



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

February 2005

Number 2

Spring Technical Workshops of the
Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

“The ABC’s of Floodplain Management” Action Based Commitment

in floodplain management issues are all invited to attend. The first session will be held in Lawton on Friday, March 4, 2005, at the Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 West Lee Boulevard in the Worley Seminar Center. The second session will be held in Tulsa on Friday, March 11, 2005, at the Tulsa Technology Center, Riverside Campus Facility, 801 E. 91st Street, in the Alliance and Conference Center Building.

“The ABC’s of Floodplain Management - Action Based Commitment” will include three sessions with expert presenters to detail basic and advanced aspects of Floodplain Management and the National Flood Insurance Program. Attendees are sure to come away with valuable information as well as an opportunity to meet with flood experts in a variety of fields.

This year’s Track 2 Breakout Session, *NFIP for Insurance Adjusters and Lenders* will be presented by FEMA’s Diana Herrera. This track is designed for professionals and staff associated with insurance agents, adjusters, mortgage loan officers, realtors, appraisers, as well as state and local officials. With Flood Insurance Month approaching, this session will be valuable for those seeking to understand recent changes in public policy and how the NFIP can benefit the insurance industry. Floodplain 101, presented by Jack Graham, FEMA, and Ken Morris will detail the basics of Floodplain Management. An assembly of specialist will detail various floodplain management issues in Track 3 including

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OFMA Strategic Plan Retreat

On January 20 & 21, 2005, the OFMA Board of Directors, Jack Graham, Vaunda Pendergraft, Laureen Gilroy, Bill Smith, Ron Flanagan, Joe Remondini & Ken Morris met in Tulsa to review the Association’s Strategic Plan. Mike Mathis, Board member and NFIP State Coordinator, facilitated this two-day, intense and very rewarding planning retreat. Mike kept the team on track and led the group in its review of the Strategic Plan and development of an updated plan to provide direction for the Association in the next few years.

A new Vision Statement was developed -- ***“The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training and service to Oklahomans”.*** Other accomplishments included preliminary work on a draft budget for the next year and development of action plans for each of the priority activities identified during the Strategic Plan retreat. Also, the Board voted to hold the 2006 Annual Conference at the University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education, in Norman, on September 18-20, 2006. Please plan now to attend the 2006 Annual Conference and watch the OFMA Web site and future issues of ***“The B.F.E.”*** for more information on the new Strategic Plan and 2006 Annual Conference.

OFMA Spring Technical Training			
March 4, 2005 – Lawton			
March 11, 2005 – Tulsa			
The ABC's of Floodplain Management			
Action Based Commitment			
	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
	Floodplain 101	NFIP for Insurance Adjusters and Lenders	Floodplain 202
8:00-8:30	Registration		
8:30-9:00	Flag Ceremony Welcome - Jim Coffey Opening Remarks - Mike Mathis		
9:00-10:00	Presenters – Jack Graham and Ken Morris	Presenter – Dorothy Martinez	RSDE – Lonnie Ward
10:00-10:15	Break		
10:15-11:15	FP101	Agent/Lender Training	RSDE (continued)
11:15-12:15	FP101	Agent/Lender Training	404 Permitting – Andy Commer
12:15-1:30	Lunch: Speaker Roy Hooper (Lawton), Charles Hardt (Tulsa)		
1:30-2:30	FP101	Agent/Lender Training	DEQ Drainage Regulations - Joe Don Willingham
2:30-3:30	FP101	Agent/Lender Training	Map Modernization – James Orwat
3:30-3:45	Break		
3:45-4:45	FP101	Agent/Lender Training	Inventory Structures in the Floodplain – Meshek
4:45-5:00	Closing – Door Prizes		

Phasing into Phase II: Storm Water Discharges From Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)



America's metro areas are the engines that drive this nation's economic success. The growth of metro economies depends on the viability of a community's resources. A clean environment and ample water supply is crucial to the future of every community.

Phase I cities have dealt with the Clean Water Act mandates for over a decade, commonly referred to as "Those Onerous Unfunded Mandates." Communities had to address long overlooked problems in their neighborhoods, industrial and commercial zones. Congress recognized that local governments could best manage local problems, in this case with a heavy nudge of penalties as an incentive for taking

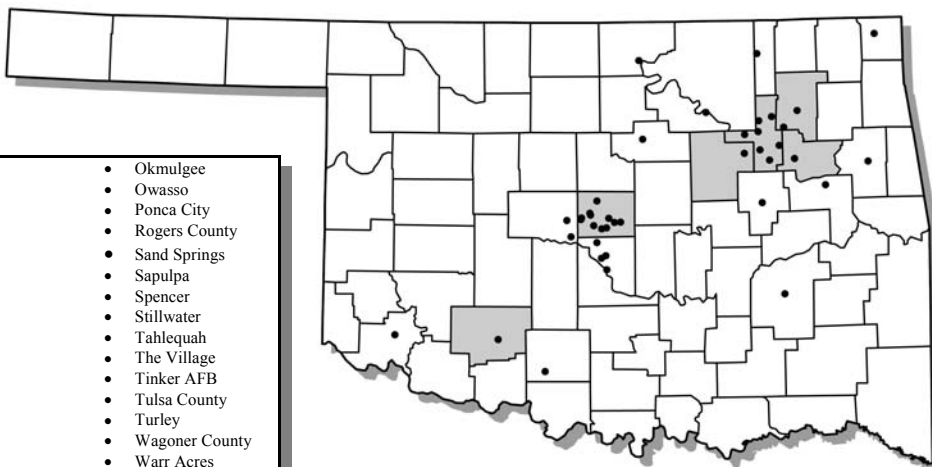
on what everyone understands as "doing the right thing." Properly implemented and managed programs have resulted in positive benefits for the economic future of many cities.

Now smaller communities have been given the responsibility of implementing similar programs. Phase II communities have an advantage; larger cities had to develop management plans in the early '90s without the abundance of guidance manuals and the Internet resources available today. Now there is a wealth of expertise and experience to draw upon to help each community design innovative approaches to the specific environmental problems each must acknowledge exists in their communities.

During a December public review stage, recommendations and comments were made in response to the Phase II Storm Water Permit. Various comments and questions pertaining to fees, assistance, reporting and responsibilities were submitted by various entities including INCOG, the City of Bartlesville and ODOT. Submitted comments and guidance to developing a storm water management program are now available on the ODEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/WQDnew/stormwater/ms4/>. Assistance with compliance is also available from the EPA at http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/munic.cfm?program_id=6. Listed below are Oklahoma's new towns, cities, counties, State and Federal Agencies designated as small MS4s, which are required to meet these permit regulations.

Gary Shockley, City of Oklahoma City

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| • Altus | • Lawton | • Okmulgee |
| • Bartlesville | • McAlester | • Owasso |
| • Bethany | • Miami | • Ponca City |
| • Bixby | • Midwest City | • Rogers County |
| • Broken Arrow | • Moore | • Sand Springs |
| • Catoosa | • Muskogee | • Sapulpa |
| • Choctaw | • Mustang | • Spencer |
| • Claremore | • Nichols Hills | • Stillwater |
| • Comanche County | • Nicoma Park | • Tahlequah |
| • Coweta | • Noble | • The Village |
| • Creek County | • Norman | • Tinker AFB |
| • Del City | • Oklahoma County | • Tulsa County |
| • Edmond | • Oklahoma | • Turley |
| • Fort Sill AB | • Department of | • Wagoner County |
| • Hall Park | • Transportation | • Warr Acres |
| • Jenks | • Oklahoma Turnpike | • Yukon |
| | • Authority (OTA) | |



Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFP www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEMA www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema
OEM www.odcem.state.ok.us
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
stsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **OFMA Spring Technical Workshops** March. 4 - Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton OK; March 11, 2005 - Tulsa Technology Center, Jenks, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **NFIP CRS E278 Training Class**; March 15-19, July 26-29, September 20-23, 2005, Contact Tom Hirt for more information at (301) 447-1062.
- **OWRB Floodplain Management 101 and 202 Workshops**
 May 3 – Tri County Technology Center, Bartlesville, OK
 May 5 – High Plains Technology Center, Woodward, OK
 May 10 – Lawton Public Library, Lawton, OK
 May 12 – Eastern Oklahoma College, McAlester, OK
 May 17 – Midwest City Public Library, Midwest City, OK
 Each workshop begins at 8:30 and ends at 4:00
- **NFIP National Flood Conference**; May 23-27, 2005, Marco Island, Florida. Contact: *Dorothy Martinez, Program Specialist, 158635 Park Ten Place, Suite 108, Houston, TX 77084*; for more information, call 281-829-6880; website: www.nfipregion6.com.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**; June 12-17, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: *ASFP Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120*; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; e-mail: asfp@floods.org; website: www.floods.org.
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference**; September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference**; September 18-20, 2006, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

OFMA 8th Legislative Reception

On February 15, 2005, numerous OFMA members visited the State Capitol to meet their State Representatives and Senators. As in the past few years, Jamil's Steakhouse of Oklahoma City catered the event and was a big hit with legislators and legislative staff. Chairman Jim Coffey of Bixby greeted Reception visitors along with Vice Chair Rex Hennen, Shawnee. Other OFMA leadership present to help meet and greet our State Legislators were Carolyn Schultz, Dan Cary, Vaunda Pendergraft, Dale Lasley, Dennis Woomavovah, Jeff Bigby, John Harrington, Ron Flanagan, Lynne Stevenson, Anna Waggoner, Mike Mathis, Duane Smith, Mike Melton and Ken Morris. About 310 visitors met OFMA members and signed the OFMA Reception Guest Book.

Senator Jonathan Nichols, District 15 Norman, will author Senate Bill 932 to repeal Section 1618 of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act and Representative Thad Balkman, District 45 Norman, will be the House Author of this bill. This bill would simply clean up the Act and put each NFIP community on the same level.

OFMA thanks Greg Gawry of Jamil's for hosting our Reception another year. Good job OFMA.

(Continued from page 1)

presentations from Lonnie Ward, FEMA, on the Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE); Andy Commer, USACE, on 404 Permitting; Joe Don Willingham, ODEQ, on DEQ Drainage Regulations, James Orwat, FEMA, on Map Modernization and Chris Hill of Meshek & Associates, Inc. on Using GIS to Inventory Structures in the Floodplain.



Your registration fee will include materials, lunch, and refreshments during breaks. To insure adequate food will be provided, it is important that all registration forms are completed and returned by March 1, 2005. Following the plenary and breakout sessions, an exciting list of door prizes will be given away and as always, those in attendance will receive Continuing Education Credits to satisfy their certification requirements.

Remember, OFMA encourages Mayors and City Managers to attend with their local floodplain managers. This is an excellent opportunity for them to hear how valuable floodplain managers are to the administration of local governments and what a special and technical profession floodplain management really is.

To register, fill out and return the registration form supplemented with the newsletter. Be sure to include the registration fee. We look forward to seeing you there!



Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

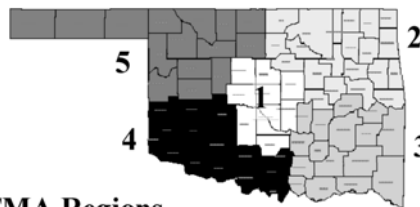
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:
OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

___ Mitigation

___ Mapping and Engineering

___ Education/Legislative

___ Certification

___ Conference

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Mike Mathis NFIP State Coordinator Comments

It is an exciting time in Oklahoma floodplain management as we launch new and extremely challenging programs. Regarding map modernization, my staff and I have been spending a significant amount of time determining the best approach to updating the state's floodplain maps. Of specific concern are several counties in the NFIP that have no flood map and several communities with limited hydrologic and hydraulic information. We are currently evaluating existing resources and developing a detailed priority list upon which to focus our activities.

