

LFMA Winter Updates

From: Louisiana Floodplain Management Association (lfma@memberclicks-mail.net)

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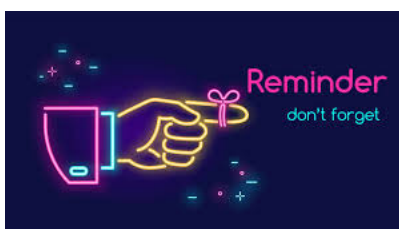
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LFMA Winter Updates

In this update you will find updates about the 2023 Annual Conference, upcoming deadlines, and news from your LFMA region representatives.

Membership Renewal



Invoices to renew your LFMA membership were sent out at the end of last year —please check your e-mails for a link or log in to your Memberclicks using the button below to renew if you haven't already done so. Membership benefits include reduced fees for conferences and workshops, ability to vote for board of directors, and a connection to a community of floodplain professionals that share information and resources.

Please make sure your finance office has the correct address if you are mailing a check:
P.O. Box 83536
Baton Rouge, LA 70884

Renew Here

Conference Updates

LFMA Annual Conference 2023



LFMA's annual conference will be held in Ruston at the Lincoln Parish Library Events Center March 29-31, 2023. Registration is now open and you can find that link as well as additional information about the conference on the [Annual Conference](#) page of our website.

Also, we are in need of your help to make this year's conference a success! Please visit our [Sponsor-Exhibitor](#) page to view the sponsorship options and register online by Wednesday **March 1, 2023**. Most sponsorship levels include the ability to exhibit at the conference which is a great way to interact with floodplain managers and peers throughout the state. If you do not want to exhibit and still want to sponsor, we have opportunities for you to sponsor food items and door prizes. Additionally, if you can think of other ways to sponsor we are open to your ideas - please e-mail our Chairman at mgonzales@jeffparish.net with your ideas!

ASFPM Annual Conference

ASFPM will hold its 47th annual conference May 7-11, 2023 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Registration will open this month and you can find more information about the conference on their [website](#).

And in case you missed the announcement at our 2022 conference in Baton Rouge, LFMA will be hosting the 2025 ASFPM conference in New Orleans!!! Putting on such a huge event will require the help of our membership so be thinking of areas that you would like to get plugged-in—we will be calling on you over the next year for support.

Association Updates



2023-24 Board of Directors Intent to Run

LFMA members that wish to be run for office must submit an Intent to Run no later than Wednesday, **March 1, 2022** to LFMA Secretary, Darla Duet by email DuetDA@lafourchegov.org. The notice of intent email should include a brief bio and a photo.

A list of board positions and their roles can be found on our [Election of Officers](#) page.

Notice of Electronic Voting

The 2023 Board of Directors elections will take place through an online electronic voting platform. E-mails will be sent to LFMA members on **March 15, 2023** with the link and instructions for casting your vote. Voting will close on **March 24, 2023**.

You must be a paid member by March 1, 2023 to be eligible to vote in this year's elections

Award Nominations

This year's conference will include an awards luncheon on Thursday, March 30th. Three of the awards that will be presented need your participation for nomination:

[Rod Emmer](#) (Individual Member Award) - return form via email to executive director michaeldhunnicuttcfm@gmail.com

[Ted Debaene](#) (Group or Company) - return form to awards chair csternhell@solutient.com

[Outstanding Community Award](#) (Town, City, or Parish) - return form to awards chair csternhell@solutient.com

Nominations are due Wednesday **March 1, 2023**. Winners will be announced at the awards luncheon on March 30, 2023.

Board Retreat Goals Discussion

The LFMA board met in Scott Louisiana in January for a full day to discuss association business and consider long and short term goals. Some of the items we discussed are below. These have not been officially adopted by the board at this time but I think they are great goals for the board and our members to work towards to grown LFMA and floodplain awareness.

If you are interested in working with us in achieving these goals please reach out to Michelle Gonzales at mgonzales@jeffparish.net so she can connect you with the best person to move the needle on these goals.

A few of the items that were discussed during our goals sessions were:

Strengthen LFMA relationships with other associations and agencies in Louisiana

1. Within the next 12 months LFMA Region Representative will meet with state and regional agencies to create consensus around floodplain management

concepts and increase the number of CFMs in the state of Louisiana. Potential agencies include:

- Louisiana Watershed Initiative Regional Coalition
 - LA Dept of Transportation
 - Governor's Office of Homeland Security
 - Office of Community Development
 - Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency
 - Fire Marshal / Code Council
 - State Historic Preservation Officer
 - FEMA Region 6
2. Within the next 18 months LFMA Members will create connection with, present at conferences, or table at events for some of the following groups in the state specific to educate on the role of local floodplain managers within our state:

Police Jury Association of Louisiana

- Louisiana Municipal Association
- Parish President's Association
- Center for Planning Excellence
- Building Officials of Louisiana
- Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association
- American Planning Association
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Realtors Associations
- Surveyor Associations
- Insurance Agent Associations

Increase students and young leaders flood risk awareness within the State of Louisiana

1. Within in the next 18 months increase LFMA Student Membership to from 2 to 15.
- Have targeted outreach with University programs in communities where LFMA workshops and conferences will be held
 - Work with professors at Universities statewide to promote LFMA which may help students enter the field of floodplain management
2. Within the next 18 months LFMA members will volunteer as judges at local, regional, and/or state science or social studies fairs.
- Volunteering a day or evening once a year to learn what students are researching in various fields will provide members the ability to interact with students and provide feedback for their research based on members real world knowledge.



