

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2022 Fall
Conference Recap **1**

Words from the Chair . **2**

Taking a Deeper Dive into
the New Alternative
Cost-Effectiveness
Methodology **5**

New Climate Data
Portal. **7**

OFMA DRT Corner . . . **9**

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

2022 OFMA Fall Conference Recap

Brandon Claborn PE, CFM | OFMA Conference Chair

By most any measure, the 2022 conference at the Choctaw Casino Resort in Durant, OK was a resounding success (except for a few logistical issues). Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make it happen; the OFMA Board, speakers, sponsors, and attendees all play a crucial role in having a successful conference. I hope the educational content was useful, and I know the networking was enjoyed by all.

The conference began with a welcome from James Dry, who serves on the Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, and also included a performance by the Choctaw Princesses. It was great to hear updates from OWRB, ODEMHS, and FEMA. David Key, ESP, from North Carolina, shared examples of the implementation of low-cost sensors for real-time flood inundation and how this data can be used for flood mitigation projects. We wrapped up the first morning with a panel discussion on Hazard Mitigation and Resilience led by Annie Vest, FNI.

Monday afternoon included fifteen different presentations on topics including GIS Methods for Floodplain Management, Urban and Suburban Floodplain Issues, H&H, and Infrastructure Resilience Through Federal Mitigation Programs.

Monday evening included a new gathering for Young Professionals and OFMA Newcomers and was capped off with the Vendor Social. Meshek & Wood sponsored an evening of bowling, arcade games, and adult beverages, while OFMA provided heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Tuesday brought committee meetings and region representative meetings. Our newly elected (or re-elected) representatives are:

- 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

Continued on page 3



Words from the Chair

Lincoln Irvine PE, CFM | OFMA Chair

Greetings,

I am proud to have the opportunity to serve as chair. I have learned a lot from being a part of OFMA the last 6 years, and hope to continue serving others with that same passion. 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, we value your membership. It was truly exciting to have an in-person conference this fall, and we hope we can continue to have events that our members enjoy and value.

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. We have increased our membership and want each of you to be engaged in the process. We discussed the responsibilities each board member has and hope to be able to work together with you, the members, to meet the challenges that may face us. 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.

I am continually amazed at the frequency of the number of disasters that occur locally and around the world. As I spend most of my time working on structures

that will hopefully help avoid flooding, I do not have a lot of firsthand experience with flooding. However, the media often provides a front row seat to current flood disasters. Through reports of flood events, I have seen people in a frantic swim to save their own life. As well as emergency professionals helping in rescuing others too. Despite the many hours in floodplain management training, I question if there is something that could be done to prevent such disasters. Is it possible for one person to make a difference? The magnitude of the flooding problem is overwhelming and would be difficult for one person to solve. I think development of better programs that provide results in flood prevention is a good pathway forward. These natural disasters remind me of how important everyone in our association who contributes to keeping people safe is.

During flood times or drought, we each need to continue to 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 can all work together to make our mission possible.

OFMA exists to serve the membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.

Continued from page 1

We had a day of breakout and plenary session including a DRT Workshop, Rural FPA Issues and Stormwater Quality, broken up by the annual business meeting at lunch. Lincoln Irvine took over as OFMA chair and Annie Vest was elected as the Vice-Chair. Ellen Stevens will continue to serve as Past Chair. Tuesday evening was our annual awards banquet, highlighting:

Calendar Contest Winners

1st Place
Brooklynn Daugherty
Timber Ridge Elementary



2nd Place
Paisley Neeley
Perkins-Tryon



3rd Place
Arena Thomison
Maryetta School



Honorable Mention
Brettlyn Boyd
Timber Ridge Elementary



Special Recognition Award



Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM



Brandon Claborn, PE, CFM

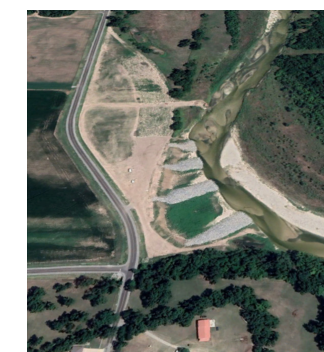
Silver Scoop



Monica Cardin, Carolyn Schultz, Morgan Lozoya, Michelle Gourd

Ronald D. Flanagan - Gold Project Award

Oklahoma County Triple X Road Realignment and Bank Stabilization Project



Chairman's Award



Jason Vogel, PhD, PE

Charles Don Ellison Award**Johnny Barron, PE, CFM****Public Official Of The Year Award****William Smiley, CEM, CFM****J. Gavin Brady - Floodplain Manager Of The Year****Zackary Henson, CFM - City of Stillwater****Leatherbee Robison Award****Annie Vest and Matt Rollins**

Wednesday began with a presentation by Donald Baker and Thomas Kimes on the development of a physical model to examine the hydraulic performance of recommended mitigation projects. Our final session included a Floodplain Managers Roundtable Discussion with questions from the audience.

Thanks again to all who participated. We are already planning next year's conference and look forward to seeing you then.

W. Kenneth Morris**Honorary Lifetime Member Award****Chris Duncan, PE, CFM**

Taking a Deeper Dive into the New Alternative Cost-Effectiveness Methodology

By Steve McMaster, CFM

Originally published in the ASFPM November 2022 Newsletter

The October 17, 2022 News & Views article promised more information about FEMA's October 6, 2022 memo, Alternative Cost-Effectiveness Methodology for Fiscal Year 2022 BRIC and FMA Application Cycle, and especially what it means for floodplain managers, mitigation practitioners, and the communities we serve. The cost-effectiveness eligibility requirement has been cited as a significant barrier to the application process for FEMA mitigation program funding. Additionally, underserved communities are often faced with the burden of using limited resources to obtain assistance with completing a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) for a proposed mitigation project. To address these concerns, FEMA has been taking steps to streamline the BCA process through the development of pre-calculated benefits policies since 2012. The October 6th memo furthers this streamlining process of reducing the burden of the cost-effectiveness eligibility requirement, especially for underserved communities. This alternative cost-effectiveness method allows FEMA to analyze the impacts of the discount rate differential and to inform future decision-making.

How the Discount Rate Impacts Benefits and Costs: A Primer

Every BCA compares two scenarios: (1) The without-project/before mitigation scenario, which describes the dollar amount of losses that can be expected each year (i.e., "annualized losses") if the project is not completed and the current losses continue, and (2) The with-project/after mitigation scenario, which describes the annualized losses if the proposed project is completed and it reduces or eliminates losses as designed. The difference between the annualized damages of these two scenarios is the impact of the project, which are the project's annualized benefits.

Including annual maintenance costs when needed, a BCA assumes that a project will provide the same amount of annualized benefits for each year of the project's lifetime, which is called the Project Useful Life, or PUL, in the BCA Toolkit. But the years of future annualized benefits must be expressed in present-day dollars. To calculate a project's total benefits, the annualized benefits should not simply be multiplied by the number of years of the PUL because this does not consider the time value of money. A discount rate is used to account for dollars that accrue in the future being worth less than present value dollars. In the calculation used to determine the present value of benefits, the discount rate determines how quickly a project's annualized benefits will decrease over the PUL. A lower discount rate means the annualized benefits will decline less quickly from year to year. Therefore, a BCA that uses a lower discount rate will result in greater benefits and, in turn, will result in a higher benefit-cost ratio (BCR). Ultimately, projects that are not cost-effective — and, therefore, ineligible for funding —

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

when a 7% discount rate is used may be cost-effective if a 3% discount rate is used. The table below shows FEMA's standard PUL values for popular mitigation project types and the percentage increase in benefits when using a 3% discount rate instead of a 7% discount rate.

Popular Project Types	PUL Project Useful Life (Years)	Increase in Benefits by Using 3% Discounted Rate Instead of 7%
Acquisitions, relocations	100	121%
Major concrete infrastructure, dams, bridges, major drainage systems, pump stations, utility projects, mitigation reconstruction	50	86%
Residential elevations, stream restoration, safe rooms, culverts	30	58%
Generators	19	39%
Hurricane shutters	15	31%
Ignition-resistant construction	10	21%

Using Alternative Cost-Effectiveness Methodology in the BCA Toolkit

Two levels of analysis are performed in the BCA Toolkit: (1) the cost effectiveness of completing a mitigation action on a single structure, and (2) the cost effectiveness of completing mitigation actions for all structures within the scope of a project. A structure-level analysis is performed on an individual building or other asset (e.g., culvert, utility line, etc.) that will be mitigated by the proposed mitigation action. The results that are displayed in the Benefit-Cost Summary section of the BCA Calculator are those calculated using the longstanding 7% discount rate. However, if the user selects the “Analysis at 3%” button, the summary results for the structure that were calculated using the 3% discount will be displayed in a sidebar.

