



# FLOODWATCH

*Educating, Planning, Protecting*

The official newsletter of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

## LFMA Fall Workshop—September 24, 2021, 9:30AM-1:30PM/Hybrid Format



WORKSHOP

The LFMA fall workshop will be held at the East Baton Rouge River Center Branch Library (250 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802) or virtually via Zoom on Friday, September 24th. Sessions begin at 9:30AM and conclude at 1:30PM. There will be an optional tour of the LSU Center for River Studies available from 2:30PM-3:30PM. The maximum occupancy for this tour is 30 guests and registration is required. Please click [HERE](#) to register for the workshop and tour (workshop agenda is included within this newsletter). If you will be traveling to Baton Rouge and staying overnight for the workshop, please use this [LINK](#) to book your room at the discounted block rate of \$129 per night.

## \*\*NEW MAILING ADDRESS\*\*



Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

P.O. Box 83536

Baton Rouge, LA 70884

Please ensure your accounting departments update their records.

## Continuing Education Committee



We would like to welcome **Stephanie Weeks** to the LFMA Board of Directors as the Continuing Education Committee Chairperson. Please reach out to Stephanie at [stephanie.weeks@verisk.com](mailto:stephanie.weeks@verisk.com) or (337) 849-6619 for questions concerning continuing education credits or for training needs that you would like to see implemented through LFMA.

## Region 6 Training Opportunities



FEMA Region 6 offers is offering several training opportunities in the months of August and September. Below is a link to register for these sessions and a list of upcoming topics:

### [Training Opportunities](#)

8/18/2021: Back2Basics with Mike Segner

8/26/2021: Substantial Damage Estimator 3.0 Tool Training

9/07/2021: Monthly Floodplain Training: Identify Structures at High-Risk of Flooding & Learning About the FMA Grant for Mitigation Reconstruction

9/14/2021: Floodplain Monthly Training: Risk Rating 2.0

## CFM Exam Dates



The CFM Exam will be proctored in Jefferson Parish on Friday, October 1, 2021. The listing will be added to the ASFPM exam schedule soon and you will find the contact information for registration through their website: <https://www.floods.org/certification-program-cfm/getting-certified/cfm-exam-offerings/>

## Disaster Recovery Team



LFMA's new DRT Coordinator, Nic LeBlanc, and a fellow LFMA member and CFM, Chris Brown, recently had the opportunity to assist Iberville Parish with damage assessments in their community. Iberville Parish President Ourso reached out when his office was experiencing a unique situation where a limited number of structures had retained a low level of flood water for 28 days. Traditional damage inspection calculators do not account for this length of inundation, so Nic and Chris were able to conduct these inspections while at the same time explaining the nuances of this process to Parish staff. Nic believes that "as an organization we all share the same vision, that education and training are the true commodities that we dispense." The commitment of LFMA members to volunteer their time to the DRT is vital to helping create resiliency and floodplain management best practices in our communities. If you would like more information on being a part of this team, please contact Nic at [nleblanc@tangipahoa.org](mailto:nleblanc@tangipahoa.org) or (985) 542-2117.

## West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project



On July 26, 2021 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a \$760 million project that will provide 100-year hurricane and storm surge protection to 60,000 Louisianians in St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes. The project will span 18.5 miles, including 17.5 miles of levees, one mile of T-wall, drainage structures, pump stations, and several non-structural protection measures to form an integrated protection system. The structure will span from the Bonnet Carre Spillway to the Mississippi River Levee near Garyville and provide storm surge protection and improved resilience on the western shores of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas. Read more about this amazing project [HERE](#).

## FEMA Risk Rating 2.0



Coastal senators are beginning to rally support for an infrastructure bill amendment designed to shield homeowners from NFIP premium increases triggered by an upcoming overhaul of rates. The amendment would cap annual NFIP premium increases at 9%—down from 18% under current law. The affordability-focused amendment would also provide means-tested vouchers for low- and middle-income homeowners and renters if their flood insurance premiums caused their housing costs to exceed 30% of their adjusted gross income. The amendment would also freeze interest payments on \$20.5 billion in debt that the NFIP owes Treasury after paying claims that exceeded premiums following a series of destructive hurricanes, and would provide \$25 billion in CDBG-DR funding for states to put toward mitigation projects.

