

Flood News for Michigan Floodplain Managers

A Newsletter of the
Water Resources Division
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Executive Order 13690 and the New Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Explained

(from ASFPM News & Views February 2015)

President Obama on Jan. 30 issued Executive Order 13690 that revises Executive Order 11988 and proposes a new Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

“Since the issuance of Executive Order 11988 38 years ago, we as a nation have learned a lot about floodplain management and flood risk,” ASFPM Executive Director Chad Berginnis said. “The changing nature of flood risk, including increased risks due to sea level rise, demands competent standards that will withstand the test of time and the forces of nature. And we think the new EO and FFRMS is a great step in the right direction.”

Elements of EO 13690 and the FFRMS

The EO and new standard would apply to federal actions such as federal grants used for repair and redevelopment after a natural disaster. In fact, the definition of federal actions to which the EO would apply is unchanged from EO 11988. The FFRMS gives agencies the flexibility to select one of three approaches for establishing the flood elevation and hazard area they use in siting, design, and construction. They can:

- Use data and methods informed by best-available, actionable climate science;
- Build two feet above the 100-year (1%-annual-chance) flood elevation for standard projects, and three feet above for critical buildings like hospitals and evacuation centers; or
- Build to the 500-year (0.2%-annual-chance) flood elevation.

Other elements of the EO include a directive for agencies to use, where possible, natural systems, ecosystem processes and nature-based approaches when developing alternatives for consideration. Also, the new EO specifies that it is the policy of the United States to improve the resilience of communities and federal assets against the impacts of flooding, and recognizes the risks and losses due to climate change and other threats.

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One of the new elements of the FFRMS is the application of the new standard outside of the mapped floodplain, especially where the freeboard approach is used. We also know significant flood losses occur outside of the FEMA-mapped floodplain. Mother Nature simply does not recognize our flood mapping boundaries, and the FFRMS would require applying the freeboard when determining where the standard applies. At the same time for the floodplain manager, this is nothing new. Floodplain managers, on a daily basis, utilize the base flood elevation to regulate development activity, regardless if the mapped floodplain boundary shows something different.

FEMA set up Informational Listening Sessions across the United States. These sessions provided the opportunity to listen, ask questions, and provide feedback on how federal agencies implement the FFRMS.

In addition to the release of the new EO and FFRMS, draft flood risk management standard implementation guidelines were released. Information about the FFRMS has been incorporated into the guidelines to aid agencies in development of their revised or new procedures and to promote consistency among agencies. The guidelines are also advisory. To the extent permitted by law and consistent with their statutory authority, each agency shall draft or update their own rules and regulations to be consistent with EO 13690. The guidelines call for a 30 day timeframe after the close of the public comment period to develop an implementation plan for updating their procedures. “After Executive Order 11988 was issued in 1977, the Water Resources Council issued implementing guidelines for agencies to assist with incorporating the standards of the EO into their policies, procedures, and programs. The new guidelines amends that older document, and will be of great assistance to agencies as they incorporate the new FFRMS,” Berginnis said.

Process

A federal interagency coordinating group that deals with floodplain management issues– the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MIT-FLG) – had been working on the new standard for well over a year. This interagency team includes agencies such as the Corps of *News & Views February 2015* 3 Engineers, FEMA, NOAA, HUD, Transportation, and the Department of Agriculture (which includes NRCS). Essentially all of the federal departments containing the nation’s water resources agencies – such as those that oversee and construct dams and levees – were at the table. These agencies have some of the nation’s leading experts and institutes that deal with flooding and water resources. The FFRMS was developed as a consensus standard among these agencies. Concurrent with the development of the standard, the views of elected state and local officials were solicited and considered during the development of the standard. The consensus standard that emerged was very similar to the one recommended by 26 governors, mayors, county officials and tribal leaders in the State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience report issued this past November.

Now that the EO, FFRMS and guidelines have been issued, a 60-day public comment period on the guidelines was kicked off. Written comments were solicited until April 6. In addition, four public listening sessions were scheduled: March 3 – Ames, Iowa; March 5 – Biloxi, Mississippi; March 11 – Mather, California and Norfolk, Virginia. After the public comment period ended and the revised guidelines are issued, agencies will begin the process of updating their procedures to incorporate the new EO and FFRMS standard. In many cases, this will trigger the need to do rulemaking, which will be subject to another round of public input. Only after the agencies have incorporated the new EO and FFRMS will floodplain management professionals see its implementation on the ground. At the end of the day, the new FFRMS is good for the country. “The nation cannot afford to continue to pay for larger and larger flood disasters. The proposed Federal Flood Risk Management Standard is a common sense approach that will increase the nation’s resiliency and reduce future taxpayer costs for flood response,” ASFPM Chair Bill Nechamen said.