When following the October 6 memo, a project-level analysis is more important than a structure-level analysis because the project-level results are entered for BRIC and FEMA project subapplications in FEMA GO. FEMA is in the process of developing this functionality in a way that complies with the memo criteria and expects to release an update to the BCA Toolkit with this functionality in November.

To use the alternative BCA methodology, the applicant must attach both the exported BCA file from the BCA Toolkit and a BCA narrative to the subapplication in FEMA GO. Detailed instructions for using the alternative methodology are supplied at the bottom of page 3 of the October 6th memo. If needed, applicants can also contact BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov for technical assistance.

New Climate Data Portal

Johnny Barron PE, CFM | City of Altus



You just rolled your eyes, didn't you? I get it. Climate change (aka global warming) has been viewed as a political issue as much as it has been viewed as a meteorological phenomenon. I, for one, do not trust Al Gore or Joe Biden to tell me the truth about anything. I was once a sharp critic of global warming, but the following facts helped me adjust my attitude.

- The planet is warming and there is physical, verifiable evidence of melting glaciers and the shrinking polar ice cap. This is not hard to accept when considering that the climate has always been in a state of change.
- Warmer oceans impact weather patterns. The patterns known as El Nino and La Nina are based on water temperatures in the Pacific Ocean and have measurable impacts on precipitation in the United States.
- Floodplain administrators have a duty to plan and prepare for future flood events. If sea levels are indeed rising or if there is a trend towards more extreme inland flooding, by golly, it's our job to plan for it.

A new planning tool was released in September 2022 called Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA). This can be found at resilience.climate.gov.

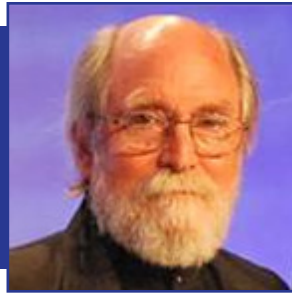
I found this portal to be very user-friendly as I browsed maps showing existing and future predictions for flooding, drought, extreme heat, and wildfire. The website has an Assessment Tool that lets you search for a zip code, city, or county and assess these hazards for your area.

Oklahoma had an abnormally hot summer this year, so we should all be interested in future projections. Mesonet.org reports that the statewide average temperature was 85.9 for July 2022, which is 4 degrees above normal. The Altus weather station reported 27 days of >100°F high temperatures during the month. July 19, 2022, was the first time that all 120 Mesonet stations reported 100°F or more.

Climate change has my full attention. This new tool lets me evaluate the trend of extreme heat and tells me that by our days per year with maximum temperature above 105°F might increase by 14.9 days by 2044, 28.5 days by 2065, and 59.1 days by 2099. The projections for Altus also show increased drought, less annual rainfall, and no significant increase in days with >3 inches of rainfall.

While the long-term flood outlook looks fine, the other projects seem quite impactful. Will it really happen? Who knows, but I would be negligent in ignoring this data. So, now what? The CMRA platform offers a list of funding resources as well as guidance for preparing a local Climate Resilience Plan. Planning for climate resilience is best done by local officials, and this new website might be a great resource for local officials.

I am excited about this new tool, and I recommend you take a look at it. But try not to roll your eyes. You could pull a muscle.



OFMA DRT Corner

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

Disaster Response and Mitigation: As we go into the field in response to a disaster, whether it be a flood, fire, tornado, earthquake, etc., our DRT teams are always on the lookout for potential mitigation projects to provide guidance to the community for prevention or reduction of future damages. That is Mitigation. Mitigation is needed for all who are prone to disaster damage – true equity. But, Mitigation isn't always available to all. All Mitigation takes funding – whether it is a large project that might be funded by BRIC, HMGP, or another source; or even a small project where a community could provide resources for cleaning culverts, improving ditches, and creating regional stormwater detention facilities. Many communities don't have the available funding for cost sharing, nor do the community leaders choose to help the impoverished areas. This is where "equity" is no longer equal. Many impoverished community areas are the highest at risk for damage – but where communities don't put a priority on funding or mitigation projects.

This is not a political opinion, it is an opinion of reality. When we go out to respond, we see the reality of community decisions.

So I am going to go back to a story I have told over and over – because this Mitigation works. Mitigation will help to reduce future flooding events. It is now "winter-time" in Oklahoma. Our fall flood season is traditionally behind us and our next event is the spring floods – about six months from now. The mowing season is over. So can your local crews use this time to clean out the conveyance channels – whether bar ditches or true conveyance channels – of accumulated silt, scrub-shrub, small (or large) trees, old refrigerators, furniture, sediment deposition, etc.? Every community has these issues, and if the community leaders prioritize this cleanup during the next six months, the spring floods will have a "clean" conveyance channel to flow through with minimizing flooding.

We continue and will continue to see higher rainfall and more frequent rainfall events. Maybe the existing channel isn't naturally intended to convey the runoff from these higher storm events, but it will certainly help. If the conveyance channel is not large enough to prevent overbank flooding, maybe it is time to consider a Master Drainage Plan type of evaluation to see what is needed so that a plan can be put in place to enlarge the existing channels, create upstream stormwater detention facilities, to consider a stormwater ordinance for mitigation planning. Stormwater runoff in non-regulatory floodplains flows downstream until it becomes the flow in the FEMA or community regulatory floodplain. Everything that we do in the form of "development" increases stormwater runoff. Community leaders need to come to the reality that until something changes, nothing changes.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

When this happens, the frequency of disaster responses will reduce, and our communities will become more resilient to disaster. The current funding that is available to communities through BRIC, ARPA, etc., has not been greater and most can be used for some stormwater/floodplain projects to help mitigate damage.

It is also important that everyone realize the benefit of flood insurance. Whether through the NFIP or private insurance, the more that the community promotes flood insurance, the less the community has to rely on minimal Individual Assistance to homeowners.

Nothing happens until something happens. This spring's flooding/disaster may be similar to the previous several years due to the La Nina weather pattern that will not seem to go away.

We, the OFMA DRT, are there to help communities in times of disaster. Our "best" years are those when we get no calls. Two recommendations as I end – first – signup for support through the OFMA DRT in the event your community is hit by disaster – like the recent Idabel tornado. Second – support a winter mitigation program in your community – clean the ditches and culverts to allow stormwater and floodwaters to flow without damaging residential or non-residential structures. This is your time to "step up."



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Editor, The BFE | PO Box 8101 | Tulsa, OK 74101

Chair

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM
Benham Design LLC
14000 Quail Springs
Parkway, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
405.478.5353
lincoln.irvine@benham.com

Region I Representative

Michael Kimbro, PE, CFM
ODOT
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.522.0612
mkimbrow@odot.org

Region V Representative

Jesse Beck, CFM
City of Ponca City
516 East Grand
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.767.0383
beckje@poncacityok.gov

Ex Officio

Julie Cunningham
Executive Director
OWRB
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov

Vice Chair

Annie Vest
Freese & Nichols
4200 E Skelly Dr, Suite 410
Tulsa, OK 74135
402.890.0851
annie.vest@freese.com

Region II Representative

Kenneth Schwab, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow
220 South 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918.259.7000
kschwab@brokenarrowok.gov

State NFIP Coordinator

Jonathan Phillips, CFM
OWRB
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
jon.phillips@owrb.ok.gov

Honorary Board Member

Ken Morris
OWRB—*Retired*
5400 E. Tecumseh Road
Norman, OK 73026
405.573.7990
kensbbd@gmail.com

Secretary

Rachael Cooper, PE, CFM
Wagoner County
307 E. Cherokee Street
Wagoner, OK 74467
918.485.7979
rcooper@wagonercounty.ok.gov

Region III Representative

Dennis Yochum
LeFlore County EM
1215 South Broadway
Poteau, OK 74953
918.635.3610
emlcdirector@gmail.com

Past Chair

Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM
1134 NW 33rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.747.6598
ellen@ellenphdpe.com

Honorary Board Member

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM
R.D. Flanagan & Associates
3015 E. Skelly Drive
No. 270
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.749.2696
rdflanigan@rdflanigan.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Schultz, CFM
Corps of Engineers—*Retired*
3527 S. 401st W. Ave.
Mannford, OK 74044
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net

Region IV Representative

Johnny A. Barron, PE, CFM
City of Altus
509 S. Main
Altus, OK 73521
580.481.3518
jbarron@altusok.gov

PDCC Chair / Honorary Board Member

Joseph Remondini, PE, CFM
Corps of Engineers—*Retired*
3225 S. Detroit
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.361.8636
jremondini@aol.com

BFE Editor

Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM,
SR/WA
Meshek & Associates, LLC
1437 S. Boulder Ave.
No. 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119
918.392.5620
jmeshek@meshekengr.com

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

2022 Spring Technical Update

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2022 Spring Technical Update	1
Words from the Chair	2
2022 Save The Dates	2
Tulsa Rises to the Top as a Leader in Flood Risk Reduction	3
OWRB In-Person Training	3
OFMA Gets Input from Rural Floodplain Administrators	4
Save the Date for the Annual Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop!	5
OFMA DRT Corner	6
Capitol Rumblings	7
OFMA Board	8

This year's OFMA Spring Technical was held at the River Spirit Casino Resort on April 14, 2022. A special thank you to Vice Chair Lincoln Irvine and those who helped make this year's workshop a success. We heard from speakers on the State Flood Plan, Flood Buyouts, Rural FPAs, Federal and State Policy Updates, and MORE! With an attendance of 158, we are so glad to be back in person together!