## \$3.46 Billion in Hazard Mitigation Funds to Reduce Effects on Climate Change



On August 5, 2021 President Biden approved more than \$3.46 Billion to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change nationwide. This significant investment will be available for natural hazard mitigation measures across the 59 major disaster declarations issued due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The full article regarding this funding can be found on the DHS website by clicking [HERE](#).

## ASFPM Region 6 Representative: “ASFPM is making a difference!”



ASFPM Region 6 Representative Michelle Gonzales is often asked, “How can ASFPM provide benefits for a particular member of community?” and now there is new legislation that could be the answer to this question. Specifically, these excerpts from a bipartisan infrastructure bill have Ms. Gonzales very excited:

- \$500 million for the STORM Act Implementation (legislation passed last year that would allow for the creation of state revolving loan funds for flood mitigation and resiliency)
- \$733 million for the National Dam Safety Program and High Hazard Dam Grant Program including a set-aside for dam removals
- \$1 billion in additional funding for BRIC (above the formula amount)
- \$3.5 billion for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

It is this last point that makes Michelle most proud to be an “ASFPM’er”! Back in May, ASFPM’s testimony on NFIP reauthorization included the following recommendation: “ASFPM urges consideration of a one-time mitigation funding investment of \$5 billion as part of any emerging infrastructure bill to reduce the amount of repetitive loss properties and improve the financial stability of the NFIP.” And Congress listened! Although the infrastructure bill hasn’t yet passed, given the dynamic of the negotiations, ASFPM is doubtful that the bill will change much since this is what the bipartisan group negotiated. And even though we know it isn’t passed until it is passed, we will take a victory lap because ASFPM is making a difference!

## Jefferson Parish Next Level Government



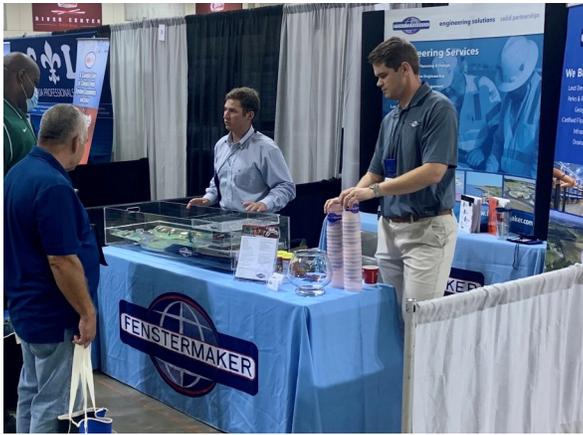
Every month, Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng highlights a Jefferson Parish department and how they are taking it to the “Next Level”. In late June, LFMA members Michelle Gonzales and Maggie Talley were featured in the monthly edition highlighting various aspects of their departments. LFMA members are encouraged to take a few minutes to watch the [VIDEO](#) and reach out to Maggie ([mtalley@jeffparish.net](mailto:mtalley@jeffparish.net)) or Michelle ([mgonzales@jeffparish.net](mailto:mgonzales@jeffparish.net)) for ways to partner or work together in this Floodplain Management Community.

## Nicholls State University Receives Coastal Research Funding



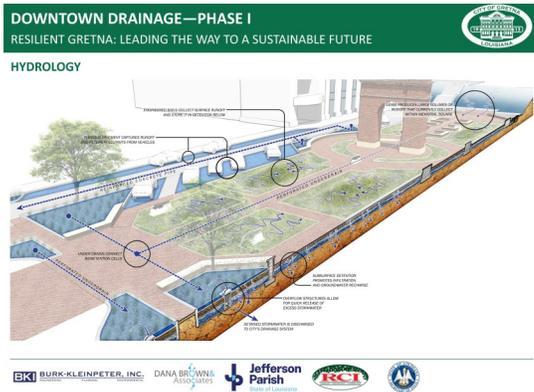
Nicholls will receive \$495,368 from the Restore Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana to help coastal scientists better understand coastal ridges. Researchers will use the grant money to categorize the ecological attributes of the ridges to help coastal scientists design future ridge restoration and management projects. Nicholls’ proposal was one of eight projects totaling \$2.3 million selected from 20 submissions, marking the first time university researchers have received Restore Act money. You can read more about this funding success [HERE](#).