ASFPM has created an FFRMS resource page.

Guess What the Year 2016 Will

Bring To Grand Rapids

As a special advance notice to all of Michigan's community officials, citizens, politicians, professional firms/agencies, Michigan Drain Commissioners and all floodplain control and management related entities:

The Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association will be sponsoring with assistance from the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management the 2016 annual week long Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) conference in Grand Rapids, MI. The conference is scheduled for June 19, 2016 through June 24, 2016 at the Grand Rapids DeVos Place Convention Center facilities in downtown Grand Rapids.

Persons, firms, agencies etc. interested in being involved in the conference as volunteer workers, conference sponsors, vendors/exhibitors, etc. are welcome. For information regarding volunteering, contact can be made with Ms. Sue Conradson, Volunteer Chair, at conradsons2@michigan.gov . Volunteers may potentially qualify for registration discounts. For other information such as sponsoring, vending, and exhibiting contact can be made with Mr. Mark Walton, Michigan's Conference Program Chair, at mark.l.walton@gmail.com .

New ASCE 24-14 Flood Resistant Design and Construction standards are now available

(from ASFPM News & Views December 2014)



The American Society of Civil Engineers recently published its 24-14 Flood Resistant Design and Construction standard. This standard was prepared through the consensus standards process by balloting in compliance with procedures of ASCE's Codes and Standards Activities Committee. The individuals who served on the ASCE 24-14 Standard Committee, listed below, include quite a few ASFPM members. Well done. The standard is available for purchase.

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Kimberly Paarlberg, P.A.
John Squerciati, P.E., CFM, M.ASCE
Terri L. Turner, AICP, CFM
Robert A. Wessel, Ph.D., F.ASTM
Thomas G. Williamson, P.E., F.ASCE, F.SEI

Attention Job Hunters, check out the following ASFPM site:

<http://floods.org/n-jobpost/index.asp>

Colorado: example (extreme) of impact the NFIP new mapping can have on home owner budgets

(from ASFPM News & Views December 2014)

A condominium association representing residents of high-priced units in downtown Boulder has been hit with a flood insurance premium increase of 14,526 percent, according to this article. The 22-residential-unit luxury condominium complex known as the Arete at 1095 Canyon Blvd. — where two penthouse units are listed in the vicinity of \$4 million each — is facing a hike in its annual flood insurance premium from \$895 a year to \$130,000. This, despite the fact that it was unaffected by the September 2013 flood. There is installed an automatic barrier that would protect the complex's underground garage in case of a flood. Gregory said an insurance carrier is planning to raise flood insurance drastically for the building.

FEMA Implements National Flood Insurance Program Revisions

Know the Changes ~ Help your Community

(from ASFPM News & Views December 2014)

Recent legislative changes to the National Flood Insurance Program created new requirements and options you need to understand when speaking with community members about their flood risk and flood insurance needs. The changes are designed to create a more financially stable NFIP, and some policyholders will face rate changes given the new map updates detailed below.

Rate Changes for Map Updates

As a floodplain manager, you likely are most concerned about the impact of map changes and whether grandfathering will still be an option. The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 repealed a provision in the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Act of 2012 that called for a five-year phase-in of the new full-risk rate when maps changed. As a result, **grandfathering remains a viable rating option** when new flood maps become effective and the risk is found to be higher (e.g., mapped from Zone A to Zone V, higher Base Flood Elevation).

Also added by HFIAA is a revision of a rating option for properties newly mapped into an SFHA (e.g., Zone X to Zones A or V). Starting April 1, the Preferred Risk Policy Eligibility Extension will be replaced by the Newly Mapped procedure. Eligible properties newly mapped as an SFHA can be rated with the lower-cost PRP rates for the first 12 months after the new flood map becomes effective, as long as the policy is purchased within 12 months of the map change. For each subsequent renewal, rates will increase by no more than 18 percent.

Staying Up-to-Date

Materials for you and your community—including information on other aspects of the new legislation, such as rate increases, surcharges, and reserve fund assessments—can be found in the effective Flood Insurance Manual (April 1). The FEMA various websites have many sources of information about the NFIP and how the Congressional changes have and will be changing the program.

