



The B.F.E.*

* Base Flood Elevation

OKLAHOMA FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

Summer 2008

Number 3

OFMA's 18th Annual Fall Conference

September 21st-24th, 2008

Oklahoma Floods—How Prepared Can We Be In A Changing Climate

After a significant year of flooding, not just in Oklahoma but across the nation, many communities are more aware of the power of water and the volatile effects humans create in the environment. With flooding disasters on the rise, public awareness is at an all-time high. While this increased awareness in flooding

hazards is a significant step forward for floodplain managers and their ability to protect life and property—many communities are not aware the role the predicted change in climate conditions will have upon them. OFMA's 18th Annual Conference will deal with this very dramatic subject and prepare attendees for the arduous and complex challenges to come.

The 18th Annual Fall Conference will be held in Midwest City, Oklahoma, at the Reed Conference Center. Attendees are invited to stay at the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel located next to the conference location. The Conference is an essential



training forum for Floodplain Administrators around the State. This year's storms are clear reminders of why we do what we do.

The Annual Conference will kick-off Sunday, September 21st with the annual

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Flood Zone—Iowa Floods, June 2008

The flooding disasters which struck Midwest states in early June of 2008 caused incomprehensible damage, especially in Iowa. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials say they have received more than 35,000 applicants for federal aid and \$288.5 million already has been authorized in the state of Iowa alone.

The federal Housing and Urban Development agency has released \$85

million in housing aid to Iowa. On August 6th the Associated Press reported that Iowa Gov. Chet Culver advised that Iowa's overall financial losses from flooding could push as high as \$10 billion.



(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

Culver also says he has invited House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and other federal leaders to come to Iowa to view damage first hand in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and other areas damaged by flooding.

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To Much Water, To Little Water

Comments from the Chair

It seems that we always have such extremes in Oklahoma. May – July 2007 and May – July 2008 were extreme periods of intense rainfalls that were even a little extreme for Oklahoma. Now as August sets in, as it did last year, we are in very high temperatures and very little rain. The creeks are dry, the ground is cracking, and I hear people praying for rain. And, the thought of floodplain management is out the window – except for those who work in the business. People want roads fixed, water line breaks fixed, etc. etc. It is a very tough job to keep floodplain management in the forefront of our communities when we are so hot and dry. My hat is off to the floodplain managers that do maintenance during the summer months to help prevent flooding in the spring and fall. It is a good routine and highly recommended.

Map Modernization is coming to a close and the remaining FIRM Panels and FIS updated reports and, in some cases, new models will become effective soon. To those who are going through the Map Mod process, don't forget the necessary steps to adopt your new maps – Ken Morris and Gavin Brady will help you remember. As a hydrologist and hydraulic engineer, I believe that there is still a lot of work to be done to improve the process and there are still many computer models that need to be updated to support the new maps. OFMA

will continue to remind FEMA that a pretty picture, without the supporting data for that picture, is not worth much.

I also want to remind you of our upcoming Annual Conference on September 21-24, 2008, in Oklahoma City. There are many who have not yet registered or reserved their rooms and time is running short. Clark Williams, Vice Chair and Conference Chair has worked very hard to assemble a wonderful program about Climate Change and the long term effects on hydrology, hydraulics and floodplain management. Don't miss out on an opportunity to learn something new. Our 2010 National Conference planning is also proceeding. We plan to meet with ASFPM in October, with our committee chairs, to get into the "nuts and bolts" of planning in preparation for about 3000 people from all over the USA and beyond to descend on our state.

This will be the last article that I write as Chair of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association. It seems that though a year is still 365 days long, it goes a lot faster now than it used to when I was younger. I want to express my appreciation to all of the OFMA Board, OFMA Committee Chairs, and our members for the support during my tenure as your Chair. Not everything that I had planned to do was accomplished, and many things I had not planned to do were accomplished, so I believe it balanced out. I will continue to develop and implement the Disaster



Response Team (DRT) program in Oklahoma, I will continue to coordinate the OFMA Training Cadre with new programs for training, I will co-chair the 2010 ASFPM National Conference, and I will continue to assist OFMA in whatever other activities I am requested. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great association of professionals.

See you in September at the Annual Conference!

OFMA Chair

W. B. "Bill" Smith, P.E., CFM

(Continued from page 1) *Flood Zone*

Those trips would be aimed at speeding up federal recovery help

Culver says Iowa farmers face huge financial damage, while housing losses total \$1 billion. Public infrastructure damage is at least \$800 million, and private businesses are also feeling the pinch, with Alliant Energy at \$225 million and Quaker Oats topping \$200 million.

"You put all that together -- I've continued to say were talking about as much as \$10 billion in private-sector and public-sector loss," Culver said.

The Iowa flood of 2008 was an

event involving most of the rivers in

eastern Iowa beginning around June 8, 2008, and ending about July 1, 2008. Flooding continued on the Upper Mississippi River in the southeastern portion of the state for several more days.



Buildings and debris are seen floating in the Cedar River against a railroad bridge Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

The flooding included (from north to south, east to west), the Upper Iowa River, the Turkey, and the Maquoketa Rivers; outside of the Driftless Area, they include the catchments of the Wapsipinicon River and that of the Iowa River, to include the latter's major tributary, the Cedar River (and its significant tributaries); and the Skunk River in its various forks. The Des Moines River had some minor flooding, but floodwalls

(Continued on page 4)

PLEASE JOIN US!*Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association***18th Annual Conference**

“Oklahoma Floods – How Prepared Can We be in a Changing Climate”

Monday, September 22 – Wednesday September 24, 2008

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Center

Something's happening to our World Climate – it's changing rapidly which leads to more intense weather events – something we are all aware of now....and it's Happening in Oklahoma!

After the Floods of 2007, our Annual Conference this year will focus its theme and tracks on Climate Change. The effects of a changing climate will impact both structural and nonstructural floodplain management in the future. The Conference Program will provide you with some perspectives and approaches to deal with the impacts of a changing climate.

Themes and Tracks -

The Times are Changing – Climate

Let's Look at It – Oklahoma from NW to SE – Water runs downhill

Manage What We've Got

Structural Management – Where are We?

Non-Structural Management

Pulling it Together

Where are We Going

Designed for anyone involved with floodplain issues:

- Floodplain Administrators
- Planners
- Engineers
- Insurance Agents
- Lenders
- Real Estate Professionals
- Elected & Appointed Officials
- Local, State & Federal Government Employees
- Interested Citizens
- Dam Owners
- Developers
- Emergency Responders
- Teachers and Students

Workshop provides 12 CECs.

Plan to attend, register early, reserve your hotel room(s), and participate.

OFMA has reserved rooms at Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110

1-800-325-3535, 1-405.455.1805 www.sheraton.com/midwestcity.

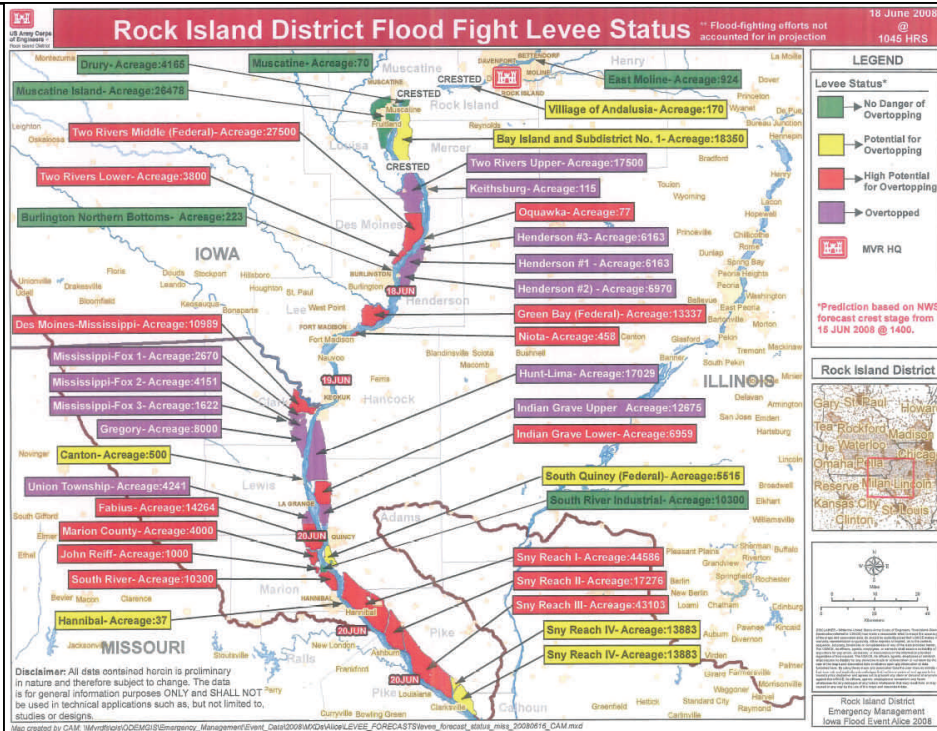
Cost is just \$81 or current prevailing Government Rate for Single, or Double plus tax per night.

Reservations due no later than August 29, 2008. Mention you are with Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association.

(Continued from page 2)
Flood Zone

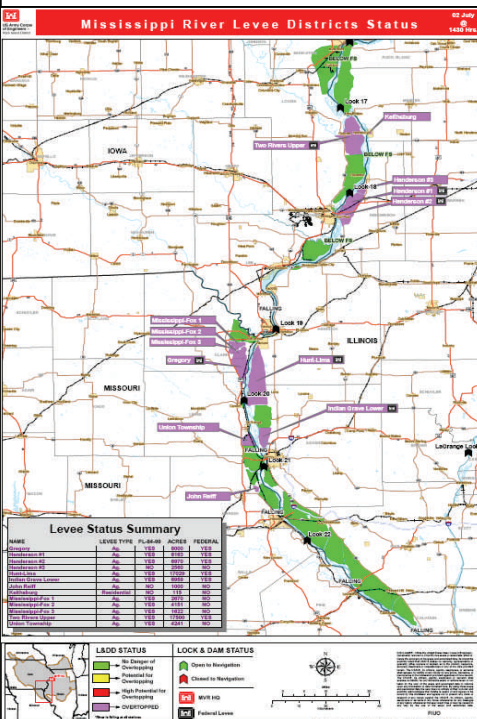
and levees for the most part held fast. The Upper Mississippi River which receives the outflow from all these rivers remained at flood stage into late July.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) maintained a constant and heightened vigil on the levee system along the Mississippi River during the flooding. The USACE staffs six districts along the Mississippi River, with the Rock Island District the most affected by the flooding. On June 18, 2008, (right) there was great concern with the stability of the levee system with many levees already failed and a high potential for further breaches. By July 2, flood levels



campus of the University of Iowa was vulnerable, and serious flooding did occur.

While the Great Flood of 1993 was greater in national concerns, in local Iowa terms, the June 2008 Midwest floods were considerably worse. Lessons learned in 1993, however, helped prevent or otherwise ameliorate damage, extensive as it was; one example is how the City of Des Moines raised its levee around its domestic water and sewage treatment plants.



lowered enough to assess the levee damage; thirteen levees on the Mississippi River were overtopped or breached in the Rock Island District's area of operation (6 federal, 7 non-federal - map above; bullet list to the right) during the June 2008 flood. All the sand levees subsequently breached due to the overtopping. All levees that overtopped will have to be evaluated after the water recedes further to determine whether they also breached.

- Henderson #3 (non-federal) overtopped (2300hrs 6/14)
- Two Rivers Upper (federal) overtopped (2000hrs 6/14)
- Keithsburg (private, non-federal) breached (0900hrs 6/14)
- Mississippi Fox 1 (non-federal) overtopped, then breached (2200hrs 6/15)
- Mississippi Fox 2 (non-federal) overtopped, then breached (2200hrs 6/15)
- Mississippi Fox 3 (non-federal) overtopped, then breached (2200hrs 6/15)
- Gregory levee (federal) overtopped, then breached (1500hrs 6/16)
- Union Township (non-federal) overtopped, then breached (1400hrs 6/16)
- John Reiff (private, non-federal) overtopped (6/16)
- Henderson #2 (federal) overtopped (0530hrs 6/17)
- Henderson #1 (federal) overtopped (0530hrs 6/17)
- Indian Grave Lower (federal) overtopped (0500hrs 6/18)
- Hunt Lima (federal) overtopped (0130hrs 6/18)

The flooding of Cedar Rapids and Iowa City were the most significant events. Recovery, particularly for Cedar Rapids will be a protracted, costly affair. For Iowa City, the level of devastation was less than expected, but that of Cedar Rapids was greater than anticipated. In Iowa City, the

The flooding led to evacuations of thousands of homes. In eastern Iowa along the Iowa River and Cedar River, flooding exceeded that of the Flood of 1993.

Flooding also forced the closure of an extensive number of roads throughout the eastern half of the state, a situation that affected even more people than those who directly experienced the floods; in particular, portions of Interstate 80 and Interstate 380 were closed. The closure of bridges in Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City completely disrupted normal traffic patterns and entailed enormous detours.

Rail traffic was also seriously compromised. The Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroad (IC&E Railroad) washed-out between Mason City and Nora Springs. The Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway Co. (CRANDIC/CIC) was particularly affected; its bridge in Cedar Rapids was destroyed by the flooding while an embankment downriver near Coralville was also washed out. The Keokuk Junction Railway (KJRY) also reported disruptions. Amtrak service was rerouted away from Iowa; a number of trains had their passengers put onto busses.

While Iowa continues the arduous process of recovery, the tragic lessons learned from this event will hopefully remain fixed in the minds of citizens, as well as local, state and federal officials to prevent another occurrence through flood hazard mitigation measures and public support of flood control policies.



Green Country Stormwater Alliance
Give Clean Water a Helping Hand

In 2004, the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) was approached by the US Environmental Protection Agency Region VI (EPA) office about starting a Stream Team in Oklahoma. INCOG received an EPA FY-04 104(b)(3) Wetlands grant from the Oklahoma Office of Secretary of Environment (OSE) to develop and implement the Oklahoma Stream Team (OST). The OST mission is to develop resources that provide alternatives to concrete or riprap lining of streambeds in favor of more natural channel improvements that favor environmental protection and improve water quality.

Purpose

The Oklahoma Stream Team is an association of Federal, State and local environmental agencies devoted to providing communities, planners and developers with realistic options for stream modification and stormwater management projects that protect and enhance water quality. The development, consulting and municipal communities are educated on the values of preserving healthy streams and riparian systems. The Oklahoma Stream Team encourages stream restoration and watershed planning by providing technical assistance in the project planning phase that will result in greater compliance with Federal and State permits under Section 404 and stormwater regulatory programs. Services of the Oklahoma Stream Team are free of charge.

As the EPA supporting grant ended in December 2007, INCOG remained committed to maintaining the OST efforts in Oklahoma. There continue to be the need for new partnerships and projects. To further this effort The Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) was formed. GCSA and OST share common goals to protect urban watersheds and enhance water quality, and in this way the GCSA takes over for the OST.

GCSA Program Background

Stormwater is not just fallen raindrops - rainfall carries with it loose material and chemicals that can cause pollution in surface water. Pollutants in stormwater runoff are often transported to storm

sewer systems and ultimately discharged directly into local rivers and streams without treatment. Common pollutants in stormwater runoff include trash, solvents, petroleum products, heavy metals, pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, bacteria, and sediment and chemicals from construction sites.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) stormwater program now regulates discharges from many Municipal Separate Storm Water Systems (MS4s). Phase I of the regulations addresses large cities (Tulsa and Oklahoma City) and 11 categories of "industrial activities". Phase II addresses many other cities in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the permitting authority in Oklahoma.



When the Phase II stormwater regulations were adopted by EPA in late 1999, INCOG member governments potentially affected by this new permit program requested INCOG's assistance. It was determined that INCOG could implement a regional program to address certain stormwater controls, mainly dealing with public education, employee training and providing technical assistance to its members.

INCOG organized a statewide advisory group that included the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), and the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML). This advisory group held several meetings to work out technical problems in developing the State's general permit and permit application procedures. In addition, INCOG formed a Stormwater Steering Committee of not only its stormwater cities, but also many other cities in Oklahoma.

As permits began to be issued in 2006, this Steering Committee became the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) as a way to identify the unified commitment of stakeholders to implementing stormwater protection strategies in Northeast Oklahoma.

From the beginning, cities in Oklahoma wanted to have consistency among their stormwater programs. In 2002, INCOG developed a model Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) document that could be modified by each city to suit local conditions. INCOG received EPA approval of this document and it was eventually used by many cities in Oklahoma as the basis for their own SWMP documents. Each city developed its own list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) along with associated measurable goals and implementation schedules.

Because this is a new permit program, many changes will likely occur over the next few years as each city (and INCOG) grows into technical maturity.