### Impacts of Development Within the Floodplain



The Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) held its 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in downtown Baton Rouge last month on July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. LFMA Members (and CFM's) Jeanne Hornsby, Callie Benton, Luke Hebert & Gary O'Neal from CH Fenstermaker attended along with other employees and student interns from their Firm. At the Convention Expo, Fenstermaker exhibited an interactive display to help demonstrate the impacts of development within the floodplain. In the first example, a retail development with no detention facility experiences a rain event. The downstream impacts are clearly seen as the water flows away from the development and inundates the low-lying residential areas after overwhelming the existing drainage. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> example, the development has a detention facility implemented and experiences a similar rain event. The downstream impacts from the controlled discharge through the outfall structure clearly demonstrates the need for proper floodplain management and the life and property-saving impacts of higher standards. Interactive experiences with municipal elected officials and employees like this helps to educate our community's leaders about the risks associated with improper floodplain management. With the many hats our local leaders wear, topics like floodplain management are not always front and center on their agendas. Demonstrations such as this help to drive home the important role that we as CFM's and local Floodplain Administrators can play to help protect the places we all call home from the impacts of flooding.

### Resilient Gretna: Leading the Way to a Sustainable Future



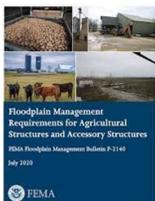
Resiliency in the City Gretna starts with water management. The northern portion of the City along the Mississippi River houses the City's core downtown business district and the heart of the City. This area suffers from antiquated drainage infrastructure – including ditches built during the Great Depression under the Works Progress Administration (WPA). This aging infrastructure has historically been overwhelmed during regular rainstorms resulting in flooding local businesses, roads and homes, and inundating the City's drainage system, and because the Northern portion of the City drains to the South by gravity flow only, the impacts are felt downstream are magnified even further. To begin to solve these critical and costly drainage problems, the City lobbied elected officials at all levels about the need for solutions that go beyond just putting in larger pipes and traditional drainage engineering. The Downtown Drainage Phase 1 Project is a landmark project that showcases Gretna's innovation and commitment to green infrastructure and sustainability. The City of Gretna used Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding with State Capital Outlay funds and local matching funds from City of Gretna to improve the drainage of downtown Gretna along Huey P. Long Avenue with the Downtown Drainage Phase 1 Enhancements to Memorial Square. This is the largest green infrastructure project in the region, with the capacity to store approximately 33,000 cubic feet of water, and detain up to 5 inches of rainfall over a 24-hour period.

### HMGP Acquisition Project



The Rapids Parish Police Jury recently completed an acquisition project on a home in the City of Pineville that was declared Substantially Damaged. The structure was demolished and is now deed restricted as open space. The project was funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as a result of the "Severe Storms and Flooding" of 2016 (DR-4263-LA). The project was initially federally funded at 75%, but was later fully funded through a global match.

### Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural and Accessory Structures



FEMA  
**FEMA POLICY: Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures**  
 FEMA Policy #104-008-03  
 2004 (Revised February 2010)

Are you permitting "grain bins"? Although a farm structure may be exempt from the building code, they are not exempt from NFIP requirements. [FEMA Bulletin P-2140](#) and [Policy #104-008-03](#) provide guidance on grain bins and other agricultural and accessory structures that you may not be aware require permitting.

## FEMA Webinar Wednesdays



FEMA is conducting a webinar series to introduce the new flood insurance rating system known as Risk Rating 2.0, Equity in Action. This is a four-part series of briefings offered on a rotating schedule that will introduce the fundamentals of Risk Rating 2.0 and the details of the rating methodology. Up to 8 ASFPM CFM CECs are available by attending all four parts. The four training sessions are: RR 2.0 Fundamentals (2 CFM CECs, not repeatable). CE credit for insurance agents is not available for this series, however, agents are welcome to attend.