Words from the Chair

Ellen Stevens PhD, PE, CFM | OFMA Chair

Greetings OFMA members and BFE readers,

We just passed Earth Day, April 22. Let's all try and do something – even if it's a little thing – to keep our planet a better place for ourselves and future generations. Personally, I've been trying to reduce waste, especially paper products, and recycling what I can. Also, trying to walk when I can and combine car trips to reduce using gas and generating emissions. (Also good for the wallet!) If everyone is just a little mindful of their personal impact, perhaps we can slow the progression of more severe storms and catastrophic natural disasters.

I want to thank everyone who attended and also those who helped out with moderating, speaking, or finding speakers, registration, signage, programs, etc., for our Spring Workshop. I hope everyone who attended found it worthwhile. If there was an aspect of the workshop that you particularly liked – or if you have suggestions to improve future workshops – please feel free to pass them on to me, Lincoln, or any other board member. Our contact information is on the website.

Our next event is the Stormwater Technical Workshop, July 20, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the NCED conference center in Norman. Registration and agenda details will be furnished when they are complete.

Don't forget that OFMA exists to serve the membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.

2022 SAVE THE DATES

2022 Stormwater Quality Technical Workshop

July 20, 2022

NCED Conference Center & Hotel
2801 E State Highway 9
Norman, OK 73071

2022 OFMA Annual Conference

September 18-22, 2022

Choctaw Casino Resort
4216 South Highway 69/75
Durant, OK 74701

Tulsa Rises to the Top as a Leader in Flood Risk Reduction

Tulsa, Oklahoma has just become the Community Rating System's (CRS's) second Class 1 community in the nation, joining Roseville, California.

The Arkansas River winds its way through Tulsa, which experienced flooding nearly every year. In the 1970s and 1980s, Tulsa was ranked number one nationally in the number of federally-declared disasters (nine in 15 years). In an attempt to stop the constant rebuilding after each flood, the city purchased 400 flood-prone properties, and turned the area into Green Space. That worked for a bit, until 1984, when the Memorial Day flood resulted in 14 fatalities, injured 288 and flooded approximately 7,000 buildings. This devastating flood was a wake-up call to take action and set things in motion for city leaders.

Since then, Tulsa has stood out as a leader in risk reduction. As a model community it has spent decades developing state-of-the-art stormwater management goals including drainage system maintenance and floodplain development priorities. These actions help to reduce risk from future flooding and to save lives.

On April 1, 2022, Tulsa officially achieved a Class 1 rating, which means residents will be eligible for a 45% discount on their National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) insurance premiums.

Tulsa serves as an example to other communities across the nation that planning, outreach, education, stormwater management, and hazard risk reduction not only saves lives, but offers great incentives for residents to buy and maintain flood insurance.

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum said, "For us, the insurance premium improvement is a nice added benefit. But we've been focused on this as a community for decades because it's a public safety issue. And as a city government, there's nothing we do that's more important than public safety."



The photograph is a view of a flooded city park. Benches, signs, and trash bins can be seen on grassy areas and the floodwaters in the low areas in the background. There are no buildings and no evidence of damage.

Originally published National Flood Insurance Program February/March 2022, Community Rating System Newsletter

May In-Person Training Events

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT 101

OFMA ADVANCED

MAY 11, 2022
CHICKASHA, OK
CANADIAN VALLEY TECH CTR

OKLAHOMA
Water Resources Board

▶ **FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT 101**

▶ **OFMA ADVANCED**

May In-Person Training
OFMA Advanced / 101 Training
May 11, 2022 at 8:30 am
Canadian Valley Tech Center
1401 W Michigan Ave
Chickasha, OK

June In-Person Training
FPM 101 Workshop
June 14, 2022
OWRB
3800 N Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Register for both at owrb.ok.gov



OFMA Gets Input from Rural Floodplain Administrators

Johnny Barron PE, CFM | City of Altus

Rural floodplain management looks different than urban floodplain management for the following reasons:

1. Building permits are not issued in rural counties or small cities and without the framework of building codes and permits, the Floodplain Administrator (FPA) is likely the only official reviewing and permitting construction of a new structure.
2. Small governments have less funds and officials typically have multiple assignments where the FPA is also the Emergency Management Director.
3. The general public in rural areas can generally be less supportive of permitting attempts by the local government.

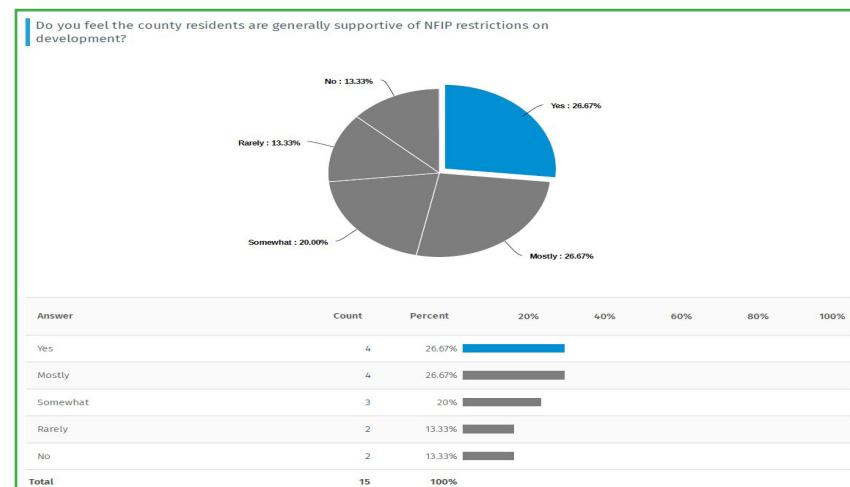
A couple of months ago, OFMA emailed a survey to the persons on record as being Floodplain Administrators for county governments in Oklahoma. The focus of the survey was to solicit data to help OFMA better understand the needs and challenges of rural floodplain management.

Twenty-one surveys were completed. Six of the respondents reported that the county they worked for issues building permits. Fifteen respondents worked for counties that do not issue building permits. While we would like to have had more respondents, we are satisfied with the response, which represents about 20% of rural counties.

One third of rural FPAs reported that they had been working as FPA for less than one year. Another 1/4 reported that they had been working as FPA for more than 5 years.

We learned that the process for issuing addresses for new buildings differs from county to county. In some counties, addresses are issued by the Tax Assessor, 911 Center, County Clerk, or other departments. Only six of the rural FPAs reported that they are consulted at the time a new address is assigned.

The remainder of FPAs finds out about new buildings later on. The source for information about new construction varies from county officials, rural water/utility companies, or the local postmaster.



Sixty-four percent of FPAs reported that they have access to aerial photography for most or all of their county and all reported that they were aware of other floodplain data available to them, including Base Level Engineering, ODOT Bridge Designs, and private engineering studies.

Twenty-six percent of respondents felt that the general public did not support floodplain management efforts, but 74% felt that the public was somewhat or mostly supportive.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Sixty percent of respondents stated that their most significant obstacle was keeping up with new construction in the county.

When asked how OFMA can support rural FPAs, 2/3 asked for more training.

OFMA is working on a tool kit for rural FPAs. Stay tuned for more training opportunities.

In the meantime, if you need help, the following persons may be able to help.

OWRB NFIP State Coordinator – Aaron Milligan, CFM, is the NFIP State Coordinator. It is his job to support FPAs. When you succeed, he succeeds. He is motivated to provide assistance. He has a team of full-time employees who work with him. For more information, go to owrb.ok.gov/floodplain.

OFMA Regional Representative – The State is divided into five regions, and each region has an assigned regional representative who is a voting member of the OFMA Board of Directors. Your representative can serve as a point of access for the considerable resources that OFMA has developed. Consider him or her your mentor. Your representative can point you toward subject matter experts within OFMA if he or she does not have the answer you need. To find out who your regional representative is, go to okflood.org.

Neighboring FPAs – if you are new to your job, you might reach out to FPAs in neighboring counties or cities. While these are busy people, you might find they can be very helpful.

