

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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What will 2021 mean for OFMA?

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM | Past Chair

None of us will have a problem letting 2020 go it seems! As a group of dedicated professionals, it is clear that our emphasis on planning for the future has had a new challenge – floodplain management during a pandemic! How have we reacted?

We are committed to our membership and its professional status. We had to cancel the spring conference when the shutdown occurred one week earlier. That will not happen again because our Stormwater committee showed us how a virtual conference is done! In July we were able to provide eight hours of training to more than 200 people! Then in September we provided 16 hours of training in our virtual Fall Conference to nearly 300 participants. We awarded the J. Gavin Brady Floodplain Manager of the Year to Carrie Evenson for her leadership during the Stormwater Conference and elected her to become our next Vice-Chair.

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Words from the Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM | OFMA Chair

Congratulations to OFMA's new Chair

Ron Johnson serves as the Director for McClain County Emergency Management.

Additionally he is the Floodplain Administrator and Safety Director for McClain County. As the Director of Emergency Management, Ron has a variety of responsibilities such as preparing the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan, regulating the floodplain throughout the unincorporated areas of the county and responding to hazardous materials spills and all large incidents that occur in McClain County.

2020! Crazy, extreme, unpredictable, and chaotic. These are all words on how to describe the year of 2020. The great thing is, we as humans learn to adapt and overcome the obstacles in our lives.

On behalf of the Oklahoma Floodplain Manager's Association, I want to thank all of you that attended the 2020 Annual Conference that was held virtually. The OFMA Board and Conference committee spent many hours planning for this virtual conference, knowing that this would be a conference like OFMA had never seen. With so many different companies and government agencies not allowing their employees to travel or to even be able to meet with other individuals in person, your participation made this virtual conference a huge success.

The conference theme was "Are we ready for the next flood?" We covered a number of topics during the conference such as Disaster Recovery Reform Act to Fundamentals of Code Inspections. OFMA will continue to provide you with the most up to date training, through our conferences, advanced training workshops, email communications, and special events. We continue to develop new advanced training classes and are always looking for new individuals

that would like to assist or attend the Board meetings.

The OFMA Board held its Annual Strategic Retreat on October 21 – 23 in Broken Arrow. At the retreat, the Board discussed What is OFMA? We reviewed the objectives, vision, mission and what are we currently doing to meet them? We also focused on issues such as publicity, the Turn Around Don't Drown program, and membership.

Planning is underway for next year's conferences. The date of the 2021 Spring Technical Workshop is April 1, 2021 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Catoosa. More information on the theme and request for presentations will be emailed out in the winter. There will also be a Stormwater Conference on July 14, 2021 at the Moore-Norman Tech Center. Please save the dates!

And as mentioned before, All OFMA members are welcome at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. 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.

2021

...Continued from Page 1

The good news is that we learned a lot. It is much easier to get speakers with national experience and advice if we allow a virtual presentation, either in an in-person conference or a virtual setting. While we all miss the camaraderie, we can still meet our training goals and provide assistance to our membership via Zoom or Teams.

We held a hybrid Strategic Planning Session, with in-person social distancing, in October at the Stoney Creek Resort Hotel in Broken Arrow. Virtual attendance was available for a few participants because of agency requirements and health concerns. We reviewed "Who We Are", our Vision, our Mission and evaluated whether we were currently meeting the tenets set forward by previous leaders and members. We identified areas where our efforts are not meeting our goals and actions we can take to improve our focus.

In reviewing our membership, we noticed we have a number of groups that play an important role in floodplain management who are under-represented, such as real estate agents and insurance agents. We plan on doing targeted outreach to them explaining the importance of knowing flood risk and explaining flood insurance as a means of hazard mitigation.

We again acknowledged the lack of coordination following a flooding disaster between FEMA, the local emergency managers, the local floodplain managers, and the non-profits that come in to help with debris removal. Fortunately, our new chair, Ron Johnson,

is both the emergency manager and the floodplain manager for McLain County and can help guide us through our outreach efforts. All of these groups provide a great service to the public and need to understand the substantial damage requirements the NFIP requires.

OFMA will have a greater role in the next Oklahoma Hazard Mitigation Plan (HM) by working closely with Oklahoma Emergency Management and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. There are too many expired HMPs in the state that limit our ability to obtain FEMA grants for mitigation planning and projects. That will have to be addressed over the next year.

We can always use more active members willing to help us meet our goals. We can use more participation on our committees, attending board meetings and involvement in special projects like the calendar competition. I look forward to the coming year working with our membership to make a difference in our communities. Everyone agrees that OFMA is a well-run organization that functions better than almost all groups our size and we owe all of our success to those who commit their time, talents and resources to OFMA. Thanks to all who have contributed and to those who plan to do more in the coming year. I hope to see you soon.

2021 SAVE THE DATES

2021 Spring Technical Workshop

April 1, 2021
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino
777 W. Cherokee St.
Catoosa, OK

2021 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 14, 2021
Moore-Norman Technology Center
4701 12th Ave. NW
Norman, OK 73069

2021 OFMA Annual Conference

September 20-22, 2021
Embassy Suites Norman Hotel & Conference Center
2501 Conference Drive
Norman, OK 73069

More information about 2021 events coming soon!



Professional Development Certification

Joe Remondini PE, CFM | OFMA PDCC Chair

Your Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) status was due for renewal by the end of September. However we will allow renewal without penalty through the end of October.

As most of you know all OFMA and OWRB training was suspended this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However there have been numerous training opportunities on line as well as our hugely successful annual virtual conference in September. FEMA and ASFPM continue to offer virtual training opportunities as well. Hopefully we can get back to in person training next year.

As a reminder a CFM is required to get 16 hourly CECs in a 2 year period (from 1 October through 30 September). There is a minimum of 4 CECs required in a year and a maximum of 12 counted.

Due to the circumstances this year if you could not get

CECs we will evaluate your situation on a case by case method. Please contact us through our website or by calling me or Carolyn Schultz.

In other news the CFM Exam is moving towards a digital format. I participate on the Paper to Digital (P2D) team led by ASFPM. We are still developing guidelines for that process which is scheduled to be implemented by the end of the year. ASFPM has already contracted with "Scantron Corporation" to manage the digital exam. We at OFMA expect to still independently evaluate applicants and manage renewals for the CFM program. The exam cost will likely increase and at least at the beginning we will still proctor the paper exam as an option. Scantron has 3 testing centers in Oklahoma or an option could be to take the exam on your personal computer. In a future BFE newsletter I will provide more details as this develops.

On-Demand Access to the ASFPM Virtual Conference Now Available



If you didn't get a chance to join us for the 2020 ASFPM Virtual Conference, you can now access the entire program on-demand. That's three plenary presentations and 54 concurrent sessions for a total of more than 150 presentations dedicated to all aspects of flooding and floodplain management. Certified Floodplain Managers will earn one continuing education credit (CEC) for each session watched, up to 12 CECs.

In commenting on the breadth of content delivered, one attendee said: "The program was broad to cover several tracks to accommodate all people attending. Everyone could get new information for their specialized area or learn about another area!" Registration for the on-demand conference is \$300, which includes access to the entire program until Jan. 31, 2021.

[Go here to register.](#)

The Growing Focus on Building Codes

Tom Leatherbee, CFM | Legislative Director



With COVID having shortened last year's legislative session and raising many questions for the upcoming year, it will be more important than ever for OFMA to remain watchful for legislative and administrative actions that could impact our members and the floodplain and stormwater management industry.

Outside of the State Capitol, OFMA watches for trends in the overall industry, and particularly at the state and federal government levels. One trend that merits mention is an increased focus on building codes and standards.

The NFIP has been linked directly to building codes since the inception of the International Code Series, which were developed to be the first consolidated construction codes for the United States. Numerous studies have shown that adopting and enforcing hazard resistant building codes reduce the frequency and severity of flood losses.

The International Codes, including the International Building Code and the International Residential Code, contain all of the NFIP minimum standards found in 44 CFR 60.3. Now, the focus is going beyond basics, looking to administration, enforcement and higher standards.

Perhaps the biggest overall development in the industry is the rollout of the BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant. BRIC represents a tremendous opportunity for communities to transform themselves by becoming more prepared for future disasters. Along these lines, the BRIC program can provide funding for evaluation of existing codes, adopting enhanced codes or higher standards, and development of code enforcement capabilities. Project evaluation for BRIC applications includes a requirement for code compliance and requires that the applicant have been evaluated through the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Scale (BCEGS) program.

Building codes continue to be a focus of the Community Rating System (CRS) program. Enforcing building codes, as shown by a BCEGS score of 5/5 for a Class 6 or 4/4 for a Class 4, is a prerequisite for attaining flood insurance discounts through the CRS.

OFMA has developed a training class that addresses the flood related provisions in the International Code Series. The OFMA Training Cadre regularly presents this class at Advanced Training Workshops and is happy to teach it on demand for interested communities.

As always, please contact legislative@okflood.org with any questions or concerns.





Tips for Rural Floodplain Administrators

Johnny Barron | OFMA Region 4 Representative

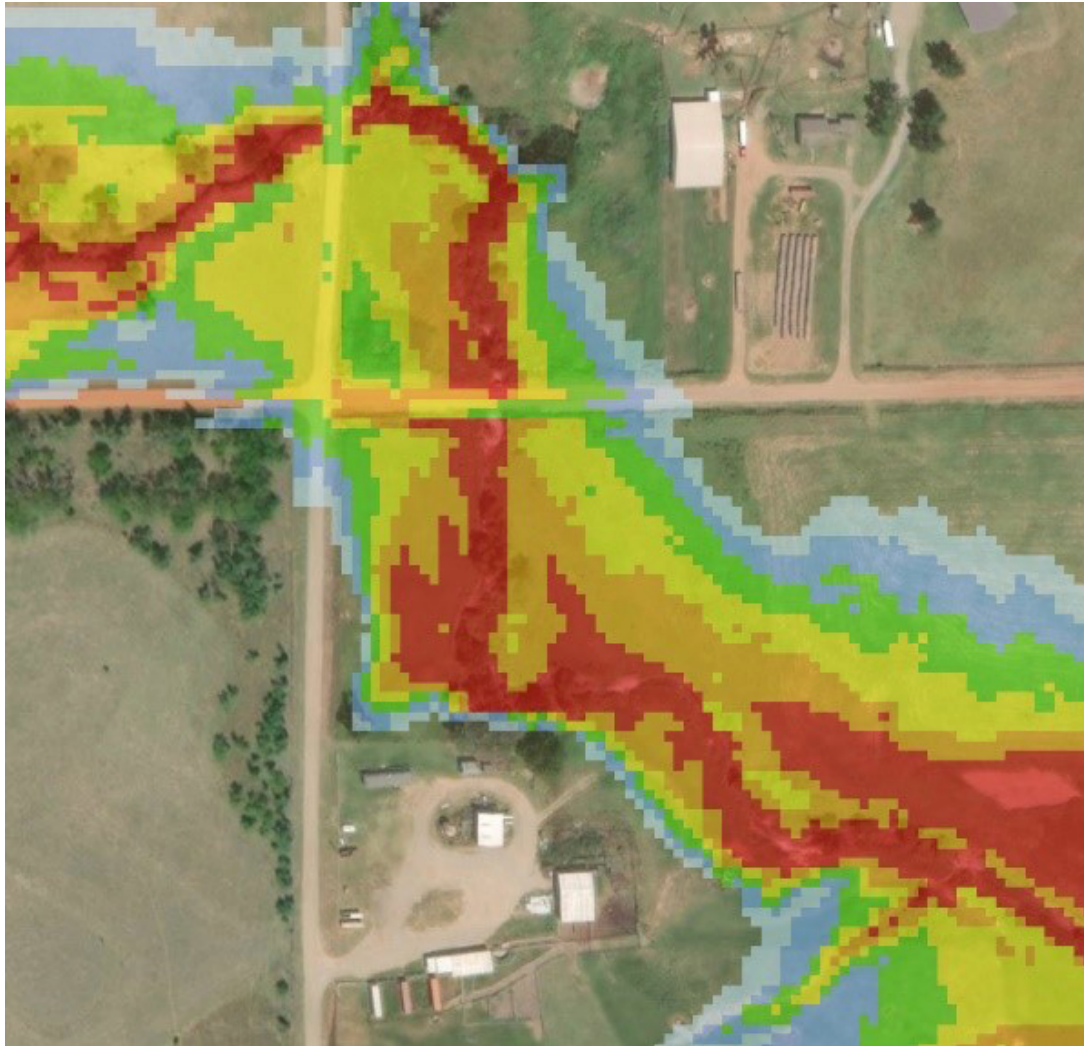
For communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), they must comply with minimum NFIP standards. Participating communities must have a Floodplain Administrator (FPA) whose job it is to review proposed development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). However, most rural counties do not require building permits for new development. Without the structure of a permitting system, the rural Floodplain Administrator is often on his/her own to try to learn about new developments and make sure they comply with NFIP requirements and local ordinances. This can be challenging.

