Flood News for Michigan Floodplain Managers

A Newsletter of the
Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
www.michigan.gov/deq

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Rick Snyder, Governor
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In This Issue:

Special Edition Re: "BW-12"

Officially known as the:

"Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012"

***Editor's note**: The 2012 congressional reform actions to affect changes to the NFIP, has raised uncertainty in the minds of state and local officials across the nation about how the FEMA will interpret and administer the program changes. The same and maybe even greater uncertainty exists with persons living in 1 percent annual chance floodplain areas where flood insurance policies are required as a condition of mortgages from government regulated lenders and loan programs.*

Official FEMA guidance on interpretation and administration of the new NFIP changes is made available as it is developed and approved for public distribution. This newsletter edition provides the current information that is now available from the FEMA for officials, homeowners, renters, and insurance agents to familiarize themselves with how the changes will be administered. This newsletter content is mostly verbatim information currently found in the FEMA released information.

The FEMA has established the following sites devoted to making official FEMA information about BW-12 available to all persons. As the FEMA continues to study the content and determine the requirements of the BW-12, it will be developing interpretations and guidance and establishing procedures for administration of the reforms. Such interpretations and procedural guidance will be available on the dedicated websites of:

(The link provided was broken and has been removed.)
or
(The link provided was broken and has been removed.)

These sites will be the best sources of official information as it is developed and made available by the FEMA. The interpretation of the reform changes and the guidance for administration of those changes are underway and will be available on these sites as it becomes ready for distribution.

NFIP Background:

Congressional action established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. It was intended to be a source of financial mitigation for those facing flood losses and not having any financial protection which homeowners' insurance typically did not cover. Communities committing to regulate floodplain development within their jurisdictions to minimize future flood losses could participate in the program and the FEMA would in turn make flood insurance available to the citizens to mitigate future flood loses.

At the onset of the program, many structure locations were in high risk floodplain areas as a result of no community monitoring of development. Such pre-existing homes and businesses were eligible to obtain flood insurance at lower, subsidized premium rates (pre-firm) which did not reflect the true flood risks. As the FEMA developed and mapped high risk flood risk areas across the nation more development monitoring occurred which caused construction to comply with floodplain development standards in the mapped areas at that time thereby minimizing potential flood losses and allowing the mapped areas to be insured at actuarial rates.

As time went on and old maps were revised, homes and businesses that were in compliance with construction standards under the old flood maps now found that the flood zone areas became better defined and the changes lead to different flood insurance requirements from what the historical maps required. This situation lead to the subsidized “Grandfathering” approach for determining flood insurance premium rates for existing properties when the flood risk areas on revised maps caused increases in the high risk flood areas from the historical maps.

Flood risks continue and the cost and extent of flooding across the nation seem to be increasing even though 45 years of floodplain management has attempted to minimize the nation’s flood risk exposure through many means. Large regional weather events have strained the NFIP budget giving initiative to *“the recent”, (editor note)*, Congressional review of the program’s administration and operations.

BW-12 Summary

In July 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies, to make a number of changes to the way the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is run. Some of these changes already have occurred, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some—but not all—policyholders over time. Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to learn their flood risk and talk to their insurance agent to determine if their policy will be affected by BW-12.

Questions & Answers
Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012

1. Why was the Biggert-Waters Reform Act of 2012 passed?

Answer: Flooding has been, and continues to be, a serious risk in the United States—so serious that most insurance companies have specifically excluded flood damage from homeowners insurance. To address the need, in 1968 the U.S. Congress established the NFIP as a Federal program. It enabled property owners in participating communities to purchase flood insurance if the community adopted floodplain management ordinances and minimum standards for new construction. However, owners of existing homes and businesses did not have to rebuild to the higher standards, and many received subsidized rates that did not reflect their true risk.

Over the years, the costs and consequences of flooding have continued to increase. For the NFIP to remain sustainable, its premium structure must reflect the true risks and costs of flooding. This is a primary driver for many of the changes required under the law.

2. What changes to insurance operations are anticipated?

Answer: Many of the proposed changes are designed to increase the fiscal soundness of the NFIP. For example, beginning this year (2013) there will be changes addressing rate subsidies and a new Reserve Fund charge will start being assessed. There are also provisions to adjust premium rates to more accurately reflect flood risk. Other provisions of the law address coverage modifications and claims handling. Studies will be conducted to address issues of affordability, privatization, and reinsurance, among other topics.