Save the Date for the 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 20th, 2022, at the NCED Conference Center & Hotel, 2801 E State Highway 9, Norman, OK 73071.

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 \$100 per person and will be open soon.

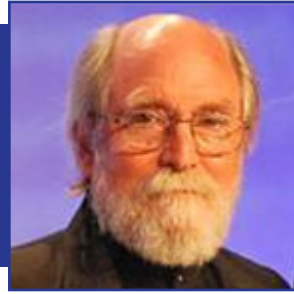
Lunch and snacks will be provided.

If you have an interesting topic to present or want to recommend a speaker, please contact

Morgan Lozoya at mlozoya@meshekengr.com

Check out www.okflood.org for more information.





OFMA DRT Corner

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

Don't Step on My Territory!!

For some time now, I have been sharing my opinions on Disaster Response, especially relating to the role of the Emergency Managers and the Floodplain Administrators when disaster strikes a community or a state. I want to take this article to a level of understanding and cooperation as I hear stories of conflicts between these two roles throughout the United States.

When a disaster strikes a community, one of the first responders to the site of the damage is the Emergency Manager (EM). That individual has the responsibility to assess the damage in that location and, perhaps, many others with the goal of assessment and estimating the damage costs. This information is provided to the Governor of the State for the purpose of issuing a State Declaration if the damage meets the state requirement and/or requesting a Federal Declaration (again if the damage meets the threshold). Once that assessment is completed, the EM will continue with efforts of response and recovery and possible mitigation efforts. This disaster could be within or outside the Special Flood Hazard Area or both.

If a disaster strikes a community, one of the second responders to the site of the disaster, is the Floodplain Administrator (FPA). That individual has the responsibility to assess the same damage with the goal of determining if the damage to the structures reaches the level of "Substantially Damaged" or not, and if the damaged structures are compliant or not, and then issue floodplain development permits if 1) the structure is not substantially damaged, 2) the structure is substantially damaged, but compliant, or 3) the structure is substantial damage and not compliant for reconstruction or modification.

The role of these two individuals assisting our communities is not a territorial battle – it is two different perspectives of the same disaster. The EM and the FPA are on the same team in the community – assisting the citizens in need. Sometimes the EM and the FPA are the same individuals, and when that occurs, the EM needs to "turn his hat around" and assess the same damage from the perspective of the FPA. That EM/FPA may have to "turn their hat around" a number of times during a disaster. The FPA can assist the EM with evacuation route information and about temporary housing outside the 500-year floodplain if FEMA temporary housing is required, etc.

Our OFMA DRT has worked hand-in-hand with the OEM and Emergency Managers on many disasters since 2008 and will continue to do so as we have cooperative respect for each other's duties and responsibilities. We learned it was much easier to play nice, than dispute. That's the way it should be. Be safe out there this spring. The rains and storms are a-comin'!

Just another 2 cents of my opinion!!

Capitol Rumbblings

Tom Leatherbee CEC, MCP, CFM | Insurance and Regulatory Affairs Chair



With spring having arrived and government operations largely back to normal, there have been a number of legislative and policy developments of interest to floodplain management and stormwater professionals.

On the state level, the Oklahoma Legislative session has progressed to its second half. At the time of writing, HB3819, which creates the Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Matching Fund Act, has passed the Senate and is headed to a conference committee. The bill, by Representative Sims and Senator Rader, seeks to provide matching funds for federal grants to help small communities access mitigation funding.

OFMA held its annual Legislative Reception at the State Capitol on April 5th. The reception was very well attended by Senators, Representatives, and legislative staff and featured great conversation and great food from Jamil's. At the request of several legislators, OFMA will be creating additional constituent assistance resources and distributing them to member offices. OFMA also participated in Water Appreciation Day at the Capitol on April 18th, taking the opportunity to network with legislators, state agency staff, and representatives from other water-related agencies and interest groups.

On the federal side, OFMA responded to a FEMA Request for Information seeking comments about potential changes to NFIP land use and development regulations. OFMA has also worked to share information with the membership about emerging federal funding opportunities, including those contained in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The combination of new US Treasury rules allowing the use of some ARPA funds for local match and multiple new and enhanced resilience and mitigation programs from the IIJA means that state and local governments may have significant opportunities to leverage federal funding in the coming years.

As always, please contact me at tomleatherbee@gmail.com with any legislative, policy, or insurance concerns.



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Editor, The BFE | PO Box 8101 | Tulsa, OK 74101

Chair

Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM
1134 NW 33rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.747.6598
ellen@ellenphdpe.com

Region I Representative

Michael Kimbro, PE, CFM
ODOT
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.522.0612
mkimbrow@odot.org

Region V Representative

Jesse Beck, CFM
City of Ponca City
516 East Grand
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.767.0383
beckje@poncacityok.gov

Ex Officio

Julie Cunningham
Executive Director
OWRB
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov

Vice Chair

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM
Benham Design LLC
14000 Quail Springs
Parkway, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
405.478.5353
lincoln.irvine@benham.com

Region II Representative

Kenneth Schwab, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow
220 South 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918.259.7000
kschwab@brokenarrowok.gov

State NFIP Coordinator

Aaron Milligan, CFM
OWRB
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8861
aaron.milligan@owrb.ok.gov

Honorary Board Member

Ken Morris
OWRB—*Retired*
5400 E. Tecumseh Road
Norman, OK 73026
405.573.7990
kensbbd@gmail.com

Secretary

Rachael Cooper, PE, CFM
Wagoner County
307 E. Cherokee Street
Wagoner, OK 74467
918.485.7979
rcooper@wagonercounty.ok.gov

Region III Representative

Dennis Yochum
LeFlore County EM
1215 South Broadway
Poteau, OK 74953
918.635.3610
emlcdirector@gmail.com

Past Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM
McClain County EM
102 East Center Road
Goldsby, OK 73093
405.287.9800
mcclain.em@gmail.com

Honorary Board Member

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM
R.D. Flanagan & Associates
3015 E. Skelly Drive
No. 270
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.749.2696
rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Schultz, CFM
Corps of Engineers—*Retired*
3527 S. 401st W. Ave.
Mannford, OK 74044
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net

Region IV Representative

Johnny A. Barron, PE, CFM
City of Altus
509 S. Main
Altus, OK 73521
580.481.3518
jbarron@altusok.gov

PDCC Chair / Honorary Board Member

Joseph Remondini, PE, CFM
Corps of Engineers—*Retired*
3225 S. Detroit
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.361.8636
jremondini@aol.com

BFE Editor

Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM,
SR/WA
Meshek & Associates, LLC
1437 S. Boulder Ave.
No. 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119
918.392.5620
jmeshek@meshekengr.com

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2022 Stormwater
Quality Technical
Update **1**

Words from the Chair **2**

Capitol Rumblings **3**

Biden Administration
makes \$2.3 Billion
Available for FEMA
Building Resilient
Infrastructure and
Communities in
FY2022 **4**

Congratulations to the
winners of our Turn
Around Don't Drown
Flood Safety Poster
Contest **5**

OFMA DRT Corner **7**

Substantial Damage **8**

OFMA Board **12**

2022 Stormwater Quality Technical Update

This year's OFMA Stormwater Technical Workshop was held at the NCED Conference Center in Norman, OK, July 20, 2022. A special thank you to Morgan Lozoya of Meshek & Associates, and those who helped make this year's workshop a success. We heard from speakers on Stormwater Funding Opportunities, OKR05 Permit Renewal Update, OKR10 Inspections, Bacterial TMDL Implementation and MORE! With over 130 attendees, we are so happy to see everyone and look forward to the OFMA Annual Conference.





Words from the Chair

Ellen Stevens PhD, PE, CFM | OFMA Chair

Greetings OFMA members and BFE readers,

I'm out of the country right now, so mostly having a news blackout. But even this far away, the main news I have heard from occasional pop-ups on my phone is about the terrible flooding and loss of life in Kentucky. It reminds me of how important everyone in our association who contributes to keeping people safe is.

I want to thank everyone who made our stormwater workshop a success. Always hesitant to name names in case I leave someone out, but I would like to recognize Morgan, Michelle, Carolyn, and Brandon for all their efforts.

Our next event is the Conference, September 19-21 at the Choctaw Resort in Durant. A call for presenters has already been sent out. If you would like to present, please send in an abstract as soon as possible.

Don't forget, that OFMA exists to serve the membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.

Ellen Stevens

2022 SAVE THE DATES

2022 OFMA Annual Conference

September 19-21, 2022

Choctaw Casino Resort
4216 South Highway 69/75
Durant, OK 74701

Capitol Rumbblings

Tom Leatherbee CECd, MCP, CFM | Insurance and Regulatory Affairs Chair



With the state legislature adjourned sine die and Washington generally stagnated in the summer heat, this edition of Capitol Rumbblings provides an opportunity to focus on a topic of great interest to local officials and the private sector professionals who support them – obtaining and managing federal funding.

