

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)

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)* [15]

Scholarship Program/Student Chapter: *Dan Tomczak, CFM, PE (NCAFP Vice Chair), Holly White* [15]

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV Update: *Valerie Anderson, CFM (Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist, Floodplain Management, and Insurance Branch)* [40]

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 Commerce-Community Revitalization Update: *Maggie Battaglin* [30]

North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) Update: *Steve McGugan, SHMO/Mitigation Section Chief with Gary Thompson, PLS; Carl Baker, CFM; Tom Langan, PE, CFM; and Steve Garrett, CFM* [30]

NCEM-Hazard Mitigation Building Successful Grant Applications: *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 Climate Office: Tim Glotfelty (NCSU) DEQ State Resiliency Update: Blueprint, Stu Brown; State Resilience Office, Gian Tavares (NCDEQ) [30] North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Resiliency Update: Kurt Golembesky, PE, CFM [30]		
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 (<i>Insight</i>) [30] Two <i>More Than a Culvert: Turning Flood Control into Community Connection</i> Lydia Ward (<i>Freese</i>)[30] Three <i>EMA Updates for Local Governments Acquiring Flood-Prone Property</i> Taylor Morris (<i>UNC Chapel-Hill</i>)[30]	1-B General Session (<i>Roan/ Mitchel</i>) Moderator: One <i>Positioning Natural Floodplain Management in Southern Appalachia</i> Tyler Sammis (<i>American Rivers</i>) [30] Two <i>The First Line of Flood Defense Isn't a Permit: It's Better Community Decision-Making</i> Ashli Barefoot (<i>Insight</i>) [30] Three <i>Flood Risk Reduction in the Rocky Branch Watershed</i> Andrew Martin (<i>ESP Associates</i>) [30]	1-C Field (<i>Dogwood</i>) One <i>Biltmore Cottage Variance: MEETING POINT</i> [30]
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 (<i>Summit Design</i>) Two <i>One Piece in the Larger Puzzle of Recovery – Acquisition after Hurricane Helene</i> Corey Barber (<i>NCDPS</i>) [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 (<i>Tetra Tech</i>) [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 (<i>Freese</i>)[30] Three <i>Transitioning FIMAN from 1D to 2D: A Case Study in Lumberton, NC</i> Ethan Everett (<i>ESP Associates</i>) [30]	2-C Special Session (<i>Dogwood</i>) One <i>Practitioner Voices for Statewide Impact: A collaborative Session on Improving North Carolina's Flood Resilience</i> Gian Tavares (NCDEQ), Holly White (NCDEQ) [60]

3:00 – 3:30 PM	BREAK – Refreshments (<i>Biltmore Foyer</i>)
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Thursday, October 15 (cont.)

3:30 – 5:00 PM Note: Duration of individual presentations is in brackets [].	3-A Technical Session <i>(Pilot/Pisgah Room)</i> Moderator: One <i>A Hybrid Physics-AI Framework for Basin-Scale Hurricane Flood Modeling and Rapid Urban Flood Prediction</i> <i>Yared Gebregziabher (NC A&T State) [30]</i> Two <i>Hazard Mitigation Planning</i> <i>Carl Baker (NCDPS) [30]</i> Three <i>So... It's Time to Update the Plans Again? Lessons from North Carolina's Statewide Local Mitigation Plan Updates</i> <i>Nathan Slaughter (ESP Associates) [30]</i>	3-B General Session <i>(Roan/ Mitchel)</i> Moderator: One <i>HMGP OMG</i> <i>Nathan Pennington (Buncombe County) [30]</i> Two <i>Applying the North Carolina Resilient Communities Planning Guide in Swannanoa</i> <i>Nicole Goddard (NCDEQ)[30]</i> Three <i>ASCE North Carolina Infrastructure Report Card Updates</i> <i>Chas Webb (Raleigh)[30]</i>	3-C CFM Review <i>(Dogwood)</i> Facilitator: <i>Steve Garrett, CFM, State NFIP Coordinator (NCEM)</i>
6:00 – 11:45 PM	Downtown Shuttle Provided buses leave 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 (<i>Room 220 Thomas Wolfe Suite</i>)		

Friday, October 16

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

2026 Fall Floodplain Institute Presenters and Moderators

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