3. Will all policyholders see changes in insurance rates as a result of BW-12?

Answer: More than 80 percent of policyholders (representing approximately 4.48 million of the 5.6 million policies in force) do not pay subsidized rates. About 20 percent of all NFIP policies pay subsidized rates. Only a portion of those policies that are currently paying subsidized premiums will see larger premium increases of 25 percent annually starting this year (2013), until their premiums are full-risk premiums.

Five percent of policyholders – those with subsidized policies for non-primary residences, businesses, and severe repetitive loss properties - will see the 25 percent annual increases immediately. Subsidies will no longer be offered for policies covering newly purchased properties, lapsed policies, or new policies covering properties for the first time.

The 80 percent of all NFIP policies that already pay full-risk premiums will not see these large premium increases. Most policyholders will see a new charge on their premiums to cover the Reserve Fund assessment that is mandated by BW-12. Initially, there will be a 5 percent assessment to all policies except Preferred Risk Policies (PRPs). The Reserve Fund will increase over time and will also be assessed on PRPs at some undetermined future date.

Additional changes to premium rates will occur upon remapping, the provision calling for these premium rate changes will not be implemented until the latter half of 2014.

4. In general, which properties will be most affected by changes in rates?

*Answer***:** Rate changes will have the greatest effect on properties located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that were constructed before a community adopted its first Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and have not been elevated. For many communities the initial FIRM would have been adopted in the 1970s and 1980s. Your local insurance agent will be able to provide you the initial FIRM date for your community.

Many of these pre-FIRM properties have been receiving subsidized rates. Subsidies are already being phased out for non-primary residences. Starting this fall, subsidies will be phased out for businesses; properties of one to four residences that have experienced severe repetitive loss; and properties that have incurred flood-related damages where claims payments exceed the fair market value of the property. Premiums for these properties will increase by 25 percent per year until they reach the full risk rate.

Subsidies are not being phased out for existing policies covering primary residences. However, the subsidy provided to primary residences could still be lost under conditions that apply to all subsidized policies. Subsidies will be immediately phased out for all new and lapsed policies and upon sale of the property. There may also be premium changes for policyholders after their community is remapped. But that provision of the Act is still under review and will be implemented in the future.

5. What happens if a policy with subsidized rates is allowed to lapse or the property is sold?

Answer: Starting this fall, for all currently subsidized policies, there will be an immediate increase to the full risk rates for all new and lapsed policies and upon the sale/purchase of a property. Full risk rates will be charged to the next owner of the policy.

6. What does “full risk rate” actually mean?

Answer: Simply put, it means that the premium reflects both the risk assumed by the program (that is, the expected average claims payment) and all administrative expenses. In the case of flood insurance, this means the premium takes into account the full range of possible flood losses, including the rare, but catastrophic floods as well.

7. How can someone find out what a property's full risk rate will be?

Answer: Of the many factors that determine the full risk rate of a structure, the single most important is the elevation of the structure in relation to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). A community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) indicates the area of the community that has a 1 percent or greater annual chance of flooding. That area is called the Special Flood Hazard Area, or high-risk zone. Put another way, the BFE is the elevation where there is a 1 percent or greater annual chance of flooding. For a property in the high-risk zone, you need to know the elevation of the structure in relation to the BFE. Generally, the higher the elevation above the BFE, the lower the flood risk. The information is shown on an Elevation Certificate, which is a form completed and signed by a licensed engineer or surveyor. So to determine the premium for a property in a high-risk zone, you first need an elevation certificate. Then, an insurance agent can calculate the premium based on the amount of coverage desired.

8. What percentage of policies nationwide, and in high risk zones, actually receives these subsidized rates?

Answer: More than 80 percent of policyholders (representing approximately 4.48 million of the 5.6 million policies [nation–wide} in force) do not pay subsidized rates. About 20 percent of all NFIP policies pay subsidized rates. However, only 5 percent of policyholders – those subsidized policies covering non-primary residences, businesses, and severe repetitive loss properties - will see immediate increases to their premiums.

