



Table of Contents

- ◇ [Community Rating System Corner](#) 2
- ◇ [DCR State Flood Hazard Management News](#) 3
- ◇ [Floodplain Management Culture Corner](#) 4
- ◇ [massFM March Lunch & Learn](#) 5
- ◇ [Job Postings, Notices, and Announcements](#) 5
- ◇ [Our Sponsors](#) 6

Massachusetts Association for Floodplain Management (massFM)

We educate, promote, & inform on practices related to floodplain management.

We welcome and encourage readers to send us notices of training and other events, articles or other contributions to share with others in our community.

Please visit our website at www.massFM.org for additional articles and resources, and to sign up to receive future editions via email.

Contact: massfloodplain@gmail.com

Community Rating System Corner A Handy Place to Stay Current on CRS Matters

Written by Shannon Hulst, CFM

Contribution by Sarah Morgan Mardon, CRS Specialist, Verisk. Facilitated by Shannon Hulst, Floodplain Specialist and CRS Coordinator, Barnstable County and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant

We use this issue of the CRS Corner to welcome our new CRS Specialist for the region, Sarah Morgan Mardon. Below, Sarah tells us more about herself. Welcome to New England, Sarah!

-Shannon Hulst

Sarah Morgan Mardon recently joined the Verisk team as a CRS specialist, residing in New England. She is the primary specialist conducting the cycle or verification visits for CRS communities in that region. Mardon supports communities with maintaining their CRS class rating and provides support for communities who are interested in a class improvement.

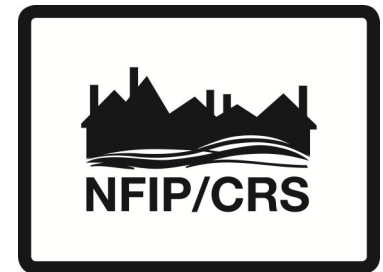
Prior to working for Verisk, Mardon was part of a floodplain management team for a local community in coastal South Carolina. While in that role, she reviewed elevation certificates and was involved with CRS related work. She also led an effort to reestablish a CRS workgroup in the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

In her previous positions over the past twenty years, Mardon has gained experience and skills that will help her support communities in the CRS program. Past professional work includes managing a research grant program, technical work in the field of geology, providing educational outreach for energy resources and collaborative opportunities for communities, grant writing, and serving in a communication and policy role.

Mardon is passionate about helping citizens and community leaders identify ways to improve their flood resilience and response efforts. She looks forward to working with you and may be contacted via email at sarah.mardon@verisk.com.

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary program within the National Flood Insurance Program that offers discounts on flood insurance in exchange for actions taken within a community that improve flood resilience. More information can be found at www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system and crsresources.org.

Shannon is the CRS & Floodplain Coordinator for Barnstable County through the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension & Woods Hole Sea Grant.



DCR Flood Hazard Management Program News

Written by Nadia Madden, CFM at the MA DCR Flood Hazard Management Program

Imagine a Massachusetts where our floodplains aren't just resilient, but healthy and thriving – a place where nature and communities flourish, even when the rains come. The Massachusetts Statewide Floodplain Management Framework is a collaborative network of entities concerned with coordinated flood loss reduction through strategies including flood hazard mitigation actions, restoration and protection of our floodplains, and examination of practices for improved stormwater management. In 2024, key agencies across the state came together to develop a shared future vision, mission, and goals. Inspired by initiatives such as the [Texas Flood Plan](#), the [Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance](#), and [Floodplains by Design](#) which began in Washington State, we are kicking off the next phase of work this spring, including an Integrated Floodplain Management audit. Integrated Floodplain Management (IFM) is a multi-disciplinary approach to managing floodplains that brings together multiple stakeholders, encourages agency collaboration, and seeks to achieve multiple floodplain benefits for people and nature. The audit will review MA's floodplain management and river/stream management policies and processes to determine how ready state agencies are for a statewide IFM strategy. Simultaneously, a facilitator has been engaged to guide the collaborative in refining its goals and objectives, building alignment across agencies for future flood and floodplain management planning efforts.

But that's not all! We're also committed to making sure *everyone* is protected from flooding. Our program has partnered with MAPC, Planning Communities, R.E.G. Solutions, and Weston & Sampson to conduct a statewide assessment of Flood Vulnerability in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. We've been talking with local officials, community leaders, and residents – everyone's voice matters! We've also conducted a statewide flooding survey and compiled existing maps and data from multiple sources giving us a much better picture of where and how floods are impacting vulnerable communities right now. This spring, we're excited to embark on the project's final phase: piloting the co-design of flood mitigation solutions in Brockton, Everett, and West Springfield. Want to hear more about this important work? Reach out to our office or come to our presentation at ASFPM in New Orleans this May! We'd love to share our progress and connect with you.

