

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2021 Fall
Conference Recap **1**

Words from the Chair . **2**

2022 Save the Dates . . **3**

Professional
Development
Certification **4**

FEMA: New Mitigation
Tools Available to
Support Mitigation
Planning and Project
Development **5**

2021 Fall Conference
Awards **6**

Legislative Update . . . **10**

OFMA DRT Corner . . **11**

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

2021 OFMA Fall Conference Recap

Janet Meshek, CFM, PE, SR/WA | The BFE Editor

To all who participated, sponsored, or helped in any way with the 2021 OFMA Fall Conference in September, THANK YOU! While our 2020 virtual conference served a purpose with meeting as many of our education, training, and outreach goals as possible during the pandemic, being together was a real joy and a reminder of why we do what we do!

We enjoyed entertaining speakers (thank you Dr. Kloesel!), updates from all partner government agencies, and workshops on DRT, CRS, Hazard Mitigation, and Floodplain 101. The vendor social at beautiful Legacy Park and friendly (sort of!) competition on the cornhole field and great food were a part of the vendor social Monday night.

Tuesday brought committee meetings and region representative meetings. Our five representatives are now:

- Region 1 – Mike Kimbrough, ODOT
- Region 2 - Kenny Schwab, City of Broken Arrow
- Region 3 - Dennis Yocham, LeFlore County
- Region 4 - Johnny Barron, City of Altus
- Region 5 - Jessie Beck, City of Ponca City

2021 Recap and conference photos continued on page 6.



OFMA OKLAHOMA
FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Words from the Chair

Ellen W. Stevens, Ph.D., P.E., CFM | OFMA Chair

Congratulations to OFMA's new Chair

Ellen is a Civil Engineering consultant specializing in stormwater systems, floodplain management, river and bridge hydraulics, and water infrastructure planning. She has authored many publications, and made presentations at local, national, and international professional meetings.

Ellen has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma State University, and Master of Engineering and B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering. She is a licensed professional engineer in Oklahoma and six other states and is a CFM. She is also active in engineering accreditation, serving on the ASCE task committee developing updated criteria for civil engineering programs and is presently an executive committee member at large of the ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission.

Greetings OFMA members and BFE readers,

It is an honor to serve as your chair, and all of us in OFMA leadership are committed to maintaining an organization that serves your needs, whether you are on the front line as a community floodplain administrator or stormwater manager, an official in an NFIP community, a consultant, or in some other role. It was truly exciting to have an in-person conference this fall, and we are optimistic that we can continue to resume the events that our members enjoy and value. To that end, we are in the beginning phases of planning our annual Legislative Reception, Spring Technical Workshop, Stormwater Conference, Annual Conference, plus a Mitigation Workshop.

After a difficult time, I like to think of this as a year to re-engage, re-energize, and step up our efforts to fulfill our 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." We spent a lot of time at the recent strategic planning meeting brainstorming how we can best serve our members, and I would appreciate your thoughts on that.

Also, now that more activities are feasible, we are planning to have more on-going committee activity throughout the year, with the objective of improving OFMA's value as a resource to the members. The regional representatives are also committed to serving the members in their regions. You can find your region on the OFMA website (<https://okflood.org/regions/>) and contact information for the regional representatives and other board members (<https://okflood.org/board-of-directors/>).

With your participation and input, OFMA will continue to grow in its ability to serve the membership. We welcome your participation in all activities and your thoughts about how to serve the members best.

2022 SAVE THE DATES

2022 Spring Technical Workshop

April 14, 2022
River Spirit Casino Resort
8330 Riverside Parkway
Tulsa, OK 74137

2022 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

TBA

2022 OFMA Annual Conference

September 19-21, 2022
Choctaw Casino & Resort
4216 US-69
Durant, OK 74730

More information about 2022 events coming soon!



Mark Your Calendars!

2022 ASFPM Annual National Conference
May 15-19, 2022
Orlando, Florida
"Shining Light on Mitigation"

Registration opens in February 2022.





Professional Development Certification

Joe Remondini PE, CFM | OFMA PDCC Chair

The Association of State Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) is our national organization of which OFMA is an Accredited Chapter. They have a professional certification committee that coordinates with the Accredited Chapters including our PDCC. The Accredited Chapters are Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico, Illinois, and North Carolina.

The Digital Exam has been implemented for anyone wanting to become a Certified Flood Plain Manager (CFM). The application process has changed somewhat for those in Oklahoma. However the final cost and guidance will be discussed at our annual retreat the last week of October. The following is what we know now and some options to be decided.

Oklahomans will still have to apply to take the exam through our PDCC and meet OFMA's existing requirements. Applicants must be members of OFMA and take the FEMA class: "Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP" and other things as described on our website that also contains the Application. The application will still be reviewed for approval by the OFMA PDCC. If approved a digital exam request will be sent to ASFPM with pre payment.

For at least through June 2022 a paper exam will be offered for \$50.00 with an in-person proctor. The cost for the digital exam is \$85.00 paid to ASFPM before the exam is scheduled. An additional fee likely will be assessed by OFMA to take the exam. Renewal of the CFM will remain with OFMA.

The Digital Exam is available through a private vendor (Scantron) at any of their testing centers as well as on applicant's computer with an on-line proctor. There are guidelines established to ensure a discreet secure examination.

During digital exam discussions by the Accredited Chapters and ASFPM other points of interest were raised. A letter signed by all six Accredited Chapters was sent to ASFPM to help solidify our standing with national. Two main points of the letter were requested for consideration. Those were first to allow the Accredited States to continue offering the paper exam option, second to allow any other state to become an Accredited Chapter. We believe an Accredited Chapter offers better opportunities to support local floodplain management through training and coordination at the local level.



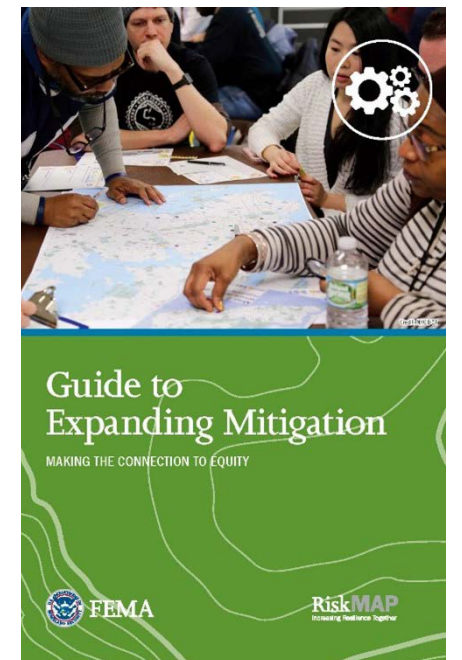
FEMA

New Mitigation Tools Available to Support Mitigation Planning and Project Development

FEMA Publishes Eleven "Guides to Expanding Mitigation" for Local officials, flood plain managers, emergency managers, mitigation officials

FEMA Region 6 participates in cross-regional sharing of learning opportunities and resources to benefit stakeholders in all regions. Today, we introduce you to the "Guides to Expanding Mitigation" that spark ideas about how mitigation projects can be strengthened by understanding their relation to other sectors of society. The series was informed by conversations with over 100 stakeholders from a wide range of organizations and includes Guides on the following topics:

- Agriculture
- Arts and Culture
- Codes and Standards
- Cemeteries
- Whole Community
- Communications Systems
- Equity
- Electric Power
- Municipal Financing
- Transportation
- Public Health



Although the series was developed by FEMA Region 2, the information shared in the Guides is universal. Each is written using plain language and features ideas and resources for collaboration during the project development or planning process. Whether the reader is an emergency manager, community official, or someone new to mitigation, they can use the Guides to build broader community resilience.

The guides are available on FEMA.gov: <https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-2/guides-expanding-mitigation>.