Many people living in rural areas will not respond favorably to an attempt to regulate what and where they build. This mentality is often shared by elected officials who don't have the stomach for enforcing NFIP requirements. Telling a farmer that he cannot build his barn where he wants to may be politically unpopular.

One way to overcome these obstacles is through public outreach to communicate risk. If the farmer (and County Commissioners) have an accurate understanding

of the risk, he is much more likely to welcome input from the FPA. The farmer is likely to voluntarily choose to relocate his barn to a lower risk area. Likewise, the politicians are more likely to view floodplain management as providing a service to constituents.

Another obstacle is that rural areas are less likely to have flood studies and AE Zones. Approximate A Zones are more challenging to work with when



reviewing proposed development. Fortunately, we have never had more tools at our disposal for understanding flood risks. Base Level Engineering has been completed for about half of Oklahoma. This mapping tool shows 1% chance flood depths by color.

These images are from the same area in western Washita County. FEMA has not printed a FIRM panel and the National Flood Hazard Layer shows this to be

a Zone X Area of Minimal Flood Hazard. However, Base Level Engineering shows a modeled floodplain with flood waters as deep as 5 feet (red).

Showing this data to the farmers who own this land will go along way. Most farmers won't want to have to repair the barn or replace the livestock lost by a flood event.



Rather than coming across as the heavy handed government telling them what they can't do, this can be presented in a way to show property owners that we are trying to help them protect their property and livestock. Most people will comply when they see the financial benefit of doing so.

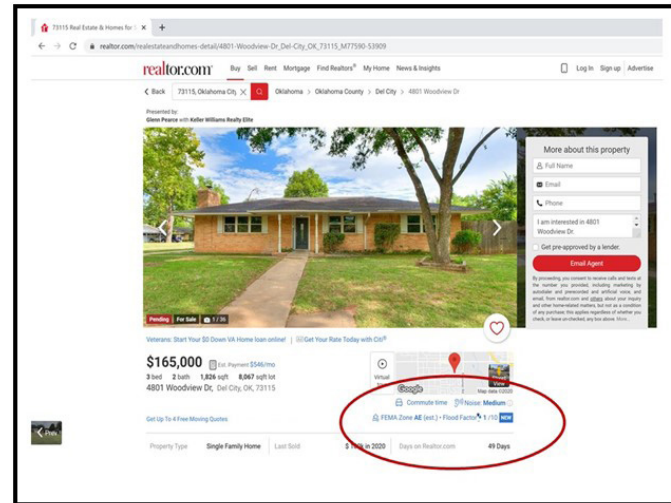
BLE mapping covers many areas not previously studied and can be reliably used as "best available data."

Base Level Engineering maps can be viewed at: <https://webapps.usgs.gov/infrm/estBFE/>



New Tools Increase Consumer Focus on Flood Risk... But May Lead to Unintended Consequences

Tom Leatherbee, CFM | Legislative Director



Federal regulations require purchase of flood insurance for any property located in the special flood hazard area that is secured by a mortgage held by a federally regulated lender. This mandatory purchase requirement is often the primary interaction that average citizens have with the National Flood Insurance Program. For many years, real estate agents and purchasers have relied on (often inaccurate) seller disclosures to determine whether a property is located in a high-risk area, and mortgage lenders have relied on (often inaccurate) third party flood determination companies to ensure compliance with the mandatory purchase regulations. Only rarely do the parties involved in a real estate transaction seek out more accurate or detailed flood hazard data, whether by accessing the FEMA Map Service Center, viewing the National Flood Hazard Layer or contacting the local floodplain administrator.

In recent months, new tools have emerged that purport to help make flood risk data more accessible as part of the real estate shopping process. Most of these tools are based not on effective NFIP regulatory products, but on information produced by the First Street Foundation. The First Street Foundation states its identity as a “non-profit research and technology group defining America’s Flood Risk” (www.firststreet.org/mission).

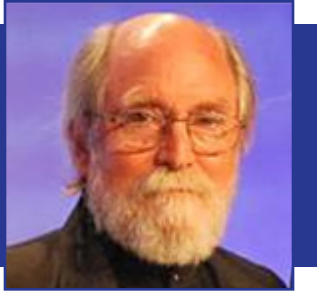
The First Street Foundation’s proprietary tool for visualizing flood risk is known as “FloodFactor™”, which they describe as “a free, online tool that makes it easy to learn if a property has flooded from major events in the past, is currently at risk, and how that risk changes over time” (www.firststreet.org/flood-factor/).

The National Association of Realtors® has implemented this tool in its Realtor.com website and app. When browsing properties for sale on Realtor.com, the Flood Factor score and a link to more details (including multiple links to marketing partners) are prominently displayed for each property. Following a single link can display detailed flood hazard information for a property and the

surrounding area. It is important to note, however, that this mapping does not necessarily match the effective regulatory FIRM, issued nonregulatory products or the data contained in the National Flood Hazard Layer.

OFMA DRT Corner

Rev. W. B. “Bill” Smith, PE, CFM | OFMA DRT Coordinator



The 2019 summer tornadoes and floods brought numerous requests for the OFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT). This year we were not called to assist. First, I want to thank all of the volunteers who still participate in the OFMA DRT Program to assist our neighboring communities, and extend an invitation to new members or old members who would like to assist in future events. Send me an email.

The DRT will be preparing for the Spring 2021 Flood season over the winter. A detailed inventory of supplies has been performed we are in good shape if we are called. We do have additional kits for new volunteers along with jackets and shirts.

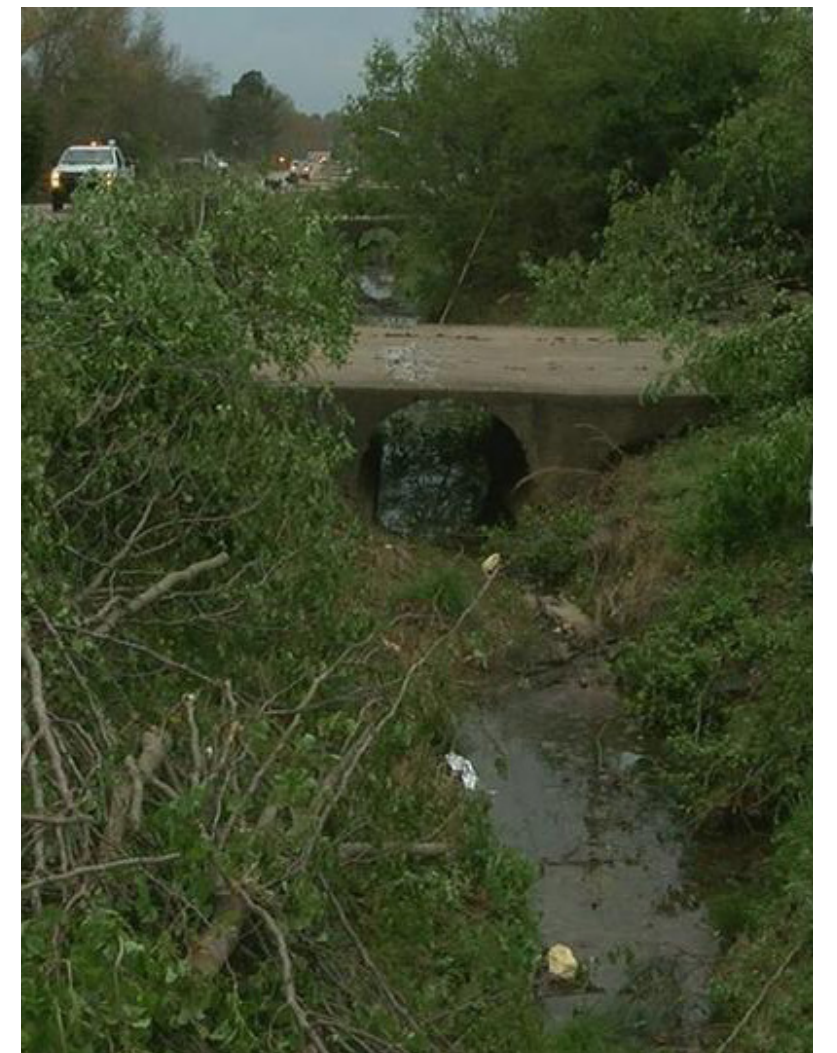
We did not have any training program during the OFMA Spring Technical Workshop or Annual Conference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic for DRT volunteers. I hope to have a basic training at the Spring Technical Workshop for not only volunteers but also community FPAs and their staff. Please sign up for this training when registering for the Spring Workshop or please notify Bill Smith, P.E. CFM, DRT Coordinator by e-mail if you intend to participate in the training.

We continue to work on the data base to send the “contract letter” for communities to “pre-enroll” in the event that your community needs the assistance of the DRT.

HINTS for the Winter - Again:

Does your community have a plan for “cleaning ditches, drainage channels, and culverts” this winter in preparation for the spring rains?? If not, it’s not too late—remember that accumulated debris will cause debris to catch and cause higher water surface elevations on the upstream areas **that could flood structures.**

Don’t forget to “permit yourself” for any modifications to the drainage conveyance structures – channels, culverts, etc.