For many years, OFMA, along with partners at FEMA Region VI and OEM, have provided information and training about accessing pre- and post-disaster funding, including Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMGP, FMA, BRIC, PDM) and Public Assistance. Recently, the federal funding universe available to local governments has changed dramatically and the funding streams relevant to floodplain and stormwater management extend far beyond traditional FEMA funding. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) contains billions of dollars in funding available to states and local governments. Many grant programs have specific eligibility criteria related to resilience and equity.

A few opportunities within the IIJA of particular note include:

- **PROTECT.** The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program provides funding for climate-based resilience projects. Most, but not all, eligible projects will have some nexus to transportation infrastructure. The program has both formula and competitive components. The formula allocations were recently announced, with Oklahoma expected to receive over \$121.5 million in the next five years.
- **STORM Act.** The Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act was originally passed in 2021 and received initial funding as part of the IIJA. STORM creates a revolving loan fund for mitigation, including activities that have traditionally been difficult to fund, such as resilient land use planning. Federal guidance has recently been issued, and a number of states have taken steps toward implementation. OFMA is currently engaging our federal and state partners to find an implementation path for the STORM Act in Oklahoma.
- **National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant.** This is a competitive grant program with a total of \$1 billion in funding for culvert projects. State, local, and tribal governments are eligible applicants. The Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected this summer.

These programs are only a few of the funding streams contained within the IIJA. More information about the IIJA programs can be found on the White House Infrastructure website at www.build.gov and on various agency websites.

It is also important to remember that funding from ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program may be used directly for certain stormwater projects under Expenditure Category 5 – Infrastructure and may be used for general flood risk reduction and for non-federal match for federal grants under Expenditure Category 6 – Revenue Replacement. With the US Treasury's SLFRF Final Rule broadening the eligibility for stormwater projects under EC 5 and providing a "standard allowance" for revenue loss for all recipients regardless of actual calculation, SLFRF funding is an opportunity that should not be ignored.

Finally, communities wishing to seek out and administer federal funding must be aware of the costs associated with creating and maintaining the necessary management and reporting infrastructure. Most of these grant programs provide administrative costs (including pre-award costs). Still, significant pre-requisites must be met to apply for and administer these grants in a manner that complies with program regulations and the federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200 et seq.). Interested communities may wish to explore options, including seeking technical assistance from federal and state agencies, pursuing grants that have specific funding for capacity building, forming regional/local partnerships, or contracting for consulting support. As always, please contact Tom Leatherbee, Chair (tomleatherbee@gmail.com) or Monica Cardin, Vice-Chair (monica.l.cardin@gmail.com) with any questions or to volunteer to serve on the Insurance and Regulatory Affairs Committee.



Annie Vest
OFMA Community Support Committee Chair

Biden Administration makes \$2.3 Billion Available for FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities in FY2022

President Biden announced executive action that would make \$2.3 billion available in FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program in FY 2022. While a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) won't be released quite yet, we can make some assumptions about the priorities for next year and how to prepare.

First, your community must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible for BRIC and any other of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs. The Hazard Mitigation Plan must be approved at the time of application and award, so keep that in mind when applying. At the time of this article, only 37 of the 77 counties have FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans. If your plan is expired, FEMA's BRIC program can pay for the update and help you prepare for future BRIC funding cycles. With the historic increases in FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation funding, every county, municipality, school district, and any other special district would benefit from developing a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan.

The next thing to keep in mind is your local match. The BRIC program typically has a 25 percent local cost share requirement. Certain communities may be eligible for an increased federal cost share if they meet the requirements of being an economically disadvantaged rural community, also known as small and impoverished communities. In this case, the cost share is up to 90 percent federal/10 percent non-federal.

The BRIC program is one of several federal programs participating in the Justice40 Initiative. Justice40 prioritizes federal investments benefitting underserved communities. The initiative aims to deliver at least 40% of the overall program benefits to disadvantaged communities. Keep this in mind when identifying a good project within your community and consider using publicly available tools such as the CDC Social Vulnerability Index, National Risk Index (NRI), and the FEMA Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT) assist.

Other important things to note about BRIC

Infrastructure Investments

The BRIC program has a deep focus on large-scale resilient infrastructure projects. At the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) mid-year forum in Alexandria, VA, FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell discussed the BRIC program and called it an opportunity to make "generational investments." The BRIC program expanded FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program by adding consistent funding and more eligible activities. For those communities that may struggle financially to pay for the upfront scoping costs, FEMA has made project scoping activities eligible to assist communities in funding necessary scoping activities to develop a construction-ready project for future funding cycles. Examples of project scoping activities range from developing hazard mitigation projects and alternatives, including engineering design and feasibility studies, to conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies.

Competition

The program is incredibly competitive. Each state gets a set-aside of funds to use on a limited number of projects. Once the state exceeds the set-aside, projects go to the national competition.

Continued on page 11

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 467 participants submitted their beautiful artwork.

CONTEST WINNERS

1ST PLACE Brooklynn Daugherty, Timber Ridge Elementary

2ND PLACE Paisley Neeley, Perkins-Tryon Intermediate

3RD PLACE Arena Thomison, Maryetta School

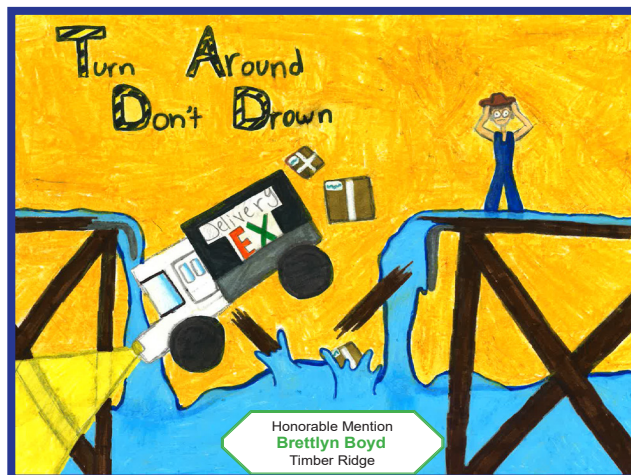
HONORABLE

MENTION Brettlyn Boyd, Timber Ridge Elementary

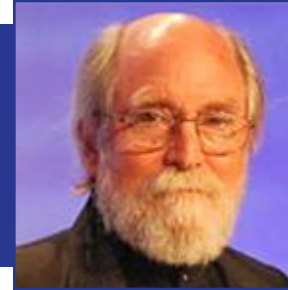
First, second and third place winners receive cash awards in the amount of \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. The top 13 posters in the state are published in the OFMA Turn Around Don't Drown calendar. Each student participant is awarded a certificate of participation. Teachers receive a letter of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

Thank you to the following schools for supporting student participation in this year's program:

- Beggs Elementary, Beggs
- Bridge Creek Intermediate School, Blanchard
- Bixby Central Intermediate, Bixby
- Cleveland Intermediate School, Cleveland
- College Bound Academy, Tulsa
- Gore LE, Gore
- Leach Public Schools, Rose
- Maryetta Schools, Stilwell
- Norwood Public Schools, Hulbert
- Oktaha Elementary, Oktaha
- Patrick Henry Elementary, Tulsa
- Perkins-Tryon Intermediate, Perkins
- Preston Elementary, Preston
- Rocky Mtn. Schools, Stilwell
- Roosa Elementary, Claremore
- Skiatook Elementary, Skiatook
- South Coffeyville Elementary, South Coffeyville
- Stone Canyon, Owasso
- Timber Ridge Elementary, Broken Arrow

2nd Place - Paisley Neeley3rd Place - Arena Thomison

Honorable Mention - Brettlyn Boyd



OFMA DRT Corner

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

So here we are in the dead heat of the summer. Drought conditions are again plaguing Oklahoma and the south-central part of the United States, and the heat is affecting the majority of the United States. Nobody is thinking about the fall and spring rainy seasons and the significant precipitation we had this past spring. Everyone wants some gentle summer rains to cool us off. But I AM!!

I look back at Okmulgee County and our assistance with disaster responses in Henryetta, Dewar, Okmulgee, and Okmulgee County and the disastrous flooding and damages that, in many cases, are still not repaired. I think about the mitigation that should be done in preparation for the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 spots of rain.

The OFMA Disaster Response Team (DRT) will prepare for the Spring Flood season with training at the Annual Conference. Supplies will be checked, and a request for additional volunteers will be made as our current volunteers continue to dwindle. Please sign up for this training when registering for the Annual Workshop or notify Bill Smith, P.E. CFM, DRT Coordinator (wbsmith@hisinc.us) if you intend to participate. So, what can a local community do during this period of really dry weather? Large Mitigation projects take planning, design, funding, and construction before implementation. Does your community have or participate in an Individual or Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan? Check and make sure it hasn't expired. It should not be a document that sits on the shelf and collects dust. It should be a document with many projects that could be implemented.