9. When will NFIP Grandfathering be eliminated?

Answer: Currently, the NFIP Grandfather procedure provides eligible property owners the option of using risk data from previous Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) if a policyholder maintained continuous coverage through a period of a FIRM revision or if a building was constructed "in compliance" with the requirements for the zone and BFE reflected on a previous FIRM. A provision of BW-12, however, requires FEMA to use revised flood risk data (zone and BFE) after a map revision. The legislation provides a 5-year mechanism to phase-in the new rates. This provision impacts the NFIP Grandfather procedure and will be implemented in the latter half of 2014. Many of the precise details of this implementation are still under development.

10. Is there any option for people who are now in a flood zone, did not have substantial damage, but now the BFE is 10 feet higher than previously and face dramatic rate increases?

Answer: FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) HMA programs provide funds for projects that reduce the risk to individuals and property from natural hazards. These programs enable mitigation measures to be implemented before, during, and after disaster recovery. Local jurisdictions develop projects that reduce property damage from future disasters and submit grant applications to the State. The States submit applications to FEMA based on State criteria and available funding. The HMA programs include:

•Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during recovery from a disaster.

•Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) - The Flood Mitigation Assistance program provides funds on an annual basis so that measures can be taken to reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the NFIP.

•Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) - The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program provides nationally competitive grants for hazard mitigation plans and projects before a disaster event. States can receive PDM funds regardless of whether or not there has been a disaster declared in that state.

FEMA encourages property and business owners interested in implementing mitigation activities to contact their local community planning, emergency management, or State Hazard Mitigation Officer for more information. Individuals and businesses may not apply directly to the State or FEMA, but eligible local governments may apply on behalf of a private entity. Your community will be working with the State to develop applications for HMA funding and implement the approved mitigation projects. Information about the HMA programs can be found at http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance.

The following chart provides the implementation schedule for BW-12 caused changes to the NFIP.

Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW12) Timeline

Date of Implementation	Who Is Affected	What Will Happen	Why Is It Changing
July 10, 2012	**Owners of property:** • that is affected by flooding on Federal land caused, or exacerbated by, post-wildfire conditions on Federal land, and • who purchased flood insurance fewer than 30 days before the flood loss and within 60 days of the fire containment date.	• If a flood occurs under certain conditions, **an exception to the 30-day waiting period is implemented** for a policy purchased not later than 60 days after the fire containment date.	• BW 12 **Section 100241 created a** third exception to the 30-day waiting period for insurance coverage for private properties affected by flooding from Federal lands as a result of post-wildfire conditions.
October 19, 2012	• **Policyholders in the Missouri River Basin** (ND, SD, IA, NE, KS, MO) who had claims on a policy purchased from May 1-June 6, 2011, and were not damaged by flood for 30 days after purchase date.	• When certain conditions are met, **an alternative effective date for the policy or the increased coverage is established** as the 30th day after the policy purchase date, without regard for the otherwise applicable flood in progress exclusion, for claims denied based on Exclusion V.	• BW 12 **Section 100227(b)** provides an alternative effective date for qualifying policies that had claims from flooding of the Missouri River that started June 1, 2011.
January 1, 2013	• **Homeowners** with subsidized insurance rates on non-primary residences • Properties receiving subsidized insurance rates are those structures built prior to the first Flood Insurance Rate Map (**pre-FIRM properties) that have not been substantially damaged or improved**.	• **25 percent increase in premium rates each year** until premiums reflect full risk rates	• BW 12 calls for the phase-out of subsidies and discounts on flood insurance premiums. • This premium increase is outlined in **Section 100205**. • The phase out of subsidies affecting non-primary residences was also mandated by earlier 2012 legislation, **HR 5740.**
October 1, 2013	• **Owners of business properties** with subsidized premiums • Owners of **severe repetitive loss** properties consisting of 1-4 residences with subsidized premiums. • Owners of any property that has incurred flood-related damage in which the cumulative amounts of claims payments exceeded the fair market value of such property.	• **25 percent increase in premium rates each year** until premiums reflect full risk rates	• BW 12 calls for the phase-out of subsidies and discounts on flood insurance premiums. • These premium increases are outlined in **Section 100205.**

Updated April 17, 2013

The NFIP's Specific Rate Guidelines

In June 2013, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued the 2013 *Specific Rate Guidelines* to participating Write Your Own (WYO) insurance companies and other insurance partners to explain the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) premium rate changes that will take effect October 1, 2013. As part of these annual rate changes, this year FEMA will be implementing provisions of the Biggert- Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12).