On the heels of a new state law, the Water Board is also developing rules to accredit Oklahoma's floodplain administrators. We have been meeting with and obtaining guidance from members of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, Oklahoma Municipal League and Association of County Commissioners to ensure that our floodplain officials receive adequate and sufficient training to achieve our mutual flood loss reduction goals. We will have more information on these rules in the near future.

In January, I had the pleasure of facilitating the first OFMA Strategic Planning Retreat at Post Oak Lodge in Tulsa. The Board of Directors and other OFMA leaders met for two days of intense program review and soul-searching regarding the overall mission of the organization. Jack Graham, of FEMA, was an enormous help in this process. Vaunda Pendergraft, OFMA Education Chair, is compiling results of the retreat and will soon release a draft Strategic Plan for review and input by OFMA members. Particularly valuable results of the retreat were development of an OFMA Value Statement and new Vision Statement, both available at www.okflood.org.

I want to encourage all floodplain administrators, private partners and others involved in floodplain management to attend one of the OFMA Spring Technical Workshops in Lawton on March 4 or in Tulsa on March 11. Details about these important training opportunities are available on OFMA's Web site. Ken Morris, Jack Graham and Hank Elling will host the standard Floodplain Management 101 course. Also, Chris Hill of Meshek & Associates, Inc. will be explaining how a community can inventory its structures located in the special flood hazard areas using GIS. And Diana Herrera will lead one break out session for lenders, insurance agents, real estate professionals and adjusters.

Good luck and let's work together to protect our floodplain resource.

OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA

P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	15.00
Insulated Mug	10.00
Umbrella	20.00
Portfolio	25.00
Lapel Pin	3.00
CFM Lapel Pin	5.00

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.



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405 524-3700 fax

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Carter & Burgess, Inc.

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Ft. Worth, TX 76101-2058
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Cinnabar Service Company

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Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

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Change Service Requested

February 2005

Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2004-2005

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The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.



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April 2005

Number 3



Governor Brad Henry has Proclaimed May Flood Awareness Month

Because spring marks the unofficial beginning of the state's flood season and to make citizens aware of flooding problems and solutions, Governor Brad Henry has designated May as "Flood Awareness Month" in Oklahoma. As an integral part of Oklahoma's spring flood awareness campaign, the OWRB, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management are sponsoring five one-day workshops throughout the state to update city and county floodplain administrators on NFIP compliance requirements and provide assistance in the development, administration and enforcement of

local flood damage prevention ordinances that guide floodplain development.

These workshops have been redesigned to provide training from basic floodplain management to more advanced material on federal programs and floodplain management issues. Look forward to experienced and dedicated professional instructors along with updated materials and textbooks to provide you with the best workshops to date. At the completion of each workshop, each attendee will be accredited 6 Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) to be put toward maintaining your CFM status. If you are not a CFM, become eligible now by submitting the proper materials to become a Certified Floodplain Manager and take the exam that will be offered at the conclusion of each workshop! There is no registration fee for the workshops. Sign up today!

OWRB Region 1 Floodplain Management Workshop

May 17 2005
Midwest City
Titan Room-Midwest City
Community Center
NE Corner of Midwest &
Reno
405-530-8800

OWRB Region 2 Floodplain Management Workshop

May 3 2005
Bartlesville
Cherokee-Delaware Room
Tri County Technology
Center
6101 SE Nowata Road
405-530-8800

OWRB Region 3 Floodplain Management Workshop

May 12 2005
McAlester
Eastern Oklahoma College
405-530-8800

OWRB Region 4 Floodplain Management Workshop

May 10 2005
Lawton
Public Library
110 SW 4th
580-355-6371

OWRB Region 5 Floodplain Management Workshop

May 5 2005
Woodward
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OFMA Award Nominations

It is time to begin considering nominations for this year's OFMA awards. These awards are an exciting way to publicly recognize the achievements of those involved with exceptional floodplain management activities within the last year. Each year, OFMA presents awards at the Annual Fall Conference to honor those who have made exemplary contributions to floodplain management in Oklahoma. If you are aware of someone exhibiting distinctive actions in promoting floodplain awareness, reducing flood losses, or advancing the goals of OFMA, please make this the year they are formally recognized for their contributions to our State. Awards to be offered include the Floodplain Manager of the Year, the Public Official of the Year, the Special Recognition Award, the W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award, the Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award, the Ben Frizzell Media Award, the Scholarship Award, and the Silver Scoop Project Award. Nomination forms and information on qualifications for each award can be found at the OFMA website, www.okflood.org and should be submitted to the OFMA Awards Committee.

IS YOUR FLOODPLAIN MANAGER CERTIFIED?

What follows is an announcement that will help your community make the most of YOUR participation in the National Flood Insurance Program...

In the early 1990's, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, was facing probation (by FEMA) for failing to comply with their obligations under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). City staff attended courses sponsored by the State and FEMA and became knowledgeable about floodplain management and their community's responsibilities as a participant of the NFIP. Mount Pleasant is now not only in good standing with the NFIP, but it is an active participant in the Community Rating System, thus reducing flood insurance premiums by policy holders in town.



Mount Pleasant is only one of hundreds of cases that have demonstrated how well trained staff pays off. As a result, floodplain development is closely regulated; flood losses reduced, property owners better protected, State & Federal program compliance achieved and residents enjoy lower insurance premiums.

How do you know if your staff is adequately prepared for the job?

The best way to know your staff is competent is to encourage them to become Certified Floodplain Managers (**CFMs**[®]). Only with adequate training and education in reading flood maps, NFIP requirements, how to develop wisely in flood hazard areas, how to administer & enforce floodplain management regulations, & map revisions, can a person pass the rigorous, three hour, certification exam.

In order to maintain their certification, they must attend classes, workshops or home study courses to keep **CFMs**[®] up to date on new approaches, standards and programs for their community.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) established the Certified Floodplain Manager Program in 1999. The emphasis of the Program is on knowing the fundamentals of flood mapping, managing floodplain development, national and state standards, and how to apply them to a locally administered program. **CFMs**[®] have been defined as people "*who know their stuff.*" Later in 1999, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association applied to ASFPM to become accredited by them for OFMA members. OFMA was the first state association in the nation to become accredited by ASFPM and now has 192 CFMs.

To become a **CFM**[®], a person should study the basics of floodplain management. These are found in courses conducted by FEMA, ASFPM, state associations, and state NFIP coordinating agencies. The best single reference is the material used for FEMA's course Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (IS-9), which can be downloaded through a link on the ASFPM website (www.floods.org).



When a person is ready, he or she applies to take the exam, which is offered many times throughout the year at locations around the country, often in conjunction with a state training program or conference, which prepares the person for the exam. The exam covers the gamut of topics that a local administrator needs to know. Application forms are available on the OFMA website (www.okflood.org).

Continuing education is necessary to maintain **CFM**[®] status and to continue to effectively serve his or her community. Credits for this continuing education can be obtained by attending training, workshops/technical conferences or by completing graded home study courses. CECs can also be obtained through web based training courses offered by our Partner, RedVector.com[®]. ASFPM Members receive a discount when they link to RedVector.com[®] through the ASFPM website and use the ASFPM reference code. **CFMs**[®] must provide verification for completing continuing education

(Continued on page 4)

2005 OFMA Spring Technical Training Wrap-Up

Flood Insurance Month has concluded with another successful year of OFMA Spring Technical Conferences. 2005 OFMA Chair Jim Coffey welcomed attendees at both Lawton and Tulsa. A collection of guest speakers from all government levels and the private sector covered basic and advanced topics in floodplain management as well as more progressive material regarding State and Federal Programs that floodplain administrator's regularly oversee. During the lunch break, attendees were provided a meal and delighted to special guest speakers, District 64 State Representative Mr. Roy Hooper of Lawton and Mr. Charles Hardt, Public Works Director from the City of Tulsa.



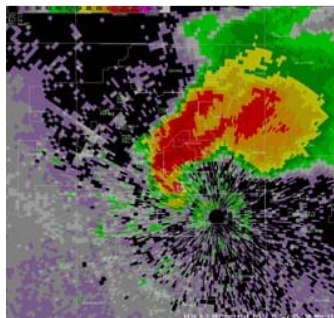
Attendees present had their choice of two Track Sessions to choose from at each conference location. Jack Graham of FEMA and Ken Morris presented Floodplain 101 in Track 1. Track 2, entitled Floodplain 202, included an array of speakers including RSDE training by Lonnie Ward of FEMA, 404 Permitting by Andy Commer of the Army Corps of Engineers, DEQ Drainage Regulations by Joe Don Willingham of the ODEQ, Map Modernization by James Orwat of FEMA and GIS Floodplain Structure Inventorying by Chris Hill of Meshek & Associates, Inc.

OFMA would like to thank those members, presenters and guest who have contributed to the success of each Spring Technical Training event.

Good News for HMGP Recipients: On April 14th, Congress passed and sent to the President a bill stating that disaster mitigation funds are not taxable as income. The measure (H.R. 1134) is fully retroactive. The president indicated that he would sign the bill on April 15th, the federal tax filing date. ASFPM has been actively informing members of Congress about the negative impact the IRS ruling has had on the nation's ability to reduce disaster costs and flood damages. Help get the word out!

Preparing for bad weather can keep your family safe

Each year, the United States sees about 1,000 tornadoes on average. The peak time for them is April and May, but they can occur the rest of the year. Last year, a record number of tornadoes swept through the country, surpassing the previous record by almost 300, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Storm Prediction Center in Norman. NOAA counted 1,717. That topped the 1998 record of 1,424 and 1,368 in 2003. Despite that record, storm-related fatalities were limited to 35.



You are most at risk during tornadoes if you are in a car or in a mobile home. But you're also not safe if you live in a home on a concrete foundation, unless you know where to go once a funnel touches down. "Everyone in your family has to know where to go and how to get there quickly", said Bob Roberts, senior coordinator for planning and preparedness at the American Red Cross' Tulsa chapter. That safe place should be the interior of your house on the lowest floor and away from windows.

Roberts said a family must prepare a home tornado plan and assemble a disaster supplies kit, complete with first-aid supplies, food, water, battery-powered radio and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water. Roberts said families also need to help neighbors who may not understand tornado warnings due to a language barrier and those

who have physical or mental impairments. On www.tulsaredcross.org, storm information is available in Spanish, Vietnamese and Russian.

More and more families are installing safe rooms in their new homes or during renovations to their existing homes, Roberts said. Safe rooms cost about \$4,000. He's also seen more families buying NOAA weather radios, which cost \$49 and up. "We wouldn't think of having a house without a smoke alarm," he said. "A weather radio will help with warning information. A lot of people rely on the storm sirens, but the sirens weren't made to be heard inside the house with kids. You need to have a way to warn yourself in your house. Even the best plan in the world doesn't matter if you don't know a tornado is coming." Roberts said his office still receives calls about community storm shelters. "For the most part, if you are in the home that is where you need to stay," he said. He also suggested that people should know the emergency plans for their children's schools, as well as their work place. "Tornados are very unfriendly creatures and don't always happen when everyone is together," he said.