A significant development from Beacon Hill: [Section 125 of the November 2024 Climate Bill](#) establishes a crucial mandate for enhancing flood risk mapping in the Commonwealth. This legislation directs the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to undertake a comprehensive review of existing flood risk mapping resources. This review will serve as the foundation for a subsequent assessment of the need and feasibility of developing additional flood risk mapping resources. The goal is to identify vulnerable areas throughout the Commonwealth with greater precision. Furthermore, the EEA is tasked with formulating recommendations based on these findings. These recommendations will address any legislative or funding requirements necessary to implement enhanced flood risk mapping capabilities. The EEA must submit these recommendations to the legislature by August 18, 2025. This initiative represents a significant step towards improving our understanding of and preparedness for flood risks in Massachusetts.

Nadia is a Floodplain Management Specialist in the Flood Hazard Management Program at the MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR).

Floodplain Management Culture Corner

Your place to nerd out and expand your Flood Manager mind!

This audiogram on YouTube: [RNPN Stories of Resilience Voices that Inspire Audiogram Boston Food Forests from O Kriegman - YouTube](#) spotlights the **Boston Food Forest Coalition**. This coalition supports the innovative concept of food forests. These are public parks filled with edible plant life, which the community looks after and enjoys. Food forests serve a dual purpose. Not only do they provide fresh produce to community members, they also help build environmental resilience and mitigate flooding.

Support Hurricane Helene relief efforts by donating or buying art from the [River Arts District](#) in Asheville, NC! The [history](#) and development of this area into a thriving artists' community brings to mind many historic mill towns in New England that currently support art studio space and galleries.

Speaking of art and water, check out the EPA's [Artist-in Residence \(AIR\) Pilot Initiative](#), which invites artists and culture bearers to capture the community's connection with water. The Massachusetts Bays NEP/Mystic River Watershed UWFP is one of the Artist-in-Residence Partnership locations!

massFM Lunch & Learn

March Members Only Lunch & Learn - **SAVE THE DATE!**

Members only “Lunch & Learn” Meetings

Members only “Lunch & Learn” meetings will be held every other month on Thursdays at noon.

The scheduled speaker for the March 13, 2025 meeting had to withdraw due to a conflict and a new speaker is being scheduled. A notification will be sent out soon to announce the speaker and topic for March 13 Lunch & Learn meeting.

Job Postings, Notices, and Announcements

massFM Newsletter CALL FOR ARTICLES

Have an idea for an article for the next newsletter? Something flood-related that you experienced or observed? A flood event? A flood mitigation or community resiliency project? A policy or law? The massFM Spring Newsletter is scheduled to be published in May 2025, and we are seeking articles now! Please consider writing about a floodplain management-related topic that you may have direct experience with or have observed. Just about anything related will be considered for publication. Articles should be submitted by April 30, 2025. Send an email message to Nat Arai at nathaniel.arai@gza.com if you have questions or to submit an article.

2025 massFM Membership Drive

We hope this message finds you well, and that you’re staying warm as the New Year unfolds! We’re excited to announce the start of MassFM’s **2025 Membership Drive** and would love for you to join our growing community. **Here’s what you need to know about our 2025 membership:**

- Membership fee: \$50
- Benefits include:
 - ◆ Access to our **Members only Lunch & Learn Meetings**
 - ◆ Discounts for our **Annual Conference**
 - ◆ All 2025 memberships are valid until 12/31/2025.

Don’t miss the opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with us. Join a growing community! Click here to join: [Join MassFM Today!](https://massfm23.wildapricot.org/) If you have questions about your membership status or are unsure whether you’re currently a member, visit our membership page at <https://massfm23.wildapricot.org/>. Simply click “**Log In**” at the top-right corner of the page to check your membership status.

- You can check your membership status by logging in. If you don’t remember your password, enter your email address and click “**Forgot Password**” (see screenshot below) to reset it.
- If your membership has expired, you’ll see a message in the bottom right-hand corner of your screen that says “**Membership renewal overdue.**”

You can make your payment on the website using a credit card or by mailing a check to:

Massachusetts Association for Floodplain Management

PO Box 141

East Sandwich, MA 02537

Subject: 2025 Membership "YOUR NAME"

We look forward to welcoming you!

We would like to extend a Thank You to our Sponsors!



BECOMING A SPONSOR

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please download the sponsorship form by clicking [here](#) or contact us at massfloodplain@gmail.com

Our mission at massFM is to create a forum for the exchange of local knowledge about floodplain management, to share that knowledge with the public, to inform municipal and statewide policies and procedures, and to improve the Commonwealth's ability to mitigate flood hazards now and in the future. massFM strives to be inclusive across multiple disciplines, regardless of means. We welcome you to join us.