For more information, contact Dustin.Busse, Dustin.Busse@fema.dhs.gov

2021 OFMA Annual Conference Update continued from page 1.

We had a day of breakout and plenary session on funding, hazard mitigation, outreach and technical topics, broken up by the annual business meeting at lunch. Ellen Stevens took over as OFMA chair and Lincoln Irvine as the Vice-Chair while our fearless leader Ron Johnson moved to Past Chair. Tuesday evening was our annual awards banquet, highlighting:

Calendar Contest Winners

1st Place – Rosalie Lindly – Jay Upper Elementary School

2nd Place – Susannah Irvine – Epic Charter School

3rd Place – Kevin Mathis – Home School

Honorable Mention - Sterling Roberts – Stone Canyon Elementary School

Scholarship Winners

Cooper Philips - Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX

Robin Schwab – University of Oklahoma

Ella Claborn – University of Arkansas

Chairman's Award

Matt Kock, Meshek & Associates

David Webb, Meshek & Associate

Chris Rogers, Meshek & Associates

Floodplain Manager of the Year Award

David Smith, City of Woodward

Public Official of the Year

Muskogee County District 1 Commissioner
Ken Duke

R.D Flanagan Gold Project Award

Tulsa River Parks Authority Flood
Remediation Project

R.D Flanagan Platinum Project Award

City of Tulsa Stormwater Management
Program – CRS 1

The final award of the night was awarded to Ron Flanagan for the Honorary Lifetime Member Award, for his unequalled leadership in OFMA and the national floodplain management community. As Paul Zachary, Tulsa City Engineer, so aptly put it, "Your initial personal and professional sacrifices during the efforts to elevate the awareness of flood hazards were an investment that will be paying dividends for generations to come. Thank you for your care and concern for doing what is right for the citizens of the City of Tulsa. You have given your best to the next generation. We are grateful." That was one of many accolades for the man who has been the backbone of our organization for the past 30 years.

Wednesday began with a presentation by Paul Zachary on "The Tulsa Story: Becoming a CRS Class 1 Community." It was a story about going from the most disaster-prone community in the 1970's and 1980's to recognizing the need for the kind of stormwater management program that CRS promotes, to a picture of where communities can be when faced with existing or potential flooding disasters.

The final two plenary sessions dealt with funding and climate resilience, two of our most pressing needs and concerns. The conference ended following prize drawings. Thanks again to all who participated in any way.



Photo Recap of the 2021 OFMA Annual Conference





Legislative Update

Tom Leatherbee, CFM | Legislative Director

As part of our commitment to reducing flood risk in Oklahoma, OFMA engages in a comprehensive legislative education and monitoring program that allows us to increase awareness of important issues related to pending legislation while remaining in compliance with applicable ethics and tax restrictions. By its nature, this program is reactive and is highly focused on addressing issues raised by others. For the 2022 Legislative Session, OFMA will continue these efforts, alongside beginning a proactive campaign to advocate for dramatic improvements to the State's hazard mitigation and risk reduction infrastructure.

- OFMA has identified many barriers that prevent communities across the State from engaging in meaningful natural hazard mitigation and flood risk reduction activities. These barriers include:
- High cost of entry to participate in the hazard mitigation grant process, with costs existing in a variety of areas including staffing, training, scoping, and application development);
- Lack of state support for mitigation grant activities, including the State's continued unwillingness to fund a state share of mitigation activities (both pre-disaster and post-disaster), leaving local governments entirely responsible for the non-federal cost share;
- Inadequate coordination among the varied state agencies with a role in mitigation;
- Resistance to creative uses of one-time funding sources to fund investments in mitigation.

In response, OFMA has begun seeking support for meaningful structural and process changes at the legislative and agency levels. Unlike some groups that attempt to achieve policy goals using campaign contributions or paid lobbyists, OFMA seeks to drive change by encouraging and facilitating educated discussion among policymakers. During the 2022 Legislative Session, OFMA intends to encourage discussion about the following potential policy initiatives:

- Coordinate Mitigation at the State Level. Reconceptualize and reformulate the State Hazard Mitigation Team to better serve to coordinate risk reduction activities and

prioritize mitigation projects.

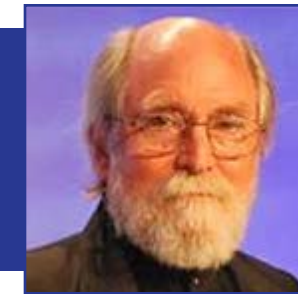
- Encourage and Support Local Mitigation Efforts. Identifying temporary and permanent funding sources that would allow the State to provide a portion of the non-federal cost share for mitigation and disaster response, with the potential for increased state assistance for communities that have committed to comprehensive mitigation strategies.
- Reinvent State Agency Role in the Mitigation Grant Process. Explore the creation of a unified process for accessing mitigation funding, which could include consolidated project scoping, technical assistance for sub-applicants and centralized contracting for application development and project management services, and an overall change in focus to holding state agencies accountable for providing customer service to applicants and ensuring that grant funds are always maximized.
- Effectively Leverage One Time Funding. Evaluate potential to use a portion of the State's \$1.8 Billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) allocation to fund mitigation, with the potential to administer that funding using a nonprofit sub-recipient to explore possible efficiencies and a new service delivery model for mitigation funding.
- OFMA intends to return to holding the annual Legislative Reception at the State Capitol this spring, so please be on the lookout for more information once the session begins and a date can be set. The more members who participate in the Legislative Reception and reach out to their Senator and Representative to discuss these issues, the more successful our efforts will be. Additionally, I am pleased to announce the formal appointment of a legislative committee (officially known as the Insurance and Regulatory Affairs Committee) by the OFMA Board:

Tom Leatherbee, Chair
Jennifer Wasinger, Vice-Chair
Rachael Cooper
Ed Fite
Kenny Schwab
Morgan Pearson
Monica Cardin
Ana Stagg

Please feel free to contact any of us should you have any questions, need help with a legislative inquiry or constituent service request, or want to become more involved.

OFMA DRT Corner

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



At our Strategic Plan Retreat last week we talked a lot about Mitigation.

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. Each year at this time, I remember back to a class that I taught to new Floodplain Administrators. Phillip Beauchamp, CFM of Altus, Oklahoma, was in that class and asked for some clarification after class. Phillip went back to Altus, and that winter, 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 Altus because the conveyance systems were clean and allowed the stormwater runoff to flow without hindrance. I think of Phillip each time I teach that segment of floodplain management. If every community would take the time this winter and do a similar type of project next spring, when "It will Rain Again, and possibly Flood Again," perhaps the flooding will be minimal or non-existent. So I suggest you do some "mitigation" this winter.

I also want to clarify the difference between Floodplain Flooding and Stormwater Flooding. In both cases, our citizens get their feet wet or more. There are more floodplains than just the FEMA Regulatory Floodplain. Every river, channel, creek, etc., has a floodplain. Sometimes they are regulatory under FEMA and the NFIP, and sometimes they are not. Regardless, there is a floodplain that can affect our citizens. Similarly, every bar ditch, driveway culvert, etc., that flows stormwater runoff has a "floodplain," With undersized bar ditches or undersized culverts, or culverts whose ends are bent down, create flooding issues on the streets, roads, and in yards or fields. Both types of flooding can cause damage or injury to people. So regardless of the source of the flooding, use the resources available to "mitigate."



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The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** | Spring Conference Review
- 2** | Words from the Chair
- 2** | OWRB Names New State NFIP Coordinator
- 3** | Fourth Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop
- 3** | 2021 Save the Dates
- 4** | Risk Rating 2.0 Talking Points and Resources
- 6** | ASFPM Virtual Conference
- 6** | 8 Reasons to Attend ASFPM Virtual Conference
- 7** | FEMA Issues New Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Seminole County
- 8** | Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest

Spring Conference Review

Janet Meshek, CFM, PE, SR/WA | The BFE Editor

Undeterred by the ongoing pandemic, OFMA held the 2021 Spring Technical Workshop virtually on April 1. A total of 231 of us attended! Thank you to OFMA Vice Chair Carrie Evenson for organizing and leading the event.