A Message from the Executive Director

As we say goodbye to 2022, we say Hello and Happy New Years to 2023. We have a great deal of activity that will be happening throughout the year in the area of Floodplain Management. Our energetic and progressive Chairperson, Michelle Gonzales, has and continues to do an excellent job representing and steering our organization in a positive direction. The LFMA Board of Directors and Regional Representatives have been working on behalf of all the members in revising By-Laws, Policies and Procedures so that the LFMA Organization grows with technology advancements. There are several Board Members and Regional Representative that are new in their positions. Please get to know your Regional Representatives and ask questions when you need assistance.

There are some great opportunities for education and networking in the coming months:

- Our Annual 2023 LFMA Conference will be held at the end of March this year. March 29th-31st. The Conference will be in Ruston, Louisiana. Our Conference Planners are developing an excellent agenda covering a wide range of topics. Please plan to join us in Ruston and keep updated by checking the LFMA Website for conference and hotel information.
- April 3rd-6th, will be the National Hurricane Conference held in New Orleans. The conference will be located at the Riverside Hilton on the Mississippi River. This is an excellent event to attend and network with Floodplain and Emergency Management Officials from all across the world.
- May 7th-11th, in Raleigh, North Carolina, ASFPM (Association of State Floodplain Managers) will hold their annual conference. If you are interested in attending this event, register early, rooms book up quickly that are close to the conference center.

- June 4th-7th will be the National Flood Conference. The NFC is held each year in Washington D.C. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. This is an excellent conference to learn about insurance updates and regulation changes in the works. The Omni Hotel is an excellent venue and an excellent opportunity to network with other floodplain managers and insurance experts.
- LFMA will also be hosting our Summer Workshop in Avoyelles Parish and Fall Workshop in the City of Scott. Keep updated on our website for information on locations, dates and times.

As you can see, we have a lot of activity happening in 2023, so don't miss out on the training and networking opportunities. Also, do not hesitate to contact your representatives for LFMA or any of our Board Members, including myself. We are here to guide you in the right direction and help you navigate through the obstacles you will be facing. Remember, you are not alone, we are here to help.

Respectfully,

Michael Hunnicutt, CFM
LFMA Executive Director



Chairman's Corner

I like to share with our members experiences that I have in these newsletters and encourage you to turn in submission for the newsletter when you have positive floodplain management experiences in your community.

In January of 2023 I was contacted by a local Middle School in Jefferson Parish and asked to judge their school science fair. I was excited and nervous at the same time! I arrived at the school gym around 4:30pm and was provided a clip board with criteria to review and was instructed to view each project, ask the student questions, and score each criteria with 1 being lowest and 5 being highest. I was assigned the "Engineering" category and had 9 projects to score. A few of my favorite projects included topics with research/simulation regarding the color of a roof and how that can impact the temperature of a community and which low cost coastal restoration activity works best (Christmas trees or Recycled Oysters). My favorite project was a group project from 6th

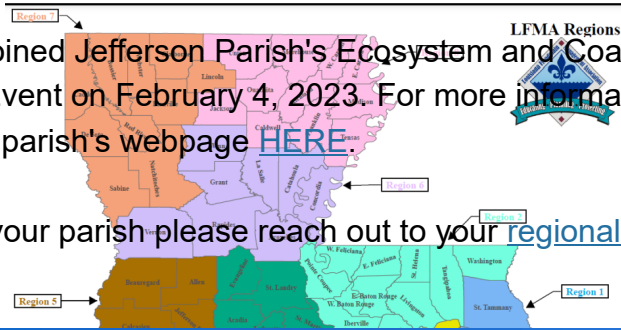
grade students – They studied if the use of sodium polyacrylate (powdery chemical inside diapers) behind baseboards could soak up flood water and reduce damages in homes that flood. I had a quick but good conversation with these students about why they chose this topic and one of the students home had water damage when their roof was destroyed during Hurricane Ida, so it had a personal connection. I sincerely enjoyed my time judging this small local science fair and am now looking for ways my office staff can be involved in more events similar to this.

Michelle Gonzales, CFM
LFMA Chairman



What's Happening Around The State

Region 1 Members Joined Jefferson Parish's Ecosystem and Coastal Management Coastal TreeCycling Event on February 4, 2023. For more information about the benefits of this project visit the parish's webpage [HERE](#).



If you have events in your parish please reach out to your [regional rep](#) so they can spread the word.



Region 2

Some interesting articles from Region 2

Partnerships form to clean up Amite and Comite rivers - [HERE](#)

EBR Leaders give update on ongoing drainage efforts - [HERE](#)

Broome says she will create new Stormwater Advisory Committee at State of the City address - [HERE](#)

Our Legislative Committee Chair and Region 2 Alt Rep has been named by Governor Edwards to the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District - See more [HERE](#)

Region 3

Partnerships to Revitalize the Maurepas Swamp - [HERE](#)

If you have a project, program, or information about your region please provide the information to Melonie Ellzey at mellzey@bha-engineers.com. Newsletters will be sent out quarterly and we need your input to make them fun and informative for our members.

Connect with Us:

Facebook

This email was sent to melellzey@yahoo.com by mellzey@bha-engineers.com

Louisiana Floodplain Management Association - 803 Johnston St, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301, United States - 318-487-5401 Ext 16

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