Many city and county members of the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), including additional cities in Oklahoma, have created the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA) to collectively address stormwater pollution



regionally. INCOG coordinates the GCSA activities, which include a variety of public education programs, technical assistance, and employee training. This website is dedicated to assistance for citizens and businesses within the GCSA, as well as for providing resources for GCSA municipalities themselves.

For More Information

Please contact Richard Smith with [INCOG](mailto:richard.smith@inco.org) at (918) 579-9450 for more information about the Oklahoma Stream Team or to inquire about how OST can assist with your project planning.

To learn more about water quality programs in Oklahoma, visit the [INCOG water quality website](http://inco.org/water-quality-website).

For information about urban water quality and stormwater protection visit the [Green Country Stormwater Alliance](http://GreenCountryStormwaterAlliance.org) website.

TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN® POSTER CONTEST



Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, Turn Around Don't Drown®. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

To increase Oklahoman's Flood Awareness, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association held a statewide poster contest open to all fourth grade students throughout the great state of Oklahoma. Contest winners received \$250 for first prize, \$150 for second prize and \$100 for third prize plus trophies and certificates. Winners from each of the five regions throughout Oklahoma will have their posters published on the 2009 Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar due out in the fall.



The first place winner for the state of Oklahoma is Fiona Stout (shown receiving her trophy and check from Jeff Bigby, OFMA Region 2 Representative) at Rockdale Elementary School in Miami, Oklahoma. Not only did she win a beautiful trophy and \$250.00, but her

Membership Drive Contest

In April 2006, the OFMA Membership Committee was formed to recruit, retain, and mentor OFMA members. The Committee developed this membership contest initially in 2006 as a way to increase the membership numbers and encourage existing members to spread the word about the benefits of OFMA membership. As of May 2008, OFMA has over 400 members and the Board is committed to seeing that number increase.

The Contest Rules are simple – encourage people interested in floodplain issues to become a member of OFMA and share experiences with other floodplain administrators. All current OFMA members (except OFMA Board and Committee Members) are eligible to participate. The new member's application must be submitted or postmarked by August 31, 2008, and the member's (contestant's) name must be noted on the application. The top three contestants with the most points will be the winners. The points are calculated as follows: **3** point for a Corporate Member, **2** points for an Agency Member and **1** point for a Full Member. The winners and prizes will be announced at the Fall Annual OFMA Conference in September.

Good Luck!

Omeed Mollaian, P.E., CFM
OFMA Membership Committee Chair

HMGP FUNDING

W. B. Smith, OFMA Chair, has written a White Paper entitled the "Use of FEMA HMGP Funding." In this document Mr. Smith has presented OFMA's position in regards to the availability and use of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding from FEMA as well as the types of projects the funding may be used for.

All interested parties are encouraged to read the document submitted by Mr. Smith. You may do so by following the link below or by accessing OFMA's website.

http://www.okflood.org/pdf/OFMA_HMGP_Funding.pdf

ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



FEMA

To provide assistance before or after a flood, the National Flood Insurance Program has developed a document entitled, "Answers to Tough Questions" that will help provide answers and reassure those affected by a flood. The document may be accessed from:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=2811>

(Continued from page 1) 18th Annual Fall Conference OFMA Golf Tournament and the pre-conference Board Meeting. If you haven't participated in the annual tournament, be sure and sign up this year. Competition is intense, but fun will be had by all!



The Conference is once again anticipated to be the premier event for floodplain administrators and advocates in Oklahoma. Attendees will be treated to three days of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions and exhibits as well as opportunities for sight-seeing and socializing.

After the opening plenary session, featuring some local talent, a welcome from the Mayor's office and video of our Flood History, the Conference will offer Floodplain 101, as well as three training tracks, including:

- Basic Training for new Floodplain Administrators/City Council/County Commissioners/Floodplain Board
- Intermediate Training for Experienced Floodplain Administrators
- Special Issues for Engineering

Consultants and Experienced Floodplain Administrators

Also, several very unique learning opportunities make this year's conference incredibly exciting. Dr. Ken Crawford, State of Oklahoma Climatologist, will discuss "The Times are Changing - Climate." Richard Roths, AICP, URC Chicago, will present "Using Zoning to Reduce Food Damage," a must for municipal officials. Finally, Bill Smith will outline OFMA's Disaster Response Team which will provide critical support to Oklahoma communities.

Monday evening will feature the Vendor's Social at Sheraton Plaza. Entertainment for the event will be an extra special treat consisting of Karaoke and a Hypnotist. We may only imagine the *interesting* situations this combination will create! Finger food and drinks will be available. Also, a

Hospitality Suite will be open after the Vendor Social at the Sheraton Hotel.



Tuesday will begin with a plenary session featuring the MapMod program, followed by three training tracks. The Business Meeting will be held following Regional Meetings to nominate OFMA officers. The afternoon session again includes Floodplain 101 and the three training tracks. Tuesday night the Awards Banquet presenter Janet K. Meshek, P.E., CFM, the president of Meshek & Associates, PLC, will recognize achievements from the year. Afterwards, the live entertainment will feature Ronnie Kay, KOMA DJ in the Reed ABC Room.

The closing plenary session on

Wednesday will include Duane Smith with the OWRB presenting an "Agency Update"; Greg Main, CFM, ASFPM Vice Chairman and Indiana State NFIP Coordinator with national Policy Impacts "Where We Are Going"; Albert Ashwood, Past OFMA Chairman, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management; and Ross Richardson, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief, DHS/FEMA Region VI with "Non-Structural Management—How Valuable is the Flood Insurance". And of course, don't forget the prize drawings!



Additional sessions are available Wednesday afternoon, including the Flood Smart Program Outreach Meeting for Flood Insurance Outreach Program Stakeholders from 12:30 to 2:30, a class from 1:00 to 5:00 on the SDE program, taught by Glen H. Beard from FEMA. Pre-approved applicants can also take the CFM test from 1:00 to 5:00.

For a complete schedule outline and a registration form go to <http://www.okflood.org/pdf/o8FAnnualConfRegistration.pdf>

Freddie Floodway

See you there!



Question: When an individual or homeowner asks for assistance with floodplain questions, who do you send them to?

Answer: 1. The local Flood Plain Manager 2. Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Question: What is the floodway?

Answer: The area of the channel of a creek and the adjacent land areas that are reserved for flood flows. This area is to be clear of fences, buildings, fill, or any other obstructions that could inhibit flood flows.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFPM www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEM www.ok.gov/oem
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/fhm/frm_form.shtm
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/wais_idx_02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Tinna Song-Wallis
tsong@cox.net

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- 2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization; the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**
 Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Cathy Poage (580) 256-1014
 October 14, 2008 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Norman
 January 15, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Tulsa
 February 2-6, 2009 - Week long CFM in Norman
 February 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Norman
 March 3, 2009 - 101 in Lawton, Advanced in Lawton
 March 5, 2009 - 101 in Woodward, Advanced in Woodward
 March 10, 2009 - 101 in Bartlesville, Advanced in Bartlesville
 March 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Tulsa
 March 24, 2009 - 101 in McAlester, Advanced in McAlester
 April 9, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Norman
 May 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Norman
 May 14, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Tulsa
- ASFPM Annual Conference Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses;**
 June 7-12, 2009; Orlando, FL. Sponsored by ASFPM; website: www.floods.org
- 29th Annual Governor's Water Conference & 6th Annual OWRRI Water Research Symposium;** October 28-30, 2008; Sheraton-Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110.
- National Floodproofing Conference IV;** November 17-20, 2008; New Orleans, LA
- 2008 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference;** August 26-29, 2008, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME, 04101. Sponsored by FHWA, MDOT and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Research Laboratory; website: www.maine.gov/mdot/workshops-conferences-events/workshops-events.php
- OFMA 18th Annual Conference;** September 21-24, 2008, Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- 2010 ASFPM National Conference;** June 13th-19th, 2010, Oklahoma City OK. Local Host OFMA; website: www.okflood.org.

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.

2010 ASFPM National Conference

June 13th—19th, 2010, Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center, Oklahoma City, OK



The week of June 13th—19th, 2010, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will convene the world's principal floodplain management conference. The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) is the local host for this exciting event. At this once-in-a-life-time opportunity local, state, and federal officials, as well as consultants, industry leaders and additional interested parties will be gathered together attending sessions relevant to a single theme.

During the week industry experts will organize plenary and concurrent sessions and share progressive information in techniques, programs, and resources to accomplish flood mitigation, watershed management, and other community goals.

Please plan now to join with participants from across the nation at this electrifying event. Look to upcoming issues from the *BFE* or ask *OFMA*, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org for more detailed information as we draw closer to this occasion.



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.

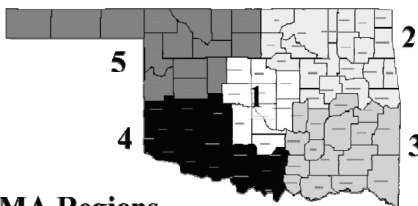
Mission

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.



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

OFMA Regions

OFMA Membership Application

Name: _____

Fax: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Work Phone: _____

Address: _____

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
- ☐ Research

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

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Coordinator

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Summit in Washington D.C.. All 50 State NFIP Coordinator's and State Hazard Mitigation Officer's (SHMO's) were invited to participate in the Unified HMA Summit. Along with the 100 State participants were FEMA officials that manage the 4 HMA, non-disaster programs: Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) along with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

The goal of the Summit is to unify the application process needed to enhance the grant process associated with each program. The competitive grants are awarded to any State, Tribal or Local entity.

Another goal is to combine the HMGP with these grant programs under the same Guidance Documents. Benefit Cost Analysis Reengineering (BCAR) was discussed at length and it's quite evident changes in this determination needed to be completed. The new and improved BCA tool will be online by October 1, 2008 and should be more user friendly. In comparing old projects using the new tool, the benefit cost was actually a little higher than with the old standard. Good news for those projects that always seems to be right at the 1.0 barrier.

Projects to protect either public or private property including acquisition and demolition or relocation are eligible under all programs along with projects of the same description that also account for open space conversion along with

elevation at or above the BFE. Other opportunities are available under these programs as well. While the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) assists communities in administering the NFIP, Bill Penka (SHMO) and the Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) administer the grant and disaster programs. To inquire about these programs contact Mr. Penka at

405.521.2481. Mr. Penka was also in attendance at the HMA Summit and it was quite evident that Bill and his staff have an overwhelming task of dispersing all the Oklahoma funds, especially HMGP, that have been available the past 2 years with all the Presidential Disasters declared. Please contact Bill or one of his staff to see if your community can benefit from any of these programs.



The OWRB and OEM are working to build a better relationship between the 2 Agencies. Floodplain Management and Emergency Management should be working hand in hand to provide a better product "saving lives and protecting property" to Oklahomans. This is not just a State of Oklahoma issue either. It was apparent at the Summit that Nationally, both agencies need to do a better job working together. Bill and I will work harder to see that's done here in our great State.

See all of you next month at the OFMA Annual Conference in Midwest City.

Gavin Brady, CFM
NFIP State Coordinator



FEMA

NATIONAL FLOOD HAZARD LAYER UPDATE

On July 14, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) started updating the National Flood Hazard Layer daily. New Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) data now is reflected on the NFHL as of their effective dates, providing users with access to the most current flood hazard information. Online NFHL services, including MapViewer - Web, NFHL Web Map Service (WMS), and Google Earth™ utilities, provide access to these data immediately. The updates also are included in the monthly releases of NFHL Geographic Information System (GIS) data, which is packaged by individual state. For more information, visit the FEMA Map Service Center website at <http://msc.fema.gov> or call toll-free at 1-800-358-9616.

David Taft, Michael Baker Jr.
(703) 960-8800

FEMA Releases MHIP Version 3.0

FEMA has released the latest version of the Multi-Year Flood Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP), Version 3.0, which details FEMA's plan for prioritizing and delivering modernized flood maps for areas of the United States with the greatest flood risk. MHIP Version 3.0 amends Version 2.0 dated September 2006 and Version 2.5 dated April 2007. MHIP Version 3.0 provides: Detailed tables of flood map production targets; Stakeholder input information; a summary of FEMA's progress in meeting Key Performance Indicators for the Flood Map Modernization program; and Appendices that provide a detailed listing by State and county for all map production activities, both scheduled and completed.

MHIP Version 3.0, as well as previous versions, is available on FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Web site at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/mh_main.shtm. Interested parties with questions pertaining to the updated flood map production sequencing in MHIP Version 3.0 are encouraged to contact their appropriate local and State officials, who are working with one of FEMA's 10 Regional Offices.

Source: Ernie Lepore (703) 317-6276

OFMA recently responded with \$400 to a request for donations from the ASFPM Foundation Development Committee Chair sent to chapters nationwide. These donations will allow the Foundation to provide ongoing support for the Gilbert White Floodplain 2050 Forum, the Foundation Symposium, the half-time sponsorship of a grant application writing position for the ASFPM Executive Office, the Nick Winter Scholarship, initiative research and materials, and many other programs in support of advancing sound floodplain management throughout the nation. OFMA is asking for its members to help cover the cost of this support for the Foundation. Please remember that your donations are tax-deductible and help support the great work being done nationwide.



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Summer 2008

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Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association 2007-2008

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OFMA's 18th Annual Fall Conference Wrap-Up

DON'T MISS! EVENTS AND AWARDS REVEALED INSIDE!



New Regional Organization Structure

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Photo Submission Winner

Amy Brandley

Canadian County

Storm 5/8/07



18th Annual Fall Conference Wrap-Up

4



18th Annual OFM Awards

6



Floodplain Act Blocks Program Participation

10

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Comments from the Chair

It's a new OFMA year – Welcome! Thank you for the honor of serving as your Chair for 2008-2009 and to represent you throughout this coming year. There are many issues to address in this new OFMA year and together with your assistance we will.

A further word of welcome goes to our new Officers and Board Members. Dr. Ellen Stevens, P.E., CFM, Consulting Engineer, is our new Vice Chair. Carolyn Schultz, CFM, USACE, continues in her role as Treasurer and our new Secretary is Amy Brandley, CFM, Canadian County FPA. Ken Morris, CFM, continues to be our sage and esteemed Executive Director and Gavin Brady, CFM, ably represents OWRB as the State NFIP Coordinator.

Do You Know Who Your Regional Representative Is?



OFMA Regions

We have reorganized our Regions and have three new Regional Representatives: Region 2 (Northeast) – David Cross, CFM, from Tulsa; Region 4 (Southwest) – Dale Lasley, CFM, from Ft. Cobb; and Region 5 (Northwest) – Clint Strawn, CFM, from Alva. They join our other Regional Representatives from Region 1 (Central) – Leslie Lewis, P.E., CFM, Oklahoma City and Region 3 (Southeast) – Joseph Marquardt, CFM, Durant, OK. Each of these individuals places great emphasis on their service and duties to their communities and to OFMA. We commend them for their undaunted efforts and ask our members to coordinate your needs and desires through the Regional Representatives. They are also the points of contact for local training provided by the OFMA Training Cadre that will come to your area to conduct training and workshops.

GET INVOLVED – JOIN A COMMITTEE!

THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION – IT NEEDS YOUR ABLE HELP TO RUN AND BE EFFECTIVE IN THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA!

Bill Robison, CFM, is our new Committee Chair for Mapping and is looking for some map conscious members. Our returning Committee Chairs are: Janet Meshek BFE Editor and Andy Hamilton BFE Editor; Carolyn Schultz Budget Committee Chair; Joe Robinson Education Committee Chair; Tom Leatherbee Insurance Committee Chair; Ana Staggs Legislative Committee Chair; Omeed Mollaian Membership Committee Chair; Cecil Bearden Mitigation Committee Chair & Joe Remondini PDCC Committee Chair and Honorary Board Member.

The 18th Annual Conference received an excellent commendation and drove home Climate Change and its impact on us as Flood Plain Managers, but there is more and OFMA will continue to explore the ramifications of this change in the coming year as we explore better ways to organize and manage the floodplain in our respective drainage basins. I would like to thank you all for your attendance as this was

one of, if not the largest attendance ever. The CD's for the program are being developed and will be mailed to you very soon. I extend a grateful thanks to our vendors and sponsors who help offset a large part of our financial obligations for the conference.

We look forward to the Legislative Reception at the Capitol on March 10th, 2009; the Spring Technical Conference at Jenks; the 19th Annual Conference at the OSU Student Center; and to the 2010 ASFPM National Conference in Oklahoma City. OFMA has a primary and important role in being involved in the planning and execution of the 2010 National Conference as well as its execution and you will hear more about this as the date approaches.

A NEW YEAR – MANY ISSUES

The New Year brings many new issues as well as the continuance of old.