Because the event was virtual, speakers and attendees from near and far were able to participate. Session and discussion topics included an opening session during which Erin E. Neff, Public Information Director with Clark County Flood Control District, showed us how and why "Water Always Wins" using FloodVR. Breakout sessions offered options for both new and experienced CFMs. We also offered a track for those interested in hazard mitigation. Closing sessions topics included Risk Rating 2.0 with Joe Rossi of RogersGray Insurance and National Weather Service Resources for CFMs with Nicole McGavock from the National Weather Service Forecast Office.

We look forward to the 2021 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on July 14, which will be held virtually. However, the 2021 OFMA Annual Conference, September 20-22, will be held IN PERSON at the Embassy Suites Norman Hotel & Conference Center. See everyone again soon!





Words from the Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM | OFMA Chair

As Floodplain Administrators, we have all heard it! “Why can’t I build my new home here? I have lived in in this area my whole life and have never seen it flood.” What is your response? Well here are a couple of things to remember.

Throughout time, floods have altered the floodplain landscape. These areas are continuously shaped by the forces of water—either eroded or built up through deposit of sediment. More recently, the landscape has been altered by human development, affecting both the immediate floodplain and events downstream. Historically, people have been attracted to bodies of water as places for living, industry, commerce and recreation. During the early settlement of the United States, locations near water provided necessary access to transportation, a water supply and water power. In addition, these areas had fertile soils, making them prime agricultural lands. This pattern of development continued as communities grew. In recent decades, development along waterways and shorelines has been spurred by the aesthetic and recreational value of these sites. The result has been an increasing level of damage and destruction wrought by the natural forces of flooding on human development.

OWRB Names New State NFIP Coordinator

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board has appointed Aaron Milligan as State NFIP Coordinator. Milligan is the Environmental Programs Manager for the Floodplain Management Section and has been with the OWRB since 2016. Prior to his tenure there, he has worked for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Norman in various environmental and regulatory water programs. He is also a Registered Environmental Specialist and Certified Floodplain Manager. Milligan assumes the post from Yohanes Sugeng who will continue his role leading the Floodplain Management, Dam Safety, Planning and Infrastructure Engineering Programs.



Fourth Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 14, 2021

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association (OFMA), in conjunction with the Central Oklahoma Stormwater Alliance (COSWA) and the Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA), are hosting the Fourth Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop on Wednesday, July 14th, 2021, virtually.

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.

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.



2021 SAVE THE DATES

2021 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 14, 2021

VIRTUAL

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

Keep up-to-date with OFMA events by visiting okflood.org.

Risk Rating 2.0 Talking Points and Resources to Help You Navigate the Changes

From the April issue of ASFPM's *News & Views* newsletter

FEMA's long-awaited Risk Rating 2.0 rollout is now underway as the agency announced April 1 that NFIP, flood insurance policyholders will see a new system calculate their premiums. FEMA should be releasing more details in the coming days on its [Risk Rating 2.0 webpage](#), and ASFPM will pass along any, noteworthy information to our stakeholders.

The new NFIP rating system is designed to be more equitable and easier to understand than the current system, which relies on antiquated insurance rating practices. Eventually, the new ratings system should put the NFIP on a path to financial sustainability. As floodplain managers, you will likely get inquiries from the public, your agencies, elected officials, or local media. Over the past week, ASFPM has been able to gain some valuable insights into Risk Rating 2.0 and the information below provides some talking points you may use as you see fit.

1. Risk Rating 2.0 is designed to establish insurance premiums. It does not change how Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) are used for floodplain management and regulatory purposes nor for lender compliance with the mandatory purchase requirement. The Special Flood Hazard Area (SHFA) will remain.

2. With Risk Rating 2.0, flood hazard zones, rating tables, and elevations will no longer be the only factors used in calculating a property's flood insurance premium. Instead, FEMA will be utilizing state-of-the-art industry technology with data from the NFIP, NOAA, USACE, USGS, and others to establish a new riskinformed rating plan that incorporates a broader range of flood frequencies and sources, including pluvial flooding (drainage and urban flooding due to heavy rainfall) and other coastal risks such as erosion. Risk Rating 2.0 will also factor additional geographical variables, such as the distance to water, the type and size of nearest bodies of water, the elevation of the property relative to the flooding source, and building specifics (e.g., replacement cost). As proposed, NFIP premiums calculated under Risk Rating 2.0 will reflect an individual property's flood risk (rather than national averages).



3. FEMA has partnered with the USACE to develop the necessary statistics and information to develop what ASFPM believes will be a superior, actuarially sound, and far less complicated approach to rating structures protected by levees. This provides a significant opportunity to close the insurance gap in residual risk areas around levees.

4. What this new methodology will mean for policyholders will vary, of course, but most can expect a reduction or minimal change in premium costs. Fewer will see an increase in premiums. Only 4% of policy holders nationwide are expected to see substantive increases, this percentage however, varies from state to state. In a national rate analysis of current policy holders, FEMA says:

- 23% will see immediate premium decreases;
- 66% will see, on average, premium increases of \$0-\$10/month (which is around what the average is now);
- 7% will see, on average, premium increases of \$10-20/month;
- 4% will see, on average, premium increases of \$20 or more per month.

5. FEMA has released Risk Rating 2.0 profiles for each state, which provide a similar breakdown to the national data. These should be very useful for explaining impacts of Risk Rating 2.0 in a particular state. The fact sheets also provide statistics about average Individual Assistance payments versus average flood insurance payments, and mitigation measures for reducing rates. Find your state profile here.

6. In terms of equity related to cost, it appears the more robust actuarial rating approach will decrease rates for lower value homes and those with more expensive homes could see some increases. While this doesn't solve the flood insurance affordability problem for some, an unexpected and welcome benefit of Risk Rating 2.0 will likely be greater equity in the NFIP. It will be up to Congress to further address the affordability issue, although FEMA did propose an affordability framework in 2018. Congress will also have an opportunity to tailor an approach to affordability when they consider reauthorizing and reforming the NFIP, which expires at the end of September 2021.

7. The new rating engine will help agents more easily price and sell policies. It's expected that this engine will provide transparency to policyholders to better understand their property's flood risk and how it is reflected in their cost of insurance. This will also eliminate the longstanding problem of people going to multiple insurance agents and getting different rate quotes for a property. We understand that FEMA is working on a public-facing interface that will let folks find the rate for their property and that it may become available later this summer.

8. The new rate schedule takes effect Oct. 1, 2021 for new policyholders but not until April 1, 2022 for renewal of existing policies. This phased approach will allow time for existing policyholders to see the new rates and consider any mitigation steps they could take to lower their future insurance premiums. It will also allow time for the insurance companies that write NFIP policies to upgrade their systems to apply the new rates for renewals. Those existing policyholders wishing to take advantage of rate decreases at renewal can do so beginning October 1.

9. FEMA says Risk Rating 2.0 will provide the following key benefits to policyholders, communities, and the flood insurance industry:

- Creates an individualized picture of a property's risk
- Provides rates that are easier to understand for agents and policyholders
- Reflects more types of flood risk in rates
- Uses the latest actuarial practices to set risk-based rates
- Reduces complexity for agents to generate a quote

ASFPM believes this change is long overdue and believes that it is important that a property owner understand their flood risk through an actuarial sound flood insurance rate. A more accurate, fair, and equitable way to determine an individual property's flood risk should increase public confidence in the program and should put NFIP on stronger financial footing. There's still much to be learned to ensure a smooth rollout. We'll continue to provide updates and analysis as we learn more.

Current FEMA resources on Risk Rating 2.0

- [NFIP, Risk Rating 2.0 Methodology and Data Sources, March 25, 2021](#)
- [Risk Rating 2.0 is Equity in Action](#)
- [Risk Rating 2.0 – National Rate Analysis \(graphic\)](#)
- [Risk Rating 2.0 State Fact Sheets](#)
- [Legacy Rating Program changes](#)
- [New NFIP Pricing Methodology Program Changes and Updated Guidance Effective October 1, 2021](#)
- [Risk Rating 2.0 Methodology and Data Sources -Premium Calculation Worksheet Examples](#)
- [Risk Rating 2.0 Appendix D Rating Factors](#)

ASFPM Virtual Conference

May 10 - 14, 2021



The Association of State Floodplain Managers will convene the world's largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference – our 45th annual gathering, May 10-14, 2021 in a virtual setting. We invite you to share your experiences with local, state, regional, tribal and federal officials, industry leaders, consultants and a wide variety of subject matter experts from diverse fields.