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Words from the Chair

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM



First and foremost, I hope everyone of you in the floodplain management community are safe along with your family. I'm sad that we had to cancel the Spring Technical Workshop which meant I didn't get to spend time with this wonderful community. Some of you may be concerned about obtaining enough CEC credits. OFMA recently sent out an email identifying additional online training options to help you meet the minimum requirements. The board will continue to monitor the situation and do everything they can to help out.

I don't know whether you consider yourself an optimist or a pessimist or if you refuse to choose and identify as a "realist" (sarcasm on that last one). I'm guessing your current situation due to the Covid-19 virus is giving you a chance to test yourself and see.

I've personally observed the full spectrum and I am willing to admit that after the initial shock and panic of the potential shut down of our business, I quickly moved back to the side of optimism. If you allow me to set aside the tragedy of the

lives lost, there are some reasons to be optimistic.

First on my list of reasons for optimism is that a crisis of this magnitude often comes with major technological advancements largely due to innovation that otherwise would have taken much longer. For example, the technology required to conduct virtual meetings has been around for quite a while but for several reasons it hasn't been widely adopted. How fast has that changed? What happened to all the excuses that were used to avoid widespread use? It just isn't the same, we can't trust the technology, we don't have the equipment, etc. Most of those reasons disappeared in a hurry!

What else has changed? I've heard stories of documents in the past that required wet signatures including being Notarized which takes a lot of time and money to prepare when it has to be done multiple times. We're now finding out that there are methods for electronic signature that have been around for a while but there was no catalyst to force change. *Continued on Page 2...*

Words from the Chair

...Continued from Page 2

I've also heard that staff at the City of Del City has conducted inspections remotely via live video. I don't know if this was using FaceTime or Zoom on a mobile device but who would have dreamed of this a year ago? Are there situations where this could be the norm rather than the exception? Would that save resources for the City?

What does this have to do with Floodplain Management? Everything. In our haste to "return to normal," maybe we should stop and ask if it is worth it. If I asked our community how many floodplain management rules, regulations, policies, procedures, etc. that frustrate them, I'd surely get a long list. How many of those are simply out of date with better solutions already available? What would it take to change them? It won't happen if we don't try.

Maybe this is a good time to seek out change in the name of optimism. Maybe we can make a significant improvement in the reduction of floodplain risk.

OFMA CEC Opportunities

OFMA Board

First we want you all to stay healthy and not risk getting infected or spreading the virus to others.

Due to the current crisis training classes and workshops have been cancelled restricting your ability to get required CECs to renew your Certified Floodplain Management status.

We still have scheduled the Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on July 15 at the Moore Norman Technology Center Franklin Road Campus in Norman as well as the Annual Conference in Norman September 21-23.

We encourage you to register for these training opportunities. Subject to future conditions we plan to reschedule more training classes later in the year.



Save the Date for the Third Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop!

OFMA, in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA), is hosting the Third Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on Wednesday, July 15th, 2019, 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 am to 4:30 pm.

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 will be open soon. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

If you have an interesting topic to present or want to recommend a speaker, please contact Carrie Evenson at carrie.evenson@normanok.gov. Check out www.okflood.org for more information.

Online Courses Available for FPA and CFM Renewal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has cancelled all floodplain management meetings and training events through April 30, 2020. If you are a community Floodplain Administrator or a CFM and looking for training to renew your certification there are some options available. FEMA offers online independent study courses on topics such as Letters of Map Revision, Substantial Damage Estimation and Flood Insurance Studies. You can view the courses offered at <https://training.fema.gov>.

Also, the OWRB will grant one hour of training credit to FPAs (sorry, not for CFMs) for signing up on our list serve to receive news and updates. Be sure to select Floodplain Program Updates as one of the topics you want to receive information on. We have also extended

the FPA accreditation period to September 30, 2020 to allow additional time to complete training opportunities. As soon as meeting restrictions are lifted our training calendar will be revised and more floodplain workshops scheduled. To sign up for the OWRB list serve and for more information on training opportunities visit the OWRB website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

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.

theoklahomawaterresourcesboard thewateragency

Board Meetings | Rules | Forms | FAQ | Reports | OCWP | About Us | News

Water Use Permitting
Financial Assistance
Well Drilling
Water Quality Standards
Monitoring & Assessment
Groundwater Studies
Surface Water Studies
Dam Safety
Floodplain Management
Drought Monitoring
Interactive Maps & Data

Sign up for the latest news and updates from the OWRB.
Email Address Submit

Due to public health recommendations and Governor Kevin Stitt's Emergency Declaration for the State of Oklahoma, the OWRB office is currently closed to the general public. All training events have been cancelled through April 30th. If you have business to conduct with the OWRB and do not know your contact's direct line, please call 405-530-8800 or contact us through our [web form](#). We apologize for any inconvenience.

Google Custom Search

Water For 2060
Oklahoma Drought Portal
Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan
Oklahoma Water News
Lakes of Oklahoma
Interactive Maps & Data

News
Atoka Municipal Authority Receives \$4,010,000 in Water System Funding from OWRB
Weleetka Public Works Authority Receives \$95,330 in Water System Funding from OWRB
Wilburton Public Works Authority Receives \$31,875 Grant for

Calendar
Apr 8-9 ~~OCLWA Annual Conference~~ Cancelled
Apr 21 Board Meeting
Tweets by @OKWaterBoard

CEC Opportunities During Social Distancing

ASFPM and the Certification Board of Regents

With more of our colleagues quarantined in their homes and unable to travel due to COVID-19, we know this puts our nation's CFMs in a predicament, especially those with July and January renewal dates. Many of our Chapters are also having to make that difficult decision to cancel chapter conferences.

At ASFPM, we have solutions! We hope you will use the following guide to help you get your required CECs, as well as increase your professional development during your quarantine. Access your current CECs on record with us on your [CFM portal](#).

Before we get into the self-study courses available, we are happy to announce a special ASFPM response to the crisis—the ASFPM Webinar Sprint! Our new ASFPM live webinar series will guarantee you at least 12 CECs between now and the first renewal date of July 1. Some of these will be free, through our various partnerships, and some will be discounted depending on your membership with us. Find the schedule and registration links on the [training page](#) on our website.

Self-study is also a great alternative for those CFMs who only need a few CECs, or are seeking self-study online training. Below are several sources of pre-approved self-study along with descriptions, general costs and links.

FEMA-EMI, ISP Courses

No cost

Through our partnership with the Emergency Management Institute—FEMA's training center—we have approved 102 self-study courses for CEC credit at no cost. However, you must complete the final exam to receive your certificate for the course that you will turn in for CEC credit. If you go directly to the EMI site, please note that 0.1 CEU equals 1 CEC.

Access the [pre-approved](#) list on our website.

Access these courses on the [EMI website](#).

COMET – Independent Study Courses

No cost

COMET is made possible through sponsorship from NOAA, the World Meteorological Organization, U.S. Department of the Interior, and USACE just to name a few. We have approved 39 courses for CEC credit. You must complete the course and the quiz(es) in order to receive your certificate that is turned in for CEC credit. The links to each course can be on the [ASFPM website](#).

ASFPM Online University ([RedVector.com](#))

Costs vary

Red Vector hosts courses created by our colleagues and other ASFPM partners. It is a paid class platform. However, registering through the ASFPM Online University grants you a 15% discount off of the main website, as well as supports a small royalty back to the course creator and to ASFPM to continue to support training objectives. The ASFPM Certification Board of Regents has recently added over 150 more courses to the curated list, which can be found by looking up “ASFPM” in the search tab and scrolling under #3. Feel free to contact training@floods.org for assistance during normal business hours. Access courses via the ASFPM Online University at: <https://floods.redvector.com/>



ASFPM Webinars and partner webinars

Cost varies from no cost to various depending on membership.

ASFPM hosts an average of two to four webinars per month. ASFPM members, Chapter members (sent to Chapter officers for distribution) and partners automatically get invitations to the ASFPM Webinar series as well as the ASFPM/APA PIE webinar series. ASFPM special edition, lunch-n-learn, and CTP information exchange invitations generally go to ASFPM members that have selected to be on that committee's email list during their ASFPM membership renewal or by self-selecting on their member portal (if you would like access to these webinars, become a member of ASFPM by [clicking here](#)).

We currently have five different webinar series:

ASFPM Webinar series – For fee webinars on cutting edge issues by subject matter experts.