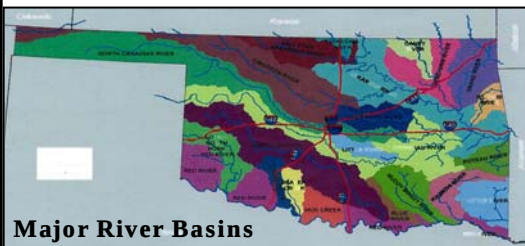
DRT

The OFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) so ably introduced at the 18th Annual Conference and activated at the Blackwell flooding disaster by our Past Chairman Bill Smith will see dynamic growth and development with application for funding of operations and field development. This is a historic step for OFMA with far reaching results. As noted in the DRT Concept Statement:

“The purpose of creating the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) Disaster Response Team (DRT) is to assist our neighboring communities in times of flooding or other natural disasters. OFMA DRT members would volunteer to go into Oklahoma communities (cities, towns, counties) that are about to have or just had a disaster and assist the local floodplain administrator (FPA) and community staff to deal with necessary tasks to evaluate flood damage or other natural disaster damage. This action would occur from the imminent time of disaster until a Federal Disaster Declaration occurs and Federal/State involvement is initiated under the Federal Declaration.”

OFMA participation in the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

Do you Know Which Drainage Basin Your Community Lies In?



As noted in the Oklahoma Drainage Basin Map above, your community is located in one of the drainage basins and possibly a sub basin. There is no integrated floodplain management planning to approach the drainage basin system – nor is there a one stop location to obtain identifying facts on how the system functions and the relative importance of floodplains within the system nor the impacts of rainfall in the system as to your community. OFMA is exploring funding possibilities under the WERDA Act

to provide support to OWRB on management planning for those floodplains. **THIS IS A NEW** approach to managing the floodplain in Oklahoma. **More later...**

Map Modernization continues to be wrapped up across the State. Oil and Gas Permitting



Issues continue at the forefront as OFMA strives to Amend Title 82 to provide for easier entry of communities into the NFIP; new developments, etc., Floodplain Administrator certification - State Statute requires this to be certified annually. Not only does this requirement comply with State law, but it educates local officials about how to implement and maintain a floodplain management program in your local community. As floodplain administrator you ensure that the “promotion of sound floodplain management practices and the natural and cultural benefits of the floodplain” are met. Your duties and responsibilities are to protect the lives and properties within the community in regard to ensuring proper floodplain management objectives are met. OFMA and OWRB continue to work hand-in-hand to provide the necessary training and tools to help the local floodplain administrator perform these duties. This is provided for you in workshops, but if you register YOU MUST ATTEND. That fulfills the basic tenet of OFMA – to support our local floodplain administrators. However we may help, we will.

Conference Changes at Strategic Retreat

Your Board has an important agenda planned for the Strategic Retreat which will be held at USACE/PORT OF CATOOSA – January 22-23, 2009. Agenda items for consideration will be: Public Outreach, Insurance underwriters, approval of a \$10.00 registration fee for OFMA Training Workshops; Advanced SDE and LOMC for the rest of the year (2009); consideration and action on increasing Annual dues to \$35.00; consideration, discussion and action on Annual Conference Changes which include – a Standing Conference Chair, registration procedure, Exhibitor and Vendor arrangements, Luncheon options, Tours – local site visits, the Hospitality Suite, new Agenda items and Publicity and Press Release/Attendance.

Therefore the Agenda is full, the responsibility is great and we depend on all to support floodplain management in Oklahoma – critical to our communities, critical to our quality of life.

I wish you and yours a wondrous and joyful Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year.

OFMA Chair

Clark M. Williams, CFM

Floodplain Managers in Oklahoma were especially busy this year dealing with the astonishing weather activity; from the ice storm recovery of January through and including narrowly missing the aftermath of two vicious Hurricanes that hit the Gulf coast—Gustav and Ike. The wild ride in the weather experienced by the residents of Oklahoma highlighted the importance of Hazard Mitigation as well as the need for OFMA to provide the state with continued direction in Floodplain Management. OFMA's 18th Annual Conference, *Oklahoma Floods—How Prepared Can We Be In A Changing Climate*, dealt with this very gripping subject and attendees gained understanding of the difficult and complex challenges facing our State and Nation.



The Annual Conference was held in Midwest City, Oklahoma, at the Reed Conference Center, from September 21st to 24th, 2008. Over 300 OFMA members, including local floodplain administrators, engineering consultants, vendors, and sponsors attended the Association's functions. The Conference continues to be an essential training forum for Floodplain Administrators around the State. This year's storms are clear reminders of why we do what we do. From the open-



ing meeting to the closing discussions, the OFMA Annual Conference highlighted the impact Floodplain Managers have upon where we live and work. Enjoying the wonderful interior of the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel mixed with the stunning weather of mid-



September, participants at the conference enjoyed a very pleasurable setting to experience all that was offered.

The OFMA Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, September 24th, 2008, at the Lincoln Park Golf Course in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. While everyone involved had great fun there could only be a few winners among the highly competitive teams involved.



The Conference was designed to provide educational opportunities in the form of tracks – Track 1 – Basic Training, Track 2 – Intermediate Training, and Track 3 – Special Issues. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board also provided a Floodplain 101



training opportunity for floodplain administrators to receive their six (6) hours of required certification training under Oklahoma State statute.



Monday morning began the three days of expert presentations, small-group discussions, training sessions and exhibits as well as opportunities for sight-seeing and socializing. Dr. Ken Crawford, State of Oklahoma



Climatologist, began the presentations by the specialists with "The Times are Changing - Climate." Richard Roths, AICP, URC Chicago, presented "Using Zoning to Reduce Food Damage," which is a must for municipal officials. Bill Smith outlined OFMA's Disaster Response Team which will provide critical support to Oklahoma communities.



Monday evening featured the Vendor's Social at Sheraton Plaza. Entertainment for the event was an extra special treat consisting of Karaoke and a Hypnotist. On Tuesday evening the OFMA



Awards Banquet was held to honor those floodplain administrators who endeavor to go "above and beyond" their minimum duties in protecting the citizens of their communities. Afterwards, live entertainment featured Ronnie Kay, KOMA DJ in the Reed ABC Room.



On Wednesday Duane Smith with the OWRB presented an "Agency Update." He was followed by Greg Main, CFM, ASFPM Vice Chairman and Indiana State NFIP Coordinator with National Policy "Where We Are Closing out the Albert Ashwood, Chairman, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Ross Richardson, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief, DHS/FEMA Region VI.



The 18th Annual Conference came to a close with the passing of the gavel. Vice-Chair Clark Williams accepted his new position as Chair, and now former Chair Bill Smith was presented with an honorary gavel to commemorate his time as OFMA Chair. Ellen Stevens was elected Vice-Chair and



will serve under Chair Williams for the year.

Click the Archives link then Past Conferences at www.okflood.org to view a slideshow of pictures from this Fall's 2008 Annual Conference.



Notes from the State NFIP Coordinator

Gavin Brady, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, NFIP State Co-

The Community Rating System (CRS) In Oklahoma

The Community Rating System (CRS) made a huge and immediate impact in Oklahoma when the voluntary program was implemented in 1990. 14 Oklahoma communities enrolled in the CRS in just the first 3 years. To put that in perspective, Oklahoma has 12 communities currently participating in the CRS with only Ponca City joining since 2000.

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System was implemented to recognize and reward communities that have floodplain management programs, which exceed the minimum standards. The goal of the CRS is to 1) reduce flood losses, 2) facilitate accurate insurance ratings and 3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. A community is awarded points based on 18 creditable activities that fall under these 4 categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction and Flood Preparation. Over 1,050 communities participate in the CRS with nearly 3.4 million policies. Although less than 5 % of the total 20,300 NFIP participating communities are in the CRS, it accounts for 67% of all flood insurance policies written.

Why has Oklahoma's interest in the CRS declined over the years? Are those communities not participating missing an opportunity to reward themselves and their citizens? The CRS is not for every community. Does your community have the policy base to make it worth your while?

The City of Dewey only has only 40 policies and participates yet the City of Oklahoma City has over 2,000 policies and doesn't. Who does this program benefit? Every community participating in the NFIP should evaluate their floodplain management program and determine if the benefits outweigh the cost to implement the CRS.

One of the most aggressive proponents of the CRS, not only in Oklahoma but also nationally, is the City of Tulsa. Tulsa is currently rated as a class 2 community in the CRS. Most communities enter the CRS as a class 9 meaning there will be a 5% reduction in flood insurance premiums located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). A class 8 would receive a 10% reduction. With Tulsa's class 2 rating, individuals with flood insurance located in the SFHA will receive a 40% reduction in their premiums. A significant savings to a community that had major problems with their floodplain management program less than 30 years ago. Way to go Tulsa.

Please consider the benefits of participation in the CRS and research the possibilities. Go to www.fema.gov/nfip/crs and explore. The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) recognizes the CRS communities every year at the Oklahoma Municipal Leagues annual conference. We are very proud of those communities that go "above the minimum".

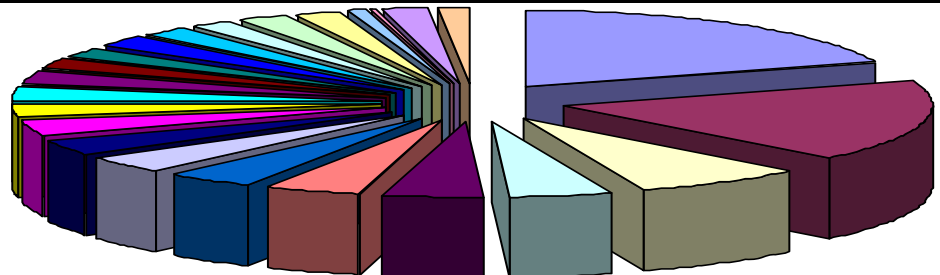
Gavin Brady, CFM
NFIP State Coordinator



Flood Insurance Policies in Oklahoma

Community	Number of Policies	Coverage
Oklahoma City	2,062	\$341,319,000
Tulsa*	1,844	\$371,283,900
Lawton*	802	\$120,174,600
Bixby	470	\$64,770,200
Miami	450	\$36,503,500
Tulsa County	440	\$68,730,500
Del City	422	\$37,828,600
Norman	384	\$80,130,100
Bartlesville*	358	\$45,275,300
Pauls Valley	351	\$31,197,200
Woodward	307	\$25,258,700
Broken Arrow*	295	\$61,050,500
Chickasha*	271	\$32,225,800
Moore	239	\$34,242,900
Wagoner County	239	\$46,007,700
Enid*	233	\$29,097,800
Edmond*	225	\$48,996,300
Midwest City	223	\$30,399,000
Stillwater*	222	\$32,014,000
Rogers County	203	\$37,570,300
Blackwell*	88	\$6,884,500
Dewey*	40	\$5,994,000
Sand Springs*	193	\$26,948,800
Ponca City*	146	\$15,843,800

BY THE NUMBERS



Oklahoma City	Tulsa*	Law ton*	Bixby	Miami
Tulsa County	Del City	Norman	Bartlesville*	Pauls Valley
Woodward	Broken Arrow*	Chickasha*	Moore	Wagoner County
Enid*	Edmond*	Midwest City	Stillwater*	Rogers County
Blackwell*	Dewey*	Sand Springs*	Ponca City*	

*CRS Community

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

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

An Invitation to Join OFMA



OFMA Regions

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.

New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐ Detach and Mail to:

Region (see map): 1 2 3 4 5

Committees:
☐ Mitigation ☐ Conference
☐ Certification ☐ Research
☐ Mapping and Engineering
☐ Education/Legislative

OFMA
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, OK 74101-8101



Name: _____ Phone: _____ Co./Org.: _____

Title: _____ Email: _____ Address: _____

OFMA Membership Application

An Awards Banquet is held each year at the OFMA Annual Conference. Awards are presented to those who have made exemplary contributions to floodplain management in Oklahoma and recognize excellence in flood loss reduction during this past year. Awards presented by Bill Smith.



Dan Carey



Ruth Walters

SILVER SCOOP AWARD

For key individuals who contribute significantly to the Association...

And the winners are:

- Dan Carey
- Julie Matthews
- Ruth Watlers
- Kathy Koon
- Cathy Poage



Julie Matthews



Kathy Koon



Cathy Poage

OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION AWARD



Chris Henderson



Tom Leatherbee

To individuals in floodplain management who have demonstrated excellence in an endeavor worthy of recognition...

And the winners are:

- Mike Chapman for the City of Ponca City—CRS Program
- Tom Leatherbee for the City of Del City—FPA

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

To individuals in floodplain management who have demonstrated excellence in an endeavor worthy of recognition...

Mike Chapman for the City of Ponca City—CRS Program



Mike Chapman

Board Member Service Awards: Carolyn Schultz, Treasurer; Ellen Stevens, Secretary; Laureen Gilroy, Past-Chair; Clark Williams, Vice Chair; & Bill Smith, Chairman.

Chairman Awards: R.D. Flanagan; Leslie Lewis; Phillip Beauchamp; Joe Romondini & Ellen Stevens

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Pictured left to right: Stanley Marquardt, Phillip Beauchamp, Jeff Bigby, Leslie Lewis and Marc Bolt (not available).

Regional Representatives



RONALD D. FLANAGAN PROJECT AWARD

For Oklahoma communities or agencies that go above and beyond the minimum...

PLATINUM AWARD—CITY OF BIXBY

Ray Bowen & Mickey Webb



Pictured left to right: RD Flanagan, Ray Bowden, Bill Smith and Mickey Webb.

BEN FRIZZELL MEDIA AWARD

For the production of outstanding floodplain management-related stories and publications...

Kenosha Corridor Flood Action Committee



Kenosha Corridor Flood Action Committee

GOLD AWARD—CITY OF KINGFISHER

Bill Tucker



Pictured left to right: RD Flanagan, Bill Tucker and Bill Smith.

To the public official who has implemented public policy initiatives that demonstrate excellence in addressing present and future floodplain management needs for his/her community...

OWRB State Floodplain Newsletter



OWRB "Flood Current" State Floodplain Newsletter—
Brian Vance (left)
James Leewright
and Darla Whitley.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE
YEAR

Holmes Willis



FLOODPLAIN MANAGER OF THE YEAR

For individuals who have demonstrated particular excellence in the field of floodplain management...

Amy Brandley, CFM – Canadian County

- Initiated floodplain management for oil companies drilling in the floodplain and followed it through to a national level.
- Stayed active and informed during Canadian County's map mod process.
- Proactive and prepared with GIS mapping of homes in flood prone areas.
- Works with the state to coordinate and not duplicate efforts.

Amy Brandley



CHARLES DON ELLISON MEMORIAL AWARD

To recognize an Association member who has demonstrated significant long-term leadership and support that clearly influenced and advanced OFMA...

Jeff Bigby, CFM– City of Broken Arrow

- Joined OFMA and became a Certified Floodplain Manager in 2001.
- Has served as the City of Broken Arrow Floodplain Administrator since 2003 and he helped Broken Arrow implement a Stormwater Utility in 2002. 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.
- Has continually held regional meetings and taught seminars to keep floodplain administrators educated and informed.
- Has remained active and helpful with the Map Mod process in coordinating meetings with FEMA representatives and the OFMA mapping committee to discuss our concerns.
- When City of Broken Arrow was hit with a rare 0.2% (500-yr) rainfall event, he documented the entire process so that we could learn from his experience.

Jeff Bigby



2010 ASFPM National Conference

June 13th—19th, 2010, Renaissance Hotel & Conference Center, Oklahoma City, OK

The week of June 13th—19th, 2010, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) will convene the world's principal floodplain management conference. The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA) is the local host for this exciting event. At this once-in-a-life-time opportunity local, state, and federal officials, as well as consultants, industry leaders and additional interested parties will be gathered together attending sessions relevant to a single theme.

During the week industry experts will organize plenary and concurrent sessions and share progressive information in techniques, programs, and resources to accomplish flood mitigation, watershed management, and other community goals.

Please plan now to join with participants from across the nation at this electrifying event. Look to upcoming issues from the *BFE* or ask OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org for more detailed information as we draw closer to this occasion.