You can attend these webinars at (<https://fema.zoomgov.com/j/16112089704> Meeting ID: 161-1208-9704; Passcode: 127630). There is no registration requirement for these training sessions, but the room size is limited to the first 350 participants for each session. If you are unable to attend a session, please try again with the next offering of that session. Additional sessions may be added if needed.

Webinars are held every Wednesday through Nov 3, 2021 Time: noon – 2:00 pm Central

August 18:	Fundamentals
August 25:	Methodology 1, Premium calculation variables
September 1:	Methodology 2, Mitigation Credits and other variables
September 8:	Methodology 3, Transition of policies, use cases, and examples
September 15:	Fundamentals
September 22:	Methodology 1, Premium calculation variables
September 29:	Methodology 2, Mitigation Credits and other variables
October 6:	Methodology 3, Transition of policies, use cases, and examples
October 13:	Fundamentals
October 20:	Methodology 1, Premium calculation variables
October 27:	Methodology 2, Mitigation Credits and other variables
November 3:	Methodology 3, Transition of policies, use cases, and examples

## Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action for FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Administrators



This two-hour training provided by FEMA Region 6's Regional Flood Insurance Liaison, Gilbert Giron will introduce our floodplain administrators to Risk Rating 2.0 Equity in Action. Learn about why the flood insurance rating change is happening, and what is changing and not changing under the new rating methodology. Originally scheduled for August 10, we had to adjust to the September 14 date. Thanks for understanding. Two hours of continuing education credit is approved for this training through ASFPM for Certified Floodplain Managers. This training is required to be accessible to people with disabilities. Relay Conference Captioning (RCC) will be provided and streamed to the user's Internet-connected computer. If you need to request an additional accommodation, like a sign language interpreter, please make your request to [Rebecca.Dake@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Dake@fema.dhs.gov) by five business days before the event. Last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fill.

DATE: September 14, 2021  
 TIME: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Central)

Link to register for event: [https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r6rr2fpa/event/event\\_info.html](https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r6rr2fpa/event/event_info.html)

Link to attend event: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r6rr2fpa/event/login.html>

## Insurance Agent Training: Risk Rating 2.0 - Equity In Action Webinars



FEMA is updating the National Flood Insurance Program's risk rating methodology through the implementation of a new pricing methodology called Risk Rating 2.0 - Equity in Action. The methodology leverages industry best practices and cutting-edge technology to enable FEMA to deliver rates that are actuarially sound, equitable, easier to understand and better reflect a property's flood risk. This webinar brings agents the latest information on how and when Risk Rating 2.0 will be implemented. It will also discuss the following key topics:

- What is Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action
- What led to this NFIP transformation
- The NFIP today
- What is changing
- What is not changing
- Transition of current policies

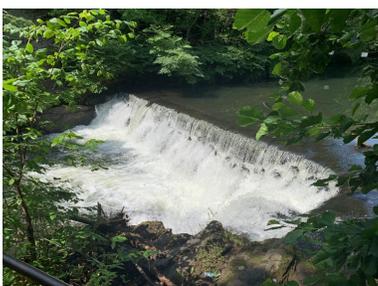
August 12	10 a.m. – noon Central Time
August 17	2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Central Time
August 19	10 a.m. – noon Central Time
August 24	2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Central Time
August 26	10 a.m. – noon Central Time
August 31	2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Central Time

**Chairman’s Corner: A word from LFMA Chairman, Michelle Gonzales**



I first want to thank our membership for the opportunity to represent you as a chair of this great association. I hope to connect with more of you in person as we begin to slowly hold more in person events but I want to encourage you to reach out to me if you want to serve on a committee, have an idea for a workshop presentation, have a training need or just want to catch up about something you heard in the floodplain or coastal environments.