The conference is conducted by the ASFPM, the world's leading voice for sound floodplain management, with 18,000+ practitioners, 10,000 Certified Floodplain Managers, 36 chapters and 73 corporate and agency Partners world-wide.

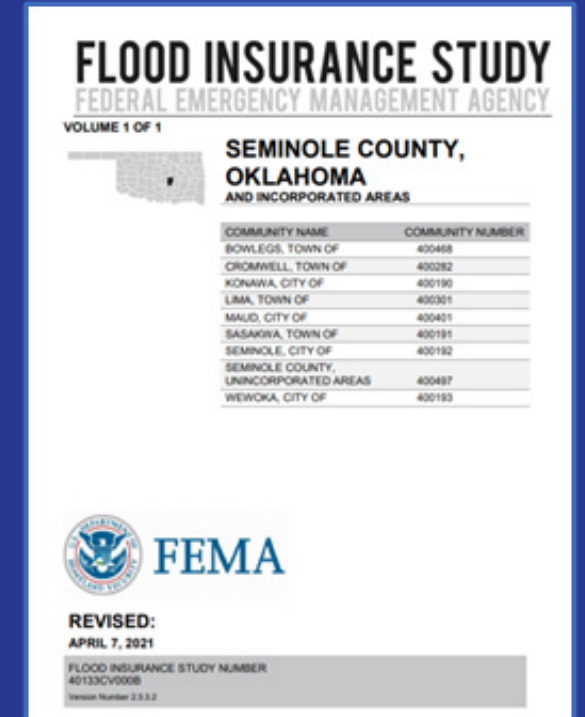
8 Reasons to Attend ASFPM Virtual Conference

Targeted Content ASFPM's virtual conference is a five-day event featuring three plenary presentations, six workshops, and 58 concurrent sessions for a total of more than 160 presentations. It's full, well-rounded program expertly designed to expand your expertise and elevate your skillset.	Expert Speakers This is our 45th annual conference, and over the years we've built a reputation for attracting top-notch speakers who deliver practical, field-tested content. There's no better place to learn from industry experts who will provide you with the tools and insights to help you be more effective in your job.
Earn Continuing Education Credits The 2021 ASFPM Virtual Conference is approved for 12 Continuing Education Credits for Certified Floodplain Managers and 16 Certification Maintenance credits for American Institute of Certified Planners (AICPs).	Connections There'll be plenty of opportunities to build connections with your fellow attendees. Share ideas on the chat boards, meet up on Twitter via the #ASFPM2021 hashtag, and network in the exhibit hall and virtual networking spaces.

FEMA Issues New Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Seminole County

Aaron Milligan, OWRB, State Floodplain Manager

New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Seminole County became effective April 7. FIRMs are the official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. The map update includes the county and eight communities. The new maps must be adopted by inclusion in the community flood damage prevention ordinance to become effective.

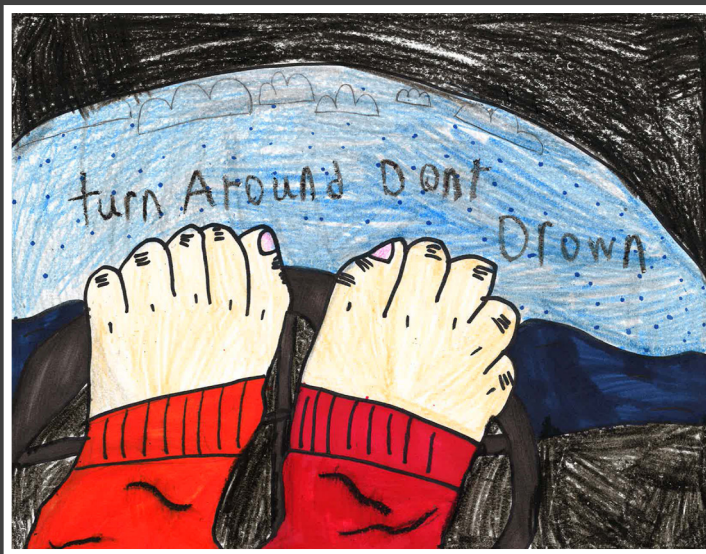


Convenience The nation's largest conference dedicated to all aspects of flooding and floodplain management is also the most convenient. Wherever you're working from these days, we bring the full conference experience to you and make it easy for you to access wherever and whenever you choose. And it's all delivered on a robust, easy-to-use learning management platform.	On-Demand Access One of the biggest benefits of the virtual conference is on-demand access. No more worrying about trying to be in two places at once when there are multiple concurrent sessions you'd like to see. Because we're recording the entire program, all registered attendees will have unlimited on-demand access to every session and the virtual exhibit hall until Jan. 31, 2022.
Live Q&A Every session at the conference includes plenty of time for live Q&A! Our speakers and partners will be ready to answer your most pressing questions and offer advice for navigating your biggest challenges.	In-Depth Workshops For those looking for a more in-depth examination of important topics, we're offering six workshops. These workshops, which cost an additional \$25 each, are a great way to earn additional CECs while expanding your expertise.

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.



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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- 1 | 2021 OFMA Fall Conference
- 2 | Words from the Chair
- 3 | Call for Presenters
- 4 | OFMA DRT Corner
- 5 | FEMA Offers Free Virtual Flood Insurance Workshop
- 6 | Winners of our Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest
- 8 | BRIC Funding Announcement Leaves Many Disappointed and Discouraged
- 10 | OIG: FEMA Has Not Prioritized Compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
- 11 | BFE Masthead and Officers

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

2021 OFMA Fall Conference

Janet Meshek, CFM, PE, SR/WA | The BFE Editor

Please join us in Norman for our annual fall conference, IN PERSON!!! We have put together an agenda of workshops, meetings, and presentations that will provide our members' ideas for improving our local programs, information on what is going on in the State and Region 6, and entertainment as always! We are requesting speaker abstracts through August 13th as well (see page 3).

We are looking forward to catching up with our pre-COVID OFMA family, having our annual business meeting, electing new officers, meeting with our Regional Representatives and Committee Chairs, and hearing about what is going on in the Stormwater Management world! On Monday night, we will have a vendor social in Legacy Park, across the street from the hotel, sponsored by Wood Group and Meshek. Tuesday night will be our awards banquet. The hospitality suite will be open starting Sunday night, September 19th, sponsored by Freese & Nichols.

Registration is open – be sure to make your room reservations by September 3rd to receive the \$96/night room rate! You can register online at www.okflood.org or download the forms and mail to OFMA at PO Box 8101, Tulsa, OK 74101-8101. Please send your nominations for scholarships and awards to carrie.evenson@normanok.gov. Awards and nomination forms can be found at okflood.org/awards/

See you in Norman!

The Changing Climate of Floodplain Management 2021 OFMA Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE

When: September 19-22, 2021

Where: Embassy Suites
2501 Conference Drive
Norman, OK 73069

Presentation Topics:

- 💧 Floodplain Management
- 💧 Hazard Mitigation
- 💧 Stormwater Quality

Hosted By:



For more information, visit [Http://www.okflood.org](http://www.okflood.org) or contact Carrie Evenson, carrie.evenson@normanok.gov, (405) 329-2524



Words from the Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM | OFMA Chair

My heart and prayers go out to the families from my home state that has encountered such tragedies during these floods. I have experienced firsthand the damage caused by flash flooding during my time as a firefighter in Arizona. It is with a very heavy heart, I write this article, but I pray in doing so, lives might be saved!

Faith Moore was trapped on top of her car in a low water crossing Saturday night in Arizona. As floodwater rushed around her, the 16-year-old girl dialed 911, officials in Cottonwood, a town 19 miles west of Sedona, said. The water rose quickly. When she made the call for help, the water was knee level, Yavapai County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post-Sunday. An hour later, the fast-moving flood rose to eight feet, officials said.