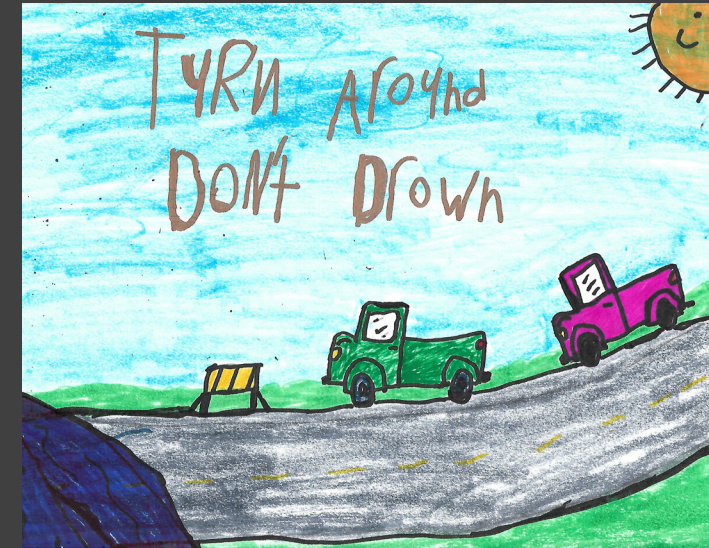
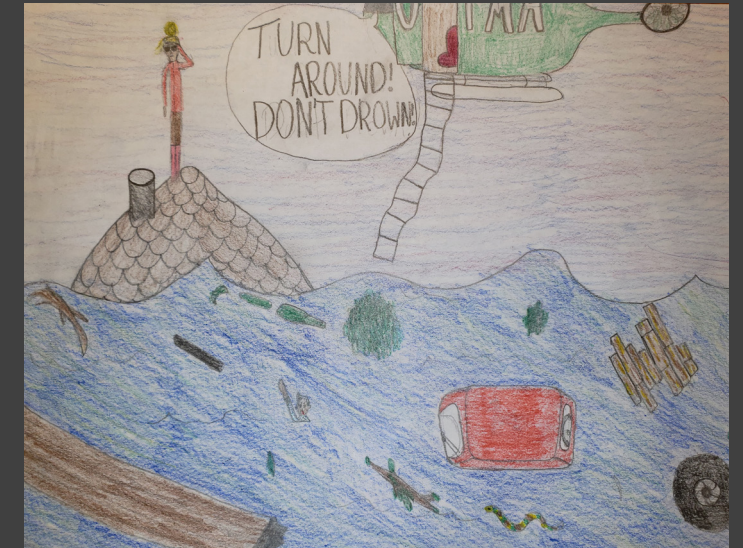
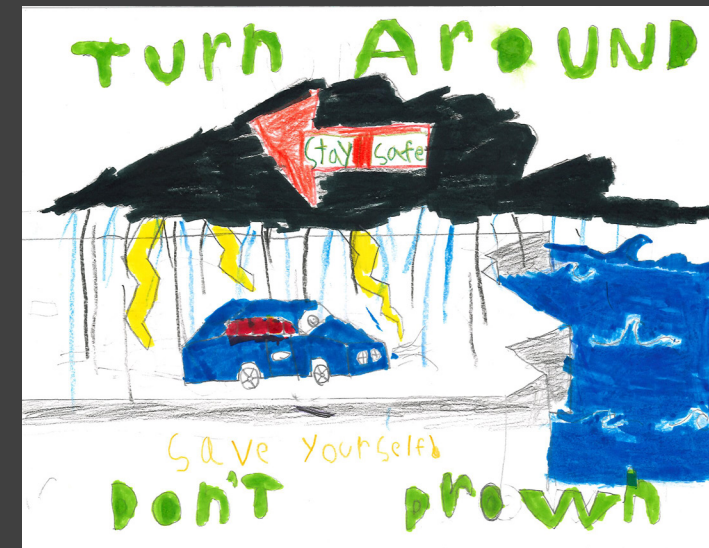
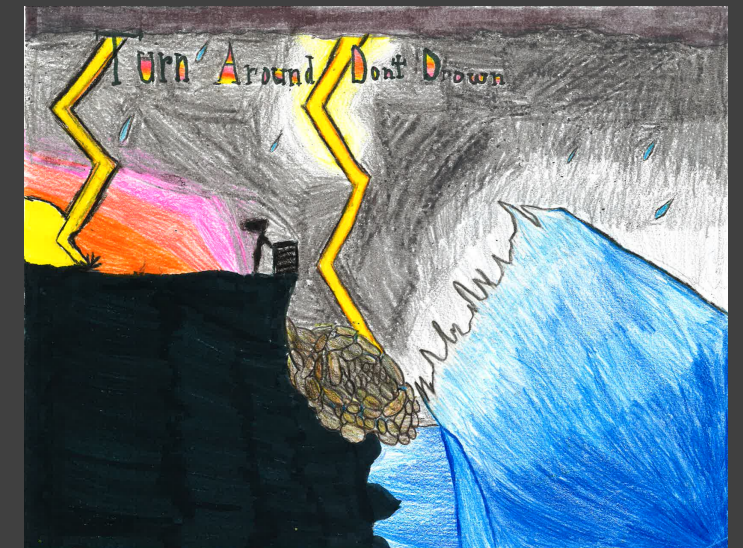
1. **ASFPM Special Edition webinars** – No cost, special topic webinars for members put on by any of the 14 ASFPM policy committees.
2. **ASFPM Lunch-n-Learn webinars** – No cost, special topic webinars for members put on by any of the 14 ASFPM policy committees.
3. **ASFPM Cooperating Technical Partners “CTP Information Exchange”** – No cost, special topic webinars put on by ASFPM's Flood Science Center in partnership with the Mapping and Engineering Standards Committee.
4. **ASFPM/APA Planning Information Exchange “PIE webinars”** – No cost, special topic webinars alternating between APA-led (American Planning Association) and ASFPM-led.

We hope this list helps you in your search for safe online CECs. We are all in this together, and we thank you for being part of our ASFPM community.

Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest

Polls are now open!

Despite the cancellation of school and OFMA's Spring Technical Workshop, grade school artists from across the state submitted their artwork for the Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest. Cast your vote for your favorites now until Friday, April 24.



Proposed Mitigation Grant Program Policy for Public Comment

FEMA ADVISORY

On Friday, April 10, FEMA published a proposed policy for the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program in the Federal Register for public comment. Stakeholders may view the proposed policy and provide new comments until May 11, 2020, at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). In the “search function,” type identification number FEMA-2019-0018 at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or view the proposed policy at this link. Although FEMA recognizes there may be operational constraints for some to publicly comment during these challenging times, FEMA is proceeding with publishing the proposed BRIC policy for notice and public comment in order to keep program implementation moving forward.

In developing the proposed policy, FEMA spent months in 2019 reaching out to stakeholders for input and has given serious consideration to the comments it received during the comprehensive engagement process. The proposed policy is broad and intended to establish the framework and requirements for BRIC.

Each year FEMA will post a Notice of Funding

Opportunity (NOFO) on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) providing detailed program information and other grant application and administration requirements. Following the review and adjudication of comments received on the proposed policy, FEMA anticipates finalizing the proposed policy and releasing a NOFO by the fall of 2020. This timing is subject to change. To learn more visit www.fema.gov/bric.

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at nbeoc@max.gov



As envisioned, BRIC will support states, local communities, tribes and territories, as they undertake hazard mitigation projects reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.
(Photo: View of the Houston, TX, Skyline)

Addendum to the CRS Coordinator's Manual Expected in 2021

NFIP/CRS UPDATE

The CRS will not issue a full new edition of the Coordinator's Manual in January 2021, as described in the last few issues of this newsletter. Instead, the CRS will be issuing a brief “addendum” that communities will use in conjunction with the current 2017 Coordinator's Manual. The Addendum will serve as a “bridge” between the existing guidance materials and the more comprehensive update that is anticipated to be needed when FEMA continues to implement the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Transformation.

This approach will allow CRS communities to continue using the familiar materials for a longer period. It also should minimize the possibility for a shortened turnaround time and/or the need for interim guidance—either of which could prove disruptive for communities.

Beginning in January 2021, CRS communities will be implementing their programs in accord with both the 2021 Addendum and the 2017 Coordinator's Manual. This will continue until the next full update of the Coordinator's Manual, which is not expected until 2023.

The Addendum will be a short



FEMA

document, limited in scope to clarifications, simplifications, new credit opportunities, and FEMA initiatives. Highlights of CRS program changes that will be part of the Addendum, including CRS credit opportunities for floodplain species assessments and management plans for potential substantial damage, will be discussed in the next issue of the newsletter. An additional change expected in the Addendum is a new prerequisite for achieving Class 8—enforcement of a freeboard standard for residential buildings. At verification cycle visits after January 2021, a CRS community will be required to enforce at least 1 foot of freeboard for all new and substantially improved residential buildings in its numbered A and V Zones in order to become (or remain) a CRS Class 8 or better community. Communities that do not implement freeboard will be limited to a CRS Class 9 rating.

More details on when communities will need to be implementing freeboard for residential buildings will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

The CRS Task Force has been examining the value and feasibility of a freeboard prerequisite at the request of Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA) [see article on pages 3-4 of the [June/July 2018 issue](#)]. This past year, the CRS Task Force's Freeboard Prerequisite Committee recommended including the prerequisite in the CRS and FIMA has concurred.

All communities that implement a freeboard requirement will receive CRS credit under Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards), and this is also an opportunity for communities to consider whether a 2- or even 3-foot freeboard standard would be appropriate for them.

Funding Acknowledgment

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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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The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Are You Ready for the 2020 Virtual Conference?

Janet Meshek, PE, CFM | Conference Chair

Firstly, thank you to all who participated in our online survey regarding the fall conference. As much as we miss interacting with everyone in-person, this year's annual conference will be held entirely online in an effort to keep our OFMA members and families safe and healthy.

The theme for this year's annual conference is: *Are We Ready for The Next Flood?* While this year's conference will be vastly different than years previous, the board is just as committed to providing engaging sessions by subject-matter experts on relevant and timely topics.

Continued on Page 3...

Registration is OPEN

All OFMA members, local Floodplain Administrators, Stormwater Managers, and guest are invited to the 2020 OFMA Annual Conference that will be held VIRTUALLY.

When: Monday, September 21 and Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

Where: <https://pheedloop.com/ofmavac2020/site/home/>

Register to attend, sponsor, or speak now!

REGISTER NOW



Words from the Chair

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

It has definitely been a challenging year for all of us at work, at home and in our communities. I hope you and your family members have avoided any significant health issues. My extended family has experienced quarantine due to exposure, hospitalizations and sadly one death that may have been related to the virus. This definitely made everything more difficult for my family.

Just as we thought things were starting to back to something closer to normal, the impacts of the COVID-19 virus returned with increased cases resulting in more restrictions making it more difficult for those of us in the floodplain community to do our jobs. We continue to try to find ways to effectively do our jobs and meet the needs of floodplain community.

As I'm sure you have heard by now, the board made the difficult decision to move our Annual Conference in September to a 100% virtual environment. I know we will miss many of the things we love about attending the annual conference in person (riding a mechanical bull anyone?) but we can still focus on learning and sharing best practices with each other.

Our conference committee led by Janet Meshek has been hard at work adapting our format and identifying great speakers. Our virtual Stormwater Quality Conference was a huge success (thank you Carrie Evenson!) and we'll take what we learned from that experience to make our Annual Conference the best we can. There are many changes currently underway and even more ahead and we can't afford get behind.

The current economic conditions both in Oklahoma and nationally will definitely make it more difficult to obtain the funding needed to reduce flood risk in our communities. This may require increased efforts in communicating risk and pursuing grant support for funding projects. These topics will definitely be addressed during the Annual Conference including the new BRIC program and the State Flood Plan led by OWRB.

I hope you can join us for this year's conference, and that the included pictures of us talking and laughing together at the 2019 Annual Conference in Durant will help hold us over until we can meet in-person again.



2020 Virtual Conference

...Continued from Page 1

As usual, Monday morning will kick off with a plenary session including the following highlights:

- Opening Remarks from the Chair
- OFMA Program and Conference Logistics
- Oklahoma National Flood Insurance Program Update
- State Flood Plan Update
- Oklahoma Emergency Management Update

For the second part of the morning plenary, Pamela Williams, JD, Executive Director, BuildStrong Coalition, will speak about the Disaster Recovery Reform Act and FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. Pamela was the principal drafter of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA), and is one of the most knowledgeable people on BRIC and DRRA. This session will include a Q&A portion.

This plenary will conclude with a FEMA Region VI Update from Tony Robinson, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI.

The two afternoon session will include a total of six breakout options, covering the following topics:

- Low Impact Development
- Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers
- Floodplain Engineering and Mapping Projects
- Stormwater Quality Topics
- Case Studies from Floodplain Managers
- Community Rating System (already filled by ISO reviewers)

reviewers)

Each breakout will include three subject-matter speakers.

Committees and Region Representatives will meet Tuesday morning. These small group meetings will be followed by a plenary group discussion on formulating our policy agenda, led by our Legislative Committee Chair, Tom Leatherbee.

After a morning break, Jon Phillips, OWRB and Tom Leatherbee, City of Del City will host workshop sessions on Floodplain 101 and Fundamentals of Code Inspections, respectively. A separate session will be held on Hazard Mitigation Planning and Assistance, moderated by Mitigation Committee chair, Annie Vest.

After lunch, Ron Johnson, OFMA Vice Chair, will lead our annual business meeting. The two workshops will be continued after this meeting while a breakout session on Flood Risk Reduction will be held separately with speakers to be determined.

