

June 10, 2005

NAFSMA Members Urged to Make Plans Now for Anchorage!



New details on NAFSMA's Annual Meeting in Anchorage, which will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook on August 21-25, 2005, are available on NAFSMA's website at www.nafsma.org. New program updates and a revised registration form with guest fees included for special events will be available the week of June 20. This year's theme, the Holistic Paradigm of Water Resources Management, is evident throughout this timely and informative program.

Please note that in addition to golf outings on the afternoons of August 23 and 25, the welcoming event on the evening of Monday, August 22, will be held at the beautiful Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage. A native Alaskan salmon bake will highlight the evening and special entertainment will be provided by local artists.

Information about the Alaska Native Heritage Center is available at www.alaskanative.net. For general information on the Annual Meeting, or to download the preliminary agenda and registration form, please go to www.nafsma.org. Hotel reservations can be made at the Hotel Captain Cook at 800-843-1950 or 907-276-6000 (www.captaincook.com).

Water Resources Development Act - House to Start Action June 16

House staffers have been working hard to ready the Water Resources Development Act of 2005 for consideration by the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee on June 16, 2005. The bill, which authorizes projects and activities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is expected to be introduced shortly before markup.

Consideration by the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected on June 23, with floor action planned for sometime during the week of June 27. The policy provisions in the bill are expected to be similar to those included in the bill approved by the House in 2003.

In the Senate, WRDA 2005 (S. 728), which authorizes the projects for the Corps of Engineers, is still awaiting Senate floor consideration. That action is still expected this month as well. NAFSMA members will be apprised of new developments in this area as they occur.

Staff Changes Occur At Corps Headquarters

Steven Stockton has officially assumed the role of Deputy Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with Fred Caver's retirement from the Corps on June 3. Many of NAFSMA's members know Steve from his work in the South Pacific Division. He has also served in Corps headquarters and with the Corps in Iraq. We look forward to working closely with Steve in the upcoming months on NAFSMA member issues.

NAFSMA To Review Corps Owner's Manual for Levees, Floodwalls & Other Flood Control Works

NAFSMA is currently reviewing a draft owner's manual for levees, floodwalls and other flood control works. The manual is intended to cover general maintenance concerns, flood preparedness, flood fighting operations on levees, details of the Corps' repair and inspection program (including what is required for inclusion in the program) and other USACE emergency authorities under PL 84-99.

**National Association
of Flood & Stormwater
Management Agencies**
1301 K Street, NW
8th Floor East
Washington, DC 20005

T: (202) 218-4133
F: (202) 478-1734

www.nafsma.org

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NAFSMA will be holding a conference call to discuss these issues and develop our comments on Monday, June 20, at 11 a.m. Please let Susan Gilson (sgilson@carmengroup.com) know if you are interested in participating in these discussions or if you would like to review the documents.

NAFSMA Board Holds Planning Retreat June 1

NAFSMA's Board of Directors and staff held an all day planning retreat in San Antonio, Texas, on June 1. As part of that discussion, the Board reaffirmed the association's priority action items for 2005 in each of NAFSMA's committees as follows:

Flood Management Committee (Corps of Engineers)

- Water Resources Development Act of 2005
- Streamlining Permitting Process, Particularly for Operations & Maintenance
- Renewing & Updating Corps Partnership Agreement

Floodplain Management Committee (FEMA)

- Continue Aggressive Support for Adequate Funding Levels for Map Modernization
- Continue Efforts to Ensure Quality of New Maps
- Mentoring Work with FEMA on Map Mod Program

Stormwater Management Committee (EPA)

- Total Maximum Daily Loads and Impacts on NPDES Stormwater Program
- Stormwater Funding/Legal Issues
- Regulatory Issues (Wetlands Permitting)

Please note that current position statements for the NAFSMA committees are available online at www.nafsma.org.

NAFSMA Directors Meet with Texas Agencies

As part of the San Antonio meeting, the NAFSMA Board had the opportunity to meet with a number of Texas flood and stormwater management representatives to discuss issues of importance to their agencies. NAFSMA Directors very much appreciated the time that representatives from the Harris County Flood Control District, the Tarrant Regional Water District, and the City of Austin committed to these discussions. NAFSMA representatives also had the opportunity to meet with the City Engineer for San Antonio. The sessions were very informative and will help NAFSMA to understand and better respond the needs of these agencies in national flood and stormwater management activities.