Triggered by seasonal monsoons, counties across Arizona experienced heavy rain, flash floods, and thunderstorms over the weekend. And Moore wasn't the only person to get caught in flash floods.

A 4-year-old girl in southeastern Arizona was swept away in moving water after her family's car was trapped in a wash Thursday night. The family of six climbed on top of their vehicle, but the girl, later identified as Maci, slipped away. Her body was discovered Monday morning, Pima Police Department told Arizona's Family.

Another person was trapped in a tree over the Agua Fria River in Avondale on Sunday, Arizona's Family reported. The man climbed up the tree to avoid getting washed away by floodwater and was then rescued by a helicopter.

Meanwhile, the search for Moore continues. Numerous agencies have joined search efforts along with dozens of volunteers.

Officials said she has "strong ties to the community" because she is the granddaughter of Verde Valley Fire District, recently retired fire chief, as well as a now-retired EMS Chief from Verde Valley Ambulance. She's also the niece of a Cottonwood firefighter.

"YCSO wants to stress again to the public how dangerous running water can be, even when it looks shallow. A simple decision to cross a road with running water can easily and quickly turn tragic," Yavapai County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post-Sunday.

Update: The 16-year-old's body was discovered Wednesday afternoon, according to officials.



Call for Presenters

Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association

2021 Annual Conference

The Changing Climate of Floodplain Management

September 19-22, 2021

Embassy Suites, Norman, OK

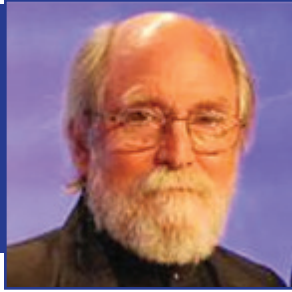
Abstracts Due By August 13, 2021

OFMA is inviting speakers to present at our 2021 Annual Conference to be held in Norman, Oklahoma. Topics of discussion at the basic or advanced level should relate to one of the following:

- 1) **Rural Floodplain Management, GIS, Hydrology and Hydraulics;**
- 2) **Hazard Mitigation, Risk Reduction, Case Studies;**
- 3) **Community Rating System, Recent Changes, Cycle Visits, Case Studies; and**
- 4) **Stormwater Quality Issues or Projects, Green Infrastructure, Watershed Studies, Stormwater Research**

Speakers will be allocated up to 40 minutes, followed by a 5-minute question/answer period, but longer presentations may be accommodated. If you are interested in presenting or know someone who would, please submit an abstract to Carrie Evenson at carrie.evenson@normanok.gov. Selection of speakers will be made by **August 27, 2021**. You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. Speakers will be required to register for the workshop. Any questions please call Carrie Evenson at (405) 329-2524.





OFMA DRT Corner

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

We had some pretty good rains this spring, and several communities had localized flooding of streets, buildings, overbank areas, etc. At my house, I had a 500-yr.+ storm (3.5 inches in less than 10 minutes).

We received a request to assist the Okmulgee County FPA with Substantial Damage Assessments. Unfortunately, my request for volunteers went without response, except for our DRT Co-Coordinator. However, I went to Okmulgee County and found that the issue was not in Okmulgee County as much as it was in the City of Okmulgee. Tim Craigton, FPA for Okmulgee Co., also acted as FPA for the City due to vacation scheduling.

Before we went to the field, we sat and looked at the location of the flooded structures and overlaid the SFHA. None of the structures in the northwest side of the City that flooded were in the SFHA, so there were no SDEs to evaluate. There was only one structure reported in the County, and that structure was elevated and had no inundation inside the residential house – only inundation of two outbuildings. Again, no SDE is required.

The point of this dissertation is localized flooding can occur with extremely heavy rainfall (13 inches + in less than 2 hours) due to inadequate storm drainage systems. Remember Kingfisher in 2007 when the remnants of Hurricane Ike (as a tropical storm) deluged the downtown area with five to 11 inches of rainfall and cause Kingfisher Creek to rise 25 feet. However, I know of no communities that design a storm drainage system for greater than a 1% (100-Yr) storm, and most are historically built to the 5-Yr or 10-Yr events. These extreme storm events cause flooding, and I suggest that local FPAs educate their citizens that just because you live outside the limits of the SFHA, you still might be flooded. Remember that nationwide, about 25%+ of all flooding is outside the SFHA. Homeowners' insurance will not cover this type of damage, and unshaded Zone, X policies are some of the least expensive to obtain to protect your citizens' investment. FPAs need to educate their communities. This event was a real-time example of what can happen and likely will happen in the future.

As I have "preached" over the years, we only have a little over 100 years of weather records. The earth has been around millions of years, and so the climate which has occurred in the past, of which we have no record, will likely repeat. There was minimal ice on the Arctic over 2.6 million years ago during the last map gap in Arctic ice and about 10,000 years BP (Before Present) during the middle of the Holocene period, proven by isotopic testing of grass found in borings of the sub-surface soils. So, the melting of the ice cap that is currently ongoing is not a new phenomenon but is a repeat of history that we know very little about. That does not mean that we don't need to take care of the gifts we have been given, but there is a larger picture, and it is not all about us.

So, as a former Boy Scout leader – Be Prepared.

Lastly, if you are a current OFMA DRT Volunteer, please send me an email (wbsmith@hisinc.us) to verify the email I have on file. If you are a registered DRT Volunteer and do not wish to participate – please let me know and return your equipment. If you are not an OFMA DRT volunteer and want to do so, please send me an email, and I will get you signed up. **I will be doing a training session at the Annual Conference.**

FEMA Offers Free Virtual Flood Insurance Workshop

August 3, 2021

Flood risk is changing in Oklahoma. In some areas, preliminary flood maps (Flood Insurance Rate Maps, or FIRMs) have been or soon will be released. In other areas, the preliminary maps are now effective. With the release of new flood maps, residents and business owners may find their flood risk has changed. Some will find they are at a higher risk than they thought, and others will see that their flood risk is lower.

To help better understand these changes, FEMA is hosting a 2-hour online workshop on how map changes can affect building and flood insurance requirements and insurance options. During the workshop, attendees will:

- Hear about the different mapping projects ongoing in Oklahoma.
- Learn about the potential impacts on flood insurance and building requirements.
- Hear more about the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) current insurance rating options and what changes when the NFIP's new Risk Rating 2.0 begins.
- Review recent related changes to the NFIP, including Risk Rating 2.0.
- Walk away with online tools and resources to assist you.

This information is valuable to community officials, floodplain administrators, insurance agents, real estate professionals, lenders, builders, surveyors, and others living and/or working throughout Oklahoma. Be prepared to send property owners to the best resources when maps are being updated in your area.

Please register below and join us!

Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (CT)

Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) can receive 2 Continuing Education Credits (CECs).

Please indicate on your Zoom registration if you are requesting CFM CECs (Yes or No).



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES		
Course Provider	Course Subject	Date
 FEMA Visit fema.gov to register	Newly Mapped Impacts to Insurance and Updates on Risk Rating 2.0	Region 6 Free 2-hour Training August 8, 2021

Congratulations to the winners of our Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest

OFMA appreciates all the hard work of teachers, parents, and many others who supported this year's poster contest. The students who entered also deserve our thanks. We hope that by working together to spread the Turn Around Don't Drown® message. Floodwaters will harm fewer people in Oklahoma.

