

Fall Floodplain Institute

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS



PROGRAM

20th Annual Fall Floodplain Institute
October 14 - 16, 2026
Asheville, NC

Tuesday, October 13

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM NCAFP Board Meeting (*Dogwood*)

Wednesday, October 14

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Vendor Exhibit Setup (*Biltmore Foyer*)

12:30 – 1:45 PM Registration (*Laurel Registration Area*)

1:45 – 3:15 PM **PLENARY SESSION 1: OPENING** (*Ballroom – Pilot/Pisgah/ Roan/ Mitchel*)
Master of Ceremonies: Mike Robinson, CFM (NCAFP Chair) [15]

Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].

Welcome to FFI: Mike Robinson, CFM (NCAFP Chair) [10]

Welcome to Asheville: Amanda Edwards, BOC [10]

ASFPM/CFM/Chapter Update: Bill Tingle, CFM (NCAFP Executive Director) and Jessica Venable, CFM (ASFPM Chapter Director) [15]

Scholarship Program: Dan Tomczak, CFM, PE (NCAFP Vice Chair) [10]

NCEM & Geodetic Update: Steve Garrett (NCEM) [30]

3:15 – 3:45 PM **BREAK – Refreshments** (*Biltmore Foyer*)

3:45 – 5:15 PM **PLENARY SESSION 2: STATEWIDE UPDATES** (*Ballroom – Pilot/Pisgah/ Roan/ Mitchel*)
Moderator:

Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Resiliency Update: Kurt Golembesky [30]

North Carolina Commerce Update: Maggie Battaglin [30]

North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Update: Steve McGugan, SHMO/Mitigation Section Chief, Jason Pleasant (NCEM) [30]

5:15 – 5:45 PM Registration (*Laurel Registration Area*)

5:30 – 7:00 PM Exhibitors' Social – Refreshments (*Biltmore Foyer*)

7:00 – Until Dinner on your Own

9:00 – 11:00 PM Hospitality Suite Open (*Room 220 Thomas Wolfe Suite*)

Thursday, October 15

7:00 – 10:30 AM	Registration (<i>Laurel Registration Area</i>)		
7:00 – 8:30 AM	Morning Meet and Greet - (<i>Biltmore Foyer</i>)		
8:30 – 10:00 AM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	PLENARY SESSION 3: STATEWIDE UPDATES (<i>Ballroom – Pilot/Pisgah/ Roan/ Mitchel</i>) Moderator: State Resiliency Update: <i>Holly White (NCDEQ) [45]</i> Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV Update: <i>Valerie Anderson, CFM (Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist, Floodplain Management, and Insurance Branch) [45]</i>		
10:00 – 10:30 AM	BREAK – Refreshments (<i>Biltmore Foyer</i>)		
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	1-A Technical Session (<i>Pilot/Pisgah Room</i>) Moderator: One <i>Building Resilience In Action</i> Ryan Cox (Insight)[30] Two <i>More Than a Culvert: Turning Flood Control into Community Connection</i> Lydia Ward (Freese)[30] Three <i>EMA Updates for Local Governments Acquiring Flood-Prone Property</i> Taylor Morris (UNC Chapel-Hill)[30]	1-B General Session (<i>Roan/ Mitchel</i>) Moderator: One <i>Positioning Natural Floodplain Management in Southern Appalachia</i> Tyler Sammis (American Rivers)[30] Two <i>The First Line of Flood Defense Isn't a Permit: It's Better Community Decision-Making</i> Ashli Barefoot (Insight)[30] Three <i>Flood Risk Reduction in the Rocky Branch Watershed</i> Andrew Martin (ESP Associates)[30]	1-C Field (<i>Dogwood</i>)
12:00 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH BUFFETT INCLUDED (<i>Buffet Biltmore Foyer</i>) (<i>Pilot/Pisgah/ Roan/ Mitchel</i>)		
1:30 – 3:00 PM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	2-A Technical Session (<i>Pilot/Pisgah Room</i>) Moderator: One <i>Frameworks for Resilience: Re-imagining Opportunities After Hurricane Helene</i> Mike Robinson (Summit Design) Two <i>One Piece in the Larger Puzzle of Recovery – Acquisition after Hurricane Helene</i> Corey Barber (NCDPS)[30] Three <i>ASCE 24 and the National Flood Insurance Program: Key ASCE 24-24 Provisions Aligned with CRS Activity 430, Higher Regulatory Standards</i> Melissa Mitchell (Tetra Tech)[30]	2-B General Session (<i>Roan/ Mitchel</i>) Moderator: One <i>From Recovery to Resilience: Rebuilding Lake Lure After Hurricane Helene Through Strategic Funding and Floodplain Informed Infrastructure Planning</i> Jennifer Davis [30] Two <i>A True Tale of Ten Tasks: Gastonia's Approach for Developing a Data-Driven Stormwater Management Strategy</i> Neal Banerjee (Freese)[30] Three <i>Transitioning FIMAN from 1D to 2D: A Case Study in Lumberton, NC</i> Ethan Everett (ESP Associates)[30]	2-C CFM Review (<i>Dogwood</i>) Facilitator: Steve Garrett, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator (NCEM)
3:00 – 3:30 PM	BREAK – Refreshments (<i>Biltmore Foyer</i>)		