Calendar of Educational Opportunities

- 2008 Floodplain Management 101 or Map Modernization; the Map Adoption Process, & Advanced Floodplain Management**
 Floodplain Management Class Schedule. Apply online or Contact Cathy Poage (580) 256-1014
 January 15, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Tulsa
 February 2-6, 2009 - Week long CFM in Norman
 February 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Norman
 March 3, 2009 - 101 in Lawton, Advanced in Lawton
 March 5, 2009 - 101 in Woodward, Advanced in Woodward
 March 10, 2009 - 101 in Bartlesville, Advanced in Bartlesville
 March 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Substantial Damage Estimator in Tulsa
 March 24, 2009 - 101 in McAlester, Advanced in McAlester
 April 9, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Advanced in Norman
 May 12, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Norman
 May 14, 2009 - 101 in Norman, Letter Of Map Change in Tulsa
- ASFPM Annual Conference Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses:**
 June 7-12, 2009; Orlando, FL. Sponsored by ASFPM; website: www.floods.org
- 29th Annual Governor's Water Conference & 6th Annual OWRRI Water Research Symposium:** October 28-30, 2008; Sheraton-Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110.
- National Floodproofing Conference IV:** November 17-20, 2008; New Orleans, LA
- 2008 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference:** August 26-29, 2008, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME, 04101. Sponsored by FHWA, MDOT and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Research Laboratory; website: www.maine.gov/mdot/workshops-conferences-events/workshops-events.php
- OFMA 18th Annual Conference:** September 21-24, 2008, Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center, Midwest City, OK, 73110. Contact: OFMA, P.O. Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101; website: www.okflood.org.
- 2010 ASFPM National Conference:** June 13th-19th, 2010, Oklahoma City OK. Local Host OFMA; website: www.okflood.org.

Web Sites

OFMA www.okflood.org
ASFPM www.floods.org
OWRB www.owrb.state.ok.us
FEMA www.fema.gov
OEM www.ok.gov/oem
Corps of Engineers (USACE)
www.swl.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/fum/fcm_form.shtml
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/wais-idx/02/44cfrv1_02.html
Webmaster: Michael Couch
mcouch@meshekengr.com

CURRENT FLOODPLAIN ACT BLOCKS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

The Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act became law in May 1980 and at that time was primarily enacted to allow Board's of County Commissioners to establish five member floodplain boards. At that time, counties had little authority for regulating development in their rural areas. This law, O.S., 82, Sections 1601-1618, as amended, authorized county floodplain board's to draft and adopt floodplain management regulations. Prior to this time only Planning Commissions in the county areas could do this. In 1980, Rogers and Tulsa County were the only counties with planning commissions that had adopted flood ordinances and this was for only portions of each county.



makes it extremely difficult to find five people to sit on this board that live in the town. To elaborate on this bureaucratic snafu, many small communities that have flood maps are sanctioned from receiving Hazard Mitigation Funds from FEMA after a disaster and other forms of disaster assistance. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board has been working with a number of small communities after the flood events of the 2007 summer so that they could qualify for HMGP funds. Sawyer, Slick, Minco, Grady County, the Town of Dacoma and others have expressed an interest in the NFIP, but this 1980 Act stands in their way. For

instance, Ms. Pam Inman, Woods County Clerk, began assisting Dacoma officials with the NFIP participation process in 2005 and due to several Act requirements; the Town of Dacoma still is not in the NFIP.

Today, this law is making it extremely difficult for small communities and counties to join the National Flood Insurance Program. Small towns have a very difficult time in finding five individuals to make up the floodplain board as required by this state law. The law requires a floodplain board to have two members for two years, two members for four years and one for six years. After each term is up, the new board member is then appointed for six-year terms. A small town with a population of 200 to 2,500

The solution to this 1980 legislative hurdle is to change the Act and allow communities to join the NFIP without having to establish a five-member floodplain board. Most cities and towns have statutory authority to adopt and approve flood damage prevention ordinances; they don't need a floodplain board to do this. Oklahoma has about 280 cities and towns that were in the NFIP prior to 1980 and aren't required to establish a floodplain board. Also, some of these 280 communities may have established some type of floodplain committee, but they chose to do that anyway without a state law requirement.



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.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Hello, it is the beginning of fall with the leaves turning beautiful shades of crimson and yellow and falling to the forest floor, with white tailed deer and wild turkeys moving



about more. I can feel the winter chill in the air letting me know that ole man winter is right around the corner, burr! But with our Indian Summers I love this time of year and enjoy the Oklahoma outdoors. Down to business, I continue to reflect about our fantastic 2008 18TH Annual Conference and the program that Clark Williams designed; and believe it was truly the best conference yet. I believe we had record attendance and have developed several very important partnerships as a result of the conference. For one, OFMA is back on the radar for the Association of County Commissioners thanks to Regional Representative Clint Strawn, OFMA's first County Commissioner to be elected to the Board. OFMA was given the opportunity to have its booth at the ACCO Annual Conference in Oklahoma City with Amy Brandley and Ellen Stephens taking charge of that endeavor with help from Canadian County Commissioner Phil Carson. Amy and Ellen have the new TADD Calendar's to pass out and two new Water Board brochures on floodplain management; Bulletin No. 7 on the State Accreditation Program and a new program brochure on Floodplain Management. Contact Cathy Poage at 580-256-1014 if you would like some. Next year ACCO will allow us to be on the agenda and give a workshop on floodplain management. Currently, OFMA is working on planning our very important Strategic Planning Retreat and our Annual Legislative Session. More information on both can be found in the November BFE and on the OFMA web site. Thank you for your time and membership in OFMA and keep the spirit that you do make a difference. Our Association is all about its people and OFMA has very extraordinary, enthusiastic, professional and dedicated members. Thank you.

W.K. Morris
Executive Director



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OFMA General Store

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers
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proud to wear and display them.

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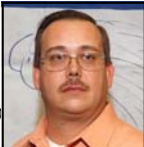
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Change Service Requested

Fall 2008

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Treasurer: Ms. Carolyn Schultz, CFM Corps of Engineers 1645 S. 101st E. Avenue Tulsa, OK 74128 Phone: (918) 669-4919 Fax: (918) 669-7546 E-mail: carolyn.schultz@usace.army.mil		<p>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.</p>					

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Check out Page 4 for a photo
recap of the 2019 OFMA Annual
Conference.





Words from the Chair

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

Congratulations to OFMA's new Chair

Brandon Claborn has been an OFMA member since 2002. Brandon serves as CEO of Tulsa-based Meshek & Associates, where he began his career nearly 20 years ago. A native Oklahoman, Brandon has dedicated his career to serving communities through H&H analysis, master drainage planning, and stormwater design.

On behalf of the Association, thank you to those who attended the 2019 Annual Conference in Durant. The OFMA Board and Conference committee spent many hours planning the conference events and presentations, and your participation made the conference a huge success. We were very fortunate to have public and private presenters as well as a variety of vendors at the conference.

The theme of the annual conference was "The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?" Personally, I learned the importance of telling our stories so that local, state and, federal leaders understand the importance of floodplain management. I had a front row seat for the flooding in Northeast Oklahoma and I was shocked to hear many stories relating to the flood that simply were not true. If we don't educate our leaders, floodplain management will not get the attention or funding it needs.

Additionally, I was reminded of the value of networking and continued learning. Changes in technology are having a significant impact on how we identify and quantify risk (2D models, LiDAR, Big

Data, etc.). Multiple presentations provided areas for me to grow in my understanding in better ways to use technology to improve floodplain management. I enjoyed catching up with colleagues and friends as well as making new connections. I've been involved with OFMA for almost 20 years and the value of this network of people seems to be growing exponentially.

I want to thank each of you who completed an evaluation form at the end of the conference. Except for those who forgot to bring a nice warm coat, the response was positive, and the suggestions were constructive. We will make adjustments in the future to make our conferences even better.

All OFMA members are welcome at the monthly Board of Directors meeting. Each month, our board members and committee chairs dedicate their time to doing the business necessary to keep the Association moving forward. There is no shortage of opportunities for new members to get involved. Please reach out to me or any other board member if you have ideas that will help us better serve the floodplain management community.

OFMA Annual Conference Award Winners

September 2019
Durant

OFMA Scholarship Award

Kelsie Schwab
University of Tulsa
Jesse Smith
Tulsa Community College

Special Recognition Award

Jennifer Smith Lawson
Meshek & Associates

Outstanding Recognition Award

Kenneth Schwab
City of Broken Arrow
Mayor Sandy Wright
City of Webbers Falls

Chairman's Award

Johnny Barron
City of Atlatl

Ben Frizzell Media Award

KOTV News on 6
Tulsa

W. Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award

Todd McLellan
City of Norman

Ronald D. Flanagan Gold Project Award

Together Project
City of Broken Arrow

Ronald D. Flanagan Platinum Project Award

Stormwater Management Program
City of Tulsa

Leatherbee-Robison Education Outreach Award

Mayor GT Bynum
City of Tulsa

J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award

Teresa Tosh
Tulsa County Floodplain Administrator

Jeff Smith
Muskogee County Floodplain Administrator



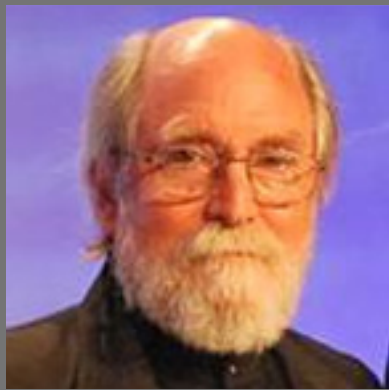


Thank you to Michael Kimbro for photographing the 2019 Annual Conference.



OFMA Annual Conference Photo Recap

September 2019
Durant



DRT Corner: Post Disaster Funding for Individuals

Bill Smith, PE, CFM

Over the past few months since the historic May-June 2019 flooding in Oklahoma, I continue to hear stories of mitigation, re-building, etc. FEMA provided personal assistance funding through Individual Assistance (IA) to many individuals immediately after the floodwaters subsided. There are several issues with this IA funding that I want our floodplain administrators to understand and communicate to their community officials and residents. First, this is not their payment to reconstruct their structure. This is for temporary housing, food, etc. It is the responsibility of each community's Floodplain Administrator to assess the damage of each structure, then issue Floodplain Development permits for structures that are not Substantially Damaged that are in the 1% Floodplain limits, or structures that are Substantially Damaged, but are compliant. If the structure is Substantially Damaged (SD) and is not compliant – that's a different issue. If your community has adopted the 2015 or newer International Building Code, then you are also required to assess for Substantial Damage, but not under

the NFIP, under the IBC.

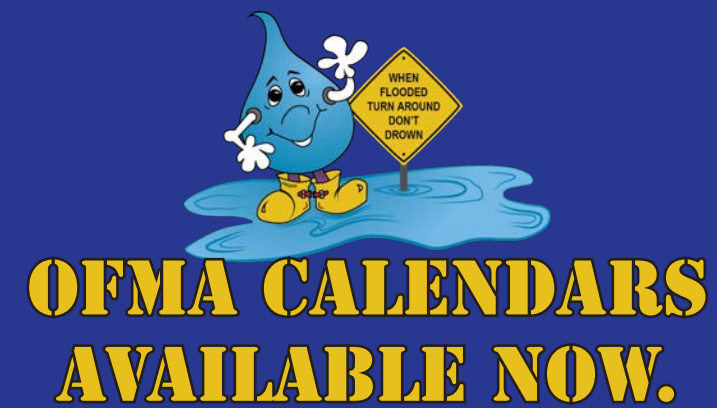
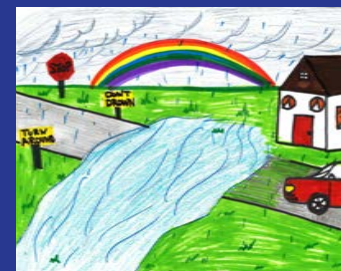
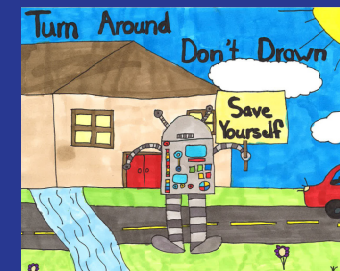
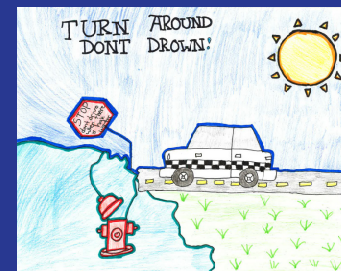
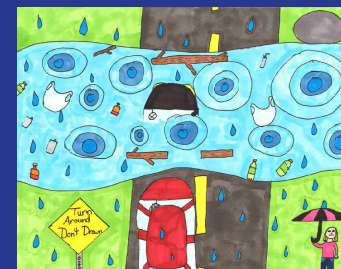
Residents are assuming and in some cases believe that they have been told by FEMA representatives that this IA funding is for rebuilding their structures. So they proceed without any SD assessment and without any floodplain development permit.

Especially for county floodplain administrators, trying to assess all structures in the SFHA after such a widespread disaster seems like an impossible task. Recently we were told a story of a county FPA who received a list from FEMA (post disaster and post SD Assessments) with a list of structures that were unknown to exist or unknown to have been flooded, yet received FEMA funding. Seems like there is a missing link that if FEMA receives a claim from an individual that they might share that information with the local FPA prior to issuing funds so the SD assessments can be performed to determine if the structures are SD or not, and if they are compliant or not – before any funding is released. Perhaps claims are being paid that should not be paid!! When this FPA

checked on some of the structures on the list, they were either totally rebuilt, there was no access to the property (locked gate) or there was no evidence of a structure damaged by flooding, but historic deterioration.

NRCS Development - Another issue that has come to my attention is the development of new NRCS ponds for an individual that are located in the SFHA, and no one has come to the FPA for a floodplain development permit. It appears that a pond was dug, the surplus material stockpiled nearby in the floodplain, and now the pond is full of water. Therefore there is no compensatory floodplain storage in this case. Yet again the FPA was not in the loop to require a floodplain analysis to be performed so that a determination could be made as to whether the stockpiling of this material caused a change in the BFE. Why doesn't NRCS have to also notify the local resident that is requesting support for development in the SFHA to contact the local FPA for a Floodplain Development Permit?? Is there another link in the cog missing again??

continued on Page 9...



DRT

...continued from Page 8

Local FPAs, especially for large counties are stretched to the limit to accomplish their jobs in a responsible manner. When we assisted two different FPAs with Substantial Damage Assessments we were able to complete 81 field assessments in the town in one day, yet the next day were only able to complete 23 field assessment in the county. Why – drive times!! We drove about 3 miles for the town and walked about 3

miles going house to house. We drove over 250 miles for the county and walked about 500 feet.

Let's not make things harder than they need to be. Every agency needs to work together for the benefit of those who have been impacted by a disaster. It is not prudent to tell an individual after they have rebuilt their structure that they were Substantially Damaged and not compliant and have to tear down the work that they just rebuilt.

Climate Change Ramblings

Johnny Barron, PE, CFM



The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report last month to update policy makers about the status of global warming trends and anticipated impacts. As a critical thinking individual, I remain skeptical regarding political clamor regarding what should be done about climate change (can it really be stopped?).

However, as a professional who plans for climate related emergencies, I had better keep an eye on climate change and try to adapt my planning efforts accordingly.

The recent report focuses mostly on the cryosphere (ocean and shoreline) but there are some updated forecasts for our part of planet earth.

“Extreme El Nino and La Nina events are likely to occur more frequently with global warming and are likely to intensify existing impacts, with drier or wetter responses in several regions across the globe, even at relatively low levels of future global warming (medium confidence).” IPCC SR Ocean and Cryosphere, Chapter 6, page 6-4.

The report states that a large El Nino event occurred in 2015-2016 which caused flooding in many regions of the world including the United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Britain and China. IPCC SR Ocean and Cryosphere, Chapter 6, page 6-35. This event has been labeled the first “extreme El Nino.”