When we made the response in Okmulgee County after the May 4th rainfall, I observed the flooded waters and why they weren't flowing. What I saw more times than not were crushed culverts, clogged culverts, and overgrown drainage ditches and channels. Our modeling of the floodplains is based on "clean" conditions. It is the community's responsibility to maintain the drainage system. But what about private property? We, as Floodplain Administrators, do not have the right of entry onto private property to mitigate drainage issues unless there is a designated drainage easement that allows us access. So, first, contact the landowner and discuss the observed issues, and request that they be mitigated. If that does not work and impacts upstream or adjacent properties because of a drainage issue, there are only two actions. One is to request the private landowner provide a drainage easement to allow the community to access the land. Most communities don't want to spend the money to do this action. The second is to go to court. Again, most communities or private citizens don't want to take this action because of the political or personal repercussions and legal costs. But if there is a significant issue, it may be the only option.

Back to simple Mitigation actions. Do you know if you cut a round, square-end 24-inch culvert at a 45° angle, you increase the area of the opening by 1.4 times? This allows more water to enter and exit the culvert. Do you know if you remove the accumulated vegetative debris, sediment, and trash from the ends of the culvert more water will flow through it? Do you know that when you cut down the small (or large) trees in the conveyance channel, you are removing restrictions and putting the floodplain channel and overbank areas back to what it is in the floodplain models?

Sometimes "mitigation" for a recent flood event can be as simple as doing routine maintenance. Think about it!!

Be safe out there – drink plenty of fluids, and avoid the heat of the day if you can. We'll chat again before the Annual Conference in September.

Substantial Damage

For more information on SI/SD requirements please see FEMA Publications P-213 and P-758, or contact the State NFIP Coordinator's office at 405-530-8800.

This is a brief summary of FEMA's guidance and policies on substantial improvement and substantial damage (SI/SD) and what it means to bring structures into compliance with the minimum requirements for new construction. The enforcement of the SI/SD requirements can be a major concern for communities after they experience widespread damage from floods or other disasters.

The purpose of the NFIP is to reduce future flood damage and to break the cycle of repetitive flood damage by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations and by providing affordable insurance to property owners, renters, and businesses.

The minimum NFIP requirements apply to new construction of buildings and structures, installation of manufactured homes, and all other development activities in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs).

When improvements to existing buildings, structures, and manufactured homes meet the definition of "substantial improvement," or when damage meets the definition of "substantial damage," communities must enforce requirements to bring those structures into compliance by meeting the requirements for new construction. The SI/SD requirements grew out of the recognition that there were large numbers of buildings and manufactured homes already located in floodprone areas before communities joined the NFIP.

The NFIP requires participating communities to review all applications for development in mapped SFHAs and to enforce their floodplain management regulations and building codes. The local official who is designated to administer those regulations and codes is solely responsible for making SI/SD determinations. The local official reviews information submitted by applicants and may use a combination of information to estimate or verify costs and market values. The review determines whether cost estimates reasonably reflect the proposed work, including all work to repair and restore damaged buildings to pre-damage conditions.

To administer the SI/SD requirements, local officials take four actions: (1) determine the cost of work, (2) determine the market value of buildings, (3) make SI/SD determinations and provide determinations to property owners, and (4) require owners to obtain permits to bring substantially improved and substantially damaged structures into compliance with the floodplain management requirements.

People who own existing buildings that are being substantially improved will be required to make a major investment in them in order to bring them into compliance with the law. They will not be happy. If the buildings have recently been damaged, they might also be financially strapped and your elected officials will want to help them, not make life harder for them.

It is easy to see that this can be difficult to administer. It is also the one time when your regulatory program can reduce flood damage to existing buildings.

What is substantial damage?

Substantial damage, as defined in 44 CFR § 59.1, means "damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred." Most damage occurs during a single and sudden event, such as a fire, wind storm, lightning strike, falling tree, tornado, earthquake, flood, or natural gas explosion. Damage may also be unrelated to a specific event, such as soil settlement, exposure to the elements, termite infestation, vandalism, deterioration over time, and other causes.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

THE FORMULA

A project is a substantial improvement if:

$$\frac{\text{Cost of improvement project}}{\text{Market value of the building}} \geq 50 \text{ percent}$$

For example, if a proposed improvement project will cost \$30,000 and the value of the building is \$50,000:

$$\frac{\$30,000}{\$50,000} = 0.6 \text{ (60 percent)}$$

Communities are responsible for evaluating permit applications to perform work on buildings and manufactured homes in SFHAs, including improvements (i.e., rehabilitations, alterations, and additions), repairs, and reconstruction. After damaging events, local officials should proactively tour affected areas to identify buildings that should be inspected or evaluated before repairs are started. Buildings that are subject to the SI/SD requirements fall into two categories:

- Existing structures (sometimes called pre-FIRM structures). Existing structures were already present when FEMA issued a community's initial FIRM. Because they pre-date the regulations, many existing structures were not built in ways that recognized flood hazards. Existing structures are subject to the SI/SD requirements when certain improvements are proposed and when they sustain substantial damage.
- New construction (sometimes called post-FIRM structures). New structures are those built after a community joined the NFIP. Improvements and repairs of these structures, regardless of the nature or value of the work, must not be allowed to alter any aspect that was originally required for compliance with floodplain management requirements. These structures are subject to the SI/SD requirements if a FIRM has been revised and the BFE increases, the flood zone designation changes, or the floodplain management regulations have changed.

How is market value determined?

Market value refers to the price that a seller of real property can expect to receive from a buyer in a fair and open negotiation. For SI/SD determinations, only the market value of the building or manufactured home is important (land, land improvements, and accessory structures are excluded). In addition, the market value must always be based on the condition of the structure before the improvement is undertaken or before damage occurred. If structures have not been maintained and have deteriorated over time, then the pre-improvement or pre-damage market values are the values as of the date applications for permits are submitted.

Many communities require permit applicants to obtain appraisals of market value prepared by qualified professionals who are licensed to perform appraisals in the State or community where the properties are located. In addition, three other methods can be used to estimate market value:

- Values developed for property tax assessment purposes, adjusted to approximate market value
- Estimates of a structure's actual cash value, including depreciation
- "Qualified estimates" based on the professional judgment of a local official

How are the costs of improvements and costs to repair determined?

"Costs of improvements" include the complete costs associated with all of types of work being done. "Costs to repair" include the costs of all work necessary to restore a damaged building or manufactured home to its re-damage condition. Both include the costs of all materials, labor, and other items necessary to perform the proposed work. Most costs must be included, although certain costs may be excluded.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Applicants for permits must provide estimates of the cost of the proposed work. Acceptable sources of cost information include:

- Itemized costs of materials and labor or estimates of materials and labor that are prepared by licensed contractors or professional construction cost estimators.
- Building valuation tables published by building code organizations and cost-estimating manuals, and tools available from professional building cost-estimating services.
- “Qualified estimates” of cost prepared by the local official using professional judgment and knowledge of local and regional construction costs.
- Structure owners may submit cost estimates that they prepare themselves. Owners should submit as much supporting documentation as possible.

Costs can also be estimated by using the FEMA Substantial Damage Estimator (SDE) software. The program is most effective in the post-disaster period, when many estimates of repair costs and many substantial damage determinations must be made.

Sometimes the owner’s financial situation does not allow all of the repairs to be done at the same time. Even if an owner elects to perform less work or delay repairs, the substantial damage determination must be made using the estimate of all costs to fully restore the structure.

When repair work is done by owners or volunteers or when labor costs are discounted by contractors, and when materials are donated or discounted, the full costs must be estimated and included in substantial damage determinations.

What steps can local officials take to inform citizens about the permit process and substantial damage determinations?

Local officials should recognize that citizens will have questions about recovery and the process of obtaining inspections and permits. Distributing substantial damage determinations may generate a number of questions. Local officials should be prepared to answer questions throughout the post-disaster recovery phase.

Communities should consider developing and distributing guidance to citizens, property owners, contractors, and design professionals on:

- The importance of having damaged structures inspected before repair work is started
- Activities that require a permit
- Activities that do not require a permit
- The floodplain management requirements that apply when structures in the SFHA are substantially damaged and what it means to bring those structures into compliance
- The availability and benefits of the ICC coverage that is part of NFIP standard flood insurance policies on structures in mapped SFHAs
- The importance of hiring licensed contractors and cautions about fraudulent and unlicensed entities that may take advantage of victims in areas affected by significant events
- The importance of including damage-reduction measures to minimize future flood damage, even if such measures are not required by the community’s floodplain management regulations

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

Post-Disaster Permitting

Although it is important to issue permits to allow property owners in SFHAs whose buildings have sustained less than substantial damage to make repairs as soon as possible after a damaging event, it is equally important to make substantial damage determinations and to enforce the substantial damage requirements. Failure to do so means structures would remain vulnerable, may be in violation of floodplain management requirements, and NFIP flood insurance policies may have very high premiums.