The *Specific Rate Guidelines* historically have been used by insurers to calculate premiums for a variety of special cases that have a much higher risk of flood damage than typical -- even within the Special Flood Hazard Area. Included in these *Rate Guidelines* are the rates for buildings where the lowest floor elevation is below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The BFE is the flood level that has a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. In the past, many properties built below that base flood elevation, and before Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) were adopted by communities, received subsidized premium rates which were artificially lower than true risk. Many of those subsidies were eliminated in the 2012 Biggert Waters legislation and therefore some of the higher risk policies previously receiving subsidies will be required to be rated according to the *Guidelines.* The new tables and underwriting procedures in the *Guidelines* reflect those mandated changes. In general, the subsidized rates were rated without using elevation data – knowing how high the lowest floor of the building sits above the base flood elevation. The law requires that policy ratings more accurately reflect the risk of each property's true risk rate by eliminating the subsidies.

The *Specific Rate Guidelines* are a complex series of tables of rates and technical underwriting procedures which are used by insurers to calculate premiums for their policyholders. Before they can use these tables of rates to determine premiums, insurers must first update and test their insurance rating software systems, which then become available to their insurance agents. That process can take several weeks.

Flood insurance premiums are based on a number of factors including the type of building, the number of floors, whether a building has a basement or enclosure, flood mitigation techniques, such as breakaway walls and flood-vents, the elevation of the lowest floor of the building, and the property's geographic location in reference to flood hazards identified by the community and FEMA. An Elevation Certificate contains the information needed to assist an insurance agent with determining the true flood risk premium for a property. Property owners who do not know the elevation of their building and do not have an Elevation Certificate should speak to their agent about their specific situation.

It is important to remember that not all policyholders will have their subsidy eliminated, and more importantly, only an insurance agent will be able to tell a policyholder the specific premium for an individual's specific situation. In some cases, significantly lower-cost Preferred Risk Policies are available for properties located outside high-risk areas with no flood loss history.

Sample of changes in subsidized premium rates under Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012:
The rates quoted here are full-risk premium rates. Depending on individual circumstances, these new rates may be either phased-in over time, or may take effect immediately based on a number of triggering events.

For a single-story structure:

	Subsidized Premium Rates before BW12 Pre-BW12 Subsidized Rates for $250K/$100K Building/Contents Policy in **high risk, non-coastal AE zones (no elevation certificate)**	**Premium Rates following elimination of subsidies – after October 1, 2013** Post-BW12 non-subsidized Rates for $250K/$100K Building/Contents Policy in **high-risk non-coastal AE zones (with Elevation Certificate).**
Lowest floor of property is 4 feet above base flood elevation	$3,600	$553
Lowest floor of property is at base flood elevation	$3,600	$1,815
Lowest floor of property is 4 feet below base flood elevation	$3,600	$10,723

The above rates are based on a policy with a $1,000 deductible and $250,000 building coverage and $100,000 contents coverage. This scenario is based on a single-story building with no basement, crawlspaces or enclosures. An AE zone is an area subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event. Base Flood Elevations are shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps in these zones. AE zones are used on new and revised maps in place of numbered A zones from A1 to A30.

It is important to note that a small number of flood insurance policies protecting properties in very high risk coastal areas (VE Zones) -- where wave action combined with high water causes increased damage -- will see significantly higher premiums which could be in excess of $20,000 in rare cases.

Only an insurance agent can accurately provide a detailed premium quote given specific circumstances because flood zones where the property is located, and elevation of the lowest floor, will significantly impact premiums. It is important to work with insurance agents to see how policyholders may be able to reduce rates through elevating their buildings and choosing insurance levels and deductibles which provide proper protection.

When Will Changes Take Effect?

Remember, not everyone will be immediately affected by the new law. Subsidized premiums for policies covering non-primary residences, businesses, and structures with severe repeated flood losses will have premium increases of 25 percent per year until rates reflect the full risk.