The American Red Cross has branch offices in Ponca City, Muskogee, Claremore, Okmulgee, Drumright and Sapulpa. Each has disaster safety information and first-aid classes available. For more information, call 831-1100 or go to www.tulsaredcross.org.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFP www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEMA www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema
OEM www.odcem.state.ok.us
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
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Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **OWRB Floodplain Management 101 and 202 Workshops**
 May 3 – Tri County Technology Center, Bartlesville, OK
 May 5 – High Plains Technology Center, Woodward, OK
 May 10 – Lawton Public Library, Lawton, OK
 May 12 – Eastern Oklahoma College, McAlester, OK
 May 17 – Midwest City Public Library, Midwest City, OK
 Each workshop begins at 8:30 and ends at 4:00
- **NFIP National Flood Conference**; May 23-27, 2005, Marco Island, Florida. Contact: *Dorothy Martinez, Program Specialist, 158635 Park Ten Place, Suite 108, Houston, TX 77084*; for more information, call 281-829-6880; website: www.nfipregion6.com.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**; June 12-17, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: *ASFP Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120*; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; e-mail: asfpm@floods.org; website: www.floods.org.
- **EWRI 2005 Watershed Management Conference**; July 19-22, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: *ASCE/2005 Watershed Management P.O. Box 79668, Baltimore, MD; 21279-0668* (703)-295-6300
- **3rd National Floodproofing Conference**; September 12-16, 2005, Charleston, WV. Contact: *Wallace A. Wilson email: wallaceawilson@earthlink.net*; website: www.floods.org.
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference**; September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference**; September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

(Continued from page 2)

for the one - year renewal period, thus demonstrating their continuing competency in handling their community's floodplain program.

Today the CFM® Program boasts over 2,300 certified professionals nationwide. Employers of these CFMs® are now reaping the rewards of having staff that "know their stuff". Some communities have received additional credit under the NFIP Community Rating System. Other communities report they have less trouble with the construction industry because the staff is able to clearly explain the process and requirements of the local floodplain regulations.

The CFM® Program has become an integral part of floodplain management around the country. In the state of New Mexico, it is a state law that a CFM® administers a community's floodplain regulations, which are adopted to meet community obligations under the NFIP. Also, in Arkansas & Oklahoma, state law requires local floodplain administrators to become accredited by obtaining continuing education credits.

For more information, contact:

Joe Remondini, CFM, P.E.

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Publication of NAI Real World Case Studies Released

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has recently released a new publication highlighting model floodplain management programs applying *No Adverse Impact (NAI)* approaches in communities around the nation. The publication, entitled *No Adverse Impact Floodplain Management: Community Case Studies*, illustrates how real local governments have used NAI principles in designing their floodplain management programs. Each case study discusses specific adverse impacts targeted by the community, activities supporting the NAI, methods used in generating public support and contact information. For each case study, a specific NAI technique utilized by each community is highlighted. The case studies include:

Building Block (or other technique)	Community
Hazard Identification & Mapping	Charlotte/ Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Education & Outreach	Orange County, Florida
Planning	Maricopa County, Arizona
Regulations & Development Standards	Fort Collins, Colorado
Mitigation	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Infrastructure	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Emergency Services	Austin, Texas
Integrated Management Techniques	Portland, Oregon
A Small Town's Approach	South Holland, Illinois
Coastal Management	Southern Shores, North Carolina
Habitat-based Watershed Planning	Thurston County, Washington

The new publication can be viewed and downloaded from the Association of State Floodplain Managers website at: http://www.floods.org/PDF/NAI_Case_Studies.pdf or purchased as a printed copy for \$10 each. Contact the ASFPM Executive Office at (608) 274-0123.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

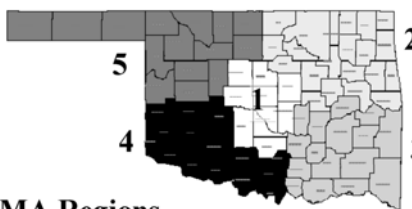
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

___ Mitigation

___ Mapping and Engineering

___ Education/Legislative

___ Certification

___ Conference

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

To assist in publicizing and promoting the benefits of flood insurance, Governor Brad Henry proclaimed March 2005 as Flood Insurance Month in Oklahoma where only 12 percent of the homes in the floodplain have a flood insurance policy. If flooded, these homes will not be covered by a standard homeowner's policy and thus will receive no insurance benefits. Because most flood disasters in Oklahoma occur 11 days either side of Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May and it requires 30 days before most flood insurance policies go into effect, now is the time to seek protection through purchase of a flood policy.

As Oklahoma's most frequent month for flooding disasters, The Honorable Brad Henry has proclaimed May Flood Awareness Month. Please begin a flood awareness campaign in your community and Proclaim May as Flood Awareness Month in your City, Town, Tribe or County. By "*Getting The Word Out*" you can help us achieve our mutual goals of flood loss reduction. The Governor's May Proclamation is available on the OFMA web site at www.okflood.org. As an integral part of the OWRB's flood awareness campaign, we are hosting 10 daylong workshops throughout the state to update city and county floodplain administrators on NFIP compliance requirements as well as provide assistance in the development, administration and enforcement of local floodplain management regulations that guide floodplain development.

New training textbooks will be provided to workshop participants and the certified floodplain manager (CFM) exam will be offered to pre-approved candidates at the close of each training day. There is no registration fee for the workshops, which will feature speakers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and RD Flanagan and Associates. Workshop dates and locations are May 3, Bartlesville; May 5, Woodward; May 10, Lawton; May 12, McAlester; and May 17, Midwest City.

In addition to our standard introductory *Floodplain Management 101* classes, including administration and enforcement of the basic NFIP program, for the first time we will offer *Floodplain Management 202* workshops to serve the professional development and continuing education credit (CEC) needs of Oklahoma's floodplain officials. These workshops, developed as a result of past years' class evaluations and requests for more advanced training, include training on No Adverse Impact, Map Modernization, Hazard Mitigation, Cooperating Technical Partners, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Stormwater Management and Floodproofing. I want to thank Joe Remondini for agreeing to host these 202 Workshops as well as guest instructors, consultant Ron Flanagan, Connie Dill, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Andy Commer, and DEQ staff. Also, it is my pleasure to inform you, OWRB has partnered with the Corps of Engineers Floodplain Management Program to assist FEMA and OWRB with Oklahoma's MAP MOD program. Please watch for more information on this in future articles.

Please keep an eye out for your workshop invitation and registration. Also, you can register on line at www.owrb.state.ok.us for the May workshops. I strongly encourage all floodplain officials in Oklahoma to attend a session held in your region. Attending one of these workshops will enable you to become accredited by OWRB in accordance to State Law. This is one important way in which we can, both individually and together, work to improve floodplain management in Oklahoma. See you there.

OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	15.00
Insulated Mug	10.00
Umbrella	20.00
Portfolio	25.00
Lapel Pin	3.00
CFM Lapel Pin	5.00
Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.	



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April 2005

Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2004-2005

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The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

July 2005

Number 4



“The Challenge Continues” at the 15th Annual OFMA Conference

OFMA’s 15th Annual Conference is gearing up to be one of the best ever! This year’s theme entitled “Local Floodplain Management—The Challenge Continues” will draw attendees and presenters from across the State to beautiful Quartz Mountain Resort near Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. The Conference will be held September 19, 20, and 21 and is expected to be the premier event for floodplain administrators and advocates in Oklahoma. Attendees are sure to enjoy three days of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions and exhibits as well as opportunities for site seeing and socializing.

With the positive response from last year’s conference at Western Hills State Lodge, a package price of \$175.00 is being provided which includes registration, materials, all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and banquet), socials and refreshments. Rooms will be available in the main lodge at a cost of \$65.00 per night for single and \$85.00 night for double. Cabins will also be available. For cabin rates, contact Quartz Mountain Resort registration.

This year’s program will provide a full spectrum of training in floodplain management issues. Three break out session tracks are planned with presenters offering topics sure to educate professionals in all ranges of floodplain management. This year, the *Engineering/Mapping*



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FLOODPLAIN 101 TEXTBOOK RECEIVES A MAKEOVER

Using funding from the Department of Homeland Security & FEMA’s Community Assistance Program, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has released a new and improved update to the Floodplain 101 Textbook *Guidebook for Local Floodplain Ordinance Administrators*. This new version includes many of the chapters previously found in the textbook as well as a new chapter on “No Adverse Impact”. This updated guidebook is the most comprehensive edition to date since its original publication in 1990. Much of the text has been revised to address new and changing issues including laws, policies and procedures. Additionally, new illustrations have been added to help explain many of the complex floodplain concepts discussed in the Textbook. Eventually, this text will be used as an OWRB Home Study Course in Floodplain Management and allow local Floodplain Administrators to obtain Continuing Education Credits in the near future. If you are a local floodplain administrator and have not received one of these books please contact Ronda Bowers at the OWRB (405) 530-8800. The document can also be viewed online from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at <http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/hazard/fp/floodplain.php>. Additionally, FEMA Publication 480, the comprehensive study guide and desk reference for Local Officials entitled “National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Management Requirements” is also available from the FEMA distribution center by calling (800) 480-2520.

Hazards Mixed for Oklahoma Spring

No one ever said living in Oklahoma meant the weather would be predictable. This spring was no exception. Not only are precipitation totals for the Calendar Year far below normal, but tornadoes seemed to be non-existent for much of April, typically one of the most active months in the year. Even more notable, no fatalities occurred nationwide during the months of April, May and June as a result of tornadoes, the first time in recorded weather history! Currently, most of Oklahoma is still experiencing dry conditions although there has been about 3.5" of drought relief within the past few weeks following an unusually dry May.

Don't let these observations mislead you though. The rain that did come through this Spring brought with it flash floods and high winds resulting in property damages, road closings and power outages throughout the State. Perhaps the worst damage reported to the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management was near the City of Chickasha in Grady County during the overnight hours of June 10th.

Grady County Emergency Management Deputy Director Paulette Nichols said the straight-line winds were estimated at 100 mph or greater in the area, which caused major damage to seventeen homes and destroyed two additional homes within an area subdivision, just shy of the 40% damage to 25 homes for a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The National Weather Service has described the location of the event as the "apex of a bow front", but has not ruled out the possibility of a micro-downburst. Nichols, who performed the damage assessment, says that although there are no official scales for measuring straight-line winds like the fajita scale for tornadoes, damages can help to determine the strength and speed of the associated winds. The high wind event also downed power lines across the area including along a portion of I-44, which had to be closed for several hours overnight.



In another part of the State, Ponca City received a substantial amount of rain when it was caught in the line of an isolated thunderstorm overnight on May 19th. Community Development Director Chris Henderson reported unofficial estimates of 6" of rain in only a couple early morning hours amounting to a 100-year storm event in portions of the City. Due to the dry conditions prior to the storm, many of the drainage channels quickly filled with debris further intensifying the backwater impact of the event at area inlets. Henderson says the City posted an article in the local newspaper requesting feedback from residents on flood damages, which was received as "a positive response" from the citizens who were encouraged by the administration actions after the storm. Overall, as many as 200 phone calls were received by the City further confirming the severity of the storm event. Calls were address matched into the City's GIS to further associate them to known flood zones. Henderson says the community is currently focusing on flood mitigation by undertaking a city-wide storm water drainage study that will help to accurately identify flood prone areas as well as identify recommendations to identified problem areas.