Grant Programs

FEMA, working through the States, administers a number of mitigation grant programs that allow communities to apply for funds to implement a variety of flood mitigation projects. Projects that may help owners of substantially damaged structures include acquisition of property (and demolition or relocation of structures), elevating structures in-place on higher foundations, relocating structures to sites outside of SFHAs, and dry floodproofing (applicable only to non-residential structures and historic structures).

Each of FEMA’s hazard mitigation grant programs has specific requirements, notably that projects must be cost effective, which may be determined by a benefit-cost analysis. Visit <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance> for more information about the available grant programs.

Continued from page 4

Biden

The maximum federal share per project application was \$50 million in previous funding years. Building codes and community BCEGS ratings come into play when applications are reviewed and prioritized. Pay close attention to the Qualitative and Technical Review Criteria from the FY2020 and FY2021 funding cycles when preparing an application before the FY2022 NOFO. I’ve heard from several that have served on the review panels that your application must clearly show how you’ve met the criteria if you want to have a chance of selection.

Innovation

FEMA is looking for innovation. That regional mitigation project you’ve dreamed up but never pursued? That is BRIC. The project your community, county, or watershed needs but could never find the local funds? That’s BRIC. The flood mitigation project not only reduces flooding but also incorporates green infrastructure and specific components that reduce extreme heat and support water quality? That’s BRIC. FEMA is looking for generational investments. Now is the time to collaborate with neighboring communities, counties, Tribes, the state, and the private sector. Partnerships help increase the likelihood FEMA selects your project for funding.

In closing, there has never been a more opportune time to invest in your community infrastructure and mitigate against natural hazards. Now is the time to prepare for the upcoming BRIC funding cycle. For more information, contact Matt Rollins, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, matthew.rollins@oem.ok.gov. Stay tuned for details on an OFMA mitigation workshop currently in the planning stages.



Funding Acknowledgment

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Editor, The BFE | PO Box 8101 | Tulsa, OK 74101

Chair

Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM
1134 NW 33rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.747.6598
ellen@ellenphdpe.com

Region I Representative

Michael Kimbro, PE, CFM
ODOT
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.522.0612
mkimbrow@odot.org

Region V Representative

Jesse Beck, CFM
City of Ponca City
516 East Grand
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.767.0383
beckje@poncacityok.gov

Ex Officio

Julie Cunningham
Executive Director
OWRB
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
julie.cunningham@owrb.ok.gov

Vice Chair

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM
Benham Design LLC
14000 Quail Springs
Parkway, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
405.478.5353
lincoln.irvine@benham.com

Region II Representative

Kenneth Schwab, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow
220 South 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918.259.7000
kschwab@brokenarrowok.gov

State NFIP Coordinator

Jonathan Phillips, CFM
OWRB
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800
jon.phillips@owrb.ok.gov

Honorary Board Member

Ken Morris
OWRB—Retired
5400 E. Tecumseh Road
Norman, OK 73026
405.573.7990
kensbbd@gmail.com

Secretary

Rachael Cooper, PE, CFM
Wagoner County
307 E. Cherokee Street
Wagoner, OK 74467
918.485.7979
rcooper@wagonercounty.ok.gov

Region III Representative

Dennis Yochum
LeFlore County EM
1215 South Broadway
Poteau, OK 74953
918.635.3610
emlcdirector@gmail.com

Past Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM
McClain County EM
102 East Center Road
Goldsby, OK 73093
405.287.9800
mcclain.em@gmail.com

Honorary Board Member

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM
R.D. Flanagan & Associates
3015 E. Skelly Drive
No. 270
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.749.2696
rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Schultz, CFM
Corps of Engineers—Retired
3527 S. 401st W. Ave.
Mannford, OK 74044
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net

Region IV Representative

Johnny A. Barron, PE, CFM
City of Altus
509 S. Main
Altus, OK 73521
580.481.3518
jbarron@altusok.gov

PDCC Chair / Honorary Board Member

Joseph Remondini, PE, CFM
Corps of Engineers—Retired
3225 S. Detroit
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.361.8636
jremondini@aol.com

BFE Editor

Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM,
SR/WA
Meshek & Associates, LLC
1437 S. Boulder Ave.
No. 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119
918.392.5620
jmeshek@meshekengr.com

The BFE*

* BASE FLOOD ELEVATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2022 Spring Technical Workshop	1
Words from the Chair	2
OWRB Training	3
Calling Grade School Artists!	4
OFMA DRT Corner	5
OFMA Board	6

2022 Spring Technical Workshop

April 14, 2022

**River Spirit Casino Resort
8330 Riverside Parkway
Tulsa, OK 74137**

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 you on April 14th!





Words from the Chair

Ellen Stevens PhD, PE, CFM | OFMA Chair

Greetings OFMA members and BFE readers,

As I write this, the snow is falling, and the local TV meteorologists are driving around on empty, snow-covered roads. I'm very grateful to be inside and warm, and happy that the days are getting longer. I am looking forward to spring and the end of winter weather. For those of you who have to be out in this weather and are keeping our communities safe and functioning, you have our sincere appreciation!

Our next major OFMA activity is the Legislative Reception, Wednesday, February 23, 2022, from 11:30-am to 1:30-pm, in room 4S.3 at the state capitol building. All OFMA members are welcome to attend. Even if you can't attend, you can help out. When we get closer to the date, please contact your representative and senator and encourage them to attend. OFMA will send out invitations and make contacts, but there is nothing like hearing from a constituent to get their attention. You can find their contact information by clicking on Find my Legislator at <https://www.okhouse.gov> or clicking on, Find My Senator at <https://oksenate.gov>.

A cautionary tale: Recently, an individual used information from the OFMA website and sent out emails, allegedly from me, trying to scam the recipients into buying gift cards for veterans. If you ever receive a communication that appears to be from me – or any other board member – asking you to donate to some cause or (worse yet) assist us personally, it is a scam. We would not use our positions in OFMA leadership to promote our favorite charities or causes or otherwise benefit ourselves financially. Please forward it to me if you do ever receive that type of communication.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Spring Workshop, April 14, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the River Spirit Casino in Tulsa. Registration and agenda details will be furnished when they are complete.

Don't forget OFMA exists to serve the membership. If you have any ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear from you.

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

July 20, 2022

NCED Conference Center & Hotel
2801 E State Highway 9
Norman, OK 73071

2022 OFMA Annual Conference

September 18-22, 2022

Choctaw Casino Resort,
4216 South Highway 69/75
Durant, OK 74701

OWRB Training

OWRB is offering Floodplain Management 101. Sign up at owrb.ok.gov or contact Miranda.Thomas@owrb.ok.gov for more information.

Next class: Wednesday, March 9, 2022; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Where: Clinton, OK (6 CEC credits)

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[Studies ▼](#)
[Definitions](#)

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](#). Be sure to save completed course certificates for accreditation purposes and send a copy to [Miranda Thomas](#). **Sign up today! Space is limited. Courses, dates, and locations are subject to change or cancellation.**

OWRB Courses

January 31 - February 3, 2022	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	FEMA L273	OK Department of Public Safety 3600 N. Martin Luther King Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73111	Register
February 15, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Broken Arrow, OK	Register
March 9, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Clinton, OK	Register
April 14, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Oklahoma City, OK	Register
May 11, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Chickasha, OK	Register
June 14, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	FPM 101	Oklahoma City, OK	Register

OFMA Courses

February 15, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Broken Arrow, OK	Register
March 9, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Clinton, OK	Register
April 20, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Langley, OK	Register
May 11, 2022	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	OFMA Advanced	Chickasha, OK	Register

Other Courses

[FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study Courses](#)

[Past FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Monthly Trainings](#)

Scroll to the bottom and click next to view more listings. Check back for new additions.

Sign up for the latest news and updates from the OWRB.