Spring is the Weather Hazards season for rains, tornados, and floods. It is a good time to review how well your family is prepared to handle and respond to such weather conditions for the sake of minimizing damages to structures and saving lives. To help in getting prepared for flood hazards, use the following guidance from the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (MCSWA) April 2015 publication.

2014 Severe Weather Review

(from the MCSWA seasonal April 2015 severe weather publication)

Last year, Michigan had a near average number of tornadoes; however, it was the severe thunderstorms lightning, wind, hail, and flooding that was responsible for one death, 13 injuries, and the most damaging severe weather season in Michigan's history. While tornadoes are nature's most violent weather, all forms of severe weather can have a huge impact on the State of Michigan. Michigan citizens need to be vigilant whenever severe weather is in the forecast, not only for tornadoes, but also for wind, hail, flooding, and lightning.

Michigan experienced the most damaging severe weather event in its history in 2014. On August 11, four to six inches of rain fell over the most populated areas of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in just a three- to four-hour period. The flood affected over 115,000 homes and business, thousands of vehicles and caused \$1.8 billion in damages, according to National Weather Service (NWS).

According to the NWS there was one death and 19 injuries in Michigan from severe weather in 2014. The death occurred from a lightning strike on June 18 in Pittsfield Township in Washtenaw County. Among the reports of injuries, six injuries occurred from a single lightning strike in the Rifle River State Recreation Area in Ogemaw County on June 28, and another six resulted from severe thunderstorm winds on September 5. Five of those injuries occurred as a tent collapsed during a church festival in Dearborn Heights, despite a severe thunderstorm watch being issued by the NWS hours before, and a severe thunderstorm warning being issued over 30 minutes prior to the storm's arrival. Flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes in 2014 caused over \$2 billion in damages, significantly more than the \$277 million in damages the year before. 2014 followed a similar pattern as 2013, with fewer days of severe weather activity but, when it hit, the severe weather was more impactful, with higher winds, larger hail and significant damage in the State of Michigan.

Flooding

There were two significant flood events during 2014: the Southeast Michigan floods in August and the spring snowmelt floods in West Central Lower, and parts of Upper Michigan in April. Rainfall amounts across Southeast Michigan on August 11 generally ranged from four to six inches, with most of the rain occurring in a three- to four-hour time period. Detroit Wayne County Metropolitan Airport (DTW) recorded 4.57 inches of rain on August 11. This marked the second wettest day in recorded Detroit weather history, which dates back to 1874 (July 31, 1925 – 4.74 inches). Many of the creeks, streams and rivers that feed the two main river systems in Metro Detroit, the Clinton and Rouge Rivers, also flooded. The Clinton River near Clinton Township and Ecorse Creek in Dearborn Heights reached record high stages.

The flooding closed many roads and freeways. Hundreds of vehicles were left stranded on area roads and freeways, necessitating the use of Michigan State Police dive teams to ensure no people were in those stranded vehicles. A few roads, embankments and bridges were damaged or destroyed by the flooding. Over 75,000 homes and businesses were damaged by flood waters, with another 40,000 affected. The total damage from the August 11, floods was estimated to be \$1.8 billion. This event qualified for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for individual and public assistance.

A heavy snowpack from the extreme winter of 2013-2014 started to melt in April 2014. This melting snow in combination with some heavy rain resulted in nearly \$8 million dollars in damage from flooding for portions of West Central Lower, and Upper Michigan. The high waters and thawing conditions led to the failure of the Wraco Lodge Dam on Wolf Creek in Roscommon County, and to ice jams along the Tecoosh, Rapid, and Escanaba Rivers in Delta County. In all, over 500 homes and businesses were affected by the flooding with dozens of road closures.

Flood Preparation and Planning

(from the MCSWA seasonal April 2015 severe weather publication)

Steps to Prepare for a Flood

Flooding can occur during any season in Michigan. Planning in advance can afford you extra critical time when a flood is coming, and can help you increase the odds of protecting your valuable documents, your real estate and your personal property – including cherished belongings. Developing a flood plan is one of the advance methods your family, business or community can put together to help you respond quickly in the event of a flood near your property. A “rapid-response” plan can be as simple as a one-page plan that answers the following questions:

1. How will we find out about a coming flood?

The first part of a Flood Plan is putting yourself in a position to get some advance warning of an unfolding situation. Large-scale flooding on the main stem of a river may occur over many hours or several days, but flash floods can strike in minutes. Important steps you can take include signing up for flood alerts and monitoring weather patterns and local conditions. Flooding in Michigan can happen any time of year.