Other actions will trigger immediate rate subsidy elimination. Homeowners with subsidized premiums for primary residences in Special Flood Hazard Area’s will be able to keep their subsidized rates unless or until:

- The property is sold;
- The policy lapses;
- The insured property suffers severe, repeated, flood losses where the owner refuses an offer to mitigate; or
- A new policy is purchased.

Why is this happening?

After 45 years, flood risks continue and the costs and consequences of flooding are increasing dramatically. In 2012, Congress passed the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act which calls on FEMA to make a number of changes to the way the NFIP is managed. Some of these changes have already been put in place, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how FIRM updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all -- policyholders over time.

What this means:

The new law encourages Program financial stability by eliminating some artificially low rates and discounts. Most flood insurance rates will now move to reflect full risk, and flood insurance rates will rise on some policies. Certain actions can trigger rate changes, as indicated above. Policyholders should talk to their insurance agent about how these changes may affect their flood insurance policy premium. There are investments property owners and communities can make to reduce the impact of rate changes.

Grandfathering Changes Expected in 2014

Prior to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act, when revised or updated maps showed higher risk zones or BFEs, policyholders were permitted to "grandfather" and use the zone and elevation of an older map. The Act phases-out grandfathered rates and moves to current risk-based rates for most properties when the community adopts a new FIRM. If a policyholder lives in a community that adopts a new, updated FIRM, grandfathered rates will be phased out and rates will reflect the most recent effective map. This will happen gradually, with new rates phasing in over five years. The premium example above may help homeowners anticipating map revisions to begin to plan for this change to the NFIP premium structure.

What Can Be Done to Lower Costs?

For property owners:

- Talk to your insurance agent about your options.
- If you do not have one already, you will likely need an Elevation Certificate to determine your true risk premium and to make informed decisions about flood mitigation and rebuilding.
- Higher deductibles might lower your premium.
- Consider incorporating flood mitigation into your remodeling or rebuilding.
  1. Elevating or rebuilding higher will lower your risk and could reduce your premium.
  2. Consider adding flood-vents to your foundation walls or using breakaway walls.
- Talk with local officials about community-wide mitigation steps.

For community officials:

- Consider joining the Community Rating System (CRS) or increasing your CRS activities to lower premiums for policyholders.
- Talk to your state about grants. FEMA issues grants to states, which can then distribute the funds to communities to help with mitigation and rebuilding.

For More Information:

For more information on Biggert-Waters 12 implementation, visit *(The link provided was broken and has been removed)*. For additional information about specific premium rates, contact your insurance agent. To learn more about flood risk and explore coverage options, visit http://www.FloodSmart.gov.

Impact of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Changes

Note: This Fact Sheet deals specifically with Sections 205 and 207 of the Act.

In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other agencies to make a number of changes to the way the NFIP is run. Some of these changes have already been put in place, and others will be implemented in the coming months. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders. The changes will mean premium rate increases for some – but not all -- policyholders over time.

What this means:

The new law encourages program financial stability by eliminating some artificially low rates and discounts. Most flood insurance rates will now move to reflect full risk, and flood insurance rates will rise on some policies.

Actions such as buying a property, allowing a policy to lapse, or purchasing a new policy can trigger rate changes. You should talk to your insurance agent about how changes may affect your property and flood insurance policy. There are investments you and your community can make to reduce the impact of rate changes. And FEMA can help communities lower flood risk and flood insurance premiums.

What is Changing Now?

Most rates for most properties will more accurately reflect risk. Subsidized rates for non-primary/secondary residences are being phased out now. Subsidized rates for certain other classes of properties will be eliminated over time, beginning in late 2013. There are several actions which can trigger a rate change, and not everyone will be affected. It's important to know the distinctions and actions to avoid, or to take, to lessen the impacts.

Not everyone will be affected immediately by the new law – **only 20 percent of NFIP policies receive subsidies**. Talk to your agent about how rate changes could affect your policy. Your agent can help you understand if your policy is impacted by the changes.