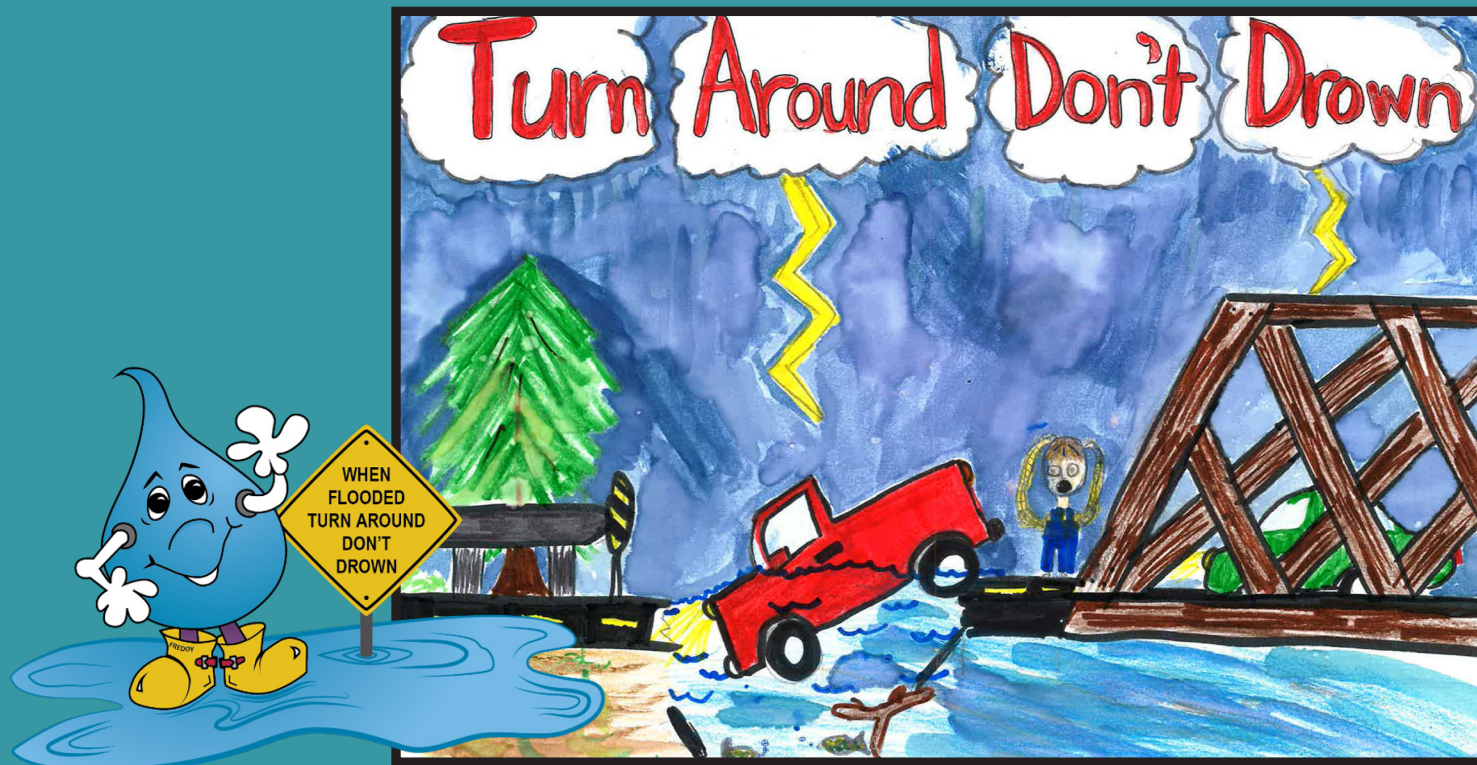
Calling Grade School Artists!

Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest

Each year more deaths occur due to flooding than 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 that are swept downstream. Many drownings are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you that the road is flooded and Turn Around Don't Drown. Participation in the Turn Around Don't Drown Flood Safety Poster Contest helps children learn and inform their parents about flooding

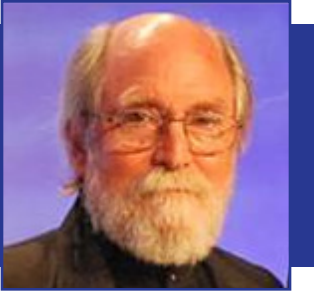
hazards. A particularly timely subject given last year's record flooding. Plus, students and their teachers could win cash prizes. If this is something your local school (third through fifth graders) would like to participate in, please contact your Region Representative (contact information on Page 8) to receive 2022 OFMA calendars, including this year's calendar contest guidelines.

Calendar requests deadline April 1, 2022.



OFMA DRT Corner

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



I am currently proctoring the CFM exam; I thought about the weeklong class, especially our Substantial Damage/ Substantial Improvement sections of the L-273. When we assist communities with SD evaluations after a flood, tornado, fire, earthquake, wind, etc., damage, it is the community's responsibility, not FEMA, or the State NFIP coordinator's responsibility for SD.

So, as we prepare to exit this winter "wonderland" and head towards springtime rains and potential flooding, do you know what to do to prepare?

Do you have a good relationship with the local Emergency Manager? You can assist with pre-planning evacuation routes and identify potential residences where evacuations may need to be performed. Have you looked at potential mitigation projects to reduce flooding – the easiest is to clean out the conveyance channels, bridges, and culverts so the floodwaters have a place to flow?

When disaster does strike, do you have the resources to respond? If you are the FPA and EM, do you return after completing your EM responsibilities and do your FPA responsibilities for SD? If you are a new FPA that has never been involved in a disaster, do you know who to reach out to for help? The OFMA DRT is always available to assist – pre-sign up your community and we will be on the road to help. The OWRB is also one of the first points of contact for assistance.

Turning back to the Substantial Damage issue: After a disaster strikes, the residents or businesses want to return to normal life ASAP. They are allowed to remove sheetrock and insulation, etc., to dry out, but until the SD is completed and a Floodplain Development Permit issued, they cannot re-build. So, the SD is critical to begin that process. Do not delay – a structure will either not be Substantially Damaged, so issue a permit; Be Substantially Damaged, but be compliant – so issue a permit, or is Substantially Damaged but not compliant – so don't issue a permit – have a meeting with the homeowner or business about mitigation and bringing the structure into compliance.

There are many critical parts of SD and SI – if you don't remember, get out your L-273 manual if you are a CFM, get a FEMA brochure on SD/SI, or come to an OWRB or OFMA class.

So, as Sergeant Phillip Esterhaus of Hill Street Blues always said as he dispatched the police – **be safe out there.**

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Editor, The BFE | PO Box 8101 | Tulsa, OK 74101

Chair

Ellen Stevens, PhD, PE, CFM
1134 NW 33rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.747.6598
ellen@ellenphdpe.com

Region I Representative

Michael Kimbro, PE, CFM
ODOT
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.522.0612
mkimbro@odot.org

Region V Representative

Jesse Beck, CFM
City of Ponca City
516 East Grand
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.767.0383
beckje@poncacityok.gov

Ex Officio

Julie Cunningham
Executive Director
OWRB
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8800

Vice Chair

Lincoln Irvine, PE, CFM
Benham Design LLC
14000 Quail Springs
Parkway, Suite 500
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
405.478.5353
lincoln.irvine@benham.com

Region II Representative

Kenneth Schwab, PE, CFM
City of Broken Arrow
220 South 1st Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
918.259.7000
kschwab@brokenarrowok.gov

State NFIP Coordinator

Aaron Milligan, CFM
OWRB
3800 North Classen Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
405.530.8861
aaron.milligan@owrb.ok.gov

Honorary Board Member

Ken Morris
OWRB—*Retired*
5400 E. Tecumseh Road
Norman, OK 73026
405.573.7990

Secretary

Rachael Cooper, PE, CFM
Wagoner County
307 E. Cherokee St.
Wagoner, OK 74467
918.485.7979
rcooper@wagonercounty.ok.gov

Region III Representative

Dennis Yochum
LeFlore County EM
1215 South Broadway
Poteau, OK 74953
918.635.3610
emlcdirector@gmail.com

Past Chair

Ron Johnson, CFM
McClain County EM
102 East Center Road
Goldsby, OK 73093
405.287.9800
mcclain.em@gmail.com

Honorary Board Member

Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM
R.D. Flanagan & Associates
3015 E. Skelly Drive
No. 270
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.749.2696
rdflanagan@rdflanagan.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Schultz, CFM
Corps of Engineers—*Retired*
3527 S. 401st W. Ave.
Mannford, OK 74044
918.906.3922
cschultz@cimtel.net

Region IV Representative

Johnny A. Barron, PE, CFM
City of Altus
509 S. Main
Altus, OK 73521
580.481.3518
jbarron@altusok.gov

PDCC Chair / Honorary Board Member

Joseph Remondini, PE, CFM
Corps of Engineers—*Retired*
3225 S. Detroit
Tulsa, OK 74105
918.361.8636
jremondini@aol.com

BFE Editor

Janet K. Meshek, PE, CFM,
SR/WA
Meshek & Associates, LLC
1437 S. Boulder Ave.
No. 1550
Tulsa, OK 74119
918.392.5620
jmeshek@meshekengr.com