NAFSMA to Provide Presentation on Stormwater Funding Legal Issues at Upcoming ASFPM Meeting

NAFSMA Executive Director Susan Gilson and Scott Tucker, former chairman of NAFSMA's Stormwater Management Committee, will participate in next week's Association of State Floodplain Managers meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. NAFSMA's presentation will highlight the work we are carrying out in an agreement with U.S. Environmental Protection to develop a guidance document for communities on funding mechanisms for local stormwater management programs. The stormwater presentation will be on June 16.

NAFSMA's work in this area will also be featured as an afternoon workshop on Monday, August 22 in Anchorage, as part of NAFSMA's 2005 Annual Meeting.

NAFSMA's Floodplain Management Committee Chairman Bill DeGroot, manager of the floodplain management program for the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District in Denver, will also participate in the ASFPM meeting on a special panel looking at national issues concerning FEMA's Map Modernization Program. This session will be held the morning of June 15 in Madison.

Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations—Overview

Congress returned from its Memorial Day recess this week with an eye toward accelerating its pace on the appropriations front. The House has been making good progress and is set to complete its appropriations work as early as the end of this month. The Senate is also gearing up to move quickly, with a mark-up of the Interior and

Environment bill held this week by the Senate Appropriations Committee and a mark-up of the Energy and Water Development bill expected next week. The Senate appropriations schedule could be affected, however, by the energy bill that is expected to be considered on the Senate floor for up to two weeks; floor action on the energy bill could begin next week.

Interior and Environment Appropriations (Funds U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Interior)

The Senate Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Subcommittee marked up their version of the Interior funding measure this week and approved the bill by a vote of 28-0. The measure contains over \$28.3 billion in new budget authority as outlined by full committee chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS).

The bill varies from the President's recommendation and its House counterpart as it restores \$1.1 billion in funding to the EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). Subcommittee Chairman Conrad Burns (R-MT), during the committee mark up, noted that as a result of the restored funding for the SRF program, EPA earmarks in the bill would be cut by a substantial margin. Overall, the EPA was funded at \$7.8 billion. This amount is \$362 million more than the President's request and \$174.5 million more than the House version, but \$144 million less than current levels.

The measure also includes increased funding for wildfire activities through a number of programs and proposed funds to avoid cuts in the Rural Fire Assistance program administered by the Department of the Interior. The Senate bill also includes \$162 million for land acquisition under the Land and Water Conservation Fund program; this is in contrast to the House bill which did not include any fund for this function.

One amendment of note was offered by Senator Allard (R-CO) that sought to clarify the adjudication process in regards to water rights in Colorado. The amendment sought to deny federal use of Colorado water without first seeking permission from the state. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn.

As discussed above, given the desire of the Senate to debate the Energy bill next, it is unclear when floor consideration of this bill will occur.

Agriculture Appropriations

The House passed the Agriculture Appropriations bill for FY 2006 this week as well (H.R. 2744 and H. Rept. 109-102). Overall, the bill provides approximately \$17 billion in funding—an increase of \$93 million over the President's budget request and the same amount as current levels. Conservation programs were funded at \$794 million, a \$26 million increase over the President's request.

The Senate is expected to mark up its version on June 23.

Energy and Water Appropriations (Funds U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation)

The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and full Appropriations Committee are expected to take up the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the fiscal year that begins this October 1 the week of June 13. The House passed its version of the bill (H.R. 2419 and H. Rept. 109-86) on May 24, as reported in the May 27 weekly report.

House Panel Holds Water Infrastructure Finance Hearing

The House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. John Duncan (R-TN), on June 8 held a hearing to focus on issues relating to financing water infrastructure projects. This week's hearing focused on issues relating to the need, potential support and ways to create a national clean water trust fund. Details on the hearing, including witness testimony, can be found on the subcommittee's website at www.house.gov/transportation/water/.

A second hearing to address this topic will be held on June 14.