After an afternoon break, we will hold the final plenary session, during which Secretary Rachel Cooper, County Engineer, Wagoner County will moderate a session called, *Are We Ready For The Next Flood? A Panel Discussion With Federal, State, And Local Officials*.

We will end with closing remarks by Ron Johnson, our 2020-2021 chair.

A preliminary agenda may be found on Page 4.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Virtual presentations and interactive workshops should be consistent with the theme of preparing, managing, and recovering from a flood event. Potential topics include:

- Low Impact Development
- Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers
- Floodplain Engineering and Mapping Projects
- Stormwater Quality Topics
- Case Studies from Floodplain Managers
- Community Rating System (already filled by ISO reviewers)

If you are interested in presenting or know someone who would, please submit an abstract online. We can accommodate 30 minute presentations including Q+A time.

You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. The deadline for submitting abstracts is August 28.

Submit Your Abstract HERE

Are We Ready for the Next Flood?

Preliminary Agenda | 2020 Annual Virtual Conference

Monday, September 21, 2020

8:00 AM	8:20 AM	Plenary	Opening Remarks from the Chair	Brandon Claborn, P.E., CFM
8:20 AM	8:40 AM		Summary of OFMA Program and Conference Logistics	Ron Johnson
8:40 AM	9:00 AM		Oklahoma National Flood Insurance Program Update	Yohanes Sugeng, P.E., CFM
9:00 AM	9:20 AM		State Flood Plan	Julie Cunningham, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
9:20 AM	9:40 AM		Oklahoma Emergency Management Update	Mark Gower, Director, Oklahoma Emergency Management
9:40 AM	10:00 AM		FEMA Region VI Update	Tony Robinson, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI

10:00 AM 10:30 AM BREAK

10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Plenary	Disaster Recovery Reform Act and FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program	Pamela Williams, JD
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12:00 PM 1:00 PM BREAK

Concurrent Sessions		Track Topic	Speaker
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Low Impact Development Topics	Want to present? Submit your abstract here!
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Emergency Management for Floodplain Managers	
1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Floodplain Engineering\ Mapping\Projects	

2:30 PM 3:00 PM BREAK

3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Community Rating System		Want to present? Submit your abstract here!
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Stormwater Quality Topics		
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Case Studies from Floodplain Managers		
4:30 PM	5:30 PM	New Members Welcome	OFMA Introduction and Socializing	Bill Smith, P.E., CFM

On-Demand Access to the ASFPM Virtual Conference Now Available



If you didn't get a chance to join us last month for the 2020 ASFPM Virtual Conference, you can now access the entire program on-demand. That's three plenary presentations and 54 concurrent sessions for a total of more than 150 presentations dedicated to all aspects of flooding and floodplain management. Certified Floodplain Managers will earn one continuing education credit (CEC) for each session watched, up to 12 CECs. In commenting on the breadth of content delivered, one attendee said: "The program was broad to cover several tracks to accommodate all people attending. Everyone could get new information for their specialized area or learn about another area!" Registration for the on-demand conference is \$300, which includes access to the entire program until Jan. 31, 2021. [Go here to register.](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Concurrent Sessions		Track Topic		Speaker
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Committee Meetings	Outreach	Monica Cardin, Janet Meshek
			Hazard Mitigation & Stormwater Quality	Annie Vest Carrie Evenson, Phd, PE, CFM
			Membership and Publicity	Jennifer Wasinger
9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Region Meetings	Region 1	Lincoln Irvine, P.E., CFM
			Region 2	Joe Remondini, P.E., CFM
			Region 3	James Kuykendall, CFM
			Region 4	Johnny Barron, P.E., CFM
			Region 5	David Smith, CFM
9:30 AM	10:00 AM	Plenary Policy Discussion	Group Discussion Formulating Our Policy Agenda	Tom Leatherbee, CFM, MCP, AINS

10:00 AM 10:30 AM BREAK

Concurrent Sessions		Track Topic		Speaker
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Workshop 1	FP101	Jon Phillips, CFM
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Workshop 2	Fundamentals of Code Inspections	Tom Leatherbee, CFM, MCP, AINS
10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Planning and Assistance	Hazard Mitigation Planning	Shanene Thomas Matt Rollins, <i>Moderator: Annie Vest</i>
			Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs	
			Panel Discussion Q & A: Keys to Securing Mitigation Assistance Funds	

12:00 PM 1:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM	1:30 PM	Business Meeting		Ron Johnson
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Workshop 1	FP101	Jon Phillips, CFM
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Workshop 2	Fundamental of Code Inspections	Tom Leatherbee, CFM, MCP, AINS
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Flood Risk Reduction		Want to present? Submit your abstract here!

3:00 PM 3:30 PM BREAK

3:30 PM	4:45 PM	Plenary	Are we ready for the next flood? Panel Discussion with Federal, State, and Local Officials	Bill Smiley, CFM, CEM Steve Palladino
4:45 PM	5:00 PM		Closing Remarks	Ron Johnson



FEMA Announces \$500 Million in Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Fund

How to Prepare for the Application Period

Annie Vest | Hazard Mitigation Chair

On August 4, 2020, FEMA released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the highly anticipated BRIC program. Established through the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, BRIC builds on FEMA's mission to prepare communities for disasters before they happen, with an added focus on resilience. It is funded through a percentage of funds from every disaster declaration, with the potential to provide \$300-500 million annually and even billions of dollars in years following significant disasters, making it one of the biggest federal efforts on resilience. In its inaugural year, FEMA has made \$500,000,000 in available funding for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to fund risk-reducing, cost-effective disaster mitigation projects and increase community resilience.

BRIC replaces FEMA's current Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. It allows for more significant investment in pre-disaster mitigation and focuses on improving our nation's infrastructure to withstand natural hazards better. The BRIC priorities are to:

- incentivize public infrastructure projects;
- incentivize projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines;
- incentivize projects that incorporate nature-based solutions; and,
- incentivize adoption and enforcement of modern building codes.

What should you do to prepare for the September 30, 2020 opening of the application period?

1 As with other FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, you must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline (January 29, 2021) and at the time of obligation of grant funds. [You can access an interactive map of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Status here.](#) If your plan is expired or soon to expire,

Hazard Mitigation Planning is an eligible project type under the BRIC program. It can take anywhere from 9 to 18 months for a plan to be updated and receive state and FEMA approval.

2 Identify your project and the scoping needs. BRIC is an amazing opportunity to marry up mitigation with your capital improvements strategy. Many of the infrastructure projects identified for future funding are likely eligible for BRIC. Applications submitted to FEMA must meet the minimum eligibility criteria for all submittals. All applications submitted must include, but are not limited to, a scoping narrative (scope of work, work schedule, and detailed cost estimate) and forms. All mitigation project sub-applications must also include proof of cost-effectiveness, feasibility and effectiveness, documentation of compliance with Environmental and Historic Preservation laws. If there is not enough information to apply, consider applying for Project Scoping funds (formerly Advance Assistance under PDM), under the new Capability and Capacity-Building (C&CB) category to develop hazard mitigation projects, including but not limited to:

- Engineering design and feasibility actions;
- Collect data for benefit-cost analyses, environmental compliance, and other program requirements;
- Conduct engineering design and feasibility studies for larger or complex community drainage projects or critical facility retrofits (such as for Phased Projects);
- Conduct hydrologic and hydraulic studies for unmapped flood zones or approximate A zones areas where communities propose to submit hazard mitigation projects;

3 Identify your cost-share requirement. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75 percent

federal / 25 percent non-federal. This means federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible costs must be derived from non-federal sources. Small, impoverished communities are eligible for an increase in cost-share up to 90 percent federal / 10 percent non-federal. The definition of a small, impoverished community is a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the Applicant that is economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80 percent of the national per capita income, based on best available data.

4 Finally, what can we do with the money? This is the time to be creative. Think outside the box. Think about the project that can change your community! What does innovation look like in your community? Perhaps it is incorporating low impact development into your stormwater management program. Maybe it's evaluating the adoption and implementation of building codes that reduce risk. Or maybe your community is tired of being impacted by the same

hazard event, time and time again, and is ready to scope a long-term solution. Whatever the case may be, start where you are. BRIC is the opportunity to change what our communities are today and be better tomorrow. We cannot, in any way, shape or form respond our way out of every vulnerability. Through BRIC, we can implement mitigation and build safe, sustainable, and equitable communities.

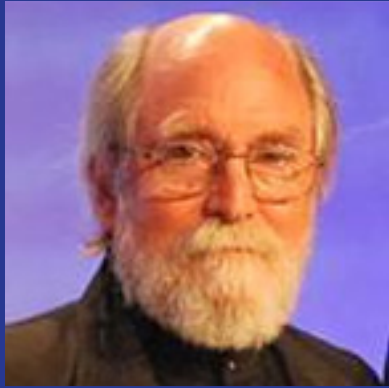
For more information on the BRIC program visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

Eligible project types include, but are not limited to those identified in the FY15 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance and Addendum found here <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance-and-addendum-fy15>

Stay tuned for future updates from the OFMA Mitigation Committee at the Annual Conference.



As envisioned, BRIC will support states, local communities, tribes and territories, as they undertake hazard mitigation projects reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.
(Photo: View of the Houston, TX, Skyline)