- Owners of subsidized policies on **non-primary/secondary** residences in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will see 25 percent increase annually until rates reflect true risk – began January 1, 2013.
- Owners of subsidized policies on **property that has experienced severe or repeated flooding** will see 25 percent rate increase annually until rates reflect true risk – beginning October 1, 2013.
- Owners of subsidized policies on **business/non-residential properties in a Special Flood Hazard Area** will see 25 percent rate increase annually until rates reflect true flood risk -- beginning October 1, 2013.

(Each property's risk is different. Some policyholders may reach their true risk rate after a couple years of increases, while other policyholder increases may go beyond five years to get to the full risk rate required by the new law. Rate tables on true risk will not be available until June 2013.)

Who Will Be Impacted by Rate Increases Nationally Under Section 205?

NFIP Policyholders under Section 205
(data as of 12/31/2012)

81 percent of all policies (4,480,669) will not be affected by 205 because they are already actuarially rated

10 percent of all policies (578,312) which are Pre-FIRM primary residences will retain their subsidies until sold to new owner, policy lapse, etc.

5 percent of all policies (252,851) which include Pre-FIRM non-primary residences, business properties, and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties will see 25 percent increases until the true risk premium is reached.

4 percent of all policies (244,085) which include pre-FIRM condos and multifamily properties will not see immediate increases.

Pre-Flood Insurance Rate Map (pre-FIRM): *Properties located within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that were constructed before a community adopted its first Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).*
Note: *Some structures are captured under more than one category (for example multi-family severe repetitive loss properties).*

- **Most policyholders are not subsidized.** 81 percent of NFIP policyholders nationally are already actuarially rated.
- **Only five percent of all NFIP policies will see immediate 25 percent increases.** This includes non-primary residences, businesses, and severe repetitive loss properties. These properties will see immediate changes to their premiums.
- **Ten percent of all policies cover subsidized primary residences, which will remain subsidized,** unless or until:
  a. The property is sold (new rates will be charged to the next owner); or
  b. The policy lapses.
- **The remaining four percent includes subsidized condominiums and non-condo multi-family structures.** These policy holders will keep their subsidies until FEMA develops guidance for their removal.
- **Not all subsidized policyholders will see large increases**. Obtaining an elevation certificate is the best way to know a structure's risk and true-risk premiums. Some will find their premiums will decrease; some will stay about the same; some will see minor to moderate premium increases; and some policyholders will see large increases. Without an elevation certificate, homeowners cannot evaluate actual risk.
- **Mitigation steps can drastically reduce the premium** for many with potential large premium increases.
- **States and communities should consider focusing their grants and mitigation efforts** where owner-initiated mitigation is not a reasonable solution and assistance is needed.

Calendar Planning Notice

What?: The 27th Annual Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain (MSFA) Conference

When?: March 4-7, 2014

Where?: The MaCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek, MI

Program planning is underway and suggestions for presentation topics are welcome.

Submittals can be made to John Tenpas, johnt@driesenga.com, 616-396-0255.

Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association Outstanding Service Award Guidelines

The Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Management Association (MSFA) was formed in 1987 in response to a need expressed by floodplain professionals for a common forum, and a network that supports and improves their management of Michigan's storm water and floodplains. The MSFA recognizes professionals contributing to better storm water and floodplain management through the annual presentation of the *MSFA Outstanding Service Award*. In addition, MSFA will nominate the award winner for consideration at the national level through the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) award program.

Please help the MSFA in recognizing outstanding local, regional and state programs and professionals, by nominating one of Michigan's floodplain management leaders!

MSFA Outstanding Service Award Criteria
The *MSFA Outstanding Floodplain & Stormwater Management Service Award* will be awarded to a floodplain manager, local official, consultant, or other individuals who has gone above and beyond normal expectations and duties to promote MSFA's goals. This award is designed to honor an individual whose contributions have resulted in an outstanding local program or activity for comprehensive floodplain & storm water management, or unique programs that encourage flood impact awareness and reduction. The recipient of this award will serve as a role model and inspiration to other floodplain and storm water management professionals.

- ✓ The recipient will be selected based upon his/her outstanding accomplishments in, or contribution to the field of storm water and floodplain management in Michigan.
- ✓ The recipient will be selected based upon his/her leadership and demonstration of both personal and professional character of the highest quality.
- ✓ The activities and work undertaken by the recipient shall demonstrate a direct impact on improving the quality of life through better water resource management in accordance with the MSFA purpose and objectives (on-line at mi.floods.org).