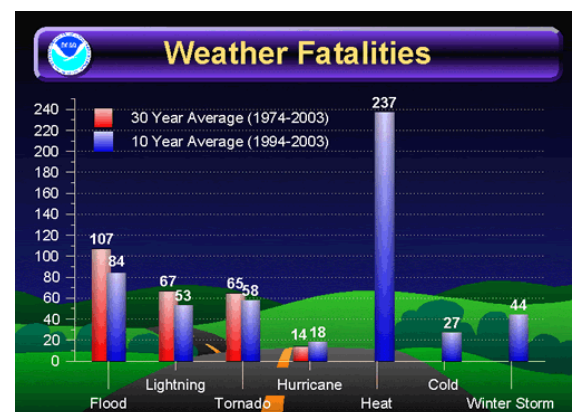
Across the State, downed power lines and high water conditions resulted in the closing of several Oklahoma highways. The dry conditions could result in a higher than average wild fire season and lower water levels at area lakes around the State. Furthermore, with temperatures already soaring to near 100°F in late June in parts of the State, heat is bound to be a concern for much of the State's elder and low income populations. For a detailed account of the Oklahoma 2005 Spring Season and all of its odd fluctuations visit the Oklahoma Climatological Survey's Seasonal Summaries at http://climate.ocs.ou.edu/seasonal_summary.html.

SUMMER HAZARDS ARE FAST APPROACHING

Summer heat, after six years (1997-2002) as the most deadly weather hazard, has lost its annual deadliest ranking to floods. In 2003, only 36 lives were claimed by excessive heat, down dramatically from 167 in 2002. The 10-year average for heat related fatalities is 237, compared to 84 for floods, the most deadly weather hazard in 2003. In 2003, 44% (16) of the fatalities occurred in permanent homes and 36% (13) outside. Oklahoma, in 2003, had 3 heat related deaths, but no flood fatalities. As in the past, excessive heat most severely affects the elderly. Those aged 70 and up accounted for 44 percent of deaths. Twice as many males 67% (24) succumbed as females 33% (12).

The National Weather Service offers many public services that can be utilized by Floodplain Managers for aspects of Hazard Mitigation including graphics such as this free to use by the public domain. The U.S. Natural Hazard Statistics, a NWS web site providing statistical information up to 2003 on fatalities, injuries and damages from eight different weather related hazards, can be viewed by year, state or hazard and provides information on fatalities, injuries property damage, crop damage and totals. These statistics are compiled by the Office of Services and the National Climatic Data Center from information contained in *Storm Data*. To view the assembled *Storm Data* statistics visit:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.shtml>

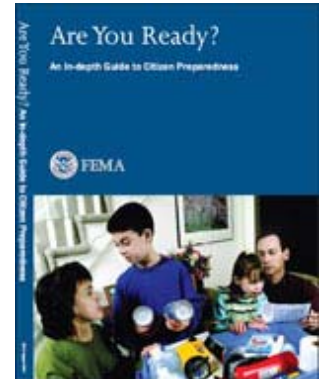


FEMA Releases Updated *Are You Ready?*

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the release of the updated, in-depth guide to citizen preparedness, *Are You Ready?* The guide provides a step-by-step approach to disaster preparedness by walking the reader through steps on how to get informed about local emergency plans and identify hazards that affect their area to instructing them on how to develop and maintain an emergency communications plan and build a disaster supplies kit. Other guide topics include evacuation, emergency public shelters, animals in disaster, and information specific to people with disabilities.

To broaden the usage of the *Are You Ready?* materials, a facilitator guide is also available for those interested in delivering the disaster preparedness content in a classroom or small group setting. The facilitator guide includes training modules for adults and older and younger children and contains a CD-ROM toolkit that includes customizable slides and hazard specific fact sheets. *Are You Ready?* is also a study guide for the independent study course *Are You Ready?* an In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness, IS-22. College credit for successful completion of the course is available through Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland.

The updated guide is available from the FEMA Web site in both English and Spanish. Download a copy at <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>. English-only copies are also available by mail from FEMA's Publications Warehouse at (800) 480-2520. Access the course at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIBeb/IS/is22.asp>.



See more posters from this years "Turn Around, Don't Drown" Poster Contest at www.okflood.org

(Continued from page 1)

Track has been designed as an introduction to software applications that you can use to better manage your duties as a floodplain administrator. The *No Adverse Impact* track has brought leading expert's, who are in-touch with Oklahoma's Floodplain Management Regulations, to provide insight and practical guidance on an array of topics. And for those who need to recharge their knowledge on the ever-evolving position of Floodplain Manager, *Floodplain 101* will be there for you.

This unique and scenic area offers excellent opportunities to relax and socialize with planned leisure activities including a train ride around Lake Altus, a horseshoe tournament, hiking and the ever popular conference hospitality suite. The resort is also home to the Quartz Mountain Golf Club, featuring an 18-hole, par 71 course that is open from dawn to dusk. It will be the site of the OFMA annual golf tournament, held on Sunday the 18th at an extra cost of \$35 for green fees and a cart.

All rooms have been reserved for OFMA and this conference, so let them know you are with the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association when you call. Rooms will go fast, so make your reservations early!

Find the Conference registration form and golf tournament flyer enclosed in this issue and stay tuned to www.okflood.org and *The BFE* for itinerary updates. This will be one to remember. For more information on Quartz Mountain Resort visit <http://www.quartzmountainresort.com/> or call (877) 999-5567.



Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFP www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEMA www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema
OEM www.odcem.state.ok.us
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
 ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
 web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
 www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
 www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
 www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
 www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
 http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/
 fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
 stsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **EWRI 2005 Watershed Management Conference;** July 19-22, Williamsburg, Virginia. Contact: ASCE/2005 Watershed Management P.O. Box 79668, Baltimore, MD; 21279 (703)-295-6300
- **Floodplain 101;** July 26th, August 16th, October 12th, November 15th, and December 6th. OWRB 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website www.okflood.org.
- **3rd National Floodproofing Conference;** September 12-16, 2005, Charleston, WV. Contact: Wallace A. Wilson email: wallaceawilson@earthlink.net; website: www.floods.org.
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference;** September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **H2Oklahoma Water Festival;** September 23, 2005, Sponsored by the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee; Contact Ellen Bussert (405) 702-7138
- **2005 Oklahoma Water Conference;** September 27-28, 2005, OSU-Tulsa North Hall 700 N. Greenwood, Tulsa, OK 74106; contact jennita@okstate.edu Sponsored by the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute
- **2005 Governor's Water Conference;** November 1-2, 2005; Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City Sponsored by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- **ASFP Annual Conference;** June 11-16, 2006; Albuquerque, NM. www.floods.org
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference;** September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

EPA Region VI MS4 Operators Conference Update

The 7th Annual EPA Region 6 MS4 Operator's Conference was held in Oklahoma City from June 13th through June 17th, 2005. This conference is held each year in a Phase I city within the EPA Region and brings participants from across the Region. With the MS4 program now mandated to Phase II communities, a generous amount of registrants attended the technical sessions and field trip offered at the conference to better grasp the program requirements as well as receive some helpful advice from the Phase I cities who have dealt with the Clean Water Act mandates for over a decade. Being a storm water issue, many of the conference attendees double as floodplain administrators. Conference presentations from the last years meeting are currently available from the EPA. If you were unable to attend this years conference, but would like to review conference presentations, they will be available soon at <http://www.epa.gov/region6/6wq/npdes/sw/ms4/conference.htm>.

Did you know that only 80% of Oklahoma's flood prone communities participate in the NFIP and only 3% of those NFIP communities participate in the Community Rating System. Although the program is voluntary, non-participation in the program has several ramifications: property owners are no longer eligible to receive flood insurance, federal disaster assistance after a flood is not available to the community and grants, loans or guarantees made by federal agencies such as the Small Business Administration, Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration are prohibited for acquisition or construction in identified areas.

**Comparisons of
Region 6 Communities
By State
participating
in the NFIP**

State	Percent in NFIP	Percent of NFIP in CRS
Oklahoma	80 %	3 %
Arkansas	93 %	5 %
Texas	79 %	4 %
Louisiana	90 %	12 %
New Mexico	75 %	12 %

Floodplain 101/202 a Success

This Spring local and county floodplain administrators were offered a free chance at receiving accredited education at five convenient locations around the State.



Floodplain 101 is designed to update administrators on NFIP compliance requirements and provide assistance on guidance to floodplain development. As an additional incentive to each workshop, a new instructional

course designed to present more advanced issues was offered: Floodplain 202.

The OWRB, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers sponsored the five one-day workshops and each attendee was accredited 6 Continuing Education Credits.

Another round of workshops is scheduled to be held in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. There will be one workshop each month starting in July through December with the exception of September. There is no registration fee for attending the workshops.

Each workshop attendee will receive the 6 Continuing Education Credits to be applied toward maintaining CFM status. Contact Rhonda Bowers at the OWRB at (405) 530-8800 to register or visit www.okflood.org for dates and more information.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

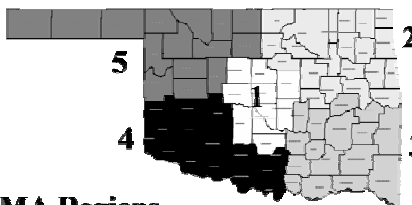
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:
OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101



New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

- ☐ Mitigation
☐ Mapping and Engineering
☐ Education/Legislative
☐ Certification
☐ Conference

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00

Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

Although many might believe that the importance of floodplain management is diminished during dry periods, the opposite is actually true. For floodplain management professionals, every day is important, especially in permit administration. By ensuring that all proposed development is constructed in a flood-safe manner, flood damage will be significantly reduced in the event of a major flood.

If you are the official floodplain administrator of your community through ordinance, regulation, or resolution, please look for our upcoming notice concerning accreditation. As you know, Senate Bill 932 was recently enacted requiring all floodplain administrators to become accredited by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board each year. As a result, floodplain management training is now required annually.

To accommodate this training we are hosting five one-day Floodplain Management 101 Workshops at OWRB offices in Oklahoma City (3800 North Classen Blvd) on July 26, August 16, October 12, November 15, and December 6. Each workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. These workshops are designed for sharing information on the basic fundamentals of floodplain management. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rhonda Bowers at (405) 530-8800. Six Continuing Education Credits can be earned through successful completion of a workshop.

Remember, this training will ultimately benefit not only you, but your community through saving lives and ensuring that future development is designed and constructed to reduce flood damages to personal property. I look forward to seeing you at one of our OWRB workshops and in September at the 15th Annual OFMA Conference at Quartz Mountain State Lodge. Keep dry!



Visit www.okflood.org to see more posters from this years "Turn Around, Don't Drown" Poster Contest

OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA

P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	15.00
Insulated Mug	10.00
Umbrella	20.00
Portfolio	25.00
Lapel Pin	3.00
CFM Lapel Pin	5.00

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma

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Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405 524-3200

Benham

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405 810-8254

Cinnabar Service Company

Terry Young
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Tulsa, OK 74105
918 742-0082

Crafton Tull and Assoc., Inc.

Phil Hagen
235 North MacArthur Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73127
405 787-6270

Cyntergy AEC

Robert Day, P.E.
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Tulsa, OK 74103
918 877-6000

Dewberry Design

Andrew Cueto, P.E.
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Tulsa, OK 74119
918 295-5263

Eagle Consultants, Inc.

Satish Dasharathy
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Edmond, OK 73013
405 844-3900

R.D. Flanagan & Associates

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Tulsa, OK 74105
918 749-2696

FTN Associates, Ltd.

Conrad Battreal, PE, CFM
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Little Rock, AR 72211
501 225-7779

Grand River Dam Authority

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P.O. Box 409
Vinita, OK 74301-0409
918 256-5545, x4467

Greenhorne & Design

Vince DiCamillo CFM
9001 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, MD 10770
301 982-2898

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Tulsa, OK 74116
918 437-0282

Harden and Associates Surveying

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918 234-4859

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Mannford, OK 74044
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JGVE, Inc.

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405 530-8861

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405 755-5325

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3199
405 528-7515

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Burk Cornelius
13905 Twin Ridge Road
Edmond, OK 73034
405 721-7222

Poe & Associates

Shane Smith CFM
525 Central Park Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
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The B.F.E.