Rollin' on the River

River Parks Authority Remediation in Tulsa

Rev. W. B. Smith, P.E. CFM | DRT

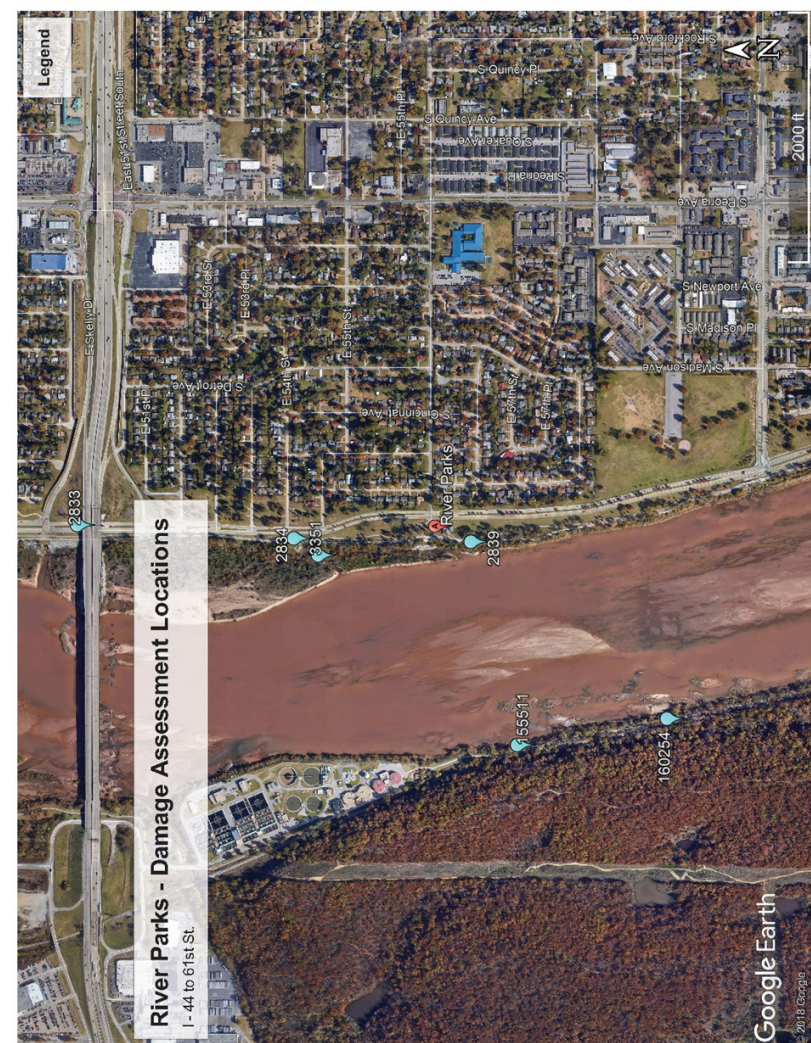
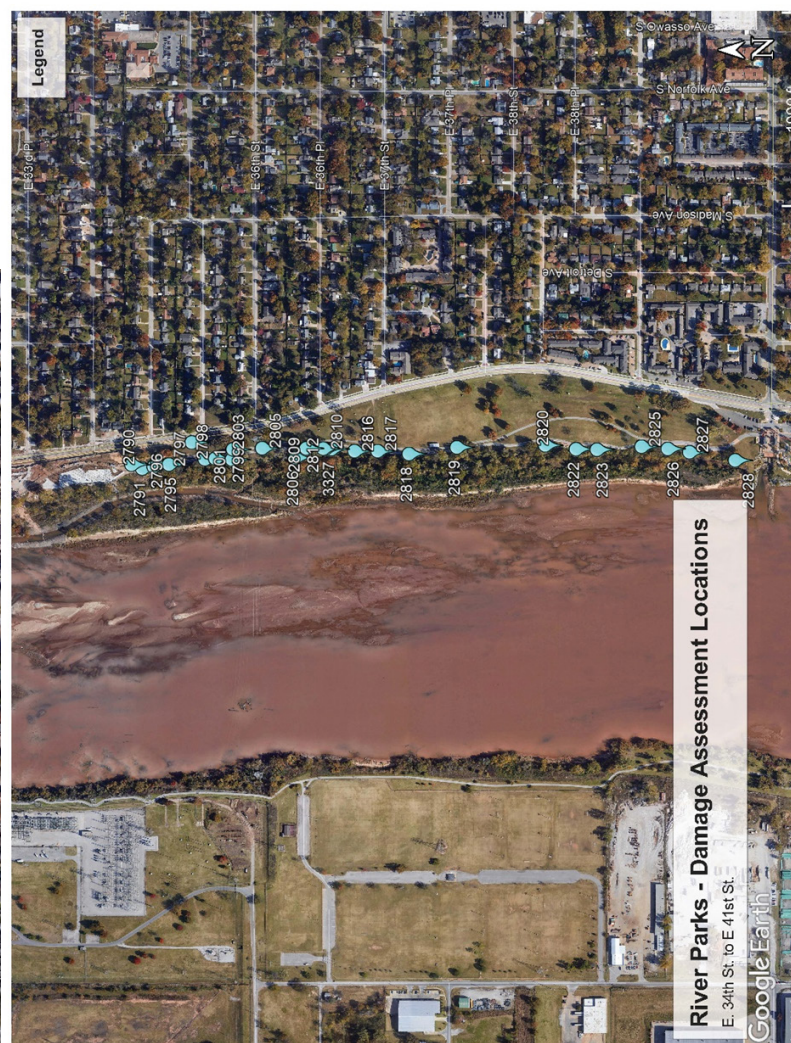
In May-June 2019, the Arkansas River through Tulsa experienced a historic flood event. While the peak river flow was not as high as the 3 to 4-day peak in 1986, the high flow flooding in the Special Flood Hazard Area lasted for over 51 days, totally saturating the banks of the river. When the river levels dropped, the banks of the Arkansas River along the River Parks Authority trails sloughed and failed due to rapid drawdown and weakened conditions due to saturation.

With limited funding for repair, the River Parks Authority proceeded with evaluation, design, and is in the construction phase of several “high” priority projects that affected public safety due to trail damage and slope damage adjacent to the trail, along with several park amenities.

This article will address not only the process and procedure for the remediation of the park facilities, but also the ongoing learning experience of the FEMA Public Assistance Program and reimbursement that is being approved – in a much-limited manner – as compared with the actual costs incurred; in contradiction to the original anticipated reimbursement.

The images on this spread indicate the River Park areas that were impacted by the flood event.

Continued on Page 10...



Rollin' on the River

...Continued from Page 9

The total sites identified were over 87 locations. With the limited funding, even considering FEMA Public Assistance, the sites were divided into four categories – High Priority (Public Safety and Trail Damage), High Priority – Public Safety with no Trail Damage, Medium Priority, and Low Priority – Volunteer/Staff.

Immediately following the receding of the floodwaters, hundreds of volunteers came to support River Parks Authority in their immediate cleanup efforts. Debris, sand, trash, downed trees, etc. were removed from the park and trail areas all along both sides of the river. Once this cleanup was initially completed, the River Parks Trail system and portions of the parks could be re-opened – before the Covid-19 breakout.

There was a trail run scheduled shortly after the flood so some emergency repairs were completed on the trail.

This is an example of undermining of the trail by stormwater running outside of the stormwater pipe and eroding the supporting foundation of the trail.



emergency trail repairs

The remainder of the projects were prioritized for design, bidding, and construction activity.

The first priority of construction remediations were four High Priority locations that directly affected public safety and damage to the trails.

Area 34 – Site No. 1 and No. 2 – 68th and Riverside Drive – Trail partially collapsed, bank scouring, etc. This site was designed, bid and construction was completed during the week of May 11, 2020. The final project costs were \$317,426.00.

Area 35 – Feldman Deck – This site is near 57th and Riverside Drive and damage resulted from bank scouring and undermining the existing Feldman Deck. This site was designed, bid, and construction was completed the week of April 20th. The final cost is \$265,949.80.

Area 28 – Site No. 1 and No. 2 – 41st Street Plaza (QT Center) – Site No. 1 - Part of river bank sloughed, and the Pump Vault collapsed which provides water for the splash pads in the Park area. Site No. 2 - Part of peninsula was scoured and river bank stabilization moved. These sites were designed, bid and construction is underway. Site No. 2 work is completed. Site No. 1 work was begun, but the contractor is waiting for the new vault to be fabricated and delivered (Anticipated mid-June 2020). Work is anticipated to be completed in late July or early August – weather and river conditions pending. This project cost was bid at \$496,100.00. This Project is expected to underrun bid costs.



area 34 post-flood and remediation



area 28 new vault and backfill



area 1W – Looking South at Trail and Fence Damage – Not seen is West Bank River Sloughing

Area 1W-3W – These are three trail sites on the West Bank Trail near Turkey Mountain. Area 1W is a bank scouring and trail failure area, Area 2W is a bank scouring and trail failure area and Area 3W is an overtopping of the trail with bank stabilization damage due to an undersized culvert. This work was publicly bid in the amount of \$331,002.35. Notice to Proceed was issued on April 22, 2020, and work is now almost completed with only punch list items remaining. The Bid documents were revised by Addendum and the majority of the shale on the Berm at the West Bank Soccer Club has been transported to Area 1W and 2W for bank fill. The rip-rap is also being removed and relocated to the bank slopes on Areas 1W and 2W. There was remediation needed for the West Bank Trail and a Request for Contractor Proposal was been issued for Trail Repair (patching or replacement sections, cleaning, and re-striping). All material was removed from the Berm by May 20 or 21 which was ahead of the May 25th FEMA deadline. The West Bank trail is now reopened.

FEMA Disaster Assistance

FEMA's disaster aid program offers recipients a maximum of 75% toward FEMA-approved costs to return eligible damaged property to pre-flood condition. Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) contributes 12.5% of what FEMA approves and the balance is the responsibility of the recipient organization. The caveats of "eligible" and "pre-flood condition" are very meaningful to RPA's efforts to recoup damage costs on two levels:

- (1) FEMA policy does not allow funding for flood-caused erosion to unimproved natural riverbank,

even when that property is mowed and maintained as part of a public-use area. Only when riverbank erosion clearly undermines or imminently threatens park capital improvements will funding assistance be considered. "Pre-flood" means that if soil and vegetation are washed away along the riverbank, FEMA's repair obligation – if any – is limited to replacing washed-away soil unless the severity of the slope at the damage site is so great that soil alone cannot reasonably repair the damage. In such cases, FEMA may make some allowance for "mitigation" costs, but not at the 75% reimbursement rate, and must be pre-approved by OEM. Much of the damage in River Parks was deemed ineligible for FEMA assistance due to being unimproved natural riverbank.

- (2) River Parks' initial post-flood damage assessment assigned estimates for all damage sites, including those that were inspected by FEMA and eliminated as ineligible for aid. For all damages, FEMA personnel determine a cost allowed for repairs as determined by FEMA's support group. Although RPA had one unique single-source vendor repair in the 41st Plaza fountains pump vault, all other repair costs were determined by FEMA materials and/or labor cost schedules that are, for the most part, standardized across the U.S. This practice often resulted in cost estimates that were lower than RPA estimates. Wherever applicable, RPA has disputed FEMA costs that we considered unreasonable. In some cases, changes were made, in others they were not.

Continued on Page 12...

Rollin' on the River

...Continued from Page 11

Staff members from RPA worked on FEMA disaster recoveries for River Parks in 1986 and 2007. The staff have commented that FEMA's practices for the 2019 flood are far more complex and inflexible than for the previous disasters. One staff member, who retired as RPA's Park Superintendent in 2009 to take a position with the City of Superior, Colorado, was on the front lines of addressing Boulder County's flood disaster of 2013 with FEMA. He reports FEMA procedures are much

more difficult now than then. It is speculated that the large number and severity of other U.S. natural disasters, along with incidents of fraud by some of those disaster assistance recipients, have made FEMA's policies and procedures more stringent.

Whatever the reason, it has been made abundantly clear that FEMA and OEM are here to assist, but not to "make us whole" for the damages suffered in the flood.

The flood repairs have remained a high priority for more than a year now.

Recap of Work To Date

FEMA procedure assigns a Project Disaster Manager (PDMG) with whom all involved staff members met weekly until COVID-19 reduced those meetings. RPA is now on the third PDMG, as FEMA reassigns its personnel based on other needs around the U.S. RPA has also communicated with the two layers of management above the PDMG and with the OEM Public Assistance Coordinator and OEM Recovery Program Director on an as-needed basis to appeal some of FEMA's funding decisions that we considered unfavorable.



area 2W – Looking South at Trail and Fence Damage – Not seen is West Bank River Sloughing



area 3W – looking North at Overland Scouring of Downstream side of Trail due to undersized culvert. New double 30-inch culverts in place and trail and shoulder widened.