This year, more than 70 participants competed for the four statewide awards. This year's winners are:



CONTEST WINNERS

1ST PLACE Rosalie Lindly, Jay Upper Elementary School

2ND PLACE Susannah Irvine, Epic Charter School

3RD PLACE Kevin Mathis, Home School

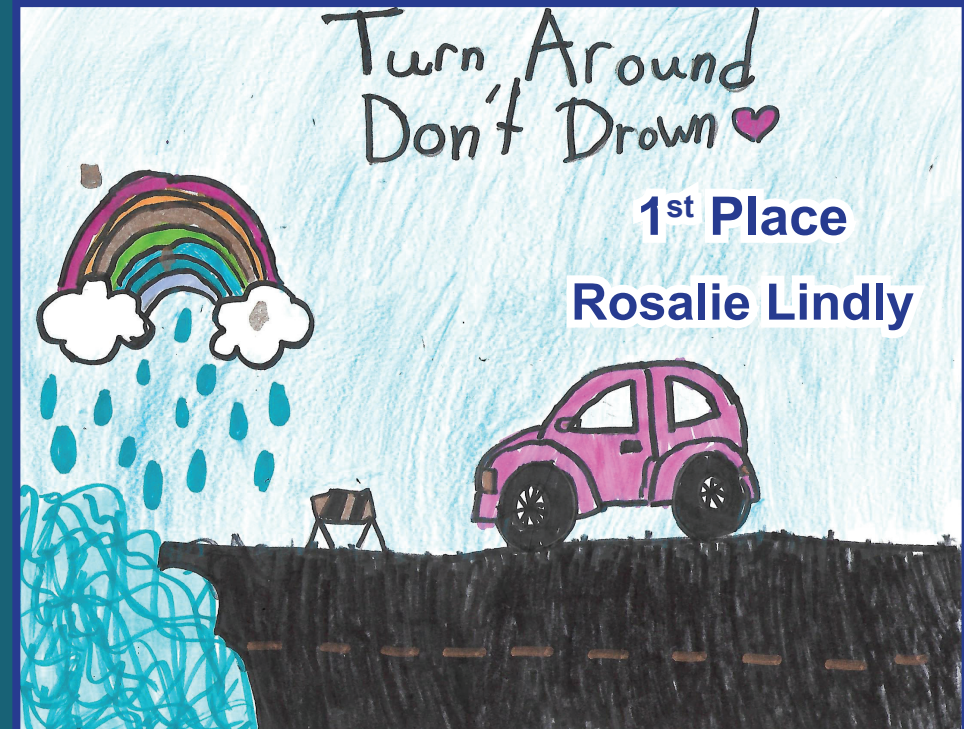
HONORABLE MENTION

Sterling Roberts, Canyon Elementary School

First, second and third place winners receive cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. The top 13 posters in the state are published in the OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown calendar. Each student participant is awarded a certificate of participation. Teachers receive a letter of appreciation.

Special thanks to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

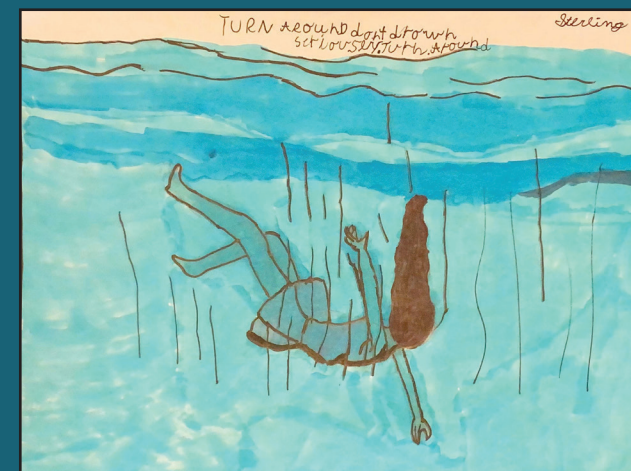
- Bridge Creek Intermediate School, Blanchard
- Epic Charter School, Oklahoma City
- Grove Upper Elementary School, Grove
- Jay Lower Elementary School, Jay
- Lindbergh Elementary School, Tulsa
- Stone Canyon Elementary School, Owasso



2nd Place - Susannah Irvine



3rd Place - Kevin Mathis



Honorable Mention - Sterling Roberts

BRIC Funding Announcement Leaves Many Disappointed and Discouraged

Author: Mary Bart

From the August 2021 issue of ASFPM's News & Views newsletter

FEMA's much-anticipated announcement of subapplications for the \$700 million in hazard mitigation funding ended in disappointment for many communities hoping to strengthen their resilience and reduce the impacts of flooding, wildfires, and other natural disasters.



Analysis from Headwaters Economics found that 94% of the \$500 million available in the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program will likely go to states on the East Coast (\$279M) and West Coast (198.5M) with California expected to see the highest amount at more than 20% of all funding. Meanwhile, states in the Midwest (\$22.4M), Mountain West (\$4.9M) and Gulf Coast (\$3.2M) will see far less.

FEMA still needs to conduct programmatic reviews of the selected subapplications before making a final decision on funding, which is expected in September 2021.

"Given the geographic breakdown of projects that were selected for further review, it is clear that BRIC funding is largely benefiting the coastal regions, as well as metropolitan and higher-capacity communities."

—Kris Smith wrote in the summary by Headwater Economic.

It was a common refrain on social media as well. People felt discouraged that after all the time and effort spent navigating the complex application process, not only did they not receive any funding, but similar communities — in terms of geography and resources — were also shut out.

"It is hard to give hope... when I can't point to a single successful application of a similar small town in the Midwest," one person commented.

Summary of Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Assistance The critical need for a program like BRIC is evidenced by the sheer number of applications to the program in its first year. For Fiscal Year 2020, FEMA received 991 subapplications requesting more than \$3.3 billion in funding.

FEMA identified 406 subapplications submitted by 93 applicants for further review. The summary of these include:

43 selected regular projects and 272 capability and capacity building projects.

139 planning projects include 98 project scoping projects.

69 associated management cost subapplications.

This includes the tribal set-aside from 38 federally recognized tribal nations: 21 planning, 19 project, and 18 management cost subapplications.

The top five project types selected for BRIC by total project cost are:

- Flood Control, \$550 million
- Utility/Infrastructure Protection, \$91.3 million
- Wildfire Management, \$49.3 million
- Relocation, \$21.9 million
- Saferoom/shelters, \$15.2 million

As authorized under the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, the BRIC program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience.

In analyzing the winners and losers of the funding, E&E News noted that the largest single BRIC grant of \$50 million is going to Menlo Park, Calif., for a flood

State	REIC Funds Requested	Selected for Further Review	Percent Selected
Texas	\$322,288,011	\$643,570	0.20%
Virginia	\$220,328,261	\$677,466	0.31%
Florida	\$145,241,161	\$702,168	0.48%
Louisiana	\$119,339,602	\$634,950	0.53%

Source: Headwaters Economics.

protection project in an affluent stretch of Silicon Valley along the San Francisco Bay. Menlo Park's median household income is \$160,784.

Some states that have sustained some of the nation's worst flood damage received relatively little and had some of the lowest success rates for the BRIC grant program.

Numbers courtesy of Headwaters Economics. See complete list of the 10 states with low success rates.

A full breakdown of BRIC subapplication status is available on the FEMA site.

Summary of Flood Mitigation Assistance For FY20, \$200 million from 117 FMA subapplications have been identified for "Further Review" and were submitted by 20 applicants. The summary of these include:

- Six planning projects, three technical assistance, and 20 applicant management costs.
- Included in the 26 selected planning projects are 18 community flood mitigation advance assistance projects that were slated as Priority 1 for FY19.
- Included in the 94 selected regular projects are

four community flood mitigation projects that were slated as Priority 1 for FY19. Community flood mitigation projects integrate cost effective localized floodplain restoration solutions that benefit communities with high participation and favorable standing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The top five project types selected for FMA by total project cost are:

- Flood Control, \$187.7 million
- Elevation, \$159.3 million
- Acquisition, \$75.2 million
- Relocation = \$11.8 million
- Mitigation Reconstruction, \$8.3 million

As authorized by the **National Flood Insurance Act of 1968**, FMA's goal is to reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP through long-term mitigation actions. The NFIP provides the funding for the FMA program.

A full breakdown of FMA subapplication status is available on the **FEMA site**. [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

The 2021 BRIC and FMA Webinar Series is now underway.

OIG: FEMA Has Not Prioritized Compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

Author: Mary Bart

From the August 2021 issue of ASFPM's News & Views newsletter

FEMA has not prioritized compliance with Section 205(b) of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and, as a result, continues to spend federal taxpayer money to repair repetitively damaged roads and bridges that should have been strengthened, according to an audit by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General.