Thursday, October 15 (cont.)

3:30 – 5:00 PM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	3-A Technical Session (Pilot/Pisgah Room) Moderator: One A Hybrid Physics-AI Framework for Basin-Scale Hurricane Flood Modeling and Rapid Urban Flood Prediction Yared Gebregziabher (NC A&T State)[30] Two Hazard Mitigation Planning Carl Baker (NCDPS)[30] Three So... It's Time to Update the Plans Again? Lessons from North Carolina's Statewide Local Mitigation Plan Updates Nathan Slaughter (ESP Associates)[30]	3-B General Session (Roan/ Mitchel) Moderator: One HMGP OMG Nathan Pennington (Buncombe County)[30] Two Applying the North Carolina Resilient Communities Planning Guide in Swannanoa Nicole Goddard (NCDEQ)[30] Three ASCE North Carolina Infrastructure Report Card Updates Chas Webb (Raleigh)[30]	3-C CFM Review (Dogwood)
6:00 – 11:45 PM	Downtown Shuttle Provided by Young Transportation bus leaves from Crowne Plaza Main Entrance to Asheville River Arts District & South Slope then back to Crown Plaza. Shuttle runs a continuous loop until 11:45. RIDERS MUST HAVE THEIR FFI NAME TAG VISABLE TO BOARD THE BUS		
7:30 – 11:00 PM	Hospitality Suite Open (Room 220 Thomas Wolfe Suite)		

Friday, October 16

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration (Laurel Registration Area)		
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Morning Meet and Greet - (Biltmore Foyer)		
8:30 – 10:00 AM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	4-A Technical Session (Pilot/Pisgah Room) Moderator: One After Helene: How Disaster Data Analysis is Shaping Policy and Mitigation Action in Henderson County, NC Stephen Julka (Fernleaf) [30] Two [Where is the Road? The Creation and Maintenance of NCDOT LiDar Road Ribbon Kurt Golembesky (NCDOT)[30] Three Beyond the Dam: Adapting Hazard Creep Monitoring for Any Flood Zone Dave Michelson (UNCA)[30]	4-B General Session (Roan/ Mitchel) Moderator: One Advancing Flood Resilience with the French Broad River Basin Action Strategy Melanie Lander (NCDEQ)[30] Two Landslide Philip Prince [30] Three Major Changes: Community Response to Future Hazard Risks After a Disaster Shannon Capezzali (Buncombe County) [30]	4-C CFM Exam (Dogwood) 8:30 – 11:30 AM [3 hr] Proctor: Bill Tingle, CFM Melonee Brock, CFM

10:00 – 10:30 AM	BREAK – Refreshments (<i>Biltmore Foyer</i>)		
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	PLENARY SESSION 4: CLOSING PLENARY (<i>Ballroom – Pilot/Pisgah/ Roan/ Mitchel</i>) Moderator: North Carolina GROW Update: [30] Prize Giveaways (Must be Present to Win!): <i>Mike Robinson</i> [30]		

2026 Fall Floodplain Institute Presenters and Moderators

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