

# Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association 2023 Conference

Thursday, May 25, 2023 | 8:00 am-4:30 pm  
University of Rhode Island



**Theme: “Flooding, Public Perspective, and Disaster Reform”** – as flooding intensifies, public perception shifts and drives policy change

## Objectives:

- Discuss the current state of floodplain management at the national, regional, and local levels (current events, new initiatives, updates, etc.)
- Examine case studies of flood mitigation (lessons learned and best practices from projects and programs, etc.)
- Identify mechanisms of financing flood resilience (e.g., grants, insurance benefits, leveraging resources)
- Demonstrate efforts to adopt floodplain management regulations and legislation that exceed the minimums
- Assess innovative technology, tools and techniques for the planning, design and development (and redevelopment) of resilient communities
- Recognize effective outreach and engagement efforts that enhance awareness of flood resiliency and involve stakeholders in the decision-making process

## AGENDA (subject to change)

8:00 am **Registration and refreshments**

8:50 am **Welcoming Remarks** Leah Feldman | Chair of the RI Flood Mitigation Association

9:00 am **Opening Remarks** Senator Whitehouse

9:15 am **Charlotte County, FL: “Lessons Learned from Hurricane Ian”** Claire Jubb, AICP, CFM | Assistant County Administrator to Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners

10:00 am **Morning break and refreshments**

10:20 am **Session 1**

*Track A - “Communities in Action”  
15 minute presentations, with Q&A Panel*

**Common Fence Point Project: Adapting to Coastal Change**  
Jeff Prater & Nicole Gotovich | Common Fence Point Preparedness Committee

**Community Leadership in Action with WRWC’s New Voices/Nuevas Voces Program**  
Alicia Lehrer | Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Planning Project**  
Darrell Moore | NRCS - USDA

*Track B - “Digital Tool Showcase”  
15 minute presentations, with Q&A Panel*

**URI's Flood Hazard Modeling, Monitoring, and Visualization Systems**

Nathan Vinhateiro | URI

**Delineating High-Resolution Urban Drainage with Stormwater Infrastructure**

Peter Steeves | USGS

**Deepening Public Understanding of Flood Risks through a Climate Change Vulnerability Index**

Noah Slovin | SLR Consulting

12:00 pm **Lunch and networking**

12:45 pm **RIFMA Annual Membership Meeting**

1. *Annual overview*
2. *Treasurer's report*

1:15 pm **Session 2**

*Track C - "Resilient Design and Implementation"*  
*15 minute presentations, with Q&A Panel*

**Tanyard Brook Culvert Replacement Project**

Nicole Iannuzzi | BETA Group, Inc.

**The Pocasset River Plan: Hybrid Design Approaches for a Resilient Urban Watershed**

Andrea Judge, PE | Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

**Mitigating Flood Risks in an Inland Community**

Greg Avenia, PE, Courtney Eaton, PE, Kyle Johnson | Kleinfelder

*Track D - "Financing your Flood Mitigation Project"*  
*15 minute presentations, with Q&A Panel*

**NRCS-USDA Helps RI with Funding, Technical Assistance, and Finding Solutions for the Future as Climate Change Looms**

Darrell Moore | NRCS

**Funding for Climate Resilient Projects to Benefit Your Community**

Rae-Anne Culp | RI Emergency Planning Agency

**Grant Funding for Watershed Implementation Projects**

Tom Ardito & Ian Dombrowski | Southeast New England Program

2:00 pm **Afternoon break and refreshments**

2:30 pm **Session 3**

*Track E - "Assessing innovative floodplain management technologies"*  
*15 minute presentations, with Q&A Panel*

**Hydrodynamic separators and floodplain management ordinances & building codes to reduce flood risk**

Morgane Houssais | Clark University

**Fragility Analysis of Dunes Reinforced with Geosynthetic Sand Containers**

Christopher Baxter | URI

*Track F - "Navigating Federal Programs"*  
*15 minute presentations, with Q&A Panel*

**Integrating CRS into a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – Improving the Engagement Process: A Case Study using the Town of Westerly 2023 Hazard Mitigation & Flood Management Plan**

Kim Jacobs & Alyse Oziolor | Kim Jacobs Consultancy

**Benefit-Cost Analysis 101: Using FEMA BCA Toolkit**

Bin Wang | GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc.

**FFRMS - A New Approach to Flood Resilience**

Katie Rand | FEMA Region 1

3:15 Closing Remarks (Leah Feldman, RIFMA Chair)

3:30 Happy Hour  
*Student Poster Competition Results*  
*Board Photo*