The DMA 2000 repealed and replaced prior mitigation planning provisions with new requirements, primarily to authorize a program for pre-disaster mitigation, streamline administration of disaster relief, and control the federal costs of disaster assistance. The OIG conducted the audit to determine to what extent FEMA is complying with the DMA 2000 by implementing regulations and policies to identify and reduce repetitive damages to roads and bridges.

The audit found that FEMA has not published regulations and related policies, as required by the DMA 2000, to provide an incentive to reduce repetitive damages to facilities, including roads and bridges, through mitigation. Additionally, the report says FEMA has overlooked and not resolved issues with two key aspects of program implementation: limitations in data collection and tracking and impediments to applicants' mitigation efforts.

"Our analysis of FEMA's PA records showed that, because FEMA did not prioritize and publish implementing regulations and policies according to Subsection 205(b) of the DMA 2000, it obligated about \$1.9 billion for repetitive damages to roads and bridges from 2009 through 2018," the audit states. "This amount represents the federal share obligated for category C projects for three or more separate declared disasters during our scope period. For example, an applicant in Region VIII received \$4.6 million in federal funds for repairs or replacement of roads and bridges for the same damages under seven different declared disasters between 2009 and 2017."

For category C grants, FEMA funds at least 75% of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement as the federal share. The state and applicant are responsible for the remaining 25 percent or less. The DMA 2000 directed FEMA to cut its reimbursement to 25% for facilities damaged on more than one occasion in the preceding 10 years, by the same type of event, if the owner did not implement appropriate mitigation measures to address the hazard that caused the damages.

The OIG report noted that FEMA has promoted the availability of mitigation funding in various ways, including informational presentations at post-disaster meetings. However, in discussions with DHS OIG, applicants identified four main challenges to mitigation efforts to reduce repetitive damages to roads and bridges:

- Applicants were not aware of or had limited familiarity with the mitigation options available.
- Applicants, especially those in rural areas, found it difficult to prove the benefits of a road or bridge mitigation project would outweigh the cost.
- Requirements such as environmental and hydraulic studies complicated the mitigation requests, making them more costly and time-consuming.
- Most applicants were not able to pay their cost share for a mitigation project.

Addressing these hazard mitigation challenges was one of the four recommendations to come out of the report. In its written response, FEMA agreed with the recommendations and has begun to address them. As a result of FEMA's responses, OIG considers the two recommendations related to database system improvements resolved and open, pending receipt of evidence, and two recommendations yet to be resolved.

Download the 32-page report from the DHS OIG.

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The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Call for Presenters:
2021 Spring Technical
Workshop | **1**

Words from the Chair
| **2**

2021 Spring Technical
Workshop Preliminary
Agenda | **3**

2021 Save the Dates |
3

State Cooperating
Technical Partners
Program Gives Project
Update | **4**

OFMA DRT Corner | **5**

The Resilient Rural
America Project | **6**

2021 Spring Technical Workshop

April 1, 2021 | VIRTUAL

We are going virtual one more time in compliance with government regulations and to help keep our membership safe and healthy. We look forward to getting together in person later this year for the summer and fall conferences!

You will receive an email on Friday with the link to registration for the Spring Technical Workshop. We are using the same platform as for the 2020 Fall Conference. Please go online to register using the registration link. All registrants will receive an invoice and there will be an option to pay by credit card. If your agency would prefer to pay by check, the invoices can be used to submit payment to OFMA as per instructions on the invoice.

The workshop fees will be \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members. CEU certificates will be emailed to the participants at the end of the workshop. Hope to see April 1!

Call for Presenters

OFMA is inviting speakers to present at our 2021 Spring Technical Workshop to be held virtually this spring. Topics of discussion at the basic or advanced level should relate to one of the following:

Rural Floodplain Management, GIS, Hydrology and Hydraulics

Hazard Mitigation, Risk Reduction, Case Studies;

Community Rating System, Recent Changes, Cycle Visits, Case Studies

Stormwater Quality Issues or Projects, Green Infrastructure, Watershed Studies, Stormwater Research

Speakers will be allocated up to 25 minutes, followed by a five-minute question/answer period, but longer presentations may be accommodated. If you are interested in presenting or know someone who would, please submit an abstract to Carrie Evenson at carrie.evenson@normanok.gov. Selection of speakers will be made by March 6. You are encouraged to submit topics early to secure your speaking selection. Speakers will be required to register for the workshop. Any questions please call Carrie Evenson at 405.329.2524.



Words from the Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM | OFMA Chair

As the days get warmer and we look forward to enjoying the outdoors, please remember that spring time weather in Oklahoma sometimes brings us a lot of rain and a potential for flooding.

Flooding is the most common and widespread weather hazard in the United States. Most flood dangers and deaths are caused by flash floods.

Flash floods usually result from intense storms dropping large amounts of rain within a brief period. The two key elements are rainfall intensity and duration, but topography, soil conditions and ground cover play important roles as well.

Flash floods occur with little or no warning and can reach peak flow within a few minutes. Waters from flash floods move with great force and velocity, sweeping away bridges and possibly washing out roads that are no longer safe for traveling on.

So in closing, as we enjoy the great state of Oklahoma and all it has to offer, let's remember to be weather aware.

Virtual OWRB Training

OWRB is now offering Floodplain Management 101 training virtually. Due to travel and distancing constraints, OWRB will continue to offer FPM 101 online on the last Tuesday of every month until further notice. Three CECs are available for attendees. FPAs in need of six hours for state accreditation, either new or renewal, have until June 30, 2021 to become current for the year. Sign up at owrb.ok.gov or contact Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov for more information.

Next class: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021

OWRB will be conducting an abbreviated eight-hour virtual version of FEMA's popular L-273 course March 15-18, 2021. The course will be administered in two-hour units, once daily for four consecutive days. Contact Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov for more information.



2021 Spring Technical Workshop

Preliminary Agenda

April 1 | 8:30 am — 5:00 pm
Virtual via Phedloop and Zoom

WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR FLOODPLAIN?



8:00 AM — 8:30 AM	Sign In and Sounds Check
8:30 AM — 8:45 AM	Welcome and Introduction
8:45 AM — 9:45 AM	What's New at OWRB?
9:45 AM — 10:00 AM	break
10:00 AM — 11:00 AM	What's New at FEMA?
11:00 AM — 11:45 AM	Floodplain Permitting Panel Discussion
11:45 AM — 12:45 PM	lunch
12:45 PM — 2:15 PM	Afternoon Breakout Session 1
2:15 PM — 2:30 PM	break
2:30 PM — 3:00 PM	Afternoon Breakout Session 2
3:00 PM — 4:00 PM	Risk Rating 2.0
4:00 PM — 4:45 PM	National Weather Service
4:45 PM — 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks

2021 SAVE THE DATES

2021 Spring Technical Workshop

April 1, 2021

VIRTUAL

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

Keep up-to-date with OFMA events by visiting okflood.org.