In my first submission to the newsletter as Chair I wanted to tell you guys a little about myself since I may not have met many of you in person. I am a mother of 2 amazing sons, Juan is 18 and a 2021 high school graduate and Antonio is 17 and will be a 2022 high school graduate. I’ve moved my oldest, Juan, to McNeese State University this summer and plan to be spending a good bit of my weekends in Lake Charles, so would love to catch up with my Southwest LA folks before what I hope will be exciting football games at “The Hole”. I also love to travel and had a very relaxing trip to New York City this summer. While sightseeing on my travels I love seeing water management features and like to read articles about them later. Check out this really cool [ARTICLE](#) on how the Jackie Kennedy Onassis Reservoir was originally constructed as a Reservoir to aid in drinking water for the City of New York.



One more tidbit from my trip to NYC. The amazing freshwater Bronx River runs through the Botanical Gardens and Bronx Zoo. Seeing the River and Waterfall made me look up more information and found this great site for the [BRONX RIVER ALLIANCE](#).

You may be asking yourself why is Michelle talking about NY water features – well I would love for our members to talk about water features in Louisiana or other areas as you come across them. Louisiana has some of the most amazing lakes, rivers, and shoreline. Please snap a photograph and either write a few sentences about the feature or send us a link to a website that describes the feature. If you have a catchy name for this part of the newsletter please pass that along too.

I’ll switch to something amazing I saw in Grand Isle that I would encourage you guys to so see in Grand Isle through the 20<sup>th</sup> then in Madisonville from 8/28 to 10/9. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service is worth seeing. These are incredibly high-quality exhibits that display so many varied aspects of water.

**Exhibition Contents:**

- 5 free-standing exhibition units with photographs, text panels, and objects
- 1 video monitor
- 2 free-standing touchscreen interactive computer kiosks featuring video and audio content
- 1 iPad-based WaterSim America interactive on a stand
- 1 touchable model of a watershed
- 1 outdoor banner
- Exhibition support materials for state and local coordinators
- Support publications include: promotional posters and postcards and docent handbook

Check out this [WEBSITE](#) with more details and to view the video with more information.



# Louisiana Floodplain Management Association

P.O. Box 83536 Baton Rouge, LA 70884

## LFMA Board Members and Regional Representatives

**CHAIRMAN:** Michelle Gonzales, CFM  
(225) 223-2719  
[mgonzales@jeffparish.net](mailto:mgonzales@jeffparish.net)

**WORKSHOP COORDINATOR:** Darla Duet CFM  
(985) 537-7603  
[DuetDA@lafourchegov.org](mailto:DuetDA@lafourchegov.org)

**VICE CHAIR, CAP:** Kara Moree, CFM  
(225) 369-6587  
[kara.moree@oneatlas.com](mailto:kara.moree@oneatlas.com)

**CONTINUING ED:** Stephanie Weeks, CFM  
(337) 849-6619  
[stephanie.weeks@verisk.com](mailto:stephanie.weeks@verisk.com)

**SECRETARY:** Darla Duet CFM  
(985) 537-7603  
[DuetDA@lafourchegov.org](mailto:DuetDA@lafourchegov.org)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Melonie Ellzey, CFM  
(225) 279-6249  
[mellzey@bha-engineers.com](mailto:mellzey@bha-engineers.com)

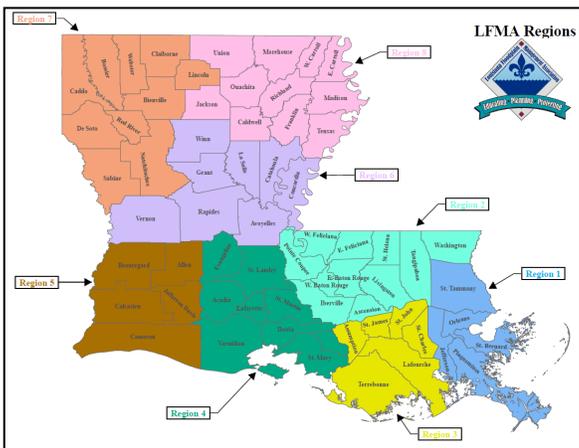
**TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP:** Melissa Becker, CFM  
(318) 487-5401  
[mbecker@rapc.info](mailto:mbecker@rapc.info)