July 2005

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

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Change Service Requested

Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2004-2005

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E-mail: jbigby@brokenarrowok.gov

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McAlester, OK 74502
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E-mail: cliffp.engr@cityofmcalester.com

Region 4 Representative:

Mr. Dennis Woommavovah
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Phone: (580) 429-3067
E-mail: ccache2@sbcglobal.net

Region 5 Representative:

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The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

Fall 2005

Number 5

15th Annual OFMA Conference Summary **Local Floodplain Management: The Challenge Continues**

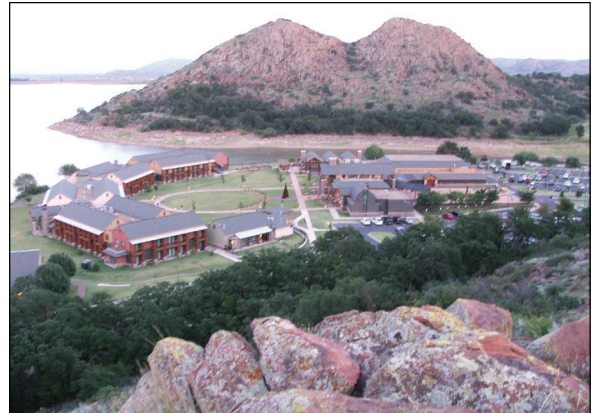
This year's Annual Conference was an excellent example of the quality and success members have come to expect from the Association. Held at the Quartz Mountain State Resort, conference attendees were surrounded by the unique and natural beauty of Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains as well as the State's most notable Floodplain Managers and field professionals. The conference designed logo had an unknowingly eerie resemblance to flooded homes affected by this season's record setting hurricanes. The storms caused unprecedented flood damages to FEMA Region VI states, which indirectly affected the conference. All FEMA representatives scheduled to present at the conference were called to duty and were unable to attend. OFMA Board Members, proving their true tenacity, quickly improvised by rescheduling the presentation slots emptied by the loss of FEMA personnel. Fortunately, OFMA has many professionals with strong backgrounds that support the highest goals of OFMA who were able to substitute with quality and informative presentations. Attendees were provided several program opportunities to choose from, all of which counted toward continuing education credits.

Conference Summary

Sunday, September 18, 2005: For those arriving early, Sunday member activities included the highly regarded Annual Golf Tournament held at the Quartz Mountain Golf Course followed by a late afternoon horseshoe competition. Many thanks to Gavin Brady and Dennis Woommavovah for helping organize this year's golf tournament and horseshoe competitions. If you missed out this year, plan to attend next year!

Monday, September 19, 2005: Opening day of the Conference began with the flag ceremony and opening Remarks from 2005 OFMA Chair Jim Coffey. State Senator Ron Justice appeared as a guest keynote speaker followed by an enjoyable slideshow presentation on OFMA's 15 year

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What to do with those Preliminary DFIRMs?

In support of the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA has undertaken a massive effort of flood hazard identification and mapping to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), known as Map Modernization, for much of the State of Oklahoma. The program plan is divided into several map production phases with the overall goal of transforming the Nation's flood maps, county by county, into a more reliable, easier to use, and readily available product. The program begins with a mapping needs assessment followed by a scoping period where all aspects of the project are discussed. Next is the map production phases followed by the Preliminary FIS and Digital FIRM Community Review Period where the Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination (PDCC) Meeting takes place. It is this phase where public participation begins. Several Counties around the State are gearing up for these meetings.

Once map production has completed the preliminary phases, communities are issued sets of preliminary DFIRMs for a 30-day review. This can be a point where stakeholders are allowed a "sneak peak" at preliminary maps in order to efficiently prepare for the PDCC. Also, planning and public notification of the upcoming PDCC meeting should also be arranged. Notification of the PDCC Meeting should include the date, location, time, length of the meeting and who should attend. Don't forget to notify local organizations as

(Continued on page 9)

County Elects to Opt Out of the Optional NFIP

This summer, in a unanimous vote by the County Commissioners, Grady County elected to be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program for failure to adopt the new flood maps and regulations. The decision was made after the County was contacted by FEMA, who had recognized the current regulations fell below the minimum federal standards. What followed was a tremendous outpouring of public opinion towards the government regulation of property owners in special flood hazard areas (SFHA) and eventually, a rejection of the County Floodplain Board's recommendation that new regulations be approved in order to keep the County in good standing with the NFIP program.

Grady County's floodplain board had been dormant since approximately 1999 when FEMA initially contacted the County. Their concern was the recent development of a particular commercial building located in the floodplain. Soon after the County received notification from FEMA that the county's floodplain regulations and practices needed to be brought up to date or the county could face probation or suspension from the NFIP. The commissioners appointed a new board and passed a resolution that required a notice of intent of construction be filed prior to issuing any new 911 addresses. The new regulation required a permit before construction and would be punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and a year in county jail. According to the NFIP federal requirements communities are required to adopt a penalty clause that can be used to enforce and administer their program rules.

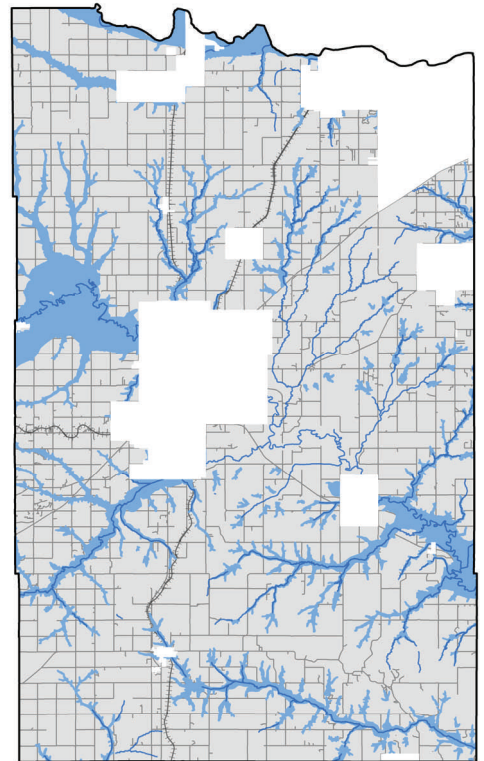
To discuss the proposed new regulations including the requirement of a permit before adding improvements, a public hearing notice was published according to state and federal requirements. One flier encouraging the public to attend stated the new regulations would "even allow emergency management to tell you where you can stack your hay!" which was intended to draw criticism to the program and it did. While the statement was not completely misleading, it did bring about a negative public response. About 300 angry Grady County residents made their wishes known at the Grady County Floodplain Board final public hearing at the county fairgrounds. Heated debates would be left unresolved. Even attacks on the legitimacy of the Floodplain Board would leave the board eventually disbanded.

Several public meetings followed over the next couple of months. Each was heavily attended. Here the public responded with its initial distaste for participating in the NFIP. They overwhelmingly disagreed with regulations allowing the federal government to dictate what happens on their land, albeit special flood hazard areas or not. The public was reminded the only change to the policy requiring a permit, which had been law since 1985 and was the initial catalyst to the opposition, was an additional provision making any violation a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in county jail.

The citizens were reminded that by withdrawing from the NFIP, all current flood insurance policies effective in the county would be canceled at the policy expiration and if any of those properties had a federally backed mortgage, that mortgage would be also canceled. Furthermore, Grady County would not be eligible to receive FEMA funding following any disasters associated with flooding and for hazard mitigation funds, which includes initiatives such as school safe room funding.

Other citizens stated positions recommending passage of the new revised regulations to the Commissioners. The Commissioners were asked to continue allowing programs with opportunities like flood insurance to remain available to constituents. At one point a Commissioner responded that he had seen before millions of dollars that FEMA had put into the county after flood disasters, allowing the district to rebuild roads and bridges in the early 1990s that otherwise would not have been replaced.

But the will of the people had been overwhelming. From May 24, when the floodplain board was reinstated, to July 13, when the County Commissioners unanimously voted no to adopting a revised set of floodplain regulations needed to be in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, Grady County residents had firmly stated their reasoning against the new policies. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board made a noble attempt to persuade the residents to allow the County to become compliant. Even with ominous rivers such as the Canadian and the Washita located within the County, the will of the people of Grady County was made clear. On July 19, 2005, FEMA effectively suspended Grady County from the NFIP.



Previously effective FEMA 100-year floodplains in unincorporated Grady County

HMGP Grant Enables Local Community to Continue Flood Control Efforts

This August, one of our local communities, resting on the shores of a major waterway, is breathing a sigh of relief. When heavy rains fall in downtown Bixby, Oklahoma, local citizens and community officials can be at ease knowing that funding has been acquired from FEMA to implement local storm water drainage projects. Soon, when those projects are in-place, rainfall will be routed out of downtown, keeping what was once a historically flood prone area, dry.

The HMGP grant, a total of \$5 million, includes \$3.1 million awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency along with an additional \$1.9 million in bond money. The money will pay for channelization and storm water detention as well as acquisition of more than 30 flood prone homes, which will be either moved or demolished to make way for the drainage projects. Homes in this area have endured flooding every five to ten years, in part because of the inadequate drainage in the area. Acquisition of the properties is already underway, with many of the property owners openly relieved they no longer need to be concerned with water entering their properties when heavy rains occur.

The proposed channel, located near 151st Street and Memorial Drive, will carry storm water from the downtown area to nearby Bixby Creek, which itself just saw a major Army Corps of Engineers' channelization project. From there, the Bixby Creek channel empties downstream into the Arkansas River, protecting along the way, numerous homes and businesses in the basin from flooding and thus completing the network of channelization designed to make the City of Bixby, south of the Arkansas River, less susceptible to flooding.

In the last eight years, Bixby has completed nearly \$30 million in flood-prevention projects and has planned another \$30 million for storm water management work over the next six years, most notably, the Haikey Creek channelization project north of the Arkansas River. This funding was applied for by Bixby several years ago through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, a grant program designed to enable NFIP participating communities who have successfully completed a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to complete projects outlined in their plan.

Congratulations Jim!



FEMA's NFIP Claims set unprecedented record from 2005 Hurricane Damages

From the latest estimates issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, more than 225,000 flood insurance claims have been received due to flood damages received from hurricane's Katrina and Rita this season. This means payouts from the two storms combined will exceed ALL funds distributed since the program began in 1968, which could put the program more than an estimated \$23 billion in debt! This has caused quite a stir within the Agency and prompted several responses on whether flood-policy rates are set high enough and if particularly vulnerable structures are really due the subsidies they may receive.

Acquiring repetitive loss properties has been the number one goal for FEMA's Mitigation Division and has never been viewed more importantly than now. These properties make up 1% of those covered under the flood insurance program, but account for as much as 30% of all claims paid. Vulnerable properties need to be moved to higher ground or elevated properly now more than ever to ease pressure on the federal program.

This pressure has led some in the Agency to consider phasing out subsidies entirely in the years to come including David Maurstad, acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Mitigation Division who exclaimed on Tuesday, October 18, that it is time to charge policyholders a "fair and actuarially sound premium" for those owners who's improved properties remain in Special Flood Hazard Areas. J. Robert Hunter, director of insurance for the Consumer Federation of America, says FEMA has suggested subsidy changes before, but the agency's explicit statement Tuesday and support from Congress "means there is fair unanimity that we should move to less subsidies in a fairly quick period of time." Under the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, the agency can pay to elevate or relocate flood-prone properties. If this doesn't work, then subsidies on these policies could be eliminated and rates the property owners pay could be raised accordingly.