- Sign up for National Weather Service Flood Alerts at www.focusonfloods.org/flood-alerts;
- Monitor river levels via NOAA Watch at www.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=mi;
- Determine your property’s proximity to waterways by learning about and reviewing flood hazard maps at: www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/flooding_flood_risks/understanding_flood_maps.jsp;

2. At what river level does our property begin to flood?

First, determine “What’s Your Number?” by learning the flood stage at the stream gage nearest you. This information is available through the National Weather Service’s Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services web site at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps>; Then, determine the level at which floodwaters begin to affect your property. This step may take research or personal experience to determine, such as talking to neighbors to find out how high the river was during recent floods, and at what point flooding began in your neighborhood. Each neighborhood and each property has its own unique terrain and placement to consider when determining this factor, and it is safest to err on the side of caution.

3. How can we prepare for floods?

Preparing your household for a flood involves steps that will improve your readiness for many different types of disasters. Give yourself plenty of time to evacuate by developing an emergency kit including first aid supplies, a three-day supply of non-perishable food, bottled water, a battery powered radio, flashlights and extra batteries. Also, have personal items ready like rubber boots, a rain jacket, warm clothes and hygiene and sanitation products. Learn additional ways to prepare at <https://www.ready.gov/floods>

4. How will we learn about evacuation orders?

Contact your local emergency management office to find out how your community notifies residents of floods and how it will issue evacuation orders. Make a commitment to follow evacuation orders the first time to help prevent emergency personnel from having to return to the affected area for a rescue when travel is no longer safe.

5. What access roads can we use to evacuate in the case of rising waters?

Research indicates the majority of flood-related fatalities occur when cars become trapped on roads that are known to flood. To prevent this, follow instructions from emergency personnel and before a flood happens talk to neighbors, emergency personnel and others to determine when and where flooding typically occurs on access roads leading to your home. Know what roads you regularly travel and whether or not they will flood, and plan alternate routes when needed.

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6. What steps should we take to prepare our property?

Research the flood-proofing options available to you. Can you install a quick-disconnect furnace, or elevate electrical and mechanical equipment? Are there steps you can take to alleviate pressure on your structure and to prevent extensive damage to doors and windows if flooding does occur? For additional information about protecting your property from floods, visit www.mcswa.com;

7. Where should our family meet if we are separated during a flood event?

Before a flood or other emergency strikes, designate a safe place away from your home where your family members can all meet. Make sure that all family members know the location, you have a plan for contacting each other, and you have an emergency kit ready to take with you. In addition, it is important to know whether your child's school or family members' work place is in a flood zone. If so, what provisions are in place to ensure their safety?

8. How do I keep my family safe during a flood?

Floods are among the most frequent and costly natural disasters. For information on keeping your family safe before, during and after a flood, please visit: www.mcswa.com;

Other Considerations

- A written plan is essential for helping individuals and household members to think through important issues in advance. You should also research whether there are similar plans in place for your work and children's daycare and school, as well as to see how they work with your plan.
- Expect roadways to be blocked during a flood. Contact your friends and family to ensure they are safely sheltered. Listen to local media for flood-prone roads as well as making contact with neighbors in your area.
- Remember, the most common things people regret planning to protect during an emergency include pets, photographs and computers. Can you pack all these in a vehicle and drive to higher ground in time? Ensure you have a plan in place to protect your pets and keepsakes before an emergency.

Helpful Flood Terms

- Flood Watch:** Flooding is possible. Tune in to your NOAA Weather Radio, local radio or television for information and check the flood alert sites on the Internet.
- Flash Flood Watch:** Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground and tune in to your NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for information.
- Flood Warning:** Flooding is occurring or will occur soon. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Flash Flood Warning:** A flash flood is occurring. Seek higher ground immediately.

Why Buy Flood Insurance?

(from MCSWA April 2015 publication)

Flooding can occur during any season in Michigan. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) estimates that 90 percent of all natural disasters involve flooding. A small amount of water can bring a tremendous amount of damage, and many property owners are unaware that their properties are at risk for flooding. A home located in the floodplain has a four times greater risk of flooding than burning during the course of a 30-year mortgage.