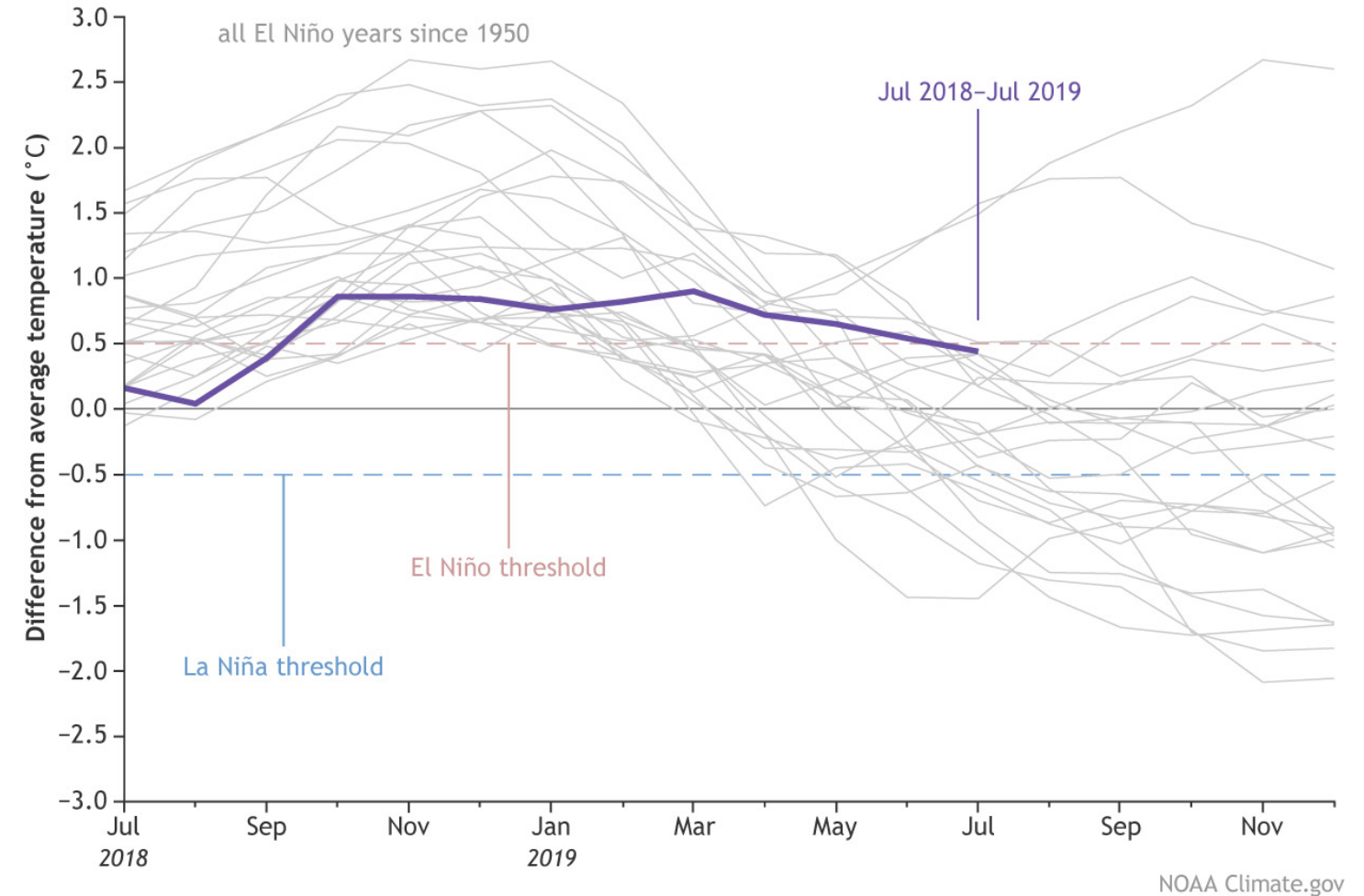
Besides extreme flooding, climate change may bring more extreme droughts, wildfires and winter storms to Oklahoma.

So what can we do about it?

“Limiting the risk from the impact of extreme events and abrupt changes leads to successful adaptation to climate change with the presence of well-coordinated climate-affected sectors and disaster relevant agencies. Transformative governance inclusive of successful integration



Monthly sea surface temperature Niño 3.4 Index Values



of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, empowerment of vulnerable groups, and accountability of governmental decisions promotes climate-resilient development pathways.” IPCC SR Ocean and Cryosphere, Chapter 6, page 6-6.

I’m sure most of you agree that NFIP standards may be a decent first step but floodplain management should include standards for areas adjacent to flooding. As you know, the 1% chance flood is routinely exceeded. It seems every year we hear reports of record flooding. Climate change is one of several factors that combine to make FIRMS less reliable as a means to communicate actual risk.

While FIRMS are better than nothing, we need to increase our focus on protecting and regulating areas outside the 1% chance floodplain. As weather patterns become more extreme, our paradigm of using

past weather to predict future weather, is increasingly revealed to be inadequate.

Too often, people use flood maps incorrectly. I once heard a developer once say, “look right here, FEMA says this property won’t flood.” As flooding events grow more extreme, we are kidding ourselves if we expect high water to stay within the 1% chance floodplain.

As floodplain managers, perhaps we need to adapt our risk communication message. Is it wrong to get people thinking in terms of extreme floods? We tend to expect the next flood to be like past floods but climate change suggests that may not be the case. One way to “empower vulnerable groups” is to help them understand the risks of extreme floods so they can protect themselves with flood insurance.

Of course, this is easier said than done but shouldn’t we be discussing how to get there?

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma’s accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA’s online courses.

Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.

General Course Information

- No registration fee required
- All courses are worth six CECs unless otherwise noted in the course descriptions
- Open to all community officials, engineers and interested individuals
- Lunch is on your own
- Floodplain Administrator Accreditation Application
- Memo on Accreditation to Community and County Officials
- Contact Cathy Poage by email at cathy.poage@owrb.ok.gov or at 580.256.1014 if you have questions or need help registering.

2019

OWRB Courses

December 5 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101	Location TBD Tulsa
February 3 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	FEMA L-273	Location TBD Oklahoma City

OFMA Courses

December 5 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101	Location TBD Tulsa
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2020*

Floodplain Management 101	February 3: Midwest City February 19: Oklahoma City March 4: Clinton March 25: Chickasha April 14: Altus May 13: Woodward May 27: Adrmore June 17: Northeast TBD June 24: Oklahoma City
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Advanced Training	February 3: Midwest City February 19: Oklahoma City March 4: Clinton March 25: Chickasha April 14: Langley May 13: Woodward May 27: Adrmore June 17: TBD June 24: Oklahoma City
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**2020 dates and locations subject to change.*

OWRB Post-Flood Response

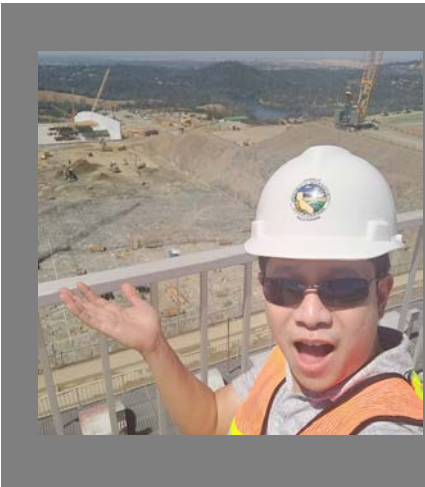
Yohanes Sugeng, PE, CFM

OWRB Floodplain Management Program continues to work with several local entities throughout the state after Summer 2019 historic flood event. As part of the post-flood response FEMA and the OWRB are offering workshops on the Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) Tool. FEMA developed the SDE tool to assist State and local officials in estimating Substantial Damage for residential and non-residential structures in accordance with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as adopted by the communities. The tool can be used to assess flood, wind, wildfire, seismic, and other forms of damage. It helps communities provide timely Substantial Damage determinations so that reconstruction can begin quickly following a disaster. The SDE rules help communities reduce the risk of future flood damage by ensuring damaged properties are rebuilt or repaired to current community floodplain standards. Due to the importance of the substantial damage assessment after the disaster, OWRB is partnering with FEMA to provide additional SDE trainings. SDE workshops were scheduled at the OFMA Annual conference, Stillwater on September 25, and in Langley on October 15.

Related to the 2019 Arkansas River flood, State Representative Lonnie Sims, District 68, has initiated an interim study to conduct a state-level review of the actions taken leading up to and in response to flood event. Two days of hearings were held recently with state and local government officials as well as individuals presenting their perspective on the flood preparation, emergency response, economic impact and recovery. OWRB Executive Director Julie Cunningham presented information on NFIP and Dam Safety Programs including coordination with the OFMA Disaster Response Team and the need for a state funding mechanism for flood mitigation projects. The intent of the study is to determine ways to better prepare and respond to future flooding events.

FEMA approved four project grants for Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) projects in FY2019. In addition to the Project Management grant, three other projects were approved: a five watershed Discovery, a Phase II Study of Pecan Creek in Comanche County and an NFIP Outreach Special Project.

The Discovery project will provide an assessment of flood risk in the



Robert S. Kerr, Kiamichi, Muddy Boggy, Lower Canadian and Lower Cimarron watersheds and identify potential flood mitigation actions. The study area also includes portions of three non-NFIP participating counties.

Pecan Creek is located in Comanche County between Lawton and Cache. The adjacent watersheds have detailed studies and the area has seen increased development.

The NFIP Special Project has two main objectives: increase NFIP participation through a targeted outreach program of community meetings and promotion of higher standards for community floodplain development by adoption of building codes and the Community Rating System (CRS).

Funding Acknowledgment

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The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Register for Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop!

Registration is now open for the Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop hosted by OFMA, the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 17 at the Moore Norman Technology Center, Franklin Road Campus, in Norman and include presentations on municipal stormwater management, green infrastructure, inspections and enforcement, and total maximum daily loads.

Representatives from the following organizations will be in attendance:

- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- Indian Nations Council of Government
- Oklahoma Water Survey

If you are looking for stormwater training for your inspectors or other city officials, this is a perfect opportunity to get them to a local workshop focused on stormwater quality.

Registration is \$50 per person. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Check out okflood.org for more information.



Words from the Chair

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM



I hope that everyone has enjoyed the warmer weather that spring of 2019 has brought us.

Of course spring does bring increased flooding, tornado, and thunderstorm hazards, so let's all do our best to be vigilant for both our own safety and of those in our various communities across Oklahoma.

It has been a busy 2019 for OFMA and there are no signs of things slowing down.

OFMA-ACEC Meetings

On January 29, Joe Remondini, as OFMA PDCC Chair, and I attended a meeting in Denton, Texas along with representatives of each of the six ASFPM Accredited Chapters and ASFPM Executive Office staff regarding the ongoing ASFPM accredited chapters issues.

OFMA leadership is taking an active stance on maintaining the annual Memorandum of Agreement that OFMA and the other five accredited states have with ASFPM that allows

OFMA to maintain a certain level of autonomy in regards to our CFM certification program and in setting our affordable OFMA membership and CFM renewal fees.

Oklahoma along with Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Illinois are working collaboratively to maintain our current modes of chapter operation while working to assist ASFPM with their membership recruitment, membership retention, and fairness and consistency amongst all national CFMs as best possible.

A meeting with the other five accredited chapters was held on April 29 in Denton, with another meeting to be held with the accredited chapters and ASFPM staff in Cleveland, Ohio at the 2019 ASFPM National Conference.

There will be a lot more discussions and potential negotiations on these issues between us and ASFPM. Because several of the issues and proposals could directly affect our current CFM renewal and OFMA membership fees, we will work to keep OFMA members apprised of the issues on this "moving target" issue.

Legislative Reception

OFMA hosted the annual Legislative Reception at the State Capitol on February 21.

Several legislators and their staff members stopped by for a free lunch and floodplain education from several of the OWRB staff and our OFMA members who attended and helped.

It was well attended and many OFMA Constituents Guides were passed out to remind those at the capitol that OFMA is always there, statewide, as a helpful resource on floodplain issues.

Spring Technical Workshop

OFMA held another successful spring Technical Workshop on April 4 in Tulsa at the Riverspirit Hotel and Conference Center. The theme of the workshop this year was Improving Technical Capabilities in Floodplain Management. We had more than 150 attendees.

As always, we had good informational reports from OWRB, FEMA, and OEM. There were several excellent plenary sessions and afternoon workshops on mitigation, modeling, outreach, and floodplain management.

A special thanks to Brandon Claborn for pulling the workshop together with his planning and recruitment of good speakers. Brandon did a great job of putting the technical back in the Spring Technical Workshop!

Advanced Floodplain Managers Workshops

Multiple Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 OFMA Advanced Floodplain Managers Workshops have been presented by the OFMA Training Cadre.

There are still OFMA Advanced Floodplain Workshops scheduled for May in Woodward and in Ardmore.

Continued on Page 3...

Words

...continued from Page 2

Thanks to Joe Remondini, Bill Smith, and all of our dedicated OFMA Training Cadre members for this annual service they provide.

Registration for the workshops is on the OWRB web page at owrb.ok.gov. Take advantage of these free technical workshops when you can!

Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

Mark your calendars for the upcoming OFMA Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop to

be held on July 17 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center.

This workshop was wildly popular last summer with around 110 attendees. We are expecting significantly more this year and hope that this sticks as an annual event for continuing education and networking for stormwater managers, professionals, and vendors.

This workshop build on OFMA's ongoing commitment to bridge together the floodplain management and stormwater management fields in Oklahoma.

Annual Conference

The OFMA Annual Conference will be held on September 16-18 at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant.

It will be a great conference as always and hosting it in southeastern Oklahoma will be an exciting new venture for OFMA.

Plan to attend!

Anna Waggoner Receives OFMA Distinguished Service Award



OFMA's 2000-2001 Chair, Anna Waggoner

Anna Waggoner, CFM was presented the newly created OFMA Distinguished Service Award on November 27, 2018.

She retired from her position with the City of Yukon in late December of 2018. Anna performed floodplain management, GIS, and stormwater quality program duties at Yukon after working for the City of Woodward before that.

The OFMA Distinguished Service Award is presented to OFMA members who have contributed long term commitment to floodplain management and to OFMA.

Anna served as the OFMA Chair in 2000-01 and helped the organization in many ways. She was instrumental in helping to get the first annual OFMA Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop initiated in July of 2018.

OFMA thanks Anna for her years of service to OFMA and wishes her the best in her retirement!



2019-20 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association appreciates all the hard work by teachers, parents, and the many others who supported this year's poster contest. The students who entered also deserve our thanks. We hope that, by us working together to spread the **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN®** message, fewer people will be harmed by flood waters in Oklahoma.

More than 100 participants competed for the four State awards. This year's winners are:

1ST PLACE	Lawson Wells, Maryetta School
2ND PLACE	Adeline Blas, Bridge Creek Intermediate
3RD PLACE	Addison Bernardi, Frink-Chambers Public School
HONORABLE MENTION	Luis Varga, Lindbergh Elementary School

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners received cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. Top 13 posters in the State will be published in the annual OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown® calendar.

Each entry will be awarded with a Certificate of Participation. Teachers will be awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation. Special mention is given to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

- Bridge Creek Intermediate, Blanchard
- Frink-Chambers Public School, McAlester
- Grove Upper Elementary, Grove
- Holy Family Cathedral School, Tulsa
- Lindbergh Elementary School, Tulsa
- Maryetta School, Stilwell
- Robin Hill School, Norman

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association advocates for the protection of the natural functions of the floodplain through education, training and service to Oklahomans. We encourage flood-safe development and sound floodplain management practices through education and certification.



BLE DATASETS TO UPDATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

The Voice — FEMA Region 6 Mitigation News & Information

Data prepared during a watershed Base Level Engineering (BLE) assessment provides an expansive flood risk dataset that can be used to develop or update a community's hazard mitigation plan.

Furthermore, the floodplain boundary, depth grid, and water surface elevation grid can be used to identify the vulnerable areas and the potential flooding impacts areas will experience.

This information will lead to the identification of effective mitigation activities that, when implemented, will reduce the risk to the community.

A plan's effectiveness can be linked to the detail of the information it contains. Having the best available data can drastically sway the priorities identified when choosing how to reduce risk.

Where detailed flood studies are not available, BLE can be used as best available information to identify where a community can expect to see flooding occur, how severe the flooding will be, and what community assets will be affected.

During the five-year cycle of the mitigation plan, the BLE data can also assist communities with evaluating and updating the plan to incorporate changes to their risk.

In places where both BLE and detailed flood studies are available, local planners can use this information in conjunction with the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to determine if any changes to the data have occurred or if priorities need to be adjusted. Using these resources will lead the community towards effective activities that will reduce risk.

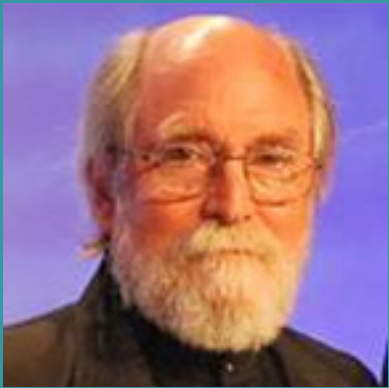
To see if BLE assessments have been completed in your area, visit the Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer at [INFRM.us/estBFE](https://infrm.us/estBFE). For more details about BLE, two fact sheets are available.



To identify candidate properties during development of a Voluntary Buyout Program BLE Flood Risk Datasets showing food depth can help rank properties and prioritize program outreach and potential acquisition.

OFMA DRT Corner

Bill Smith, PE, CFM



Contact Bill at wbsmith@hisinc.us to preregister your community for SFHA DRT assistance.

We continue to preregister communities in advance of their need support following Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) damage, whether by flood, tornado, earthquake, strong winds, hail, wildfire, etc.

If your community would like to pre-sign a request letter, please contact me at wbsmith@hisinc.us. I will send you a draft letter agreement and a draft Council/County Commission Resolution for your use. This is an authorization that is in place unless it is revoked by the community.

Our OFMA Damage Recovery Team (DRT) is prepared and equipped for the next time Oklahoma is threatened by flooding or other natural disasters in an SFHA.