OFMA Region 2: About the Region and the Representative

As many of you know, our five OFMA Regional Representatives work very hard in promoting sound floodplain management within each OFMA region by keeping Floodplain Administrators updated with current events and program issues. We would like to thank Region 2 Representative Jeff Bigby for volunteering to be highlighted.

Jeff Bigby, P.E., CFM is the Stormwater Manager and Floodplain Administrator for the City of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Jeff began his participation as a member of OFMA in 2001 and has since been elected to the Board of Directors as the OFMA Region 2 Representative. Jeff is also involved with the OFMA Mapping Committee as well as being a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Jeff is a native Oklahoman currently residing in Tulsa with his wife and two sons. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1991. In 1992, Jeff moved to Tulsa where he found employment at a private consultant engineering firm. There he specialized on storm sewer and detention facility designs as well as floodplain mapping revisions. In 2000, Jeff accepted the job of Stormwater Manager for the City of Broken Arrow. He has served as the City of Broken Arrow Floodplain Administrator since 2003.

While working at the City of Broken Arrow, Jeff has updated the City of Broken Arrow Stormwater Criteria Manual and Stormwater Management Ordinance and strives to continue the strong floodplain management that has been in place within the City of Broken Arrow for years. He has also helped Broken Arrow implement a Stormwater Utility in 2002. In addition to his floodplain duties, Jeff's job as Stormwater Manager includes stormwater systems review and design, master drainage plan implementation, stormwater utility account maintenance, and implementation of the City of Broken Arrow NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program for water quality.

OFMA is proud of the leadership and dedication Jeff has shown in his years of membership. As Region 2 Representative, Jeff has outlined several admirable goals for Region 2. The following are those goals he has personally summarized.

- I would like to implement quarterly meetings of OFMA Region 2 members. These voluntary meetings will encourage further networking within the region, provide a direct means to forward issues and concerns to the OFMA Board, and update members on Region 2 Map Modernization activities. I'll be contacting Region 2 members soon with the time, date and location of the first meeting.
- Further assist the OWRB in creation of the OFMA Training Cadre Program as an opportunity to reach and provide training to all municipal Oklahoma Floodplain Administrators, including approximately 119 within Region 2.
- Continue work within the OFMA Mapping and Engineering Committee to keep members updated on Map Modernization, to provide conference presentations on engineering and mapping subjects, and to address engineering and mapping issues.
- To meet and talk to as many Floodplain Administrators and OFMA members within Region 2 as possible. I encourage and invite any OFMA member within Region 2 to contact me via e-mail or phone!



Thanks Jeff for your support!



Local Floodplain Management: The Challenge Continues
Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association - Annual 2005 Conference

(Continued on page 8)

Comments on the Elevation Certificate Revision

The Elevation Certificate (EC) and Floodproofing Certificate are used in conjunction with permit applications in order to properly rate Post-FIRM structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas for flood insurance. Post-FIRM buildings are those buildings constructed after publication of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). In addition, the Elevation Certificate is needed for Pre-FIRM structures being rated under Post-FIRM flood insurance rules. On August 18, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency published a notice inviting the general public and other Federal agencies to present comments on the proposed revised Elevation Certificate and the Floodproofing Certificate. Comments were allowed for 60 days from the date of the notice. OFMA Mapping Committee members met at the Annual Conference to review the proposed changes. Following the committee's review, several of the members submitted comments to FEMA regarding the proposed changes. The following are several of their statements.

- **Part A6** states to “**Attach at least 2 photographs of the building if the Certificate is being used to obtain flood insurance.**” How will the local floodplain administrator know if the certificate is being used to obtain flood insurance? Many elevation certificates are done on properties adjacent to the floodplain so property owners can avoid purchasing mandatory flood insurance. Will photographs be required in that case? I believe photos should be mandatory for all certificates or for none at all. Local Floodplain Administrators should not be the ones trying to figure out what the elevation certificate will be used for. The present language is open for interpretation of whether photos are required or not. These issues need to be further clarified in the directions.
- Do photos have to be reduced down in size to fit in the four 3” x 3” spaces provided? Is it acceptable to attach copies of the photos separately?
- Will an elevation certificate be invalid if the quality of the photos enclosed is poor? Who will decide if the photos provided are acceptable? The quality of photographs will diminish once photocopies are made of them and the elevation certificate.
- **Parts A8a) and A9a) require square footages of crawl space or attached garage.** Are these values required if the lowest floor elevation is above the BFE? These values should only be required if the lowest floor elevation is below the BFE and the relationship of the flood openings to structure area is needed. Please consider changing this requirement.
- The additional requirements for photographs and for measurements of square footages of garages and crawl spaces will prompt surveyors and engineers to charge more for preparation of elevation certificates. These extra charges will be passed on to property owners, thereby less people will order them. I am opposed to changes to the elevation certificate that make it harder to prepare rather than simpler.
- Why is the option available for a certifier to provide an EC without the photos? If we “approve” an EC here for a home next to the floodplain and they go to closing and can't close because the EC was deficient, the City now looks bad and the certifier will charge more to go back to the site to take photos. So my question is, why isn't FEMA making the photos mandatory? It instead forces us as floodplain administrators to “make the call” when it really is not ours to make regarding photos. If we require the photos on all ECs, we look like we are going above and beyond the requirements of the document, but allowing some to be acceptable to us without photos leaves us open to complaints down the line if the photos are ever needed (if the owners decide to purchase flood insurance anyway or the floodplain maps change).
- Language on the EC making photos a mandatory requirement will avoid confusion, provide an EC that is usable for multiple purposes, and provide visual historical documentation of the original structure, thereby revealing any future conversions, non-permitted add-ons or enclosures.

To be assured you remain updated and spoken for on current issues affecting floodplain management, OFMA Committee assignments are the best way to stay involved. For more information visit www.okflood.org.

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGER'S ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION NO. 2005-1

WHEREAS, The Oklahoma Floodplain Manager's Association (OFMA) is an organization of professional floodplain management officials; and

WHEREAS, Impacts of Hurricane Katrina on the City of New Orleans, surrounding areas, and the States of Louisiana and Mississippi are catastrophic and devastating; and

WHEREAS, OFMA believes it is important to properly plan, evaluate existing conditions, and evaluate the reconstruction effort; and

WHEREAS, the concept of total relocation of the City of New Orleans and other major metropolitan areas that were affected by Hurricane Katrina is unrealistic and improbable; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is the home of the Port of Catoosa which is the start of a global trade route that flows from Tulsa through New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the Gulf Region is directly linked to our State's energy and export industries; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Region economy can be redeveloped by training and employing displaced persons in the design and construction of flood resistant housing; and

WHEREAS, Members of OFMA desire to provide assistance in the planning process of reconstruction;

NOW THEREFORE, Be it resolved that OFMA provides the following recommendations:

1. Planning for Reconstruction needs to consider
 - A. No adverse impact standards
 - B. Acquisition of repetitive loss structures wherever applicable
2. Build communities higher, smarter, and stronger
3. Maintain and enforce current floodplain standards, including but not limited to substantial damage requirement
4. Evaluate, reconstruct, or relocate the National Levee System to appropriate elevations and structural integrity
5. Promote good floodplain management practices allowing "green spaces" to be developed for temporary storage of floodwaters and ecosystem restoration
6. Floodproof commercial structures, as applicable
7. Restore and create new coastal wetland areas to help reduce storm surge effects
8. Require Floodplain Insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program on all new construction and all reconstruction of existing substantially damaged structures
9. Consider alternative methods to deal with tidal surge protection
10. Enhance education about flood insurance for property and casualty insurance agents, lenders, and real estate professionals

Summary – Hurricane Katrina was a disaster by design, and there will be a similar event or an event of greater magnitude in the future that will affect generations to come. We must learn by our past and plan for the future.

Respectfully Submitted

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association



Rex Hennen, CFM Chairman
On behalf of the OFMA Board of Directors and Membership

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFPM www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEM www.odcem.state.ok.us
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
www.stormwatercenter.net
FEMA Official NFIP Site:
www.floodsmart.gov
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
stsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **Floodplain 101**; November 15th, December 6th 2005; February 8th, March 8th, April 4th, May 2, 2006. OWRB 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK. Contact Rhonda Bowers (405) 530-8800; website www.okflood.org.
- **2005 Governor's Water Conference**; November 1-2, 2005; Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City Sponsored by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- **41st Annual American Water Resources Association Conference**; November 7-10, 2005. Red Lion Hotel, Seattle, WA. Contact: <http://awra.org/meetings>
- **Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program Course**; January 9-13 2006. University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- **City Managers Association of Oklahoma Winter Conference**; January 11-13, 2006 Contact: Missy Dean (405) 528-7515 website: www.oml.org/evps/
- **2006 National Flood Conference**; May 7-10, 2006. Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza; Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Catherine King FEMA Mitigation Division. Website: www.fema.gov/nfip/2005conf.shtm
- **ASFPM Annual Conference**; June 11-16, 2006; Albuquerque, NM. www.floods.org
- **OFMA 16th Annual Conference**; September 18-20, 2006, University of Oklahoma Conference Center, Norman, OK. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.

(Continued from page 5) 2005 Annual Conference Wrap-Up

floodplain and multi-objective management solutions. Ron Flanagan, as well as Clay McAlpine and the staff of the City of Muskogee were the first recipients of the newly named award. Floodplain Manager of the Year went to Erik Enyart of Creek County who has made tremendous progress since the last Community Assisted Visit to the county. Governor Brad Henry was this year's recipient of the Public Official of the Year Award for signing Senate Bill 943 into law which requires Floodplain Administrators to be certified by the OWRB. Special Recognition Awards were received by Vaunda Pendergraft, Joe Remondini, Andy Commer, Joe Don Willingham and Bill Smith. A hand full of OFMA members received this year's Silver Scoop Award. They include Dan Cary, David Cross, T.J. Davis, J.R. Giboney, Bobby Hinkle, Rex Hennen, Corrine Leach, Jimmy Sanders, Dale Thompson, Bill Tucker, Anna Waggoner, Ruth Walters, Nancy Wade and David Wakefield. Lynne Stevenson was this year's recipient of the W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award. Lynne worked effortlessly at promoting sound floodplain management activities as well as dedicating her time as the OFMA Board Secretary for several years. Our State NFIP Coordinator, Michael Mathis received the Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award for his long term leadership and advancement of the goals of OFMA. The Ben Frizell Media Award recipient was Janet Meshek for her efforts as *The BFE* editor.



Wednesday, September 21, 2005: The final day of the conference ended with a Closing Plenary Session featuring a panel discussion on the future of Floodplain Management. Panel members included Joe Remondini, Jim Coffey, Ken Morris, Mike Mathis, Janet Meshek and Ron Flanagan. Closing Words and Door Prizes concluded the conference.

(Continued from page 1) Preliminary DFIRMs

well as insurance agents, lenders and realtors of the release of Preliminary DFIRMs affecting their community. After the 30-day review period, the public review of the maps is offered at the PDCC meeting. The local floodplain administrators, involved consultants, FEMA representatives and other appropriate officials if available should be on hand to discuss comments from the public. Setting aside blocks of time for communities is one way to achieve an organized and efficient method for drawing public review with the appropriate public officials. A site for public viewing of the preliminary maps during the 90-day review period should also be established.

FEMA will publish the proposed Base Flood Elevation (BFE) twice, with the second publication starting the 90-day appeal period. There are two procedures that the community or other interested parties may use to refute the data shown on the Preliminary DFIRM and FIS report after their review: Protests and Appeals.