**STATE NFIP COORDINATOR:** Cindy O'Neal, CFM  
(225) 379-3005  
[Cindy.ONeal@LA.GOV](mailto:Cindy.ONeal@LA.GOV)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Theodore E. DeBaene, PE, CFM  
(225) 926-5125  
[teddebaene@outlook.com](mailto:teddebaene@outlook.com)

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:** Gary O'Neal, Jr., CFM  
(225) 423-0023  
[GONeal@fenstermaker.com](mailto:GONeal@fenstermaker.com)

**DRT:** Nic Leblanc, CFM  
(985) 542-2117  
[nleblanc@tangipahoa.org](mailto:nleblanc@tangipahoa.org)



<p><b>Region I</b> Kim Reeves, CFM (504) 481-5132 <a href="mailto:Kimreevescfm1031@gmail.com">Kimreevescfm1031@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Mike Hunnicutt, CFM (alt) (202) 394-8493 <a href="mailto:michaeldhunnicut-tcfm@gmail.com">michaeldhunnicut-tcfm@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Region II</b> Jerri Daniels, CFM (504) 872-3776 <a href="mailto:jdaniels@dewberry.com">jdaniels@dewberry.com</a></p> <p><b>Region III</b> Lisa Ledet, CFM (985) 873-6567 <a href="mailto:lisaledet@tpcq.org">lisaledet@tpcq.org</a></p>	<p><b>Region IV</b> Tammy Vincent, CFM (337) 233-1130 <a href="mailto:tvincent@cityofscott.org">tvincent@cityofscott.org</a></p> <p>Bonnie Anderson, CFM(alt) (337) 654-9312 <a href="mailto:floodmgr@mail.com">floodmgr@mail.com</a></p> <p><b>Region V</b> Dana Watkins, CFM (337) 721-3600 <a href="mailto:dwatkins@calcasieuparish.gov">dwatkins@calcasieuparish.gov</a></p> <p><b>Region VI</b> Melissa Becker, CFM (318) 487-5401 <a href="mailto:mbecker@rapc.info">mbecker@rapc.info</a></p>	<p><b>Region VII</b> Joshua Walker, CFM <a href="mailto:jwalker@halff.com">jwalker@halff.com</a></p> <p><b>Region VIII</b> Lisa Richardson, CFM (318) 398-9780 <a href="mailto:Lrichardson@oppi.org">Lrichardson@oppi.org</a></p> <p>Larry Walters, CBO, CFM (alt) (318) 747-2454 <a href="mailto:lwalters@ibts.org">lwalters@ibts.org</a></p>
---	--	--

Register  
[HERE](#)

## LFMA Agenda Fall Workshop

24 September 2021 9:30 AM – 1:30PM

East Baton Rouge River Center Branch Library  
250 North Blvd Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Or

Virtual via Zoom Meeting

Tour of the [LSU Center for River Studies](#) available from  
2:30 to 3:30 – max 30



### Agenda

9:30 AM – 9:35 AM

Michelle Gonzales, CFM – LFMA Chair

Welcoming Address

9:35 AM – 10:05 AM

Jeanne Hornsby, Fenstermaker

Execution through Public Private Partnerships

10:05 AM – 10:35 AM

Jack Young, Halff Associates

BLE Data Uses

10:35 AM – 11:35 AM

ASFPM

Flood Science Center Resources

11:35 AM – 11:55 AM

Break / Refreshments

11:55 AM – 12:25 PM

Monica Farris, UNO Chart &  
Carol Friedland, LSU

CRS / Freeboard

12:25 PM – 12:55 PM

Bryant Hammett

Pecan Acres Relocation

12:55 PM – 1:25 PM

Gilbert Giron Jr.

Risk Rating 2.0 Updates

1:25 PM – 1:30 PM

Michelle Gonzales, CFM – LFMA Chair

Closing Remarks

### Reminders

#### Upcoming LFMA Workshops:

**December 10, 2021**

Decisions will be made by end of October if workshops will be virtual or in person.

#### Upcoming CFM Exam Dates:

**October 1 – Ouachita & Jefferson**

Register at:

<https://www.floods.org/certification-program-cfm/getting-certified/cfm-exam-offerings/>