Remember your duties as a floodplain administrator or as an emergency manager. If you hold both roles, don't forget to "turn your hat around" to look at the disaster through both role's perspectives.

The weather forecast for Spring anticipates active, severe weather

once again. This year, we experienced a slightly milder winter and more precipitation than usual, which fortunately did not include ice.

The spring forecast includes moderate to heavy rains (similar to what we experienced in May to June the last few years) and slightly cooler than normal.

So be prepared!

- Clean out the ditches and culverts.
- Work with your EM to determine potential evacuation routes.
- Think ahead to damage responses, debris cleanup, etc.

I urge communities to pre-sign for disaster assistance from the OFMA DRT. We are able to assist with Substantial Damage Assessments, BFE Determinations in Zone A SFHA, permitting, Outreach, and more.

Floodplain Management Training Calendar

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma's accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA's online courses.

Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.

OWRB Courses

May 14 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: Letters of Map Change</i>	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St. Woodward
May 29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: NFIP Overview</i>	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore

OFMA Courses

May 14 8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Flood Proofing Options, No Adverse Impact, Rural Development, Ethics, Section 404</i>	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St Woodward
May 29 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Ethics, Green Building, Overland Flow, Flood Proofing Options, Section 404</i>	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore

Congratulations to our new Certified Floodplain Managers!

New CFMs passed their exams in September 2018.

- Kyle Miller, PE, CFM
Meshek & Associates
- Gary McCormick, PE, CFM
City of Tulsa
- Sarah Struebing, PE, CFM
Tulsa Engineering & Planning Associates

2019 OFMA Legislative Reception Summary

OFMA hosted its annual Legislative Reception on February 21.

A steady stream of legislators and their staff members stopped by for a lunch spread catered by Jamil's.

Event organizers distributed 118 Turn Around Don't Drown calendars with Constituent Assistance Packages.

Overall, the reception inspired productive conversations about floodplain management emphasizing our organization's desire to be a helpful resource regarding floodplain insurance, mapping, and management.

Thanks to the several OFMA members and OWRB representatives who assisted with the reception.





Availability of NAI How-To-Guides to Achieve a Resilient Community

ASFPM Foundation

In 2013, The ASFPM Board of Directors approved the development of seven *No Adverse Impact (NAI) "How-To-Guides."* This was a direct result of feedback from ASFPM members who used the NAI Toolkit which provided examples of NAI techniques, but didn't go into detail about how these techniques could be implemented in a "real world" setting. The ASFPM Foundation provided funding for the development of these *How-To-Guides*.

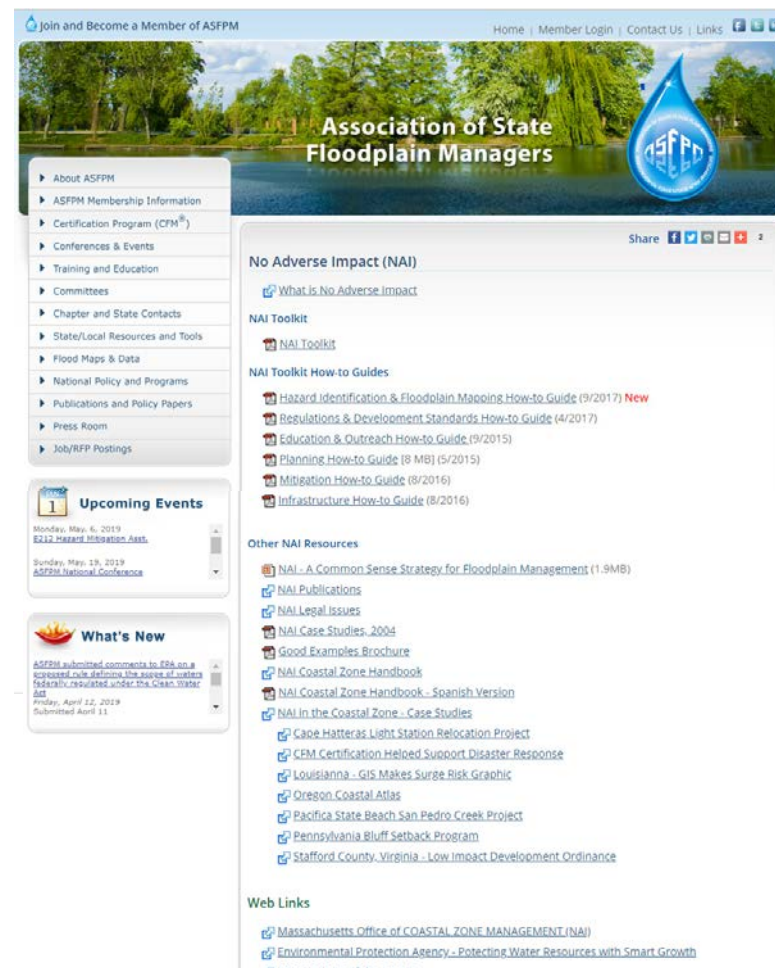
The NAI Toolkit identified seven "building blocks" or areas of community involvement that can have an impact, and the *How-To-Guides* are in alignment with these seven areas:

1. Hazard identification and floodplain mapping
2. Education and outreach
3. Planning
4. Regulations and development standards
5. Mitigation
6. Infrastructure
7. Emergency Services

Six of the seven guides have been completed and are available on the ASFPM website at floods.org. Content for the seventh guide, *Emergency Services*, has been completed and is in its final design stage and will be posted to the website soon.

The *How-To-Guides'* ultimate goal is to encourage communities to take a different approach to managing development that results in reduced flood risk; this can be accomplished by incorporating NAI techniques into a community's flood risk reduction activities. The *How-To-Guides* break down the information by topic in a user-friendly way that is easily understood and that communities can apply to their own unique circumstances. The Foundation truly believes the more NAI techniques a community implements, the better prepared the community is for the next flood event – not if, but WHEN it occurs.

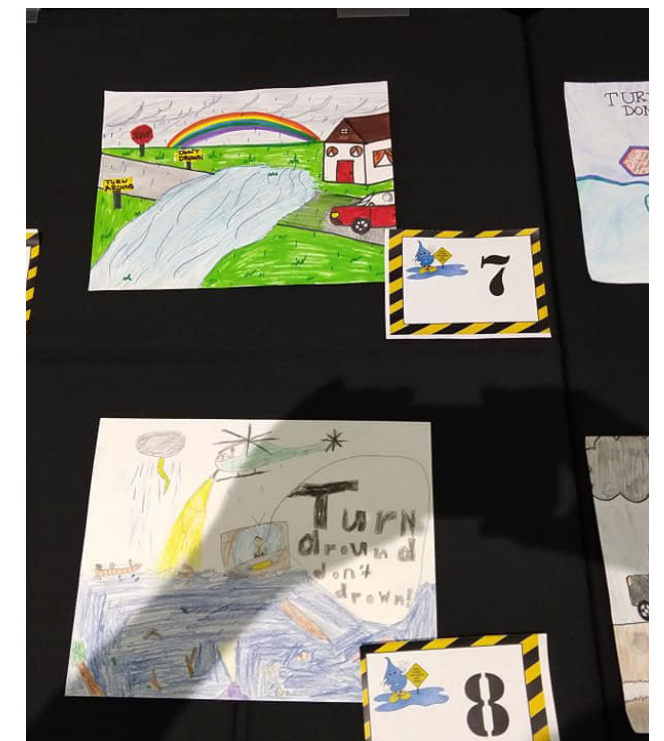
Communities striving for a more resilient future in the aftermath of a flood event should consider using these guides. The *How-To-Guides* can be found on the ASFPM website — floods.org.



2019 Spring Technical Workshop

Improving Technical Capabilities in Floodplain Management

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this year's spring technical workshop.



Funding Acknowledgment

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

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The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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REGISTER NOW!

Registration form included in this issue!

All OFMA members, local Floodplain Administrators, Stormwater Managers, and guest are invited to the 2019 Annual Conference "The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?" to be held at Choctaw Casinos & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma.

The conference will include several plenary and concurrent sessions from Federal, State and Local entities on a wide variety of subjects.

For more specific inquiries about the conference and accommodations, please contact Brandon Claborn at bclaborn@meshekengr.com or 918.392.5620, ext. 207.

Please direct inquiries relating to registration, payment and membership to Carolyn Schultz at cschultz@cimtel.net.

The registration form is included as the last page of this newsletter. It and more information about the conference may be found at okflood.org/annual-conference.

The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?

2019 OFMA Annual Conference



CALL FOR PRESENTERS: The 2019 Floods...What Have YOU Learned?

Do you have first-hand experience in the preparation for, management of, and recovery after this year's flood event? Speak at the 2019 OFMA Annual Conference.

Presentations and workshops should be consistent with the theme. Potential topics include:

- Using Higher Standards to Prepare for a Flood
- FPM's Role in Disaster Response
- Technical Tools Used to Prepare, Manage and Recover
- Collaboration Between Agencies
- Water Quality Issues During and After a Flood Event
- NFIP, FEMA, OWRB, OEM, ODEQ, OFMA, or other agencies/programs

You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. The deadline for submitting abstracts is August 16.

If you are interested in presenting, please submit an abstract and direct questions to Brandon Claborn at bclaborn@meshekengr.com. We can accommodate 30-45 minute presentations including Q+A time. Please include a time preference with your abstract.

More information about the 2019 OFMA Annual Conference may be found online at okflood.org/annual-conference

And the Award Goes To...

It's time once again to nominate your colleagues, your projects, and yourself for the 2019 OFMA Awards!

Nominations are open for the following awards:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Scholarship Award | • Silver Scoop Award |
| • Special Recognition Award | • Leatherbee-Robison Education Outreach Award |
| • Outstanding Recognition Award | • Public Official of the Year Award |
| • Chairman's Award | • J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award |
| • Charles Don Ellis Memorial Awards | • Kenneth Morris Honorary Lifetime Member Award |
| • Ronald D. Flanagan Platinum Project Award | • DRT Recognition |
| • Ben Frizzell Media Award | |

Submit your nominations by emailing Monica Cardin at mcardin@cityofdelcity.org. Please submit your nominations by Friday, August 9.

Winners will be announced and celebrated at the OFMA Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, September 17.

Vendors and Sponsorship

Conference sponsorships are available starting at \$100. Exhibitor booth space is available for \$350 and includes one registration, one 6-foot table, two chairs, and a waste bin. Additional amenities are available for an additional cost.

More information may be found online at okflood.org/annual-conference.



Capitol Rumbblings

Tom Leatherbee, PE, CFM
OFMA Co-Chair / City of Del City

If one were to survey most legislators about the National Flood Insurance Program, the result likely would be a number of scrunched faces and some hurried comments about being late for a meeting, at least metaphorically.

The NFIP is generally an unpopular subject, because the program is simultaneously “big government,” “government waste,” “intrusive government overreach,” and “inadequate”. In fact, a number of other pejorative descriptors can be found with a simple internet search.

and the large claim payments made in recent years, would a long-term reauthorization that fails to address commonly recognized program deficiencies be a surprise?

In short, of course not. To put it succinctly, the NFIP has not been materially altered since its inception, and it is unlikely to be altered going forward. Why? The answer is simple – America is addicted to flood insurance.

Flood insurance allows the bankers to lend and the builders to build, and those are the interests with the clout in the political discussion surrounding reauthorization. Even more cynically, the existence of flood insurance allows us to look judgmentally at those who built back in harm's way, no matter that they had no real exit option.

America is addicted to flood insurance.

At the same time the program persists because it has become necessary – to protect the lenders who have continued to extend credit in high risk areas, to protect the property owners who have continued to invest in high risk areas, and to the communities who continue to permit development in high risk areas.

As Congress has taken up the issue of a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP in earnest this summer, most of the saber-rattling about privatization and other changes to the fundamental nature of the program has ceased. While there is certainly some discussion occurring about potential modifications to the program, it is looking increasingly likely that any changes will be incremental in nature.

Especially in light of the NFIP financial status

As long as flood insurance is available, we can mentally chastise those who fail to insure against future losses and then turn away from the actual realities of the socioeconomic conditions that underlie flood risk stratification – and then we can move on from the disaster and kick the can down the road until the next disaster is imminent.

Those of us who have seen what flood disasters do to individuals and to communities know that we need real change to our conception of subsidized flood insurance and that any such change needs to begin with a commitment to stop enabling risky behavior. Unfortunately, this risky behavior is being driven by an economic model that is financially advantageous for those who have a voice in the political process, so expecting Congress to end our flood insurance addiction may be unrealistic.

Shifting to a Culture of Mitigation

Annie Vest
Planner and Grant Administrator, Meshek & Associates
Former State Hazard Mitigation Officer



The Federal Government is making significant progress in its investment in disaster mitigation. As the disaster paradigm finally shifts from a culture of response and recovery to one of mitigation and preparedness, Oklahoma communities must fall in line.

I submitted comments to the National Emergency Management Association Mitigation Committee in 2013 when the Deputy Administrator for FEMA proposed the elimination of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. Since then, not only has the program been funded on an annual basis, but the impetus placed on the importance of mitigation from the Federal family as a whole has been tremendous:

- The application period for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) is expected to open in October 2019. FEMA's PDM program will take applications for a record breaking \$250 million nationwide. In 2020 PDM will be replaced with Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), authorized by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. The program allows the President to set aside up to 6-percent of FEMA's disaster costs for mitigation the following year.
- In July 2019, US Sens. Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) and Todd Young (R-Ind.) introduced HR 3702: Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2019, to help communities plan for and recover from major disasters. The legislation would improve coordination in post disaster recovery and make recovery funding through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) accessible after a disaster without communities having to wait for Congress to pass a disaster funding bill.

In the coming months and years, there will be many opportunities for communities to take advantage of mitigation funds. Please take some time to check the status of your local Hazard Mitigation Plan. In past funding cycles of PDM and FMA, FEMA has required sub-applicants to have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan at the close of the application period, and at the time of the award. To check the status of your plan, contact Matt Rollins, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, matthew.rollins@oem.ok.gov

Technology allows us to understand our risk to flooding better than ever before. We must use our knowledge, and resources to mitigate the impacts of disasters and reduce the loss of money, property, and life. I urge you to spend time now thinking about projects your community can apply for in the upcoming Hazard Mitigation grant cycles.

FEMA BCA Toolkit 6.0

The new version of FEMA's Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit, Version 6.0, is now available to the public and may be used for project applications. Version 6.0 features an improved user experience and 80% reduction in data inputs compared to the previous version. Please also see the Release Notes for important information: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/179903>

Working Together Through All Phases of a Disaster

Joseph Kralicek, MPA
Executive Director, Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency



We live in an age that stresses the importance of information, companies like Google and Facebook have monetized the collection of information. This is due to the simple fact that decisions and decision makers require the best and most up to date information to make the best decision making. This is true in the business world and is especially true in emergency management.

As the emergency manager for the Tulsa area it is my responsibility to make decisions on a regular basis, but during an event such as a flood, I find it important to have the subject matter experts available in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to make sure that I am getting the best information possible. For floods, this will be my floodplain managers and engineers.

As the EM, I am responsible for managing all phases of a disaster: Planning, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. Floodplain managers and engineers have a role to play in all these phases as well.

For planning, it is vital that we understand the potential risks that the community has for flooding and where the problem areas are. To do this we need good information on which areas are prone to flooding and how ongoing projects might change the risk parameters.

For mitigation, providing ideas and projects

to remove or lessen the impact for flooding such as retention ponds, lists of repetitive loss properties, and other properties within the flood plain that might need to be considered for potential buy-outs is important.

The response side is perhaps the most unfamiliar for many floodplain managers and engineers, but it is also the time where having a good team in place is the most important. During an event you can expect EMs and first responders to be requesting up to date maps of impacted areas and with GIS these maps can make the difference between a successful response and one that is less so. The response community needs to know where the water is going to be, how deep it will be, how many structures will be impacted, where these structures are, and if the roads and bridges to these areas will be impacted by flooding. Much of this information exists but is separate and compartmentalized. As a community we need to work to compile all this information into a form that is easily accessed and used by the response community. In times of crisis, minutes can make the difference in promoting life safety.

Once the waters recede the work does not end, it only changes its appearance as we move into recovery operations. During this time, it is important to continue sharing information with the EM as they attempt to coordinate assistance to survivors. Supplying the EM with



Tulsa-area EOC during May 2019 flooding

a list of substantially damaged homes allows for the EM to create a collaborative effort with volunteer organizations and other second wave response to assist those homeowners and residents with taking the first steps along the road to recovery.

The most important thing that a floodplain manager or engineer can do though is reach out and meet your local emergency manager

if you haven't already. Communication and familiarity are vital in the response community. As the local subject matter experts on floodplains and hydrological models, you are the keepers of very valuable information that a local EM needs to make a good decision. You will be needed in the Emergency Operations Center at some point and during a disaster is not the time to be exchanging business cards.