Non-technical data including floodplain boundary delineations, floodway limits, corporate limits, road locations and names are possible errors that can be filed as a *Protest*. Topographic maps or other ground elevation data of greater detail than those used by FEMA may be submitted in support of the protest. All maps and other supporting data submitted must be certified by a registered professional engineer or licensed land surveyor and must reflect existing conditions.

Technical or scientific data that may prove BFEs are technically incorrect are items eligible for *Appeal*. Appeals may be granted if the methodology used was inappropriate, assumptions made within the analysis was incorrect, or data utilized was incorrect. The BFE should be recalculated and justification for the new methodology or change in assumptions should be provided with the *Appeal*. It is then the community's responsibility to forward the appeal or protest petitions, all supporting documentation, and the community's statement of support or non-support for the appeal or protest to the State Floodplain Management Office.

After all appeals and protests are resolved, a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) is sent to the community stating the new DFIRM and FIS report will be effective approximately six months later. This initiates the Six Month Compliance Period during which the community must adopt, update, or revise its Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training, and service to Oklahomans.

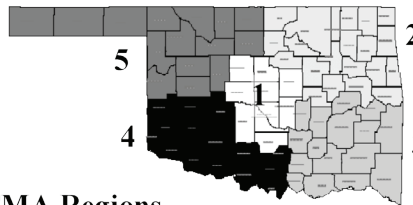
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

___ Mitigation

___ Mapping and Engineering

___ Education/Legislative

___ Certification

___ Conference

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues for joining OFMA are listed below. The fiscal year for membership starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

Full Membership	\$ 30.00
Student Membership	15.00
Associate Membership	20.00
Agency Membership	50.00
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)	
Corporate Sponsor	100.00



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

What a tremendous conference we had in September at Quartz Mountain Resort and Arts Center. According to Carolyn Schultz, more than 120 folks attended our 15th annual meeting where floodplain administrators from all around the state took advantage of this opportunity to advance their knowledge of floodplain management techniques. As a result of the new state law requiring accreditation, we are taking a much more serious look at floodplain management compliance. This program is very simple: if new development is proposed in a special flood hazard area, it needs to comply with local floodplain ordinances and regulations. So, if you do not have a permit, get one. Pretty simple.



The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is offering a one-day workshop in Oklahoma City each month to help Oklahoma's floodplain administrators understand both basic and advanced floodplain management guidelines, especially in regard to administering and enforcing local regulations. Each workshop will also allow you to earn six Continuing Education Credits and become accredited in accordance with state law. Details of the workshops and online registration forms can be found on the OWRB Web site at www.owrb.state.ok.us. New agency rules concerning accreditation can also be found on the site.

As part of a concerted new effort, the OWRB is working with FEMA and the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association to get all state communities on the same page regarding oil field development in the floodplain. This activity, like many others, is considered development under FEMA regulations and requires a floodplain development permit from the local jurisdiction. If you need assistance on how to regulate this type of development, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you. Following the devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina, it is more important than ever to ensure that our energy industry is not jeopardized by flood disasters.

I want to thank and recognize Jim Coffey for his outstanding leadership during his tenure as OFMA Chairman and I extend congratulations to Rex Hennen on his assumption of that important and challenging position. Rex, we pledge to work with you and OFMA to achieve our mutual goals and objectives. To all our floodplain management professionals, keep up the good work. I know it is a challenge, but remember you are Oklahoma's Leaders in Floodplain Management. The challenge continues.

OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association gifts are now available. The attractive OFMA articles are of the highest quality. You will be proud to wear and display them.

To Order: OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101

Or call Carolyn Schultz (918) 669-4919



OFMA Golf Shirt (S, M, L, X-L)	35.00
Briefcase	25.00
Baseball Cap (One size fits all)	15.00
Insulated Mug	10.00
Umbrella	20.00
Portfolio	25.00
Lapel Pin	3.00
CFM Lapel Pin	5.00

Shipping and handling \$4.95 per order.



OFMA'S CORPORATE PARTNERS



Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma

Dusty Birdsong
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Oklahoma City, OK 73105
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Benham

Barend Meiling, PE, CFM
One West Third St., Suite 100
Tulsa, OK 74103
918 492-1600

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Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

December 2004-January 2005

Number 1



The 2004 OFMA conference was another big success! Highlights include:

Monday, September 20: OFMA Chair Andy Kincaid opened the conference with a warm welcome and conveyed to the 150 FP Managers the "Daily Adventures of the CFM." Oklahoma NFIP State Coordinator Mike Mathis updated all on the long awaited New Training Legislation Implementation passed earlier in the year requiring Floodplain Managers in NFIP communities to seek OWRB certified training. A video graphically demonstrating the disastrous effects storms can produce accompanied the opening session.

Last years opening day, triple training format proved to be such a success that this year followed the same breakout agenda. The now renowned, Mr. Ken Morris & team illustrated the core concepts in floodplain management in the Floodplain 101 breakout session. Oklahoma's former FEMA representative, Mr. Lonnie Ward guided participants through an afternoon session on the Residential Substantial Damage Estimator (RSDE) requirements. The third breakout session conducted incorporated the concepts needed for municipalities to build a collection of planning documents designed to further direct their efforts to safeguard, regulate and respond to natural hazards in their community. Ron Flanagan communicated

ANNUAL SPRING TECHNICAL TRAINING UPDATE

The Spring Technical Training is right around the corner! The March Training will be located again at the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton on March 4th and the Tulsa Technology Center on March 11th. Stay tuned for registration information.

14th Annual OFMA Conference Summary

"Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management"

*Western Hills Lodge, Sequoyah Resort Park; Wagoner,
Oklahoma*

the importance and aspects of Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans, Kerry Cox directed the Emergency Operations Plan presentation, Janet Meshek discussed the concepts of the Master Drainage Plan and Bill Baker presented the many aspects of the Community Rating System (CRS).

Hay rides and a cook out followed that evening and in

(Continued on page 2)

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HB 2284: Accreditation Requirements for FP Administrators

HB 2284 changed the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act during the 2004 legislative session. Portions of Title 82, Sections 1603 and 1604 were changed and a new law added effective January 1, 2005. These changes and new law calls for OWRB to accredit floodplain managers and can be found in Title 82, O.S., Sections 1620 & 1620.1. This bill assigned new duties to OWRB to accredit persons having requisite knowledge in floodplain management and in minimization and prevention of flood hazards and losses. It also created a new definition, "Floodplain Administrator"-means a person accredited by the Board and designated by a floodplain board, to administer and implement laws and regulations relating to the management of floodplains. It also calls for floodplain boards to hire and employ an accredited floodplain administrator. OWRB staff is currently working on developing the rules for this accreditation process and will invite opportunity for input from OFMA and others through the public hearing process. For additional information contact Mike Mathis, NFIP State Coordinator, at 405-530-8800.

(Continued from page 1)

the Hospitality Suite at the Bunk House, music preformed by the Skeet Baker Band brought a festive atmosphere to the closing of the conference's first evening.

Tuesday, September 21: Day two opened with breakfast and a choice of three 2-hour breakout sessions. *Administering Your Flood Ordinance* was lead by T J Davis, Nancy Kennedy and Lynne Stevenson. *Map Modernization/LOMR, CLOMR, & LOMA's* was lead by Jim Orwat, David Key and Dan Hoecher. *Preparing for a CAV* was lead by Ken Morris and Jack Graham. A refreshment break followed by the Plenary Session comprised of Diana Herrera's presentation on *New Legislation for the NFIP* and Ross Richardson, FEMA VI Branch Chief's discussion on *The Future of Floodplain Management, Homeland Security FEMA – NFIP*.

After lunch, the annual OFMA business meeting was held with reports by all regional representatives and committee chairs, as well as the Treasurer and Executive Director.

Three breakout sessions were held Tuesday afternoon, including Regulatory, Flood Insurance and Stormwater Management. Each session included three one-hour topics. All were well attended.

The Annual OFMA Awards Banquet began at 7:00 pm with FEMA Region VI Branch Chief Ross Richardson presiding. Janet Meshek received the Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award for her support of the highest goals of OFMA, and her significant long-term contributions of leadership and support that has clearly influenced and advanced the Association. Cliff Pitner, Floodplain Manager for City of McAlester, received the Floodplain Manager of the Year Award.



This year's Public Official of the Year Award was shared by three public officials and a judicial appointee. State Representative Thad Balkman and Senator Bruce Price shared one award in honor of their tremendous effort and support in promoting the long awaited legislation that establishes training requirements for all Floodplain Administrators assigned in NFIP participating communities. House Bill 2284, signed into law in April, 2004 by Governor Brad Henry will be a tremendous benefit to forwarding the NFIP's goal of reducing loss of life and property to floods in participating communities. Canadian County

Commissioner Phil Carson was recognized for his efforts to update and assist in enforcing regulations on a development property known to be flood prone along Purcell Creek in Canadian County. Because FEMA FIRM maps did not show this particular site in a flood zone, development nearly ensued. If it had not been for his creative efforts to inform the public of the many historic flood events that have occurred there, many unsuspecting citizens may have purchased sites in a known hazard area. Thanks to his efforts, new language in the floodplain regulations will help allow the County Floodplain Administrator to regulate building permit applications in known flood hazard areas. The Honorable Mike Burdge of Sand Springs was also recognized for his efforts to use bond issue funds to buy out properties that have received multiple flood damages in the Meadow Valley Subdivision.

Caddo County Floodplain Administrator Dale Lasley received the Platinum Project Award for his work on the acquisition of nine Repetitive Loss Properties in unincorporated Caddo County. These structures had received numerous flood damages from East Cache Creek and were acquired through an HMGP grant with assistance from the Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP).

The Ben Frizzell Media Award was received by the Tulsa World staff that included Amber Wilson, Kim Brown, Nora Froeschle, Hap Fry, Karen Shade and Cory Young for their tribute article on the devastating May flood event of 1984, which lead the City of Tulsa to revitalize its entire floodplain management program, which has now become recognized as a national role model.



The second presentation of the W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award was shared this year by two recipients who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, excellence in public service, and have been leaders in floodplain management. Lonnie Ward, FEMA Region VI and Ann Patton, City of Tulsa (retired) have both expressed a dedication and commitment in their fields while pioneering many notable services to their communities and organizations.

(Continued on page 3)

FEMA Floodplain Development Policies Overruled by Federal Court Case

Currently, development in the floodplain is permitted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as long as federal flood insurance is purchased. The future may soon be quite different thanks to a recent federal court ruling. In a landmark decision, a federal judge found FEMA in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by permitting such development to occur, which ignores the impacts of these activities on threatened Chinook salmon in Puget Sound. The ruling finds floodplain development can reduce salmon habitat while also creating a source for additional pollution runoff from the impermeable surfaces constructed. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit brought by the National Wildlife Federation and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. In fact, the court pointed to documents that showed both state and federal agencies had urged FEMA to comply with the ESA, without success. This ruling, siding with the concept of No Adverse Impact, could potentially have far-reaching effects on federal development standards for floodplain activities. A copy of the decision can be viewed at the following website: www.nwf.org/wherewework - click on the "Salmon" link (under Northwestern Natural Resource Center).



CBOR Needs Reviewers

The Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. announces a project to create a Directory of Continuing Education Courses. The directory, currently containing an estimated 75 courses, will appear on the ASFPM website in the Fall 2005. These courses will help Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) and others interested in floodplain management keep current on issues and concepts, learn methodologies and models, and refresh their skills and practices related to the profession. Each course listed will include information identifying how many Continuing Education Credits (CEC) are applicable to maintaining your certification as a CFM.