After documenting all flood damages from large to small in the initial aftermath of the flood, the total number of projects has been pared down over time, with many small projects combined into a single larger FEMA project and others ruled ineligible.

RPA has completed two major east bank repairs, one at 68th (Area 34) where the trail was undercut and one at 58th (Area 35) where the Feldman deck was undercut. The third east bank site, 41st Street Plaza (Area 28), is in progress, and is expected to be completed in late August 2020. That site includes replacing the ruined mechanical pump vault for the 41st splash pad and repairs to bank erosion that contributed to the destruction of the vault by flood waters. The new vault has been delivered and is installed. Electrical, controls, and piping are in progress.

On the west bank, work is nearing completion of trail damage repairs at three locations (Areas 1W-3W) along the base of Turkey Mountain. In addition, all RPA repair contractors were required to make use of the material with which the emergency temporary berm was constructed at the West Bank Sports Complex to mitigate flood damage to businesses and homes west of Elwood Avenue. The contractors used that material for fill, resulting in cost savings for the repair projects and avoiding the need to hire and pay for a separate contractor to remove and dispose of the berm material. All work is completed at this location. A design package is being prepared for future bidding for the re-construction of the original berm in the location of the temporary berm that was breaching in the 1974 or 1977 flood along the original alignment. This also includes the required Section 404 Permitting.

The 2019 flood was the worst that River Parks Authority has experienced in its 46 years, due to the volume of water and particularly to the duration. In an effort to be as thorough as possible, we documented damage sites large and small. The approach was to estimate repairs on the basis of work that would mitigate damage from future flood events, in a number of cases suggesting armoring the river bank with cable/concrete or rip-rap. This made sense in the immediate aftermath, before FEMA was on the scene and RPA was apprised of their current policies. The unintended consequence of the "future damage mitigation approach" was to significantly inflate expectations for financial aid the federal government might provide. That reality set in quickly as RPA began meetings with FEMA officials, starting with a detailed vetting to determine if the RPA was even an eligible aid recipient.

The initial estimates for over 50 individual damage sites ranged from \$8M to \$12M, a number predicated on the need to competitively bid multiple sites, engineering and design for some locations, and labor and materials costs to repair some of the lesser damages. FEMA dismissed much of what was estimated as outside the scope of FEMA's policies. FEMA personnel also created confusion by first requiring that each damage location be cataloged as a separate site and then later reversing course and more logically combining multiple sites in the same general area into single projects.

Work is continuing on a plan to remediate as many small sites as possible along the East and West Banks of the Arkansas River before another large flood event comes and continues to devastate the banks and River Parks Trail System.



FEMA

FEMA Suspends In-Person Training and Education through October 1, 2020

FEMA ADVISORY

FEMA's top priority remains the health and safety of FEMA employees, instructors, students, and visitors on campus, without compromising instruction quality and the student experience. Therefore, FEMA will suspend in-person training and education at both the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) and Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) through at least October 1. FEMA will continue to monitor the coronavirus pandemic and communicate updates or changes in conditions that may affect reopening of FEMA campuses.

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The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

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Are We Ready For The Next Flood?

Spring Technical Workshop

The OFMA Annual Spring Technical Conference will be held April 9, 2020 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, 777 W. Cherokee St., Catoosa, OK 74015. This year's theme is "Are We Ready for the Next Flood?"

The day will begin and end with plenary sessions on progress made since last year's devastating flood. Tom Leatherbee will be teaching a three-hour class from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., breaking for lunch, on "Fundamentals of Code Inspections." There will also be breakout sessions on Mitigation Pre-Flood, Mitigation Post-Flood, Floodplain Record-Keeping During a Flood, and FPA/EM Communications.

Our lunch speaker will be Dr. Mindy Conyers from the Texas Water development Board on implementation of the new flood-related legislation, and preparing Texas' first state flood plan and a new flood financing program. Please join us in April!

Fundamentals of Code Inspections class at Spring Workshop

OFMA, in partnership with the City of Del City, will present a special training class on Fundamentals of Code Inspections at this year's Spring Technical Workshop. This class will provide a basic overview of field inspections and will incorporate material from the International Code Series and National Electrical Code, with particular emphasis on the International Residential Code.

The class should be of particular interest to members of the OFMA Disaster Response Team, but is open to all workshop attendees. In addition to the standard continuing education credit toward CFM renewal or FPA Accreditation status, the class will carry .2 ICC Preferred Provider CEUs.

OFMA Legislative Reception

The members of the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association cordially invite you to our annual Legislative Reception recognizing legislators and legislative staff for their efforts to advance flood risk reduction, hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness in the State of Oklahoma.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020
11:00 AM TO 1:30 PM
OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 412A



Words from the Chair

Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

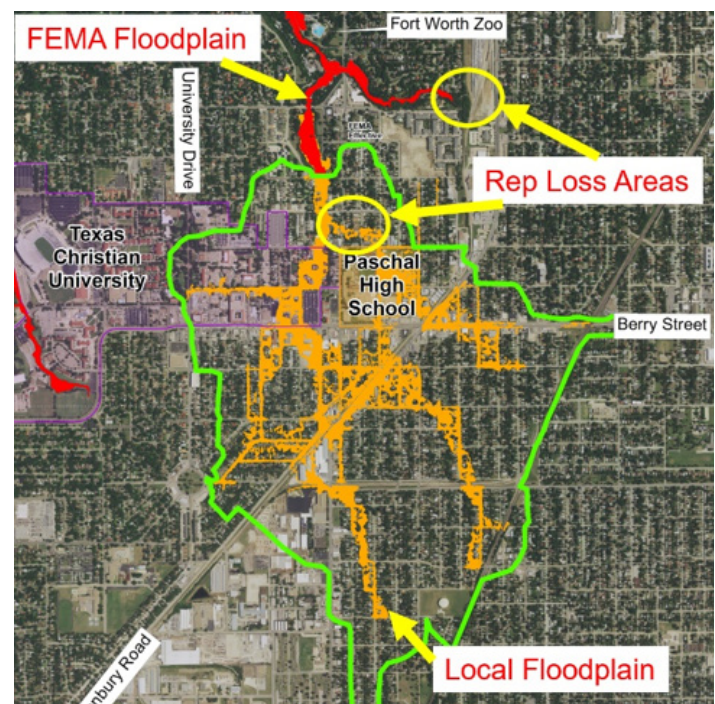
Too often, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is reduced to maps and insurance. The purpose of the program is often absent from conversation. The two stated purposes of the NFIP are “to share the risk of flood losses through flood insurance and to reduce flood damages by restricting floodplain development.”

Recently I attended a workshop held by FEMA Region VI where all of the Cooperating Technical Partners gathered to share their experiences. One of the speakers from FEMA reminded the group that the Risk Map program is ten years old and it was envisioned to be a ten-year program. Given that 2020 is here, are your efforts in floodplain management geared towards the challenges you will be facing ten years from now in 2030?

Think about that for a minute. What changes

in modeling, mapping, politics, and other technologies will impact the job of managing the floodplain? While that can be difficult to predict, there will certainly be challenges.

One of the presentations was given by the FPA from the City of Ft. Worth. Due to the City’s frustration after multiple flooding events where damages are not in areas identified on the FIRM maps, they decided to study much more of their watersheds. Many of these areas don’t have open channels but the storm sewer systems are not sized to convey large events. The result is flooding in residential structures who had no idea of their flood risk. Instead of complaining about the FEMA FIRM Maps, they developed their own “local floodplain” maps and are working to adopt regulatory framework that allows them to better manage development and reduce flood risk.



Take some time to consider how you can better identify, manage and even mitigate flood risk in your community. What resources do you need today and what will you need in the future? What can you do this year to make progress? Attending the Spring Technical Workshop, OWRB training classes, ASFPM Annual

Conference (in Ft. Worth this year), and OFMA's Annual Conference are great options for learning how your peers are handling these issues and options for applying new technologies to solve problems. I'll be there and I hope you will also.

Floodplain Administration Potentially Joins Emergency Management in Public Assistance (PA) Reimbursements during Flood Recovery

Special Announcement from FEMA

The draft Recovery Policy on Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement is currently open for a 45-day public review and comment period, ending on Friday, March 6, 2020. Please submit your comments to FEMA-Recovery-PA-Policy@fema.dhs.gov.

Comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed and adjudicated by the Public Assistance (PA) Program. Edits will be made to the draft policy, which will then be issued as a final policy.

On October 5, 2018, Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018 to reduce the complexity of FEMA and build the nation's capacity for the next catastrophic event. DRRA section 1206 amended sections 402 and 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize FEMA to provide assistance to state, territorial, tribal, and local governments for building code and floodplain management ordinance administration and enforcement, including assessments for substantial damage compliance.

FEMA is implementing DRRA section 1206 through the PA Program. The draft policy defines the framework and requirements for consistent and appropriate implementation through the PA Program.

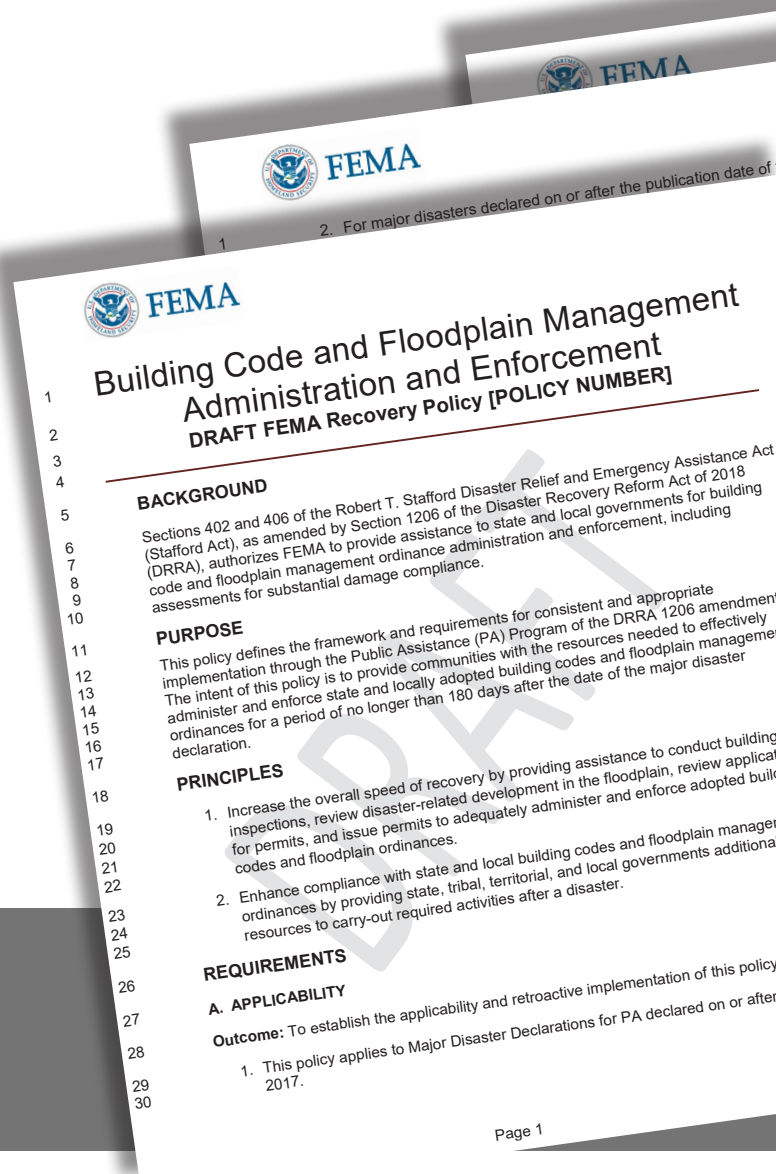
The intent of this policy is to provide communities with the resources needed to effectively administer and enforce building codes and floodplain management ordinances adopted by state, territorial, tribal, and local governments for a period of no longer than 180 days after the date of a major disaster declaration.