What's worse: many property owners don't realize that their homeowners' or property owners' insurance doesn't cover flood damage. To be covered from flood damage, one must purchase National Flood Insurance through an insurance agent. Consider that even just an inch of water can require a property to replace carpet, drywall, floor boards, moldings, doors and other belongings. Additionally, clean-up of mud and residue can be costly, as can repairing any mold and mildew damage that may occur. To help calculate flood damage that might occur to your home, visit www.floodsmart.gov; and click on the link to learn more about "What Could Flooding Cost Me?"

1. Is flood damage covered by my homeowners insurance?

Flood damage is excluded in nearly all homeowners and renters insurance policies but, if desired, can be purchased as a separate policy.

2. Where do I get flood insurance?

Any licensed property/casualty insurance agent can sell a flood insurance policy. If you experience trouble in locating an agent, contact the National Flood Insurance Program's agent referral program at 1-888-CALL-FLOOD. You can also locate an agent by filling out your "One-Step Flood Risk Profile" at www.floodsmart.gov;

3. Is there a waiting period before my flood insurance policy becomes effective?

There is a 30-day waiting period before a new or modified flood insurance policy becomes effective. You can also locate an agent by completing your "One-step risk profile" at www.floodsmart.gov;

4. Do I need to live in a floodplain to get flood insurance?

It is important to note that nearly 30 percent of all flood claims come from outside the "100-year floodplain" as determined by the National Flood Insurance Program. The fact that a property is outside of the "legal" floodplain does not mean that the river or stream can't still reach that property. You do not need to live in a floodplain to purchase flood insurance – coverage is available to any building located in a community that has qualified for the National Flood Insurance Program. For a listing of Michigan communities participating in the NFIP, you may visit www.fema.gov/cis/MI.html

5. Is water back up in basements covered by a flood insurance policy?

Coverage for water back up in basements (drains/sewers) is excluded from the flood insurance policy.

6. Can I get coverage for water back up in basements?

Although basement water back up is excluded under most homeowners' insurance policies, coverage can be obtained by purchasing an endorsement. Most insurance companies offer sewer and drain back up as optional coverage. Coverage and limits vary by insurance company, so check with your agent/company about specifics. Some insurers include full coverage for sump pump failure while others specify items that are covered.

2015 Annual MSFA Conference Held in Lansing, MI

The 28th annual Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association (MSFA) conference was held in downtown Lansing, MI at the Radisson Hotel February 25-27, 2015. The conference was well attended with over 113 registrants attending certain portions of or the whole conference. The pre-conference activities provided for the annual “Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM®)” one day refresher course followed by the proctoring of the CFM exam on the following morning for four ASFPM registered exam takers. Other specialty pre-conference sessions included soil erosion and sedimentation (SESC) certification training class and its exam, a training session and exam for Construction Stormwater Operator/Soil Erosion Inspectors, and workshops for “Floodplain 101” and for “Substantial Improvement & Damage Assessment”.

The main conference schedule covered various items of interest including FEMA updates about the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, climate trends and projections on flood risks, creek restorations, dam removals, Insurance agent perspectives, wetland banking, disaster declarations and mitigation grants processes, local emergency management coordinator response experiences in two counties, and citizen and regional responses to local flooding that occurred as part of the Detroit area August 2015 flood event.

One item of discussion which the membership considered during the conference was the proposal to change the 2016 State Annual Conference to a one day conference to be held again in the Lansing area. The rationale for this change was to take into account the MSFA commitment to hosting the ASFPM week-long conference in June, 2016. Preliminary plans will have the conference being scheduled to be held at the State’s Secondary Complex facility near Dimondale.

New CFMs since 2014 MSFA Conference Recognized

During the 2015 Conference Membership Luncheon, recognition was given to ten individuals who have pursued the applicable training and understanding of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and floodplain management principles and concepts so they would be successful in taking and passing the ASFPM CFM© exam. The new persons recognized were as follows and they make up a total of 84 CFM's in Michigan.

Sally Bos, CFM®, Howell

John Conway, CFM®, Detroit

Kimberly Danowski, CFM®, Shelby Township(below photo-right)

Susan C. Dickinson, P.E., CFM®, Pinckney (below photo-left)

Charles Humphriss, P.E., CA, CFM®, Saline

C. Bradley Kaye, AICP, CFM®, Midland

Lindsey Kerkez, CFM®, Ann Arbor

Mark Mathe, P.E., CFM®, Ida (below photo-center)

Aseel Putros, CFM®, Shelby Township

Gordon Wilson, CFM®, Washington Township



Floodplain Manager of the Year 2015 Recognized

By the MSFA

This year at the 2015 MSFA Membership Luncheon, one of its most prestigious awards was presented for the fourth year in a row. The George Hosek Outstanding Service Award is presented to an individual acknowledged by many as being involved in the support and operations of an outstanding local program or activity for comprehensive floodplain and stormwater management or a unique program that encourages flood impact awareness and reduction. The inaugural presentation of the award was to its namesake George Hosek. Subsequent winners have been Mark Walton, Rhonda Oberlin and Roger Garner.