May 2019 Flood Recap

David Williams, PhD, PE, CFM
Chief, Hydrology and Hydraulics Engineering Section,
US Army Corps of Engineers

According to preliminary data from the Oklahoma Mesonet, the statewide average rainfall total in May was 10.48 inches. The NWS cooperative observer site at Pawnee led the state with 22.52 inches, and there was a report of 24.69 inches by a volunteer observer near Talala. At least twenty-four (24) NWS sites in the region broke their all-time May rainfall mark. Nineteen (19) of those sites broke their all-time wettest calendar month marks as well, including seven sites whose records date back over 100 years. Record rainfall was also observed in Kansas. Twenty (20) Kansas Mesonet stations reported rainfall amounts over 20 inches for the month, with a Butler County station reporting over 30 inches. The average rainfall for the entire state of Kansas was 10.26 inches, which was the highest total in 125 years of record keeping.

Eight (8) USACE reservoirs in Oklahoma reached new pools of record: Altus Lake, Birch Lake, Great Salt Plains Lake, Hudson Lake, Kaw Lake, Keystone Lake, Oologah Lake, and Skiatook Lake. The historic rainfall observed in May produced widespread flooding along the Arkansas River and its tributaries. A release of 275,000 cubic feet per second resulted in the highest release from Keystone Dam into the Arkansas River since 1986. Although riverine flooding within the City of Tulsa and its suburbs was largely confined to open public spaces (with the notable exception of the River Spirit Casino, which was closed for several weeks), neighborhoods in unincorporated Tulsa County to the west of Sand Springs did experience significant flooding. Oologah Dam reached a peak release of 64,000 cubic feet per second on May 25. Severe flooding

occurred downstream along the Verdigris River near Claremore. Bird Creek also experienced major flooding, particularly in and around the towns of Avant, Skiatook, and Sperry. The crest of 31.29 feet measured on May 22 at Sperry was the fourth highest in the period of record. The Neosho / Grand River system also experienced major flooding. A stage of 25.51 feet measured at Commerce on May 24 was the fifth highest on record at that location, and downstream, a peak release of 222,000 cubic feet per second was made from Fort Gibson Dam on May 25.

The lower reach of the Arkansas River was most significantly affected by the flood, which was catastrophic in many locations. A crest of 46.39 feet, the second highest on record, was observed at Muskogee on May 26. The flow along the Arkansas River at Muskogee was an estimated 617,000 cubic feet per second. Extensive flooding occurred in and around the Port of Muskogee. Further downstream, the towns of Webbers Falls and Moffett were completely inundated. A flood of record occurred at Van Buren, Arkansas, with a crest of 40.79 feet observed on June 1. This crest, which resulted in flooding and levee breaches in Arkansas, exceeded the previous record by nearly three feet, and reached the Mississippi River by the second week of June.

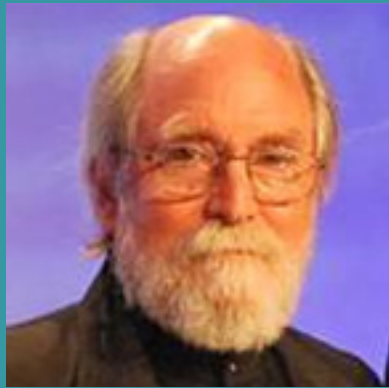
When flows on the Arkansas River below Keystone Dam reach approximately 150,000

cubic feet per second, the river begins to load the Tulsa / West Tulsa Levee System (otherwise known as Levee District 12). This network of levees stretches approximately 20 miles from Sand Springs to Tulsa, and reduces flood risk for approximately 10,000 people who live or work in the protected areas. The duration of loading along the Tulsa / West Tulsa Levee System was unprecedented, with flows greater than 200,000 cubic feet per second exceeding 10 days. Despite localized issues such as sand boils and sink holes, a significant amount of intervention occurred (including help from the Oklahoma National Guard), and the levees did not fail.

The cumulative inflow observed in Keystone Lake during the month of May was an astonishing 8.3 million acre-feet. Since Keystone has a flood-control capacity of 1.3 million acre-feet, the available storage within the reservoir completely cycled six times during the month. In comparison, the cumulative inflow during the October 1986 flood was 4.4 million acre-feet, but resulted in the largest release in the history of the dam (307,000 cubic feet per second). Technological investments made in the aftermath of the 1986 flood resulted in the ability to better forecast inflow into the reservoir, which was instrumental in the successful operation of Keystone and other Tulsa District reservoirs during the historic 2019 flood.



Tulsa, Okla. during May 2019 flooding



OFMA DRT Corner

Bill Smith, PE, CFM

Webinar Alert:

Planning for Drought and Cascading Hazards

APA and ASFPM act as co-conveners. Includes resources and tools that can help planners and floodplain managers plan for drought in a multi-hazards context.

Thursday, August 15
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. CT

<https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/planninginformationexchange/>

If you remember back to 2007 when I was OFMA Vice Chair the first time, my conference theme was “It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again”. No truer words were spoken when it comes to the May-June 2019 flooding events in Oklahoma and downstream in Arkansas, the Mississippi River, and points yonder.

When comparing the disastrous flooding this year with the May-June 2012 flooding events – they are similar; but this years’ are significantly different due to the duration of flooding compared with the relatively short flooding events in 2012.

Over the course of the past 8 weeks we have been in the field, provided significant consultation with communities, and still have communities that have not yet been assessed – in part due to continued high water in the reservoirs. Arkansas River flows today (7/16/19) are still over 100,000 cfs at Fort Smith which is just below flood stage. Most of the reservoirs in Oklahoma and Kansas are still in flood pool; though continuing to slowly drop. Rainfall events continue to occur periodically in July 2019, thus leaving the ground saturated, and thus causing more stormwater runoff. The “training” storms that have occurred this year have been devastating to too many residents who live in the regulatory floodplain, in the 0.2% (500-Yr) floodplain, and in the unshaded X zones.

The OFMA DRT has assisted throughout the state – Tulsa County (Sand Springs, Skiatook, Sperry, Bixby area); Miami; Webbers Falls, Ottawa County, Afton, and Wagoner with field assessments of flooded structures. We have consulted with communities who are choosing to perform their own Substantial Damage Assessments, such as Bixby, Sand Springs, Tulsa, Miami, and Wagoner County. We still have been called to assist in Blackwell. We are still performing SDE evaluations for the Town of Webbers Falls.

During our recent Oklahoma flooding responses with the Disaster Response Team I am finding a significantly greater amount of flooding in the 0.2% (500-Yr) floodplain limits with depths of flooding that are not that much different from those areas that are in 1% floodplain, nor are the ground elevations significantly different. Perhaps there is new modeling and mapping that is required.

We understand that the USACE Tulsa District is now re-evaluating the 1% flood and 0.2% flood releases from Keystone Dam on the Arkansas River and the downstream effects from Three Forks (Muskogee) to the Arkansas State Line once Pensacola Dam releases Grand River floodwaters, and other dam releases downstream (Eufaula) are combined and routed. This may change the flood flows, volumes and mapping in the future.

The greater issue I see happening is the “training” storms that cause full saturation of the ground, resulting in significantly greater runoff for small 1/2-inch or 3/4 or 1-inch rainfall events. This seems to be the trend since the mid 2000’s and though “training” storms are not a part of the FEMA flooding evaluation, they are causing significant flooding impacts to all structures in the 1%, 0.2% and unshaded X Zones.

Our history of flooding predications is based on about 105 years of weather records. Isn’t a little presumptive of us as scientists and engineers to be predicting flows and flood elevations with such a limited amount of data compared to the time that the earth has been

is devastating, exacerbating, frustrating, and about any other emotion that one can describe. It is tearing communities apart, and yet also bringing communities together. There has been so much education provided by these recent flooding events to not only residents, community officials, but also to government officials.

There are many individuals pointing fingers at someone else for their decision to live in or adjacent to the Special Flood Hazard Area. There are so many who could have had flood insurance, but for any number of reasons did not elect to purchase, and now want a government “bail-out”. When their hands are not filled with money, enough to make them

“It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again”

around. Climate change is really “Climate Repeatability” – as we begin to experience trends that have likely historically occurred before our time of recording. While we as humans are impacting the environment, there is a greater impact that overrules our impact. What we call the 100-Yr storm may well be a 10-Yr storm if we had 10,000 years of weather records.

Over the past few weeks I have heard many residents respond to their Substantial Damage Assessments in various extremes such as: 1) the desire for their community to withdraw from the NFIP, 2) refuse to comply with the requirement to elevate their pre-FIRM structures to comply with their ordinance, 3) determine to walk-away from their structure and let the status of their abandoned structure be resolved by the community, and 4) people who want to comply, rebuild, and maintain the integrity of their community.

The impact of the May-June 2019 flooding

whole, they get angry, frustrated, depressed, saddened, etc. It is time for people to be responsible for their own destiny – because:

“It Will Rain Again, It Will Flood Again”

We give thanks for the first responders who put their lives on the line to save those in need during times of tragedy;

We ask that you be with those who have been devastated by the recent flooding to console them, to provide spiritual support for them, and to give them strength to recover from this devastation;

We ask your guidance on those who lead the citizens of their communities to make wise decisions about the future of their city, town, county or tribal nation; and

We give thanks to all of the many volunteers who have set aside their lives to come to the assistance of those in need.

Funding Acknowledgment

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

The BFE is published by the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, Inc. 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:

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WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Floodplain Administrators
Planners
Engineers
Insurance Agents
Lenders
Real Estate Professionals
Elected & Appointed Officials
Local, State & Federal
Government Employees
Interested Citizens
Dam Owners
Developers
Emergency Responders
Teachers and Students
Anyone Involved with
Floodplain Issues

VISIT US AT
WWW.OKFLOOD.ORG

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CREDIT HOURS

OFMA will provide certificates of attendance to all persons attending the full conference program. Participation provides 12 CECs for Certified Floodplain Managers and Floodplain Administrators. The Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors does not grant pre-approval of PDH's. Attendees are responsible for obtaining approval from governing accreditation agency.

All OFMA members, local Floodplain Administrators, Stormwater Managers, and guests are invited to the 2019 Annual Conference “The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?” to be held at Choctaw Casinos & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma. The conference will include several plenary and concurrent sessions from Federal, State and Local entities on a wide variety of subjects.

For more specific inquiries about the conference and accommodations, please contact Brandon Claborn at bclaborn@meshekengr.com or 918.392.5620, ext. 207. Please direct inquiries relating to registration, payment and membership to Carolyn Schultz at cschultz@cimtel.net.

The following may answer most general questions regarding the conference:

Registration: Registration is required for all participants and includes all conference sessions, afternoon training opportunities, lunch Monday and Tuesday, the Monday evening Vendors’ Social and the Tuesday evening Awards Banquet.

Accommodations: The conference will be held at Choctaw Casinos & Resort, 4216 S. Highway 69/75, Durant, OK 74701 . For your benefit, OFMA has negotiated rates at \$93/night. Reservations can also be made by calling the Choctaw Resorts & Casinos reservation office at 800.788.2464 and mention you are attending the OFMA Conference (block code: 1909OFMACO). **You must book by August 31 to receive the group rate.**

Call for Presenters: The Call for Presenters will remain open until August 16. Submissions may be accommodated on a space available basis.

Exhibitors: The conference provides opportunities for attendees to view exhibitor booths and interact with vendors. Booth space is available for \$350.

Sponsors: Several sponsorship opportunities are available for corporations or organizations who share and support OFMA’s vision. OFMA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are generally tax deductible.

Cancellation Policy: A \$50 fee will be charged for all cancellations made after September 1. Substitute attendees will be accepted. Please notify OFMA staff during registration.

Mail the registration form by September 1 to:
Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association
P.O. Box 8101
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74101-8101



QUESTIONS?

Contact Carolyn Schultz
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net



2019 Annual Conference

September 16-18

Durant, Oklahoma

The 2019 Floods: What Have We Learned?

Name: _____

Organization: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Special needs or vegetarian meal requests: _____

Registration Form

Conference Registration (Check all that apply)

_____ OFMA Member		\$350	_____
_____ Non-Member		\$400	_____
_____ CFM Exam (<i>Pre-approval required. Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.</i>)		\$50	_____
<u>Tuesday Evening</u>			
Tuesday Awards Banquet	(Choose one) YES _____ NO _____	\$0	_____
Awards Banquet Guest Number	_____	\$25	_____

OFMA Annual Membership Dues

_____ Full Membership		\$50	_____
_____ Agency Membership		\$75	_____
_____ Agency Designated Employees	_____	\$10	_____
_____ Corporate Membership		\$150	_____
_____ Corporate Designated Employees	_____	\$ 10	_____
_____ Corporate Partners (See Board Officer)		\$ Varies	_____

CFM Certification Renewal

_____ Annual CFM Renewal		\$25	_____
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Total _____

Payment Method: ___ *Credit Card ___ Check Enclosed ___ Pay at Conference ___ Please Invoice

See back for additional registration instructions

* There will be a minimum \$10 convenience charge per registration for those paying by credit card . If you wish to pay by credit card prior to the conference, please contact Carolyn Schultz at 918.906.3922 or cschultz@cimtel.net.

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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OFMA Hosts Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

OFMA, in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA), are hosting the Second Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on Wednesday, July 17 at the Moore Norman Technology Center, Franklin Road Campus, in Norman.

The workshop will include presentations on municipal stormwater management, green infrastructure, inspections and enforcement, and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the Indian Nations Council of Government, and the Oklahoma Water Survey will be in attendance.

If you are looking for stormwater training for your inspectors or other city officials, this is a perfect opportunity to get them to a local workshop focused on stormwater quality.

Registration is \$50 per person and open now. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Check out okflood.org for more information.

Legislative Reception

- When:
Thursday, February 21, Noon to 1 p.m.
- Where:
Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 252



Congratulations to OFMA's new Chair

Jeff Bigby has been an OFMA member since 2001 and currently serves as Chairman of the Community Rating System (CRS) Workgroup. He is the Floodplain Administrator and Stormwater Quality Manager for the City of Broken Arrow where he has developed and instituted the Low Impact Development Program. His efforts to bring floodplain management and stormwater quality closer together are remarkable. He achieves this at the local level through municipal programs and engineering projects and at the statewide level thru his involvement in professional affiliations.

Words from the Chair

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM

As the incoming Chair, I would like to thank each of you who attended the annual conference in Broken Arrow at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in September. The theme of the conference was *Flood Insurance Program Moonshots: Giant Steps For Oklahoma Floodplain Management*. The conference included a field trip to the new, world-class Gathering Place provided an excellent setting to speak of new recommitment to floodplain management in Oklahoma.

As you may remember, the FEMA moonshot goals are to double the number of flood insurance policies and to quadruple the investment in flood mitigation nationwide by 2023. All floodplain managers and floodplain professionals in Oklahoma can do their part to meet that lofty goal.

The annual conference featured several excellent presentations about things floodplain managers can do within their communities to both promote flood insurance and take on flood mitigation projects, both large and small.

I want to thank all of the OFMA volunteers who helped plan and work the conference as well as all of the great presenters. I am proud that OFMA has such great working relations with multiple state agencies and that the conference included presentations from OWRB, OEM, ODEQ, ODOT, Oklahoma Insurance Department, and even the Oklahoma Department of Education with the *Teacher of the Year* presentation. Multiple FEMA Region VI staff also attended and presented. It was a memorable

conference for sure.

As the incoming Chair, I do want to thank everyone for the wonderful opportunity to serve this excellent organization. There were not very many changes to the OFMA Board at this annual conference. The only new member of the board of directors this year is the incoming vice chair, Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM of Meshek & Associates. The secretary, treasurer, and all five regional representatives remain the same. I thank everyone on the board for their past and ongoing service and look forward to working with everyone the rest of the year.

The OFMA Board and several other OFMA members met for the annual strategic retreat in Tulsa in October. At the retreat, the board set the path forward for initiatives for the following year. Much focus was also given to making it a "working" retreat with hands-on work performed on such tasks as the OFMA website, budget, training cadre courses, stormwater quality workshop planning, outreach activities, and other recurring tasks. More information may be found in the *Annual Strategic Retreat* article on Page 10.

The dates and locations for the 2019 spring technical workshop and annual conference have been set and planning has begun. The spring workshop will be on Thursday, April 4 at the Riverspirit Casino and Conference Center in Tulsa. The Annual Conference will be held from September 16 to 18 at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant. Save the dates for these two excellent events!

continued on Page 3...