FEMA

Draft documents are available for download and review by visiting:

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/185634>





Two Floodplain Management Bills Introduced to Oklahoma Legislature

Aaron Milligan, CFM, RPES

State Senator Dave Rader (R-Tulsa) has sponsored Senate Bill 1269 which would direct the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to develop a comprehensive State Flood Plan and create a State Flood Resiliency Revolving Fund to fund the Plan.

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board and other State agencies are concurrently preparing a draft State Flood Plan.

The statewide plan will examine flood risks and potential flood mitigation projects on a watershed basis, not just at the community level.

The Plan will examine need for additional flood risk information, such as flood maps, and also identify areas where flood control projects are needed.

Needs identified by the Plan would then be ranked according to a cost-benefit ratio. Flood risk needs and assessments within watersheds could also be coordinated between communities in those watersheds.

State Rep. Lonnie Sims (R-Jenks) has sponsored House Bill 2776, The Oklahoma Hazard Mitigation Assessment District Act, which provides the framework for residents in each county to elect and establish a hazard mitigation assessment district.

The Bill is the first piece of legislation to be introduced following interim studies Sims hosted at the State Capitol in September and October 2019 to conduct a comprehensive review of the historic Arkansas River Flood of 2019.

To support and help gather information for the State Flood Plan, the OWRB and OFMA have developed a Joint Regional Outreach Plan.

The objective is to develop working relationships with communities to increase knowledge of floodplain management and the National Flood Insurance Program.

Community input will be gathered to assess resource needs and potential flood mitigation projects.

The Program will also promote the OWRB and OFMA as resource partners.

Two regional workshops will be held in 2020.



State Senator Dave Rader
(R-Tulsa)



State Rep. Lonnie Sims
(R-Jenks)

DRT Corner QUIZ



Rev. Bill Smith, PE, CFM

Let's take a little quiz this month – just to keep you on your toes!!

1. What are the 3 primary tools in the FPA Tool Box?
2. What are two inexpensive and timely mitigation measures a community can do to reduce spring flooding? When would you do them?
3. Does a community have to permit activities in the floodplain for public work projects?
4. If an FPA has a CLOMR or LOMR Application submitted for review, are they required to review and sign off? If they don't know how to evaluate the H/H information what should they do?
5. Does the FPA sign off on a LOMA? When does the FPA know that a LOMA has been submitted and issued?
6. Are LOMA's valid indefinitely?
7. Do you have a Pre-Disaster Plan for the Community?
8. What can the FPA do to assist the Emergency Manager during a disaster?
9. If the FPA is the EM, does that person have different duties during a flood event?
10. When does Substantial Damage (SD) become Substantial Improvement (SI)?

Answers on Page 8.



Oklahoma Will Receive \$36 Million in CDBG-DR Funds in Response to May 2019 Flooding

Annie Vest

After many months of uncertainty, Oklahoma will receive a total allocation of \$36,353,000 in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to address seriously damaged housing, businesses, and infrastructure from the devastating May 2019 flood event. CDBG-DR grants support a variety of disaster recovery activities, including housing redevelopment and rebuilding, business assistance, economic revitalization, and infrastructure repair. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will issue administrative guidelines shortly for the use of the funds to address grantees' long-term recovery needs, particularly in the area of housing recovery.

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce has been designated as the entity responsible for administering the funds that will assist in the recovery of areas impacted by the May 2019 flood event, FEMA-DR-4438. HUD has identified the most impacted and distressed areas based on the best available data for all eligible affected areas.

At least 80 percent of the total funds provided must address unmet disaster needs within the HUD-identified most impacted and distressed areas, in Oklahoma, HUD identified Tulsa County, Muskogee County, and the 74946-zip code in Sequoyah County. A minimum of \$29,082,000 must be expended for recovery in these areas.



Before cities, counties and states can begin utilizing CDBG-DR funds (expenditure) several steps must be completed to include creation of a disaster recovery web page, Action Plan approval, applicable environmental reviews and the execution of a grant agreement with HUD. HUD typically gives themselves 60 days to review the plans, but timing can change with each federal register. Then a grant agreement must be signed by HUD and the state. And after that, the state can distribute funds.

continued on Page 7...

Calling Grade School Artists!

Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety 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.

Participation in the Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest helps children learn and inform their

parents about flooding hazards, a particularly timely subject given last year's record flooding. Plus students and their teachers could win cash prizes.

If this is something your local school (third through fifth graders) would like to participate in, please contact your Region Representative (contact information on Page 12) to receive 2020 OFMA calendars, which include this year's calendar contest guidelines.

Calendars must be received by April 1.



CDBG-DR Funds

... continued on Page 6

As part of the CDBG-DR Action Plan, grantees must provide an analysis of the disaster impact and the resulting needs that have not been addressed through other sources such as FEMA and SBA funding or insurance proceeds. This unmet need is codified in the Unmet Needs Analysis component of the Action Plan.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act prohibits federal disaster recovery assistance from providing a duplication of benefits (DOB) to a

beneficiary. To ensure CDBG-DR funds are only used for recovery needs that have not already been funded by another source, grantees must work with all entities that provided assistance to affected homeowners and businesses following the disaster. This includes insurance companies, FEMA, Small Business Administration (SBA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the American Red Cross, and any other sources of assistance such as local charities and nonprofits. Unfortunately, there is not one repository for this data; each entity collects and manages its own data set.

Making a long story short: Commerce

is working diligently to ramp up the CDBG-DR program and establish a solid foundation. Communities anticipating funds should be prepared to document unmet needs, DOB, and documented methods of procurement in place in compliance with 2 CFR 200. Additionally, direct recipients of CDBG-DR funds (or any Federal funding) that reside in the SFHA must maintain flood insurance for the life of the structure.

Look for an update on post-disaster recovery and the vast array of Federal funding opportunities at the OFMA Spring Technical Workshop!

Save the Date for the Third Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop!

OFMA, in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA), is hosting the Third Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on Wednesday, July 15th, 2019, 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 am to 4:30 pm.

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 will be open soon.

Lunch and snacks will be provided.

If you have an interesting topic to present or want to recommend a speaker, please contact Carrie Evenson at carrie.evenson@normanok.gov.

Check out www.okflood.org for more information.



DRT Corner Answers

...continued from Page 5

1. Ordinance, FIRM Panels, and Flood Insurance Study
2. Cleanout Ditches and Culverts during the “dry” winter months
3. Yes
4. Yes. Retain a consultant to review
5. They can, but it is not required. When FEMA issues the LOMA
6. LOMAs have to be revalidated during a map revision process. It is the FPAs responsibility to assure they are revalidated.
7. You should
8. Provide Floodplain information (limits and elevations), emergency access routes, possible evacuation needs of individuals in the SFHA, assist with post disaster damage assessments
9. Yes, the EM assesses damages for the Governor’s proclamation of a State Disaster and request for Federal Disaster. The FPA assesses the same damages for SD/SI, issues permits for repairs and determines compliance.
10. When SD is greater than 50% of the Fair Market Value of the structure.

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.

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

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

**Dates and locations subject to change.*

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.

Facts About Flood Insurance

Insurance Information Institute



**INSURANCE
INFORMATION
INSTITUTE**

Ninety percent of all natural disasters in the United States involve flooding, and flood damage strikes frequently in low or moderate risk areas. Homeowners policies don't cover flooding so—whatever your area's risk level—learn about flood insurance protections.

The risk of flood damage or loss

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floods—including inland flooding, flash floods and flooding from seasonal storms—occur in every region of the United States. In fact, 90 percent of all natural disasters in the U.S. involve some type of flooding.

If you're moving into a new home, apartment or business location, ask your mortgage lender, your local officials or your insurance professional if the location has been known to flood. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will also be able to provide flood risk information on your area.

Even if you don't live in a high flood risk area, you're in some danger of loss from a flood, because 20 percent of all flood claims are filed in low to moderate flood risk areas. That means, you should know how to prepare for the possibility of a flood, know your flood insurance options and obtain adequate coverage.

Flood insurance basics

Insuring yourself against a flood is a little different than other policies.

- Floods are not covered under homeowners and renters policies. Only a specific flood insurance policy will cover home flood related losses.
- Most flood insurance is administered through the federal government. Homeowners, renters and businesses can purchase flood policies from an insurer under contract with FEMA. Federal flood insurance is available where the local government has adopted adequate flood plain management regulations under the NFIP—and many communities participate in the program.
- Flood insurance covers direct physical losses from floods and losses resulting from flood related erosion caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels and accompanied by a severe storm, flash flood, abnormal tide surge or a similar situation that results in flooding.
- Flood insurance coverage for the structure and contents of the home are sold separately. Buildings are covered for replacement cost, but coverage for personal property is available on an actual cash value basis only.
- The maximum flood insurance coverage amount is \$250,000 for the structure of the home and \$100,000 for the contents of the home. ("Excess" coverage over and above the maximums that are available from NFIP is offered by private insurers.)
- Flood losses for cars are covered under the optional, comprehensive portion of a standard automobile insurance policy.
- Commercial flood insurance is available from the NFIP; it provides up to \$500,000 of coverage for your building and up to \$500,000 for its contents. You can also purchase what's called "excess" insurance coverage to rebuild properties valued above those limits.

Buying flood insurance

When buying flood insurance, you should know that:

- It's easy to purchase – Federal flood insurance policies can be purchased directly from an insurance professional. Nearly 100 insurance companies write and service NFIP policies.
- It requires a waiting period – There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so don't wait until the last minute to purchase it.
- It can be augmented with "excess" insurance – The NFIP policy maximums are inadequate to fully cover some people's assets so a growing number of private insurers have begun offering excess flood policies, intended to provide water damage protection to homeowners over and above the coverage provided by the NFIP policies. Some private insurers are also starting to offer "first dollar" flood policies.

What if I don't have flood insurance and there's a flood?

Having a flood insurance policy is way to protect your assets most fully from the cost of flood damages and loss.

Without insurance, relief from floods primarily comes in the form of loans. If your community is declared a disaster area, no-interest or low-interest loans are often made available by the federal government as part of the recovery effort. However, these loans must be paid back, which means you're still liable for the entire cost of your damages or losses.



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