This year's award was presented to a very worthy gentleman, Mr. Peter S. Elam, CFM® (aka: Peter Wallace Arthur Clinton Charles Savage Elam) from Plainfield Township, Kent County. As in the past, the winner will be nominated for the Association of State Floodplain Managers Larry R. Johnson Local Floodplain Manager of the Year Award. Here listed are some of Peter's recognized attributes and accomplishments:

1. willing to go the extra mile to help out or to just explain floodplain or community issues.
2. actively works with local citizens to increase awareness of flood insurance for homes located in the floodplain.
3. developed a website that actively promotes floodplain management and flood mitigation.
4. worked with the community to complete a comprehensive floodplain inventory, identifying critical structures and buildings located within the floodplain in the community,
5. is working with the National Weather Service to establish additional river gauging networks to support flood forecasting for the protection of life and property.
6. has developed key partnerships with local businesses, the National Weather Service, the United States Geological Survey, and various local community groups located in the floodplain.
7. is one of a few who is a certified City Planner and also a Certified Floodplain Manager.
8. has worked tirelessly to implement flood hazard reduction activities and has been a champion on obtaining grant funds to buy out homes and businesses located in the floodway.
9. has applied for and received 8 FEMA Grants, including FMA, HMA and HMGP Grants totaling \$5.3 million and impacting 73 houses has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Urban Planning, Russian, Geography, and International Studies from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.
10. has a Master of Science Degree in Urban Planning from Minnesota State University, Mankato.
11. enjoys music.....and quite a range....including liking 50 bands on facebook from Travis Tritt to Ozzy Osbourne to Carlos Santana to Johnny Cash and even the Puddle Sharks.
12. is most dedicated to his 10-year old daughter.
13. digs sci-fi movies as well as comics, possibly favoring Aqua-man over the other Superheroes.....helping residents to safety during a flood, plugging a damaged flood wall, or maybe even building a flood wall out of Legos.

14. though from Minnesota, is a HUGE Green Bay Packer fan and is known by some as “Cheezy Petey” functioning as the Staff Planner at Plainfield Charter Township for the past 14 years and congratulations goes to our 2015 George Hosek Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association Outstanding Service Award Winner Peter Wallace Arthur Clinton Charles Savage Elam.

2015 George Hosek

MSFA Outstanding Service Award



The Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association Honors

PETER S. ELAM, CFM

In recognition of your contributions which have resulted in outstanding local programming and activities for comprehensive floodplain & storm water management.



(below photo left) holding the award presented to him by Mr. Tom Smith, P.E., CFM® of Prein and Newhof, Inc. (below photo right).



2015 MSFA Conference Collage





2015 Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association

Scholarship Program

(by Jerry Hancock and Les Thomas)

The scholarship program is coordinated and managed by member Jerry Hancock.

This year's MSFA board of directors made available one \$1,500 scholarship for interested college junior, senior, and graduate students involved in engineering and other various fields of study related to floodplain and stormwater management control to via for. Applications are required and are submitted in October –November for review, evaluation, and scoring by the board of directors (officers and regional representatives). This year there were seven applications received including students from University of Michigan, Western Michigan University, Calvin College, Michigan Technological University, Lawrence Technological University, and Ferris State University. The board selection to receive the 2014/2015 scholarship was Nolan Sandberg who attends the University of Michigan. Below is Nolan's biography which provides a hint to his eligibility and basis for selection.

Nolan Sandberg's Biography Brief

University of Michigan – Nolan is a graduate student working on a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture, and expects to graduate in April of 2015. He received a Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering from the U of M in 2007. After undergraduate school he spent a year in the Maryland Conservation Corps and discovered his interest in water resources. He then spent two years in Honduras with the US Peace Corps as a Water and Sanitation Engineer. Nolan has also completed internships with Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum (Ann Arbor, MI), Project for Public Spaces (New York, NY), Peter Allen & Associates (Ann Arbor, MI), and Hamilton Anderson Associates (Detroit, MI). During graduate school Nolan has also been a Graduate Student Instructor in urban stormwater classes.