OFMA Annual Conference Award Winners

September 2018
Broken Arrow

Special Recognition Award

Stormwater Technical Workshop Team
Raymond Melton, CPESC
City of Oklahoma City

Vernon Seaman
INCOG

Michelle Chao
ODEQ

Carrie Evenson, PE, Ph.D., CFM
City of Norman

Monica Cardin, CCEA, CFM
City of Del City

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow

Madison Kynaston
Fifth Grader
Nicoma Park Intermediate School

Outstanding Recognition Award

Jon Phillips, CFM
OWRB

Freese and Nichols

Cynthia Williams, CFM
City of Lawton

Chairman's Award

Jeff Bigby, PE, CFM

Monica Cardin, CCEA, CFM

Tom Leatherbee, MCP, AINS, CFM

Joe Remondini, PE, CFM

W.B. "Bill" Smith, PE, CFM

Charles Don Ellison Memorial Award

Todd McLellan, PE, CFM
City of Norman

Ronald D. Flanagan Platinum Project Award

Lindsey Street Project
City of Norman

Ben Frizzell Media Award

Mary McAtee
City of Broken Arrow

The Silver Scoop Award

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM
Region I Representative

Jennifer Smith Lawson
Meshek & Associates

Michelle Loudonback, CFM
City of Norman

Amy Shepard
City of Norman

OWRB FP Management Staff

Leatherbee-Robison Education Outreach Award

Joe Remondini, PE, CFM

J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year Award

Nancy Kennedy
City of Edmond

Turn Around Don't Drown® Poster Contest

1st Place Winner
Kimberly Martin
Agra, Okla.

2nd Place Winner
Baylee Birdtail
Maryetta Elementary

3rd Place Winner
Regina Grigg
Lindbergh Elementary

Honorable Mention
Paytin Capra
Fisher Elementary

Words

...continued from Page 2

Note that there are multiple Advanced Floodplain Management Single Day Workshops presented by members of the OFMA Training Cadre in tandem with OWRB presenting their Floodplain Management 101 Workshops until May in all different regions of the

state. Please check the OWRB web page at owrb.gov to check for workshops near you and to register. They are an excellent way to pick up continuing education credits for CFM certification as well as keep up to date on technical floodplain management issues. There is no charge for these workshops, so take advantage and sign up!

I encourage all OFMA members to get involved with a committee, attend one of our board meetings, get to know your Regional Representative, volunteer to help out at a conference or event, or find other ways to keep in touch with the many knowledgeable and friendly members of our organization. You will be glad you did!



OFMA Annual Conference Photo Recap

September 2018
Broken Arrow



Thank you to Ellen Stevens and Michael Kimbro for photographing the 2018 Annual Conference.



Floodplain Management Training Calendar

The OWRB offers the following resources to educate and train floodplain management professionals on effective floodplain management practices and requirements. Floodplain administrators can earn credit toward Oklahoma’s accreditation requirements by attending an approved conference or workshop, or completing FEMA’s online courses.

Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.

General Course Information

- No registration fee required
- All courses are worth six CECs unless otherwise noted in the course descriptions
- Open to all community officials, engineers and interested individuals
- Lunch is on your own
- Floodplain Administrator Accreditation Application
- Memo on Accreditation to Community and County Officials
- Contact Cathy Poage by email at cathy.poage@owrb.ok.gov or at 580.256.1014 if you have questions or need help registering.

OWRB Courses		
January 28 to 31 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	FEMA L-273 Four-day Course <i>Managing Development Through the NFIP</i>	OWRB Board Room 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City
March 7 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: Base Level Engineering Data</i>	Frisco Center 101 S. 4th St. Clinton
March 27 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: CACs and CAVs</i>	Canadian Valley Vo-Tech 1401 Michigan Ave. Chickasha
April 17 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: Common FPA Questions</i>	Ponca City Hall 516 E. Grand Ave. Ponca City
May 14 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: Letters of Map Change</i>	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St. Woodward
May 29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Floodplain Management 101 <i>Focus on: NFIP Overview</i>	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore
OFMA Courses		
February 1	CFM Exam	OWRB Board Room 3800 N Classen Blvd Oklahoma City
March 7 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Rural Development, Green Building, H&H/Drainage Studies, Section 404, Community Support</i>	Frisco Center 101 S 4th St Clinton
March 27 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>H&H/Drainage Studies, Ethics, Section 404, Resources, Flood Proofing Options</i>	Canadian Valley Vo-Tech 1401 Michigan Ave Chickasha
April 17 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Substantial Damage, Disaster Response Team, Hazard Mitigation, Resources, Section 404</i>	GRDA Center 420 Hwy 28 Langley
May 14 8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Flood Proofing Options, No Adverse Impact, Rural Development, Ethics, Section 404</i>	High Plains Tech Center 3921 34th St Woodward
May 29 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Advanced Course <i>Ethics, Green Building, Overland Flow, Flood Proofing Options, Section 404</i>	Southern Tech 2610 Sam Noble Parkway Ardmore

Upcoming OWRB Training Initiatives

Yohanes Sugeng, PE, CFM

As we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome the New Year, OWRB floodplain management is reflecting our successes and lessons learned from the past and cannot wait to further advance the state’s program. In 2018 alone, OWRB floodplain management team closed more than 30 Community Assistance Visits (CAVs), in partnership with OFMA conducted more than a dozen training events throughout the state, conducted approximately 50 community assistance calls (CACs), and improved the floodplain administrator accreditation rate by 100%. We cannot complete all of the tasks above without the support and cooperation from all of the floodplain management stakeholders throughout the state.

In January 2019, OWRB will kick off our training schedule with a week-long L-273 *Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program* class. The L-273 class is one of the most important classes in floodplain management and is the prerequisite class for taking the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam. Please visit the training calendar on our website at www.owrb.ok.gov/floodplain/calendar.php for all other 2019 courses from OWRB and OFMA.

OWRB is also planning to conduct four additional CAVs in the first half of 2019 for City of Ardmore, City of Broken Arrow, City of Mustang, and Payne County. As a major component of the NFIP, the CAV serves the dual purpose of providing technical assistance to the community and assuring that the community is adequately enforcing its own floodplain management

regulations.

OWRB, in partnership with FEMA through our Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program will start the year with a Discovery Findings meeting for the Washita watershed in southwest Oklahoma. The OWRB and its mapping partners will review the Discovery documents and present results, summarize available data and resources obtained from the community, review flood hazard information, and determine additional local mitigation needs. This meeting will conclude the Discovery phase of the Risk MAP effort.



	Date / Time	Location
Chickasha Meeting	January 23 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Canadian Valley Technology Center Building 200: Seminar C – 204C 1401 Michigan Ave. Chickasha, OK 73018
		cvtech.edu/campus/1/chickasha-campus

A **Discovery Findings Webinar** will also be held for those who do not attend the meeting. Please join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

	Date / Time	Access
Webinar Meeting	February 6 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Please join our meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/967950325
		You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (786) 535-3211 Access Code: 967-950-325 First GoToMeeting? Let's do a quick system check: https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check



OFMA DRT Corner

Bill Smith, PE, CFM

I found an old article I wrote in 2014 for the DRT Corner, and I thought I would update it as a reminder of actions that Floodplain Administrators can take in preparation for the Spring Flood Season.

You have heard the old adage “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Similarly, preventative maintenance is much cheaper than disaster response and recovery.

Each year at this time I remember back to a class that I taught to new Floodplain Administrators in 2010. I told the class that the winter time is the best time to clean out your ditches and culverts from the debris and sediment that has accumulated over the past years. Normally there is very little flow and the crews are not always as busy as during the nicer months of the year.

A local community floodplain administrator was in that class and asked for some clarification after class. He went back to his community and that winter had the City crews cleaned out ditches, culverts, etc. in preparation for spring flooding. The next spring the



rains did come and there was no flooding in that community because the conveyance systems were clean and allowed the stormwater runoff to flow without hindrance. I think of that floodplain administrator each time I teach that segment of floodplain management.

If every community would take the time this winter and do a similar type project, next spring, when “It will rain again, and possibly flood again”, perhaps the flooding will be minimal, non-existent, or contained within the immediate overbank areas and not affect structures. If the creeks are on community property, it is the communities responsibility to keep them free from debris, tree growth, etc. If the creeks are on private property, you are encouraged to speak with the property owners and let them know that if their creeks cause upstream flooding they may be held liable.

I also want to remind communities that the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association has the very first Disaster Response Team (DRT) in the nation that is associated with a State Floodplain Association. We encourage communities to pre-sign with me or Tom Leatherbee of Del City so that if there is a disaster in your community in the future - all it takes is a phone call to text message for us to come and assist your local FPA with Substantial Damage Assessments, Permitting, Outreach, BFE Determinations, High Water marking, etc. The OFMA DRT is recognized nationally by FEMA Region VI, FEMA Washington, and other states. I continue to have requests to present our DRT Program to our fellow state associations and do so with pride because of the support of OFMA, the OWRB, and FEMA in the development of this great volunteer team.

BLEs in Oklahoma

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

Over the past five years, FEMA Region 6 has been evaluating its approach to investment to provide flood hazard information. Base Level Engineering (BLE) is an approach that provides basic flood hazard information at a lower cost and with a shorter timeline than traditional FIRM development. This information has been developed for a significant portion of Oklahoma. In addition to presentations at the Annual Conference, Discovery Meetings and OWRB Training sessions, OFMA would like to help educate our members on potential uses for this data.

How Are BLEs Developed?

First – a terrain that meets the QL2 standard or better is required. Most LiDAR collection in Oklahoma meets this standard as does photogrammetry for 2-foot contour intervals.

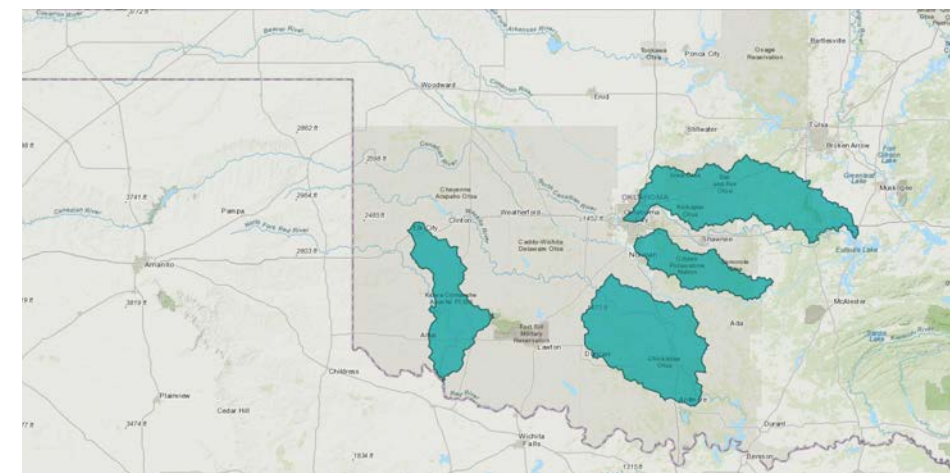
Second – flow rates are typically developed using Regression Equations with adjustments for flood control structures and stream gage data. The 10%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 0.2% and the 1% plus/minus flow rates are required.

Third – hydraulic models can be developed using a 1D or a 2D modeling approach. The 1D models are often developed with computer generated cross sections and may not include bridges or culverts.

Fourth – several mapping products are developed using the water surface elevations and terrain data including: 10%, 1% and 0.2% floodplains, 1% and 0.2% depth grids and water surface elevation grids, and HAZUS analysis.

BLE Benefits

There are many uses for BLE at the planning level. CNMS assessment benefits areas where flood hazard data didn't exist previously and where previous data exists it can help to identify areas where updated risk assessment is needed. BLE analysis provides sufficient data to efficiently move from Discovery to FIRM updates with Zone A mapping and helps to identify areas where additional detailed study may be needed. Other planning benefits include regional planning by FEMA and other Federal, State and local agencies, Hazard Mitigation Planning, Local Grant Applications and Disaster Response.



Local communities and Floodplain Administrators can benefit significantly from BLE data. During a recent online webinar, FEMA Region 6 provided the following guidance for using BLE data as Best Available Information:

- The BLE results may be used in areas where no flood hazard information is shown on your FIRM
- Where BLE is similar to OR more conservative than the current FIRM it may be used to provide Estimated Base Flood Elevations to residents
- Where BLE is smaller (lower) than current FIRM, BLE should NOT be used to provide Estimated Base Flood Elevations
- BLE information can be adopted and used as Best Available Information by locals without FIRM or Ordinance update*

For more information, watch for FEMA webinars, download FEMA's fact sheets (www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160060) and learn to use all the features of the Estimated BFE Viewer.

**Consult FEMA guidance for specific direction*



Annual Strategic Retreat

Monica Cardin, CFM, CCEA, CCEO

The OFMA Board of Directors held their annual Strategic Retreat from October 24 to October 26, 2018 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa. There were 18 participants this year. The objective for the this year's retreat was to set the Board's agenda for the upcoming year and to complete some of its outstanding projects and plan for our future projects.

The first day of the retreat mostly focused on reviewing all of the Board's current activities, action items from the Symposium, the role of OFMA with charitable activities and new initiatives. The retreat members reviewed all reoccurring tasks and noted which ones needed more support and which ones were no longer needed. It was decided that it is time for everyone who has worked on the Annual and Spring Conferences to put all of the institutional knowledge down on paper so that as others begin new chapters in their lives, OFMA

can continue to "keep the wheels moving" without having to reinvent what is already working.

During the retreat, the OFMA retreat members discussed the creation of a CFM study guide or something similar to a study guide that does not necessarily "teach" the test but can also provide enough information to the CFM exam test takers. During the board meeting that followed the retreat on October 26, an ad-hoc committee was created and members selected to create a more comprehensive guide.

The second day of the retreat was a work session broken out into six groups with two groups working at a time. The focus was on projects that really needed to be completed but just needed some extra "eyes" to finish it. The website committee reviewed the new website and advised what items needed to be completed before it could be launched. While the website committee met, Tom Leatherbee ran the OFMA Institute review meeting. They made much progress and should see more product coming regarding the Institute.

In the afternoon, the Stormwater Technical Workshop Committee and the Outreach Brochure committees met. The Stormwater Technical Workshop Committee had a very successful session. They decided on a date and how much to charge. They decided on the format and when to send out the call for presenters and even started looking for a location in Central Oklahoma. The Outreach Brochure committee was very successful as well. They

rewrote eight brochures- the 6 CRS messages and one for Stormwater and one for the DRT. The Board then agreed to contract out for a single brochure design that all the brochures will be set on. OFMA hopes to have those completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Lastly, the OFMA Board created the annual Budget and Ana Stagg and Tom Leatherbee ran the OFMA Essentials workshop. Each group had two essentials to work. They were tasked with coming up with the content for the presentation. This part is complete. The next step is to get in production. This retreat was somewhat different than other retreats. It was very much a work retreat on the second day where everyone sat down and put their heads together to get things accomplished. A lot was done in those two days. The new website launched in January. OFMA now has two booths. Our next goals are to complete the brochures to put in the booths. The Board's plan is to review these projects on a monthly basis as each board meeting to ensure that all the hard work that was done is not lost and that our members see and use the final result.

Anyone is welcome to attend the retreat- one day or all days. All expenses (food and hotel room) are paid and we appreciate all the new ideas and floodplain management advocacy that happens. This was a wonderful retreat! I thank everyone for letting me serve as the 2017-2018 OFMA Chair.



Distinguished Service Award: Terry West

W.B. "Bill" Smith, PE, CFM

This year the OFMA Board approved a new award recognizing the service our members have provided after many years of floodplain management to their communities. This new retirement award is called the "Distinguished Service Award". The first recipient of this award is Mr. Terry West. Terry has now retired from Tulsa County as the floodplain administrator since 2015.

Terry worked for Tulsa County for 37 years. Terry has been an OFMA member since 1998 and has been a CFM since 2001, and was one of the first CFM to take the national exam.

Terry was injured in a fall in 2017 and has been in physical rehabilitation since his injury. OFMA has assisted with donations for medical assistance in the past. The award and a check were presented on January 21, 2019 by Jeff Bigby, P.E. CFM, Chair and Bill Smith, P.E. CFM, Past Chair. The donations by many of our OFMA members will help with additional medical expenses for Terry. He is making great strides in his recovery.

We greatly appreciate the dedication that Terry has shown to OFMA as a member for so many years and we wish he and Janis the best in the years ahead.

2019 Spring Technical Workshop : Improving Technical Capabilities in Floodplain Management

Attendees receive six continuing education credits.

- When:
Thursday, April 4
- Where:
River Spirit Casino Resort
8330 Riverside Parkway
Tulsa, OK 74137
- Accommodations:
River Spirit Casino Resort
888.748.3731

Mention the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association Spring Workshop when booking to receive the special group rate — \$109 per night.

Group rates are available until March 4 or until rooms are sold out.

- Questions:
Carolyn Schultz
cschultz@cimtel.net
918.906.3922

OFMA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

It was launched in January 2019. Please take a look and let us know what you think.



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