The Certification Board of Regents (CBOR) manages the program and oversees the selection of courses. To fulfill its responsibilities, the CBOR is seeking ASFPM members to form a cadre of specialists from which those with appropriate expertise would be selected to review courses. As envisioned, this core group will number approximately 20 volunteers representing the full range of expertise and knowledge about floodplain management. When a new course is either proposed by a member or identified by the CBOR two or three individuals from the cadre will be asked to review the course. The team will recommend to the CBOR whether the proposal should be included in the directory and the appropriate number of CECs for the course. The CBOR will offer an honorarium to each participant of \$100 per review. By developing a cadre of 20 volunteers it is hoped that no one individual would be asked to help more than once or twice each year. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, please contact the ASFPM Executive Office so we can establish an initial pool of reviewers.

(Continued from page 2)

Special Recognition Awards were received by the OWRB's Gavin Brady of Tulsa, the City of Cache's Dennis Woommavovah, David Wakefield of R.D. Flanagan & Associates, Nancy Wade from the City of Bartlesville, and Kathy Muckala from Oklahoma City. A Scholarship Award was presented to Steven Kennedy of Edmond, Oklahoma. Plaques were presented to all officers including outgoing Regional Representatives Nancy Wade, Region 2 and Robert Hitt, Region 5.

The evening concluded with entertainment by guitarist Edgar Cruz.

Wednesday, September 22: The final day of the Conference began with breakfast at 7:00 am. ODEM's Jerry Murphy and Byron Garver presented the morning Plenary Session on Benefit-Cost Analysis and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds.

The committees met following the opening plenary session, including Legislative, Certification, Public Information & Education, Mapping & Engineering, and Mitigation.

Jim Coffey, City of Bixby and Vice-Chair of OFMA, lead a presentation on Flood Control and Community Development to finish off the Conference Presentation Agenda.

The new chair, Jim Coffey, City Planner from Bixby was welcomed in. The new vice-chair is Rex Hennen, Assistant City Engineer from Shawnee. The secretary and treasurer, Lynne Stevenson and Carolyn Schultz, were re-elected. Regions 1, 3, and 4 Representatives, John Harrington, Cliff Pitner and Dennis Woommavovah were re-elected. Region 2 voted in Jeff Bigby, the floodplain administrator for Broken Arrow and Region 5 elected Cindy Tubbs, the floodplain administrator for the City of Enid.

The Closing Session began at 11:00 am with remarks from the outgoing Chair, Andy Kincaid. The Chair gavel was passed to Jim Coffey who thanked all for attending and adjourned another very successful OFMA conference.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFP www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEMA www.angelfire.com/ok2/oema
OEM www.odcem.state.ok.us
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swt.usace.army.mil
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
ok.water.usgs.gov
Advanced Study Institute
web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/natoasi
CLOMR/LOMR Forms:
www.fema.gov/forms/forms.htm
EPA NPDES Phase II site:
www.epa.gov/npdes/
SMRC Stormwater Mgr Resource Center:
www.stormwatercenter.net
Link to: 44 CFR Ch. I (10-1-02 Edition)
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/fr/waisidx_02/44cfrv1_02.html

Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
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Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- **OWRB Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP**; Jan. 10-14, 2005. Contact: *OWRB, 3800 North Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73118*; for more information, call 405-530-8800; website: www.owrb.state.ok.us.
- **NFIP CRS E278 Training Class**; March 15-19, July 26-29, September 20-23, 2005, Contact Tom Hirt for more information at (301) 447-1062.
- **OFMA Spring Technical Training**; Great Plains Technology Center, Lawton, OK, March 4th; Tulsa Technology Center, Jenks, OK, March 11th. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.
- **NFIP National Flood Conference**; May 23-27, 2005, Marco Island, Florida. Contact: *Dorothy Martinez, Program Specialist, 158635 Park Ten Place, Suite 108, Houston, TX 77084*; for more information, call 281-829-6880; website: www.nfipregion6.com.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers**; June 12-17, Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: *ASFP Executive Office, 2809 Fish Hatchery Road, Ste. 204, Madison, WI 53713-3120*; (608) 274-0123; fax: (608) 274-0696; e-mail: asfpm@floods.org; website: www.floods.org.
- **OFMA 15th Annual Conference**; September 19-21, 2005, Quartz Mountain State Park, Lone Wolf, OK. Contact: *OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101*; website: www.okflood.org.

OFMA Poster Contest

OFMA's Poster Contest deadline is February 25, 2005. Details and Rules regarding the contest can be located on the OFMA website www.okflood.org

Senator Named Public Official of the Year

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association recently awarded Senator Bruce Price with one of their most prestigious awards. The Democrat from Hinton was named Public Official of the Year. Price received the award because of his tremendous effort and support in pursuing historic landmark legislation in the state to ensure that floodplain managers receive quality training to ultimately reduce future flood loss. Oklahoma is one of only three states including Arkansas and New Mexico that require annual training for their floodplain managers. According to Oklahoma Water Resources Board Contractor Ken Morris, there are 377 communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Prior to the new law, these communities were required to appoint a floodplain administrator that administered and enforced a flood damage prevention ordinance. OWRB performs training for these individuals each year in May and hosts five workshops around the state. Mr. Morris said that only about 100 administrators attend the training annually. "This was an important issue that needed to be addressed. Previously, there wasn't any requirement or mandate for training, so most administrators weren't attending the training and thus didn't understand the magnitude of their job or the responsibilities that went with it," said Sen. Price. "One of the primary goals of the NFIP is to reduce property loss and unnecessary deaths from floods and I think the new law will make that easier."

"Sen. Price and Rep. Balkman R-Norman, co-author of HB 2284, have done a tremendous service to the people of Oklahoma" states Ken Morris. "We are greatly appreciative of their efforts. This is an issue that needs to be taken to the national level, and I know that with the passage of this legislation more good things will happen."



Committee Chair Updates

OFMA's committees met at the Annual Conference to review each committee's work in progress and update and review the progress of all old and new tasks. The Mitigation, Engineering & Mapping, Legislative, and Education Committees have all elected a new chairperson. Mr. W.B. "Bill" Smith, P.E., CFM of HISINC, L.L.C. volunteered to be the new Chairman of the Mitigation Committee and was elected by unanimous vote of those present. Mrs. Vaunda Pendergraft, CFM Community Development Coordinator for the City of Broken Arrow, was elected Chair of the Education Committee. Mr. Marc Utley, P.E. of Utley & Associates has been elected as the Engineering & Mapping Committee Chair. Ed Fite and Gary Shockley were elected co-chairs for the legislative committee. Mr. Joe Remondini, CFM will remain the Professional Development and Certification Committee (PDCC) Chair. The new PDCC Vice Chair is Jeff Bigby, CFM Floodplain Administrator for the City of Broken Arrow.

Turn Around, Don't Drown In Action

The **Turn Around, Don't Drown** campaign is designed to enhance public awareness of the dangers of driving or walking into flooded areas. The campaign seeks to make people aware of what can happen when they drive into high water. Engines can stall, and fast-moving waters can sweep cars off the road. Floods kill an average of 127 Americans each year, far more than lightning, tornadoes or hurricanes, according to the National Weather Service. Four-fifths of flood victims die after walking or driving into moving water. National Weather Service storm data records that show 3,192 people died in floods between 1974 and 2003, an average of 106 deaths per year. During the same period, lightning claimed 2,002 lives (67 per year), tornadoes killed 1,935 (65 per year) and hurricanes killed 421 people (14 per year). The records also indicate 80 percent of the flooding deaths resulted when people drove or walked into moving water. When approaching this intersection in Moore, OK during a recent storm event, one by one, drivers made identical three-point turns and went back the way they came thanks to this sign's creative use of the slogan alerting drivers what to do in case of a flooded roadway. Photo by Gayland Kitch, E.M. Moore, OK.



Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

Vision

Floodplains are for floodwaters, habitat, water quality enhancement, and recreation.

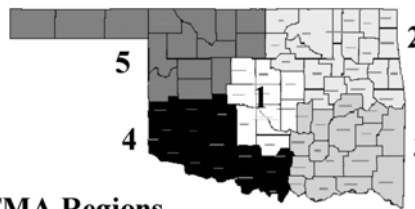
Mission

We encourage and support, with our partners, flood-safe development and flood mitigation. We promote sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain. We support the floodplain management profession through education and certification.

Saving lives from floods and reducing property loss from floods are paramount to us.

An Invitation to Join OFMA

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association is a non-profit organization primarily dedicated to providing information and education to the public about reduction of loss of life and property due to flooding.



OFMA Regions

The best investment that \$30.00 can buy in the future of your state is a membership in the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Detach and Mail to:

OFMA

P.O. Box 8101

Tulsa, OK 74101-8101

New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:

___ Mitigation

___ Mapping and Engineering

___ Education/Legislative

___ Certification

___ Conference

Dues Schedule:

First-Year dues are probated depending on the quarter during which you join. The fiscal year starts October 1st and ends September 30th.

	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep
Full Membership	\$ 30.00	\$ 22.50	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.50
Student Membership	15.00	11.25	7.50	3.75
Associate Membership	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
Agency Membership	50.00	37.50	25.00	12.50
(Plus \$10.00 per employee designated by the Agency)				
Corporate Sponsor	100.00	75.00	50.00	25.00



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Mike Mathis, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association's 14th Annual Conference, held last month at Western Hills Lodge, was an overwhelming success. A valuable partner of the Water Board and one of the organizations targeted by the agency in our alliance-building strategy, OFMA continues to make giant strides in promoting floodplain management in Oklahoma. More than 150 floodplain managers from across the state attended the meeting and each earned 12 continuing education credits.

Lonnie Ward, Oklahoma's FEMA representative, who was reassigned to a similar position in Texas, was recognized at the meeting for six years of service to OFMA. We will certainly miss Lonnie's professionalism and leadership. We are lucky that Jack Graham, a long-time OFMA member and one of the state's first certified floodplain managers, will assume Lonnie's post. The transition should be seamless as Jack, like Lonnie, demonstrates wide-ranging knowledge of floodplain management issues in Oklahoma. And both men recognize the extreme importance of consistent and quality training programs for those involved in community land use planning, especially in crucial floodplain areas.

As 2004 comes to an end, I think most in the floodplain management community would agree that the legislation and new law requiring continuing education of floodplain administrators was the most significant event of the year. The OWRB has begun the rule-making process for floodplain manager accreditation and we encourage your suggestions and comments. Training and continued education is the key to responsible floodplain management at the local level. Our individual success in this discipline, as with all endeavors in our own lives, is dependent upon continued expansion of our personal knowledge and experience. It's just common sense.

I also want to thank OWRB staff for their continued hard work this year. Our people have worked diligently to complete the many targeted Community Assistance Program visits that ensure local compliance with NFIP regulations. In this regard, we depend upon community officials to maintain their program administration records and ensure that flood damage prevention ordinances remain current and enforced. Also, as we inventory repetitive loss structures in Oklahoma, we appreciate their assistance in providing staff with their local knowledge of individual properties and county records.

Finally, I want to remind you that the OWRB's upcoming training class, "Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP," is scheduled for January 10-14, 2005. Please call Rhonda Bowers at 405-530-8800 to enroll; class size is limited and the class fills quickly. I encourage all floodplain managers to take advantage of this excellent training opportunity.

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Change Service Requested

December-January 2005

Funding Acknowledgement

Funds to produce *The B.F.E.* come in part from the National Flood Insurance Program, State Support Services Element of the Community Assistance Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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The B.F.E. is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. Information and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Directors. Items for publication and other editorial matters should be directed to Editor, "The B.F.E.", P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101.