motion passed.
3. Nomination of Brad Wenskoski from DEC as a Region 4 board member:

Kelli Higgins-Roche, PE, CFM (NYSDEC Ex-Oficio board member) by email:

I would like to nominate Brad Wenskoski for the NYSFMSA Region 4 director's position. Brad resides in Rensselaer County and works at the NYSDEC Central Office as Floodplain Coordinator responsible for working with communities across upstate NY to ensure they are implementing the NFIP appropriately. Brad is a certified floodplain manager and is well versed in both the FEMA and State floodplain management requirements. Brad is also responsible for coordinating the Levee Analysis Mapping Protocol statewide, is currently the NYSDEC representative of the Climate Smart Communities Subcommittee responsible for development community guidance documents, and is the Division of Water Deputy Program Emergency Response Coordinator. His knowledge and enthusiasm would make him a great addition to the Board of Directors.

Brad provided a brief introduction.

B. Nechamen nominated Brad Wenskoski as NYSFSMA Region 4 Director. Seconded by R. Lopez-Torrijos. Motion passed and the Chair welcomed Brad to the Board. Term is one year until spring elections in 2021.

4. [Treasurer's Report](#). (link)
Emailed by B. Nechamen prior to the meeting. Bill noted the remaining funds in the web design from TNC grant.
 - \$3000+ refunded to 2020 Conf. exhibitors
 - Not expecting significant expenses in the next couple of months.
 - Gilday waiting for further direction from the web committee; Motion to approve the report by R. Lopez-Torrijos, R. Woitd seconded; motion passed.
5. Committee Reports:
 - a. Public Policy:
 - i. NYNJHATS STUDY & the Water Resources Development Act
B. Nechamen: no update right now. For the NY NJ Harbor study, NYSFSMA is promoting less bank-hardening flood protection approaches. No formal comments have been made.
 - b. CRS – September webinar coming up. See below.
 - c. Newsletter – Summer 2020 issues was sent out on June 2. Next issue can be a smaller blast.
 - d. Outreach & Education:

- i. Long-term NYSFSMA training program discussion: Draft [Purpose statement](#). (link) was provided for review prior to the meeting. A training partnership with NYSDEC should be considered by our organization. Paid staffing and vetting of trainers was discussed by the board. The Outreach committee is looking to provide suggestions for board review.
- ii. Collaborations:
 - 1. Webinar on Sept. 22 coordinated by Syracuse University EFC & WRI : [Introduction to FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System: a New York State Perspective](#). J. Gauthier and R Houck to be on the panel, as well as Patrick Davis from the Town of Middletown and Nathan Mitchell, Town of Piermont. CFM credit should be available. Building officials – elective credits are available. Simple on-line registration.
 - 2. [National Flood Services](#)
NFS is a private company whose clients are flood insurance companies. NFS had a conversation with FSMA offering to collaborate on a 1 hour training session in October. NFS would do the bulk of the presentation on flood insurance policies. [Decision made to collaborate?]

- e. Website:
S. Adams, Website committee – Led discussion on potential for Gilday to do website maintenance and additional web function development. Funding vehicle would be through a service contract where Gilday would monthly/semi-monthly update the website. \$125 per hour – Estimate \$1,500 yearly. R. Lopez-Torrijos made a motion to approve \$1,000 per calendar year to retain Gilday for website maintenance. S. Gannon seconded; motion approved by the board.

6. Other News

- a. [“Restore Mother Nature” Environmental Bond Act of 2020](#) follow-up. Governor Cuomo decided not to bring this act to a public referendum in November.

Hurricane Isiasis – State needs damage reports for federal assistance and disaster declaration; \$1 mill damage in Town of Babylon per B. Z Town of Babylon. Significant tree cleanup and power loss.

Building resilient communities – All states qualify for funds due to CoVID impacts.

Follow up actions from July Meeting:

1. Bond Coalition Form [Not needed at this time]. Governor withdrew bond act application from Nov. referendum. Targeting future – NYSFSMA did sign support form.
2. Send final TMAC letter. [Not needed at this time]
3. Website training committee to report back to board.
4. Website committee to continue to work on website.

New Action Items:

- Recommendations from web committee on Gilday utilization/web development.
- Proposal from stormwater committee forthcoming for a stormwater panel webinar.
- Work with NFS on Oct webinar.

Next meeting – September 17, 2020 – 12-100 PM.

Motion to adjourn made by B. Zitani; seconded B. Nechamen; motion passed.