MSFA Outstanding Service Award Application and Instructions

- ✓ Complete the MSFA Outstanding Service Award application.
- ✓ Attach a one-page summary of the nominee's qualifications and activities.
- ✓ Publications, photographs, videos, letters of recommendation and project descriptions may be submitted to support your nomination (all submitted materials will become the property of MSFA).
- ✓ Submit application, description and supporting materials to:

  Michigan Stormwater & Floodplain Management Association
  P.O. Box 14265
  Lansing, Michigan 48901-4265

You may direct any questions to Awards Coordinator, Thomas Smith at 616-364-8491

The deadline for submittal of annual nominations is November 1, 2013

Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association

Outstanding Service Award Application

Name of Nominee ____

Address ____

Phone No. ______________________ Employer ___________________

Employer Contact/Phone _______________________________________

On a separate page, please describe the qualifications and activities of the nominee. Please address the award criteria and provide specific information, including any substantiating materials, which support your nomination.

Nominated by ____

Address ____

Phone ________________________ E-mail _______________________

Fax __________________________ Date Submitted ________________

Submit nominations to:

Michigan Stormwater & Floodplain Management Association
P.O. Box 14265
Lansing, Michigan 48901-4265

DEADLINE: November 1, 2013

Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association
2013/2014 Scholarship Application

The Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association (MSFA) is the Michigan Chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). MSFA began in 1987 to promote the common interest in floodplain and stormwater management, enhance cooperation among various local, state and federal governmental agencies, and to encourage effective and innovative approaches to managing the State's floodplain and stormwater management systems. The Association's mission is to mitigate the losses, costs and human suffering caused by flooding and to promote wise use of the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains. MSFA supports comprehensive nonstructural and structural management of Michigan's floodplains and related water resources and the concept of "No Adverse Impact". MSFA members represent local, state and federal government agencies, citizen groups, private consulting firms, academia, the insurance industry, and lenders. MSFA's goals are to help the public and private sectors:

1. Reduce the loss of human life and property damage resulting from flooding.
2. Preserve the natural and cultural values of floodplains.
3. Promote flood mitigation to prevent the loss and encourage wise use of floodplains.
4. Avoid actions that exacerbate flooding and or stream degradation.
5. Promote a watershed approach to stormwater management.
6. Promote the use of best management practices to minimize accelerated erosion and control sedimentation.

Applicant Criteria:

1. Full time Junior, Senior or Masters Student in Biosystems, Civil, or Environmental Engineering, or related Natural Resources Planning program with a specialization related to the mission and goals of the MSFA at a Michigan University.
2. Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above at the end of Spring Semester 2013.

Along with this completed form you **MUST** also attach:

1. A copy of your program of study showing courses remaining and a photocopy of your transcript.
2. A current resume that includes a statement of your career objectives and your graduation date.
3. A one-page typed essay highlighting your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, past and present work experiences, the occupation you propose to pursue upon graduation and your level of commitment to the mission and goals of the MSFA.
4. Letter of recommendation from a faculty of your department.

The academic year 2012/2013 award amount is $1500. Applicants can expect a response in January 2014.
Questions may be directed to any MSFA Board Member listed under Contacts at *(The link provided was broken and has been removed)*.
Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the 2014 MSFA Annual Conference, March 4 – 7, 2014, McCamly Plaza Hotel, Battle Creek, MI. Awardees are required to participate in the conference as an MSFA guest (conference fee and lodging will be covered by MSFA). MSFA board members will assist you in meeting other conference attendees, including vendors and prospective employers.

Name (last, first, middle):____

Local Address:____

Permanent Address:____

Local Phone:______________ E-mail:__________________________University Attending:______________________

Are you currently on any type of financial aid? (Please circle) Yes No

Have you received any other scholarships awards for academic year 2013/2014? Yes No

If yes to either, describe financial aid package and/or scholarship award received on a separate page and attach it to your application.

Applicant's Signature: ____ Date: ______________________________

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMAKED BY: Friday, November 1, 2013

Mail to: MSFA, PO Box 14265, Lansing, MI 48901-4265