State Cooperating Technical Partners Program Gives Project Update

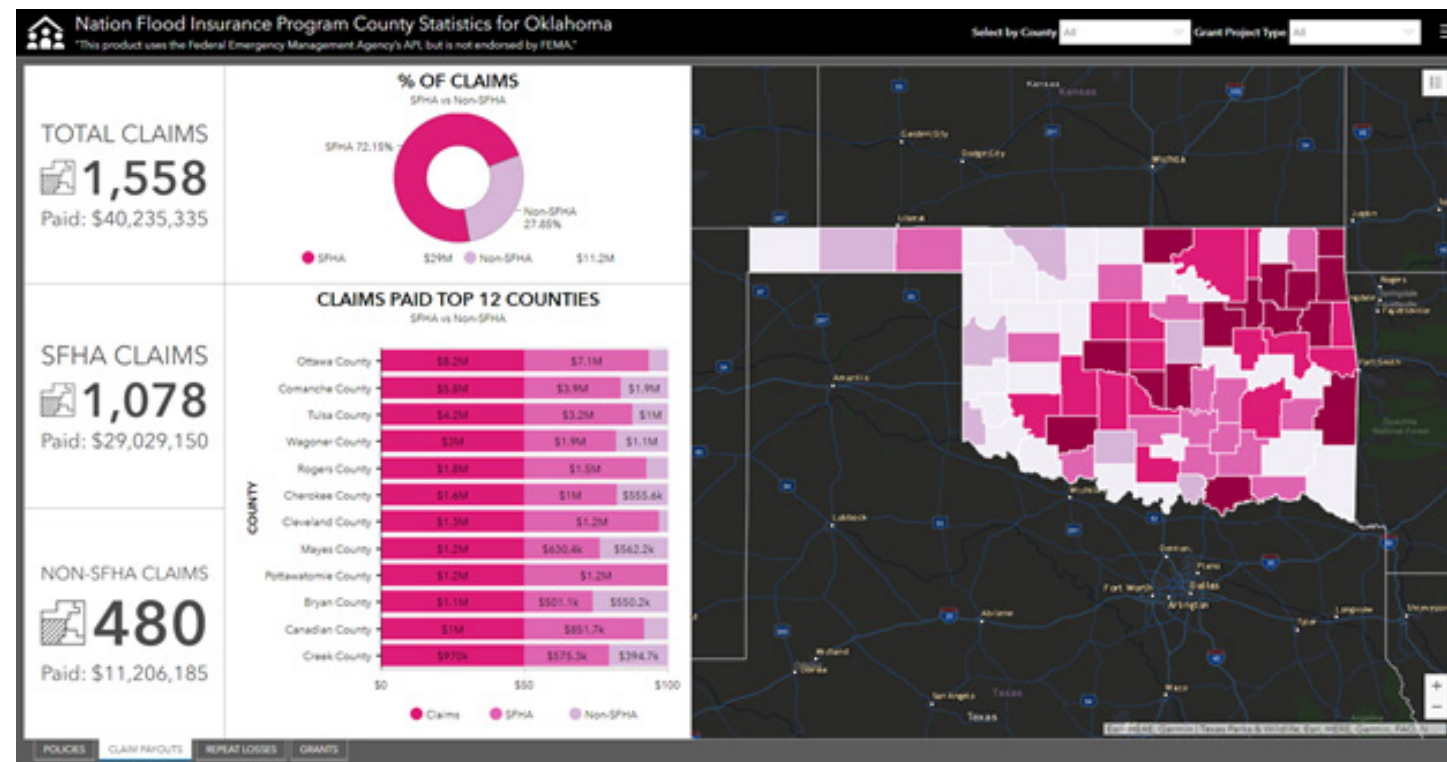
Aaron Milligan, CFM | OWRB

Aaron Milligan with OWRB and Brandon Claborn with Meshek and Associates recently participated in a FEMA CTP Brown Bag Webinar on their CTP Special Project.

The project is part of the FEMA CTP Program which allows states to select special flood risk outreach efforts to help FEMA reach their strategic goals. This project involved conducting an assessment of flood risk data needs and sources with the end goal of providing information to community officials and citizens to spur greater NFIP participation by communities, flood insurance subscription by citizens, adoption of higher standards and greater investments in flood mitigation actions.

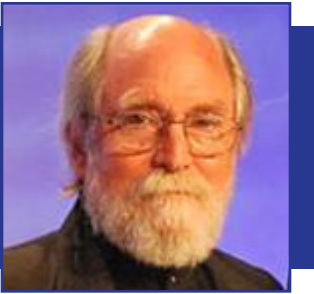
A key piece of the project was development of a digital dashboard which can present information on local flood insurance policies, claims, repeat losses and grant awards. This data can be shown and summarized for an individual community, per county or statewide. The dashboard can also be used to help non-NFIP participating entities make informed decisions about NFIP participation and flood mitigation planning by learning how similar entities are benefiting from the program.

Public meetings are planned for spring 2021 to demonstrate the dashboard, promote the NFIP and review available community flood risk information.



OFMA DRT Corner

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



There are several updates for the Disaster Response Team (DRT), mostly national issues.

We are working with the State of West Virginia to help them set up a DRT Model. They are in FEMA Region III. Our DRT program has been sent to them and I may travel to West Virginia to help them start the program after the COVID crisis has subsided.

We are working with ASFPM on a national Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART) playbook to help other state associations create similar DRTs to the ones in Oklahoma and Louisiana. There is also a RAFT Team in Illinois. There are a lot of issues that need to be resolved due to a wide variety of mutual aid agreements and enabling legislation between states. Some states allow "wide-open" mutual aid (volunteers, non-profits, etc.). Other states limit mutual aid to first responses or have strict protocol which must be followed (approval, contracts, reimbursement, liability, etc.)

I am again soliciting community pre-sign-ups for the Spring 2021 flood season, so if you community has not signed up, please contact me and I will send you a draft letter that needs to be signed and returned. I also will send you a draft resolution that needs to be processed by your governing body prior to the letter being signed.

A reminder to all communities – it is still winter and the spring rains are not here yet. I recommend that you issue a Floodplain Development Permit to your community to allow your public works or other field staff to clean out the channels and culverts before the spring rains. You cannot re-grade the channels, but you can remove debris, accumulated sediment, trees, scrub shrub, etc. just by issuing yourself a "maintenance" permit. I suggest your do this each year on January 1st.

Finally, I have had several questions about DRT Training. With COVID and our on-line conferences it looks right now that it will be the Fall 2021 Annual Conference before we will be together to do any training. However, I remind you that we are available to assist any community at any time with training, questions, or support. Please contact either myself or Tom Leatherbee in Del City if you have needs for your community.





The Resilient Rural America Project

Johnny Barron | OFMA Region 4 Representative

Rural America covers 72% of the nation but has 15% of the population. Fewer people means fewer resources for rural governments. Consequently, rural governments struggle harder to provide/maintain roads, bridges and utilities. It also means, rural governments are less likely to have funds for building officials and community planners. For these reasons, rural Floodplain Administrators (FPAs) generally have less support than their urban counterparts.

Rural FPAs may have a new tool at their disposal. The Resilient Rural

America Project is a free online training program that is being developed to help rural counties and small towns become more resilient to extreme weather and changing climate conditions.

This effort is primarily funded by the Climate Resilience Fund, Harmonic International & the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office. Other agencies involved in the production include the Model Forest Policy Program, ICMA, GEOS Institute and EcoAdapt.

I would be lying if I said I had heard of any of these agencies before now. At first glance, the purpose of this new project seems to be a response to global warming. Don't let that discourage you from looking into this. I see great potential to help FPAs increase risk awareness and promote flood hazard mitigations.

I have registered to begin the training myself but have not gotten very far into the course materials. So far, it seems that there will be emphasis on risk assessments, comprehensive land use planning and public outreach. Module

#1 was released in 2020 and is available now. Module #2 is in development and has not yet been released but they are looking for beta testers. It is expected to be launched in 2022.

I'm excited by what I have seen so far and I encourage rural FPAs to look into it.

Benefits

I see several benefits of this program:

1. Training for Rural Leaders – this program is free to anyone from rural America who wants to learn about increasing resiliency. It is web-based training that commissioner or councilmen can do at their own pace from home.
2. Professional Development – FPAs will get weeks of training on assessing vulnerability to

natural disasters and land use planning. Even if you are not successful in getting your County Commissioners to adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, you will increase your professional qualifications.

3. Reduced Risk - The biggest benefit will be to the land owners, residents and businesses of your community who will should see reduced damage to property from flooding.

Drawbacks

Drawbacks of the project seem to include:

1. Time Commitment – Module No. 1 requires 4 hours per week for 4-6 weeks to complete. Many of our commissioners are busy people and this might be a deterrent to some.

2. Not for everyone – This program seems to be designed for those communities looking to develop or update a Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). If your County Commissioners are interested in a CLUP. This free training may be an easy sell. If they don't see a need for a CLUP, it's less likely they will make the effort to complete this course.

The website for the Resilient Rural America Project is www.mfpp.org/rrap/.

Rural FPAs in Oklahoma would likely benefit from this free training. If you can find the time, you should look into it. I'm going to.



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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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